



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

March 2018

- 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 5 Call Out for Belzer Track & Field – 6th grade – 4-4:45 p.m. - @ Belzer
- Mar 8 Celebrity Reader, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. @ Lawrence Central – DATE CHANGE TO APRIL 3
- Mar 9 LT Foundation Gala – The Crane Bay
- Mar 10 Lucas Oil Stadium – Robotics Championship
- Mar 10 6th Grade Basketball Playoffs TBA
- Mar 12 Tryouts for Belzer Track & Field, 4-6 p.m., 6th grade, Shuttle bus to Belzer provided.
- 3/12-16 IREAD3
- Mar 12 ½ of 4th Grade Field Trip to State Museum
- Mar 15 Pacer Fundraiser Night
- Mar 16 ½ of 4th Grade Field Trip to State Museum
- Mar 16 End of Grading Period
- Mar 16 6th Grade Basketball Playoffs TBA
- Mar 17 6th Grade Basketball Championship TBA
- Mar 19 Middle School Counselors visit 6th Grade, 8-9 a.m.
- Mar 19 Spring Pictures
- Mar 20 Staff vs Student Basketball Game, 6:30 p.m.
- Mar 21 MEC Night at Caplinger’s Fish Market, 75th & Shadeland
- Mar 21 Report Cards Available On-Line
- Mar 22 Snow Make-up Day, SCHOOL IN SESSION
- Mar 23 Snow Make-up Day if needed
- Mar 23 Last Day for Pennies for Patients
- Mar 26-30 Spring Break – No School
- Mar 31 Essay Contest Due Date
- April 3 Date Change - Celebrity Reader, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. @Lawrence Central
- April 9 School Smiles Checkup on Previous Patients
- April 12 4th Grade Musical, 6 p.m.
- 4/16-5/4 ISTEP, Round 2
- April 26 6th Grade Science Fair @ MEC
- May 5 District Science Fair @ LECC

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. During the month of February each classroom researched a famous African American and decided how they would represent their learning for all classes to view. The list of creative projects underway of famous African Americans is exciting as our students’ balance inquiry work with afternoon projects and ISTEP.

ISTEP+ Part One continues for grades 5 and 6 on March 5th and 6th. Our 3rd and 4th grade students are finished with ISTEP+ Part One. The Spring countdown to other standardized testing is as follows:
5 School Days until IREAD3 (Grade 3)
The next round of ISTEP Part 2 April 16th -May 4th

MEC ISTEP+ A Few Tips for FAMILIES: Parents be sure to write your child an encouraging note letting them know how much you believe in their success and encouraging them to do their best. Our students are well prepared. Our teachers have done a fabulous job all year preparing our students to be good thinkers and problem solvers. Students should get comfortable and rest up. The night before the test they should lay out comfortable clothes to wear for the test. Simply being comfortable makes one feel safe, secure and relaxed. They should go to bed early. Being well rested is essential. Talk with your children about any last minute fears and reassure them that doing their best is what is most important. Prepare a healthy breakfast. A nutritious breakfast should be on the menu, especially for testing days. Insure a healthy breakfast balanced with fruit, protein and whole grains. A full stomach and a well-rested mind are ready to handle anything. Testing will start right away each morning so having your child at school by 8am is very important. We ask that any doctor or dental appointments be scheduled outside of school hours.



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Here are a few strategies to share with your child on how to tackle the test:

- Listen and read directions slowly and carefully. If you have any questions, ask.
- Eliminate wrong choices or distracters.
- During reading passages, highlight sentences and refer back to them while
- answering the questions.
- Pace yourself. Do not spend too much time on one challenging question.
- Skip it and complete the test. Go back to any skipped questions after the
- test is complete.
- Check answers at the end if time permits.

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%

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL Procedures: For parents dropping off their children at school by car be sure to alternate lanes until you reach the main lane in front of the school. It's important that drivers show courtesy to each other so that all are students arrive safely. The same is true for dismissal in that two lanes are fine for the back parking lot and then we alternate into one lane as we approach the school.

MEC Attendance Goal is to have 96.9%. During the month of March, we are going to have a MARCH MADNESS COMPETITION with Attendance! Each class has a basketball and weekly the class with perfect attendance will move towards the three-point line and make a shot for a big reward.

MEC March Madness! (March 5th - 22nd)

HOW TO PLAY:

- Each week your class has perfect attendance for the ENTIRE week, your classroom basketball will move closer to the goal.
- There are three markers: three point line and half court.
- The class or classes that make it to the three point line, will receive a reward and have an opportunity to try and make a shot for a BIG reward.

**MEC Attendance Goal: 96.9%
GO GLOBE TROTTERS!**

**3-POINT LINE REWARD
EXTRA RECESS FOR 1 WEEK!**

**3-POINT SHOT REWARD
PIZZA PARTY OR SWEET TREAT**

TROT Tracking - February 20th we started tracking good behavior by observing who has TROT in the Café! It's important to let you know how we are doing so far as we are about 3 weeks away from having our 3rd Quarter Celebration.

MEC Tracking TROT in the CAFE!

QUARTER 3 CELEBRATION: GAME CENTRAL!

MEC TROT GOAL: EARN 600 TROT TICKETS IN THE GLOBE TROTTER CAFE!

How? FOLLOW TROT EXPECTATIONS IN CAFE!

