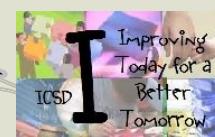


Volume 2 Issue 10
June, 2008**District Events:****June 3rd**Last Day of School
1:00 Early Release**June 4th**

Teacher Workday

August 4thRegistration
7:00 a.m. — 7:00 p.m.
Middle School Band
Room**August 18th**PK-2 Orientation
11:00 a.m. — 7:00 p.m.
East Elementary/ECC**August 18th**First Day of School
Grades 3-12
1:00 Early Release**August 19th**First Day of School
Grades ECC/PS/K-2
1:00 Early Release**Architects Give Recommendation** *By Devin Embray, Superintendent*

The architect firms of Kane and Johnson, out of Rochester Minnesota, and HSR and Associates, out of La Crosse Wisconsin, have completed their community input meetings. The last one on May 27th prior to the board meeting was videotaped and will be shown on Channel 8 for those who have not been able to attend any of the scheduled forums. At all of the meetings, several questions were raised and many good concerns were brought up. The architects did a wonderful job in presenting the condition of the high school in addition to sharing out options for the Board of Education to consider in the future. At the board meeting, the architect firms shared with the Board the feedback that they received from the communities based on the presentations they did. It is crucial that if you have an opinion on the high school, or concern about an aspect of the high school, or the options that the architects presented, please contact a board member or the Central Administration Office. As we move forward with a possible solution, we want to make sure we are addressing concerns that folks have and getting them the needed information to make an informed decision about their concern.



The architects presented a hybrid option for the board to consider. They proposed that the Board of Education attempt a one question vote that would generate the core academic facilities on the new land. In addition, they proposed using Local Sales Tax dollars to bring the other components of the health and wellness areas of the school to the new site. The vocational technology wing would be considered, in partnership with Hawkeye Community College, as a regional site for Buchanan County. By presenting this option, the board would only have to consider two parts left out of the project (but certainly designed in a master plan); the auditorium and a third gym bay. The architects proposed that these two parts be privately fund raised. Both architects felt that there was sort of a momentum to their discussions and interactions with the public and felt the Board should consider doing something with a referendum sooner than later. The Board of Education thanked them for their diligent work and will be meeting in the month of June to discuss an action plan for proceeding on the project. If you have comments, questions or concerns, please do not hesitate in contacting a board member or myself. The taped presentation of the architects will be on Channel 8 in the near future for those who wish to see the presentation but could not attend one of the forums.

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May Fish! Nominees

Mindy Voss ó High School and Success
Center Counselor

Judy Spinler ó 3rd Grade Teacher

Lois Johnson ó Medical Assistant

Teri Scholoss ó West Elementary and
Middle School Nurse

Kathy Wilson ó High School Media
Center Associate

Tracy Steger ó High School Language
Arts Teacher

Mary Cooksley ó Director, Curriculum
and School Improvement

Margie Torgerson ó Associate Substitute

Tia Shaffer ó Middle School Health and
Family Consumer Sciences Teacher

Michelle Unwin ó West Elementary
Special Education Teacher

Tim Purdum ó West Elementary and
Middle School Music Teacher

Rick Alber ó Middle School Custodian

Judy Wulfekuhle ó Middle School
Secretary

Shelly Bertelli ó Success Center Teacher

Kari Schwartz ó High School Art Teacher

Dawn Keenan ó Middle School Special
Education Teacher

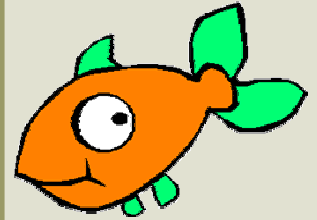
Kay Grover ó 4th Grade Teacher

Micki Sand-Cohen ó 1st Grade Teacher

Ronda Hilbert ó Middle School Special
Education Teacher

John Neil ó High School Special
Education Teacher

Melissa Kearns ó East Elementary Special
Education Associate



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

Call Mary at
334-7400



From The Curriculum Directors Desk *Mary Cooksley*



I have been with the district as the
Curriculum Director for the past four years

and with the Independence District for the last 17. It has been an extremely enjoyable and rewarding experience for me. But, after much thought and consideration, I am resigning as the Director of Curriculum and School Improvement. This was not an easy decision for me to make; one I made with a heavy heart. I am extremely proud to say I was a member of the administrative team in Independence and am grateful for the experiences I have had as the Curriculum Director.

I can not thank the district, parents, and community enough for the opportunity to make Independence Schools the best it can be. *Indee* is truly a forward-moving district in terms of the structures currently in place and I have no doubt the district will continue to move forward. Programs such as öTips and Toolsö, öPartners in Educationö, Learning Teams, the curriculum process, Fresh Start, and Fish! Philosophy are just of the terrific things going on at the district level to support students, teachers and parents. I am proud to have been part of that work!

