

Volume 6 Issue 1
Fall, 2011-2012

District Events:**Nov 2**

1:00 Early Dismissal

Nov 16

1:00 Early Dismissal

Nov 21

School Board Meeting -
Brandon 6:00 p.m.

Nov 21 & 22

1:00 Early Dismissal

Nov 23-25

No School;
Thanksgiving Break

Dec 7

1:00 Early Dismissal

Dec 19

School Board Meeting -
Independence 6:00 p.m.

Dec 21

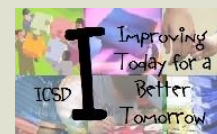
1:00 Early Dismissal

Dec 22 - Jan 2nd

No School;
Winter Break

Jan 3

School Resumes

**From the Desk of Jean Peterson, Superintendent**

As we conclude the 1st quarter of the school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for helping to get this year off to a successful start. Our students have returned right back into the groove of learning. Our staff really appreciates the reinforcement our parents provide their children in terms of daily encouragement to always do the best they can with their school work.



Jean Peterson,
Superintendent

I would like to thank our teachers for all of their efforts as well. It is a regular occurrence for our teachers to tutor and work with students not only during the school day but also before and after school too. We are very fortunate to have such great staff members who are dedicated to helping each and every student be the best he/she can be. The challenges today's students face are greater than ever before. But, the Independence Community School District Staff is prepared to help all of our students meet those challenges.

One Unshakable Vision: World Class Schools for Iowa:

Governor Terry Branstad and Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds unveiled their blue print for transforming Iowa's Education System. If you have not read it yet, you can find it on the Iowa Department of Education's website: www.educateiowa.gov

This blueprint represents a comprehensive plan. It lays out the coordinated steps Iowa should take to begin the work of creating world-class schools. In the months ahead, the Governor's Office and the Department of Education will be out visiting with Iowans to get feedback on this plan. They want to do this before presenting this education reform proposal to the Iowa Legislature.

I hope you will find some time to look through this proposal. We are fortunate in Iowa in that we currently do have very good schools. But, in order to keep up with the demands of the 21st Century and our ever changing world, it is time to build a stronger educational foundation for our children.

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Iowa Common Core

Over the last couple of years you have been hearing about the Iowa Core Curriculum and the expectations the state developed so that every student in Iowa would have the same opportunities and expectations. Our leadership team developed a district implementation plan for making that a reality for our students. We are in a great place for implementation due to the comprehensive curriculum revision process in place in our district.



Sandy Merritt, Curriculum/
School Improvement
Director

The National Common Core Standards have now been introduced. The purpose of the Common Core is to ensure that every student in the nation has similar expectations and opportunities and is closely aligned with the Iowa Core. Iowa has now adopted the Common Core, integrating the state version, and created the Iowa Common Core.

We have district teams who are reviewing the Iowa Common Core in science and math. They will be making adjustments to our current curriculums so that we are aligned with the Iowa Common Core.



Independence has worked hard on our curriculums and put it as a priority. Because of that commitment, we are a leader in curriculum.

Response to Intervention (RTI)

RTI is a process for identifying students who are not achieving to the level they should and providing them the support needed to succeed. In this process, teachers continually review student data to identify and group students for instruction based on their specific needs. Instruction is provided and progress is routinely monitored.



Students who do not show progress in these small group formats are moved to a more intensive level of support, one that provides individualized or very small group instruction.

This process will be mandated by the state next year but our district has decided to implement it this year as a way to increase student achievement.

Principal's Corner

by Mary Jean Blaisdell

Time is flying and it's already November! We are looking forward to sharing student successes at school with parents at conference time this month.

Inservice time in October was spent learning how to use mimeo boards in the classroom and looking at student data to redesign instruction. Inservice is an important time for faculty and we thank you for your continued support in our efforts to improve the educational experience of your children.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Monday-Tuesday, November 21 & 22, 1:30-8:00 pm.

Conference time is crucial to the educational development of your child. It is a chance to learn more about your child's academic progress and to share information with the teacher who can help him/her to best meet your child's needs.



