

Volume 4 Issue 2
Feb/Mar, 2009-2010

District Events:**Feb 10**

1:00 Early Dismissal

Feb 22

School Board Meeting -
Independence

Feb 24

1:00 Early Dismissal

March 8

No School
K-8 Parent Teacher Conf

March 9

10:30 Late Start for K-12
K-8 Parent Teacher Conf

March 15

School Board Meeting -
Independence

March 24

1:00 Early Dismissal

Looking Ahead**April 2**

No School
Good Friday

April 5

Snow Make-up Day -
This is now a school day

**Moving Forward**

By Devin Embray, Superintendent

On January 27, 2010, the school board voted to reduce the budget by approximately \$800,000. In doing so, East Elementary will be closed for the 2010-2011 school year and beyond. Its future fate will be determined over the next few months. Across the district, a number of positions were reduced as well; we are saddened whenever we lose any of the quality staff who have blessed our school system.



I want to reassure you that our programming and staffing are still very strong and highly competitive with every nearby district. Our K-2 programming will continue at our West Elementary site; our 3-5 will join the sixth grade at our current middle school. Our seventh and eighth graders will be located in the lower south wing of the current high school. All efforts will be made to retain the middle school concept while at the high school. Programming, scheduling and transitioning of students will be arranged in a fashion that will not mix students at the seventh and eighth grade levels with the high school students. Physical education will be organized with grades 7/8/9 and 10/11/12, so that no student from 10/11/12 would be scheduled for P.E. at the same time 7/8/9 would be. Seventh and Eighth graders will have their own lunch period and high school students will still eat in the lunch room like in the past; we will not have an open campus for lunch.

In Independence, we have, for the most part, had the ability to reduce positions without removing entire programs. We still continue to have high quality staff and programming here. Even with the "consolidation" of buildings that renders more efficient programming, we still have maintained a great deal to offer our students and families. We see that continuing into the future. I can't predict that we won't have future budgetary constraints, because the loss of enrollment is affecting our entire state, not just Independence. We do estimate our future

Continued on page 12

Inside this issue:

East/ECC News	2-5
Nurse News	3
West Elem News	6-7
Curriculum & School Improvement	8
Middle School	9-11
High School News	12-14
Volunteer Form	15-16

Principal's Corner by Mary Jean Blaisdell

Where has the time gone?! We will soon actually be thinking about the 2010-11 school year and incoming Kindergartners! There are two important dates to remember this spring:

Kindergarten Registration at East Elementary: Thursday, February 25 1:30-7:30

*At **Kindergarten Registration**, you will have an opportunity to provide information about your child to the school, talk to a nurse about any health concerns you may have. Important information regarding immunizations will be available as well.*

Kindergarten Roundup at East Elementary Monday & Tuesday, March 25-26 8:30 - 11:00; 12:30 - 3:00

***Kindergarten Roundup** is designed to give teachers a chance to get to know your child and make recommendations regarding readiness for Kindergarten. If you know of any child who will be five years old on or before September 15, 2010, please fill out the form included on page 3 of this newsletter and return it to the principal's office at East or West Elementary Schools.*

Winter weather continues to make it necessary for students to dress warmly. Even though our buildings are heated, children should be wearing warm clothing such as long sleeved shirts and/or sweaters or sweatshirts to keep them warm inside. This will serve as an extra layer to help them when they are playing outside as well! Just a reminder: if there is wet or snowy weather, students will be required to wear boots, coats, hats, mittens and snow pants to keep them warm and dry. Students do not go outside for recess if the temperature and/or wind chill is below 0 degrees.

Our **Lost and Found** collection is growing with coats, hats, mittens and such. Please come and check to see if your child's items are in the lost and found!



Mary Jean Blaisdell, Principal

EAST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

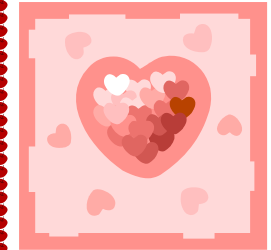
Feb 10: 1:00 Dismissal .
Inservice

Feb 15-22: Testing

Feb 19: East Spring Pictures

Feb 24: 1:00 Dismissal .
Inservice

Feb 25: 1:30-7:30
Kindergarten Registration at
East



March

Mar 8: **No School**

12:00-8:00 Parent/Teacher
Conferences

Mar 9: **2-Hr. Late Start**

3:30-6:00 Parent/Teacher
Conferences

Mar 24: 1:00 Dismissal .
Inservice

Mar 25-26: **NO SCHOOL for
Kindergarten, ECSE or PK4**

Mar 25-26: **East Roundup**

Mar 30: 6:30 Spring Vocal
Music Concert Grades 1, 3, 5
@ HS



Coming Soon:

The 100th Day of School

February 2nd!

