

**Volume 3 Issue 4
April/May, 2008-09****District Events:****April 8**

1:00 Early Dismissal

April 10

No School - Good Friday

April 13Snow Make-Up Day;
Regular Day of School**April 15**

CCC Meeting 3:45 p.m.

April 20School Board Meeting
7:00 pm
Rowley Community Center**April 22**

1:00 Early Dismissal

May 6

1:00 Early Dismissal

May 13

CCC Meeting 3:45 p.m.

May 24HS Graduation 2:00 p.m.
High School Gym**May 25**

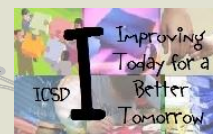
No School - Memorial Day

May 28

Last Day of School

May 29

Teacher Workday

**Independence Schools Receives \$500,000***By Devin Embray, Superintendent*

You may have read on page two of the March 14th, Bulletin Journal in a very small article that the Independence School District was awarded a \$500,000 grant for the construction of a new high school. If you didn't see that article I want to take the opportunity to let you know! We are very excited about this award. We have received this grant in the past and had to return it due to not passing the bond referendum for the project. I believe we are the only district in the state that was awarded the total amount, had to give it back and have now been awarded the total amount again. In order for us to utilize these funds our high school project would need to be completed by September 30, 2011. We can ask for an extension of one year in August of 2011 should our project not be completed. So what is the next step? We are not sure. People 4 Progress have been actively working on ways to curb the enrollment drop as well as continue to work on the high school project. The Board of Education has not made any decisions at this point for any future vote. The Board of Education may look at ways that the district could move forward with yet another project that would include this grant award. The earliest that a bond referendum could take place would be in June of this year. That said, there are four times a year that special elections can take place; the first Tuesday in February, the first Tuesday in April, the last Tuesday in June (odd years only) and the second Tuesday in September. In even number years the first Tuesday in December takes the place of the June election date.

**Four Day Week***By Devin Embray, Superintendent*

At the last regular school board meeting the Board heard a presentation that the administrative team compiled on the four day week. This has caused much talk around our communities and I wanted to take a moment to hopefully clarify some things that may be speculation at this point due to the article that came out in the Bulletin Journal dated March 18, 2009. The presentation was a factual one, giving the Board of Education some history on the four day week and what the pro's and con's of a four day week were. That was really it. The state legislature would have to pass law changing the day requirement to hours in order for us to even consider it. That said, if we were to pursue such an initiative, we would engage in a year long study to seek the input of parents, students, staff, and community members to see if such a thing could even happen in our district. I want to assure stakeholders that this was a presentation to the Board not a motion or discussion item.

Inside this issue:

School Improvement	2-3
Fish! Nominees	4
East Elem News	7-9
West Elem News	10-13
MS News	14-17
High School News	19-22
Volunteer Form	23-24

School Improvement

by Sandy Merritt, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement



Tips and Tools (TnT)

Our last Tips and Tools session of the year is coming soon! We have a wide variety of sessions on the agenda for April 22nd to meet your needs. When you arrive, don't forget to register for our door prizes. We will have gift cards from local businesses and the grand prize of an iPod/Touch.

The evening's agenda will include:

5:45-6:10 Register for door prizes, eat, presentation on our 4 Year Old Voluntary Pre-School Grant (Mary Jean Blaisdell)

6:10-6:30 Prevention Education Program (Joy Jaeger) The goal of the program is to provide parents, teachers, and trusted adults the same language and information to educate students of all ages on safety issues.

6:35-7:05 First round of break out sessions

Sessions:

Driver's Permits & School Permits (how to get them and what they include)-Driver's Ed. Teacher

Internet Safety (what it is and potential dangers)-Joy Jaeger THIS SESSION DOES NOT REPEAT

Healthy Kids (activities)-PE Teachers

Farm to School Program (new program we are implementing)-Joe Olsen

7:10-7:40 Move to another session, same offerings as above EXCEPT

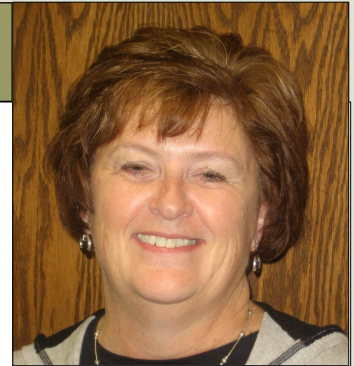
How to Speak to Elementary Children About Body Safety-Joy Jaeger

7:45 Awarding of door prizes and evaluation

Childcare will be provided. Children will be actively engaged in great activities while parents attend sessions. If you can't join us for the entire evening, come when you can and join the fun and learning!

We Need Your Information-The Parent Survey

In order for us to provide quality education for our students, we need to gain input from our parents. Over the course of the last few years we have conducted a survey of parents in the district to gain insight into what we are doing well and areas in which we can improve. If you didn't complete the survey during your child(ren)'s conference during the week of March 9, you can complete it online. Simply click on the link on our district homepage. It will only take a few minutes of your time. The survey will be active through the month of April. We value your feedback so please take a few minutes to give us some information!



Sandy Merritt, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement



I would say we should move a little to the right!

Together We Can Make a Difference Partners in Education Program

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a partnership to educate our children. It takes a partnership of school staff, parents, community, school board, and businesses to help children find success in school. When we all work together, our children benefit and adults feel they have made a difference for a child/children in our community. There are a wide variety of ways that volunteers can provide assistance and we welcome all of you! Here are just a few:

- o Join a building or district committee and make decisions regarding school improvement
- o Attend Tips and Tools Night for Parents
- o Raise funds for your school or the district
- o Become a mentor through Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- o Attend Parent/Teacher conferences
- o Present specialized area of expertise in a classroom or building
- o Volunteer in a classroom and assist teacher with activities or projects
- o Volunteer in a building helping with office duties, playground or lunchroom supervision, other activities involving students
- o Donate books to a school
- o Read to individual students or listen to them read to you

None of these require a specialized degree, just a willingness to share your talents, energy, and/or time. Working for our students provides a great sense of pride, creates new friendships, and puts smiles on everyone's faces! Not a parent-that's OK. We can find a job for everyone!

If you would like to volunteer to help out in any of these areas, please complete the volunteer survey on the district's homepage or call the administration office at 334-7400. We would love to partner with you!!

Thank you for your continued support!

Independence Community Schools
Tips 'N Tools for Parents Night
April 22nd 5:45 - 8:00 p.m.



Fish! Recognition

January Fish!

Casey Reinkoester
Loren Staton
Rick Alber
Chad O'Brien
Lori Flaherty
Jami Tekippe
Sherry Kilby
Sandy Merritt
Tiffani King
Diana Sloan

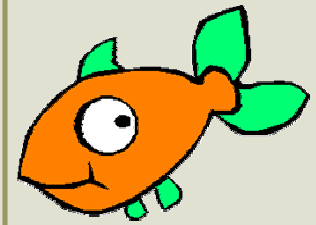
Teresa Wheelock
Karl Kurt
Dave Jacobson
Rudi Hameister
Devin Embray
Brittany Heins
Judy Olsen
Curt King
Dennis Corkery



March Fish!