Mary Jean Blaisdell, Principal

Preschool Press

October found us with some great weather to start the month. We all enjoyed the extra outside time without having to wear our jackets!! We also enjoyed talking about all things fall and very importantly fire safety. This month also found us hosting our Preschool Family Night Out. For this PSFNO we invited Jim Gill, a child/family musician, to come and lead us in a family concert. The concert was just that, getting families involved with their kids, together, through music. We sang songs, learned some finger plays set to music, danced, and even sang "The Soup Opera". All who attended had a great time, as you can see from the pictures. Thanks to all the families for making this a very successful and enjoyable event!



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!

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.

Kindergartners Give Thanks

November will include a study of Thanksgiving and things we are thankful for as kindergartners. A highlight of our unit will be a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving Feast. We will also be holding Parent/Teacher conferences November 21 & 22. We look forward to sharing your child's



progress with you! Kindergartners

continue to develop their alphabet and number skills, as well as the practice of line basics and body basics.

We look forward to seeing the play, "The Frog Prince," at the Williams Center, in Oelwein, November 2nd. What a great opportunity to see a Gallagher-Bluedorn play in our area!



First Grade Focus

Our first grade classes finished the unit on insects and then began studying spiders comparing the characteristics of the two groups. The Mustang Roots and Shoots School Garden harvesting is now being finished as cold weather approaches and fall cleanup begins. Along with our other fall activities, we learned about echolocation and other traits of bats from a very informative presentation, given by the Buchanan County Naturalist. In math we are working on addition and patterning.

November will bring the Symbols of Our Nation unit as we prepare for Veterans' Day. We will learn about the first Thanksgiving and think about things that we are thankful for. We have also been focusing on Fontana Park as we began our annual "Adopt-An-Animal" project. East Elementary families have always been very generous and we look forward to meeting (and exceeding) our goal again this year!



First Graders Do Fall Cleanup

Scholastic Book Fair is Coming!

East Elementary will once again be hosting a **Scholastic Book Fair** in November. Students will have an opportunity to **preview** books from **Monday, November 14** through **Friday, November 18**. The book fair will then be open for **sales** on Monday and Tuesday, November 21st and 22nd, from 8:00am to 8:00pm. Families, teachers, and the community are invited to purchase books on these two days. We will also be running an online book fair ó go to the district website during the fair dates if you would like to shop online. Those attending can also help teachers build classroom libraries by purchasing books for classrooms through the **Classroom Wish List** program. In addition to promoting reading, the proceeds from the Book Fair will go to materials for our school's media center. We hope to see you there!

Second Grade Scene

The second graders had a wonderful experience at Gallagher Bluedorn in October. There was a pre-performance lesson by the UNI education students that taught them theatre etiquette and prepared them for the play. The performance of Skippyjon Jones was very enjoyable. It was a musical, but the students were able to follow the plot since they were familiar with the story. The UNI students came back for a follow-up lesson and reviewed elements of performance.

In math we are working on pattern counting and on memorizing addition facts. You can help your child by counting by 2s, 5s and 10s to 100. We are concentrating on doubles facts for addition.

The second grade students have improved their self-control and are now working on teamwork for the STARS program. We will continue to have high expectations for them for self-control. For teamwork we will be working on helping each other, sharing, working together and being ready. You can help at home by modeling, acknowledging, and complimenting them when you see these behaviors.



Music News

In general music classes this year we have been having lots of fun. All grades began the school year by reviewing (2) or learning (K & 1) "The Star-Spangled Banner." We also learned about the history behind our National Anthem. Veterans Day is coming up on November 11 and we are planning to sing "The Star Spangled Banner," "There Are Many Flags In Many Lands," and "The Pledge of Allegiance" for the veterans who will be presenting the colors at East.

One of our favorite activities is watching episodes of "Little Amadeus." These are short stories about the great composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart that introduce us to his life and some of his famous music.

