

Volume 3 Issue 2
Dec/Jan, 2008-09

District Events:**Dec 8**

HS Band/Choral Concert
7:00 p.m. High School

Dec 9

MS Band/Choral Concert
7:00 p.m. Middle School

Dec 10

1:00 Early Dismissal

Dec 15

School Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.

Dec 16

5th Grade Band Concert
7:00 p.m. Middle School

Dec 18

K, 2nd & 4th Grade
Vocal Concert 6:30 p.m.
High School

Dec 22 - Jan 2nd

Winter Break

Jan 5

School Resumes

Jan 9

No School

Jan 14

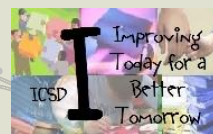
1:00 Dismissal

Jan 28

1:00 Dismissal

Inside this issue:

Fish! Nominees	2
Curriculum and School Improvement	3
East Elem News	5-6
West Elem News	7-8
Nurse News	9
Middle School News	10-13
High School News	14-16

**Volunteer Program; Assistance Needed**

By Devin Embray, Superintendent

Have you ever thought of volunteering your time within the four walls of a school? Our school district is launching an effort to create a volunteer network to help our students and staff in their quest to be successful. You may be asking yourself, "I don't have any skills that would align with helping at the school." This is where you may be selling yourself short. Listening to a student read, helping copy off instructional materials, answering the phone, supervising an assessment that students may be taking, greeting those to the school building are just a **FEW** things that could greatly benefit our efforts at being successful. With the budget getting tighter and tighter we are feeling the pinch in many ways. I am inspired by what others are doing in the area of volunteering and commend those who are mentoring our youth K-12. Having that kind of support in other areas of our school system would be greatly appreciated and welcomed. Should you be interested in volunteering in some capacity or know of someone who would be willing to do so, please fill out the form located on the last two pages of the newsletter and send it back to the Central Office. We will be putting together a database to assign and track those that are volunteering within our school system. Due to increased concern and awareness for student safety, background checks will be conducted. Once that is complete, you will be contacted to begin your assignment within our school system. It is our hope to align your skill/interest area with an area of need. We hope to hear from you soon!!

**Independence Community Schools****Tips 'N Tools for Parents Night**

January 28th 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

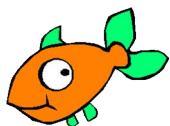
Snow date: February 4th

Stay tuned for more details!

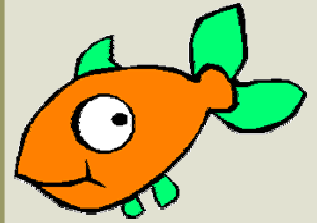
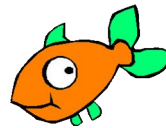


October Fish Recognition

Marcia Kreutner
Amanda Sedlacek
Mike Donnelly
Kerry Pasker
Sarah Van Buren
Kay Grover
Holly Mueller
Gary Buresh
Mary Jean Blaisdell
Linda Smith
Karl Kurt
Judy Kress
Terri Janaszak
Nicole Rudish
Janie Draker-Falcon
Janet McLaren
Susan Case
Sandy Johnson
Sarah Crawford
Jill Schares
Janette Hopkins
Peggy Short
Marilyn Oline
Renita Wieland
Sue Henkes



Teri Schloss
Lori Flaherty
Devin Embray
Julie Weber
Erin Blasberg
Tiffani King
Jenny Cappel
Susie Kuper
Cathy Gilson
Chrissy Kimball
Kathy Hameister
LeAnna Buskohl
Penni Gaul
Marlyce Kotouc
Marj Lappe
Margie Torgerson
Administration Office
Dan Dederling
Karen Hoaglan
Pat Wendling
Casey Reinkoester
Beth Conklin
Greg Moen
Melissa Spading
Ronda Hilbert
Chad O'Brien
Loren Staton
Rick Alber



**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**

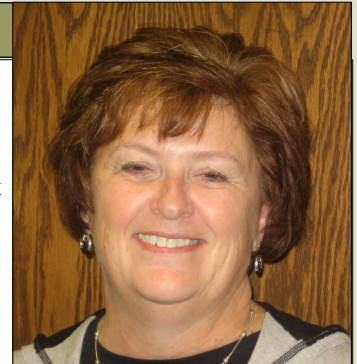
**Make
Their Day**

Curriculum and School Improvement by Sandy Merritt, Director

We have a strong commitment to curriculum, instruction, and assessment at Independence. Our teachers work very hard to ensure that our curriculum is of the highest quality, that our instruction is aligned with that curriculum, and that we are assessing what we are teaching according to the curriculum. This is not a one time event but a continual process that requires a great deal of work and energy. Our teachers should be commended for their hard work!

District Assessments

In addition to the beginning of the year assessments given in the buildings, our 3rd - 8th grade students take the Measurements in Academic Progress (MAP) assessment in the fall and in the spring. The MAP assessment provides valuable information about students' current levels of progress, their strengths, and areas in which we need to focus attention. MAP assesses students' abilities in the areas of reading, language arts, math, and science. It also provides us information to help us set class and individual goals for the current school year. We have now completed the fall MAP assessments and will begin to study the results. You can learn more about your child(ren)'s scores at your Parent Teacher Conferences later this month.