Mindy Voss
Sonya Elzey
Connie Sorg
Boys Basketball Team
Joe Olsen
John Neil
Teri Neil
Amanda Sedlecek
Sarah Crawford
Kerry Pasker
Rachel Tegeler
Jillian Schares
Brian Loughren
Brandon Drew
Kirby Bantz
Amanda Bock
Sue Henkes
Dawn Keenan
Buffy Campbell
Kelly Duritsa
Joanne Alessio
Jenny Beatty
Kelly Kress

Melody Malek
Kathy Meyer
Donalyn Pogue
Lori Dietzenbach
Karl Kurt
Rudi Hameister
Mary Jean Blaisdell
Lisa Preuss
Fayla Cannon
Nancy Black
Charmaine Wickwire
Dave Jacobson
Devin Embray
Sandy Merritt
Steve Noyes
Lori Flaherty
Jenny Cappel
Marlyce Kotouc
Middle School Kitchen
Keith Donnelly
Kathryn Jensen
Charlie McCardle
John Christensen
K.C. Robb



**Nominate your
child's teacher
or ICSD
colleague for
membership
in the
Fish! Philosophy
Community!**

**Watch your
e-mail for
more
information
or
call Devin
at 334-7400!**

Fish Philosophy Principles

**Choose
Your
Attitude**

**Play
Be There**

**Make
Their Day**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Iowa by Val Maximovich and Mary Ellen Earles Mentor Coordinators



BIG GIVE

The 'Big Give' Big and Little participants and BankIowa were honored as 'Friends of Education' at the March 16 School Board meeting. We appreciate the recognition for those that take the time make a difference.

Monthly Contacts

The Littles involved with the program are visited every other month at school by the mentor coordinators Val Maximovich and Mary Ellen Earles. Sometimes they are visited during lunch, sometimes before or during recess. This is just part of the requirements of the program to keep in touch with the Littles to see how it's going. The Bigs are also contacted every other month, to see how the relationship is progressing and if there is anything that we can do to assist them.

End of the year -- It's time to look at the end of the year activities!

SURVEYS -- All Littles involved in the program third through eighth grade, will be completing an end of the year survey. The teachers as well as the Bigs, will complete a survey as well. This annual evaluation is a very important of the program.

PICNIC -- Picnic plans are being made for Tuesday, May 12. It's a great night of food, fun and activities for the Bigs and Littles before the end of the school year!

Making progress

We are making progress in finding mentors but there is always a need for more! Currently there are 22 Littles (mostly boys) waiting for a mentor, we need a few good men! Call today 319-334-3353 or email val@iowabigs.org or maryellen@iowabigs.org and "Make a difference today, in the life of a child".

Val Maximovich and Mary Ellen Earles, Mentor Coordinators
Independence
319-334-3353

Hello Everyone!

I wanted to share my excitement about what your school district is doing to help serve a more nutritious lunch to your children! (And benefiting the environment and our local economy!)

At the beginning of this school year, a handful of enthusiastic supporters and myself started this state's first official Farm to School Chapter. (We are the Independence Area Chapter.) Our original objectives were to serve locally grown, fresh produce to all students in our district. We also wanted to inform students, teachers and the public of our efforts and in the process, build beneficial relationships with our local farmers and producers. These were some pretty basic objectives and I can say that right now, we've achieved them already!

We served locally grown sweet corn to the High School students one day last August, purchased from Keith Donnelly and the wrestlers. At the Middle School, we served strawberries from Bagge Strawberries that a few of us cleaned and then froze last June. And, all year long, we've been serving apples to all students at each school from Applecourt Orchard in Vinton.

So, how is this more nutritious than buying produce that isn't from Iowa? Well, studies have shown that much of the produce that is grown on very large, industrial-sized farms have had their genetics altered to produce more uniform looking produce and a more durable skin so it will survive a very long shipment distance. While that is not a bad thing in and of itself, it has given nutritional content a back seat to these other gene modifications.

Also, much of the produce we buy in the grocery stores has had to travel a very long way. It takes time for a tomato to get from California to Iowa. That tomato, like many other vegetables and fruits, is picked early, when it's not ripe, so it will ripen on the way to its destination. The problem with that is the minute that tomato is plucked from its stem, its nutrients are cut off. All fruits & vegetables get their nutritional value from the stem. Once it's detached, that tomato stops drinking in all those good vitamins, minerals and antioxidants from the earth and sun. Locally grown produce is picked after it's had a chance to ripen on the vine. Not only does this give locally grown produce a big nutritional boost, it gives a BIG boost to the flavor!!

Another very important advantage of our Farm to School program is the impact that buying locally can have on the environment and our local economy. The average distance a fruit or vegetable travels to make it to a retailer is 1500 miles!!! Many are not even in the US. All of those planes, trains and automobiles are creating quite a lot of carbon emissions. Just think how much less the carbon footprint would be if you bought vegetables that had to travel less than 100 miles! When your school lunch program buys local, it means your lunch money is being put back into the pocket of someone's business in our own neck of the woods and most likely a smaller grower who is working to preserve the land. I recently read that a British study tracked how much of the money spent on local food at a locally owned business stayed in the community and was reinvested in the local economy. The total impact of one dollar was almost twice the impact of a dollar spent in a chain grocery store on traditional products. See, your dollar can make a difference!

Our Farm to School goals have expanded to starting a school garden, providing farm and orchard field trips for your kids, incorporating nutrition into the classroom and continuing to provide more locally grown produce for the school lunch menu. So, stay tuned!! Please visit the Food Services web page for updates and details.

<http://www.independence.k12.ia.us/metadot/index.pl?id=3002;isa=Category;op=show>

Are you interested in being a part of this program? Our Chapter is looking for your enthusiasm! Give me a call! 319-334-7423

Kelly Duritsa
Food Service Director and Farm to School Coordinator



Kelly Duritsa,
Food Service
Director and
Farm to School
Coordinator



Madison Schroeder from West Elementary will enjoy a locally grown apple as part of her school lunch.



Locally grown apples, served as part of your child's nutritious school lunch, can benefit the environment and our local economy!



Locally grown sweet corn purchased from Keith Donnelly and the wrestlers was served to the high school students one day last fall.

Principal's Corner - Mary Jean Blaisdell

Don't hold your breath but it may be almost spring! As spring approaches, students are often shedding their warmer clothing for lighter jackets. It is at this time of year, however, that we need to be watchful of weather changes. Please see that your child is dressed in layers of clothing so that, as the day warms, outer layers can be removed or put back on as the day cools. Boots will still be required when the ground is soggy. Students are asked to stay out of wet areas but as the snow continues to melt and the ground begins to dry, this may be difficult to totally avoid. An extra pair of pants and socks is a good idea for students to have on hand in case they get a little wet during recess.

April brings several things to our calendar. Students will celebrate Earth day this month with various activities related to our environment. At the end of April, we begin our last round of assessment for the year.

Looking ahead...

The last school day for students is Thursday, May 28th. Remember that Monday, April 13th is actually a school day due to a snow make-up day.

Thanks,
Mary Jean Blaisdell



Mary Jean Blaisdell,
Principal

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

April 8 1:00 Dismissal
In-Service

April 10 No School —
Good Friday

April 13 Full Day of
School
(snow make-up)

April 22 1:00 Dismissal
In-Service

April 27 - May 5
K-2 Spring
Testing

May

May 6 1:00 Dismissal
In-Service

May 25 No School —
Memorial Day

May 28 Last Day of
School



Kindergartners Look Forward to Spring!

Kindergarten Round-Up was so much fun at East Elementary! We were excited to have the students attend. We look forward to seeing them again this fall.

April is a month filled with signs of spring. Earth Day is April 22. Sondra and Jenni, naturalists from Fontana Park, will be coming in celebration of this special day on April 23-24 at East. We will study the rain forest and how our actions influence our environment.



Students practice reading in Mrs Beatty's class.



Mr. Drew talks to students about how to identify different feelings.

Box tops for Education/ Pop Can Tabs/Milk Moola for Schoola

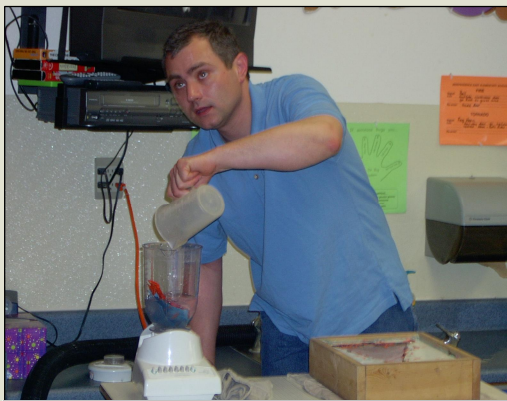
We continue to collect General Mills Box Tops, Pop Can Tabs & bottle caps and bag tops from Kwik Star products. This is a good way to help us earn extra money for things we need. Thanks!

