



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

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Mr. Carl Blythe, Principal
marycastle.LTschools.org

Global Gazette

Dr. Shawn A. Smith, Superintendent
LTschools.org

September 2018

LOOKING AHEAD

- Sept 17 Parent/Teacher Conferences – No School for Students
- Sept 18 Parent & Family Resource Engagement Program – 6:30 p.m. @ Lawrence North High School – Parenting: Tips for Reaching Today’s Youth
- Sept 25 School Smiles – Must be pre-registered.
- Oct 5 Global Games
- Oct 8-12 Fall Break - No School for Staff & Students
- Oct 16 Picture Re-take Day
- Nov 4 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Nov 6 Election Day
- Nov 11 Flu Shots for Students Noon – 2:20 p.m. Must be pre-registered.
- 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
- 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

MEC will SOAR – Students and Staff Obtaining Achievement with Rigor, Joy, Endurance, and Integration

MEC Students and Staff are truly SOARing through the beginning of this school year. August and the first week of September have been amazing with students continuing in building conditions for learning that will be a solid foundation for rigor. As principal, my primary role encompasses visiting classrooms to observe learning,

monitoring student achievement and instruction, and building relationships with all stakeholders. It has been amazing watching our students, staff, and community grow with a common goal of excellence and success. Over the last two years, Mary Castle has been working with consultants from Learning Science Institute in an effort to make our school even better with student achievement and instruction. We are continuing to receive coaching and mentoring as we work to ensure classrooms are standards-based with task for students that aid them in reaching the standard. We call that Target and Task alignment. How do we know classrooms are in alignment? We view the standard, we identify which part of the standard students are working toward (learning target), and then we look at what students are doing (task) to demonstrate understand of the learning target. We follow the Indiana State Standards which have been validated by College and Career Readiness. These standards serve as benchmarks to measure 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 our foundation for building a viable curriculum that all students can access. Each week, teachers work in professional learning communities from 3:00 – 3:45pm, Tuesday-Thursday to grow and hone their skills in instructional strategies and planning. Mary Castle teachers are continuing to guide learning through a progression that helps students learn through real-life application which affords students opportunities to grow as critical thinkers, analyzers, and problem solvers. Ask your child about what their learning targets are for STEM and HUMANITIES!

Parent Teacher Conferences: Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday, September 17th and there will be no school for students as teachers work to meet with families. Learn more about how your child is reaching academic standards. Sign-up online! Click on your child's grade level, find their teacher's name and reserve the time



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that works best for you. If you would like to meet with a Related Arts teacher, please send them an email to schedule a mutually convenient time! OUR GOAL IS TO MEET WITH 100% OF OUR FAMILIES!

1st Grade- <https://tinyurl.com/ycr296a9>

2nd Grade- <https://tinyurl.com/y9x8w9vz>

3rd Grade- <https://tinyurl.com/yce7g62z>

4th Grade- <https://tinyurl.com/y7v35x8l>

5th Grade- <https://tinyurl.com/y7egd49c>

6th Grade- <https://tinyurl.com/yd9rfhh9>

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. Continue to be patient with us as we have adjusted our car rider procedures. Our tardy bell rings at 8am. 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. **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. Blythe, Principal

International Connections

News from Global STEM: We've had fun "Lifting Each Other UP" in Global STEM in the month of August. We made balloon rockets, built houses and raised them up, and much more!!! Ask your kids how they've been scientists and engineers and what they have lifted UP! Coming UP in

September, we will be moving to TECHNOLOGY!!! We will be practicing our typing skills at www.typing.com and coding at www.code.org I encourage students to practice these skills at home on these free websites.

News from PE: The Up & Running program is open to all students (of all ability levels) for 5th and 6th grade. The mission of Up & Running is to challenge students to experience the benefits of goal-setting, character development, adult mentoring, and improved health by providing them with a true life-changing experience. The ultimate goal is to train and compete in a 5K run on October 6, 2018.

News from Art: In Art, First grade students have had the chance to look at Van Gogh's Sunflowers! We started by learning quick background information about VanGogh such as his brother, Theo, encouraging him as a young child to continue creating great art! We then moved on to including STEM and creating observational drawings while looking at real sunflowers, just like VanGogh when he created his still life. After practicing on our dry erase boards, we drew large on our paper and colored using crayons. We were able to finish our sunflowers using watercolor paint in the background. Students found out because they colored their sunflowers using wax crayons the watercolor paint did not stick to what they had already completed! Our finished sunflowers have turned out beautiful, thanks to all of our 1st grade artists!

