



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

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Ms. Carla Johnson, Principal
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Global Gazette

February 2017

Month of February	Black History Month Kick-Off
February 4	MEC vs Brook Park Boys/Girls Basketball Game, 3:30 p.m. at LECC
February 4	Robotics Competition at Cornerstone Noblesville Classic
February 6	Morning Family Chat with Mrs. Johnson, 7 a.m. in the COMPASS Room
February 6	Student Council collecting Valentines for Vets to be delivered to the VA hospital
February 10	5 th & 6 th Grade Fun Friday, 2:45 – 4:30 p.m.
February 11	MEC vs Skiles Test Boys/Girls Basketball Game, 3:30 p.m. at LECC
February 14	Valentine's Day/Friendship Day
February 16	Pacer Game
February 16	PREP Parent Engagement Series, 6:30 p.m.
February 17	Movie Night, Grades 1-4, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
February 18	Robotics Competition at Heritage Christian School
February 18	MEC vs Forest Glenn Boys/Girls Basketball Game, 6:30 p.m. at LECC
February 20	President's Day – NO SCHOOL
February 25	MEC vs Sunnyside Boys/Girls Basketball Game, 4:30 p.m. at LECC
Feb 27 – Mar 10	ISTEP – Applied Skills
March 7	PFO Meeting, 7 p.m.
March 10	LT Foundation Gala
March 13-17	IREAD3 Test – Grade 3 only
March 16	Spring Pictures
March 17	Report Card Distribution
March 21	Science Fair, Grade 6
March 23	Possible Snow Make-up Day
March 24	Possible Snow Make-up Day
March 27-31	Spring Break – No School

Principal Corner – Mrs. Johnson

Student Achievement through Best Practice In February be sure to monitor your child's progress by checking grades on Skyward. A hard copy of your child's midterm grades will be sent home mid-February as we reach the halfway mark during the grading period. This is an excellent time to set goals and reinforce study habits.

What happens after school hours at Mary Castle? Our students are engaged in after school clubs and we have a great After Care program which is open until 6 p.m. Our teaching staff on Tuesday's, Wednesday's and Thursday's are teaming in Professional Learning Communities in which they examine student work, use data to plan instruction, and share instructional strategies to increase student achievement.

Read more information about our work around RIGOR from Our Instructional Coach, Mrs. Sturgeon. Ever wonder what the teachers are doing in professional development? This year the district has teamed up with Learning Sciences Marzano Center who specializes in implementation of continuous-teacher-growth systems. Professional development is focusing on best practices to support teachers in improving their daily instruction, thus increasing student achievement! Teachers have learned how to write/use content and language objectives to drive their lessons. Ask your child what their daily objectives were for reading and math. Teachers are also learning how to monitor student growth and understanding "in the moment". This allows teachers to address student needs immediately. Teachers will continue to learn/refine essential classroom instructional strategies throughout the year to help students achieve the required level of rigor to meet our college and career readiness standards

Attendance- Your child's presence at school each day is essential. Please make sure your child has arrived to class by 8 a.m. so they do not miss a minute of instruction. The spring count-down to standardized testing is as follows:

- 14 School Days until ISTEP Part 1 Start date February 27th
- 24 School Days until IREAD
- 47 School Days until ISTEP Part 2

Morning Chat with Mrs. Johnson and the PFO President, Mrs. Oliger- Mark your calendar for Monday, February 6, to come to our morning chat with Mrs. Johnson and the PFO President, Mrs. Oliger. We will cover many topics from student achievement, supporting our school and community as we seek input from families and answer questions.

MEC is TROTING along...

Do you remember the Global Guidelines? The Global Guidelines were the six school-wide expectations for all to follow. Our PBIS team worked to condense those expectations into four school-wide expectations and the acronym is T.R.O.T. TROT stands for **T**ake charge of your learning, **R**espect others and the learning environment, **O**wn responsibility, and **T**hink Safely. When we returned from winter break, all students reviewed our school-expectations in COMPASS with Mrs. Church using TROT. During that time, students created tickets that will be used for positive reinforcement. When students are caught in the act of Teachers retaught expectations for all common areas and Mr. Blythe along with the café monitors reviewed expectations in the Cafeteria. **COMING SOON: TROT TICKETS!** When students are observed meeting the school-wide expectations, they could receive a TROT ticket. While students were reviewing TROT with Mrs. Church, they also had an opportunity to design what our TROT ticket would look like. Our students did a phenomenal job, but there was one that stood out. The winning design was created by Sydney R. in Mrs. McLaren's Room. We are excited about being Globetrotters and we will keep TROT'n along!



Lawrence Excellence!

Archived copies of our newsletters are available on our website.