If you are interested in spending time at school or at home sorting/cutting and redeeming these items for our school, please call 334-7425.

First Grade Focus

The first grade classes were recently treated to a very interesting program on paper making by Brian Hawley. Mr. Hawley works for the Cedar River Paper Company, which makes recycled paper into new paper. As a follow-up to our insect unit, Sondra Cabell, Buchanan County Naturalist, presented a wonderful program on her experiences of following the Monarchs in Mexico. Another highlight of March was our Hat Parade at the Spring Concert. Thanks to the parents and children for the terrific hats!

April will be another busy month. As we prepare to celebrate Earth Day on the 22nd, we will have a hands-on presentation on recycling by Sondra Cabell. Saving money will also be a focus as BankIowa provides first graders with a program entitled Teach Children to Save.



Brian Hawley from Cedar Rapids Paper Co. shows 1st Graders how to make paper.



1st Graders watch as Brian Hawley pours the pulp into a mold.



East Elementary raises almost \$368 through recycling efforts with Waste Management.

WANTED!

Mileage Club Volunteers Needed!

If you would like to devote 15-30 minutes each week outside at recess to help students reach their goals in the Mileage Club, please call the PE teacher, Brian Loughren at East Elementary to volunteer your time!



Mentors Needed!

If you are interested in being a mentor and volunteering your time to work with a child for approximately 30 minutes each week on a regular basis, please call and let us know!

Wanted: Substitute Associates

If you are available to substitute occasionally as a classroom, office, or library associate (duties vary), please call 334-7425.

We need YOU!

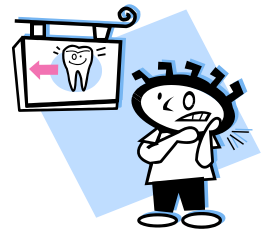
Second Grade Scene

Second grade students are working full speed ahead as we are in our last trimester. Please continue to encourage your child to practice addition and subtraction facts. Students will be participating with a Read-A-Thon. Money raised from the Read-A-Thon will go towards purchasing books for the Independence Public Library. We will be visiting the public library in April to celebrate national Library Week. Please continue to read with your child and provide encouragement as they are developing into life long readers. Several Earth Day activities will also take place toward the end of this month. Hopefully spring like weather will allow us to do many of the activities outdoors.



Notes From Your School Nurses

With the spring season upon us, we need to begin planning for next fall already. If you have a student who will be entering kindergarten in the fall, schedule their physical and immunizations now. Appointments fill up very quickly in the summer time. Remember, kindergarten students will also need a dental examination and it is recommended that an optometrist or ophthalmologist see them during this time.



Students starting ninth grade will also need to have a dental exam. Dentists are aware of this new state ruling and should have the forms necessary. Current eighth graders had this information sent home with the last report cards.

Many of our families are now replacing their home phones with cell phones. I cannot stress enough the importance of making sure your child's school has the most current telephone numbers for emergencies. If you move, change cell phone numbers or change jobs, please notify your child's school as soon as possible.

Physical night at the Middle School is in the process of being scheduled. Please check the newspaper and cable channel for more information on this service.

Teri Schloss RN

Rhonda Jasper RN



Info from ISU Extension

Submitted by Cindy Baumgartner, Nutrition & Health Specialist

Our uncertain economic times have caused stress for Iowans and their families. I want to share a **wonderful website** ISU Extension just rolled out called "Managing Tough Times." A school guidance counselor told me just yesterday that he could not believe the fantastic information and links that can be found here...check it out for yourself! Go to: www.extension.iastate.edu/answers

From West Elementary by Rudi Hameister, Principal

READ, READ, READ, On March 16th we began our NEW ðAt Homeö reading program to help all of our West Elementary students become better readers, we want to encourage them to read more. The student body is being challenged to read 8,000 days during the remaining school year.

To encourage students to be reading at home, there will be a celebration at the end of the school year for each student who reached their reading goal set for their grade level. We need your help! Each Monday, students will get a reading log to record what they are reading and how many minutes they are reading each day. We need parents to monitor their child's reading and sign their reading logs each day they read. Students will turn in their reading logs each Monday and pick up a new one for that week. Any reading your child does can be recorded on their weekly reading logs. Please join us as we work to make your child a better reader and help us celebrate reading this year at West Elementary School.

Winners of the Eastern Iowa Reading Council's creative writing and poetry contest include the following students from West Elementary:

3rd grade: Josie Fischels (Bolger)

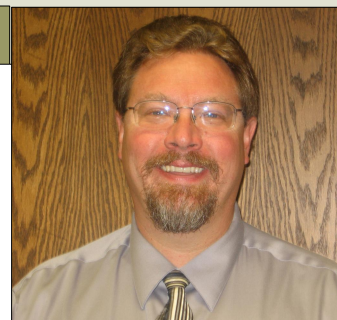
Karlie Michael (Spinler)

Nick Embray (Black)

4th grade: Brynn Martin (Hearn)

5th grade: Adam Goedken (Havel) (Poetry)

On March 5th the first place winners (Josie, Brynn, and Adam) shared their story at the reading council's creative writing and poetry banquet at Bill's.



Rudi Hameister, Principal

West Elementary Media Center

Thank you to students, parents, teachers, and staff for the outstanding support that you gave our Read-a-Thon. We took in \$1,937.94, which allowed us to purchase 132 new books for our Media Center. This is in addition to the \$2400 worth of books that came from our Book Fair. At a time when our school accounts are frozen, you parents have come through so that we can continue to provide quality literature to enhance our curriculum and keep our students reading. We at West Elementary are so appreciative of your support of our school and its activities.

Our students have been working very hard at their keyboarding lessons. Third grade students have a goal of completing 10 lessons by the end of the school year. Fourth grade's goal is 20, and fifth graders are shooting for 30. Most students are well over half way to their goal. Some of our students have wanted to know how they can practice their keyboarding at home. Here are 3 websites that have free keyboarding lessons. I would discourage students from the keyboarding games at this point because these games do not promote good keyboarding skills.

<http://www.davis.k12.ut.us/cjh/appliedtech/Business/Keyboarding/>

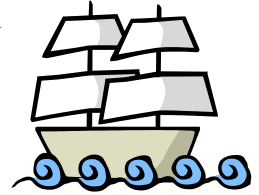
<http://sense-lang.org/typing/>

<http://www.typing-lessons.org/>



Third Grade News

The third graders have been reading about voyages in the basal reader. We have learned about the voyage of the Pilgrims on the Mayflower and about Sir Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic adventure trapped in the ice at the South Pole.



In math we are learning many different strategies to memorize multiplication facts. We are using multiplication rocket math to build up our speed. Ask your child if they have learned any new multiplication rhymes recently. Also, we have been learning about graphs. Your son or daughter should be able to read and make a graph of their own. We will also be doing a unit on measurement and fractions.



During this month parents and family will hear students talk about their esophagus, stomach, small intestine, and large intestine during our science unit on digestion. We will also be discussing proper nutrition and will be discussing the food pyramid.

Pizza Hut's Book It reading incentive will end in March, but we will continue to encourage reading at home. Your child's teacher will be describing the incentives for reading during this month to your child in class. We are also starting a school wide home reading program that we encourage your family to participate in, be sure you have checked your child's Mustang for the information on this program.



The weather at this time can change very quickly. Remind your child to dress in layers so they can be prepared for cooler temperatures in the morning, and warmer by the afternoon.