Sandy Merritt, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement

Parental Involvement

Our parents are important partners in our school improvement process. Encouraging your child(ren) to work hard in school is an important way that you can help your child be successful. Become an advocate for your child(ren) by:

Asking questions about your child's progress at school and the school's progress. Find out how you can help your child at home.

Developing a habit of asking your child about school to show your interest and that you value education.

Voicing concerns to the appropriate people who can help rather than worry or talk to others about them.

Offering to volunteer at your child's school in some way that fits your schedule; mark your calendar and be there when needed.

Complimenting school staff for their efforts to create a quality learning environment for your child. Let them know what is appreciated.

Attending school events whenever possible. Research shows that when parents are involved, children do better in school and in life.

Taking time to make sure your child is prepared for school each day: properly dressed, nourished, homework completed.

Investigating resources: PIRC Grant at AEA 267, "Promoting Success through Parent Involvement"; <http://www.pirc-info.net/overview.asp>

Negotiating a time each day to read with your child. Checking school work can make a big difference in your child's progress.

Going the extra mile! Take advantage of every opportunity to support your children in obtaining the kind of education to which they are entitled.

Developed by Parent Information and Resource Center. There are many resources available to parents. www.iowaparents.org. Funding provided by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement, Parent Information Resource Center program, under grant #84.310A and Iowa Award #U3I0A60012.

Mustang Booster Club News

We are excited to have many new items for sale through the booster club.

Stadium chairs are now available for \$35.00. They are maroon with the white Indee logo on the back. These would make great Christmas presents for all Mustang fans!

We also have new short and long sleeved shirts available in all sizes. They will have a new Indee logo on the front (see below). For the cold days ahead, we have three varieties of stocking hats. We still have fleece vests and pull-overs available plus many other items. Check out all of our apparel during Mustang sporting events at the middle and high school. We will also have a booth during East and West conferences. See times and dates below.

Stadium Chairs



Membership News

We are closing in on 100 members for support of our athletes this year. Our goal is 125. Please encourage others to be a part of the Mustang team!



Middle School

November 13th
November 18th
December 1st
December 2nd
December 8th
Sporting Events at 4:15

East Elementary

November 24th
Conferences
1:30-7:30 p.m.

West Elementary

November 25th
Conferences
1:30-7:30 p.m.

High School

December 5th
December 12th
December 16th
December 19th
Sporting Events at 6:00

Shop for You! Shop for the Holidays! Support Mustang Athletic Booster Club

Principal's Corner - Mary Jean Blaisdell

How did December get here already? Thanks to all who attended November conferences. Your child benefits from your participation and teachers appreciate the opportunity to share student learning and progress with you as well.

In November, students had the opportunity to recognize the efforts and sacrifices made by men and women in the armed forces at the Veterans Day assembly. Students also celebrated Thanksgiving in their classrooms during the month.

At the end of January, we will have our second set of assessments at the K-2 level. These assessments measure instructional reading level and comprehension, fluency, and phonemic awareness. Math facts and computation are also measured at this time. The results of these tests will be shared at conference time in March.

Have a wonderful, relaxing winter break!



Mary Jean Blaisdell, Principal

Happy Holidays From Kindergarten!

Kindergartners at East are looking forward to the holidays by using their 5 senses. We will see, touch, smell, taste, and hear the wonders of this special time of year.

You will love seeing and hearing us sing at our Holiday Concert which will be held at the Independence High School on Thursday, December 18th, at 6:30 p.m. You will think we are little ödeersö!

We look forward to our winter break with our families.



East Meets West in Concerts at the High School

Students from East and West Elementary schools will come together this year for their music programs. On December 18th, East's kindergartners and second graders and West's fourth graders will present a winter concert at the high school. The second and fourth graders will even be collaborating on two music selections. This winter concert will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the high school gym.

In March, the first graders from East will meet West's third and fifth graders at the high school for a spring concert.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

Dec 1 Classes
Resume

Dec 10 12:50 Dismissal
In-Service

Dec 18 1:30 K & 2nd
Grade
Winter Music
Program
Rehearsal
6:30 K & 2nd
Grade
Winter Music
Program

Dec 22-Jan 2
Winter Break

Jan 5 Classes
Resumes

Jan 9 No School
In-Service

Jan 14 12:50 Dismissal
In-Service

Jan 28 12:50 Dismissal
In-Service
Tips 'N Tools
Night for
Parents at MS
6:00-7:30 p.m.

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

November kept us very busy with the election, as well as studying about symbols of our nation and the first Thanksgiving. Attending the play, The Bully, in Oelwein with the second graders was a great experience for all! First graders also enjoyed having some guest readers visit our classes to help promote National Young Readers Week.

We have been learning about repeating, growing, and surrounding patterns and worked on several patterning projects. We look forward to meeting with parents at conferences soon.



Students at East Elementary voted for their choice of pizza. Pizza Ranch provided the school with the winning pizza on Monday, Nov 10th



Lee Roepke spoke to students at the East Elementary Veteran's Day Assembly.

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!



From West Elementary by Rudi Hameister, Principal

A team of teachers attended the first session of the Excellence in Literacy training at the AEA on October 9th. This year we will be focusing on school improvement, exploring IDM, and learning more about differentiation of instruction, as well as learning more about implementing the 6+1 Traits of Writing. This training is funded through the state.

