

Volume 2 Issue 7
March, 2008

District Events:**March 3rd**

No School

March 4th

2 Hour Late Start

March 5th

CCC Meeting 4:00 p.m.

March 10-11

Kindergarten Roundup

March 12th

FULL DAY OF
SCHOOL

Early Dismissal
Cancelled

March 21st

No School Spring Break

March 24th

No School Spring Break

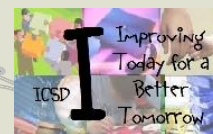
March 26th

FULL DAY OF
SCHOOL

Early Dismissal
Cancelled

Inside this issue:

February Fish!	2
Nominees	
Helping Your	3
Child Succeed	
Change in School	5
Calendar	
East Elementary	6-7
News	
Tips and Tools	9-10
Middle School	11
News	
Speech Team	13
News	

**BOARD ADOPTS GOAL STATEMENT**

By Devin Embray, Superintendent

The Independence School Board met several times over the winter months storming and norming with one another to come up with a common goal as well as action steps for the remainder of this school year and into the 2008-2009 school year. The meetings that were held saw board members speaking their educational philosophy and what is important to them as board members for our district. The following is the goal statement that was agreed upon as well as action steps that the board implemented to help guide them to the goal. The board will be holding work-sessions at future meetings to launch the action steps to help ensure that they are heading toward their goal.

**Board Goal Statement:**

The Independence Community School District's Board of Education will promote efforts to increase student achievement by supporting district initiatives and will strive to provide opportunities, resources, and a highly qualified staff to all students. The Board will work to enhance a climate of positive communication while managing the schools in an efficient and cost effective manner.

- **Include a focus on student achievement at all board meetings**
- **Develop an understanding of the curriculum process**
- **Enhance methods of positive communication**
- **Responsibly manage fiscal resources**
- **Investigate a comprehensive sports weight and conditioning program**
- **Investigate and create ways to increase BOE Effectiveness**

Should you have questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate in contacting any of the board members or myself. Questions, comments or concerns can be directed to board members through the central office at 319-334-7400.

February Fish! Nominees

Mike Donnelly – Transportation Director

Burt VanHorn – District Maintenance and Bus Driver

All Bus Drivers for the District

Tori Joblinske ó East kitchen

Galina Wright ó East kitchen

Starla Heister ó East kitchen

Melynda Tegler ó East kitchen

Wanda Standridge ó Middle School kitchen

Christine Bagley ó Middle School kitchen

Karyl Hand ó Middle School kitchen

Angie Tournier ó High School kitchen

Cindy Barenz ó Teacher Associate, East Elementary

Becky West ó Teacher Associate, East Elementary

Virginia Lake ó East Elementary Media Specialist and GAT Teacher

Teresa Barske ó Special Education Teacher Associate, Early Childhood Center

Cathy Gilson ó Special Education Teacher Associate, Early Childhood Center

Holly Mueller ó 4th Grade Teacher, West Elementary

Entire High School Staff

Brenda Hearn ó 4th Grade Teacher, West Elementary

Stephanie Peterson ó Special Education Teacher Associate, West Elementary

Pennie Anderson ó Secretary, West Elementary

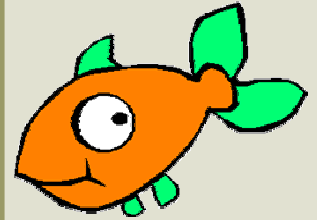
Jenny Cappel ó Special Education Teacher Associate, Early Childhood Center

