

MCAS Communicator

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

September 2016

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

Website Makeover Wednesday!

All school websites (including the district site) will have a new, updated look on Wednesday, Sept. 7! You may notice some things moving around on that day as we re-arrange home page apps for the new template. This move will not affect the layout of any sub-pages of our site (including teacher pages). All of the home page menu options will also remain the same, although some of the familiar shortcut buttons will be in new locations. NOTE: It appears that some of the newer devices deployed to teachers/staff are not displaying our current website correctly. This problem should go away after the move to the new template this week.

Help Needed for MCAS Employee

A MCAS Food Service employee had a house fire in August. Thankfully she and her family were unharmed, but her home and all belongings were a total loss. The Food Service department is collecting donations to assist the family. Please see the flyer below for specific needs.

<http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/FireAssist.pdf>

Graduation Date Change

At its last meeting, the MCAS School Board approved changing the graduation date for this year from June 11 to June 4. MCHS Graduation will now take place on Sunday, June 4, 2017 at noon. This moves graduation closer to the end of the school year and will ensure students with other commitments (e.g. the military) can take part.

Free and Confidential Mental Health Services

As an employee of MCAS, you qualify for 6 FREE mental health counseling sessions for you and your immediate family members. This is part of our "EAP" (Employee Assistance Program). Click on the link below for more information on this important service:

<http://educateme.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/0816EAP.pdf>

September EAP Newsletter: Customer Service...on Challenging Days

http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/EAP_0916.pdf

EAP Webinar

The next EAP webinar will be at noon on September 21; this month's topics include "How To Provide Excellent Customer Service When Your Day Is Challenging" and "Easy Ways To Trim Or Burn 100 Calories Each Day." Follow the link below to register.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3306910235004565506>

LCSO Children's Concert Info

The LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra Children's Education Concerts will be held on October 12. Visit the MCAS home page for a link to the orchestra's web site and several other resources, including the IN academic standards that are covered through the concert. Here is the direct link to the info:

<http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=22&ViewID=047E6BE3-6D87-4130-8424-D8E4E9ED6C2A&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=23551&PageID=1>

Club Discovery News

STEM is a primary focus within Barker and Krueger Club Discovery. Both after-school sites have implemented the 80/20 STEM Educational Outreach Program. This project-based program enables students to be innovative and collaborative and introduces them to problem solving, teaching both practical and soft skills. Students progress from building and working with basic project assembly kits to the end goal of creative design, development and assembly of functional products. Dean Price of Haas Associates and T'Andre Harris, Safe Harbor CCR, are the facilitators for the program. Students from both Barker and Krueger visited the 9/11 Memorial Exhibit in Michigan City. This age group of students are the first born after the 9/11 event and through their participation were able to gain an added level knowledge about the event and how it will forever impact their lives and the world. Club Discovery will offer more off-site enrichment opportunities under the concept "Learning Beyond The Walls."

Flu Shots

Save the date: Walgreens is coming to Michigan City High School on Tuesday, Oct 4th from 1-4 to give flu shots. Any MCAS employee is welcome - they will either accept insurance or provide you with a voucher so there is no out of pocket fee. More info coming soon to all buildings.

CPR Class

A CPR class for teachers in need of license renewal will be held on Thursday, September 22. Training is at 3:30 at Mullen, 100 Manny Court, adjacent to Lake Hills Elementary. The fee is \$40 cash or check, payable to Dolphin Solutions. The certification lasts two years. Important: Please contact Linda Bechinski (lbechinski@educatemc.net) to sign up. Also, the American Heart Association has written new workbooks and there is one available in every school's nurse's office for review if needed. If you borrow one, please remember to return.

You're Invited: Wellness Wednesdays

Don't miss "Wellness Wednesdays" in Michigan City! This fun walk/run takes place every Wednesday through September 28th; meet at the Elston YMCA at 4:30pm and begin walking/running a 2.65 mile course through the Uptown Arts District.