West Elementary's SPIN (Sustaining Parent Involvement Network) team was busy this last month with our facility walk-through surveys. One of SPIN's objectives is to make our school a more welcoming place. That process began with a Walk-Through evaluation of our physical environment October 13th. Three different teams surveyed our facility inside and out collecting data that we hope will help us make West Elementary a place where people feel welcomed. Parents and community members involved in this process included: Tammy Baldwin, Connie Arends, Connie Brown, Donald Brown, Dan Lake, and Kathy Hameister. The staff members from West that participate included: Terri Janaszak, Susan Case, Holly Mueller, and Gary Buresh.

The staff and students at West & East Elementary Schools participated in this year's first Title I Family Literacy Night at our beautiful new public library. On October 2nd, over 50 students, parents, siblings, and staff attended a wonderful evening of reading fun presented by the Title I teachers. The evening was capped off with a tour of our new library given by Laura Blaker, our library director. Eight different local businesses, as well as Iowa Public TV, provided generous donations that were used as door prizes for the evening. Those local businesses sponsoring this event included: Connie's Hallmark, Wal-Mart, Fareway Store, Security State Bank, Movie Gallery, The Pizza Ranch, Burger King, and McDonalds.

As the nation's finances face unprecedented challenges, one eastern Iowa retired teacher is helping students create a firm foundation of financial success. Harriet Short is helping students at West Elementary School run a real bank of their own, with some students saving more than \$1,000 for college. Harriet Short and the Mini-Mustang Bank was a featured story on KWWL TV on Monday night, October 7th as "Somebody You Should Know."

NWEA testing started at West on October 6th. A second computer lab has been sent up in the media center to help speed up the testing process. The second lab has worked out very well testing should soon be completed. The only tests to be completed are the tests that need to be read to students as per their testing accommodations. A big "Thank You" to Renita Wieland, Judy Kress, and Sandy Johnson for their work in administering this testing process.



Rudi Hameister, Principal

News from 3rd Grade

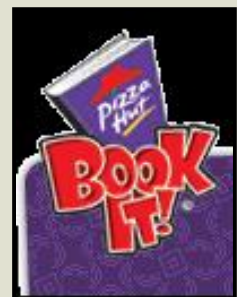
We continue to work on the basic addition and subtraction facts in Math. Our goal is to do 100 facts with 95% accuracy. A few minutes each evening practicing these facts would be helpful to your son or daughter.

We have completed a Rock Unit in Science. We had Sondra Cabell from Fontana come and reinforce what we had learned. Ask your child the three categories of rocks.

In October we started the Pizza Hut Book-It program. Remember that any AR book your child reads at home can also be counted for the Book-It program. Check every night with your child to see if they have any AR reports in their Mustang and have your son or daughter tell you about the book they just took a test on. We hope you have a time and a quiet place that your child can read for 15-20 minutes every night.



In Social Studies we are starting to learn about urban, rural and suburban communities. We also continue to keep up with current events with the Time for Kids magazine.



The Pizza Hut
Book-it
Program has
started.
Encourage your
child to read!

Are You Smarter Than a Third Grader?

On October 17, 2008, Mrs. Pasker's third grade class took on West Elementary principal, Mr. Hameister, in a game of Are You Smarter Than a Third Grader?

The third grade students at West have been working diligently, learning about the different types of rocks, how they are formed, and what changes they go through. In addition they have learned about the layers of the earth and how volcanoes work.

Mr. Hameister came in feeling a bit out of his league, admitting that it had, been sometime since he had read about rocks. Mrs. Pasker's class on the other hand, was ready to go!

The game included difficult questions such as, "What type of rock is formed as a result of heat and pressure changing a rock from one kind to another?"

Mr. Hameister used all the help he could get from the students, but at the end it all came down to a question against Cullen Anderson, about testing the luster of a rock. He had the right answer, but second guessed himself and lost the game.

With deep regret, but a sense of humility, Mr. Hameister admitted, "Although I'm the Principal, I am **NOT** smarter than a third grader." Cheers could be heard down the hall as students celebrated. Congratulations to the students in Mrs. Pasker's class. You've worked hard and it has paid off!

Students that participated in the game include: Cullen Anderson, Christian Breitsprecher, Trever Brown, Jeremy Close, Kimberlynn Dayton, Noah Gall, Katlyn Hickey, Josiah Jacobson, Dante Kayser-Appleby, Victoria Keefer, Jeremiah Main, Kassidy McCloud, Anna Miller, Mason Moser, Jayeden Rice, Madison Schroeder, Olivia Siglin, Nichole Stephens, Seth Thompson.



News from the 5th Grade

This has proven to be an exciting election year. As political candidates remain under the scrutiny of political watchdogs, inquiring minds want to know what is life really like in Washington D.C.?

This and other questions were posed to U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley on October 9th, as he made a stop at West Elementary in Independence to visit with and answer questions voiced by some wide-eyed students in Linda Smith's and Gary Buresh's fifth grade classes.

**Senator Grassley visits the
5th grade classrooms of
Mrs. Smith and Mr. Buresh.**



Nurse News

By Teri Schloss RN and Rhonda Jasper RN

Once again, our beautiful fall weather is coming to an end. With winter knocking quickly approaching, I would once again like to remind all of you about the importance of appropriate cold weather attire.