Joe Olsen ó School Board Member

Mary Cooksley ó Curriculum and School Improvement Director

Chrissy Olthoff ó Junior Kindergarten Teacher

Dawnye Sturtz ó School Board President



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

Call Mary at
334-7400

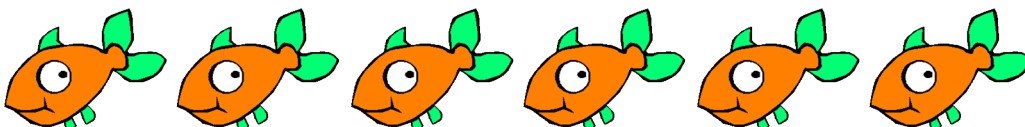
Fish Philosophy Principles

Choose
Your
Attitude

Play

Be There

Make
Their Day



Helping Your Child Succeed *Your Child May Not Learn Like You*

By Mary Cooksley, Director, Curriculum and School Improvement

You probably remember what school was like when you were a child. You know what subjects you enjoyed- and you may remember the subjects you didn't like. You also know how you learned the information the best. Maybe you retained more when you read your textbook or maybe you liked it better when the teacher lectured or maybe you did the best with hands-on activities. You likely still discover new information the same way you picked it up in school. However, when it comes to your child, you need to forget everything you remember about your school preferences. That may sound drastic, but it's really necessary if you want your child to do his or her best. Your child is a unique individual. Not only is it likely that he or she likes different subjects, but your child may also learn differently than you do.

In terms of learning styles there are three main types:

1. Visual ó learns best by seeing or observing the way something looks or works
2. Auditory ó learns best by hearing or listening
3. Kinesthetic or tactile ó learns best by hands-on activities

Your child may use one or all of these styles as he or she progresses through school. The following are strategies to help your child make the most of his or her dominant learning style.

Visual Learners

Does your child have a hard time remembering names but can always remember a face? Are they able to see images in their mind? If so, they are more than likely a visual learner.

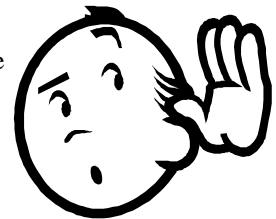


- * Ask your child to highlight important information on worksheets or handouts with a marker or draw a line under it with a pencil.
- * Make flashcards for your child. Simple math facts and vocabulary words lend themselves well to flashcards
- * Help your child make charts, diagrams, and graphs to better understand and express information

Auditory Learners

Auditory learners retain more information when the lesson is presented verbally or when the teacher questions the whole class. Do they do well in class discussions? Are they easily distracted by noises? If so, they are more than likely auditory learners.

- * Read aloud to your child or have them read out loud
- * Use mnemonic devices (tricks to learn words ó example would be learning the colors of the rainbow: Roy G. Biv)
- * Have your child study with a friend so they can talk out loud about the information



Kinesthetic or Tactile Learners



Is your child the only person in the family who can run the computer or run electronic equipment? Do they love to build things? Are they often out of their seat in the classroom? Yes, yes, and yes? Then your child learns best with hands-on activities!

- * Ask your child to act out or demonstrate concepts.
- * When helping with homework, give him or her real world perspective on the content. If they are working with fractions ó get out the measuring cups!
- * Take advantage of hands-on projects. They will love these choices the best!
- * Allow your child access to multimedia applications like PowerPoint and learning tools on the computer to learn or create projects.

Looking Ahead With The Budget

By Devin Embray, Superintendent

At the regular meeting of the board on February 18th, 2008 the board of education approved recommended reductions for the 2008-2009 school year. In our 11th consecutive year of declining enrollment we have seen reductions each year for several years. In order to make ends meet each year, we have had to reduce in order to stay within the certified budget. Schools are an odd duck in comparison to businesses. When businesses see an increase in operating expenses they have the option of absorbing the cost or passing it on to the consumer. In schools we do not have the option of absorbing our increase and we can not pass on the added expense to our consumers. Some have stated we should increase taxes and not reduce. In my opinion, this is only a viable response if we were projecting a decline in enrollment of a short period of time. The state has projected us to lose students until we reach approximately 1300 students. Currently, we are 125 above that mark and the projections are for us to lose approximately 25 per year. I estimate that we will experience this same kind of reductions for the next 4-6 years at a minimum if something doesn't change that will bring students to our district and stop the declining trend.

I am positive about the economic growth of Independence as well as our outlying towns of Brandon and Rowley and am very pleased to see affordable housing being started again in our area. The more we can market our district the better. I am hopeful that the community will be able to come together for the future of our high school and that more families will chose to live in our communities for the outstanding programming that we have to offer.

I believe we have an extremely dedicated staff that care deeply for the success of our students and the expectations that we have for their future success. The Independence Community School District is a wonderful place for your child to receive their education. Our expectations are high and we are at the top of the WaMaC conference in reference to the success our students have in achievement scores. You can be proud of how our K-12 staff is preparing your child for future success.