I have so many fond memories of my time as a teacher at the high school as well as a district leader; too numerous to count. I will take those memories with me as I continue my educational career. Though leaving a district I have called family is difficult, I could not be more proud to have called myself a Mustang. I wish the students, staff and administration in the district nothing but the best.

Thanks for everything ó and remember - together we can make a difference!

Fish Philosophy Principles

**Make
Their Day**

**Choose
Your
Attitude**

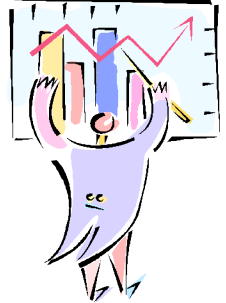
**Be There
Play**

Student Achievement Scores for 2007-2008

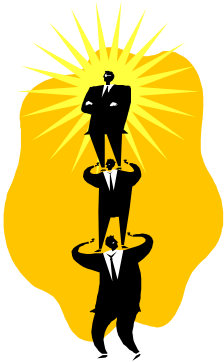
Mary Cooksley, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement

Preliminary Results

Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) and Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED) were taken in late January and February of 2008. The results of those achievement tests have been given to the district. A first look at the overall achievement scores for each grade show improvement in some grades and some declines in other grades. The table below provides the proficiency rates for each grade in the following areas: Math, Reading Comprehension and Science. This is the first year the state is looking at Science at the Elementary level. It is too early to tell whether we will be on a Watch List for the upcoming year. The Annual Progress Report published in the summer will have much more detailed information for you to analyze and review. The district will also look at subgroups within the district to target groups of students for additional support as needed.



What are we doing about the scores which seem to be declining?



The district has many supports in place for students not scoring at the proficient level (41st %tile and above) or who struggle with their coursework.

At West Elementary there is a mandatory homework room after school. Students who need assistance with homework or who have not completed homework are required to attend. Next year an additional counselor will be in place to assist with academic, social, and/or emotional issues of students.

At the Middle School Second Chance Reading for Struggling Readers is provided to increase reading comprehension skills and achievement. This class is required of all students who do not meet minimal proficiency requirements. A homework room will be established next school year to assist students who struggle with homework completion. Also, a 6th Grade Focus Group has been problem-solving the decline in proficiency at the 6th grade level. Additional supports and programs will be in place for 6th grade next year. See an article "6th Grade is a Main Focus for Next Year" for more specific plans.

The High School will also have additional supports for struggling learners in place; still being finalized, this will benefit students academically and emotionally.

Grade Level	Math Percent Proficient	Reading Comprehension Percent Proficient	Science Percent Proficient
3rd	82.42%	79.12%	81.11%
4 th	83.72%	85.06%	83.91%
5 th	85.71%	75.82%	84.44%
6 th	69.30%	63.00%	85.50%
7 th	75.10%	66.40%	78.40%
8 th	77.60%	68.40%	84.00%
9 th	85.00%	71.79%	87.18%
10 th	74.60%	73.02%	82.54%
11th	81.45%	77.05%	86.18%

6th Grade is a Main Focus for Next Year

Mary Cooksley, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement

A dedicated group of teachers at the Middle School have been meeting to discuss and plan how to assist the 6th graders at the Middle School. Historically, the 6th grade class at the Middle School has lower achievement than they had in 5th grade. This phenomenon is not just true of Independence, but most 6-8 Middle Schools across the state.

So what is causing the decline in scores?

Well, there are many things playing a part in the lower achievement scores: the fact that 6th grade is a turbulent time for many adolescent children, the fact that 6th grade is in the Middle School rather than in Elementary, increased expectations for behavior and academics by more than one individual (they are used to having just one main teacher and now they have several with differing expectations), moving from one class to another, having access to older students on a daily basis from a social standpoint. All of these factors play a role in the lower achievement Independence sees at the 6th grade.

What will we do?

After careful discussion and planning, the 6th Grade will be structured a little differently next year. The following plans will be implemented next year.

1. Transition from 5th to 6th grade

a. The transition from one building to another is crucial so how well students are able to cope with the different expectation and schedule determines their academic success. Research shows that behavioral issues increase once students are exposed to the freedoms in a Middle School. Having frequent and more efficient conversations with the 5th grade teachers is one goal of the 6th grade team. A newsletter will be created for parents and for students to ease the transition to the Middle School. Visits will still take place, but more often so and the 6th grade teachers will visit the 5th grade to get to know the students prior to them arriving at the Middle School.



2. End of Day Procedures

a. All students will be assigned to a Core teacher at the end of the day so organizational and homework issues can be addressed



b. Consistency is the key with this idea. Building relationships with a teacher is crucial to the success of 6th graders. Having a person to assist with organization and homework will be a key to the end of the day. By providing a consistent and caring person for struggling students so and all students, we should see an improvement in academic performance.