Students at East and West should come to school with a weather appropriate jacket or coat. Gloves, hats, snow pants and snow boots are an absolute must when it is snowy outside. Students will go outside for fresh air unless the temperature is below zero.

Students at Middle School also go outside after lunch. Many students are still coming to school in shorts, short sleeved shirts and no coats. Please encourage your child to dress according to the weather. Layers are a great way to accomplish this.

Independence Community School District is participating with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) in tracking influenza activity in the state of Iowa. If you call your child's school to report them ill, you will be asked what symptoms they are currently experiencing. No identifying information is given to the IDPH during this influenza surveillance. Symptoms that we are specifically tracking are: sudden high fever, headache, non-productive cough, exhaustion, and severe body aches. The symptoms of influenza usually come on fairly quickly. Influenza vaccines are still available. Check with your health care provider.

Some ways in which we can all try to stay healthy during this time of year include: Getting your influenza vaccine, eating nutritious food, getting plenty of sleep, washing your hands often especially before eating and before and after using the restroom, and avoiding close contact with others who are ill.

Your child should be kept home with the following symptoms:

Fever greater than 100 degrees. Students need to be fever free without the use of Tylenol, Motrin, Advil or other fever reducing medicines before returning to school.

Diarrhea or vomiting. They may return to school 24 hours after the last episode.

Rash of unknown origin.

Severe sore throat. A minor sore throat without fever is not a problem at school. You may have your student bring throat lozenges as long as they are in the original package and have a written permission slip from the parent brought to the nurse's office.

Not all illnesses will fall nicely into these categories. You know your child better than we do. If they appear ill, keep them home. As always, consult your health care provider with any questions or concerns you may have.

For consumer information regarding toy and other recalls, go to www.cpsc.gov or www.recalls.gov for the most current information.



Middle School News

By Dave Jacobson, Principal

We all are aware that as the years go by, especially for this gray haired educator, time really does FLY! The 2 months since the last newsletter are gone and it seems like 2 weeks. We have had fun making that time fly here at the Middle School; the Camp EWALU trip, the RED RIBBON WEEK with my first middle school dance in 18 years, (don't worry, I did not show off any 70's dance moves), plus coming up on the 21st Rulon Gardner will be leading an assembly here for our students.

The feeling students have about school is certainly important and that is one of the reasons we provide fun activities from time to time. Learning can and should be fun but there is also a time and place for good old-fashioned effort and work. In the last newsletter I thanked many people for helping the school year start out well and in this one I want to focus on parents. Thank you for the work ethic you model in your family because most successful students need

that as well. We emphasize that here and the consistent approach between school and home we all model does make a difference. I enjoyed coaching for many years but one correlation between the classroom and the fields/floors of competition is each person controls the effort they put forth. I believe great effort will bring success.

Casey Reinkoester, Greg Moen and I make up our Middle School Admin. Team and we all agreed to highlight a few faculty members each newsletter. The first two are our building NEWBYS as I like to call them; Ms. Kirby Bantz in 8th grade Language Arts and Mrs. Jillian Schares in 6th grade Math. They are usually among the first two teachers in the building in the morning and two in the last group to leave in the evening. Their hard work and effort is definitely making a difference for their students. Dan Dederling is one of our Special Education teachers that exemplifies quality in everything he touches and our building/district is fortunate



Dave Jacobson, Principal

to have him. THANK YOU to the three of them from our Middle School Admin. Team!

The end of our first trimester was Monday November 11, the second trimester then started Tuesday, November 12, incomplete grade changes were due November 20 and our student led conferences were November 24 & 25. I hope to see you at the first trimester AWARDS ASSEMBLY on December 4th at 8:30 AM to honor many of our students. The all important ITBS testing will start the last week of January and finish the first week in February. **GO MUSTANGS!**

News from Dawn Keenan - 7th & 8th Grade Special Needs Teacher

I know you're familiar with the old saying about how time flies. Well, that's certainly been the case in my classroom, and the students have been commenting as well about how fast the school year is "flying" by. The first trimester is over. Student-led conferences and Thanksgiving break are only days away.

We have been busily working in my classroom in language arts, math and earth science. In math we have been concentrating on whole number operations and word problems. We will be planning and figuring the cost of a Thanksgiving meal prior to our break. In language arts, we have been concentrating on improving reading comprehension skills, Daily Oral Language, and basic writing skills. While in earth science we have been learning about the interior of our planet, the forces that shape it, and the minerals and rocks that are a part of it. It's now wonder that the time is passing by so quickly. I look forward to seeing many of you at conferences. I hope the upcoming holiday season is a joyous one for all of you!