Mrs. Beatty's kindergarten students
count their way to 100!





Calling All 2009-2010 Kindergarteners!

We are trying to locate all children in the Independence Community School District who will be five years old on or before September 15, 2010 for entrance into Kindergarten in the fall of 2010. If you have a child who is of this age or know of a child of this age, please fill out the form below and return it to the Principal's Office at East or West Elementary School by February 8, 2010.

Child's Name: _____

Birth Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Nurse News by Teri Schloss RN and Rhonda Jasper RN

With influenza season still upon us we would like to remind you of the reasons to keep your child home from school.

- A fever of 100° or greater
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Headache, body aches, earache
- Excessive tiredness or lack of appetite
- Sore throat
- Persistent cough or runny nose
- Rash of unknown origin
- Drainage or redness of the eye

Children should remain at home until they have been without any fever for 24 hours *without* using any medicine to lower it, such as Tylenol or ibuprofen.

Having your children perform good hand washing as well as teaching them to cover their coughs/sneezes will help prevent the spread of disease. Have them sneeze/cough into their bent arm at the elbow or into a tissue.

Students will continue to go outside unless the temperature or wind-chill is below zero. Please make sure that your children have and bring to school proper winter clothing such as a coat, hat, gloves, snow pants, and snow boots. Students should be wearing weather appropriate clothing to school during the colder months also.

All students in kindergarten, 9th grade and any out of state transfer students must submit a certificate of dental screening to their school per Iowa law. If you have not provided this form to the school nurse, please do so as soon as possible. Forms may be obtained from your dentist or your school nurse. If you are unable to afford a dental visit, please call your school nurse for assistance.

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!

Fun With Friends in February!

February is friendship month in kindergarten. We will celebrate by giving cards to our classmates during our Valentine's Day party. February is also "Dental Health Month" and we will be learning about good dental health habits.

Thanks for practicing your child's address, phone number, birth date, and how to tie shoes during these winter months.

We look forward to celebrating the 100th day of school on February 2nd! We hope the groundhog doesn't see his shadow so spring will arrive early!

East Elementary Talented and Gifted Program

Megan Rawlins

K-5 and 9-12 Gifted and Talented Teacher

Students have worked hard on their stories for the Eastern Iowa Reading Council's creative writing contest.

There are many schools that participate in the Buchanan, Delaware, and Dubuque counties. We were excited to see that some of our East Elementary students were some of the winners. In Kindergarten, 2nd place went to Laura Smith who wrote, "The Witch and the Princess" and 3rd Place went to Grace Riedy who wrote, "The Day Grace Saved Bugsy." In First Grade, 1st place went to Spencer Campbell who wrote, "The Crocodile and the Bear", and 3rd place went to Molly Rothman who wrote, "My Tiger". In second grade and in 2nd place was Jamieson Baker who wrote, "When Dinosaurs Come to Life". All the students did a wonderful job writing.



First Grade Focus

To go along with our winter weather, Buchanan County Naturalist, Sondra Cabell, presented a wonderful program on examining and making snowflakes. The beginning of February will bring us the hundredth day of school with a variety of activities centered on the number 100. We are hoping the groundhog does not see his shadow and that nice weather is on the way! Valentine's Day will bring an emphasis on friendship and kindness to our classmates. President's Day will shift our focus to our current and past presidents. We will learn about the duties of the president as well as some interesting facts about presidential families and their time in the White House.

Sondra Cabell from Fontana Nature Center helps first graders in Mrs. Klima's class make snowflakes.



Book Fair a Great Success!

Thanks to the support of parents, students and community members, the East Elementary Book Fair held in November was once again a great success. Our sales were up \$595 from the previous year pushing us over the \$3,000 mark in sales. This allowed us to take an additional 5% of the sales in profits. The book fair provided East Elementary Library with a total of \$2,067 in profits. The money will be used to purchase additional books for the library for students to check out and read.