3. 6th Grade Pod

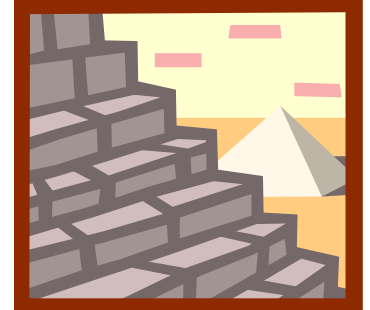
a. All 6th Grade Core teachers will be sharing a common area at the Middle School next year. By limiting students' mobility and controlling the amount of socializing with older Middle School students, negative influences can be minimized. 6th graders, as research shows, should be treated as Elementary students, not like their peers in 7th and 8th grade, so this will be a positive change!

As you can see, there are big changes in store for the Middle School next year, but these changes will have a great impact on the 6th grade students.

Audit Action Steps Complete

Mary Cooksley, Director Curriculum and School Improvement

I have been updating you through the newsletter and the newspaper about the voluntary audit Independence Community Schools has been conducting as a result of almost being named as a School In Need of Assistance last fall. The Superintendent and I felt it would be a positive step for the district to undergo a thorough examination of our processes and structures. The audit has been complete and for the last two months leadership teams across the district, as well as the Curriculum Coordinating Council, has been formulating action steps to implement next school year. Each building has a goal statement and action steps around three specific categories.



Communication

Implementation of the Curriculum Process

Academic Goals and Expectations

The following are the Goals established by buildings:

East Elementary:

1. Effective communication to and from all stakeholders using a variety of consistent modes
2. Create and implement common formative assessments at the classroom level

West Elementary

1. 100% of all staff will use multiple sets of data to drive instructional decisions and communicate results

Middle School

1. Communicate more effectively and efficiently with staff members on a day-to-day basis
2. Use data more effectively to improve instruction
3. Design and implement supports for students that need them

High School

1. Each department will propose a procedure for the implementation of curriculum
 2. Increase the focus on writing
 3. Create a weekly communication and distribute to all HS Staff
-

Needs Assessment Results

By Mary Cooksley, Curriculum and School Improvement Director

Each spring a needs assessment survey is given to all students and staff in the district. We do this to be able to make changes and improvements across the district; in buildings and in classrooms. In each table you will see the main strengths reported by staff and those by students. Not only do we recognize what we are doing well, we must look at what staff and students are saying are areas in need of improvement. The other table displays areas buildings will analyze when determining building goals or classroom goals for next school year.

Areas of Strength Reported by Teachers K-12

Proud of working in district	Believe "What is in the best interest of students" is the guiding principle in all decisions made	Teachers feel they have adequate input to make procedures more effective/efficient	Principles of a Learning Community are on their way to being embedded
Teachers feel responsible for helping their colleagues perform at their best	Teachers have high expectation for their students and Improving instruction is encouraged	All teachers are included in training and expected to engage in professional development	Majority of teachers feel the Professional Development target is focused on student achievement
Most feel there is adequate time for collaboration	Teachers feel assessments lead to changes in curriculum and instruction	GLEs capture the essential content by subjects	A sense of community is being created in buildings

Areas on Need of Improvement Reported by Teachers K-12

Teachers would like more input into professional development opportunities	Teachers do not feel they are setting higher goals for student achievement like 5 years ago	Processes and procedures require time away from classroom	Teachers feel they know less about student achievement gaps than they did 5 years ago	Teachers do not feel they are using data to facilitate dialogue with colleagues
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Areas of Strength Reported by Students

Teachers challenge them to do their best	Teachers expect them to get good grades	There are clear rules and expectations in place in classrooms	Parents talk to them about homework, but wish they would talk to them more	Teachers help them when they need help	Students feel there is at least one person who cares about them in
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Areas In Need of Improvement Reported by Students

Students would like to be recognized for their successes more often and more consistently	Students do not report they recognize the benefit of homework	Students would like to see more technology integration in classrooms	Students would like to be more challenged by their homework	Students would like to know what they are expected to know and be able to do by the end a class
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Principal's Corner - Mary Jean Blaisdell

Thanks to all parents and guardians for supporting your child's educational experience at East Elementary and the Early Childhood Center. We have enjoyed the year and the students have made a lot of progress. We hope the summer is filled with fun and relaxation for all!

Thanks,
Mary Jean Blaisdell



East/West Summer AR/Library Program

Due to the success of the Accelerated Reading Program during the school year, East and West Elementary will have their libraries open for a Summer AR/Library Program during the month of July.

Summer AR/Library Program hours:

Tuesdays, 9:00 - 11:00 am

Thursdays, 5:00-7:00 pm

Summer AR/Library Program dates:

July 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31

Students in grades K-5 may come at these times to check out books and take AR tests. This will only take 5-15 minutes. Children MAY NOT be dropped off and left for this. Please come along with your child and wait for them to finish.

There will be NO SUPERVISION of students other than inside the library.

