



MARY CASTLE ELEMENTARY • 8502 East 82nd Street • Indianapolis, IN 46256

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Ms. Carla Johnson, Principal  
marycastle.LTschools.org

Dr. Shawn A. Smith, Superintendent  
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# Global Gazette

## December 2017

- Dec 3 Mary Castle Dedication – 2 – 4 p.m.
- Dec 4-8 MEC Book Fair
- Dec 7 Academic Team Competition @ Harrison Hill
- Dec 7 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Musical 6:30 p.m.
- Dec 7 IREAD3 Night for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 6 p.m.
- Dec 9 Fall Creek Valley Middle School Robotics Competition
- Dec 21 End of Grading Period
- Dec 22 No School for Students
- Dec 22-Jan 8 No School for Students
- Jan 8 No School for Students – Staff Reports to School
- Jan 9 First day back for Students
- Jan 12 Report Cards available online

### Principal Corner – Mrs. Johnson

**SOAR (Students and Staff Obtaining Achievement & Rigor) with JOY – STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT – Be the Change you Want to SEE in the World by Mahatam Ghani**

**Demonstration School** - Mary Castle begins the work of a demonstration school in which lots of support for professional growth is given to teachers and leaders. In November students became aware of the Success Criteria needed as they completed task in Reading, Math, Science etc. The Success Criteria are a few highlights that guides students in how to reach mastery of the standard being taught. In December our staff will focus heavily on Monitoring for Learning as we seek to check students understanding throughout a lesson. As we begin to aim for ISTEP in February our teachers are making sure to teach the priority standards. Ask your child this month what their class is doing in SCIENCE. We are excited to dive into our new STEM Scopes curriculum in grades 2-6 and Mystery Science in 1st. Our 6th graders are beginning to learn about the scientific process as we get ready for the 2018 Science Fair.

- Continue to encourage your child to practice online Lexia skills and Dreambox for Math.

- CODING - Dec. 4th-8th is National CODING month which will kick off in GLOBAL STEM. Ask you child what coding means in the world of technology.

### **Mary Castle's goals for 2017-18**

- Increase growth by 5% in both ELA and Math for Grade 3.
- Increase 10% in both ELA and Math in every cohort 4-6. Every ELL student shows growth on WIDA by one level.
- Student Attendance increases to or above 96.9%. (District Goal – 97%)

**Mary Castle Dedication** - Mark your calendar for December 3, 2017 from 2pm-4pm we will host Mary Castle's Dedication. All current Mary Castle families are welcome and invited. Our School Board and District Administration dedicate a plaque for all of our renovations with a brief program, ribbon cutting ceremony which will start at 2pm, student led tours and refreshments. We hope to see you at our dedication.

Newly renovated in the last 18 months

- New media center/library-opened Fall Break 2017
- Cafeteria with all new kitchen appliances with 2 serving lines and extra seating space
- All classrooms have new lockers, white boards, active panels, new student desks/chairs
- New Main office
- New Nurse's Office
- New Art, Music and Compass room, GYM makeover & state of the art technology & sound system
- New restrooms

**SAFETY TIPS** - Due to safety, parents **must** pick up their child in the car rider line versus entering the office at the end of day while we dismiss students for everyone's safety. Please call before 1:45 p.m. for any end of day changes. Our front doors open at 7:35 a.m. for morning



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## Mary Evelyn Castle Elementary

arrival through the car rider line. Car Riders are not to be released until a staff member appears on duty at 7:35 a.m. Our tardy bell rings at 8 a.m. For families that have a student at the ELC be sure to drop them off first and then come to MEC and turn right.

### WAYS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH MARY CASTLE:

- All Early Learning Centers and Elementary Schools adhere to the district handbook:
- <http://marycastle.itschools.org/about/student-handbook>
- **Check out Mary Castle on FACEBOOK and "LIKE us" <https://www.facebook.com/mecschoo>**
- Follow us on Twitter! Mary Castle Elem **@MaryCastleElem**
- Check your child's first day of the week blue folder for important school information. (Coming soon.)  
--Carla Johnson, Principal

### 1:1 Device World

Students around Mary Castle are working with our new Science curriculum, STEMScopes. STEMScopes is a fun and interactive curriculum where students can upload observations and information to their STEMScopes journal while they are conducting scientific investigations. There are many math and reading components to STEMScopes and students can navigate through STEMScopes on their Chromebooks at their own pace! Ask your child what they are learning in Science and/or have them show you're their cool STEMScopes Journals!

### International Connections

**News from Global Leadership:** In Global Leadership, we have many EXCITING things going on!!! The week of December 6th is National Code Week. In honor of this, every class is going to do 1 hour of coding. You can help your students too by encouraging them to go to [www.code.org](http://www.code.org) and practice their coding skills. We are using our STEM skills to help Riley Children's Hospital. Each grade will be designing and building a toy or game to give the kids. We also are collecting pop tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House to help the families who have kids in the hospital. Please save every pop tab and send it in with your child. The money made from recycling the pop tabs pays for the families to stay at the Ronald McDonald House while their kids are in Riley. The class that collects

the most pop tabs gets a Technology day in Global Leadership class. Looking forward to a very giving December!!! Christy Donnenhoffer

**News from P.E.:** In Physical Education class it's extremely important that everyone wears tennis shoes on their PE day. If boots are worn to school, then be sure to pack some tennis shoes for class. Wearing tennis shoes is much safer for physical activity and it prevents the wood floor from getting damaged. Mary Castle is getting a new gym floor over winter break and we want to make sure it doesn't get damaged.