After we watch each episode Miss Yeager leads us in a discussion about what happened to Amadeus and alternative actions that he might have chosen.

As this is being written, Halloween is just around the corner. We have been learning some songs that fit the season including some old favorites such as "The Addams Family," "Witch Doctor," and "Purple People Eater."

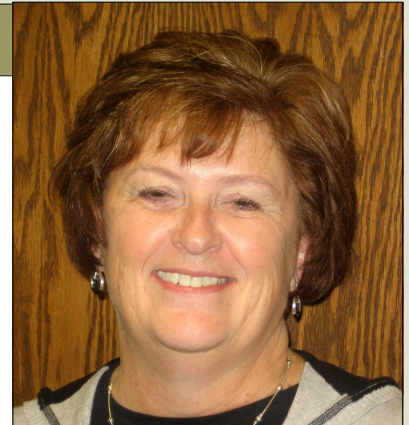
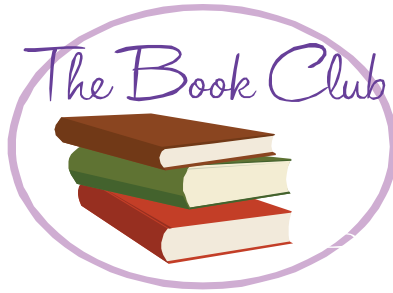
Before long winter will be upon us. That means time for the annual K, 2, 4 Holiday Concert. It will be held at the High School on Thursday, December 15 at 6:30 PM. More details will follow soon, so be watching.



News From West Elementary by Sandy Merritt, Principal

Looking for Volunteers!

Our 5th graders need your help! They want to have book clubs and discuss great books they read as a group. We need adult volunteers to guide the conversation. Each book club is no more than 10 students who meet once a week after lunch for about 20 minutes. Students discuss one chapter a week. All materials and supports are provided. We just need adults to facilitate the conversations. If you want to share a love for reading with eager 5th graders, please contact the West office at 334-7430.



Sandy Merritt, Principal

Third Grade News

The 3rd graders have been very busy! In math, we are just finishing a unit on place value, which included rounding and number patterning. The next unit in math will be time and/or addition and subtraction. All of the third graders are doing Guided Reading/Daily Five in the morning. In language arts, we are learning all about nouns. We are finishing a unit about rocks and minerals in science. We went on a field trip to the UNI Museum in September where we did a scavenger hunt and participated in a rocks program. The students had a great time and learned a lot! We will now switch to social studies and learn about communities.



Fourth Grade News

Fourth graders at West have had a fantastic start to the school year. The beginning of the year focused on the following: place value in math, the northeast region of the United States in social studies, vertebrates/invertebrates in science, and different kinds of text in reading. We have been busy! We also went on two field trips this fall. In September we went to Fontana where we learned even more about vertebrates, and in October we got to go to the Blackhawk Children's Theatre in Waterloo and see *Tales of a 4th Grade Nothing*. The play was amazing and the kids loved it. Small-group math interventions started at the beginning of October. We look forward to the rest of the year!!!

Fifth Grade News

Our fifth graders have also been busy. We went to Fontana for their annual field day where students were involved in a variety of activities from monarch tagging to canoeing and even archery, to name just a few. As part of our Iowa study, we traveled to Des Moines to visit Living History Farms. The students got to see an 1875 town with a general store, blacksmith and other buildings and businesses. We also



We also went on a tour of Iowa's history, beginning with an Iowa Indian farm, then an early pioneer farm and ending at a 1900's horse powered farm. We had great weather for all of our trips.

In other subjects, the fifth graders have been involved in many small group activities in math and reading. We are looking forward to our first reading goal benchmark on October 31. The students have been busily reading and tracking their progress to make sure they are meeting their goals!

Homecoming Week

Homecoming was a great week for students and staff to dress up and have fun! At West we had Crazy Hair Day, Hawaiian Day, Pajama Day, Sports Day, and Mustang Day. Everyone got involved and had a great time. One of our morning door greeters, Vernie, even got in on the fun!