Now Full Days of School

March 12th

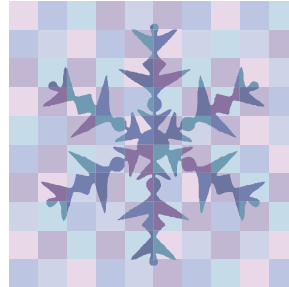
March 26th

April 9th

This Winter's Crazy Weather Leads to Change in School Calendar

By Mary Cooksley, Director, Curriculum and School Improvement

As I write this article, school has been cancelled once again due to inclement weather and at last count we have had to either start school late or release school early due to bad weather nine times (as of this writing). The full days missed are all being added to the end of the calendar ó right now that means our students will be learning well into June! However, the nine days that were shortened are lost instructional time for our students.



As a result of the shortened days, many teachers and Administration are concerned that students will miss out on valuable instruction and lost curriculum delivery. In order to add back the lost instructional time this calendar year due to weather related dismissals, the following previously scheduled early release days for this year will become full instructional days. This decision was proposed and accepted at the regular Board of Education meeting on Monday February 18th. What this means for parents is that the days listed below - previously scheduled to be 1:00 dismissals - will now be normal dismissal days with a full day of instruction.

March 12th

March 26th

April 9th

No longer 1:00 Dismissals – Regular Dismissal

Schedule will be followed

We realize this may cause some inconvenience to parents, but we hope with this early notification, adjustments can be made. The school district feels this is the right thing to do considering the amount of lost learning time which has taken place. With any luck, the weather will cooperate with us for the rest of the year!! If you have any questions or concerns related to this change, please contact the district office and talk to either Devin or Mary.

Thank you for your continued support!



Principal's Corner - Mary Jean Blaisdell

March will be an extremely busy month at school! We will be soon having Parent/Teacher Conferences and Kindergarten Roundup!

Parent/Teacher Conferences are coming soon and we appreciate the time you take to visit with your child's teacher. The efforts of home and school together can be such valuable assets in your child's life.

Monday, March 3: No School
12:00-8:00 Parent/Teacher Conferences
Tuesday, March 4: 10:00 Late Start
3:30-6:00 Parent/Teacher Conferences

Kindergarten Roundup is just around the corner! Kindergarten Roundup is designed to give teachers a chance to get to know your child and make recommendations regarding readiness for Kindergarten. Once again, if you know of any child who will be five years old on or before September 15, 2008, please fill out the form included in this newsletter and return it to the principal's office at East or West Elementary Schools.

Monday/Tuesday, March 10/11
8:30 - 11:00; 12:30 - 3:00
East Kindergarten Roundup
On these days, there will be NO SCHOOL for Kindergarten, ECSE or JK

Whew! We sure hope that the snow is behind us and spring is just around the corner. However, due to our weather, we have made the following changes in the calendar:

March 12th is no longer an early dismissal; this will be a full day of school
March 26th is no longer an early dismissal; this will be a full day of school
April 9th is no longer an early dismissal; this will be a full day of school

As spring approaches, students are often shedding their warmer clothing for lighter jackets. It is at this time of year, however, that we need to be watchful of weather changes. Please see that your child is dressed in layers of clothing so that, as the day warms, outer layers can be removed or put back on as the day cools.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

Mar 3 No School
12:00-8:00
Parent/
Teacher
Conferences

Mar 4 2 Hr Late
Start
3:30-6:00
Parent/
Teacher
Conferences

Mar 10-11
No School for
Kindergarten,
ECC or JK

Mar 10-11
East Roundup

Mar 12 ~~1:00 Dismissal~~
~~In-service~~
FULL DAY
OF SCHOOL

Mar 21 No School
Spring Break

Mar 24 No School
Spring Break

Mar 26 ~~1:00 Dismissal~~
~~In-service~~
FULL DAY
OF SCHOOL

April

Apr 9 ~~1:00 Dismissal~~
~~In-service~~
FULL DAY OF
SCHOOL

Apr 11 No School
In-Service

Apr 17 Spring
Pictures

Apr 23 1:00 Dismissal
In-Service

Apr 28—May 2
Spring Testing

Calling All 2008-09 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, 2008 for entrance into kindergarten in the fall of 2008.

