

**Volume 2 Issue 4
December, 2007**

District Events:

December 5th

CCC Meeting

December 10th

High School Winter
Band/Vocal Concert
7:00 p.m.

December 11th

Middle School Winter
Band/Vocal Concert
7:00 p.m.

December 12th

1:00 Early Release

December 17th

East Elementary
Winter Concert
6:30 p.m.

December 18th

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

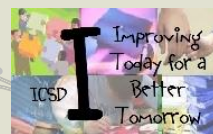
December 24th -

January 2nd

No School
Winter Break

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ASSESSMENT FIRM HIRED *By Devin Embray, Superintendent*

The Independence Community School District has entered into a contract with Kane and Johnson out of Rochester Minnesota and HSR out of La Crosse Wisconsin to do a complete assessment of the current high school. At the special board meeting in November, the board of education listened to the assessment committee's recommendation on which firm they would like to see hired to complete the work. Spokesperson Dana Vietor gave the board of education a recap of the interviews and what the committee liked about each of the firms. He went on to say that the firm they chose was one that the committee felt would be able to connect to the community as well as be true to the mission of the work to be completed. The entire committee was in support of this firm being hired. After the board heard the comments from the committee they

unanimously voted to hire them. John Bagge, member of the assessment committee, spoke to the board stating, "If a committee of ten or so split down the middle with opposing views can get together and see that something needs to be done, so can a community." I want to also state that the firm the committee chose to recommend to the board of education was very clear that they do not cater to anyone's agenda, but rather lay out what the issues are and give unbiased information back to the boards they work with. It is estimated that the work to be completed will take approximately three to four months to complete. The firm has stated that they will give updates to the board of education on progress of work completed at the regular board meetings each month. Please stay tuned as the work is completed and updates are given. The assessment



committee was originally comprised of Ken Coulter, Gina Trimble, Mike Hayward, Beth Little, Lloyd Davis, Dana Vietor, John Bagge, Don Hoeger, Ed Armstead, and Diana Muchmore (resigned after the second meeting). The board of education meets the third Monday of each month, typically starting their meetings at 7:00 P.M. For more information concerning this topic or comments or concerns about other topics, please contact me at 319-334-7400.

Thank You!

The Pates Family wishes to express their deepest thanks and appreciation to all the faculty, staff, families, and friends of the Independence Middle School on behalf of their son, Ayren Hart.

Your thoughts, prayers, and visits at the time of our son's football injury meant very much to our entire family and we wanted to say how much we appreciate all of you.



November Fish! Nominees

Steve Noyes – Technology Director

Marcia Kruehn – HS Family Consumer Sciences Teacher

Kari Schwartz – HS Art Teacher

Liola Ciesielski ó MS Secretary

The Entire High School Staff

Janette Hopkins – MS Media Associate

Pam O'Loughlin – MS and West Medical Assistant

Tia Shaffer – MS Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher

Teri Schloss – West and MS Nurse

Jeanne Bachman – MS Secretary

Renita Wieland – West and MS Media Specialist

Dave Ross – MS Principal

Val Martinson – HS Guidance Secretary

Nickie Morris ó MS Special Education Teacher Associate

Karla Cornwell ó HS Attendance Secretary

Sue Henkes ó MS Language Arts Teacher

Jon Carey ó MS Social Studies Teacher

Julie Flickinger ó 2nd Grade Teacher

Pat Thomas ó East Elementary Music Teacher

Rosemary Millard ó East Elementary Office Associate

Kathy Eilers ó East Elementary Special Education Associate

Donalyn Pogue ó Kindergarten Teacher

Rhonda Jasper ó East Elementary and High School Nurse

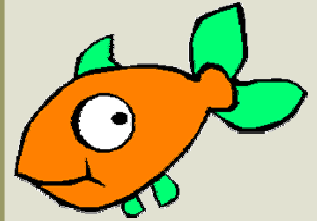
Corinne Love ó MS Social Studies Teacher

Mary Cooksley ó Director, Curriculum and School Improvement

Sarah Crawford ó MS Social Studies Teacher

Joe Olsen ó School Board Member

Success Center Staff



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

Call Mary at
334-7400

Fish Philosophy Principles

**Make
Their Day**

**Choose
Your
Attitude**

Be There

Play

Brite 95.3 Student of the Week

Independence radio station KQMG presents the Brite 95.3 Student of the Week.

Anyone can nominate a student and if their nomination is selected it will be read on the air at 7:40 am Friday morning on Brite 95.3 FM.

Carla Davis, morning personality will visit the student's school and present an award in front of the student's teacher and peers.

