

MCAS Communicator

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

September 2014

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

Welcome Back! This is our year to SOAR!

MCEF K-8 Teacher Grants

Applications for 2014-2015 Michigan City Education Foundation Teacher Grants (for K-8 teachers) are now online! Follow the link below to apply...OR visit the Unity Foundation's website www.uflc.net. Grants awarded are for projects up to \$350. Applications must be submitted by Monday, October 13.

<https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/17572-Unity-Foundation-Of-La-Porte-County>

(MCEF has compiled a resource that may be helpful in preparing your application...it is here:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/MCEF%20Supplemental%20Information%202014.pdf>)

Barbara A. Carmen K-8 Teacher Grants

Applications for these grants for elementary and middle school teachers (up to \$400) are ALSO now online. Deadline is October 17th. Follow this link to apply... OR visit the Unity web site www.uflc.net.

<https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/17575-Unity-Foundation-Of-La-Porte-County>

9-12 Teacher Innovation Grants

Applications are ALSO now online for the 2014-15 Teacher Innovation Grants (exclusively for MCHS and A.K. Smith teachers!). Follow the link below to apply... OR visit the Unity web site www.uflc.net. Grants are for projects up to \$350. Deadline for this is also October 13th.

<https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/17574-Unity-Foundation-Of-La-Porte-County>

Reminder from Payroll

Please notify payroll if you have moved or changed phone numbers recently. They need to make sure they have an accurate phone number and address for all employees.

Free Breakfast and Lunch

Thanks to a change in Federal funding, all MCAS elementary schools are now implementing a new option for meals called the "Community Eligibility Provision." This means that all students PreK-6, regardless of income, now receive school breakfast and lunch at no charge. Families do not need to fill out an application to receive this. However, those wishing to receive textbook assistance DO still need to complete an application; it can be found online at <http://educatemc.net/food> - or at any school office. Families also need to fill out this application to receive free/reduced meals and textbook assistance for students in middle and high school.

CPR for Teachers

This school year, MCAS is again working with Opportunity Enterprises to offer CPR training for teachers in need of license renewal. The first class will take place on Thursday, October 9 at Mullen, at 3:30pm. Please contact Linda Bechinski at lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us if you are interested in attending. The training will begin promptly at 3:30 p.m. The fee is \$35 cash (please bring exact change) or check (payable to Opportunity Enterprises).

Flu Vaccine

It's that time of year again! MCAS employees can receive a flu vaccine at Working Well (411 S. Franklin) anytime; cost is \$23. Working Well will also be coming to the high school on September 30 from 2:30-4:30pm to administer flu vaccines to any interested MCAS employee and their family members. School nurses will soon be taking signups for this on-site opportunity at MCHS.

Tour MCAS School Gardens

MCAS/Safe Harbor/ LaPorte County Visitors Bureau/ Purdue Cooperative Ext are having a garden tour and YOU are invited! Please join us on Thursday, September 18th as our guest for a mini-tour presented by the students of the Growing Up Green project. The project has educated students (and adult helpers) who have been growing, harvesting, cooking, eating and learning about healthy, local and sustainably produced food and ornamental plantings. It starts at Joy at 3:30 pm, and then in 1/2 hour intervals we will go Edgewood, Knapp, and finish at Lake Hills. Please join us at one or all of the schools! Kids really want to show you their work over the past year. (Insider tip: You'll get to sample salsa - made from the garden - and chips at Joy, the first stop.)

Time to Join Robotics

Michigan City Robotics Team 3936 is starting for the year with an open house meeting from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on [Monday, September 8](#) at Mullen. If you have a student, child, other relative, or neighbor who is in high school and interested in engineering, design, construction, digital arts, business or programming, don't miss this opportunity to check out the team. Participation offers a variety of unique opportunities. For more information contact Herb Higgin at [873-2026](tel:873-2026) x 8740 or hhiggin@mcas.k12.in.us. Click the link below for a flyer to forward:

<http://educateme.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/MCRobotics.pdf>

Hours for Ours Needs You!