Sixth Grade Visits EWALU

Where do 6th graders go on an all day outdoor adventure? To Camp EWALU, of course! Our initial EWALU date was rained out, so we went two days later and we were still rained on. Even though we had a sunny start, it didn't last all day. We didn't let the occasional rain dampen our spirits though. Students and staff were excited to leave the books behind to have fun together working on team-building skills with a focus on communication, listening, and collaboration. A couple of the activities, such as the tarp and rock wall, were quite challenging and we learned the value of sticking with it and encouraging our teammates. The tarp activity involved an entire team of 12-13 students trying to flip the tarp over while standing on top. Although it was tricky, with perseverance and encouragement, we did have some teams succeed in the challenge. Students were also given the option of climbing the rock wall to reach the top and ring the bell. This proved to be more difficult for the groups as they got stuck with the slippery wall, but was by far the most memorable and enjoyed activity. Another favorite activity of the students was the trust falls. Students had to put faith in their partner to catch them as they closed their eyes and fell back into the other person's arms. After falling and climbing, the adventure had to come to an end. On the ride home, students were laughing, talking, and discussing the day. After all, who says you can't enjoy a day in the rain?



Mini Mustang Bank



Mini Mustang Bank Board Members and newly elected officers.

Front row: Sydney Hearn; Sean Geertsema, President; Zander Smith; Madison Larson, Secretary.

Back row: Holly Cooksley, Vice President; Ryan Thompson; Allyson Hearn, Treasurer; Ethan Fox; Joe Kaiser.

As colder weather approaches, remember to dress your child in weather appropriate clothing. Hats, gloves or mittens, winter coats, snow pants and snow boots are a necessity for a child to be able to feel comfortable while outside for recess in the winter months. All students will go outside for recess unless the temperature is below zero.

During the cooler months we see an increase in the number of students who are ill. If your child is ill, please keep them home. We are again providing the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) with the number of students absent and what symptoms the students are experiencing. When you notify the school that your child is ill, please provide some basic symptoms that they are experiencing. No personal or identifying information is given to the IDPH.

Reasons to keep your child home from school include:

- 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 if they have been able to keep a full meal down.
- Rash of unknown origin.
- Severe sore throat. A minor sore throat without fever can be managed at school. You may send your child with throat lozenges and a written permission slip. The health office does not carry throat lozenges. Students with known strep may return to school after 24 hours of antibiotic therapy.

Not all illnesses will fit nicely into these categories. If your child appears ill to you, keep them home for their comfort and to avoid the spread of disease. As always, consult your health care provider with any questions or concerns you may have about your child's health.

Good hand washing and getting a flu vaccine are some of the best ways to avoid getting sick. It isn't too late for you or your child to receive an influenza vaccine.



Iowa law requires that all children entering kindergarten and ninth grade provide their school with a certificate of dental screening. If you have not turned this form into the school, please do so as soon as possible. If you need assistance finding or affording a dentist, contact your school nurse for assistance.

During registration, a health information sheet was to be completed for every student. If you did not attend registration and have not completed this form, please fill it out promptly and return it to your child's school.

Our schools will be working with the Iowa Department of Public Health this year to assist them in tracking influenza. When you call the school to notify them of your child's absence due to illness, please provide some basic symptoms that they are experiencing. No identifying information is given to the Iowa Department of Public Health, only the number of students absent and symptoms of illness. You may receive a phone call from the school nurse if your student has been out more than two days in a row. The best way to prevent influenza is by getting a flu vaccine. Flu vaccines are available from your healthcare provider.

Immunizations do not end with kindergarten entrance. By the time a child reaches 11-13 years of age, they should receive a booster of Tdap. Other immunizations which are now available for the adolescent age group include: Hepatitis A, Meningitis, and HPV (human papilloma virus). This vaccine is now recommended for both boys and girls. The HPV vaccine is most effective if given before any sexual exposure. There has been a rise in the number of cases of oral cancers caused by HPV due to changes in sexual patterns.