Dec/Jan Calendar

Dec

- 1 Girls BB 7th @ CPU (Urbana) 4:15
8th @ Indee 4:15
- 2 Wrestling: Mt Vernon & West Del @ Indee 4:15
- 4 Wrestling: Western Dub & Waverly @ Indee 4:00
- 5 Girls BB 7th @ Dyersville Beckman 4:15
8th @ Indee 4:15
- 8 Girls BB 7th Marion @ Indee 4:15
8th @ Marion 4:15
- 9 Wrestling: Indee, Marion & Benton Comm @ Marion 4:15
- 10 1:00 Early Dismissal
- 11 Wrestling: North Fayette / Oelwein @ Indee 4:00
Girls BB 7th Benton Comm vs Indee Playing @ St Johns 4:15
8th @ Benton Comm (Norway) 4:15
- 15 8th Girls BB Peet Jr High @ Indee 4:15

Dec 22-Jan 4 Winter Break

Jan

- 5 Classes Resume
- 8 End of 2nd Term
- 9 No School - Staff Dev
- 14 1:00 Early Dismissal
- 15 Boys BB 7th @ Marion 4:15
8th @ Indee 4:15
- 19 Boys BB 7th @ West Del 4:15
8th @ Indee 4:15
- 26 Boys BB 7th @ Benton Comm (Norway) 4:15
8th @ Indee 4:15
- 28 1:00 Early Dismissal
- 29 Boys BB 7th CPU @ Indee 4:15
8th @ CPU 4:15

Greetings from Mrs. Shaffer and the Middle School FCS Department

With the re-authorization of the NCLB and current emphasis on reading and math in our school district, we are constantly reminded to make sure we are integrating those areas into our daily instruction. How do Family and Consumer Science teachers integrate math, science and language arts in to our classrooms? The answer: in many ways and almost daily.

How many times have teachers heard students ask, "When am I ever going to use this kind of math again?" Rest assured that FCS teachers are giving students opportunities to answer that question. Math relates to all subjects in FCS. Eighth grade students use math skills beginning with their first unit consisting of money management. Identifying types of income, calculating allowances, salary, hourly wages, understanding mean and median, developing a personal spending plan, reconciling a personal bank account and calculating fees and unit pricing are just a few of the activities.

All grade levels experience math application during nutrition units and consumer health. Some activities included are: calculating calories and percentage of calories in specific nutrients, calculating percent of daily values, measurements and their equivalents, altering recipes, reading graphs and charts, calculating volume, using ratios to calculate BMI, and identifying the most nutritional value in foods.

During clothing/textiles units students use math skills daily as well. They use measurements to produce, alter, or repair textiles, they use geometry in the layout and construction of their product, understanding patterns and their relationships and functions, seam allowances, and much, much more.

So if anyone still needs to be convinced that math is a real-world skill, come to one of our FCS classrooms.

High School Registration Night To Be Held on Dec. 10

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" is a question the 8th graders are contemplating as part of their ongoing Career Exploration work they have been doing for the past month. As part of the process, the 8th graders have completed various occupational surveys on work related values and career interests. They have also created their own internet based "Career Portfolio" on *Choices Explorer* that they will be able to use throughout their High School years and beyond. *Choices Explorer* is a tremendous resource!

As part of the Career Exploration work, **all parents of 8th graders and their son/daughter are invited to attend the High School Registration Night on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 7:00pm in the Middle School Commons.** The goal of the meeting is to provide the information needed to register for the classes they desire for 9th grade and to develop a four year plan of classes to take during high school, as now mandated by the state of Iowa. Education is the "ladder" that helps our students reach their career goals. The courses they choose to take during High School are very important, with significant consequences. All parents of 8th graders and their son/daughter are invited to attend this important meeting.

ITBS Testing At The Middle School In January/February

Although it's two months away, you want to note on your calendar that your son/daughter will be taking the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (I.T.B.S.) on Jan 27, 29, Feb 3, 4, & 6. The testing is important to all of our students individually, as well as the Independence School District. The ITBS tests measure your child's educational growth on the basic skills from year to year and show their relative strengths and weaknesses, enabling their teachers to better work with your child. The tests include: Reading, Math, English, Vocabulary, Spelling, Reference Materials, Science, and Sources of Information.

For a student to perform up to their fullest potential, whether to learn or to take a test to determine their level of skills, it is important that your child always:

1. get a good night's sleep,
2. have a good breakfast, and
3. come with an attitude that they are going to put in their best effort.

The individual results for your son/daughter should be available for your review during the Parent-Teacher Conferences scheduled in March.

Middle School Talented and Gifted Program with Jackie Berryhill

“You Can Do Anything” was the inspiring theme at “Taking the Road Less Traveled”, a career conference for girls sponsored by Iowa State University’s Program for Women in Science and Engineering. The purpose is to expose girls to career paths within science, technology, engineering, and math. Delene Donnelly, Cindy Thompson, and I took twelve girls from the middle school to this conference. The following are quotes from some of the girls who attended the conference for the first time:

“You can’t miss it. You don’t realize how many jobs there are out there. Like not just doctors, there was a person there who worked with invasive species.”

-Mikaela Schulz 8th grade

“It changed what I wanted to be when I grow up.” -Brittany Lillie 6th grade

“I liked the tour of the campus the best. It helped me to see what the campus was like, and whether I would like to go there.”

-Mandi Felan 6th grade

“It showed me many other opportunities that I wouldn’t have thought of before.”

-Sydney Embray 8th grade

There is also a conference in the spring that we plan to attend. If you would like more information on this conference, you can go to the following web site: www.pwse.iastate.edu. You will also be able to link onto other great educational websites from the ISU site.

We are also busy working on Future Problem Solving. The FPS students are engaged in some of the most challenging work they will have in their school programs. The work consists of researching and studying the topic and then responding creatively to the future scene by analyzing, synthesizing, evaluating, and decision-making based on reason and logic. They must clearly communicate their work in a written packet that is twelve pages long with deadlines. This packet is then scored by FPS judges and sent back to us to assess, discuss, and plan for the next future scene. The Future Problem Solving Program meets and exceeds standards in language arts, social studies, science, technology, the arts, life skills (thinking and reasoning standards), and behavioral studies (collaborative work). A thank you goes to Harriet Short for introducing me to this program.