Any K-1 children participating in Summer AR will need to participate at the school they attended this year (07-08). Children who will be going into Grade 3 for the 08-09 school year, will need to participate in Summer AR at West.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

June 3
Last Day of
School

August

August 4
Registration
7am-7pm
Middle
School Band
Room

August 18
PK-2
Orientation
11am-7pm at
East
Elementary/
ECC

August 18
School
Begins for
Grades 3-12
1:00 Dismissal

August 19
School
Begins for
Grades
ECC/PS/K-2
1:00 Dismissal

August 20
1:00 Dismissal

August 21
First Full
Day of
School

Fall Registration

Registration for the
2008-2009 school year
will be held in the
Middle School Band Room:

Monday, August 4 from
7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Orientation

Orientation will held on August 18th for ECSE/Preschool at the Early Childhood Center and K-2 students at East Elementary. The first day of school for the 2008-09 school year for students in Grades 3-12 will be August 18th. K-2 students will have their first day of school on August 19th. Please sign up for an orientation time at registration on August 4th.

Farm Safety Day

Farm Safety Day is an event funded through a grant to the People's Memorial Hospital that allows for presenters to talk to young students about how to be safe around farm equipment, yard equipment, electrical wiring, animals, grain bins as well as while in the sun. The students enjoyed learning about all of these things!

Farm Safety Day, held at St. John's this year, had many fun and informative sessions for elementary students!



A Year in Review by Josh Lyons, West Elementary Principal



Josh Lyons, Principal

Wow! What a year! It's hard to believe that we have completed another outstanding year between the snow and fog days and all of the other events that students have been involved in. All of the kids have worked extremely hard this year and made some great strides academically, emotionally, behaviorally, and socially. We have a lot to be proud of at West Elementary.

The Character Counts! program was a success this year, guiding our students and staff in a positive direction to improving the culture and climate of the building. The language of the pillars respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, trustworthiness, and citizenship are becoming a part of what we stand for. A great deal of credit should be given to Mrs. Julie Rouse for her time and commitment to this philosophy and implementing these ideals into the building. This program will surely take off next year with Mrs. Rouse being a part of West full time.

The Accelerated Reader program continues to make an impact on students and their motivation to read. We are very lucky to have such a program. Mrs. Wieland our media specialist reported that as of May 23, 2008 students had checked out 13,415 books this year, which is 1,000 more than the 2006-2007 school year. What an incredible accomplishment! The AR summer reading program will start up in June. Families should have already received information regarding this program in the last two weeks of May.

There are so many accomplishments by students this year; it is difficult to pinpoint them all. Our hope is that you and your families will have a wonderful summer break and are able to enjoy some time with your children. We look forward to seeing you in the fall for the start of the 2008-2009 school year.

June News

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Iowa

It's summer time! Which doesn't mean our work ends or it's just the beginning of more activities! We will be conducting Big interviews and preparing for all the new Littles that will need matched in the fall. So if you would like to be a mentor, please let me know! We will also be compiling the survey results from parents, students and teachers that are completed at the end of the school year.

Plans are being made for fall events or if you have a child that has a Mentor, take note! We will be having Fall Start-up Parties at East, West and Middle School the week after school starts, dates and times TBA.

Don't forget to look for us in the 4th of July parade, 9:00 a.m. downtown Independence.

Also, the fall Bowl for Kids Sake, which is the annual fundraising event for Big Brothers Big Sisters will be on **Sunday, November 2nd at Lucky 10 Lanes**. If you want to recruit for team members and come bowl with us at noon or 3 p.m., just call 319-334-3353. We'd love to have you part of our afternoon of fun, Be A Hero, Bowl!!

Call today to "Make a difference in the Life of a Child".

Val Maximovich, Mentor Coordinator, 334-3353



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Northeast Iowa

Fish Iowa in 5th Grade!

One of the highlights of fifth grade is the culminating unit called *Fish Iowa*. *Fish Iowa* is designed to teach students the skills needed to fish and incorporates many subject areas such as biology (fish anatomy/physiology and ecology) and geography (statewide rivers, lakes, and types of fish species). *Fish Iowa* helps students develop motor skills, teaches a lifetime recreational pursuit, and promotes mental health. Students will be attending a culminating day in May at the Buchanan County Wildlife Association Club. Fish ID, Water Quality, and Stream Table are some of the activities that are planned that day. Programs are taught or demonstrated by many Iowa DNR personnel. Fifth graders will have the opportunity to put to use the skills they learned in class on that day during a hands-on fishing session.

Scott Kinseth, Iowa DNR officer, organizes this event each year and visits the classrooms several times before the May date to teach the classes about fish management, fishing ethics and regulations, fishing equipment and lures, and casting. In one session, Scott teaches fifth graders how to make their own spinning lure. This is one learning experience that students and staff look forward to each year.



Hands on fishing!



Fish ID



Boating Safety Relay



Scott Kinseth making lures.



Stream Table

TeRRiFiCC Times By Mrs. Rouse

Character Counts News from West Elementary June 2008

Fairness Pillar Kids of Character



Darin Halstead, Bryce Holub, Cy Hearn,
Avri Ruffcorn, Jordan Hogan, Starr Johnson,
Hope Staker, Chase Kahler,
Clayton Thompson, Austin Lange,
Jeremy Carter, Taylor Lynch,
Mandi Felan-Jimmerson, Ashish Upadhyay

Kid of Character winners received a certificate, a lunch with Mr. Lyons (provided by Pizza Ranch), a Mustang Pride wristband, and a pencil.