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, 2008.

Child's Name: _____

Birth Date: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Kindergarten Corner

Kindergarten students will be hoping the Luck O' the Irish will bring us a mild March. We will begin our unit of study on the farm. We will also be hosting Kindergarten Round-Up March 10 and 11 for students who will be 5 by September 15, 2008. Please call the East office for more information (319) 334-7425.

We look forward to sharing your child's progress at Parent/Teacher Conferences on March 3rd from 12:00-8:00 or on March 4th from 3:30-6:00. Thanks for all the support you give to education!

First Graders Respect the Earth

First grade classes are finishing their ocean unit. Students, staff, and visitors have enjoyed the colorful fish, dolphins, whales, and sharks that adorn the first grade hallway. Our study of the oceans has led us to realize how important it is to protect this natural resource. We will further focus on protecting our environment as we prepare to celebrate Earth Day.

Also this spring, a new unit called Symbols of Our Nation, has been added to our social studies curriculum. First graders have been examining landmarks and symbols that identify our great nation.

Second Grade Scene

We finally had our 100th day of school! The 2nd Graders' goal was to collect 100 items for Independence Area Food Pantry. Thanks to the generosity of the families we were able to collect 207 items! There were many other activities for the students including: reading 100 books, writing 100 words, addition with dice, etc.

This month we will be singing spring songs at the care centers. That is a treat for everyone! The students enjoy it as much as the residents.

We'll be having a Read-a-thon to raise money for the new library. It's going to be a wonderful addition to our community!



Second grade collects 207 food items for the Independence Area Food Pantry.

WANTED!

Mileage Club Volunteers Needed!

If you would like to devote 15-30 minutes each week outside at recess to help students reach their goals in the Mileage Club, please call East Elementary to volunteer your time!

Mentors Needed!

If you are interested in being a mentor and volunteering your time to work with a child for approximately 30 minutes each week on a regular basis, please call and let us know!

Wanted: Substitute Associates:

If you are available to substitute occasionally as a classroom, office, or library associate (duties vary), please call 334-7425.

We need YOU!

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.

West Media Center by Renita Wieland, West Media Specialist

The Media Center at West has been a hub of activity this year. Our classes come in once a week to check out books and continue their keyboarding instruction. In keyboarding the students have been working on using the correct fingering as they type and using good keyboarding technique while they type. They are progressing very well through their lessons. We stress to the students that typing is a life skill that they will use through their years at Independence schools, during their college years, and in the workplace.

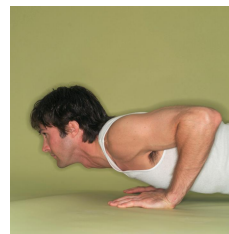


In addition, we have students coming to check out books throughout the school day and to take AR tests over the books they have read. The students at West are dedicated readers, and we are pleased with the number of books that they read. The challenge for us in the Media Center is to keep our collection current so that students will find new and exciting books that they find interesting and keep them coming back.



West Elementary Physical Education by Mr. Donnelly

It's unbelievable to think that the school year is half way over! In P.E. class students have been busy playing scooter soccer, prison ball, and floor hockey most recently. Being indoors due to the cold temperatures, I plan to take advantage of all of our indoor equipment so when it turns nice outside we can get back out to the track or soccer field and finish the school year up with activities outside. We will begin our second round of physical fitness testing in February or March. Students will be tested on the number of pull-ups and sit-ups they can do. They will also be tested on the shuttle run, sit and reach, and mile run. Continue to encourage your child to be active outside of school and to always do their push-ups and sit-ups before they go to bed. Enjoy the winter season and hopefully warmer weather is right around the corner!