Some students are working on Future City, an engineering program, which requires students to use their creativity, ingenuity, and their knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. They need to perform six specific projects including designing a city on the computer and a physical scale model of part of the city. Thanks go to our mentors for this project: Erik Bohlken from Geater Manufacturing and Al Johnson, City Manager.

We are also busy working on math through the following stimulating programs: Math Olympiads, Math Bee, and Math Counts Club. The students in writers’ workshop are writing essays, stories, etc. The Bulletin Journal editor, Mike Hohenbrink, is giving the students an opportunity to share some of their writing with the readers of the paper. Each month, one of the students from the writers’ program will be sharing a piece of their work. We would like to thank him for this opportunity.

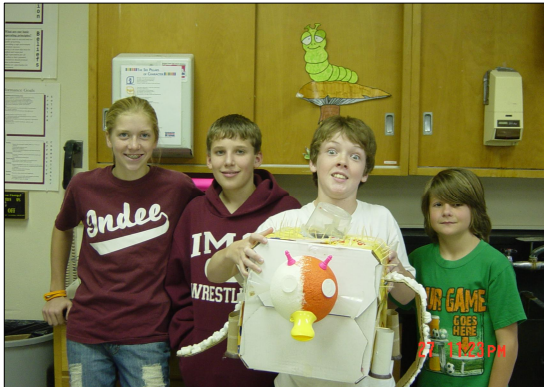
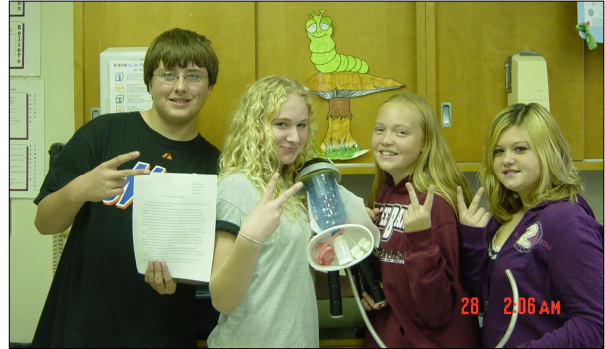
Thank you to all who help in giving the students these enriching opportunities.

7th Grade Life Science

By Garry Anderson

Some of the exciting curriculum we have covered thus far this year have included making cell models, working with the scientific method, using the microscope, and creating a creature. The students really enjoyed the process and outcome of the create a creature series. This project demonstrated all the characteristics of living things. Students were placed in groups and asked to think outside the box in order to create a creature of their very own. Though this project was completed early during the year, the winners of each class were displayed in the classroom.

Top 3 Place winners with a tie for 3rd



1st Top Left: going left to right: Corbin Henningsen, Brier Thein, Austin Gonzales

2nd Top Right: going left to right: Mitch Ciesielski, Paige Davis, Rachel Barloon, Whitney Butters

3rd tie Bottom Left going from left to right: Stephanie McMillan, Jordon Beier, Mitchell Cabalka, Jacob Bolles

3rd tie Bottom Right going from left to right: Austin Cappel, Josh Zieser, Anthony Foggie

6th Grade Technology

By Garry Anderson

This is an old class with a new name. Many of us remember it as Keyboarding. Now as Technology/Literacy we have added the following lessons to our curriculum: keyboarding, word processing, vocabulary terms used in technology, online safety, copy write issues, and power point. Students not only benefit from becoming computer literate, they enjoy the class too!



News from the IHS

By Karl Kurt, Principal



Karl Kurt,
High School Principal

"Underage alcohol consumption in the United States is a widespread and persistent public health and safety problem that creates serious personal, social, and economic consequences for adolescents, their families, communities, and the Nation as a whole."

ô The Surgeon General's Call to Action To Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking

Dear Parents,

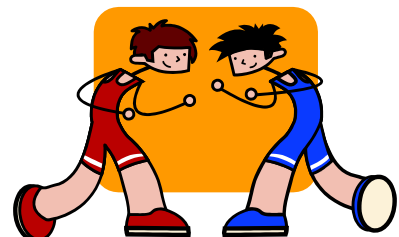
It is Friday night at 11:00 pm. Do you know where your children are, who they are with, and what they are doing?

There is a large body of research that discusses the use and abuse of drugs and alcohol by underage students. The recently released 2007 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, conducted by SAMHSA's Office of Applied Studies, found that 23.3 percent of Americans aged 12 and older had engaged in binge drinking within the past month, and 15.7 percent of youths aged 12 to 17 were current drinkers. I cannot tell you how the national level compares to our students. However, the national statistics do provide enough information that should concern us. Specifically, we will be conducting an Iowa Youth Survey with our Junior class later this year in order to gather this important data.

I know that most of you realize that there are school consequences for any students who are caught in an alcohol-related activity, if they participate in extra curricular activities. These consequences are relevant even when the violation is off of school grounds and not during school hours. However, these potential consequences are not enough in and of themselves to ensure the safety of your child.