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/0816WellnessWed.jpg>

Support the Wolves

Remember, your MCAS staff ID badge gets you free admission to any home athletic event. Please support our Wolves teams this fall! (Visit <http://michigancityathletics.com> for a complete schedule of upcoming sporting events.)

Game Day Tailgate Party

The MCHS Athletic Dept. invites you to a tailgate party this Friday, September 9th at the Old Al's parking lot across from Ames Field. Free music, activities, and FUN... Port-a-pit chicken meals are \$10 and can be purchased on site. After the party, come on over to Ames to watch the Wolves take on the Valpo Vikings!

Grant Opportunities

Lowe's "Toolbox for Education" Grants (deadline Sept. 28):

<http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/>

Unity Foundation Teacher Grants (deadlines in October):

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

Stuff a Bus

On Saturday, Sept 10, volunteers will be filling MCAS school buses with bags of food in the parking lots of both Al's Karwick and Al's Franklin. Thanks for your support!

Car Wash Palooza!!!

The much-anticipated annual Car Wash for United Way is Friday, September 30th at the Old Als' parking lot across from Ames. MCAS is again working with the Michigan City Police and Fire Departments - with a goal of raising at least \$6,500! The wash will be taking place from 9:00am to 6:00pm; MCAS has the 2:30-6:00 pm shift, and the Fire Dept. will be on hand to help us rinse. Student and adult volunteers are welcome - please contact Debbie Briggs (dbriggs@mcas.k12.in.us) if you can help. We will be cooking/selling food, flowers, and of course washing and drying cars. Most important - bring your car by for a wash and dry! Suggested donation is \$5. (A very special "elite" wash service will be available for donors of \$100 and above.)

Peepers for Your School

Peepers Reading Glasses (distributed nationwide but made right here in Michigan City!) is doing a giveaway for teachers this week. They will be giving away an assortment of reading glasses to 5 lucky schools for following them on Facebook and commenting about why their school deserves to win. This is a nationwide contest... but our Peepers peeps would love to get some local participation from teachers. Follow this link for info:

<http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/peepers.jpg>

Parks Dept Survey

The Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department is updating its Master Plan and is seeking input from the public. Whether you are a full-time resident, part-time resident or from out of town, your ideas matter! The deadline is September 30, 2016. Please click on the link below to make your voice heard. (Public input sessions will be held in conjunction with Park Board meetings at 5 p.m. on October 5th and 19th and November 2nd at City Hall.) [2017-2021 Michigan City Parks Department Master Plan Survey](#)

WAY TO GO!

- MCAS Superintendent **Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins** will be honored by the Michigan City Commission for Women as Michigan City Woman of the Year 2016! She will be honored at a dinner at Michigan City's Uptown Center for the Performing Arts on October 7. Reservation info is here: <http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/WomanofYear.jpg>
- Reminder: MCHS Guidance Counselor **Aaron Garrett** is a Hoosier Star Finalist! Please support Aaron at the finals on Saturday, Sept. 10th at 7pm at the LaPorte Civic Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.hoosierstar.com/>
- Marsh teachers **Erin Breen, Michelle Hamilton, and Susan Shell** all received grants (again!) through Donors Choose. Consider posting your project (or supporting a project) here: <https://www.donorschoose.org/>

Give Backs and etc....

- Pine Elementary will have a give back at Holly's on Tuesday, September 20th. (Required coupon coming soon... check Pine's facebook closer to the date!)
- The MCHS Cityzen student newspaper is having a give back at Holly's **TODAY!** (Sept 6). The required coupon is here: http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/hollys_citizen.jpg

Community Backpack - New on <http://educateMC.net/communitybackpack>

- 4-H Open House (Oct 8)
- HealthLinc "Staying Active & Fit" for Kids (Sept 21)
- LaPorte County Orchestra Children's Chorus sign ups
- Wellness Wednesdays in Michigan City
- LaPorte County Parks Fall Programs
- Zookeeper for a Day kids' program (Sept 17)
- And more!