In addition to being successful, the Book Fair was a lot of fun. The teachers were treated to a special preview event complete with apple cider, treats, and music. This gave them a chance to compile wish lists of books for their rooms. A total of 49 books were purchased by parents and students as gifts to classrooms.

Clifford the Big Red Dog made special appearances on the afternoons of November 22nd and 23rd. Students and parents attending conferences at those times had a chance to talk to Clifford and give him a hug.

During book fair week, students participated in the "Guess How Many Noodles" contest. Each student had a chance to guess how many noodles there were in a quart jar.

Grace Bohlken, Corbin Matthieson, Jenna Murphy, Caleb Coonrad, Cheyenne Cooksley, Jadyn Weist, Cara Fischels, Seth Stacy, Wyatt Williams, Hunter Brown, and Delaney Shaw.

For every \$5 purchase, students also had a chance to enter their name into the poster drawing. Fourteen posters were given away. Winners of these were Carson Orzechowski, Rhett Bowers, Joseph Fuller, Jacob Crawford, Lilly Hersom, Talia Wolf, Landry Jones, Lauryn Henderson, Brady Clark, Mitch Bawek, Lilly Henkes, Riley Peyton, Joey Zieser, Jack Rummel.

Books were also given away as a part of the Family Nights during conferences. Winners of these were Jaden Schwarting, Courtney Kelly, Peyton Lolwing, Jacob Dinger, Jenney Hunter, and Noah and Caleb Weber.

Mrs. Olsen would like to especially thank the volunteers who helped make the book fair a success: Becky West, Cindi Barenz, Becki Anderson, Celia Peterson, Deanna Miller, Joe Olsen, and Zach Streif.



"In addition to being successful, the book fair was a lot of fun!"



Social Studies in Ms. Lukes 3rd Grade

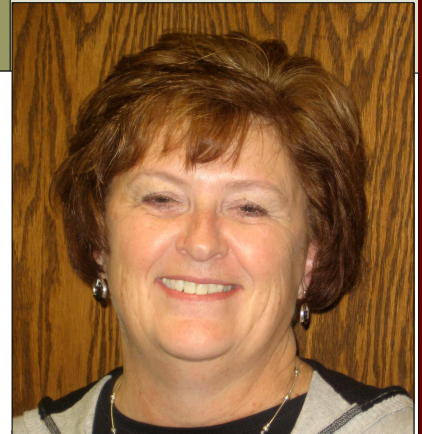
We have a very exciting social studies project going on this year. Each student created a Flat Stanley or a Flat Stella based on the book *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown. We then mailed our Flat Stanelys/Flat Stellas to friends and families around the



Ms. Lukes 3rd Grade Class

United States. So far our character creations have traveled to Lake Mills and Council Bluffs in Iowa, Arizona, Florida, California, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kentucky, Idaho, Georgia and Hawaii. Ms. Lukes took a Flat Stella on a Thanksgiving trip to Winter Park, Colorado. It is amazing

to read about the adventures the characters experience. We have received many wonderful pictures too. We are learning about the various climates and geographical features in these states. Students are excited about checking the mailbox each day in hopes of receiving a Flat Stanley or Flat Stella.



Sandy Merritt, Principal

Science in Miss Becker's 3rd Grade

In third grade science we are diving into digestion and nutrition. We will learn about the path in which food takes throughout the digestive system and what the body needs from the food we eat. The students could not be more thrilled about these topics. They are full of questions and cannot wait for us to continue to learn more each day. This unit will be exciting, yet challenging, for the students.



Miss Becker 3rd Grade Class

West Families Go Above and Beyond

The families of West Elementary were busy this fall helping others. It all started during Red Ribbon Week. It is customary that the students participate in a service-learning project. This year that project was "Care Packages for Soldiers" and "Make Change for Change", a project sponsored by the organization, Iowa's Bravest. West Elementary collected items for soldiers' care packages and brought in monetary donations to help defray shipping costs in sending the items overseas. Our families donated some 450 pounds of items to be shipped overseas and \$107.86 for shipping costs.

