



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

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Mr. Carl Blythe, Principal  
marycastle.LTschools.org

Dr. Shawn A. Smith, Superintendent  
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# Global Gazette

## November 2018

### LOOKING AHEAD

- Nov 4 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Nov 6 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Indianapolis Museum of Art, 9 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.
- Nov 6 Academic Bowl, Crestview vs. Mary Castle at Mary Castle, 6-7 p.m.
- Nov 6 Election Day
- Nov 9 Lawrence Live with Dr. Smith at noon
- Nov 9 Night with the Stars – Pre-register at Itschools.org
- Nov 13 PFO Meeting, Parent Engagement Night, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Nov 14 Fazoli's Night
- Nov 14 Academic Bowl, Brook Park vs. Mary Castle at Mary Castle, 6-7 p.m.
- Nov 16 Global Games – DATE CHANGE
- Nov 19-23 Thanksgiving Break – No School for Staff & Students
- Nov 28 Parent & Family Resource Engagement Program – 6:30 p.m. @ Lawrence Education & Community Center – Chaucie's Place: Mental Health: Suicide Prevention & Awareness
- Nov 30 Movie Night, Grades 1-4, 6:15 – 8:15 p.m.
- Nov 30 Flu Shots for Students 11:15 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Must be pre-registered. – DATE CHANGE
- Dec 2-7 MEC Book Fair
- Dec 2 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Musical
- Dec 20 Last Day for Students before Winter Break
- Dec 21 Staff Only Records Day
- Dec 24-Jan 4 Winter Break
- Jan 7 No School for Students – Staff – Full Day
- Jan 8 First Day back from Winter Break

### Principal Corner – Mr. Blythe

Mary Castle students and staff continue to SOAR! – Students and Staff Obtaining Achievement with Rigor and Joy + Endurance and Integration. We have had a wonderful

October filled with much learning and much fun. Time surely flies when you are working hard and having fun. We enjoyed an October Fest in celebration of students meeting our TROT Expectations and also students raised \$133 by dressing up as their favorite book character to support the United Way of Central Indiana.

For September and October, our staff and students have been working on ensuring that the learning target is aligned with the task that students are doing to show they are reaching the target. We have become really tight with learning target and student task alignment. We continue to monitor that while moving into student teaming. For the month of November, and probably the rest of the semester, we will focus on teaming. Did you know there is a difference between a group and a team? A **group** is a number of students who interact while working together. A **team** is a group of students who share common goals. Members of the team mutually commit to the goals and each other. **WE WANT STUDENT TEAMING WHEN POSSIBLE, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!** Here are some key terms that I would like you to ask your child about to see if they can explain to you what it means: Growth mindset, learning target, and success criteria. Teaming will provide students to grow in skills, such as employability skills, that will aid them for a lifetime.

As shared in September, Mary Castle had our first Rigor Diagnostic of the school year on August 23rd. A Rigor Diagnostic takes a look at our school-wide systems and practices to collect data in how we are meeting the Pillars of Rigor. The Pillars of Rigor are:

- Conditions for Learning to Reach Rigorous Standards
- Standards-Based Student Evidence
- Activating Teams to Reach the Standard
- Verify Learning to Take Action Within A Lesson
- Tracking Student Progress Toward Reaching the Standard



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Each Pillar is on a scale from 0-12. We received scores for each pillar and then we average the pillar score, which was 8.1! This is an amazing, especially when we ended the school year with a Rigor Diagnostic score of 7.6. That means we showed growth from 1 year to the next. **Mary Castle Elementary is 1 of 2 schools in the nation that has done that.** We continue to celebrate the hard work of our students and staff! GO GLOBE TROTTERS! We will have three more Rigor Diagnostics this school year and the next Rigor Diagnostic is November 13th.

### Mary Castle has goals, too! With Student Achievement, our goals for 2018-2019 are:

- Student Attendance will meet or exceed 96%
- The number of students at grade-level benchmark will increase by 5% at the middle of the year assessment and end of year assessment for STAR Reading and STAR Math.
- Composite WIDA score growth to meet or exceed .5
- Score about the national average of 1.8 on Rigor Diagnostic as compared to our baseline rigor diagnostic score.