- **Big THREE**
 - KEEP AREA IN CAFE CLEAN
 - REMAIN SEATED
 - TALK AT CONVERSATION VOICE LEVEL WITH NO MORE THAN 1 REMINDER.



ATTENDANCE Matters:

December student attendance 95%
January student attendance 94%
February student attendance 95%

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

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- 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 had another successful year with Jump Rope for Heart. This year we raised almost \$4,500 as a school. Thank you to all the MEC families and MEC staff for supporting the American Heart Association. The students who will be receiving thank you gifts should get them just before or after Spring Break. Thanks.

News from Global Leadership: In Global Leadership, we just finished learning about the Arctic and Winter Olympics. Ask your child who won GOLD?!? Check out our Winter FUN pictures on Facebook!!! We are now working on Keyboarding and Coding skills. Feel free to have your child practice at home (www.typing.com or www.code.org). Before Spring Break we will also be doing Dr. Seuss STEM minute to win it games.

News from COMPASS: In COMPASS we are continuing our investigation of weather and climate. Ask your child how the weather and climate affects their lives and the lives of people in various climate zones. How can you practice skiing if you live in a tropical climate? We will also be looking at climate change and the effect that it has on our earth.

News from Music: Fourth grade families: Save the date for the Spring Concert! All 4th grade classes will perform at 6 p.m. in the MEC gym on Thursday, April 12th!

News from Art: Art Club has started a great new project using paper mache! Students are working to create and paint masks from around the world - our student artists are doing amazing! In the art room, classes have been working on creating art that shows past and current culture of African Americans. Students have looked at artists ranging from Clementine Hunter and William H. Johnson all the way to Jean-Michel Basquiat. A sample of student artwork is on display now in our hallways. 4th grade will be on display during their 4th grade Musical in the Spring! Next, classes will begin taking a look at art from Asia - keep an eye out for our chalk pastel Terracotta Warriors!

Kids in Action Club: Kids in Action club will be focusing our service projects on our school this semester. We will be hosting the student vs. staff basketball game on Tuesday,

March 20th at 6:30. The proceeds will go to build a new addition to the Peace Park, a Gaga Pit!

Robotics Club: Mary Castle Robotics Team, CyberDrAgons, won the Co-Championship Alliance title at the Pike Township VEX IZ Elementary Qualifier. This earned the team an automatic spot to the upcoming VEX IZ Elementary State Championship. Splitz Chickens, continued to improve their high scores in the Robot Skills matches at Elementary Qualifiers over the course of the season. Robot Skills includes both driving and programming skills. These high Scores earned the team an invitational spot to the VEX IQ State Championship based on their Indiana Robot Skills ranking. The Indiana VEX IQ Elementary State Championship will be held on March 10 at Lucas Oil Stadium. Top teams from across Indiana will all be competing at the elementary, middle, and high school levels at this event. Adult leaders are Whitney Coake, Grade 6 High Ability teacher, Christy Donnenhoffer – GLOBAL Stem teacher and Kris Powell, Robotics Club Coordinator.

Technology Snippet!

Ms. Smelser's Second Graders and Mrs. Jones' Third Graders are participating in a pilot using iPads and Chromebooks. Each class has a class set of devices that they are using for their studies. Students in both classes are using SeeSaw to collaborate on class and group projects, show their parents their work and to get immediate feedback on their assignments. Students are also using programs like "WeVideo" and "iMovie" to create and edit videos and apps like "Post-it" to do immediate sorting of new topics!

Spring Pictures

Inter-State will be coming to Mary Castle on Monday, March 19, for Spring Pictures. You should have the Picture flyers to send home with students. Online ordering will be cut off at midnight the night before pictures.

The photographer will photograph only students who have order envelopes or have ordered online.

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Yearbook

Want to order a yearbook on-line? Go to:
www.inter-state.com/yearbook and use Order
Code: 25410Z. The cost is \$15.

PFO News

International Festival - As we blow into Spring, PFO is busy preparing for our International Festival. Volunteers are needed to locate and secure donations and raffle items, build simple carnival games, help teachers prepare student displays and man booths during the event. All volunteers are eligible for free game tickets. See mecpfo.org for more info and to sign up.

Students vs Staff Basketball Game - Prepared snacks, candy, and drinks needed for the upcoming Students vs. Staff Basketball Game on March 20 at 6:30 p.m. Please drop items off in the office any time before the event.

Dine to Donate - Our next Restaurant Night is Wednesday, March 21, at Caplinger's Fresh Catch located at 75th and Shadeland. Look for the required voucher coming home soon or download at mecpfo.org

Direct all questions, comments, and/or suggestions to Kelley Mesterharm cell/text 317 372 8870 or mecpfo@gmail.com

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 MyStop 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.

Good luck to our 6th grade girls and boys basketball teams as they head into the district tournament!
The championship games will be held on Friday, March 16 at Lawrence North High School.

Sixth Grade Track and Field - Sixth graders are invited to join the Track and Field Team of the middle school they will

attend next year. Shuttle bus service from elementary schools is provided to 6th graders participating in athletics. Visit the Announcements on our website for details.

As a result of the snow day on January 24, the MSD of Lawrence Township will hold classes on Thursday, March 22.

There is NO SCHOOL on Friday, March 23.

Spring Break is March 26-March 30.

The first day of class after Spring Break is Monday, April 2.

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