That wasn't enough though! During the week of November 9th, only two weeks later, West decided to join the High School Student Council's food drive of helping the local food pantry. Families at West once again stepped up to the plate to help those in need. We collected 1196 items or 1110 pounds of food items for the pantry. Mrs. Grover's class led the classes by bringing in 214 items. In second place was Mrs. Kineth's class at 149 items, and in 3rd place was Mrs. Mueller's class with 137 items.

Fourth Grade Happenings

Time travel anyone? To learn more about the American Revolution, students in Mrs. Grover's room have placed themselves in the shoes of our forefathers, reenacting the battle at Concord and Lexington, holding a town meeting for the reading of the Declaration of Independence, and experiencing the hardships of the winter at Valley Forge. Each student had a different role in the simulation and had to make decisions based on their role, which affected their character's outcome. Through town meetings, they discussed the events of the time period and learned more about our country's bid for independence.

Fifth Grade Committed to Learning

Fifth grade students have returned refreshed, excited, and committed to learning! In math, we have completed our study of long division and are now directing our focus on graphing. This includes reading, interpreting, and creating line, bar, double bar, and pictographs. We concluded our science unit on magnetism and electricity by creating a game using circuits. We are now diving into studying the skeletal and muscular systems. In social studies we have finished our study on explorers and are learning about the thirteen colonies. In reading we are continuing to read a variety of genres, from realistic fiction, to survival and non-fiction. Students are glad to be back in school and excited to learn all they can in 2010!



Our At Home Reading Program continues in 2010. Please remind your child(ren) to read at home and fill out the reading log so that the reading can be counted toward our goal of reading 200,000 days by the end of the year. Thanks for your support!

Gifted and Talented Program at West

Gifted and talented students traveled to AEA 267 in Cedar Falls for "Invent Iowa" in December. We had 7 inventions go to the competition. Students participating included: back left-Brent Henderson, Charles Pelton, Levi King, Ryan Adams, and teacher Megan Rawlins. Front left are: Eric Lympus, Tia Whited, Avri Ruffcorn, Kirstie Martin, Megann Bohlken, Luke Lawless, and Nick Embray. Two inventions were chosen for the State Invent Iowa Competition to be held in Iowa City at Carver Hawkeye Arena sometime in April.

We also have many students who have participated in other competitions or are preparing to compete. Several entered the NE Iowa Reading Council's "Creative Writing and Poetry Contest". There were a few students who competed in the state "Letter to an Author" competition. Several students are practicing for "Math Olympiads". "Battle of the Books" and "The Year in Review" slideshow will be starting very soon.



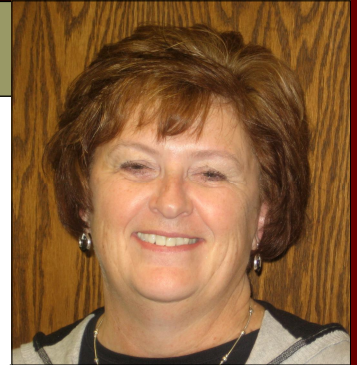
Iowa CORE Curriculum

by Sandy Merritt, Director



Have you heard about the Iowa Core Curriculum? ICC is a statewide effort to improve teaching and learning in order to ensure that all Iowa students engage in a rigorous & relevant curriculum. It addresses all aspects of teaching: content (what we teach), instruction (how we teach), and assessment (how we know that students have learned). We believe that implementing the ICC is important because it will ensure that all our students will be

ready to meet the challenges of the 21st Century and the global community in which they will live and work.



Sandy Merritt, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement

The first step in implementation of ICC is having a well organized and complete K-12 curriculum, which we have. The next step is to examine instruction and the characteristics of effective instruction (what needs to be in place in order for students to engage and learn). These characteristics are illustrated below. Leadership teams in the areas of math, literacy, and science are attending training at AEA 267 regarding the characteristics of effective instruction and bringing their learning back to the buildings. Another leadership team is focused on developing a plan for implementing ICC within the guidelines set by the state. Our staff is focused on the task of continually improving instructional practices so that our students are prepared for the world they will be moving into after graduation.

Student Engagement & Learning

Characteristics of Effective Instruction

Classrooms
focus on
student
needs

Routine
assessment
checks for
understanding

Individual
learner
differences
are
supported
and valued

Teaching for
understanding
is the focus

Instruction is
challenging
and relevant

Middle School News By Dave Jacobson, Principal

Security Doors

We recently improved the safety of our building with the installation of security doors at the entrance. All visitors will be required to call into the office on a phone in the hallway to enter the office, sign in, collect a pass and then enter the building through the security doors. Those wishing to attend any activities in the building may still enter through the south doors as before. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you but unfortunately this is a reminder that we live in a different and changing world today.

