

MCAS Communicator

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

September 2015

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

WELCOME BACK!

Team M. C. A. S. Shirts

Reprographic Arts sold out of polo shirts at the first-day meeting... If you would still like to get one, they will have some available at their store by September 2 in black (new color this year!). Cost is \$12.50 up to XL, \$14.50 for larger sizes. Orders can be placed (and picked up) at Reprographic Arts, 1017 Franklin Street, Michigan City - 872-9111. (Ask them for more info on bulk orders from a school/group.)

Update from Costco and Sams Club

Many staff members spoke with representatives from Sam's and Costco at the opening meeting last week. If you didn't get a chance to stop by (or, if you attempted to purchase a Sam's membership but couldn't because their credit card machine was down) here is the contact info for the reps. They have special offers for MCAS employees who would like to purchase memberships.

Sam's Club: Nikki Lebeter, nllebet.s08174.us@samsclub.com - (219) 942-3711

Costco: Nancy Neary-Johnson, w370mk03@costco.com (219) 742-8281

New Benefit for All Employees

Beginning September 1, MCAS will offer an EAP (Employee Assistance Program) to all staff - this is for YOU and for your family members, too. Franciscan Alliance is the provider of EAP services; they can assist with a wide range of personal and family mental health and related issues (grief, stress, weight management, marriage concerns, depression, anger, legal concerns and much more). Appointments can be made for you or a family member by calling (219) 662-3730 or (800) 747-7262. An informational letter and brochure on this has been distributed to all staff; contact your supervisor if you did not receive this.

Reminder: We are "Educate MC"

When giving out our web address, remember that we are just: [EducateMC.net](http://www.EducateMC.net). (No need to give anyone the loong www.mcas.k12.in.us).

Back to School Rally

Many thanks to EVERYONE who supported the Back to School Rally this year! To view some photos of this successful event visit the Rally Facebook page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.649849131784987.1073741828.251611818275389&type=3>

Unity Teacher Grants - Apply Today!

The Unity Foundation of La Porte County is excited to announce that online applications for several teacher grants are now open: Teacher Innovation Grants (for MCHS and AK Smith teachers), MC Education Foundation (K-8 teachers) and Barbara A. Carmen Grants (for K-8 teachers). All three of these grants can be used to fund classroom projects/equipment and have early October deadlines. Get started with an application today at the link below:

<http://uflc.net/grants/teacher-grants/>

(To view a flyer about grant opportunities that Unity offers MCAS teachers, click here:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/UF%20Teacher%20Grant%20Information.pdf>)

Curriculum Dept. Math Reminder

Have you explored the new K-6 Math curriculum maps and common assessments? Be sure to check out these valuable resources! Note: You must be signed in first to the website in order to view this information (click "sign in" at the top of any MCAS web page).

<http://educatemc.net/Page/12535>

MCHS Homecoming Parade

The Michigan City High School Student Council is sponsoring the Homecoming Parade on Friday, September 18. The parade will begin at 6:00pm and any school/community group is welcome to participate. For details/more info contact Elaine Rivich (erivich@mcas.k12.in.us) or Katie St.Germaine (kstgermaine@mcas.k12.in.us) no later than September 14.

Welcome Back Message for Educators from Supt. Glenda Ritz:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZuA0zsmzh8c>

Hours for Ours Needs YOU

The Hours for Ours school-based mentoring program starts immediately after Labor Day and continues until Memorial Day. We're always looking for caring mentors to be a friend to our students and help them work to their potential. How can you help? Consider having lunch with a student once per week. Also, recruit compassionate friends or family members to join our mentoring family. To see the real power of mentoring, search "State of the Classroom" on the Indiana Department of Education website and watch the video. It truly changes lives. Contact Sherri Silcox at ssilcox@mcas.k12.in.us or 873-2026 x 8744.

Safe Harbor looking for Horticulture Volunteers

Safe Harbor is looking for extra volunteers to help with the horticulture program to keep our school gardens beautiful while the weather is nice enough to use them. If you know of anyone who likes to work outside and is willing to help, contact Sherri Silcox at ssilcox@mcas.k12.in.us or 873-2026 x 8744.