Kids of Character

Darin Halstead – Darin Halstead is a third grade student in Mrs. Spinler's classroom. Darin always treats his classmates with respect and fairness. Darin patiently waits his turn when he has a question or needs help with an assignment. "When Darin knows the answer to a question in class, he always raises his hand and waits to be called on to be fair to his peers," stated Mrs. Unwin.

Cy Hearn – Cy has been nominated as a Kid of Character by his third grade teacher Mrs. Black. "Cy is aware of the need to be fair in dealing with his classmates and others. He has a concern that all are treated equally and fairly. Cy will come to the defense of others who are being treated unfairly. Cy exhibits fairness in our school," expressed Mrs. Black.

Jordan Hogan – Jordan is a third grade student in Ms. Bolger's class. Jordan was selected as a Kid of Character because he likes to be fair and he wants to be treated fairly. Jordan also demonstrates the pillar of Fairness by "listening to both sides when things happen," declared Ms. Bolger.

Bryce Holub – Bryce was chosen to represent Mrs. Spinler's third grade class as a Kid of Character. Mrs. Spinler commented, "Bryce is a very fair young man. He gives all his classmates a chance, whether he is playing games or being part of a group. He truly cares about his peers and wants to see everyone participate in activities. Bryce also cares about his school and family is also very important to him."

Avri Ruffcorn – Avri is a third grade student in Mrs. Wendling's classroom. "Avri Ruffcorn has been nominated for Kid of Character for fairness as she always treats people equally. She is so friendly to everyone. She is not one to tattle on people or treat certain people with favoritism. She is a good example to the other students in the class," stated Mrs. Wendling.

Starr Johnson – Starr is a fourth grade student in Mrs. Hearn's class. She was selected for the Fairness pillar because she consistently treats people equally. She is a leader in the classroom and her peers know they can count on her to be fair. "Starr thinks about how other people feel and takes their feelings into consideration when working through a problem. I am proud of Starr's character in the classroom," expressed Mrs. Hearn.



The Six Pillars of Character

Trustworthiness

e

R espect

R esponsibility

i

F airness

i

C aring

C itizenship

TeRRiFiCC Times

By Mrs. Rouse continued

Kids of Character cont....

Chase Kahler – Chase has been selected to represent Mrs. Mueller's fourth grade class for the Fairness pillar. Chase has a good concept of fairness. He demonstrates fairness by helping his classmates solve problems fairly. "Chase makes a choice based on what is right and honest. He understands when he has consequences and accepts them respectfully," commented Mrs. Mueller.

Austin Lange – Austin was nominated for Kid of Character by his fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Grover. Austin demonstrates the Fairness pillar by being open-minded and giving others a chance to speak their mind. He is an asset in the classroom because he ensures that everyone is included. "Austin was chosen as our Kid of Character for Fairness because he tries to treat everyone equally. I have seen Austin step aside to allow another student to use the computer or other activity when he himself wanted to use it," stated Mrs. Grover.

Hope Staker – Hope has been selected to represent Mrs. Matthiesen's fourth grade class for the Fairness pillar. Mrs. Matthiesen included several reasons for why Hope is a Kid of Character, "Hope is kind to all people. She does not lose her patience with others when some people might. She listens to others and helps others whatever the circumstances. She does not show prejudice or favoritism towards others. She is willing to work with and help anyone in the class. She will listen to others to get their viewpoint. I appreciate her positive and caring attitude in the classroom."

Clayton Thompson – Clayton is a fourth grade student in Mrs. Matthiesen's classroom. Clayton has been nominated as a Kid of Character because he has a good understanding of the importance of rules and he shows concern when others are making poor choices. Clayton is also interested in hearing many different

perspectives. "He always does well following the rules," stated Miss Maas.

Jeremy Carter – Jeremy was nominated for the Fairness pillar by his fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Smith. "Jeremy employs the pillar of fairness when he works and plays with others in our room. He is open to helping others and seeing the best in everyone. He truly treats others the way he wants to be treated," commented Mrs. Smith.

Mandi Felan-Jimmerson – Mandi has been selected to represent Miss Offerman's (Mrs. Havel's) fifth grade classroom. Mandi demonstrates fairness by being a hard-working individual who is willing to help out her classmates when needed. "She is a student you can depend on and is a great asset to the classroom. She is a very trusting and respectful person and has shown tremendous leadership throughout the school year," praised Miss Offerman.

Taylor Lynch – Taylor is a fifth grade student in Mrs. Kineth's classroom. "Taylor is a Kid of Character because she makes sure that everyone is included and treats others fairly. She is open-minded about new things and finds the good in everyone and everything. She makes good decisions after she looks at all the possibilities. Taylor is very considerate of others feelings and doesn't take advantage of her classmates. She is a great role model for everyone to follow," noted Mrs. Kineth.