Tech Tips

Students in grades 1-4 have been using a new tool called Seesaw that allows them to take ownership of their learning and reflect on their progress. This program gives students the creative tools to show what they know in the way that works best for them using an online portfolio. Teachers are able to focus even more on the students and understand their progress. Families are able to see their child's work and leave comments and encouragement. Ask your child's teacher how you can sign up and access your student's online journal and portfolio.

News from the Nurse

I can't believe it is September already. Time is flying! Here are a few reminders:

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Flu Vaccines - Healthy Schools is offering flu vaccines for students. The copay is \$0 when you fully complete registration. Clinics take place during the school day so you won't miss work. You can sign up online or by returning the form sent home with your student. The forms are due by September 14. If you need one, do not hesitate to contact us and have a copy sent home. To sign up online: LTSchoolsflu.com Questions? 1-800-566-0596.

Vaccination Exclusion – The vaccination exclusion date is October 5. If you are a 6th grader and have not received your 6th grade vaccinations please make sure you get an appointment prior to October 5. The first round of letters will be going home on September 7.

School Smiles is coming to Mary Castle on October 25. Make sure to get your forms in to the Nurse, if interested. If a form is filled out, School Smiles will contact you and let you know if you are eligible or if there is a fee; from there you can decide if you want to proceed. If you need a form, do not hesitate to contact us and have a copy sent home.

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month - I know this might be a little heavy, but I am going to focus on something near and dear to my heart. Something I have a passion for. For the first five years of my nursing career, I worked on the Hematology/Oncology Unit at Riley Children's Hospital. The love I have for these children and their families is indescribable. September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. In 2012 Barack Obama issued a proclamation that September would be, then and always, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. In the U.S., 15,780 children under the age of 21 are diagnosed with cancer every year; approximately ¼ of them will not survive the disease.

Childhood cancer (also called pediatric Cancer) typically means a cancer that is found in children and teens, and sometimes young adults. It is not just one disease. There are many types, which can be found in different places throughout the body.

The most common cancer in children is leukemia, a type of blood cancer. Cancer can also occur in organs and tissues such as they lymph nodes (lymphoma), nervous system (brain tumors) and muscles, bone and skin (solid tumors).

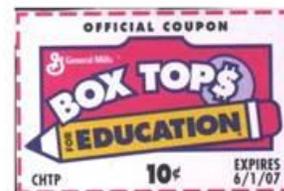
Did you know the cancer is the leading cause of death by disease past infancy for U.S. children?

So, what causes cancer in children? The causes of childhood cancer are not completely understood. While adult cancers are often linked to lifestyle or environmental factors, cancer in children is different in several ways. In a young person, cancer is less likely to be caused by the patient's environment or lifestyle. Instead, cancer-causing genetic changes (called mutations) are most commonly thought to occur by chance. However, in about 8% of cases children are born with genetic changes that increase their risk of getting cancer.

I do not bring up this topic to scare you or to make you sad. I bring this up because without talking about it, people do not become aware. Cancer does not discriminate, it is not racist, it does not care what we eat or clean with, or whether or not we vaccinate. It is a horrible disease and people need to start talking about it. We need to learn about it and take action. Our children can't fight this alone.

Box Top Store

The Box Top Store will be opening on Friday, September 14th. Clipping Box Tops is an easy way to help earn cash for our school. Each one is worth 10¢ for our school! Just look for the pink Box Tops on hundreds of products. All you have to do is clip them and send them to school. For more information on Box Tops, including a list of participating products, go to BTFE.com. Be sure to sign up as a member (it's free!) so you can check out our school's earnings details and get access to coupons and bonus offers. Each Friday morning, the Box Top Store will be open outside room 109 (Ms. Smelser's class by the first grade pod) Students can trade Box Tops for school supplies and fun toys. Thank you for your support!



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District News

Flu Shots - Four school districts have partnered with Healthy Schools to administer no cost, in-school flu shots for students in grades one through twelve this fall. Shots will be administered in our schools the week of November 5th. Visit the homepage of our school website for details and to sign your child(ren) up.

Parent Resource & Engagement Program Presents Robert Jackson - Our second Parent and Family Resource Engagement Program of the 2018—2019 school year will be held on September 18th at 6:30 at **Fall Creek Valley Middle School, 9701 E.63rd Street**. Hear from national speaker and author, **Mr. Robert Jackson**, on tips and tricks to actively engage and connect with young people while preparing them to be successful adults in society.

Indy Do Day - On Friday, September 28, 2018, the Lawrence Township School Foundation is coordinating a service day around Lawrence Township Schools. Visit our school website for more information and to sign up to volunteer.

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Conferences are Monday,
September 17.
There is NO School.**

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