A real positive impact to helping curb underage drinking is parent support and monitoring to help ensure our students are making responsible and healthy decisions. To that end, I ask you to have an important conversation with your son or daughter and share your expectations concerning behavior and alcohol consumption. It is my hope that by knowing where your child is, whom they are with, and what they are doing, we will have a better chance of helping them make the best possible decisions.

**K-8 Mat Club sign up and registration is Tuesday, December 16th
at the High School Lunch Room starting at 6:00 p.m.**



High School Calendar

DECEMBER

Monday Dec. 1	9 th GBB vs. West Delaware	6:30 pm
Tuesday Dec. 2	JV/V GBB @ Western Dubuque	6:00 pm
Tuesday Dec.2	10 th /V BBB vs. Western Dubuque	6:00 pm
Thursday Dec. 4	V Wrestling vs N. Fayette	6:30 pm
Friday Dec. 5	JV/V GBB vs. Maquoketa	6:00 pm
Friday Dec. 5	10 th /V BBB @ Maquoketa	6:00 pm
Saturday Dec. 6	Varsity Wrestling Invite	9:00 am
Monday Dec.8	HS Band/Choral Concert, HS gym	7:00 pm
Tuesday Dec. 9	9 th /10 th /V BBB vs CPU	4:30 pm
Tuesday Dec. 9	9 th /JV/V GBB @ CPU	4:30 pm
Tuesday Dec. 9	MS Band/Choral Concert, MS gym	7:00 pm
Thursday Dec. 11	V Wrestling @ West Delaware	6:00 pm
Friday Dec. 12	9 th /JV/V GBB vs Marion	4:30 pm
Friday Dec. 12	9 th /10 th /V BBB @ Marion	4:30 pm
Saturday Dec. 13	9 th BBB @ Maquoketa Valley	9:00 am
Saturday Dec. 13	V Wrestling @ Oelwein	11:00 am
Monday Dec. 15	9 th GBB @ West Delaware	6:30 pm
Tuesday Dec. 16	JV/V GBB vs CCA	6:00 pm
Tuesday Dec. 16	9 th /10 th /V BBB @ CCA	4:30 pm
Tuesday Dec. 16	5 th Band Concert, MS gym	TBA
Wednesday Dec. 17	Just For Kicks Program, HS gym	7:00 pm
Thursday Dec. 18	V Wrestling @ Marion	6:00 pm
Thursday Dec. 18	K,2,4 Vocal Concert, HS gym	TBA
Friday Dec. 19	9 th /10 th /V BBB vs Vinton	4:30 pm
Friday Dec. 19	9 th /JV/V GBB @ Vinton	4:30 pm
December 27, 2008 6 January 4, 2009 Band to Florida		



Gyms reserved for AAU not listed. Please check with your child's coach if you have questions. Most weekends from November through February are booked.

JANUARY

Monday Jan. 5	School resumes	
Tuesday Jan. 6	9 th /JV/V GBB vs Williamsburg	4:30 pm
Tuesday Jan. 6	9 th /10 th /V BBB @ Williamsburg	4:30 pm
Thursday Jan. 8	9 th BBB/GBB @ Waterloo West	4:00 pm
Thursday Jan. 8	V BBB/GBB vs Waverly-Shellrock	6:00 pm
Thursday Jan. 8	V Wrestling @ Williamsburg	6:00 pm
Friday Jan. 9	9 th /10 th /V BBB vs Columbus	4:30 pm
Friday Jan. 9	9 th /JV/V GBB @ Columbus	4:30 pm
Friday Jan. 9	Non-student day	
Friday Jan. 9	Date of Notification, academic eligibility	
Saturday Jan. 10	ISHMA State Jazz Contest	
Tuesday Jan. 13	V Wrestling @ E. Buchanan, Dbl. D	6:00 pm
Tuesday Jan. 13	9 th /10 th /V BBB vs Benton	4:30 pm
Tuesday Jan. 13	9 th /JV/V GBB @ Benton	4:30 pm
Thursday Jan. 15	V Wrestling vs Benton	6:30 pm
Friday Jan. 16	9 th /10 th BBB vs Marion	4:30 pm
Friday Jan. 16	9 th /JV/V GBB @ Marion	4:30 pm
Saturday Jan. 17	State Jazz Band Festival	
Saturday Jan. 17	V Wrestling 6 Osage Duals	10:00 am
Saturday Jan. 17	Indee JV Invitational	9:00 am
Saturday Jan. 17	V BBB vs Marion at Cell Center, CR	5:00 pm



Continued on the next page...

JANUARY Cont.

Monday Jan. 19	WaMaC Lrg. Group Speech@ W. Dubuque	4:30 pm
Monday Jan. 19	School Board Mtg.	7:00 pm
Tuesday Jan. 20	9 th /JV/V GBB vs CPU	4:30 pm
Tuesday Jan. 20	9 th /10 th /V BBB @ CPU	4:30 pm
Thursday Jan. 22	V Wrestling @ Vinton	6:00 pm
Friday Jan. 23	10 th /V BBB vs Central DeWitt	6:00 pm
Friday Jan. 23	JV/V GBB @ Central DeWitt	6:00 pm
Saturday Jan. 24	Dist. Lrg. Group Speech, LaPorte	
Tuesday Jan. 27	9 th /10 th /V BBB vs CCA	4:30 pm
Tuesday Jan. 27	JV/V GBB @ CCA	6:00 pm
Thursday Jan. 29	V Wrestling @ Maquoketa	6:30 pm
Friday Jan. 30	9 th /JV/V GBB vs Benton	4:30 pm
Friday Jan. 30	9 th /10 th /V BBB @ Benton	4:30 pm
Saturday Jan. 31	V Wrestling WaMaC @ Maquoketa	11:00 am
Saturday Jan. 31	AAU GBB Tourney ó all gyms	Varied



Gyms reserved for AAU not listed. Please check with your child's coach if you have questions. Most weekends from November through February are booked.