If your child has a fever (100 degrees or higher), keep them home. **Children need to be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicines such as Tylenol or Motrin before returning to school.**

Remember to notify your child's school if there is a change in emergency contact information.

Teri Schloss, RN
Rhonda Jasper, RN
School Nurses

Junior High News By Rob Arnold, Assistant Junior-Senior High School Principal

It has been a great fall in the Junior High. The 7th graders are settled in and adapting to the transitions of Junior High. The 8th graders are providing good leadership on hallway behavior and lunch room decorum. Staff has been working diligently to provide a high quality educational experience to every student.



Rob Arnold, Assistant Principal

The Junior High has just completed the NWEA/MAP testing for the 7th & 8th grade students. It went very well with the help of Ryan Ohrt and most of the faculty. We utilized two computer labs and got the majority of students tested in one week. We will utilize the data from these tests to continue to evaluate our curriculum, delivery, and instruction.

Once again Greg Moen did a masterful job in overseeing our field trips to Camp EWALU. We had great weather for most groups. The students were able to benefit from some outstanding team building sessions and we're very pleased to be able to provide an off campus educational experience like this for our students. A reminder that this is funded through our yearly Magazine Sales fundraiser.

We are facing great challenges in the Junior High with are current No Child Left Behind Status. We have implemented many things to address this. We are working diligently to address deficiency through our Rec Reading time and the utilization of Extended Reading Class for those who are non-proficient. Rec Read is 25 minutes a day of quiet time provided to our students to read. On Fridays during that time we do many activities to support comprehension including book talks, reports, and alternative reading sources. Our hope is that the time we commit during the year will have a positive impact on our students when they take the ITBS Tests in February.

It has been a pleasure to serve as their Associate Principal in the Junior High and I look for great things to continue through the hard work and professionalism displayed by the staff.

Rob Arnold
Assistant Junior-Senior High School Principal

Reflection



Jennifer Sornson,
Jr/Sr High School Principal

Reflection

“The important thing is not to stop questioning.”

Albert Einstein

Every August is somewhat like New Years Eve for educators. It is an opportunity to look back at the previous school year. What worked? What technology could I use? What assessments do I use? How could I change my assessments so they reflect what students have learned? It is a chance to change and improve. The summer gives every one time to reflect and process. It is time to question.

When I had time to reflect on the first year of the new building alignment I generated many questions. Generating questions is great but generating answers or solutions is the key. Finding solutions takes many conversations with many different people. Getting information from other schools that have a Junior-Senior High and have a similar schedule helps generate ideas. Taking ideas to staff and committees helps to gain perspective.

When I look back on this first quarter of the 2011-2012 school year, I see that many of the changes are paying off. The class schedule is better. Is it perfect? No, but it has improved. The lunch schedule is better. It could use further tweaking. Scheduling Parent-Teacher Conferences at the same time for the entire building worked well for first quarter. We had one of the best turnouts in years.

“In great attempts it is glorious even to fail.”

Vince Lombardi

Going back to my original idea about reflecting on the previous school year, I tend to think back to when I was teaching World History. I had an entire unit on modern day dictators. We spent weeks studying examples of dictatorships from around the world. I had come up with a group project that I felt would deepen the level of understanding for all the students. In my mind I thought the students would run with this group presentation and they would knock my socks off demonstrating what they had learned. Well, that did not happen. A couple of groups did a great job but not all the groups. But I did not scrap the group project. I went to the students. I asked them many questions. They had to tell me how to make the projects better. So the next time we had group projects the level of performance increased for every student.

It is critical to question, reflect, and even fail. It is the only way to improve.

Jennifer Sornson
Principal
Independence Junior-Senior High

From the Desk of Jean Peterson, Superintendent

Continued from page 1

New Junior-Senior High School Project:

On October 13th, Brad Simonson, Gene Pankonien and Bob Freerks, architects and engineers from HSR Associates, came to Independence to meet with every member of the Junior-Senior Certified Staff. Over 60 staff members were provided an opportunity to give input and feedback on the design. All those in attendance provided insightful feedback on the design of the facility, including the layout of classrooms, common areas, student locker areas, administration offices, media center, fine arts and athletic areas.