Third Grade Teachers

NWEA/MAP Testing March 23rd - 30th

NWEA/MAP Testing March 23rd – 30th

These tests determine your child's instructional level and measure academic growth throughout the school year, and from year to year. MAP tests are unique in that they are adaptive tests your child takes on a computer. That means that the test becomes more difficult the more questions your child answers correctly. When your child incorrectly answers a question, the test becomes easier. Therefore, your child takes a test specifically created for his or her learning level.

Your child's MAP results are reported in *RIT scores*. This is a different type of score than a typical test that provides a percentage correct. It is also different from many tests that provide results based on your child's score compared to others in his or her grade. Instead, the RIT score is an equal-interval scale, like feet and inches, that is independent of grade level. As a result, we can easily measure growth in learning. This type of score increases the value of the tests as a tool to improve student learning because it enables teachers to recognize where to focus attention for your child's learning. MAP testing is a powerful tool for monitoring student growth over.

If you would be interested in seeing your child's MAP scores please contact their classroom teacher for that information. Thank you for taking an active interest in your child's education.

Talented and Gifted Students Share Writing Pieces

Let the World by Avri Ruffcorn 4th Grade

Let the World see you.
Your smile, frown
Your victory, defeat
Your pride, embarrassment.

Let the World hear you.
Your laughter, tears
Your voice, silence
Your rules, following rules.

Let the World know you.
Your smarts, unintelligence
Your strong side, weak side
Your friendliness, reservation
Let the World see, hear, and know your gifts.

Life by Allie Wilkes 5th Grade

One word that describes life is adventurous.
You never know where it might lead you.
Throughout life you will make decisions,
Some hard, some not so much.

Every move you make depends on what you feel
And what path you want to take.
The future is a mystery no doubt,
But follow your dreams and you'll find your destiny.

Life is a treasure to keep safe.
With one wrong move it can disappear within a blink
of an eye.
Life is light but strong.
It is short so make the best of it.

There are things inside of you that are great,
So let them shine forth.
No one person is the same
Be yourself for that's all you can be.

Straighten Your Wings by Avri Ruffcorn 4th Grade

Straighten your wings.
Let them soar far and wide.
Let them soar to clouds high in the sky.

Straighten your wings.
Let yourself unleash.
Let power and goals set you free.

Straighten your wings.
Spread them too.
But whether you don't
Or whether you do
Are two different paths that are up to you.

I'm Diggin' a Hole to China by Adam Goedken 5th Grade

I'm diggin' a hole to China,
And who's gonna stop me, not you!
I'm diggin' a hole to China,
No, Mom I won't wear new shoes.

I'm diggin' a hole to China,
No Dad, I will not get hurt.
I'm diggin' a hole to China,
And when I get there I'll be covered in dirt.

I'm diggin' a hole to China,
And how will I get through the core?
I'll climb into a cardboard box,
And row myself through with an oar!

I'm diggin' a hole to China,
When I get there what'll I do?
I'll dig, and I'll dig, and I'll
Dig, dig, dig all the way back to you!

I'll row, row, row,
Back through the core,
And when I get home
I'll knock on your door!

I'll wipe off my shoes
And take a hot shower,
Then I'll dig all the way
To the Eiffel Tower.

TeRRiFiCC Times By Mrs. Rouse

Character Counts News from West Elementary March 2009

Caring Pillar Kids of Character



3rd Grade

Cliff Baldwin,
Daytona Greenwood,
Julia Coonrad, Jeremiah Main,
Brooke Estes and Samuel Turner

4th Grade

Abbey Buss, Miranda Slife,
Brent Henderson, Andrue Wright
and Zeke Miller

5th Grade

Adam Goedken,
Madyson Johanningmeir,
Hunter Griffith and
Austin Stiefel

Kid of Character winners received a certificate, a lunch with Mr. Hameister, a Mustang Pride wristband, and a pencil.



Classroom of Character

Classroom of Character winners received a free recess and a movie party. Way to go!

3rd Grade - Mrs. Black's Class

4th Grade - Mrs. Grover's Class

5th Grade - Mrs. Havel's Class

What pillar is next?

The next pillar of character West Elementary will be striving to meet is TRUSTWORTHINESS. Who do you know that is honest in their words and actions and is loyal to their friends and family? Be sure to write a TeRRiFiCC News to show your appreciation for that student.

Thank you again to all of the Character Counts supporters. Your support is greatly appreciated!



THE SIX
PILLARS OF
CHARACTER

Middle School News by Dave Jacobson, Principal

Spring is on the way! That sure has a nice ring to it right about now since winter seems to be draaaaaaaaaging on forever. That means we get to look forward to our spring concerts, outdoor sports events, more sunlight, etc. I hope this provides you with a much needed positive outlook, especially due to the strain the future budget concerns have placed upon our district and communities.

I have the opportunity to be a member of the Cedar Valley Middle School Principals group and we have a meeting every 5-6 weeks. We get to discuss many issues and share what works, or doesn't work, for each of us on many educational matters. Sumner-Fredericksburg, Decorah, Waverly, New Hampton, Charles City, Hudson, etc. are a few of the 12-15 schools represented. Obviously, we have all been discussing budget issues and when I told them our situation they were very concerned for Independence. When I explained we were able to make over \$600,000 in cuts, recall enough people so that possibly only 1 teacher and 1 administrator will lose their job, they were in a state of shock! It was a resounding, how were you able to do that? While it's been a tough time for all of us, I feel it's important to hear what others on the outside are saying.

We have just recently received out ITBS testing results and at the time of this letter, we have not had the opportunity to break down our scores. We are planning to do this in the immediate future plus align our professional development needs for the 2009-2010 school year with this. I am excited to see what we are doing well plus plan our future strategies for improvement. More to come!

We held our Parent-Teacher conferences on March 9 and 10. A very special THANK YOU to those of you in attendance last Monday or Tuesday. If any of you need more information or have any concerns, please contact the appropriate faculty member or our office. We had to postpone the Middle School second trimester Awards Assembly one week from March 17 to March 24 due to Power School issues. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you but we wanted to make sure all the necessary information required was accurate. Please contact us if you feel we made a mistake.

Mr. Joe Olson, Ms. Kelly Duritsa and I have held discussions recently on the Farm to School program and how it can be implemented here at our Middle School. We are looking into possible field trips this spring and in the future.

At the Eastern Iowa Reading Council several of our students earned honors for their Creative Writing stories. In 6th grade, William Porter earned a second place award. In eighth grade, Sydney Embray earned first place plus a second place state award and Makaela Schulz earned second place. Last, in 7th grade Stephanie McMillan earned first place plus won first place at the state competition!

In the Poetry Contest 7th grade students placing were; Sara TerHark third place, Stephanie McMillan second place and Kelsie Gall first place. At the eighth grade level Sydney Embray earned a first place award.

At the Iowa Reginal Future City Competition the Independence Middle School Team of Makaela Schulz, Bo Higgins and Mitch Arnold received the Most Innovative System Design award



Dave Jacobson, Principal

for their transportation, water and wastewater model for a community.

Mrs. Jackie Berryhill, our Middle School TAG instructor, works with all of these students. CONGRATULATIONS to all of you!

Looking ahead to next year, Mr. Karl Kurt the high school principal and Mr. Charles Bare the high school industrial technology instructor met with me to discuss our future plans. We are preparing to implement the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) program for our 7th and 8th grade industrial technology classes.

I want to SPOTLIGHT four people from the Middle School this time in our faculty spotlight. A very sincere thank you to our office staff; Mrs. Jeanne Bachman, Mrs. Beth Conklin and Mrs. Julie Weber for their efforts in our front office. They positively touch the lives of all of our students and parents plus provide many educational services to our faculty.