### Mary Castle is focusing on the following to achieve those goals:

- Endurance and Integration through cognitively complex learning
- Maintain and enhance student achievement and school culture
- Development of an MEC Data System
- Strengthen Distributive Leadership à Shared Leadership

**Safety Tips:** Morning Arrival – Our front doors open each day at 7:35am. Car Riders are not to be released until a staff member appears on duty at 7:35. **If you are the lead car, please pull all the way to the orange cones so that we can have as many kids as possible exiting on the side walk.** Our tardy bell rings at 8am. **If your child arrives after 8am, you must park your car and walk your child into the school building to sign them in.** Afternoon Dismissal – Students begin dismissing at 2:30pm 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. **ALL STUDENTS SHOULD BE PICKED UP BY 2:50pm. PLEASE NOTE:** Our office will close from 2:15-3:00 in our efforts to have all hands on deck to ensure students get where they need to be and also maintain safety and security of our school. We will be working with our Director of Safety and Security as we look for continued recommendations to provide increased safety.

### Ways to Stay In Touch at MEC

- All Early Learning Centers and Elementary Schools adhere to the district handbook: <http://marycastle.itschools.org/about/student-handbook>
- Check out MEC on Facebookk and “LIKE us” <https://www.facebook.com/mecschool>
- Follow MEC on Twitter! @MaryCastleElem

### Mr. Carl S. Blythe, Jr., Principal

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### International Connections

**News from Global STEM:** In Global STEM, we have been learning about why popcorn pops (Did you know there is water inside the kernel?), heating & cooling, and potential & kinetic energy. We have done many experiments with the tasty treat... Which Brand Pops the BEST? Can we make kernels dance? Can we grow popcorn? We also have been busy building...Containers for popcorn, Houses out of popcorn, Towers out of popcorn boxes, etc... There has been lots of math with our activities too...percentages, measuring, adding, subtracting, and much more. We will continue our popcorn fun until Thanksgiving break. When we get back, we will be working on our coding skills again! Ask your student about the Popcorn STEM excitement going on at Mary Castle! -Mrs. Donnenhoffer

**News from PE:** This Fall and Spring we will be conducting FitnessGram Testing with our 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> Graders. We are currently working through some technology items but

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hopefully it will be up and running shortly. Grades 1-3 will participate in some of the FitnessGram tests but their results will not be scored. However, participating in the fitness tests allows grades 1-3 to get an idea of how and what fitness testing will look like.

**News from Art:** In Art, students are finishing up their lessons on the Stone Age and are beginning to move on to Ancient Egyptian Culture. First grade students will be looking at the Nile Crocodile and creating textured painted paper to begin cutting and pasting into their own crocodile. Second and Third grade will take a look at the Scarab Beetle and its importance to the Ancient Egyptians. Fourth grade will take a look at the detailed Egyptian Sarcophagus and create their own using metal tooling. Fifth grade will look at Egyptian portraiture and how the profile view was used in the ancient artwork. Sixth grade will get to experiment with printmaking by choosing an Egyptian theme to draw and make print editions.

**News from the Library:** We have been very busy in the library this past month. First graders have learned about Melvil Dewey and the Dewey Decimal System. They can now find math and science books and social science books. Second and third graders have been learning how to locate specific categories of books using the Dewey Decimal system. Some books we have searched for are cookbooks, sports books, origami books, and biographies, to name a few. Fourth, fifth and sixth graders should be able to tell you about the Young Hoosier books we have been discussing. *Maxi's Secrets*, *The Sweetest Sound*, *The Wild Robot*, and *The Rookie of the Year*.

**News from Music:** The 2nd Graders are already practicing for their Winter Concert that will be held at the school on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm! Watch for more info that will be coming home about the Winter Concert.

### **November's Technology Spotlight**

Third Grade students have been using technology to show they are learning in many cool and interesting ways. They recently created Popplet's to show their understanding of character traits while reading. Once they created their Popplet, they were able to share their Popplet with their

classmates and give feedback to each other. Stay tuned for December's Technology Spotlight!

### **Social Emotional Learning Tips**

**Brain-Based Strategies for Parents** - Parents can help develop their children's executive function by modeling inquiry and reasoning, demonstrating real-world uses for what they learn in school, and creating an ideal study space.