The Independence Wal-Mart has donated a \$20 gift card for each Brite 95.3 Student of the week along with cookies for the entire class.

Nominations accepted for students in K-12th grades in the Brite 95.3 listening area. Please include the student's name, grade and school as well as your name and phone number.

Nominations accepted by:

E-Mail: CarlaDavis@indytl.com

Mail: KQMG RADIO

PO BOX 221

Independence, Iowa 50644

ATTENTION: Student of the Week

Fax: 319-334-6158

Achievement is the Headline ... Here's the Story

An Achievement Audit Update

By Mary Cooksley, Director, Curriculum and School Improvement

This fall I informed everyone the district decided to be proactive and not wait until the school district was named a School In Need of Assistance (SINA) and then determine what our next steps would be to raise achievement. Because we want to do everything to make Independence Schools a quality educational institution for students where they can be successful after high school, it is our intention to go through the state audit process to determine what areas we seem to be doing well in terms of curriculum, instruction, and assessment and at the same time identify areas we need to improve upon across the district. Earlier this fall Mary and Devin went to each building in the district and discussed the process with teachers and what they could expect during the Audit. Recently, Therese McCune from the Iowa Department of Education spoke to the administrative team about what to expect during the Audit. This is what she shared with the team:

The first step is to collect information. One piece of information comes from a perception survey called a Practices Inventory. This is a questionnaire/survey to better understand how teachers perceive the practices and expectations across the district. All teachers will have completed this on-line survey by the time you are reading this article. The next piece of information to collect is from interviewing different groups of people: the superintendent, curriculum/school improvement director, principals, and teachers. This will also be done by the time you read this article.



The second step is to analyze and compare the perception data and the district information submitted to look for consistency in perception and actual practice. Information about the district is also collected; from the Annual Progress Report and Comprehensive School Improvement Plan to all of our achievement data and much, much more. I am compiling this information and hope to have it back to the Audit team in December.

The third step comes after the State gets all this information from the district. The information is compiled and put together in an Audit Profile for the district. From that document we will need to begin planning for the future. What we are doing well and what we need to improve upon will be our focus. The goal is to make our district the best place for students and provide a quality education to all students.

Once the Audit Profile is complete parents will be asked to participate in discussions to determine the action plan for the future, which is the last step in the Audit. The Curriculum Coordinating Council will oversee this work as well as Building Leadership Teams. I want to thank many parents and teachers who have communicated support for this proactive step our district is taking. Together, we CAN make a difference!



"I want to thank many parents and teachers who have communicated support for this proactive step our district is taking. Together, we CAN make a difference!"

1st Annual Chili Cook-Off and Bingo Bash was a Fun Family Event!



1st Place – Dave’s “Double Meat Desperado” Chili

2nd Place (Tie) – Corinne Love’s “Not Chilly” Chili and Jon Carey’s “Brook’s Sweet Heat” Chili



Tammy Ryan’s White Elephant gift

Friday, November 9th was the 1st Annual Independence Community Schools Chili Cook-Off. The night was sponsored by the administrators to say thanks and show the staff their appreciation for all they do for students every day in their classroom. Each building was encouraged to put together teams to compete in the chili cook-off. Representing East Elementary were the Spice Girls (picture below) who entered two different recipes into competition, a traditional chili and a white chicken chili. Corinne Love cooked a “Not Chilly” Chili for the Middle School and Jon Carey submitted “Brook’s Sweet Heat” Chili for the Middle School – Sarah Crawford also cooked up a tasty dish called “BAM” Chili! Dave Ross threw his hat in the ring for the Middle School with his “Double Meat Desperado Chili”! Representing Central Office was Mary Cooksley’s chili called “Wedewer’s Best-Ever Tailgate” Chili. The Success Center entered their Taco Soup chili appropriately called “Alternative Chili” which everyone enjoyed.



All the fixins’ were available for a great chili feast – including corn bread and cookies for dessert. The competition was fierce and the presentation of each chili made it even more competitive – who knew you had to showcase your chili with garlands and colorful signs? Next year we will see even more competition with even more vivid presentations!!! In the end Dave Ross came out the winner for his “Double Meat Desperado” Chili. Everyone in attendance agreed it was a tasty chili! (Who knew Dave could cook??)

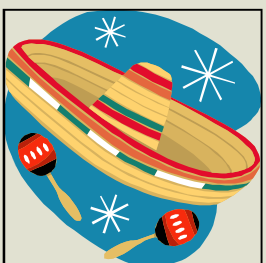
Middle School – Sarah Crawford also cooked up a tasty dish called “BAM” Chili! Dave Ross threw his hat in the ring for the Middle School with his “Double Meat Desperado Chili”! Representing Central Office was Mary Cooksley’s chili called “Wedewer’s Best-Ever Tailgate” Chili. The Success Center entered their Taco Soup chili appropriately called “Alternative Chili” which everyone enjoyed.