HSR will now start making quite a few revisions to the floor plans based on the input from the staff. They are planning to make a return trip to meet with staff again on November 2nd.

A copy of the Initial Floor Plans presented to the Certified Staff on October 13th can be viewed on the òProject Update Blogö page on www.buildforthefuture.org. As the floor plans are updated, they will also be posted for community viewing on this website at that time.

Projected Timeline:

- ❖ October-November 2011: Prepare floor plan design and layout of 92 acre site, which will be subject to review and approval of the School Board.
- ❖ November-January 2012: Design development phase, which will be subject to review and approval of the School Board.
- ❖ January-March 2012: Prepare Final Bid Letting documents, which will be subject to review and approval of the School Board.
- ❖ March 2012: Bid letting projected to take place.
- ❖ April 2012: School Board will open all bids and select the winning bidder for the project.
- ❖ May 2012: Groundbreaking for the New Junior-Senior High School.
- ❖ August 2013: Grand Opening of the New Junior-Senior High School.

This is such an exciting time for our school district. Having a new secondary facility is a dream come true for our students, staff and our community.

As I was out and about visiting with community members these past six months about the possibility of passing the Bond Vote for our new school, I learned a lot. I learned about what people want for our school district and what their hopes and dreams are for their children/grandchildren. We are doing many, many great things in our school district right now. But, we can do better! I have the following saying in my office. I love it and it fits perfectly for our situation: **“Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you’ll land among the stars!”**

Activities Newsletter by Activities Director Rob Arnold



Rob Arnold, Activities Director

I hope you have gotten out to enjoy a wonderful fall here in Independence. Our athletic teams have been working hard since August to get better, compete, and learn the valuable life lessons only competitive sports can provide. Our Varsity Football team got a big win against Charles City on Pink Out Night. Our kids raised the level of their game to match the cause they were playing for. We are very proud of those young men who have committed to supporting a cause larger than themselves.

Our Varsity Volleyball team has competed very hard this year. They worked very hard over the summer and by August practice had put their time in. What their record doesn't illustrate is the level of competitiveness that this team has shown. Many matches went to the fifth set and the kids competed until the very end. This team is very young but had some great leadership from the upper classmen. Good things are on the way with this group as they continue to develop.

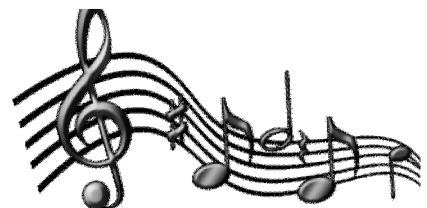
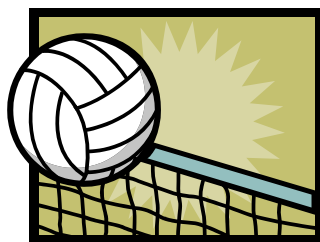
The Cross Country team has also had a great fall. Their work also started early in the summer. The team has had some outstanding individual performances and competed well as a team. The team has great chemistry and have been working hard this fall to continue to drop times and get better.

As an Athletic Department our focus this fall has been to develop a plan for a high quality weight room for all Mustang Athletes. We are in the early stages of purchasing equipment with a plan to have what we need for the new weight room in the new high school but at the same time allowing our current athletes the best chance to train at a championship level. For us to make strides in all programs strength training and speed training are going to have to be stressed at all levels. The weight room needs to be a place where all our athletes are comfortable and want to push themselves to greatness. We hope to institute quality changes to create just such an environment.

As the Activities Director, I am continually impressed by our fall activities. Marching Band has had a great fall. The passion and dedication by our Directors and Band Members is unparalleled as well as the parent support. Most of these band members began preparing for this fall early in the summer as well. It is very easy to see all of their hard work pay off during the Marching Band Season, including a Division 1 rating at the State Marching Band Contest.

