

MCAS Communicator

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

January 2013

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

MCAS Welcomes New School Board Members

At an Organizational Meeting on [January 3](#), Michigan City Mayor Ron Meer administered the Oath of Office to Deborah Chubb, Marty Corley, and Don Dulaney, who were elected to begin terms as MCAS School Board Members in 2013. The Board also elected officers at the January 3 meeting. Leading the Board this year are: Don Dulaney, President; Jim Kintzele, Vice President; and Beth Pishkur, Secretary. As in the past, the Board will meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month during 2013. In December, only one meeting will be held - on [December 17](#), 2013. School Board meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. at the MCAS Administration Building.

CPR Training

CPR training for teachers in need of license renewal has been scheduled at Mullen at 3:30 p.m. on [Tuesday, January 15](#) and on [Tuesday, January 22](#). The fee is \$35 check or cash (please bring exact change). To register, please contact Linda Bechinski at lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us.

AP/Dual Credit Parent Workshop

The MCHS Parent Network invites all parents to attend a free workshop on "Advanced Placement and Dual Credit" [this Thursday, January 10](#), from 6-7 pm in the high school media center. Representatives will be on hand to explain more about the AP courses available at MCHS, as well as the Dual Credit Program offered in partnership with PNC.

W-2s Coming

It's that time of year! When W-2 forms are ready, the Payroll Office will send them to school buildings. (They are due by [January 31st](#) and will be delivered by that date.)

Black History Month Contest

The Michigan City Human Rights Commission invites all students K-12 to enter its 2013 Black History Month Poster Contest. This year's theme is "At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington." Deadline is [February 1](#) and entries must be submitted at City Hall. For more information: <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49>

THANK YOU

Thank you to the many MCAS employees who donated food, books, towels, toys, cash, and time to the many efforts that assisted those in need in our community this holiday season! Once again our food drive made it possible for the Salvation Army to provide holiday baskets to 2,000 families. And Operation Bookworm resulted in approximately 1,100 books for students in need! (Congrats to Joy, which collected the greatest percentage of books and will receive the week of service from MCHS National Honor Society students.) Be sure to check out the roundup of holiday good

deeds at the following link...you may recognize someone you know! <http://educatemc.net/>

Data, Anyone?

New county level poverty information and the latest Health data (2010) has been released, and you can find the most up-to-date and localized stats for our county at www.iyi.org/countypages. The complete Kids Count in Indiana Data Book narrative is now available online at www.iyi.org/databook.

Extraordinary Art Show

There's still time to catch the "Perspective from Extraordinary Students" art show, which features work from many of our special needs students. This outstanding show will run through this weekend ([Friday](#), [Saturday](#), [Sunday](#), 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.) at the Southern Shore Art Assn. Gallery, 724 Franklin Street in Michigan City.

Mentoring Works!

January is National Mentoring Month. Did you know that only 18 of our MCAS employees are mentors? (Of that number, 13 are Safe Harbor/Hours for Ours staff.) Here are three ways **YOU** can help our students:

1. Become a mentor – it takes less than an hour a week! With a mentor, students are more likely to graduate from high school and go to college, and less likely to get involved with drugs or criminal activities.
2. Encourage a friend, co-worker or family member to become a mentor. 98% of existing mentors would recommend mentoring to others.
3. Become a mentor AND join our NASA e-mentoring program. A NASA scientist will introduce STEM activities and information that will interest both you and your mentee. Help improve the science literacy of our children!

To learn more about Hours for Ours, contact Sherri Silcox at [873-2026](tel:873-2026) x 8744.

Robotics Team News – It's Build Season!

The kickoff event for this year's Michigan City Robotics team was held at Mullen on [January](#) 5th with a live simulcast from FIRST headquarters in Manchester, New Hampshire. A number of friends and sponsors attended, including representatives from the NW Indiana Society of Innovators, This year's challenge is called "ultimate ascent" and requires teams to build a robot that plays disc golf. The competition court will also have a climbing pyramid that will allow robots to score additional points. The team looks forward to having fun and growing along with their mentors and other teams from around the State and Region. They will attend regional competitions in Wisconsin and Chicago in March and April with a goal of going to Nationals again in St. Louis!

