



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

September 2017

- Sept 4 Labor Day – No School
- Sept 12 PFO Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Sept 14 PREP Speaker Series – Lawrence North High School – Dr. Smith Speaking – 6:30 p.m.
- Sept 15 Movie Night, Grades 1-4
- Sept 18 Parent Teacher Conferences – No School for Students
- Sept 20 Math Pentathlon Parent Meeting – 7 p.m.
- Sept 26 MEC Night at Culver’s on 96th Street, 5-8 p.m.
- Sept 29 Indy Do Day
- Oct 6 End of Grading Period
- Oct 9-13 Fall Break – No School for Students and Staff
- Oct 20 Report Cards available on-line

Principal Corner – Mrs. Johnson

SOAR (Students and Staff Obtaining Achievement & Rigor)

with JOY - August and the first week of September have been simply fabulous days for learning and community building at Mary Castle. Follow us on Facebook to take a glimpse of school highlights. Visiting classrooms and observing learning, achievement and instruction, and relationship building is the primary role for a Principal. This year our staff is receiving a great deal of support through coaching and mentoring as we work on creating classrooms that are standards based. What is standard based instruction? Standards are guideposts for schools we use them as a tool to focus on what students are expected to learn. Standards spell out what students are expected to learn in each grade and each subject. We follow the Indiana State Standards which have been validated college and career ready. Academic standards are benchmark measures that define what students should know and be able to do at specified grade levels beginning in kindergarten and progressing through grade twelve. **The**

academic standards are NOT a curriculum. Mary Castle teachers work each day from 3 to 3:45 on instructional planning in professional learning communities. Mary Castle teachers are truly working on the progression of learning and helping students become critical thinkers, analyzers and our goal is providing real life application to learning. Ask your child about what their learning targets are in reading and math.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES - Learn more about how your child is reaching academic standards during your upcoming parent teacher conference on September 18th. There will be no school that day as teachers work from 11:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. to meet with families. Our goal is to meet with a 100% of our families.

PFO - The first five weeks have been filled with a Meet Your Teacher, Back to School Night, Family Picnic, and online spirit wear. Join us for the September 12th PFO meeting to become a part of more events that supports our goal of building a fabulous school community. Where everyone is valued and appreciated.

RENOVATION UPDATE - Our expanded seating section has been completed. We look forward to hosting events, placing a parent table, classroom incentive in the Global Atrium, and Teacher lunch buddies. Coming by the end of September will be our beautiful new library. Fall Break is the target for completion of our 7 million dollar renovation project. We can’t wait to work on our visual environment and displaying student work.



Lawrence Excellence!

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Mary Evelyn Castle Elementary

SAFETY TIPS - Morning Arrival our front doors open each day at 7:35 am. Car Riders are not to be released until a staff member appears on duty at 7:35am. Our tardy bell rings at 8 a.m. Dismissal begins at 2:30 p.m. for Car Riders. Be sure to get in the parent pick up line versus entering the front doors while we are dismissing for everyone's safety. For families that have a student at the ELC be sure to drop them off first and then come to MEC and turn right.

ADDITIONAL NEW MARY CASTLE STAFF – Please welcome Ms. Seria Walton to our 6th Grade Team. Also please welcome Ms. Carol Divine to our Media Center.

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

Assistant Principal Corner – Mr. Blythe

Safe School Talks - We ended the first month of school by having Safe School Talks in every classroom. The Safe School Talks focused on Bullying and Harassment Prevention. We encourage students to respond by:

- Using their words to problem solve and tell a person to STOP if they are being bothered.
- Moving away to a place where you feel safe
- Reporting problems to an adult
- Being brave and not a bystander!

Thank you for keeping the MEC message of safety before your child. Students who were absent will receive this presentation from Mr. Davis, our Behavior Mentor.

School Tools – Tools for school include a backpack, school supplies, or items the teacher request for learning. We are asking that students leave all balls, toys, and other electronics at home. Bringing basketballs, footballs, and

other sporting equipment while riding the bus could cause a situation of safety. We are working to order recess/playground equipment for every grade level so that students have items to use during their recess time. The school is also equipped with plenty of technology for student use. Thank you for adhering to this request for safety.

T- Take Charge of Your Learning

R- Respect Others and the Learning Environment

O- Own Responsibility

T- Think Safely

--Mr. Carl Blythe, Assistant Principal

International Connections

News from the Library: The Media Center is scheduled to open at the first of next month.