After chili, everyone gathered to play Bingo for prizes. Everyone was encouraged to bring a “white elephant” gift as prizes. Mary Jean Blaisdell, East Elementary Principal was the Bingo caller for the evening’s entertainment. The prizes were fun for everyone – many laughs were part of the night.



Everyone had a great time! Hopefully next year more come out and enjoy the fun!



Hola Senor Lyons and Senor Noyes!



Principal's Corner - Mary Jean Blaisdell

The school year seems to be flying past so quickly! 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.

November was an active month! The Veteran's Day assemblies allowed students the opportunity to recognize the efforts and sacrifices made by men and women in the armed forces. Students also celebrated Thanksgiving in their classrooms during the month.

The East Elementary Winter Vocal Music

Program will be held on Monday, December 17 at 6:30pm in the High School gym. We know you will be delighted with their performance and we look forward to seeing you at this event!

At the end of January, we will have our second set of **assessments** at the K-5 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!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec 12 1:00 Dismissal
In-service
- Dec 17 6:30 East Winter
Concert @ HS
gym
- Dec 22-Jan 2 Winter Break
- Jan 3 School Resumes
- Jan 28-Feb1 Testing
- Jan 9 1:00 Dismissal
In-service
- Jan 11 No School
In-service
- Jan 17 6:30 Tips 'N Tools
Night for Parents
@ MS
- Jan 23 1:00 Dismissal
In-service

Season's Greetings From Kindergarten!

Thanks for all who attended Parent/Teacher Conferences in November. We greatly appreciate your involvement!

Kindergarten students will be celebrating the 5 Senses in December. The students will learn how many holiday traditions are related to our senses. We will look forward to our wonderful winter break with our families!



Mrs. Kress' class discovers the 5 senses through shaving cream.

East Elementary to Present Music Program

East Elementary children will present a music program on Monday night, December 17th, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school gym.

It is called "A Merry Musical Holiday" and will feature musical celebrations, both traditional and new, to put you into the spirit of the season. Come and enjoy the enthusiasm of the Kindergarten, first and second grade children!

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!

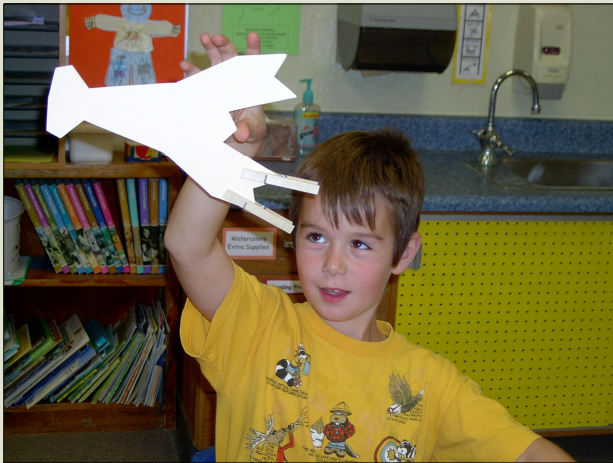
If you are interested in spending time at school or at home sorting/cutting and redeeming these items for our school, please call 334-7425.

Second Grade Scene

In October second graders enjoyed a production at the Gallagher-Bluedorn of children's author Leo Lionni's classic stories: *Frederick*, *Swimmy*, and *Inch by Inch*.

They have been busy learning about the community of Independence, and look forward to learning about more of the history of our community in the spring. This next trimester students will begin our science units of either balance and motion or solids and liquids.

The second grade teachers want to thank parents for attending their child's conference, and appreciate their continued support of their child's education. Students should be encouraged to read outside of school and to still work on addition facts.



Chase experiments with balancing objects in Mrs. Goedken's class.



Bowl For Kids' Sake

Our Second Bowl For Kids' Sake fund raiser which was held November 4th was great fun and a big success! It was an exciting and fun day for both bowlers and non-bowlers alike that came together to support mentoring in our area! **Why do we need to have a fundraiser like Bowl For Kids' Sake?** As an affiliate of Big Brothers Big Sisters, our program expenses are primarily raised through donations. Community funding is essential, if our mentoring program is to continue. The donations received will help Big Brothers Big Sisters and our volunteers continue to nurture the children in our area.....providing Little Moments....BIG MAGIC for mentor pairs in the

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 East Elementary to volunteer your time!