Due to his retirement, I want to thank Mr. Tim Nichols for his years of devotion, commitment and efforts to make a difference in the lives of so many students. Our building will miss his quality instruction and leadership skills. I want to personally wish him good luck with his fishing rod! **GO MUSTANGS!**

April/May Calendar

April

- 8 1:00 Earl Dismissal
- 10 No School - Good Friday
- 13 Full Day of School - Snow Make-Up Day
- 14 Girls Track @ West Delaware 4:00 p.m.
- 16 Boys Track @ Denver 4:30 p.m.
- 17 Girls Track @ North Fayette (West Union) 4:00 p.m.
- 21 Boys Track @ North Fayette (West Union) 4:00 p.m.
- 22 1:00 Early Dismissal
- 23 Boys Track @ Benton Comm (Van Horne) 4:15
- 24 Girls Track @ Benton Comm (Van Horne) 4:00
- 28 Boys Track @ Indee (Indee Relays) 4:00 p.m.
- 30 Girls Track @ Indee (Indee Relays) 4:00 p.m.

May

- 4 Girls Track @ Dyersville Beckman 4:00 p.m.
- 5 Boys Track @ Vinton-Shellsburg (Vinton) 4:15
- 6 1:00 Early Dismissal
- 8 Girls Track - WaMaC (Vinton) 4:30 p.m.
Boys Track - WaMaC (Marion) 4:30 p.m.
- 12 Girls Track @ Vinton-Shellsburg (Vinton) 4:15
Boys Track @ Marion 4:00 p.m.
- 25 No School - Memorial Day
- 28 Last Day of School

6th Grade Math

By Mrs. Shares

Hello from the 6th grade math teacher! As a new teacher in the district, it may be nice to know a little more about who is teaching your child. All my life I've been part of this community and a Mustang. I decided to become a teacher while tutoring and furthered my education at the University of Northern Iowa, becoming a proud graduate with a double major of Elementary and Middle Level Education with a math minor. I started becoming more familiar in the Independence School District as a teacher while substituting. Being in a classroom everyday and being among some of my former teachers was an honor and a pleasure.

End of the flashback and to the present. Currently, the 6th grade math students are starting a new unit: Geometry. We started the unit brainstorming together about what we already know about Geometry with the goal of growing from the knowledge. Classes have started working with perimeter of different geometric figures and how to apply this knowledge to real life examples. The next step will be finding area through exploring the formulas, problem solving, and calculating. Our next unit, integers, is being implemented for the first time to prepare 6th graders better for 7th grade that is just down the road. If parents ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me: jschares@independence.k12.ia.us

Middle School Industrial Technology

By Mr. Nichols

6th Grade

We have just finished with the 2nd trimester and started a new group. They have completed units on fire safety and hand tool identification. They are presently working on the first project which is a tool usage project. Their second project will be a pencil holder.

7th Grade

The students are just about half way done with a unit dealing with blue print drawing. When the students have finished this unit then we will progress onto power tools where they will learn how to safely operate them.

8th grade

The 3rd trimester has just started and the students have completed an Introduction to Technology unit where we discussed the history of food production, medicine, manufacturing, and communication. Now the students are starting an unit in construction where they will design and build a balsa wood bridge.

Five engineers from Rockwell Collins will be coming to the middle school on March 26th. They will be performing various demonstration tying math, science, language arts to technology.

8th Grade Language Arts

By Miss Bantz

To close out the year, the 8th graders will be engaged in research in order to write and present information about a topic of their choice. Before the research, the students will be given instruction on how to use research materials and taking notes. The students will also be practicing how to write good paragraphs with a topic sentence and supporting details, recognize appropriate organization of a paper and many other skills. The eighth graders will also be learning how to write a bibliography using MLA style citations.

In order to conduct their research, the students will have several different types of resources available to them, such as EBSCOhost, which allows students to search hundreds of different magazine articles online. EBSCOhost is offered through our local AEA. Not only will the students be using online resources, they will also be required to use book resources, as well.

After the research is completed and put into outline format using Inspiration (a organizational tool on the computers), the students will write a rough draft, edit and revise the first draft using teach prompts, and then complete a final copy.

The next step, after the paper is written, will be to work on preparing the presentation. For the presentation the students will practice oral communication skills, such as voice projection, eye contact, effectively using a visual aid, and presenting the information.

The research, writing, and presentation will take time and effort both at school and at home from the students. The students will be encouraged to type the final draft outside of school. If parents have any concerns about access to computers, they can contact Miss Bantz at kbantz@independence.k12.ia.us or call after school at 334-7415.

Taking Your Child to the Dentist (i.e. "Getting my child to read is like pulling teeth!")

By Mrs. Henkes

1. Give books as gifts. Sometimes the magic of having their very own book can motivate middle schoolers to read.
2. Go to the library. Independence Public Library Hours: Monday - Thursday 10:00 am - 8:00 pm, Friday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Saturday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm and Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 pm
3. Read to your child. They are never too old! In college, I had a roommate that would read me exciting parts of her horror novel. I loved it and couldn't wait to hear more! Reading aloud helps with vocabulary development, motivation, fluency, bonding, etc. If you aren't much for reading aloud, perhaps you could only read the first page or two of the chapter aloud or take turns reading aloud. Keep in mind, however, that some children have a hard time comprehending what they have read aloud because they are trying so hard to read the text accurately.
4. Read different kinds of print. Although I require all students to have a free reading book, also encourage your child to read newspapers, magazines, appropriate Internet sites, his/her baby book, instruction manuals, and even junk mail (what a great way to teach your child about the reality of credit cards, sweepstakes, extended warranties, and whatever else gets shoved in your mailbox!)
5. Forget genetics. Just because you have never learned to enjoy reading on your own, doesn't mean your son or daughter has a genetic predisposition to not enjoy reading. On the other hand, don't feel like you've failed your son or daughter if your love of reading hasn't rubbed off yet. Perhaps you or your child hasn't discovered what you like to read. I, for example, just found out a few years ago that I love to read a certain type of non-fiction.
6. Get them hooked. One thing that the popular book-series has done besides make some people a lot of money is to get readers hooked! Here are just a few popular middle school series: Harry Potter, A Series of Unfortunate Events, Narnia, Among the Hidden, A Child Called It, Goosebumps, Lord of the Rings, Dear America, as well as several fantasy series.
7. Buy the book, see the movie. Or vice-versa. If you happen to know that a book is being made into a movie, try having them read the book, and then see the movie as an incentive. OR watch the movie, and then buy the book. Some reluctant readers love reading the book after seeing a movie they liked. They want to find out more, AND the pressure is off understanding the plot since they already know it!
8. Think about his/her reading atmosphere. Have your child figure out when the best time to read at home is and where the best place is. Does reading at bedtime put him/her to sleep? Or maybe this is the perfect time. Does reading with music on help his/her concentration? Or maybe he/she has a tendency to listen to the lyrics and sing along instead of read. This simple step can help a lot.

7th Grade Math

By Mrs. Thome

Hello from seventh grade math! I (Mrs. Thome) was sad to end my time at home with my new baby daughter, Audrey, but I missed my other kids and am glad to be back. Our current unit is the most applicable, real-life unit for the year - percents. Since we are all consumers, spending money to buy the things we want and need, this unit is very important! The students are learning how to convert among decimals, percents and fractions. For example: if I wanted to purchase $\frac{1}{3}$ pound of deli meat at the supermarket, the clerk helping me would need to know the decimal equivalent when weighing the meat on the scale. We need to understand these conversions when we move on to calculating sales tax, tips, and discounts. While you are out, use opportunities in the stores and at restaurants to practice and reinforce these skills with your child. The unit wraps up with percent problems that can be solved using proportions and equations. This is an example: If 20% of 85 students walk or ride a bike to school, how many students is this? The 7A math class learned about percents earlier in the year, and is now learning how to graph equations.