Character Counts

We recently held grade level assemblies in our efforts to take a proactive approach to address with our students the Character Counts Pillar of RESPECT. Mr. Greg Moen organized these assemblies and utilized Independence High School seniors to discuss with our Middle School students their perceptions of RESPECT. We want to recognize and sincerely thank Tony Barker, Taylor Gritton, Keaton Hosch, Christopher Kurt, Courtney Rouse and Abby Shannon for their time and efforts for the messages they shared with our students!

Awards Assembly Changed

I want to remind all of our parents that we have moved to a quarter/semester schedule this year. We are planning to hold our first and second quarters/first semester AWARDS ASSEMBLY on Tuesday, February 2 from 8:22 to 9:00 in the gymnasium. As per the recommendation from the State of

Iowa, we will not be recognizing perfect attendance anymore but we will continue to present all of our past awards plus some new Character Counts Awards. We hope you can attend this celebration to honor many of our students for their efforts and success.

ITBS

One area of concern for all students in Iowa today that impacts almost every decision we make in education, are the ITBS scores and how they impact school districts through the NCLB legislation. We have taken a very active position at the Middle School and responded aggressively since last year due to the concerns we have with a few of our scores. Our ITBS committee of Jackie Berryhill, Dave Jacobson, Dawn Keenan, Greg Moen, Jan Reed, Jillian Schares and Sara Thome have spent many hours preparing an ITBS öPREPö program to help our students score at a higher level. Areas of emphasis we are stressing include; the role of our faculty in student test scores, 7 mini-lessons conducted in ADVISOR utilizing handouts and power points to prepare our students with the tools they will need to be at their best on test days, pre-testing öprepö sessions in CORE subject areas to familiarize the students with proper testing formats/techniques and appropriate grade level information, a mailing to parents to inform them of their importance and role in the success of their children's test scores and last a motivational assembly. Our testing sessions will be held February 3, 4,



Dave Jacobson, Principal

5, 9, 11 and 12.

Thank You

Sarah Crawford supervised the 6th grade students as they sold candy canes prior to the Holiday break. For a donation of 25 cents anyone could purchase a candy cane, attach a note and have it delivered to someone in the Middle School. The profits were used to purchase gifts of snow saucers, DVD movies, Monopoly board games and various art supplies that were given to students in the Cromwell Unit at MHI. THANK YOU for your efforts and providing for others in need.

Athletics

Girls basketball and wrestling finished up their seasons in the middle of December. Congratulations to the coaches and athletes for their efforts and the manner in which they represented Independence Schools. Boys basketball is currently underway and we hope to see you here to cheer on our athletes before their final contest on February 18.

Fundraiser

Charles Bare is leading the GREEN TEAM fundraiser that has the opportunity to benefit all of us

(Continued on page 10)

February/March Calendar

February

- 1 7th BBB @ Indee 4:15
8th BBB @ Vinton-Shellsburg 4:15
- 4 7th BBB @ Urbana 4:15
8th BBB @ Indee 4:15
- 5 ITBS Testing Begins
- 8 7th BB @ Dyersville (Xavier Gym) 4:15
8th BBB @ Indee 4:15
- 10 1:00 Early Dismissal
- 11 7th BBB @ Indee 4:15
8th BBB @ Marion 4:15
- 12 6th Grade Band Solo Contest
- 16 Lifetouch Pictures
7th BBB @ Indee 4:15
8th BBB @ Benton Comm (Keystone) 4:15
- 18 7th BBB @ Indee 4:15
8th BBB @ Oelwein 4:15
- 24 1:00 Early Dismissal

March

- 8 No School
- 9 10:30 Late Start;
3:45-7:30 pm
Parent Teacher Walk in Conferences
- 11 5th - 8th Grade Band Concert
- 12 NEIBA Large Group Band Concert
- 24 1:00 Early Dismissal



(Continued from page 9)

in some manner. Unlike most fundraisers, no one has to purchase anything. We have a collection box at the Middle School and we are collecting old cell phones, digital cameras, radar detectors, laptop computers, digital video cameras, electronic book readers, inkjet cartridges, handheld game systems, MP3 players, GPS devices and gold, silver or platinum jewelry. If you have any of the above items you no longer want or use, please

drop them off at the Middle School and we will turn them in for a nominal fee. We will place the proceeds in our activities spending account to help fund many of the "extra" things we try to provide for our students.