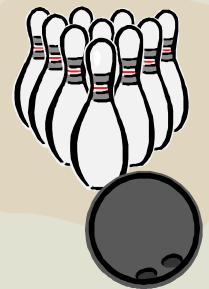
Mentors Needed!

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!



New Mentor Coordinator

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Northeast Iowa (Waterloo) recently was awarded a 3 year Federal Mentoring Grant. As a result, Jeannie Neeley who has been associated with the Independence mentoring program for 15 years will no longer be the mentor coordinator for Independence. She will be a consultant to the BBBS Northeast Iowa member agencies, helping in the counties of Black Hawk, Delaware, Grundy Center, Bremer, Butler, and Buchanan to start new School Based mentoring programs and expand existing programs.

We are delighted to welcome Val Maximovich to the position of Mentor Coordinator for the Independence location. Val has lived in Independence her entire life. She has a rich background of experience including, administrative assistant to Buchanan County Economic Development;

4-H and Youth Program Assistant for Iowa State University Extension – Buchanan County; along with planning and delivering enrichment activities and after school programming to the youth of our area.

JANUARY is National Mentoring Month!!



Growing up, were there people in your life who encouraged you, showed you the ropes, and helped you become the person you are today? Think about family members, a teacher or coach, a neighbor, a boss, or family friend who mentored you. Most successful people say they had mentors along the way who guided and encouraged them. The Harvard Mentoring Project has been conducting videotaped interviews and collecting written essays in which prominent people from various fields talk about their mentors. Maya Angelou cites a grade school teacher who sparked her love of poetry; Quincy Jones points to the powerful influence of musician Ray Charles; and Sting credits a teacher whose energy inspired a lifelong passion for learning.

So, who mentored you? Think about individuals in your own life who offered you encouragement, shared their experiences and knowledge, and sometimes just listened when you needed to talk. Do they know what a lasting difference they made? Take some time to let them know how they influenced your life. You can thank them by passing it on and mentoring a child yourself!

Who Mentored You? Thank Them by Passing it On...Mentor a Child!



"We are delighted to welcome Val Maximovich to the position of Mentor Coordinator for the Independence location."

West Elementary Music By Mr. Purdum

Orff Schulwerk

If you have attended a West Elementary music concert in the past three years, then you have experienced Orff Schulwerk, even though you probably have never heard of Orff Schulwerk. Schulwerk simply means "schoolwork" in German. Carl Orff was a musician, composer, and educator in Germany, who believed that musical skill and enjoyment were directly tied to creativity, speech, and dance. This playful approach to music rings true to many of us, as children struggle with testing and other stressful events in school.

Each year I attend the American Orff Schulwerk

Association conference, to study with and learn from the best teachers from around the country and the world. This year, for example, I learned children's games with a teacher from Spain, creative movement activities with a teacher from Germany, folk dances with a teacher from Austria, and body percussion exercises with a teacher from San Francisco. I observed the highest caliber of concerts, including children's choirs, and world musicians performing Japanese Taiko drumming, Zimbabwean song and dance (with marimbas), and Balinese gamelan (like metal xylophones).

After each conference, I try to

bring back as much as I can to share with my students. During this year, I hope to work on advanced body percussion (clapping, patting, stomping, etc.), creative movement, and experiencing different cultures through folk dance, children's games, instrumental music, and songs. Students in my classes are usually fully involved, excited at this hands-on approach to music, which has roots in all of our native cultures.

Ask your child about what they have learned in music class. I'm sure they would be happy to teach you a song or dance!

"Ask your child about what they have learned in music class. I'm sure they would be happy to teach you a song or dance!"



TeRRiFiCC Times By Mrs. Rouse

Character Counts News from East and West Elementary November 2007

Character Counts Week

Character Counts Week was celebrated at East and West Elementary schools during the week of October 22. Many activities encouraged the students to demonstrate the Six Pillars of Character and work towards strengthening their character. We had lots of fun dressing up and helping others through community services projects, such as Shoes for Kids and the Cedar Valley Hospice. We are proud of our students and their caring spirit.

Guidance Class—Mrs. Rouse

Over the course of the school year students participated in many activities focusing on the RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY pillars in guidance class. One day a cycle students attend the encore class, which focuses on building interpersonal skills and character. Lessons are constructed to

support academic, career, and personal/social development.

I look forward to the fun filled school year ahead. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 334-7425 or 334-7430.