All dates subject to change if impacted by weather.

Supporting the “Core” Subjects: Family and Consumer Sciences By Teresa Nennig

Math, science, language arts, and social studies are often referred to as the “core” subjects. Other subject areas, included Family and Consumer Sciences, at the high school are called “enrichment” subjects. Whatever name you choose to use is of little consequence. The bottom line is every discipline has a vital role to play in the development of the minds of our young people.

Family and Consumer Sciences has been a scientifically supported discipline for almost 100 years. The research base that drives our curriculum comes from the ongoing research at many universities including Iowa State and Northern Iowa University.

At Independence High School students are exposed to a variety of family and consumer sciences courses each of which supports the “core” subjects by applying the knowledge to everyday life.

Students apply math skills as they learn to accurately measure food and fabric, fit garments, and design quilt tops. The understanding of fractions is a MUST and knowledge of tessellations definitely helps in quilt design. Creating personal budgets, figuring interest, and evaluating consumer product choices are just a few of the math applications used.

By having students write reflective essays, editorials, learning logs, and research reports, FCS is supporting the language arts curriculum. Technical reading, a skill many students struggle with, is a MUST in a foods lab or a clothing lab.

The application of science principles abound in our FCS classrooms. Whether it is understanding how yeast or baking powder works in a recipe, or seeing the characteristics of the many textile fibers, or investigating the world of “high tech reproduction”, students are exposed to science on a daily basis. Finally, FCS works to incorporate history, culture, and ethics from the social studies department.

The richness of the FCS curriculum allows students to see the connections between ALL the disciplines at the high school. When students start to see that math, science, social studies, and language arts are connected to their daily lives, learning becomes more meaningful and lasting. Our FCS classes integrate reading, writing, math, science, technology, and research. We emphasize the broader family and society issues and critical and practical life skills needed by 21 century youth.



Would you like to be notified *directly* when classes are cancelled?

Sign up for Iowa School Alerts — a FREE e-mail notification service provided by the State of Iowa!

This school district is a participant in the Iowa School Alerts program, which means you can sign up to receive free e-mail notifications when classes for our district, or a particular school building, are to be closed, dismissed early or started late due to weather or other circumstances.

How to Sign Up

Click on "Sign Up!" in the Main Menu at <https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov>. This will take you to the Enterprise A&A screen for the State of Iowa. If you already have an account with the State (say, for another online application), there's no need to create another one.

Follow the on-screen instructions to enter your name and e-mail address, and create secret questions and your password. This step involves obtaining a code from an e-mail sent to you to confirm your registration.

Once you have created and confirmed your account registration, you will be taken back to the School Alerts site where you can click on "My Subscriptions" to add the school districts/buildings you would like to receive notices for. Once you've selected a school, you are asked to enter the e-mail addresses or cell phone addresses where you would like notifications sent. You can add as many e-mail addresses as you'd like! (Please note that some wireless services providers may charge you for receiving e-mails or text messages. You are responsible for those charges.)

That's it! After signing up you will receive e-mail notifications directly from the school whenever classes are cancelled. You can review your alert settings and all current notifications for the state at any time by visiting the Iowa School Alerts website: <https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov>.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much does it cost?

There is no charge to sign up for Iowa School Alerts. Funding has been provided by the IOWAccess Advisory Council, which seeks to bring more e-government services to the citizens of Iowa. Please note, however, that you are responsible for any fees charged by your wireless provider for receiving messages.

How does it work?

Your school's superintendent logs in from any computer with an Internet connection and creates one message, which is then sent to everyone who has signed up to receive notices for the affected school district/buildings. Media outlets, day care providers, school staff and others are also being encouraged to sign up for notices. The computer application was designed by staff at the Iowa Department of Administrative Services.

Who do I contact with questions?

Contact the school's administration office or send an e-mail to schoolalertsinfo@iowa.gov.

WALKING HOURS

DUE TO SAFETY AND TO KEEP FLOORS CLEAN AND DRY, PLEASE BRING SHOES OTHER THAN YOUR STREET SHOES TO WALK IN. THANK YOU.

EAST ELEMENTARY

(Enter Front Door)

7:00-7:45 a.m. Monday through Friday



WEST ELEMENTARY

(Enter Front Doors)

6:30-7:45 a.m. Monday through Friday

4:00-8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday



MIDDLE SCHOOL

(Enter South Doors)

6:30-7:45 a.m. Monday through Friday

3:30-6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

BUILDINGS WILL BE CLOSED TO WALKERS WHEN THERE IS A SCHOOL ACTIVITY IN THAT BUILDING AND WHEN SCHOOL IS NOT IN SESSION.

BEGINNING November 17, 2008

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
1207 1st 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: _____
