



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
LTschools.org

Global Gazette

February 2018

- Feb 8 Grade 3 – Children’s Museum Field Trip
- Feb 10 Robotics Team Competition @ Shortridge High School
- Feb 10 6th Grade Boys Basketball Game MEC vs ST – 2:30 p.m. @ LECC Large Gym
- Feb. 10 6th Grade Girls Basketball Game MEC vs ST – 3:30 p.m. @ LECC Small Gym
- Feb 13 PFO Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Feb 16 Snow Make-Up Day – SCHOOL IS IN SESSION
- Feb 16 Movie Night @ MEC, Grades 1-4
- Feb 17 6th Grade Boys Basketball Game MEC vs FG – 5:30 p.m. @ LECC Small Gym
- Feb 17 6th Grade Girls Basketball Game MEC vs FG – 4:30 p.m. @ LECC Large Gym
- Feb 17 IU/PUI Stem Outreach Program Introduce a 5/6th Grade Girl to Engineering Day
- Feb 19 President’s Day – No School
- Feb 19-23 Practice ISTEP Test
- Feb 21 High Ability Testing Grades 1 & 4 from 3-6 p.m. at LECC
- Feb 21 MEC Night at Portillo’s, 5-8 p.m.
- Feb 21 Making the Most of Middle School – 6:30 p.m. at Fall Creek Valley Middle School
- Feb 22 High Ability Testing Grades 3 & 5 from 3-6 p.m. at LECC
- Feb 24 6th Grade Boys Basketball Game MEC vs SS – 5:30 p.m. @ LECC Large Gym
- Feb 24 6th Grade Girls Basketball Game MEC vs SS – 4:30 p.m. @ LECC Small Gym
- 2/26-3/9 ISTEP+ Part 1 Grades 3-6
- Mar 2 Fun Friday @ MEC
- Mar 3 6th Grade Boys Basketball Game MEC vs ABE – 2:30 p.m. @ LECC Small Gym
- Mar 3 6th Grade Girls Basketball Game MEC vs ABE – 3:30 p.m. @ LECC Large Gym
- Mar 8 Celebrity Reader, 6-8 p.m.
- Mar 9 LT Foundation Gala
- Mar 10 Lucas Oil Stadium – Robotics Championship

- Mar 10 6th Grade Basketball Playoffs TBA
- 3/12-16 IREAD3
- Mar 15 Pacer Fundraiser Night
- Mar 16 End of Grading Period
- Mar 16 6th Grade Basketball Playoffs TBA
- Mar 17 6th Grade Basketball Championship TBA
- Mar 19 Spring Pictures
- Mar 20 Staff vs Student Basketball Game, Time TBA
- Mar 22 Snow Make-up Day, SCHOOL IN SESSION
- Mar 23 Snow Make-up Day if needed
- Mar 26-30 Spring Break – No School
- April 14 District Science Fair
- 4/16-5/4 ISTEP, Round 2

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

“Your life is your message to the world make it inspiring.”
Student Achievement We have **14 School Days until ISTEP round 1 and 24 Days until IREAD 3** for third grade. Be sure to set goals for report card grades and behavior comments as you review the semester report cards with your child that became available online January 16th. We had a great turnout for our 3rd-6th grade Honors Breakfast. In January all grade levels participated in a Globe Trotters Unite grade level assemblies in which we reviewed our school achievement goals with students. Be sure to ask your child about our new school wide estimation jar. As we begin the month of February Mary Castle is celebrating Famous Americans as student learn more about African American history and Presidents who served our country. There are daily school wide morning announcement questions and each class is researching a famous African American that will culminate in an exciting display of learning. We are excited about new bulletin boards that arrived at Mary Castle in January to display student learning as well as the



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culture and spirit of the Globe Trotters. Look for more information to come home from your child's teacher about Valentine card exchanges. Each year food services provides a treat for children in the classroom so that party food and sweets do not have to be sent to school as we avoid possible food items with all of our food allergies. Congratulations to Mrs. Smelser and families that supported her as she received a Donors Choose match for a set of Growth Mindset books.

ATTENDANCE Matters:

MEC December student attendance 95%

January student attendance 94%

Student Achievement - Mary Castle's goals for 2017-18

- Increase ISTEP Proficiency by 5% in both ELA and Math for Grade 3.
- Increase ISTEP Proficiency by 10% in both ELA and Math in every cohort 4-6.
- Score above the national average of 1.8 on Rigor Walk
- Every ELL student shows growth on WIDA by one level.
- Student Attendance increases to or above 96.9%. (District Goal – 97%) MEC is currently at 95%

Pacer Fundraiser: It's that time of year again.... The Pacers Fundraiser is in full effect! Our school night is Thursday, March 15, 2018 where the Pacers will face the Toronto Raptors at 7pm. This year, tickets can be purchased with the brochure, or online. The deadline for ticket orders is Wednesday, February 7, 2018.