Grace Bertelli, Matthew Bolton, Courtney Main, Zeke Miller, Andrué Wright, Madi Arend, Zach Fischels, Amber Heubner, Tristin Ludwig, Brett Bowers, Ryan Hansen, Britney Herington, Luke Morkel and Denver Studebaker

The Six Pillars of Character

Trustworthiness
Respect
Responsibility
Fairness
Caring
Citizenship



TeRRiFiCC Times By Mrs. Rouse continued

Kid of Character winners received a certificate, a lunch with Mr. Lyons (provided by Pizza Hut), a Mustang Pride wristband, and a pencil. These students were entered in a raffle and the following prizes were received:

Andrue - \$50 savings bond - Security State Bank
Denver - 2 movie passes - Starlight Cinema
Tristin - \$10 gift card - Homestead Restaurant
Ryan - A RESPECT dog tag

Kids of Character cont...

Grace Bertelli – Grace, a third grader, was nominated by her teacher Mrs. Wendling. Grace is a Kid of Character because she is always courteous to other people. “Grace quietly goes about her work, and is always helpful to all,” stated Mrs. Wendling.

Matthew Bolton – Matthew was nominated by his third grade teacher, Mrs. Black, because he is a very kind and considerate young man. Matthew is thoughtful and careful when he does his work. Mrs. Black appreciates Matt because “he cares about others and does things for them that shows he cares. Matthew is well-mannered and considerate toward others.”

Courtney Main – Courtney is a third grade student in Mrs. Spinler’s class. She is always respectful to students and adults. Mrs. Spinler wrote, “Courtney follows rules and does not question authority. She treats others as she wants to be treated and tries to help those who are having trouble with something.”

Zeke Miller – Zeke is a third grade student in Mrs. Spinler’s class. Zeke is a Kid of Character because he is respectful of his classmates and teachers. “Zeke helps students in class when they need it, even if it is during his free time,” praised Mrs. Unwin.

Andrue Wright – Andrue is a third grade student in Ms. Bolger’s class. Ms. Bolger stated, “Andrue is always a courteous, respectful, kind boy who is conscientious about doing a good job in school.”

Madi Arend – Madi’s fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Grover, stated, “Madi is a great girl. I especially appreciate her sense of humor and willingness to help others.” Madi is a Kid of Character because she is respectful in the classroom and at recess with both adults and other students.

Zach Fischels – Zach is a student in Mrs. Matthiesen’s fourth grade class. Zach was recommended for Kid of Character because he always follows rules, is always polite, always has his work done well and is ready to do extra. Mrs. Matthiesen appreciates Zach because “he sets a good example for others.”

Amber Heubner – Amber is a new student at West Elementary and she is in Mrs. Mueller’s fourth grade class. Mrs. Mueller recommended Amber for the RESPECT pillar because “Amber is respectful no matter who is around and she is kind to everyone.” Also, Amber always has her homework completed and is a model student.

Thank you!

*A special
thank you to
Pizza Hut,
Security State
Bank,
Starlight
Cinema,
Subway,
McDonald's,
Movie
Gallery, The
Homestead
Restaurant
and the PTO
for donating
prizes for the
Respect Pillar
raffle !*

TERRiFiCC Times By Mrs. Rouse continued

Tristin Ludwig – Tristin was nominated for Kid of Character by her fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Hearn because Tristin is very respectful to everyone she meets. She is also helpful and considerate to all her classmates. Mrs. Hearn stated, “Tristin has very good leadership skills.”

Brett Bowers – Brett was selected as a student of character in Mr. Buresh’s class because he always treats others as he himself would like to be treated. He has been selected many times by his classmates as a student who is respectful and shows the ideals of tolerance and acceptance and nonviolence. Mr. Buresh wrote, “Brett is constantly aware of good manners and is polite and courteous to everyone at West; from the ladies who serve us lunch everyday, to his specials teachers, to his classmates. Because of these qualities, Brett is a student of character.”

Ryan Hansen – Ryan was nominated by his fifth grade teacher, Miss Offerman. Ryan has continuously been a character counts student. He is always willing to help his classmates better understand their homework or offer a lending hand to an adult. “Ryan knows what is expected of him and is a great role model for his classmates. He is a responsible individual who demonstrates many great qualities that his classmates and others can learn from” wrote Miss Offerman.

Britney Herington – Britney is a fifth grade student in Mrs. Kinseth’s class. Britney was nominated because she tries to help everyone out in the classroom. Miss Maas stated, “Britney treats everyone in class fairly.”

Luke Morkel – Luke is a fifth grader who daily shows respect to not only the adults in the building, but also to his classmates. Luke quietly helps others, never drawing attention to himself, but making the person he's working with

feel important. Mrs. Smith, wrote, “When he speaks to us, we listen!!! R-E-S-P-E-C-T = Luke Morkel.”

Denver Studebaker – Denver, a fifth grader, has been nominated for Kid of Character because he always has his work completed, helps others, and is a respectful student. Mrs. Kinseth appreciates Denver because “I can rely on him to be a role model to his peers when I am not present.”