**Strategies for Parents and Children at Home** - Be the learner that you want your child to be. Learning doesn't stop at graduation. Especially in today's quickly changing world, adults always need to learn new skills on the job and in their personal lives. Underscore the importance of lifelong learning and the many examples of applying executive function in daily life.

**Learn out Loud** - Take advantage of opportunities to model problem solving, planning, and organizational strategies. For example, you might ask, "What does incomprehensible mean? Let's see if we can break it down. Part of the word is comprehend. We know what that means, right? To understand. And in- at the beginning of a word often means 'not,' so this word probably means not understandable. Let's look it up to check and see if we're right!"

**Apply Classroom Learning to Life Outside of School** - A common lament in the classroom is, "Why do I need to learn this? I'll never use it again!" Parents can demonstrate the many ways that academic learning comes in handy in real life -- by working with your child to double the ingredients in a recipe, for example, or to measure a room to figure out how much paint to buy when remodeling.

By practicing smarter thinking with their children, parents may well discover how learning remains a positive experience at any stage of life.

BY: Donna Wilson and Marcus Conyers-  
[WWW.EDUTOPIA.ORG](http://WWW.EDUTOPIA.ORG)

### **Student Council**

Student Council wrapped up a successful Socktober sock drive for the homeless. All donations will be given to

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Wheeler Mission. We were able to surpass our goal of 1,000 socks. Thank you for all of your donations. Next we are planning on a spirit week for the last week of the semester before Winter Break.

### News from the Nurse

Cold and flu season is upon us. According to the CDC, flu activity is low now, but expected to pick up in the coming weeks! Below we have listed a few of our school guidelines as well as some preventative tips. Please adhere to these guidelines and make note of the suggested habits. Let's work together to keep our school community and our homes as healthy as possible.

1. **Fever**- 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, the student will be sent home and should remain home 24 hours fever free **without** fever reducing medications.
2. **Diarrhea**- occurrence of more than one episode at school and/or with additional symptoms. The student can return to school after 24 hours symptom free.
3. **Vomiting**- occurrence of more than one episode of vomiting and associated with other symptoms. May return to school after 24 hours symptom free. Every attempt will be made to distinguish between regurgitating food and vomiting due to illness.
4. **Runny Nose**- Students who cannot control their secretions and/or have green/ yellowish-brown secretions need to remain home until symptoms improve.
5. **Coughing**- Excessive coughing contributing to the inability of the student to participate in class work or is disruptive to other students.
6. **If symptoms worsen or persist**, see your healthcare provider to be evaluated. The flu can be serious for children causing them to miss school, activities or even be hospitalized.

### **Helpful Tips for Staying Healthy:**

1. Frequent hand washing is the **BEST** way to prevent and combat the spread of germs. Wash hands often with soap and water.

2. Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
3. If your child has any signs and symptoms of illness, please keep them home.
4. Cover coughs and sneezes with a disposable tissue or use an elbow or arm if no tissue is available.
5. Do not share drinks, food, or unwashed utensils.
6. Get plenty of rest, eat healthy foods, and drink lots water and healthy drinks.
7. Avoid people that are sick and stay home when you are sick.
8. Disinfect surfaces that are prone to germs (ex. phones, keyboards, doorknobs, toothbrushes).

### **NOTE: It is NOT too late to get the flu vaccine!**

Please inform the school of any contagious illness. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### District News

#### **Spanish Immersion Early Application for Skiles Test and Forest Glen (Preschool and Kindergarten ONLY)**

Early application for BOTH Skiles Test and Forest Glen (Preschool - Kindergarten), for the 2019-2020 school year will be open November 1 - 30. The application will be available on the [Enrollment Page](#) of our website.

**Parent Technology Survey** - Visit the homepage of our website to take the Parent Technology Survey and tell us what you think. Your opinion matters!

**Night With the Stars** - Treat yourself to a night out on November 9 while the kids attend a Night with the Stars hosted by the Lawrence Township School Foundation. Visit the website for details and to sign up.

**Parent Resource & Engagement Program Presents Chaucie's Place** - Our third Parent and Family Resource Engagement Program of the 2018—2019 school year will be held on November 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at **the Lawrence Education and Community Center, 6501 Sunnyside Rd.** Get resources and information about suicide prevention and awareness.

### **Thanksgiving Break is**

**November 19—23**

**No School.**

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