REMINDERS:

- Book rental is now past due. This is a friendly reminder to pay book rental to our school treasurer Mrs. Perry by February 23rd. It's important to get your book rental paid prior to next steps of working with a collection agency.
- Sign your **5th or 6th grade girl** up for Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day at Engineering and Technology IUPUI on 2/17/18! The IUPUI Student Chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) will be hosting this event. Only \$10 & such a fun day of hands-on activities with current female

IUPUI students! Register here:

[IUPUI Registration form](#). Questions:

Contact Dr. Terri Talbert-Hatch at

ttalbert@iupui.edu or 317-274-8703.

- Yearbooks are still on sale. The cost is \$15.

Box Top Store: The Mary Castle Box Top Store is now open. Each Friday morning students who bring Box Tops may shop at the Box Top Store conveniently located next door to Ms. Smelser's room.

WAYS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH MARY CASTLE:

- All Early Learning Centers and Elementary Schools adhere to the district handbook:
- <http://marycastle.ltschools.org/about/student-handbook>
- **Check out Mary Castle on FACEBOOK and "LIKE us" <https://www.facebook.com/mecscool>**
- 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

International Connections

News from P.E.: Mary Castle will be participating in Jump Rope for Heart in Physical Education class the week of February 12- February 16th. Please be sure to return all the donation packets by February 16th. All of the money we raise is donated to the American Heart Association. Thanks for your support!

News from Global Leadership: In February, we will finish up our unit on the Arctic. Ask your child about what they learned about the harsh Arctic environment, the animals that live there, adaptations needed for survival, and how global warming is affecting the habitats of many animals who live there. Next, we are going to the Winter Olympics. We will be using our Engineering skills to design and build our own Winter Games in class...can't wait to see who wins GOLD!!!

News from COMPASS: In COMPASS we have launched a new geography unit that will focus on climate. We will investigate how the earth is divided into climate zones, what affects climate like latitude and elevation, and climate change. We will also tie in the Winter Olympics and discuss how our climate affects our way of life.

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Kids in Action Club: Kids in Action club will be very busy this semester! We have already had a service project at the new ProAct offices where we volunteered and then did activities that promote a healthy lifestyle. We thank everyone who has participated in the SOUPer Bowl Challenge. We are up to over 200 cans of soup that will help families this winter. Kids in Action will be sponsoring the student/staff basketball game again this year. It will be March 20th at 6:30pm. Proceeds will go towards this semester's service project in the Peace Park.

Robotics Club: A huge "congratulations" to Mary Castle Robotics! BOTH teams made it into the Finals Round at our January competition! All students worked very hard to prepare for their tasks and supported each other on game day! In addition, one of our teams won an automatic spot to the State Championship at Lucas Oil Stadium on March 10 with their first place finals round Co-Champion Alliance! The strong STEM skills and teamwork shown by each member is empowering. We look forward to Saturday, Feb. 10 as both teams set off for another competition at Shortridge High School. Way to go Mary Castle Robotics!

News from the Nurse

CDC Director Brenda Fitzgerald has described the 2017-2018 flu season as "very active," and has said that much of the country is experiencing "[widespread and intense flu activity](#)." During a [Jan. 12 press update](#), Fitzgerald said that influenza A, H3N2, has been the most common strain of flu virus reported this year. "These viruses are often linked to more severe illness, especially among children and people age 65 and older," she said.

Most children who get the flu do recover. But thousands are hospitalized every year, and some die from complications. The number of children killed by influenza-related causes per season has ranged over the last decade from a low of 37 (in 2011-2012) to a high of 288 (in 2009-2010).

The current flu season is, so far, on track to be deadlier for children than the previous two. During last year's flu season, 110 children died from the flu between November 2016 and September 2017, with 17 pediatric deaths reported through the second week of January last year. During the 2015-2016 flu season, 92 children died from the flu, with 10 child deaths by this point in the season.

But there have also been worse seasons in recent years: Compared to the 30 deaths so far in 2017-2018, there were 255 child deaths reported by the same week in 2010. The 2014-2015 flu season was also particularly dangerous, with a total of 148 pediatric deaths, 97 of which were reported by this time in 2015.

She stresses that parents should take symptoms of the flu seriously and [get sick children to a doctor right away](#) — especially if they have a pre-existing condition or they're under the age of 5. Signs of flu in children can include a high fever, chills, body aches, extreme tiredness, cough and sore throat. Nausea, vomiting and diarrhea are also common in children with the flu, unlike adults. Doctors may not screen for the flu virus, she says, as the laboratory test isn't always accurate; rather, they can make a probable diagnosis — and prescribe treatment — based on a physical exam.

"If the flu is going around and you suspect your child has a respiratory illness and a fever, it's more important to get treatment with an anti-viral than it is to get tested," she says. Two antiviral medications, oseltamivir (brand name Tamiflu) and zanamivir (brand name Relenza) are approved for children.

Finally, everyone should take everyday precautions preventing the spread of influenza, like washing your hands, covering your cough if you are sick, and staying home from work or school to prevent spreading the flu to others.