Ashish Upadhyay – Ashish has been selected as a Kid of Character by his fifth grade teacher, Mr. Buresh. Ashish represents the pillar of Fairness very well because he understands that it is important to treat others without prejudice. "He would not blame others, take unfair advantage, or take more than his share. In fact, Ashish has often given up his portion for someone who would otherwise have to do without," commented Mr. Buresh.

Thank You!

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



TeRRiFiCC Times

By Mrs. Rouse continued

Raffle Winners

Raffle winners took home candy and their choice of a McDonald's free ice cream cone, a Movie Gallery free movie, a Fairness backpack pull, or a Fairness wristband. Students were entered into the raffle if they were recognized by classmates for FAIR behaviors.

The following students received raffle prizes:

Trevor Behan
Bryce Holub
Courtney Main
Mackenzie Solomon
Hope Staker
Jayson Mudderman
Zach Fischels
Matthew McMillan
Zoe Harrison
Madison Davis
Alexis Brown
Jared Snyder
Michael Stiefel
Levi King
Haley Hansen
Becca Lange
Jaden McGrath
Starr Johnson
Alissa Myers
Kaylee Eilers
Colin Butzlaff
Jill Halstead
Lucy Martinez
Ryan Hansen
Alicia Lange



Classroom of Character

Classroom of Character awards were given at the Character Counts assembly on Monday, April 28. The winning classrooms received the Classroom of Character sign, a free recess, the game Trouble, and a movie and popcorn celebration. The winners are.....

3rd Grade – Mrs. Bolger's Class

4th Grade – Mrs. Matthiesen's Class

5th Grade – Mrs. Kinseth's Class

What pillar is next?

The next pillar of character West Elementary will be striving to meet is CITIZENSHIP. Who have you seen demonstrating the qualities of a good citizen? Be sure to write a TeRRiFiCC News to show your appreciation for that student.

C Do Your Share

I DO: Be a good citizen and a good neighbor – Care about and pursue the common good – Be a volunteer – Help your school and community be better, cleaner, and safer –

T Protect the environment by conserving resources, reducing pollution, and cleaning up after yourself – Participate in making things better by voicing your opinion, voting, serving on committees, reporting wrongdoing, and paying taxes

H Respect Authority & the Law

I DO: Play by the rules – Obey parents, teachers, coaches, and others who have been given authority – Observe just laws – Honor and respect principles of democracy



**THE SIX
PILLARS OF
CHARACTER**

TeRRiFiCC Times By Mrs. Rouse

Character Counts News from West Elementary June 2008

Citizenship Pillar Kids of Character



Ethan Burk, Sonia Carmona,
Michael Coonrad, Adam Goedken,
Gabby Breitbach, Jason Grover,
Katelynne Coonrad, Kylee Seehase,
Autumn Meiborg, Jacob Wolf,
Shelby Lehman, Will Porter

Kid of Character winners received a certificate, a lunch with Mr. Lyons (provided by Pizza Ranch), a Mustang Pride wristband, and a pencil.

Kids of Character

Ethan Burk – Ethan is a third grade student in Ms. Bolger's class. He has been selected as a Kid of Character because he strives to follow rules, obeys adults in authority, and gets along with others. Ms. Bolger believes Ethan is a good citizen because he "is a conscientious student and his goal in life right now is to join the Air Force when he grows up so he can protect our country."

Sonia Carmona – Sonia has been selected as the Kid of Character for Mrs. Black's third grade class. "Sonia is a good citizen in the classroom at West Elementary. She cares about others and is helpful. She is willingly participates in school activities for the good of all. Sonia is respectful and follows the rules," stated Mrs. Black.

Katelynne Coonrad – Katelynne is Mrs. Spinler's third grade class nomination for Citizenship Kid of Character. "She is always a good neighbor and helps in the classroom with what ever needs to be done. She follows rules and is very respectful. Katelynne always tries to do her best and is looked up to by many students," commented Mrs. Spinler.

Kylee Seehase – Kylee has been selected to represent Mrs. Wendling's third grade class as a Kid of Character. Kylee is a good citizen because she is respectful to others in the classroom. "She always plays by the rules in any game and she obeys authority," stated Mrs. Wendling.

Michael Coonrad – Michael is a fourth grade student in Mrs. Grover's class. He was chosen as a Kid of Character because he has consistently made an effort to help out in the classroom. "He takes the time to straighten the desks without being asked and is more than willing to share new knowledge and facts with others. While a quiet boy, Michael speaks up when he has something he feels is important to share," expressed Mrs. Grover.

Adam Goedken – Adam is a fourth grade student in Mrs. Matthiesen's class. Adam demonstrates good citizenship in many ways. "He is very sensitive and caring. He is always willing to help others. He is aware that people's feelings are important, and he deals with people in a genuine manner. He wants to be an author someday, and many of his stories and poems have touched us this year and made us realize what a special person Adam is. He always wants to do and be the best that he can. If he makes a mistake, he will acknowledge that and try to make things better. He sets a good example for others, and they know Adam is a person they can count on. Adam is an outstanding citizen," praised Mrs. Matthiesen.