2nd Tips and Tools Night held on February 19th

By Mary Cooksley, Curriculum and School Improvement Director

The 2nd Tips and Tools Night for Parents was held at the Middle School on February 19th from 5:30 to 8:00 in spite of the nasty, cold weather and school being cancelled. This second T-n-T Night had been rescheduled from January 17th due to bad weather. If you missed the informational night, please make sure you attend in April! Featured sessions on the 19th included Jim Garnett and SMART Discipline. Participants received a free workbook which accompanied the presentation. Other sessions included "On-line grade book", "How to protect yourself from internet scams", "Understanding the middle school student" and a presentation "Vision of Students Today" which started off the night. Food and childcare was provided on site so parents could relax without worrying about their children. Check out the pictures to see some of the highlights of the night. Door prizes were given and the end of the evening. The following were the winners!

Apple i-Pod to Julie Reeder

2 prizes for Green Fees for two for 9 holes of Golf at Three Elms Golf Course to Kathy Meyer and Shelly Bertelli

One Free Oil Change at Dunlap Motors to Don Roper

Indee License Plate Cover to David Close

Indee License Plate Cover to Dawnye Sturtz

Starlight Cinema Gift Certificate for 2- Kevin Close

\$5 Lucky Buffet Gift Certificate to Christina Jones

The next Tips and Tools Night for Parents will be held on April 17th at the Middle School. Featured speaker will be Bob Kramer with the Cedar Falls Police Department. He will talk about "Internet Safety" a real threat for parents whose children spend ANY time on the internet! Don't miss it!! Another session postponed which will return is "Making Sense of Test Scores" so here you will be able to interpret the scores received by your child from NWEA/MAP test to the ITBS/ITED test scores. Door prizes will be given again and even more interesting and informative sessions will be available so be sure you attend in April! J

Mark your calendars now – we look forward to seeing you at the next T-n-T Night!



Next T-n-T Night

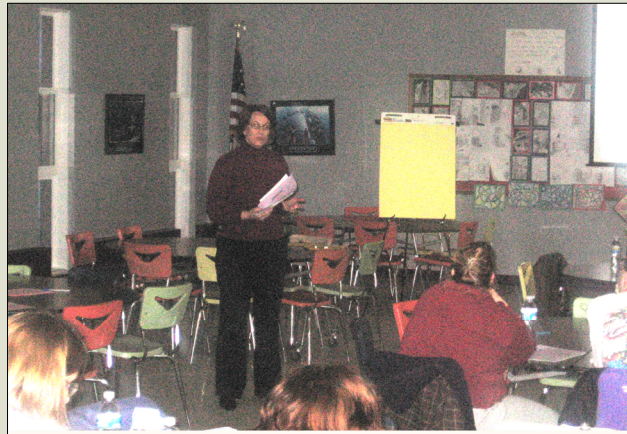
*April 17th
Middle School*



Scenes from the 2nd Tips and Tools Night held on February 19th



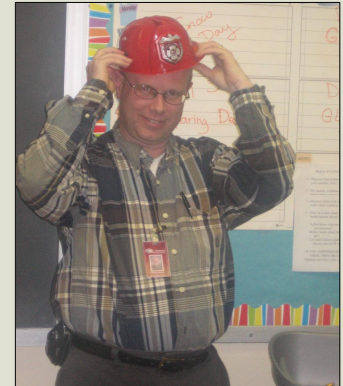
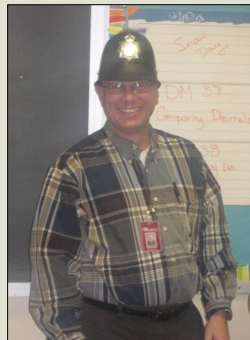
Everyone gathered in the MS Commons to hear ðA Vision of Students Todayö by Mary Cooksley (School Improvement Director) and Dave Ross (MS Principal) and have food provided by Kelly Duritsa (Food Service Director)



Mary Cooksley presents ðA Vision of Students Todayö at Tips and Tools



Jim Garnett hosted a presentation at Tips and Tools on ðSMART Disciplineö ö a big hit with parents who attended the session. Participants of this session received a free workbook to take home so they can put into action what they learned at the session!



A hit with the crowd was Steve Noyes, Technology Director, who had a session on ðHow to protect yourself from Internet Scamsö ö seen pictured to depict ðPiracy on the Internetö, the Internet öpoliceö, and ðFirewallö protection.