Michigan City FIRST Robotics Team

It's opportunity! It's a competitive sport! It's community! It's a life experience! It's FUN!! It's AMAZING!! The team needs students interested in engineering, programming, business, media, art, photography, videography, marketing, community service, having fun, and building friendships. If you know any high school age students who would like more information on joining the Michigan City Robotics Team, have them contact MCAS Project Lead the Way teacher Ralph Gee at 873-2044 or rgee@mcas.k12.in.us or Sherri Silcox at ssilcox@mcas.k12.in.us or 873-2026 x 8744. GIRLS ARE WELCOME and encouraged to check us out!

Summer Thank Yous

Safe Harbor and Community Partners sends out a big "THANK YOU" to transportation, plant planning, administration and everyone else who helped make the new "Summer of Innovation" program for 7th and 8th graders a success. Thanks, too, to all who helped with the "Rail to Ride" Safe Harbor summer camp field trip to the Museum of Science and Industry (which involved 50 students and adults) and the "South Bend Cubs Day" trip in July, where 265 campers and staff joined Mayor Meer for a fun day at Four Winds Field thanks to the Michigan City Rotary and South Bend Cubs. Summer agencies/camps

participating in this partnership included Safe Harbor, Boys and Girls club, Imagination Station, Michigan City Parks and Rec, Barker Woods, and North Central Community Action Agencies.

Stressed much?

Check out these strategies for reducing stress, courtesy of Franciscan St. Anthony Health: <http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/ReduceStressIncreaseEnergy-Flyer-FRA.pdf>

A SUPER HELPFUL Link from Technology

Be sure to visit the link below... this is a go-to resource for Zimbra-to-Gmail transition, Google calendar, Google Apps tutorial videos, etc. Check it out! <http://www.mcas.k12.in.us//site/Default.aspx?PageID=12494>

CPR for Teachers

Dolphin Solutions is providing CPR training for teachers in need of license renewal; classes take place at 3:30pm at Mullen school (100 Manny Court). There are classes scheduled for Tuesday, Sept 22 and Thursday, November 12. Up to 30 participants are welcome. Cost is \$30.00 cash or check (payable to Dolphin Solutions). Please contact contact Linda Bechinski (lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us) to sign up.

Help Rachel!

Please spread the word... Pine 5th grade teacher Rachel Palleschi is seeking to fund a project through Donors Choose. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will double all donations made today if the code JUMPSTART is used at the check out! (While you're there, consider posting YOUR project on Donorschoose.org - many of our teachers have received funds through this site!)

http://www.donorschoose.org/project/ipad-mini-learning/1620359/?rf=page-siteshare-2015-08-project-teacher_3006567

Calendar

Need a copy of the 2015-16 school calendar? Here is the link:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/shared/forms%20-%20public/MCAS%20Calendar.pdf>

WAY TO GO!

- Congrats to MCHS teacher **Bruce Stahl**, who was one of more than 7,600 people who took part in the 21st annual "Red Dress Run" on August 8 in New Orleans. The 2-mile run has helped 100 charities raise over a million dollars. (The day was the hottest August 8th in weather history with a high of 101 degrees!) Follow this link to view a must-see pic of Bruce at the run... http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/IMG_1152.jpg
- Congrats to MCHS teacher **Mary La Luna**, who will be presenting at the Indiana Reading Association conference next month, on "Engineering Literacy through STEM." Also, Mary's book of poetry, *Flower and Stone*, will be part of the Beijing book Expo this week. Double congrats, Mary!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Human Trafficking Conference

SafeCHR, a nonprofit organization committed to raising awareness about human trafficking, will be hosting a day-long conference at Elston Auditorium on Thursday, October 1st. Among topics to be addressed are how to identify high-risk middle and schoolers who can become "targets" for traffickers, and a panel of survivors, teachers, clinicians, law enforcement and others. Continuing education credits will be available. A special registration rate (\$35) is being offered for nurses and counselors in LaPorte County. For more information visit:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/human-trafficking-here-and-now-conference-with-brunch-tickets-17889540096?ref=ebtn>