Classroom of Character

The 1st Classroom of Character awards were given at the Character Counts assembly on Friday, October 26. The winning classrooms received the Classroom of Character sign, a free recess, an *Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader* board game, and a movie and popcorn. The winners are.....

3rd Grade – Mrs. Wendling’s Class

4th Grade – Mrs. Hearn’s Class

5th Grade – Mrs. Smith’s Class

Caps Off to Character

Caps Off to Character was the activity for Wednesday, October 23. Students raised money for the Cedar Valley Hospice by chipping in dollars and cents. West Elementary raised \$210.42! During the assembly on Friday, Avri Ruffcorn and Dustin Burco from Mrs. Wendling’s class presented a check to Ms. Alfrey from the Cedar Valley Hospice. Ms. Alfrey graciously accepted the gift from the West Elementary Students.

Ms. Alfrey wrote in her thank you card, “I enjoyed observing the children’s excitement about the Character Pillars. They definitely learned a lot and we appreciate their choice to CARE about Cedar Valley Hospice.”



Students from Ms. Bolger’s 3rd grade class show off their hats.

“Students raised money for the Cedar Valley Hospice by chipping in dollars and cents. West Elementary raised \$210.42!”



Hello from the Middle School! By Dave L. Ross, Principal

Thanksgiving is almost here and I for one am looking forward to Turkey Day with knife and fork at the ready. The first Thanksgiving took place in 1621 when Pilgrims invited members of the Wampanoag tribe to three days of feasting at the conclusion of the harvest. The harvest is primarily in around Independence and it is time to transition from autumn to winter.

The Middle School transitioned from first to second Trimester on November 14th. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be on November 19th and 20th from 1:30 to 8:00. The conferences will be student-led and it is hoped that all students and parents can attend.

The sixth grade began MAP testing on November 7th and will be concluding on November 27th. The results will be used to chart yearly growth and this data can be used to plan for improving achievement in the future. Steve Noyes and Janette Hopkins have been a great help in facilitating this

endeavor, as well as the sixth grade teachers for adjusting their teaching to facilitate the test schedule.

The middle school wrestling team has begun its season and has competed in three triangulars thus far. Coach Anderson and Coach Carey are working almost as hard as their athletes to have an outstanding season. The next meet is in Jesup on November 29th and the final home meet is on December 13th.



Dave Ross

The middle school girl's basketball season has begun as well. Seventh and eighth grades have played four games thus far and will be playing CPU on November 27th with seventh hosting and eighth visiting. Eighth grade coaches are Coaches Geertsma and Waters. Seventh

grade coaches are the coaching Neils.

Finally, on November 9th the first annual **I n d e p e n d e n c e** District-wide Chili Bean Championship Cook-off was held at the middle school. Although competition was fierce, Dave's Double Meat Desperado Chili ultimately took the trophy. Second place turned out to be a tie between Mr. Carey's chili and Mrs. Love's chili. The traveling trophy is proudly available for viewing for at least the next year at the middle school.

Whether you plan to eat chili, turkey or even something else on Thanksgiving Day, don't forget to take at least a moment to really give thanks for all that we have here in the best state of the United States, don't forget you appetite and as always don't forget...

YOGOWYPI!

Dave L. Ross

December

- 4**
GBB Marion, 4:15pm
7th-Indee, 8th-Marion
- 6**
GBB N. Fayette, 4:15pm
7th-Indee, 8th-W. Union
- WR North Linn, EB, Indee
4:00pm @ Troy Mills
- 11**
MS Winter Band/Vocal
Concert 7:00pm
- WR Denver-Tripoli, North
Butler, New Hampton,
Indee 4:15pm @ Denver
- 12**
1:00 Dismissal
Staff Development
- 13**
WR Oelwein, North Fayette
4:00pm @ Indee
- 14**
Awards Assembly @ 8:45am
- 14**
GBB CPU, 4:15pm
7th-Urbana, 8th-Indee
- 17**
WR Vinton-Shellsburg,
Benton Comm, Indee
4:15pm @ Van Horne
- 18**
GBB Vinton-Shellsburg
4:15pm
7th-Vinton, 8th-Indee
- 24**
No School
Winter Break Begins

January

- 3**
Classes Resume
- 9**
1:00 Dismissal
Staff Development
- 11**
No School
Staff Development
- 23**
1:00 Dismissal
Staff Development

Greetings from Mrs. Shaffer's Room By Mrs. Shaffer, FCS Instructor

Greetings from Mrs. Shaffer's room. Trimester 2 has begun and a new group of enthusiastic students are busy with various activities. Sixth grade exploratory classes are currently studying consumer health. They've learned how much advertising influences consumer choice, presented their own commercials, and learned how to successfully understand food and medication labels. Our seventh graders completed their adolescent development unit and all came to the

conclusion they really are suppose to act this way. (Sorry, parents!) Eighth grade is focusing on money management and practicing the real life skills involved in managing your own finances.