Greg Moen, MS Counselor, speaks to parents on ðUnderstanding the Middle School Studentö

Byron Reeder, HS Math teacher, provided a session on the ðOn-Line Grade Bookö to interested parents ö here pictured with HS Principal, Karl Kurt



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

In the last month it seems as if Independence Middle School has weathered a mini ice age, but we have remained determined to persevere in the face of adversity. In the last month we have worked our way through most of the boys basketball schedule. On Thursday, February 14th the season wrapped up with the seventh grade hosting Vinton and the eighth grade visiting.

Also winding down is this year's ITBS testing. With multiple late starts testing was difficult to complete, but due to Mr. Moen's excellent scheduling skills and adaptively, ITBS testing was finished the week of the twelfth. During the testing, Kelly Duritsa and the kitchen staff provided snacks for the students so they could focus on doing well on the tests and not on growling stomachs. The students appreciated the snacks on all the test days with Go-GURT® being the hands-down favorite.



Dave Ross

Thespians at the middle school are excitedly gearing up to perform *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* on March 28th and 29th at 7:30. After school, the commons has been full of flying monkeys and creepy witches. The play is directed by Amanda Bock and the middle school is looking forward to opening night. Additionally, the IMS Band is preparing for a concert slated for March 6th and the chorus has a concert on March 18th. Both are sure to be memorable. Finally, P/T conferences at IMS are scheduled for March 3rd from noon to 8pm and March 4th from 3:30 to 6pm.

In past years IMS has had an Awards Assembly at the end

of every trimester to celebrate students' academic successes and perfect attendance. Due to challenges involved with the new computer-grading program at the beginning of the year, this was not possible at the end of the first trimester. Since that time however, Mr. Noyes, ICSD's Technology Director, has been diligently working to make the Awards Assembly possible for the second trimester. During this Awards Assembly, first trimester and second trimester awards recipients will be recognized. Due to the uncertainty of the weather this year, the date for the Awards Assembly remains in flux at this time. However, as the end of the second trimester nears as well as warmer weather, green grass, sunny days and spring hopefully arrives, the date will be announced. Until that time, try to stay warm, healthy and as always

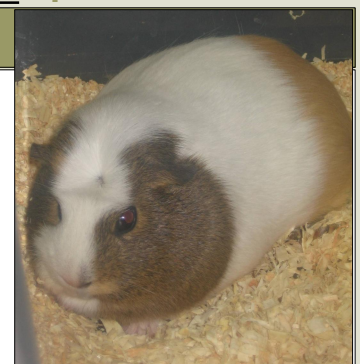
YOGOWYPI!
Dave L. Ross

March Calendar

- 3
No School
K-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences noon - 8 p.m.
- 4
10:30 Late Start K-12
K-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 - 6:00pm
- 6
Grades 5 - 8 Band Concert 7:00 p.m.
- 12
1:00 Dismissal
CANCELLED
Regular Day of School
- 14
6th - 8th NEIBA MS Concert Band Contest
- 18
Grades 5 - 8 Vocal Concert
- 21
No School
- 24
No School; Spring Break
- 26
1:00 Dismissal
CANCELLED
Regular Day of School
- 28
Middle School Performance 7:30 p.m.
- 29
Middle School Performance 7:30 p.m.

6th Grade Special Education By Erin Pearson

In math class things are starting to heat up even though it is cold outside. The students have been on fire this year making huge strides in the 6th grade math material. The students have impressed me with the progress they have made so far. A huge math milestone from first trimester was that the whole math class passed the Grade Level Equivalency test the first time! Another accomplishment has been our Basic Math tests that are administered two to three times each month. These tests require students to complete addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division problems. It is a great way for me to see that they are maintaining their basic math skills. The students are improving their scores greatly from the beginning of the year. Most have at least shown a ten-percent increase in their overall scores. Both accomplishments are amazing and I am so proud of the students. What's new in our room? Our newest friend, Diamond. Diamond will be joining us for the rest of the year. Diamond loves to listen to the students in the classroom and really enjoys reading class. Some of the students have even begun reading aloud to her. It is obvious that she is a great addition to our already spectacular classroom. In case you're wondering, Diamond is a guinea pig.



Diamond

News from the IHS By Karl Kurt, Principal

Registration

Registration forms were due on 2-6-08. We will begin the work of putting all the student registrations into the computer and trying to build a master schedule.