Have a great summer!



TeRRiFiCC Times

By Mrs. Rouse continued

Kids of Character cont....

Autumn Meiborg – Autumn is a fourth grade student in Mrs. Mueller's class. She has been selected as a Kid of Character because she is respectful to everyone. "Autumn is a responsible citizen who is sensitive to others' feelings. She responds to different values or opinions by listening and keeping an open mind. When confronted with conflict she does not yell or fight back. She is mature and tries to talk through the disagreement or just walks away," expressed Mrs. Mueller.

Jacob Wolf – Jacob has been nominated as a Kid of Character by his fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Hearn. Jacob is a good citizen because he is an active helper in the classroom and he has good ideas to help make his community a better place to live. "Jacob has a kind heart and thinks of others. He especially likes to brighten the smiles of others with his sense of humor," commented Mrs. Hearn.

Gabby Breitbach – Gabby has been recognized for good citizenship in Mrs. Smith's fifth grade class. Gabby demonstrates citizenship by helping others in the room and playing by the rules. "Gabby respects authority and she is positive influence on others," stated Mrs. Smith.

Jason Grover – Jason is a fifth grade student in Miss Offerman's (Mrs. Havel) classroom. He has been selected as a Kid of Character because he has grown throughout the school year and has proven himself to be an individual who is someone you can count on to make the right choices in the classroom. "Jason is not afraid to help his classmates and has gained the confidence to be an individual who will demonstrate the qualities that others will look up too," expressed Miss Offerman.

Shelby Lehman – Shelby has been selected to represent Mrs. Kinseth's fifth grade class for the pillar of Citizenship. "Shelby is a very kind and considerate individual. She is always ready to help others in need. She is responsible for her own work. She is a role model for others in the class. She is always sticking up for what is right to make our classroom the best, which helps West Elementary be the best. Shelby is respectful of others and is always willing to help keep the classroom clean and tidy. She is always volunteering to clean the gerbil cage," commented Mrs. Kinseth.

Will Porter – Will has been nominated to receive the Kid of Character award by his fifth grade teacher, Mr. Buresh. He demonstrates the pillar of Citizenship by helping out after school in the room and he often writes up the schedule for the following day. "Will understands that helping others is a key to success in life," stated Mr. Buresh.



TeRRiFiCC Times

By Mrs. Rouse continued

Raffle Winners

Raffle winners took home candy and their choice of a McDonald's free ice cream cone, a Movie Gallery free movie, a Citizenship backpack pull, or a Citizenship wristband. Students were entered into the raffle if they were recognized by classmates for GOOD CITIZEN behaviors.

The following students received raffle prizes:

Brittany Carlin
Haley Hansen
Cassidy Martinson
Chelsey Moore
Evelyn Gonzales
Hunter Griffith
Gage Schoneberger
Keaton Stoner
Courtney Bailey
Alexis Brown
Luke Morkel
Jared Snyder
Sonia Carmona
Austin Larkin
Zach Miller
Jordan Hogan
Melissa Dryml
Nicholas Holt
Austin Steifel
Paige Stoner
Brett Bowers
Ryan Hansen
Mandi Felan-Jimmerson
Kyle Zieser



Classroom of Character

Classroom of Character awards were given at the Character Counts assembly on Tuesday, May 20. The winning classrooms received the Classroom of Character sign, a free recess, the game UNO Attack, and a movie and popcorn celebration. The winners are.....

3rd Grade – Mrs. Black's Class

4th Grade – Mrs. Mueller's Class

5th Grade – Mrs. Smith's Class

TeRRiFiCC News

The 2007-2008 school year is coming to an end and we had a very exciting year. We hope to continue the Character Counts program and recognizing students for their great character next year. Once again, this is a team effort. Several community businesses made generous cash or item donations to help promote good character. Also, our educators at West Elementary serve as great role models to our students. I would like to send out a huge round of applause to all of you that have helped make this program a success.

Remember: "Character. It's how you live life when nobody is looking." I hope the summer is filled with excitement, but most importantly, I hope you will be able to catch one of our students demonstrating the pillars of character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. It would be amazing to return next school year and hear some TeRRiFiCC News about how our students exemplified the pillars of character.