**News from Music:** The 2nd Grade Winter Concert will be on Thursday, December 7th! The concert will start at 6:30 in the MEC gym. Students should arrive by 6:10. Concert attire colors are blue, white, gray, and black. Make sure to turn in your permission slip to Mrs. Rouse!

**News from COMPASS:** In COMPASS students are hard at work on their research of Natural Disasters. They will be creating public service announcements on their choice of disaster as their final product for this unit. We have learned so much about our changing earth and climate during this unit. Our Trick or Treat for UNICEF fundraiser that went along with this was a huge success raising \$863 to help children in need.

### Robotics Club

The Mary Castle Robotics Club is in its second year of bringing hands-on STEM to 5th and 6th grade students. Led by Ms. Coake, Mrs. Donnenhoffer, and Mrs. Powell, participants have been meeting and preparing since October with their robot build, programming and STEM project. The club is gearing up to send two student teams to the first competition of the season at Fall Creek Valley Middle School on December 9th. Many elementary schools within Lawrence Township will also be competing at the event alongside other schools within the community. Our MEC teams will also compete in January and February for a chance to earn a spot at the State Championship. We wish the MEC Robotics Club the best of luck! Competition Dates:

December 9	Robotics Team Competition @ Fall Creek Valley Middle School
January 20	Robotics Team Competition @ Guion Creek Middle School
February 10	Robotics Team Competition @ Shortridge High School

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## Mary Evelyn Castle Elementary

### News from Student Council

Thank you to all who helped my donating socks to our Sock-Vember Drive.

- First grade donated 270 pairs
- Second grade donated 57 pairs
- Third grade donated 91 pairs
- Fourth grade donated 318 pairs
- Fifth grade donated 40 pairs
- Sixth grade donated 25 pairs

The grand total of socks was 701 pairs!!! The top three classrooms were Mrs. Lancaster's room with 120 pairs, Mrs. Campbell's class with 153 pairs and Mrs. Frieze's class had 158 pairs. The donut party will be scheduled soon for the winning classroom!

### IREAD3 – Third Grade Families

Next Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, is a very important meeting about the upcoming IREAD3 assessment. The meeting will start right at 6pm and end in time for the second grade musical. We will have childcare available during the meeting. Dinner will be offered before the meeting at 5:30pm for a small fee of \$3 a person. We look forward to seeing you next Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm!

### News from the Nurse

Flu season is quickly approaching and to help fight this Flu vaccines cause antibodies to develop in the body about two weeks after vaccination. These antibodies provide protection against infection with the viruses that are in the vaccine. The seasonal flu vaccine protects against the influenza viruses that research indicates will be most common during the upcoming season. Traditional flu vaccines (called "trivalent" vaccines) are made to protect against three flu viruses; an influenza A (H1N1) virus, an influenza A (H3N2) virus, and an influenza B virus. There are also flu vaccines made to protect against four flu viruses (called "quadrivalent" vaccines). These vaccines protect against the same viruses as the trivalent vaccine and an additional B virus.

### PFO News

**Book Fair:** The Mary Castle Book Fair is next week, December 4-7! The book fair will be held in the music room. Students will have time each day to visit and shop. In addition, the book fair will be open during the Winter

Concert Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Sign up to volunteer helping the students locate books and count their money during their class visits: <http://signup.com/go/ttyBYZV>

**Raffle Basket Donations:** As you shop for holiday gift giving, consider picking up an item to donate for use in our Spring Basket Raffle. Each grade level does a themed basket so you can't go wrong with picking any type of item from a beach toy, board game, craft supplies or kitchen accessories. Drop them off once we come back to school after the winter break.

**WE NEED YOU!** Do you have fun ideas or a creative spirit? Help us brainstorm for the International Festival. In January, we'll jump right into planning this event. Of course, we also need volunteers to execute the plan. Please, if you have even one hour over the next 4 months to give to making this event happen, email [mecpfo@gmail.com](mailto:mecpfo@gmail.com) or call/text Kelley Mesterharm 317-372-8870

### District News

**Honor An Educator** - The *Honor An Educator* program is a great way to personally thank the teachers, administrators, coaches, bus drivers and staff members who have encouraged, influenced, and inspired your students to be the best they can be. When you make a gift to the *Honor An Educator* Fund, the Lawrence Township School Foundation sends the recipient a custom designed card with your special sentiment and notifies his/her supervisor of the recognition. Recognitions will be accepted until December 8, 2017, so that the honored educators receive their cards before the end of the semester. For more information visit the Foundation's website at [msdltf.org](http://msdltf.org).

**Weather Related School Closings** - Moving into the winter months there may be mornings when it is necessary to cancel or delay the start of school. Visit the Announcements on our website for details regarding weather related closing/delay procedures.

**Happy Holidays!**

**Winter Break is December 22—January 8**  
**The first day of school after Winter Break**  
**is January 9.**

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