Please feel free to e-mail me at sthome@independence.k12.ia.us or call the school with any questions or concerns you have. For information regarding my availability before and after school, and my plans (including assignments) for the current unit, visit my website through the school. Go to the school homepage, then go to the our schools site to choose teacher sites under middle school. Click on my name and you'll be at my website. I also have a page that links to math websites for fun and additional practice. Mrs. Thome

6th Grade Language Arts

By Mrs. Henkes

April and May will find us finishing out the year with a poetry unit, reading and writing. We will be talking about such poetic devices as metaphor, personification, simile, hyperbole, and onomatopoeia. This poetry unit couples well with the classic novel *Where the Red Fern Grows*. During that unit students will be working on a packet and most reading will occur during class. Although each student will probably need to finish the chapter as homework. Please ask your student about this book. Many of you have probably read it too!

Effective Discipline at Home

By Greg Moen, Middle School Counselor

Parents, you have the most important job in the raising of your son/daughter and you have tremendous influence on the development of their character. The Parent Institute has identified several keys to effective discipline at home.

1. ***Be Firm, Fair, and Consistent.*** You have the maturity and experience and your children don't. Only an adult can establish the limits of acceptable behavior in your house. With loving firmness and authority you must establish the rules and firmly enforce them consistently. It's natural for children to test to find your limits. Actions always speak louder than words.
2. ***Establish Rules and Expectations.*** Don't have more rules that they can remember or you can enforce. As their most important role model make sure that you set a good example for them to follow. Frequently talk with your son/daughter about your expectations.
3. ***Let Natural and Logical Consequences Help You.*** Children learn responsibility when they see that their actions (good and bad) have consequences (good and bad). "Discipline" means to teach, not to punish as many believe. Effective consequences should meet three criteria:
 - a. Logically related to the misbehavior.
 - b. Respectful enforcement.
 - c. Reasonable to you and your child.
4. ***Set Up Routines*** such as: getting off to school, coming home from school, chore time, homework time, or visiting friends. Discuss your expectations with your son/daughter and then practice the new routine, making adjustments as needed. Routines usually become established after 3 weeks. Periodic reinforcement is required to maintain the routine.
5. ***Teach Children to Accept Responsibility*** for their actions. It is one of the most important goals of discipline.
 - a. Give them real responsibilities with realistic expectations they understand. Follow up on their efforts.
 - b. Encourage them to do the right thing. (3 to 1 ratio of good praises to critical comments).
 - c. Require them to accept the consequences of the actions.
6. ***Help Children Learn to Make Good Decisions.*** Decision making is a skill that improves with practice. Let them live with the consequences of their decisions. Preventing the learning prevents the acquisition of good decision making skills and responsibility. Careful to bail them out! Talk about the results of their decisions (good and bad). For example, "Your grade improved, what did you do differently?" Help them to see the connection between their decision and what happened.
7. ***Control Your Anger.*** If you are out of control you can't teach children what they need to learn. When things don't go right, model self-control. You might take a timeout (leave the room), refuse to react immediately when angry, or speak softly.
8. ***Treat Children With Respect and Demand Respect.*** Talk individually with each of your children every day. Give them your full attention and listen more than you talk. Ask for their opinion. When possible discipline in private. Children are more likely to learn when they are not humiliated or embarrassed. Train them to be respectful to others, especially when there are disagreements or conflicts.
9. ***Show Children You Love Them!*** Your kids need to know their parents love them unconditionally, no matter what. They need to hear their parents say, "I love you" often. When your son/daughter misbehaves, you may say "I don't love your behavior, but I do love you" or "You're a good kid, but right now we have a problem that needs fixing."

Quotes to Consider

When children are seen and not heard it's apt to be through binoculars.

A mistake is proof that someone was at least trying to accomplish something.

Children are like wet cement. Whatever falls on them makes an impression.

Anonymous

Family Fun in the Kitchen ó Spring

From the Iowa State University Extension



Tips for teaching young cooks

Use this three-step method to teach children specific skills, such as using a knife, shredding vegetables, removing hot foods from a microwave, etc.

1. Explain the task, pointing out any safety tips/concerns.
2. Demonstrate how you want the child to complete the task.
3. Have the child demonstrate the task back to you.

Reminder—9- to 12-year-olds can:

- ÉOpen cans
- ÉUse a microwave oven
- ÉPrepare simple recipes with few ingredients
- ÉUse an oven (with supervision)
- ÉUse a knife (with supervision)
- ÉShred cheese and vegetables

Now's the time to replace screen time with outdoor time ...

- ÉTake family bike rides and walks
- ÉPlay soccer or tag or on playground equipment
- ÉFly kites
- ÉPlant flowers or a garden together

If you do, your children will be more likely to ...

- ÉDo better in school
- ÉBe more active
- ÉEat healthier
- ÉHave a healthy weight
- ÉBe better behaved

For more information

Visit this ISU Extension Web site
Nutrition (Facts, tips, recipes, more) -
www.extension.iastate.edu/healthnutrition/

Recipes to try

Asparagus Wrap

Never tried asparagus? Here's your opportunity for a quick snack or as part of a meal. Makes 1 serving.

You will need:

- 1 whole wheat tortilla
- 365 fresh asparagus spears
- 2 tablespoons shredded cheese

What to do:

1. Wash and trim ends of asparagus spears; pat gently with paper towel. Lay asparagus spears in center of tortilla.
2. Sprinkle cheese over asparagus.
3. Roll tortilla around asparagus and cheese.
4. Place rolled tortilla on microwave-safe plate; cover with waxed paper.
5. Microwave for 1 to 2 minutes, until cheese is melted and asparagus is slightly tender.

Nutrition facts for 1 wrap:

210 calories, 6.8 g fat, 8.8 g protein, 28.4 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 432 mg sodium

Fruit and Yogurt Parfaits

Great for breakfast, snacks or dessert.

Makes 4 parfaits. You will need:

- 2 cups cut-up fruitô fresh, unsweetened frozen (thawed and drained), or canned unsweetened (drained)
- 2 cups low-fat or fat-free vanilla yogurt
- 1 cup granola-type cereal

What to do:

1. Put 1/4 cup fruit into each of 4 bowls.
2. Spoon 1/4 cup yogurt over each.
3. Repeat with another 1/4 cup fruit and another 1/4 cup yogurt.
4. Sprinkle 1/4 cup cereal on top of each.

Nutrition Facts for each parfait:

89 calories, 1.2 g fat, 4.1 mg cholesterol, 66 mg sodium, 15.9 g carbohydrate (1.1 g fiber, 13.5 g sugar) 4.5 g protein

FIND MORE RECIPES at this Web site -
www.extension.iastate.edu/food

Cooking together as a family can help you model hand washing, healthy eating, and learning by making mistakes. It is quality time spent together and gets the meal on the table faster!

Kitchen safety reminders:

- ÉAdults should supervise children in the kitchen at all times.
- ÉAlways turn pot handles toward the back of the stove so no one can accidentally bump or knock them over.
- ÉKeep paper towels, dish towels, napkins, and pot holders away from the stove top to avoid fire.
- ÉDon't put knives or other sharp objects into a sink full of water. Someone could reach in and get hurt.
- ÉKeep electrical appliances away from water to avoid shocks.
- ÉMake sure oven, stovetop, and other cooking appliances are turned off when you are finished.

... and justice for all The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914 in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jack M. Payne, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.