June Calendar—HS

- 1 – VSB (H) West Delaware
VBB at West Delawqre
9th SB at Oelwein
 - 3 – 9th BB (H) Cent Elkader
9/10 SB at Oelwein
 - 4 – VSB at Columbus
10th BB at Sumner –
Fredericksburg
9th BB at Sumner-
Fredericksburg
 - 5 – VBB (H) Columbus
9th BB at Oelwein
 - 6 – VSB at Jesup Tourney
9/10 SB (H) Cedar Falls
9th BB at Center Pt-Urbana
 - 7 – VSB at Jesup Tourney
VBB at Jesup Tourney
 - 9 – VSB at Maquoketa
VBB (H) Maquoketa
10th BB at Benton Comm
9/10 SB (H) West Dubuque
 - 10 – 9/10 SB Indee Tourney
 - 11 – VSB (H) Vinton
9th BB (H) Waterloo West
 - 12 – VBB at Vinton
9/10 SB at Wewt Delaware
 - 13 – VSB at West Delaware
Tourney
9/10 SB at Columbus
 - 14 – VSB SB at WD Tourney
VBB at W'loo West Tourney
9/10 SB at Ced Falls Tourney
9th BB at Western Dubuque
 - 16 – VSB (H) Anamosa
VBB at Anamosa
9/10 SB at Columbus
9th BB (H) Center Pt-Urbana
 - 17 – 9/10 SB (H) Cen Elkader
9th BB (H) Oelwein
 - 18 – VSB (H) Benton Comm
10th BB (H) West Delaware
& Vinton
 - 19 – 9/10 SB (H) W'loo West
9th BB Vinton & W Delaware
 - 20 – JV/VSB (H) Denver
VBB (H) Gladbrook-Reinbeck
9/10 SB (H) Benton Comm
 - 21 – VSB Indee Tourney
 - 23 – VSB at Beckman
VBB (H) Beckman
9/10 SB at Center Pt-Urbana
- CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

News from the IHS By Karl Kurt, Principal

Parent Advisory Committee

I am asking for parents to participate on a Parent Advisory Committee. This new committee would be designed to gather information and feedback from parents as it relates to our high school. The committee will also have the ability to ask questions and help address any concerns as well as generate possible solutions. If you are interested in serving on this committee (which will meet one time per month in the evening) please let me know. Email @ kkurt@independence.k12.ia.us

High school (319) 334-7400

Thanks,
Karl Kurt, Principal
Independence High School



HS June Calendar cont.

24 – 10th BB (H) Oelwein
9/10 SB (H) West Delaware
9th BB at W'loo West

25 – VSB at Center Pt-Urbana
9th BB at Alburnett
10th BB at Vinton

26 – VBB (H) Centr Pt-Urbana
9/10th SB at W'loo West
9th BB at Vinton

27 – VSB at Alburnett

28 – 10th BB at Alburnett
Tourney

30 – VSB at Central DeWitt
VBB at Central DeWitt
10th BB (H) Benton Comm
9th SB at West Delaware
9th BB at Columbus

New Lunch and Breakfast Prices For 2008-2009

by Kelly Duritsa, Food Service Director

Hello! I wanted to explain why I proposed the meal price increase for next year, although, I suspect, many of you already know. In a nutshell, my food costs are going up, like everyone else's, plus, employee salaries are going up. The Nutrition Fund's goals are always to break even for the school year, with enough money left in June to take care of the costs for the first few months of the next school year. This year we managed to meet that goal, but just barely.

I noticed in February that the prices on many of the items we purchase for school meals were higher than they were in August. By the end of March this year, our costs on the items I analyzed (90+ items) had already increased 4.63%, that's roughly \$5,570.00. Our bakery ingredients and staples alone had increased 51.9%!

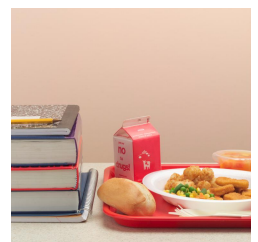
I looked at two main factors when deciding on a meal price change:

- 1) Most manufacturers and those in the food service industry are predicting a 7-10% increase in food costs next year, over and above what increases we've already seen.
- 2) I also had to add next year's salary increases into the budget.

Needless to say, after crunching the numbers, I saw that it was necessary to raise prices in order to simply break even next year. I know I don't have to explain the troubles with the ever-rising prices of food and fuel, as we are all feeling a bigger pinch than we have in years. This is a reality that has hit home with most of us. I realize that raising school lunch prices does add to the financial strain on families with school-age children, but I also need to be fiscally responsible and treat the Nutrition Fund as a business. The state and federally sponsored program for Free and Reduced priced school meals continues to assist many families in need. Please keep in mind, it costs nothing to apply for free & reduced price lunches and the income requirements change each year. Next year, if you think there's even a remote chance that your family may qualify for this program, please don't hesitate to fill out an application. An application is sent to every family in the district at the end of July and we will have applications ready and available at registration on Monday, August 4th, 2008. I hope to see you there!

Below are this year's prices and the new lunch and breakfast prices for the 2008-2009 school year:

	<u>Breakfast</u>		<u>Lunch</u>	
	<u>2007-2008</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2007-2008</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>
Elementary	\$0.90	\$1.10	\$1.55	\$1.75
MS/HS	\$0.95	\$1.15	\$1.60	\$1.80
Adult/Guest	\$1.30	\$1.45	\$2.60	\$2.75



"Improving Today for a Better Tomorrow"


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>

MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT CARD

pick up

June 12 & 13

@ Middle School Office

for

6th-8th Grade only

7am-3pm