



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

## January 2018

- Jan 9-26 Request for High Ability Testing due –  
Grades 1, 3, 4 & 5
- 1/15-2/5 SOUPer Bowl Challenge
- 1/17-2/5 CogAT Testing
- Jan 20 Robotics Team Competition @ Guion Creek Middle School
- Jan 20 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Game MEC vs IC –  
4:30 p.m. @ LECC – small gym
- Jan 20 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Game MEC vs HH –  
5:30 p.m. @ LECC Large Gym
- Jan 23 PFO Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Jan 26 MEC Night at Chili Verde – 75<sup>th</sup> & Shadeland -  
Simply Mention MEC when Ordering
- Jan 27 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Game MEC vs CV –  
12:30 p.m. @ LECC Large Gym
- Jan 27 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Game MEC vs CV –  
11:30 a.m. @ LECC Small Gym
- Feb 3 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Game MEC vs BP –  
12:30 p.m. @ LECC Small Gym
- Feb 3 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Game MEC vs BP –  
1:30 p.m. @ LECC Large Gym
- Feb 8 Grade 3 – Children’s Museum Field Trip
- Feb 10 Robotics Team Competition @ Shortridge High School
- Feb 10 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Game MEC vs ST –  
2:30 p.m. @ LECC Large Gym
- Feb. 10 6<sup>th</sup> 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 17 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Game MEC vs FG –  
5:30 p.m. @ LECC Small Gym
- Feb 17 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Game MEC vs FG –  
4:30 p.m. @ LECC Large Gym
- Feb 19 President’s Day – No School
- Feb 21 High Ability Testing Grades 1 & 4 from 3-6 p.m. at LECC

- 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 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Game MEC vs SS –  
5:30 p.m. @ LECC Large Gym
- Feb 24 6<sup>th</sup> 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 3 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Game MEC vs ABE –  
2:30 p.m. @ LECC Small Gym
- Mar 3 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Game MEC vs ABE –  
3:30 p.m. @ LECC Large Gym
- Mar 10 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Playoffs TBA
- 3/12-16 IREAD3
- Mar 15 Pacer Fundraiser Night
- Mar 16 End of Grading Period
- Mar 16 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Playoffs TBA
- Mar 17 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Championship TBA
- Mar 19 Spring Pictures
- Mar 22 Snow Make-up Day if needed
- Mar 23 Snow Make-up Day if needed
- Mar 26-30 Spring Break – No School

### 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.”

Our students and staff are SOARING with RIGOR and JOY! January 8th our staff spent the day learning about how to Deepen Core instruction by using specific strategies as we work towards student centered classrooms. About 15 teachers this past Thursday participated in our Coaching for Implementation in which we practiced our new learning from our training and teachers had the chance to visit and



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watch instruction among their colleagues followed by a chance to debrief. We are so fortunate to be supported by expert coaches as we work towards planning rigorous learning environments for all children. This week we began testing our English Language Learners in WIDA. WIDA is an annual high stakes assessment for students on their English skills and will count for a percentage of our 2018 letter grade.

### **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%

### **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

### International Connections

**News from Global Leadership:** So PROUD of our Global Leaders!!! Our Riley Hospital project was a HUGE success! We collected close to 30,000 pop tabs, designed and made 60 Snowmen, 60 Penguins, and 22 Tic-Tac-Toe games. GREAT JOB Globetrotters!!! Mrs. Jones 5th grade class was the winner of the pop tab challenge... CONGRATS!!! We will continue collecting pop tabs to help the families at Riley Hospital so keep sending them in with your child! THANKS! In January, we will practice our typing skills, we will be coding again, and starting a unit on the

Arctic. Looking forward to a FUN 2018 in Global Leadership!!! -Mrs. Donnenhoffer

**News from P.E.:** 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 "Scare Squad" prizes that you can earn for donating! Look for packets to come home with your student. Last year we raised over \$4,800 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 16<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you! Mr. Beattie

### PFO News

Do you volunteer in your child's classroom? Wish you could but the timing isn't right? PFO invites you to come brainstorm with us! It's time to start planning our yearly International Festival. Now is the time we brainstorm ideas such as a theme and logistics. That's it! **Attend the monthly PFO Meet Up Tuesday, January 23<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Can't make it? I'll be there at 6pm ready for you to share your ideas with me. Tuesday doesn't work for you? Meet me Friday morning, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 am to discuss ideas.** We are looking for ideas this month – if you choose to volunteer your time in more detailed planning or execution of the event, we would be grateful.

**PFO Monthly Meet Up** – Join us Tuesday, January 23<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. We'll be contrasting and comparing our two district middle schools as well as brainstorming a theme for the International Festival. The PFO Board meets at 6:40 beforehand and all are welcome to both.

**January Dine to Donate – Chile Verde** is helping us in our fundraising endeavors by hosting an all-day event Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. No flyer is necessary – simply mention you are dining to donate for Mary Castle Elementary. Located in the southeast corner at 75<sup>th</sup> and Shadeland, stop by for lunch or dinner Friday. Be sure to tell your local family and friends!

**Raffle Items wanted** – It's time of year we start 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

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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 after-Christmas 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! Our immediate need supports the Lawrence Township Foundation this coming March. We are looking for any **As Seen on TV** items to fill the MEC sponsored basket for their March Gala. If you have any or can purchase them, drop them off at the front office or have your child deliver to their teacher. These are due by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

*Be on the lookout for discount ticket order forms to the March 15<sup>th</sup> Pacer game coming home soon!*

As always – if you have comments or suggestions, need anything, have ideas or just want to chat, email me at [mecpfo@gmail.com](mailto:mecpfo@gmail.com) or call/text 317-372-8870. **Thank you 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

**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.

**High Ability Testing for Grades 1, 3, 4 and 5** - The district is currently accepting parent requests for High Ability Testing for students in grades 1, 3, 4, and 5. Requests may be submitted between January 8, 2018 and January 26, 2018. The testing will take place on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. for students in grades 1 and 4 and February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. for students in grades 3 and 5. Testing will take place at the Lawrence Education and Community Center (LECC) located at 6501 Sunnyside Road. If you feel your child might be a candidate for placement in a high ability classroom for the 2018-2019 school year, then please visit the district's website at [ltschools.org](http://ltschools.org) for more information.

**Preschool Enrollment** - Preschool enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year is now underway. Please call the Office of Early Childhood Education at 317-423-8363 for information.

**Making the Most of Middle School** - Plan to join us on February 21<sup>st</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup>. See the Announcement on the website for details.

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