News from Global Leadership: It's been a GREAT start to Global Leadership this year. All grades learned about different towers around the world. 1st & 2nd graders built Big Ben out of K-nex, the Eiffel Tower out of Legos, and the Leaning Tower of Pisa out of index cards. 3rd-6th graders learned the 6 steps of the design process to build their own towers. They are also learning to type. If your student wants to practice at home go to www.typing.com. Coming up in September we will focus on the Scientific method and do some science experiments with apples. Looking forward to a fun Fall learning STEM.

News from P.E.: In Physical Education, grades 1-3 will begin training for the half-mile jog and grades 4-6 will begin training for the 1-mile jog. Please be sure to review your child's P.E. day to ensure they are wearing gym shoes.

News from Art: Be sure to watch for Art to Remember informational paper work coming home this month! Students are finishing up their drawings in art class and order forms will be sent home at the end of September. If you choose to order a keepsake from Art to Remember this year it will be all online ordering. Many of the keepsakes are priced less than \$15 and make for great gifts for loved ones. Our online ordering time frame will be open the first week in October for on-time keepsake arrivals in November. Late orders can also be placed online thru January 12th. Keep a watch for flyers this month and order information at the end of the month!

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Mary Evelyn Castle Elementary

News from Music: Folk Dancing Club will be starting soon! Look for information coming home soon for Grades 3-6! The Folk Dancers will perform in April at the 47th Annual Folk Dancing Festival.

News from COMPASS: In COMPASS we are investigating what it means to be a Global Citizen. We are learning about famous Global Citizens and contemplating the attributes that help them make the world a better place.

Kids in Action: The Kids in Action Club will start with a parent meeting at 3:00 on September 14. The 5th and 6th graders who were selected for this club will work with ProAct through the year on service projects for our school and community.

Indy Do Day: INDY DO DAY is Sept. 29th. We plan to repair the Peace Park now that the construction equipment has been removed. We would love to have as many students and parents involved in volunteering that day!

News from the Nurse

All incoming 6th grade students for the 2017-2018 school year need to have the TDap and Meningococcal Vaccination before school begins in August. Updated shot records need to be sent to the nurse when received.

PFO News

September's PFO meeting is Tuesday, September 12, from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. Children are welcome - let them bring a book or toy to enjoy while we discuss upcoming PFO news and events.

MEC CULVER'S NIGHT: Culver's Night is Tuesday, September 26. Four adult volunteers per hour are needed to deliver the orders to the tables and drive-thru. Watch for flyer on how to sign up coming soon.

LEADERSHIP WANTED: Have a couple of hours a month to help implement our fun activities and fundraising efforts? If so, the following areas are in need of Leadership volunteers: Global Games, Movie Nights, Spanish Translator, Teacher Appreciation, Craft Night, Game Night, Donations and our end of year International Festival. Contact Kelley Mesterharm via email mecpfo@gmail.com or by text at 317-372-8870.

SHOP AT KROGER? Kroger's Community Rewards Program raises money for MEC PFO and it's easy for you to participate.

1. Go to Kroger's Community Rewards web page <https://tinyurl.com/z9aky7k>
2. Login or create a new Kroger account.
3. Choose **Mary Castle Elementary PFO (Organization #10647)**.
4. Shop at Kroger! Every time you use your Kroger Plus card, students at Mary Castle will benefit.

Last year 40 families sign up for this program bringing in \$625 dollars from Kroger. Can we get 40 more families this year? Yes, we can! Sign up today. **Thank you for supporting PFO!**

District News

Indy DO Day - On Friday, September 29, 2017, Lawrence Township is participating in Indy DO Day, a city-wide day of service when the people of Indianapolis get to know their neighbors, take ownership of the neighborhoods, and take care of one another. The Lawrence Township School Foundation is coordinating this service day at each Lawrence Township School. Volunteers will be working doing various grounds keeping projects to help maintain the curb appeal of our schools. Shifts are available in the morning or afternoon on Sept. 29th. Sign up yourself and invite your friends, family members, and co-workers for a short project to make a difference. Register online at the Foundation's website at www.msdltf.org or call 423-8300 to join Project Lawrence Township!

Food Service - If your student was receiving Free/Reduced lunch last year, September 17 is the deadline to reapply. New This Year—Our new and enhanced lunch menus now include nutritional information.

An Evening with Dr. Smith - The first of our Parent Engagement Series, An Evening with Dr. Smith, will be Thursday, September 14 at 5:30 pm in the Lawrence North School Little Theater, 7802 Hague Road. Come meet Dr. Smith, Superintendent of Schools, and learn where we are and where we are going as one of the top school districts in the state.

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