Perspective

Lastly, I would like to comment on the budget cuts we all face over the next few months. I have been in five different school districts in my 31 year career and have experienced being pink slipped in the first year of my first job while being called back

that spring with only a half time person under me in seniority, being protected from a pink slip since I was a head coach of a sport, and agonizing last year for over four months not knowing if I would be the Middle School Principal here this year or not. It is a very difficult time for everyone and one of the most difficult parts of this is that every position and every program is important or they wouldn't be a part of our school district in the first place. Unfortunately, it comes down to everyone having

to experience, in some form, the impact of the lost positions because the cuts have to be made. Adversity can make us all better, and currently we need people to be a positive part of the solution versus a part of the problem that may have a negative impact on all of us. It would be a great thing to look back in ten years and point to the way we made the inevitable tough decisions yet rallied together to get through these tough times successfully!

Dave Jacobson
Middle School Principal

Seventh Graders Introduce New Life Forms

7th Grade Life Science by Mr. Anderson

Some of the exciting curriculums we have covered so far this year have included making cell models, working with the scientific method, using the microscope, the skeletal system, and creation of 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.

1st Place



Brett Bowers, Ryan Hansen, and Taylor Lynch

2nd Place



Ashish Upadhyay, Marshall Gibbs, Madison Davis, and Shelby Lehman

3rd Place

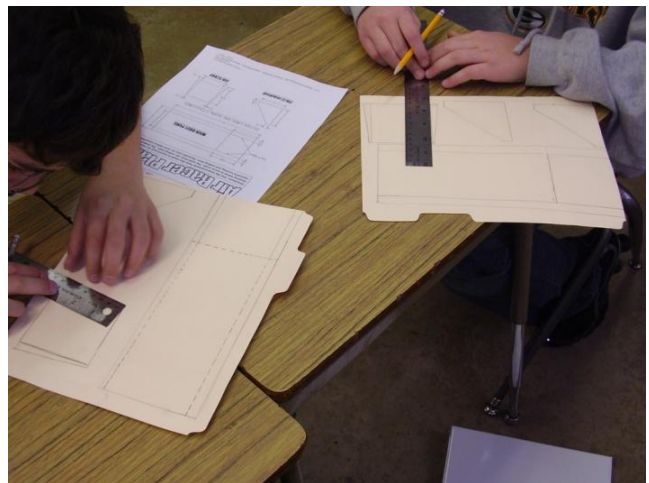
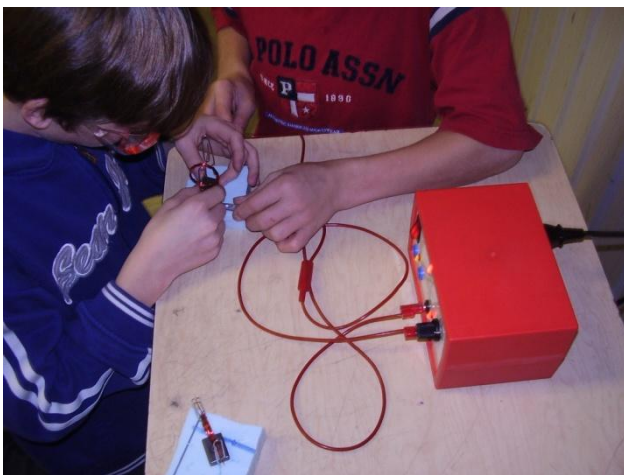


Madisan Teel, Jacy Embray, and Clayton Loomis

Changes in Middle School IT Program By Mr. Bare

This year the middle school industrial technology program launched the Gateway to Technology® courses. Gateway to Technology® (GTT) is a project based curriculum created to work like Project Lead the Way® (PLTW) at the high school. Students meet national education standards in technological literacy, science, mathematics, language arts while solving real world problems. Gateway to Technology® has allowed our school to use funds granted by The Kern Family Foundation to put this innovative curriculum in place. Partnering with Project Lead the Way® and Hawkeye Community College has allowed our school to put in a new computer lab at the middle school. In addition to the new lab we have been able to bring in new cutting edge equipment at little or no cost to the district.