Imagine our district as a place where all students had someone to cheer them on, guide them, and provide a listening ear. What a great start if all caring MCAS staff members would take time to have lunch with a student in their building once each week. Do your part by mentoring a child! For information about **Hours for Ours** contact Sherri Silcox at [873-2026](tel:873-2026) x 8744 or ssilcox@mcas.k12.in.us.

Save Your Pop Tabs

Last year, our district collected over 550 pounds of pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House! The 1st place winner was Elston, where students collected 149 pounds of pop tabs; second place was Joy, with 73 pounds; and third place was Coolspring with 69.5 pounds. All schools are winners, considering we have collected 3,310,711 pop tabs in the past four years to assist Ronald McDonald House in helping families of sick children. Watch for news from Safe Harbor about this year's pop tab collection. Start saving!

Graphics and Printing Reminder

Looking for help with your graphics/printing projects? Visit the following link for information, links to pdfs of MCAS forms, recommended vendors, logos, business card and letterhead templates, and more:

<http://educatemc.net/graphics> (This page is also available by choosing "Graphics & Printing" under the "Staff" menu on the home page.)

Financial Aid Workshop

The MCHS Parent Network invites parents, grandparents, and anyone with a student who is within a few years of going to college to attend the "You CAN Pay for College" workshop. This will take place on Thursday, September 25 at 6:30pm in the MCHS Auditorium. Speakers from MCHS Guidance Department, Unity Foundation, PNC, and Ivy Tech will be on hand to discuss scholarships and other college financing options available for area students. Learn about financial aid award packages, discover how to avoid costly financial aid mistakes, learn about national/state/local scholarships, receive tips on filling out an error-free FAFSA and much more.

Sumdog Contest

"Sumdog" invites elementary and middle schools to take part in its upcoming online math contest, which will run between Friday 9/12 and Thursday 9/18. Last year, over 365 schools in Indiana took part. (Several of our schools and classes participated in this last year and did very well against the competition here in Northwest Indiana and even nationally!!) Students play math games on the Sumdog website; games are free and it only takes an hour or so to get a competitive score. Good luck, Sum-doggers!

<http://www.sumdog.com/enter>

WAY TO GO!

Congratulations to Krueger Principal **Vera Jones**, who will receive the Lorin A. Burt Outstanding Educator Award this month! This is presented annually to one outstanding educator in the state by the Indiana School Boards Association.

Community News

First Trust Credit Union, Al's Supermarkets, and MCAS Transportation are again helping the Salvation Army through the annual "**Stuff a Bus**" food drive this Saturday. Please donate at one of the Al's locations! Help is needed at Al's Franklin Street to create grocery bags of nonperishable food items for customers to purchase on Saturday as part of this. Volunteers can stop by Al's today (9/2) or tomorrow (9/3) from 6-8pm to help pack these bags.

The **Michigan City Human Rights Commission** is having a 'give back' event at Buffalo Wild Wings in Michigan City on Wednesday (9/3) from 5-8pm. A portion of all proceeds will benefit the HRC, and will be used to help support scholarships and educational projects. No coupon necessary.

The Pinta and the Nina, replicas of **Christopher Columbus' ships**, will be docked at the Michigan City Port Authority September 3 through September 8. The ships will be open each day from 9am to 6pm. While in port, the public is invited to visit the ships for a self-guided tour. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$7 for senior citizens and \$6 for students 5 to 16 years old. Children younger than 4 are admitted free. Groups wishing to schedule a 30-minute guided tour with a crew member should call 787-672-2152 or email columfnd492@gmail.com. A minimum of 15 people are need for a group. Cost is \$5 per person.

Concord Custom Cleaners is now offering all MCAS employees a 20% discount. Simply show your ID badge...no coupon necessary. Follow this link for info:
<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/MC%20school%20district%20discount.pdf>

COMMUNITY BACKPACK

There are several new postings on our "Community Backpack" page!

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49>

- Michigan City Wolves Travel Baseball Tryouts
- LaPorte Symphony Children's Chorus
- Girl Scout Information