What is so great about FCS at Indee middle school?

I enjoy teaching life skills to students. In my seventh grade FCS class, a student came back to school after beginning our sewing unit and shared how this was now his favorite class—he actually got to create

something! One young man's comment was how great it was to cook and not blow up the kitchen! An eighth grade boy shared how relaxing sewing could actually be. Our eighth graders served their second annual fall dinner for the middle school staff in October. Our classroom setting allows for even the most struggling of learners to excel. Hearing the pride in their voices for their many accomplishments is what makes FCS so exciting.

FCS FAST FACTS:

- Daily physical activity counters anxiety and depression and increases enthusiasm and optimism.
- Next time your child wants a snack—give them an oatmeal or granola bar! Water-soluble fiber like the fiber found in oats and oatmeal will help to control your cholesterol. Fiber found in whole grain products will help to control sugar absorption, will help to keep them feeling full, and will keep their digestive system healthy.

6th Grade Technology Skills By Garry Anderson

This is an old class with a new name. Many of us remember it as Keyboarding. Now as Technology Skills 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!

7th Grade Life Science By Garry Anderson

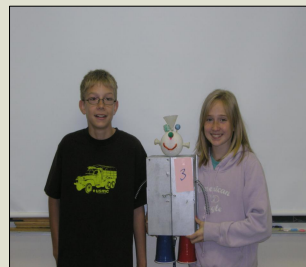
Some of the exciting curriculum we have covered thus far this year have included cell models, scientific method, microscope, and create a creature. The students really enjoyed the process and outcome of the create a creature series. This project demonstrated all the characteristics of living things. 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 are displayed in the classroom.



Jade Burns, Tiffany Bean, Madeline Rummel and Mackenzie Black



Alisha Cook, Maria Breitsprecher, Sydney Embray and Chloe Kaiser



Zachary Bathen and Alyssa Wiest



Students from Mr. Anderson's Technology Skills class.



9th Grade Registration Night To Be Held December 3rd

What: High School Registration & 4-Year Plan Workshop
For: Eighth Grade Students and Their Parents
Time: 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Where: Independence Middle School Commons
When: Monday, December 3, 2007

Dear Parents of Eighth Graders:

You are invited to attend a High School Registration Night.

The purpose of this night is to register your son/daughter for their ninth grade classes and to explain the new 4-Year Course Plan required by the state for all students entering high school. Each parent will need to sign this 4-Year Plan and return it with the student. This will enable you to gain information that will allow you to help your child select a Four Year Course of Study based on their talents and interests and to help them build a foundation of knowledge and skills for their future educational and career choices. The registration material will be handed out and explained, plus time will be provided to register for high school courses and complete the 4-Year Plan that evening.

We encourage all EIGHTH GRADERS AND THEIR PARENTS to attend this very important meeting.

For those unable to attend the workshop, registration materials may be picked up from Mr. Moen at the Middle School on Tuesday, December 4th.

The deadline for turning in the Registration Form & 4-Year Plan to their HOMEROOM TEACHER IS

Friday, December 7th.

Greg Moen	Middle School Guidance Counselor
Mindy Voss	High School Guidance Counselor
Bret Adams	High School Guidance Counselor



*High School
Registration
&
4-Year Plan
Workshop
will be held
Monday,
December
3rd from
7:00-8:30 p.m.
at the Middle
School.*

Why is hand washing so important?

By Teri Schloss RN

The Centers for Disease Control cite hand washing as “the single most effective way to prevent the transmission of disease”. If you don’t wash your hands frequently enough, you can infect yourself with germs or viruses by touching your eyes, nose or mouth. You can also spread these germs to others by touching common household surfaces such as doorknobs, sink handles, telephones and computers.

You can limit the amount transfer of bacteria, viruses and other microbes by washing your hands especially in these situations:

- ◆ After using the restroom
- ◆ After touching animals or animal waste
- ◆ After changing a diaper
- ◆ Before and after preparing food
- ◆ Before eating
- ◆ After blowing your nose or coughing into your hand. ***It is now recommended that you cough and sneeze into your sleeve at your bent elbow.***
- ◆ Before and after visiting or touching a sick person
- ◆ After handling garbage
- ◆ After being outdoors playing, gardening, walking the dog, etc.