N 3507-3 February 2008

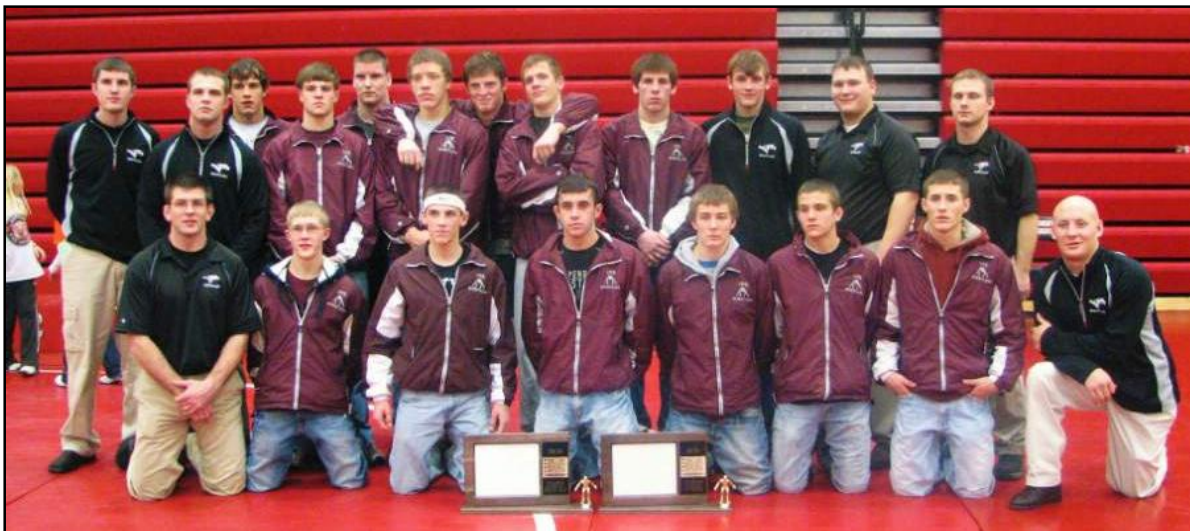
Accomplishments from the 2008-2009 Wrestling Season

Some Interesting Facts from the Wrestling Season By Coach Michael Doyle

- * Dual Record 26-2
- * Senior Career Dual Record 88-11
- * Oelwein Tournament Champions
- * Maquoketa Valley Dual Champions
- * Osage Dual Champions
- * Anamosa Dual Champions
- * WaMaC West Dual Champions
- * WaMaC Tournament Champions
- * Coach Michael Doyle is named Northeast Iowa District Coach of the Year
- * Sectional Champions
- * Regional Dual Champions
- * District Champions
- * Coach Michael Doyle is named State Coach of the year for Class 2A
- * Placed 11th at State
- * State Quarterfinalist for Duals
- * 500th Dual win for Independence school history
- * 150th Coaching Career wins

GPA's include wrestlers, managers, and cheerleaders that are involved in wrestling program.

- * 100% of the team passed 2nd term classes
- * 9 members had a 4.0 2nd term
- * 11 more members had a 3.5 or better 2nd term
- * 3 more members had a 3.4 for 2nd term
- * 59% of this team got a 3.4 or better during 2nd term
- * 27 members of this team have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher that is 69% of the team.
- * 3 more members have a 2.9 cumulative GPA that would mean 77% of this team has a cumulative GPA of 2.9 or better.



Anyone who would like to purchase a highlight movie of the high school season for \$5.00, contact Michael Doyle at 334-7405.

Speech News from the IHS

By Dan Putz

SPEECH TEAM EARNS THREE "1" RATINGS AT STATE

Independence speech team traveled to Decorah Saturday, February 7th for the State Large Group Speech Contest. Congratulations to the three events that earned 1 ratings. Those earning top honors were: the Readers Theater (Gina Hoffman and Mitch Smith), the Radio News Teams (Nick Erickson, Gina Hoffman, and Austin Wegmuller), and the Musical Theater (Phantom of the Opera) (Hannah Butler and Christopher Kurt). Those earning 2 ratings were; the radio news team KIHS2 (Emily Goedken, Ryan Hoffman, Tony Lake, and Alisha Thompson), and the group improv (Hannah Butler and Emily Goedken), (Justin Grover, Ryan Hoffman, and Mitch Smith), and (Nick Erickson and Caleb Martin). Next up for speech team is the WaMaC individuals tournament at Norway February 14th.

RADIO BROADCAST TEAM EARNS ALL- STATE HONORS

Congratulations to Nick Erickson, Gina Hoffman, and Austin Grover who qualified for the All-State Large Group Speech Festival as the Radio Broadcast team (89.76). They are one of only four Broadcast teams from our state competition to qualify for the festival. Their tape was presented Saturday, February 21st on the Iowa State Campus. Thanks to Jason Kilby who coached this team. This is the first Broadcast team to qualify for All-state in school history.

INDEE SPEECH TEAM CLAIMS WaMaC WEST CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations to the speech students on their excellent performances at the WaMaC Speech Tournament, Saturday, February 14th in Norway. We had 29 entries, and 28 received 1 ratings or placed in the top five. Those placing in the top five include:

1st place- Nick Erickson and Paige Milbach who tied for first in Public Address, and Nick Erickson in Reviewing

2nd place- Dakota Funk in Acting, Gina Hoffman in Expository Address, and Amy Keierleber in Storytelling.

3rd place- Katie Zieser in Reviewing, Garrett Clappitt in Expository Address, Alisha Thompson in Original Oratory, and Zach Schulz in both Original Oratory and Poetry.

4th Place- Christopher Kurt in Solo Musical Theater and Dakota Funk in Prose.

5th place- Caleb Martin in Poetry, Lisa Keierleber in Storytelling, Amy Keierleber in Expository Address, and Ben Anderson in Spontaneous Speaking

Those earning 1 ratings: In Radio News (Gina Hoffman, Scott Miller, Ben Anderson), In Prose (Paige Milbach, Katie Zieser)

In Spontaneous Speaking (Caleb Martin), In Improvisation (Christopher Kurt, Kevin Mills), In Poetry (Lisa Keierleber),

In Original Oratory (Dawn Kieler), In Solo Musical theater (Alisha Thompson), This was the first conference championship since 2000.

Independence finished with 69 points, Clear Creek-Amana was second with 63, and Marion finished 3rd with 58 points. Thanks to Jon TeStrake, Dawn Keenan, and Dan Putz who coached these students.

IHS Speech Team Advances 18 Entries To State

Congratulations to the speech team students on their excellent performances at the District Speech Contest, Saturday, February 28th at Maquoketa Valley. We had 30 entries, and 18 received 1 ratings advancing to the state contest March 14th at Starmont. Those advancing to state include: Dakota Funk in Prose; Dakota Funk in Acting; Lisa Keierleber, Caleb Martin and Zach Schulz in Poetry; Gina Hoffman and Scott Miller in Radio News Announcing; Paige Milbach and Nick Erickson in Public Address; Ben Anderson in Spontaneous Speaking; Christopher Kurt in Solo Musical Theater; Nick Erickson and Katie Zieser in Reviewing; Christopher Kurt in Improvisation; Amy Keierleber, Gina Hoffman and Garrett Clappitt in Expository Address; and Zach Schulz in Original Oratory.

IHS Speech Team Earns 12 "1's" At State

Congratulations to the speech team students on their excellent performances at the State Speech Contest, Saturday, March 14th at Starmont. We had 18 entries, and 12 received 1 ratings. Those earning 1 ratings include: Dakota Funk in Prose, Dakota Funk in Acting, Lisa Keierleber, and Caleb Martin in Poetry; Paige Milbach and Nick Erickson in Public Address; Nick Erickson and Katie Zieser in Reviewing; Christopher Kurt in Improvisation; Amy Keierleber, and Gina Hoffman in Expository Address; and Zach Schulz in Original Oratory. Those earning 2 ratings include Zach Schulz in poetry; Gina Hoffman and Scott Miller in Radio News Announcing; Ben Anderson in Spontaneous Speaking; Christopher Kurt in Solo Musical Theater; and Garrett Clappitt in Expository Address. Thanks to all the parents and students who came to support us. And thanks to Dawn Keenan, Jon TeStrake, and Dan Putz who coached these students.