Per the CDC we all need to "Take 3" Actions to Fight the Flu

1. [Vaccinate](#)
2. [Stop Germs](#)
3. [Antiviral Drugs if your doctor prescribes them.](#)

What are everyday preventive actions?

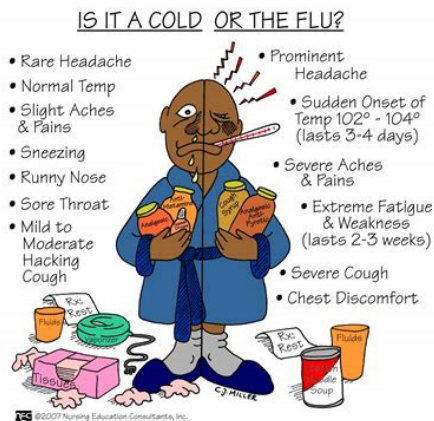
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you or your child gets sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you (or your child) stay home for at least **24 hours AFTER** the fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. *The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.*
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.

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- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.
- If an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs, follow public health advice. This may include information about how to increase distance between people and other measures.



'Everyday preventive actions can help slow the spread of germs that can cause many different illnesses and may offer some protection against the flu.' – CDC

Early Entrance to Kindergarten Request Process for the 2018-2019 school year

According to policy set by the Indiana Department of Education, a child must be five years of age by August 1, of the year they enroll, to enter kindergarten. The MSD of Lawrence Township gives parents/guardians the option of requesting early entrance to kindergarten if a child's birthdate falls between August 2nd and October 31st of the year they enroll, but the Early Entrance Request Process must be followed.

If your child was born in 2013, and will be turning five years old between August 2 and October 31, 2018, and you want your child to attend kindergarten, you must request Early Entrance to Kindergarten Assessment for the 2018-2019 school year.

The window to request Early Entrance will be open online from February 20, 2018 to April 20, 2018. After filling out the request, you will be contacted via email and will be given the next steps in the process. Your child may also be scheduled to attend a summer camp class one day between June 4 and June 15, 2018. While there, observations will be made about your child's interactions with children and adults in the classroom setting.

Be sure to check the township website, Itschools.org, between February 20th and April 20th, for the link to make your Early Entrance to Kindergarten Request for the 2018-2019 school year.

PFO News

Movie Night – February 16th Calling all 1st-4th graders! Sign up to enjoy another awesome movie night. What's the movie, you ask? It's a surprise!

Raffle Items wanted – We've started looking for items that make great raffle prizes. If you have any new, unused, in the packaging left-over holiday gifts you can't return and can't bring yourself to donate to a thrift store or sell on Facebook, we'll take them. Or, put together your own gift basket perhaps with another family or sponsor a basket with a cash donation. Consider adding a \$10 gift card to your next purchase at a retailer. Take advantage of the winter sales and purchase toys, games, camping gear, bath sets – whatever you think we could use. Have your business or hobby? Consider donating your goods and services. Anything goes!

Many Thanks to all those who participate in Kroger's Community Rewards - If you have a Kroger Plus Card, please take a few minutes to log into your account and select the Mary Castle PFO as your community rewards organization. Once linked, each time you use your Kroger Plus Card a percentage of sales will go directly to the Mary

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Castle PFO. You're helping support teachers and students every time you shop!

PFO Monthly Meet Up – Join us Tuesday, February 13th at 7 pm. Honestly, we aren't planning any sort of fun or informative meeting. We'll use the time for fellowship and get to know one another while sorting through International Festival ideas from our teachers. PFO meeting attendance this year has been minimal, if at all, by parents. Is it time to put out a survey to find out what time works better for our Mary Castle Families? Yes, it is! Look for it and let us know how we can improve. The PFO Board meets at 6:30 beforehand and all are welcome to both.

As always – if you have comments or suggestions, need anything, have ideas or just want to chat or even vent, I am always ready to meet new friends, email me at mecpfo@gmail.com or call/text [317-372-8870](tel:317-372-8870). Thank you for supporting PFO! – Kelley Mesterharm

District News

MyStop Bus App- Lawrence Township Transportation is working with My Stop to provide GPS tracking information for our buses and give families more exact information about their child's bus arrival. My Stop can be utilized via the My Stop website, <https://bus.ltschools.org/onscreen/Login>, or via the app on your smartphone/mobile device. Visit LTschools.org/transportation for complete details and instructions.

Making the Most of Middle School - Plan to join us on February 21st at 6:30 pm at Fall Creek Middle School for our Parent Engagement Series, Making the Most of Middle School, to learn about all of the exciting opportunities our middle schools have to offer your child!

7th Grade Transfer Request - Students entering 7th grade in the fall may submit a request to attend a middle school other than the school currently serving their attendance boundary. The deadline is February 11th. See the Announcement on the website for details.

**School will be in session
Friday, February 16
to make up for the snow
day on Friday, January 12.**

**There is no school
Monday, February 19
in observance of
Presidents' Day**

**School will be in session
Thursday, March 22
to make up for the snow
day on Wednesday,
January 24.**

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