Mary Evelyn Castle Elementary

1:1 One to the World

Fifth and sixth grade students continue to use their Chromebooks across the curriculum. Teachers have found the Chromebooks to be especially helpful in getting immediate feedback during classroom lessons. Through the use of MirrorOp students' computer screens can be presented on the front classroom Smartboard. This allows students to showcase and explain their work to the entire class. In addition, several programs such as Socrative and Go Formative allow students to put in answers to questions during lessons and teachers to get immediate results on the Smartboard. It is a great tool that allows teachers to monitor for learning and adjust lessons in the moment.

International Connections

News from Art: In art class all students are beginning our annual clay unit! Sixth grade students are learning about the Aztec Sun Stone and building their own Aztec Day sign out of clay. Fifth grade is looking into Native American Totem Poles and creating their own "Totem Spoon" to represent sharing about themselves. Fourth grade is creating a mix of art and science! Be sure to check out their Chia Pets during their Spring Musical and Art Show! Third grade is looking at art from Mexico and creating their own coil pots. Second grade is learning about score/slip/seal and will create fun underwater creatures. First grade will get their hands dirty making pinch pots and finger puppets out of their clay! Clay is so much fun at every grade level! Miss Wynne

News from Music: Folk Dancing Club will be starting Tuesday, February 14th for 3rd - 6th Grade. Please see Mrs. Rouse if you need a permission slip!

News from Gym: Are you ready to help make a difference in the lives of kids in Indiana and win fabulous prizes? With our Jump Rope for Heart campaign you can do both! Money we earn during our fundraiser goes directly to research through the American Heart Association and this year we have zoo animals that you can earn for donating! Look for packets to come home with your student. Last year we raised over \$5,200 to help sick children in Indiana! I am hoping that this year we can earn even more! Packets can be returned any time before February 17th. Thank you! Mr. Beattie

Student Council Project

Have you heard of VAMC? Well it stands for Veterans Administration Medical Center. This hospital is for our veterans. Our Indianapolis VAMC has a hospital and also includes a residence where veterans can get help. Student Council is conducting a drive to help supply the VAMC with supplies. We are asking for comfort items such as soap, deodorant, and other items. We are excited to see all of the donations to help this cause. This of items needed:

Travel sized: shampoo, deodorant, dental floss, mouthwash (alcohol free), shaving cream

Individually wrapped toothbrushes & Denture adhesive

Contact lens solution

Sunscreen

Hand sanitizer – alcohol free

Lip balm

Feminine hygiene products

Men's & Women's clothing/belts –only new clothing and plastic hangers

Men's & Women's new shoes and new shower shoes (flip-flops)

Zip-lock type snack bags – unopened

Books, notebooks, colored pencils

Bus passes (IndyGo)

Pre-paid cell phone loaded with minutes

Air mattresses, bedding

PFO News

Thank you! Thank you to everyone who came out for Family Game Night on January 19th! A big thank you to Eleni Drake for providing the math pentathlon games and leading the family fitness activity as well! The kids had so much fun dancing and playing games.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered and came out for Culver's on Tuesday, January 31. It's always nice to see Mary Castle families and staff out and about.

Mark your Calendar:

- Fun Friday will be held for 5th and 6th grade students on Friday, February 10 after school. Flyers with details were sent home recently; contact Jamila at (317) 679-6406 or jamila.rich@gmail.com if you're interested in volunteering. You can also sign up at: <http://signup.com/go/ZHucNF>. Students of volunteers attend for free.
- Movie Night will be held for students in grades 1-4 on Friday, February 17. More information coming home soon!
- A PFO meeting will be held Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you then!

International Festival - The International Festival will be held Friday, May 12. If you are interested in joining the planning committee and/or gathering donations for the raffle, please contact Kamba Rozak at (317) 504-8897 or kdrozak@hotmail.com.

District News

Summer Camp/Day Care - The MSD of Lawrence Township, in partnership with the Benjamin Harrison YMCA is offering a variety of summer camp opportunities for children ages 3 through 15. Check the website for complete details and registration information.

Student Health Assessment Questionnaire - Students in grades three and above will participate in the Student Health Assessment Questionnaire (SHAQ) to be administered between February 7 and February 24. See the website for details.

PREP-Parent Engagement Series—Let's Talk About Getting the Most of Middle School - February 16 at 6:30 pm at Fall Creek Valley Middle School, 9701 East 63rd Street

A panel of Lawrence Township administrators, counselors, parents, and students will discuss how to get the most out of the middle school experience, including transition strategies, scheduling, extracurricular activities, and more. Come learn about LT middle schools and get all your questions answered. Childcare and Spanish translation provided.

"Light Their Future" Celebration - On **March 10, 2017**, the Lawrence Township School Foundation will host its 17th annual **"Light their Future" Celebration**. It will be an evening of dinner, dancing, socializing, and a fantastic silent auction. Check the Foundation's website at www.msdltf.org for more information or if you or your company is interested in donating something to be used in the silent auction.

Preschool Registration for the 2017 - 2018 school year is now open. Visit LTSchools.org for more information.

Summer sports leagues are forming now. See the **Community Activities** page on our website linked in the lower right side.

Monday, February 20 is Presidents' Day. No School.

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