I.H.S. Speech Qualifies Two Entries for All-State

Two Independence High School students, Nick Erickson and Dakota Funk, earned top honors and were selected to perform at the Iowa High School Speech Association All-State Speech Festival from over 10,000 students that started at the district level of competition. Approximately 400 were selected for this honor from the entire state. The festival will be held on the campus of U.N.I. on Monday, March 30th. Nick, a Junior, was nominated in the Public Address category. His selection was a speech given by General George S. Patton to the troops. Dakota was selected in the Prose category. He read a piece called "Relationships" by Bill Engvald. Nick and Dakota were part of the speech team that had 18 entries at the state speech contest. 12 of those students received 1 ratings. Special thanks to Mr. TeStrake, Mrs. Keenan, and Mr. Putz whose efforts allowed us to be so successful!

High School Calendar

APRIL

April	2	Boys Soccer at Hudson
	3	Boys Track at Cascade
	4	Boys Tennis at Cedar Rapids Prairie Boys Soccer at Hudson (Tourney)
	6	Boys Golf vs Marion Boys Soccer vs Anamosa
	7	Girls Golf at Benton Girls Track Jesup Invite Boys Track at North Fayette Girls Soccer vs Maquoketa
	8	Boys Golf vs Vinton
	9	Boys Golf at Oelwein Girls Golf vs Oelwein Boys Track Invite - HOME Girls Track at Clear Creek Amana Girls Soccer vs La Porte Union
	13	Boys Golf at Williamsburg Girls Golf vs CCA Boys Track vs Jesup (Indee track) Girls Tennis vs Western Dubuque Boys Tennis at Western Dubuque
	14	Girls Track Anamosa Invite Girls Tennis at Oelwein Boys Tennis vs Oelwein Girls Soccer vs Beckman Boys Soccer at Williamsburg Iowa Jazz Championships
	15	Iowa Jazz Championships
	16	Girls Track West Delaware Invite Girls Tennis vs Decorah Boys Tennis at Decorah Boys Soccer at Decorah HS Conferences
	17	Boys Golf at Benton Girls Golf vs Columbus Girls Track at Benton Boys Tennis vs Hudson Girls Soccer at Vinton
	18	Boys Golf at Benton (tourney)
	19	HS Elective Fair and Conference Art Show ó Falcon Center
	20	Boys Golf at Western Dubuque Girls Golf at CPU Girls Track at New Hampton Boys Track at Oelwein
	20	Girls Tennis vs. Mt. Vernon
	21	Girls Golf at Hudson Boys Track at CPU Girls Soccer vs Benton
	21	Boys Soccer at Benton
	22	Boys Golf at Clear Creek Amana
	23	Boys Track at Denver Boys Tennis at NU High



Continued on the next page...

High School Calendar continued

APRIL Continued

April 24 Boys Golf vs Columbus
Girls Tennis at Columbus
Girls Soccer at Columbus
Boys Soccer vs Columbus
25 Boys Golf at West Delaware
Girls Golf at Benton
Prom at Heartland Acres
27 Boys Golf vs. CPU
Girls Golf at Marion
Boys Track at Maquoketa Valley
27 Boys Tennis at Marion
28 Girls Track at Anamosa
Boys Tennis at Columbus
Girls Soccer vs Clear Creek Amana
Boys Soccer at Clear Creek Amana
30 Girls Track at Marion
Girls Tennis at Marion



MAY

May 1 Girls Golf at Vinton
Boys Track at LaPorte City
Boys Tennis at Applington-Parkersburg
Girls Soccer at CPU
Boys Soccer vs CPU
4 Boys Golf WaMaC Divisional Meet
Girls Golf WaMaC Divisional Meet
Girls Tennis WaMaC at Columbus
Boys Tennis at Western Dubuque (JV)
5 Girls Track Indee Invite
Boys Track at Marion
Boys, Girls Tennis WaMaC at Columbus
Girls Soccer at Marion
Boys Soccer vs Marion
7 Girls Tennis vs Union LaPorte
Boys Soccer vs Central DeWitt
8 Band/Choir Large Group Contest
9 Girls Tennis vs Waterloo West (JV)
11 Girls Track WaMaC
Girls Tennis vs Maquoketa
Boys Tennis vs Columbus
Girls Soccer vs Hudson
HS Choral Night
12 Boys Golf Super WaMaC
Girls Golf Super WaMaC
Boys Track WaMaC at Western Dubuque
Boys Tennis vs Maquoketa
Boys Soccer vs Maquoketa
13 WaMaC Vocal Festival
14 Girls Tennis vs Oelwein
Boys Tennis Districts at Waterloo
Girls Soccer vs NU High
15 Girls Tennis vs Hudson
Boys Soccer at Waverly Shellrock



May 18 HS Band Night and Spaghetti Supper
19 Girls Soccer at Decorah
Boys Soccer vs Beckman
21 Girls Soccer vs Anamosa
22 Girls Soccer at Gladbrook-Reinbeck
23 Boys Tennis Sub-State
24 HS Graduation
26 Softball vs Waterloo West
Baseball at La Porte Union
27 Softball vs Benton
28 Girls Soccer vs West Delaware
Baseball at Anamosa

INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

Volunteers are an important resource to the educational process in the Independence Community Schools. Please complete the information below and on the back so that we may best utilize your time and talent. Regular, ongoing help is not necessary. If you have questions, please call (319) 334-7400. Thank you!

RETURN THIS FORM TO: Independence Community School District
Attn: Volunteer Program Coordinator
1207 First Street West
Independence, Iowa 50644

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ - _____ - _____ Cell phone _____ - _____ - _____ E-mail _____

Employer _____ Business Phone _____

Current Occupation _____

Other occupational experiences _____

Retired? _____ yes _____ no Names and grades of any children in school _____

Do you have any health or physical limitations that might affect certain types of volunteer positions? ____ yes ____ no

If yes, please list: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____

Name

Phone

Relationship

Where and when are you available?

____ District (anywhere needed) ____ ECC (PK) ____ Elementary (K-5) ____ Middle School (6-8) ____ High School (9-12)

Time(s) available: ____ Daily ____ Weekly ____ Variable, Occasional Other: _____

If you have specific hours on specific days, please list here: (Example, 8:00-9:30 on Tuesdays)

Monday _____

Tuesday _____

Wednesday _____

Thursday _____

Friday _____

Do you have a specific class or teacher request? _____

**PLEASE FILL OUT THE BACKSIDE TO LET US KNOW YOUR
INTERESTS/TALENTS.**



Independence Community School District

1207 First Street West
Independence, Iowa 50644



Non Profit Org.
PAID
Permit 197
Independence, Iowa

We're on the Web

<http://www.independence.k12.ia.us>

VOLUNTEER PREFERENCE CHECKLIST - Please check any and all areas you would help in.

Name _____ Today's date _____

Phone _____ Start date _____

Teacher Support

- ☐ Small group(s)
- ☐ Any in-class assistance
- ☐ Assist handicapped
- ☐ Clerical support
- ☐ Field trip chaperone
- ☐ Media center/library
- Specific grade request _____
- Specific teacher request _____
- Other: _____

Special Projects/Programs

- ☐ Classroom special events
- ☐ Volunteer bulletin board help
- ☐ Mentoring (lunchtime)
- ☐ After-school homework help
- ☐ Career exploration speaker
- ☐ Camp Ewalu (Middle School)
- ☐ Book fair help
- ☐ Music program help
- ☐ Athletic program help

At Home Help

- ☐ Computer work
- ☐ Material preparation
- ☐ Food/treats preparation
- ☐ Telephoning parents
about events, reminders
- ☐ Grade papers
- ☐ Assemble projects
- ☐ Make costumes (sew)
- Other: _____

Skills/Knowledge You Could Share Not Listed In Above Categories: _____