Seventh grade students are currently working on designing compressed air cars that they will later build and race in class. Their last project was to read plans and build air racers that they flew across the shop floor. Eighth grade students are learning about digital electronics and laying the groundwork for the automation and robotics unit coming up. Their first project was to learn about the elements on the periodic table and how to build homemade batteries; they then constructed working electric motors and learned how series/parallel circuits can be used. This change in the program has been both challenging and rewarding.



7th Grade Social Studies by Mr. Carey

7th grade students have had the opportunity to study world geography through a variety of activities. The focus of study has been map skills, the foundations of geography, Europe, and the eastern hemisphere. They have worked with partners on hands on map activities. Individually they have studied and reviewed information on the geography, history, culture, government and economies of the world. During December, after researching a European country, students worked in the media center lab to create a PowerPoint presentation on their chosen country. Students really seemed to do well at this and enjoyed creating the presentations on the computer.

Currently the students are studying African culture and participating in the national geography bee. There will be 10 students who qualify for the final round. The winner of the final round will be the geography bee champion and will receive a medal. The student will then complete and submit a geography exam to the state. If the student scores high enough they will be asked to compete in the state competition held at Des Moines. The winner of the state competition will then compete at the national competition.

Change!

“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”

President John F. Kennedy

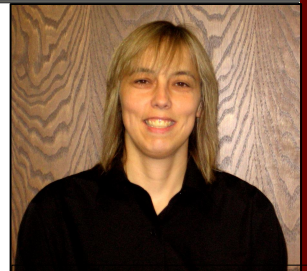
Change can be traumatic for some, others seem to adapt quickly. But President Kennedy was correct, “Change is the law of life.” As most of you are aware radical change is coming to the Independence Community School District. In the fall of 2010, 7th and 8th graders will be housed in the current high school building. This means change for everyone; students, staff, parents, and the entire community.

The Junior-Senior High will be transformed. New staff will join the building. Teachers will be teaching different classes, different age groups of students, and in different areas of the building. There are positives and negatives to every change. I choose to focus on the positives. The high school staff cares about student learning and delivering quality instruction. The staff that will be joining us are experienced and care deeply about serving the needs of middle school students.

I am sure that many people are uneasy and unsure of how this will be made to work. Most people are used to some change but not this quantity of change. It can seem overwhelming. From my experience in education, I have realized that anything can be accomplished if people are willing to work together and have a positive attitude about change. Now that the decision has been made, everyone needs to focus so that we do not miss the future.

As we move forward, I welcome input so that this can be a positive transition. Please contact me with suggestions and ideas. This building was once a Junior-Senior High, so it can be done.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Sornson, Principal
Independence High School



Jennifer Sornson,
High School Principal

Moving Forward By Devin Embray, Superintendent

Continued from page 1

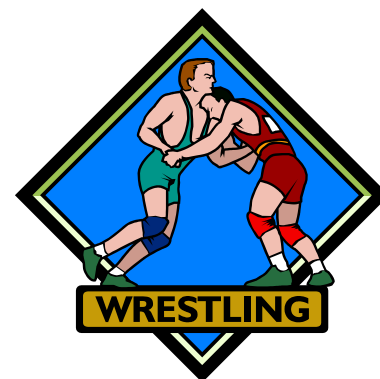
increased costs to be in the range of \$550,000 per year for the next two to three years. Therefore, if the state funding is not provided, we will most likely be looking at reducing again. I believe every district around us will be affected by the economic times and declining enrollments over the next 5 to 10 years. Our county alone is expected to decrease in enrollment by 18% over the next 10 years according to the *Profile of Child Well-Being in Buchanan County*. That said, the Independence Community School District will be here to offer the best programming we can within the limitations we have.

Some parents have voiced a concern about the current state of reductions and what lies ahead for our district in terms of programming and frankly, they want assurances. I would encourage those parents to seek out what other districts have to offer that we do not. There are some programs that we do not have, and for those we are already engaging in conversations with our neighboring districts to explore the idea of sharing. When the comparison is complete, I am confident that parents will find that we do indeed have much to offer.

These are very difficult times and we really need to pull together and support one another. The education we offer will prepare your children for the next post-secondary experience that they will encounter because of the high standards and the quality we have right here in the Independence Community School District.