The Fall Vocal concert was also a huge success. We had a very nice crowd attend to show their support for our very talented singers. All of the participants did an outstanding job with respective numbers. We will be hosting WaMaC Vocal Festival on November 8th which will showcase some of the best vocal talent in the area. Be sure to come out and support the choir.

There are a lot of things at Independence to be proud of and it doesn't take long to find them. With everyone supporting each other good things are on the horizon.



Independence Community Schools Volunteer & Mentor Program News and Notes by Val Maximovich

Mark your calendar!!

The Independence Lions Club and the
Independence Schools Mentoring Program are partnering on
Sunday, December 4, 2011



Breakfast Brunch and Old Fashioned Cake Walk

Buchanan County Healthy Lifestyle Center (former Senior Center)

Be watching the local paper for the cost of the breakfast and the time it begins!

Menu: French toast, eggs, potatoes, pastries, salads. - - - Also, the breakfast will be diabetic friendly.

The Old Fashioned Cake Walk will be a fundraiser for the Independence Schools Mentoring program beginning at 11 a.m. until cakes are gone! Only \$1.00 per person, on each walk and everyone will be a winner, mini cupcakes will be given to every participant. *Cakes donated by Wapsi Warriors 4-H Club & Family Consumer Science Culinary Techniques 2 and 3 Classes.* So come out and enjoy breakfast and take home a cake for later. The cake walk will be organized by the Wapsi Warriors 4-H Club. If you have any questions, contact Val Maximovich, 334-7400, ext. 626 or email vmaximovich@independence.k12.ia.us

What else is coming up? We need volunteers for the following activities:



- *Mileage Club (10-10:25 or 1:40-2:10, you pick the day) at East Elementary
- *Headsprout (a computer activity to encourage reading, 3 days a week for ½ hour) at East Elementary
- *Scholastic Book Fair at East & West, sign up for 1-2 hours, held the week of Nov. 14 or Nov. 21 & 22
- *Reading Book Club 5th and 6th grade students meet over lunch for book discussion. You oversee the book discussion, starting now!
- *Assisting with Math students at 7th and 8th grade beginning in November
- *Mentoring with a student, at any age K-12

We have the usual need for mentors, as we have many students on the waiting list! So don't be afraid to call or come by West Elementary and tell us you are ready to mentor! It's only 30 minutes a week, during the school day, during the entire school year to make a difference in the life of a child!

Thank you to everyone for your interest and dedication to the volunteer & mentoring program. Tell your neighbors, tell your friends about these volunteer opportunities, or we can call them.

A volunteer is many things: an extra pair of hands, an extra measure of personal warmth, a valuable resource for classroom enrichment, a bridge between the instructional program and the community. We can't buy what volunteers give to our students and our schools.

If questions or comments, please call Val Maximovich, 319-334-7400, ext. 626 or email vmaximovich@independence.k12.ia.us

INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS VOLUNTEER MENTOR 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. If you have questions, please call (319) 334-7400 Ext. 626 or email Val at vmaximovich@independence.k12.ia.us Thank you!

RETURN THIS FORM TO: Independence Community School District
Attn: Volunteer Mentor Program
1301 First Street West
Independence, Iowa 50644

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

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

Employer _____ Business Phone _____

Current Occupation _____

Other occupational experiences _____

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

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

If yes, please list: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____
Name Phone Relationship

Where and when are you available?

____ District (anywhere needed) ____ ECC (PK) ____ East Elem (K-2) ____ West Elem (3-6) ____ Jr/Sr High School (7-12)

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 _____

Home Phone _____ - _____ - _____ Cell phone _____ - _____ - _____ Orientation date _____

Teacher Support

- ☐ Small group(s)
- ☐ Computer data entry
- ☐ 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 (Junior High)
- ☐ Book fair help
- ☐ Music program help
- ☐ Athletic program help
- ☐ Drama help

At Home Help

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

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