

MCAS Communicator

an e-newsletter for the staff of the Michigan City Area Schools

September 2012 - "EXTRA"

(Please post for/share with those employees who do not check email!)

Extra!

We have lots of news to share this month - so we decided to email this "extra" September edition. Watch for the next Communicator on [October 1st!](#)

Don't Miss This: Administrator/Principal Car Wash

MCAS principals, administrators (yes, including Dr. Eason-Watkins), and Safe Harbor staff will be holding the second annual MCAS Administrator Car Wash next Friday, [September 21](#). Stop by the Ad Building after school or before the game (2:30-6:00) to have your wheels washed! Donations of any amount will be accepted. Last year we raised more than \$975 for the United Way - can we top this?! Please help us advertise - we are in competition with the Michigan City Police and Fire Depts., which are also having car washes on the same day. We want MCAS to WIN!! Follow the link below to view a flyer about the car wash. Forward it to your friends and relations!

<http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/2012%20carwash%20flyer.pdf>

Mustang Update

The classic Mustang will be on display at the [Sept 21st](#) Ad Building Car Wash (see above). The 1968 Mustang is being raffled as a benefit for the United Way, and the winning ticket will be drawn on [November 9th](#) at Blue Chip. Tickets are \$10 each, \$25 for three, and are available at the car wash, or by visiting the United Way web site at: <http://www.unitedwaylpc.org/1968-mustang-raffle.html>. Tickets are also available at A.K. Smith. **Update:** We apologize for not mentioning everyone who assisted in the Mustang restoration in last edition's Communicator. The car was restored by students and staff at A.K. Smith but couldn't have been completed without the assistance of several other MCAS staff members, including: Dave Williamson, Jeff Williamson, Frank Lutton, Dan Jonowski, Paul Papp and Dennis Leslie. For much more info about this project (you MUST see the before and after pics!) visit the Laporte County CTE web site at <http://educatetc.net/careertech>.

Save the Date - State of Our Schools

MCAS staff are invited to "save the date" for the annual State of Our Schools address, which will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, [October 3](#), in the Michigan City High School auditorium. During this presentation, Dr. Eason-Watkins will be reviewing our district's achievement data, and will be discussing our priorities and challenges as we "go for the gold" this school year.

Don't Miss "Day for Kids" this Saturday

The Boys & Girls' Club of Michigan City is sponsoring its annual "Day for Kids" event at Marquette Mall [this Saturday, September 15](#), from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This year the event will be bigger and better than ever, with FREE fun for kids - including a visit with Ronald McDonald, agility demos by the Trail Creek Dog Training Club, a "furry farm" by the Independent Cat Society, casting for fish with Cabela's and much

(MUCH) more. All MCAS 3rd graders will be bringing home flyers about this...but all ages are welcome! Read more about it here:
<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49>

Smooth Jazz Concert

Tickets are now on sale for the **October 13th** "Music in the City" Smooth Jazz concert at Blue Chip, featuring Billboard Top 10 jazz vocalist and saxophonist Mindi Abair and guitarist Bryan Lubeck. Proceeds will support our "Dress for Success" program and will assist in providing musical instruments and equipment for our schools. Please visit our web site at EducateMC.net for more information, or contact Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com or 800-745-3000 to purchase tickets. Spread the word! **(UPDATE: Tickets may also be purchased at Blue Chip in the gift shop. You'll save the Ticketmaster fees!)**

Science Survey for K-5 Teachers

The Indiana Science Initiative is working with several states on a project to improve how professional development is delivered in science and would like the opinion of all K-5 teachers. The survey is voluntary and will take about 10 minutes or less. Click the following link to take the survey. (The ISI thanks you very much for your input!)
https://purdue.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_aXErCTzynJysFNz

Flu Shot Reminder

Flu shots are available for all MCAS staff and their family members on **Tuesday**, Sept. 18 in the Staff Lounge at MCHS. Cost is \$21 (cash or check, payable to Working Well.) Sign up sheets have been posted in mailrooms/are available from your building receptionist. Questions? Contact Linda Bechinski
atlbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us.

Working Well Reminder

If you are injured at work: For emergencies, call 911 ... or go to Franciscan St. Anthony Health. For non-emergencies, report the injury to your supervisor and school nurse, and seek treatment from Franciscan Working Well. Working Well is located at 4111 S. Franklin Street, Michigan City; (219) 879-5400. Hours are **Mon-Fri**, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Working Well is MCAS' designated job-related occupational health provider. MCAS will not authorize payment of medical treatment claims for work-related injuries from your personal physician. (Please note that Working Well is not open on Saturdays.)

Graphics Dept. Closed

Allison Ruffing will be out of the office 9/17-9/24. Please keep in mind that printing requests submitted next week will be processed Sept. 25-28.

You CAN Pay for College!

September 24- 28 is "College Go!" week in Indiana. As part of the activities planned at MCHS, the high school Parent Network is sponsoring an evening workshop called "You CAN Pay for College!" Parents of all high school students, as well as parents of 8th graders, are encouraged to attend this workshop, which will be held on Thursday, **September 27** at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. During the workshop, presenters from our high school guidance department, Purdue North Central, and the Unity Foundation will discuss the many scholarships available to students and will review other sources of financial aid.

Sinai Forum - Free for Students

Did you know that the Purdue North Central Sinai Forum lecture series is free for students? See below for a flyer about this year's lineup of speakers. The Forum kicks off [Sept 23](#) with David Gergen. Please consider sharing with your students!
<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/SinaiForum.pdf>

Lilly Teacher Fellowships

The Lilly Endowment has announced that it will offer up to 100 grants of \$10,000 each to teachers, counselors, library/media specialists, principals, and assistant principals in Indiana. The program will support creative projects that are personally renewing and intellectually revitalizing to educators (the endowment believes that engaged educators = engaged students!). Just ask Edgewood teacher Tess Pavloff...she received one of these amazing fellowship grants last year! For information about the 2013 program, visit <http://teachercreativity.org/>. (Deadline for applications is [November 2](#).)

Wilson Scholars Program

Wilson Education Center has partnered with American College of Education (ACE), and is offering Indiana educators a \$1,000 grant towards an online Master of Education degree. For information visit <http://www.ace.edu/wilson-scholars-program> or call 1-800-280-0307. To qualify, you must submit your admissions application and grant application to the college by [October 1](#) for the [October 8](#) term or [November 19](#) for the [November 26](#) term.

WAY TO GO

- Congrats to Springfield teacher **Kristin Smith**, who has been selected as an Exemplary Nominee for the ASCD 2013 Outstanding Young Educator Award. As an exemplary nominee, Kristin has received a complimentary ASCD membership, and will now be considered for additional awards from this national association.
- Congrats to teachers **Janis Mitchell** (Lake Hills), **Jeff Edinger** (Neimann), and **Michael Maesch** (Knapp), who have been invited to present a session with PNC Professor of Mathematics Dr. David Feikes at the Indiana Council of Teachers of Mathematics annual conference in Indianapolis next month. The topic of the presentation is the "CARE" initiative under way in our schools – CARE stands for Conceptual Algebra Readiness for Everyone. The CARE initiative is funded through an Indiana Math and Science Partnership grant, and is helping us build teacher capacity as we work together with PNC to assure that our students are ready for Algebra as they move from elementary to middle to high school.