Mustang's New Home

Inquiring minds wanted to know who won the Classic Mustang in the United Way raffle. The answer is: Scot Squires, a former resident of LaPorte who now lives in Utah. Scot was previously the education reporter for the Herald Argus newspaper, and he purchased his raffle ticket online. The Mustang has arrived safe and sound in Utah! Thanks again to all who helped with this amazing restoration project that benefited the United Way.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Schools will be closed on Monday, [January 21](#), for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday. Don't miss the annual MLK Day breakfast that morning at PNC at 7:30 a.m. and the other events commemorating the holiday here in our community. (The featured speaker at the breakfast is Dr. Danita Johnson Hughes, who will speak about her most recent book, "Influencing Today's Youth: Sharing the Behaviors, Expectations and Aspirations of [Tomorrow's Leaders](#)" and how it relates to Dr. King's legacy.) For more information visit: <http://www.pnc.edu/cd/news/mlkday13.html>

WAY TO GO

- Congrats to **Lynne Clinkert**, Freshman Academy English teacher at MCHS, who recently received a mini grant of \$200 from the Northwest Indiana Literacy Council. The funds have been used to purchase high-interest low-lexile books for freshmen.
- Congrats to MCHS Associate Principal **Kevin Goralczyk**, who won the second annual Principals Shoot-out (foul shot/3-pointer/layout) contest at the Michigan City/LaPorte game on Dec. 18.
- Congratulations to our **Safe Harbor Program**, which has been featured in the Charles Stuart Mott Foundation's annual report. Safe Harbor's focus on after school STEM activities and the establishment of the Robotics Team has attracted national attention to our schools and our program! Check it out at: <http://www.mott.org/files/pubs/AR2011SSSafeHarbor.pdf>

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Historical Society Museum Trips

The LaPorte County Historical Society would like to remind educators about its many field trip opportunities. From Susie Richter, Curator:

"We have a lot of visitors from Chicago that tell us we are every bit as exciting as most 'Big City' museums. People are always surprised at what we have to offer. From our 40 antique cars to our 1,000 ancient weapons; from our 14 period rooms to our 2 train layouts; people keep coming back and finding something new each time they are here. Everything in the museum has been donated and must relate to La Porte County and its history. For a school trip, we usually divide into smaller groups and spend some time in our Pioneer Room. There, they learn about life when La Porte County was first founded. Then we move on to other time periods and learn how life was lived then. We have 3 levels here with much to look at on each level. We have a meeting room and research library as well. The meeting room is available for sack lunches, etc. We hope you will keep us in mind when planning field trips and you are always invited to come and check us out. We do not charge admission for school groups."

Contact Susie Richter at [\(219\) 324-6767](tel:2193246767) or email info@laportecountyhistory.org

Lilly Scholarships

The Unity Foundation of La Porte County is offering two full-tuition, four year college scholarships to benefit La Porte County residents. They provide full tuition, required fees, and a special allocation of up to \$900 per year for required books and equipment for four years of undergraduate study, leading to a baccalaureate degree at any accredited Indiana public or private college or university. Deadline for applications: [January 18, 2013](#). For more information and an application visit: <http://uflc.net/scholarships/grants-scholarships/>

Valentines Day Blood Drive

First Trust Credit Union (950 E. Hwy 20) is conducting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, [February 14](#) from 12:00 – 4:30 p.m. Please consider donating! Call Laurie at [\(219\) 877-2290](tel:(219)877-2290) to register for a time slot.

Purdue-Cal Project CRISS Workshop

Purdue University Calumet in Hammond invites teachers and instructional support staff in all content areas to attend its Project CRISS professional development sessions. They will be held on Saturdays, [February 9](#), 23 and [March 9](#) from 9:00 – 3:00. License renewal and non-credit options are available. For more info: http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/CRISS_PUC_Workshop.doc

New on "Community Backpack"...

- A list of January - April programs for kids and families, from the **LaPorte County Parks Dept.**
- **Michigan City Wrestling Club** signups - for students grades 4-8

Visit <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49> for details on these and other community events!