Although antibacterial soaps have become popular, they are no more effective in killing germs than regular soap. The action of scrubbing the hands with soap and rinsing the hands with water is what removes bacteria from your hands.

To properly wash your hands:

Wet your hands with warm running water. Apply soap and lather well, rubbing your hands together for at least 15-20 seconds. Teach children to sing the ABC song, Happy Birthday or Row, Row, Row Your Boat while scrubbing to help them realize how long to scrub. Make sure you wash the backs of your hands, in between your fingers, under your fingernails and your wrists. Rinse well. Dry hands with a clean towel. Use the towel to turn off the faucet.

Alcohol based hand sanitizers can be used when soap and water are not readily available.

Your children learn by example, so remember to wash your hands!



“Your children learn by example, so remember to wash your hands!”



News from the IHS By Karl Kurt, Principal

Class Registration for the 2008-2009 School Year

We will begin working with this year's 8th graders during December to begin the process of selecting their courses for their 9th grade school year. Each 8th grade student creates a 4-year plan that gives them a general idea of what they hope to accomplish during their high school career. After the 8th grade students are scheduled we will continue working with the remaining high school students. I cannot underscore the importance of the course selection as our students continue to work toward being prepared for the future endeavors.

As you begin selecting appropriate courses for the 2008-09 school year, you will find the Course Selection Guide to be an invaluable tool. I recommend that parents and students work together and use the academic plan as a means for selecting courses that meet high school graduation requirements, and prepare students for their career goals. We encourage students to select rigorous courses that will enable them to effectively pursue those goals following graduation. Remember that the choices made now will determine your future educational and career opportunities.

The following sequence is suggested to assist you in the registration process:

- Read the material carefully
- Consider all possible courses and choose those that will help attain career goals
- Complete the academic plan to ensure graduation requirements are met
- Parents should discuss potential choices with their students
- Schedule a registration appointment with the school counselor if you have any questions.

Careful planning and personal persistence will ensure that you achieve your goals.

Sincerely,

Karl Kurt

Principal

Independence High School



December Calendar

- 1 – WR - Indee Invite
- 3 – Incoming 9th Grade Registration 7:00 p.m.
- 4 – JV/V GBB at Benton Comm.
9th GBB at Benton Comm.
JV/V BBB (H) Benton Comm
9th BBB (H) Benton Comm.
- 6 – WR – Benton/Marion at Marion
- 7 – JV/V GBB (H) Marion
9th GBB (H) Marion
JV/V BBB at Marion
9th BBB at Marion
- 8 – WR – Oelwein Invite
JV WR – at La Porte Invite
9th BBB at Maquoketa Valley
JV BBB at Benton Comm.
- 11 – JV/V GBB at Center Point-Urbana
9th GBB at Center Point-Urbana
JV/V BBB (H) Center Point-Urbana
9th BBB (H) Center Point-Urbana
- 12 – 1:00 Dismissal
- 13 – WR at Columbus
- 14 – JV/V GBB (H) Columbus
9th GBB (H) Columbus
JV/V BBB at Columbus
9th BBB at Columbus
- 15 – JV/V WR at North Linn Invite
9th GBB at Oelwein
JV BBB at Maquoketa Valley
- 17 – 9th BBB (H) Oelwein
9th WR at West Del. Invite
- 18 – JV/V GBB at Vinton-Shellsburg
9th GBB at Vinton-Shellsburg
JV/V BBB (H) Vinton-Shellsburg
9th BBB (H) Vinton-Shellsburg
JV WR at East Buchanan
- 20 – WR (H) West Delaware & South Tama
- 24 – Winter Break Begins
- 25 – CHRISTMAS

Independence Community Schools

**Independence Community
School District**

1207 1st Street West
Independence, Iowa, 50644

Phone: 319-334-7400
Fax: 319-334-7404

District Mission:

Educating people to be life-long learners and respectful, responsible citizens

District Vision:

Creating a climate in which individuals of the ICSD will strive to become effective communicators, problem solvers, responsible citizens, and productive people

District Values:

<i>Compassion</i>	<i>Perseverance</i>
<i>Honesty</i>	<i>Respect</i>
<i>Integrity</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
<i>Responsibility</i>	

We're on the Web

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

Winter Concert Schedule



Monday, December 10th @ 7:00 p.m. in the High School Gym
High School Holiday Band/Vocal Concert

Tuesday, December 11th @ 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School Gym
Middle School Holiday Band/Vocal Concert

Monday, December 17th @ 6:30 p.m. in the High School Gym
East Elementary Holiday Concert — "A Merry Musical Holiday"

Tuesday, December 18th @ 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School Gym
5th Grade Band Concert