FEBRUARY

Monday, Feb. 1	WaMaC Conf JV Wrestling Meet	5:00 pm
Tuesday, Feb. 2	Girls BB @ Vinton-Shellsburg	4:30 pm
	Boys BB vs. Vinton-Shellsburg	4:30 pm
Thursday, Feb. 4	9th B/G BB vs. Waterloo West	4:30 pm
Friday, Feb. 5	Girls BB vs. Williamsburg	4:30 pm
	Boys BB @ Williamsburg	4:30 pm
Saturday, Feb. 6	State Large Group Speech	9:00 am
	Varsity Wrestling Sectionals	12:00 pm
Monday, Feb. 8	Girls BB @ Oelwein	4:30 pm
	Boys BB vs. Oelwein	4:30 pm
Tuesday, Feb. 9	Girls BB @ Columbus	4:30 pm
	Boys BB vs. Columbus	4:30 pm
Thursday, Feb. 11	B/G Varsity BB vs. Jesup (Senior Night)	4:30 pm
Friday, Feb. 12	Girls BB @ Anamosa	4:30 pm
Friday, Dec. 11	Boys BB vs. Anamosa (Parent's Night)	4:30 pm
Saturday, Feb. 13	WaMaC Individual Speech	9:00 am
Saturday, Feb. 13	Varsity Wrestling Districts	12:00 pm
Monday, Feb. 15	HS Band and Vocal Concert	7:00 pm
Wednesday, Feb. 17	State Wrestling Tournament	
	Girls BB 1st Round Regions	TBA
Thursday, Feb. 18	State Wrestling Tournament	
	Boys BB @ CPU	4:30 pm
Friday, Feb. 19	State Wrestling Tournament	
Saturday, Feb. 20	Girls BB 2nd Round Regional	TBA
	State Wrestling Tournament	
Monday, Feb. 22	Boys BB District	7:00 pm
Tuesday, Feb. 23	Girls BB Regional Final	TBA
Thursday, Feb. 25	Boys BB District Final	7:00 pm
Saturday, Feb. 27	State Wrestling Team Duals	TBA
	District Individual Speech	9:00 am
	Winter Dance	9:00 pm



MARCH

Monday, March 1	High School Jazz Concert	7:00 pm
	Boys BB Substate Final	TBA
Thursday, March 4	MS Vocal Concert	7:00 pm
Thursday, March 11	MS Band Concert	7:00 pm
Monday, March 15	Girls Track @ Wartburg Co-Ed	3:00 pm
	Boys Track @ Wartburg Co-Ed Indoor	3:00 pm
Tuesday, March 16	Boys Track @ ISU Indoor	TBA
Thursday, March 18	HS Musical	7:30 pm
Friday, March 19	HS Musical	7:30 pm
Saturday, March 20	HS Musical	7:30 pm
Monday, March 22	Girls Track @ Cornell WaMaC Indoor	4:30 pm
	Boys Dickinson Relays @ UNI-Dome	3:00 pm
Tuesday, March 23	Girls Dickinson Relays @ UNI-Dome	TBA
	Boys Track @ Cornell WaMaC Indoor	4:30 pm
Monday, March 29	Girls Golf vs. Williamsburg/CPU	3:30 pm
	Boys Track @ West Delaware Early Bird	



Mrs. Walz's Classes Participate in Holiday Mail for Heroes

Below you will find some photos of Mrs. Walz's students making homemade cards for the Holiday Mail for Heroes program. This program is sponsored by the Red Cross.



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 Ext. 626 or email Val at vmaximovich@independence.k12.ia.us Thank you!

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

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

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

Employer _____ Business Phone _____

Current Occupation _____

Other occupational experiences _____

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

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

If yes, please list: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____
Name Phone Relationship

Where and when are you available?

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

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

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

Monday _____

Tuesday _____

Wednesday _____

Thursday _____

Friday _____

Do you have a specific class or teacher request? _____

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



Independence Community School District

1207 First Street West
Independence, Iowa 50644



Non Profit Org.
PAID
Permit 197
Independence, Iowa

We're on the Web

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

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

Name _____ Today's date _____

Phone _____ Start date _____

Teacher Support

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

Special Projects/Programs

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

At Home Help

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

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