Hawkeye Trip

The current sophomore class toured the Hawkeye campus in Waterloo, IA on February 5th 2008. The trip was a little hectic because of the weather, but our students did an excellent job and represented our school in a very positive manner. The students had the opportunity to tour the Hawkeye campus, hear about their various programs and course offerings, and take the Compass test. We appreciate Hawkeye Community College providing this service at no cost to the district.

Homecoming Committee

We have etched out a time to meet to discuss homecoming activities during the 2008-2009 school year. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5th @

8:30 AM. The committee will have student, teacher, and parent representatives. If you would like to be part of this committee please contact Ms. Buffy Campbell or Mr. Karl Kurt.

ITEDs

The Freshmen, Sophomore, and Junior Classes are scheduled to take ITEDs on 2/26, 2/27, and 2/28. We ask that you take the time to encourage your child to do their best on these tests. We are anxious to see how our students have grown in their core academic areas.

Suessical the Musical

The Independence High School will be presenting our Winter Musical on March 13, 14, and 15th. Please purchase your tickets and support the hard work and efforts of our students.

Thanks,
Karl Kurt
Principal
Independence High School

March Calendar

- 3 – No School
- 9-12 Staff Development
- 4 – 10:20 Late Start
- 7 – Freshmen Class
Ring Meeting 2:45
- 13 – Musical - 7:30 p.m.
- 14 – Musical - 7:30 p.m.
- 15 – Musical - 7:30 p.m.
- 16 – Mini Mustang
Wrestling
- 21 – No School
Good Friday
- 23 – Easter Sunday
- 24 – No School
Spring Break
- 28 – End of Term 3

Nine Mustang Wrestlers Qualified for the State Wrestling Tournament

Congratulations to:

Tyler Endres - 103 lbs

Mike Kremer - 130 lbs

Clint Straw - 140 lbs

Tim Bagley - 152 lbs



Blaize Cabell - 171 lbs

Dan Eschen - 119 lbs

Chris Alber - 135 lbs

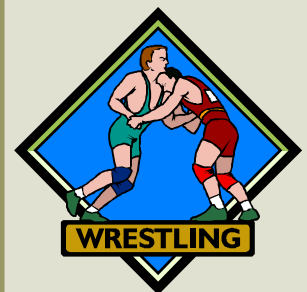
Adam Endres - 145 lbs

Blake Bagby - 160 lbs

*Mike Kremer placed 4th * Chris Alber placed 6th * Tyler Endres placed 7th*

Independence placed 15th out of 96 teams in Class 2A.

Great Job Mustangs!



IHS Speech Team Earns Three 1'S At State Large Group by Dan Putz

Congratulations to the following groups on their excellent performances at the state large group speech contest Saturday, February 2nd at Decorah.

Of the five groups qualifying for State, the following IHS groups received "1" ratings:

Radio News Team "89.7" - (Matt Carter, Nick Erickson, Amy Keierleber, Gina Hoffman, and Ryan Hoffman).

The **Group Improvisation** by Nick Erickson and Caleb Martin.

And the **Musical Theater** ðWickedö (Jordan Geertsema and Mari Butler).

Those groups receiving ð2ö ratings include:

The **Group Mime** ðRevenge of the Babysitterö (Paige Milbach, Amy Keierleber, and Lisa Keierleber).

The **Group Improvisation** of Carol Kieler, Becca Gissel, and Dawn Kieler.

WaMaC Speech Tournament Results by Dan Putz

Congratulations to the speech students on their excellent performances at the WaMaC Speech Tournament, Saturday, February 9 at Center Point. We had 14 entries, and 9 received 1 ratings or placed in the top five.

Those placing in the top five include:

1st place- Dakota Funk in Prose

2nd place-Paige Milbach Public Address

3rd place-Paige Milbach in Reviewing , Matt Carter in Radio News Announcing, and Caleb Martin in Prose

5th place- Katie Zieser in Prose, Amy Keierleber in Storytelling and Matt Carter in Spontaneous Speaking

Those earning 1 ratings: Dakota Funk in Acting

Next for speech team includes District Individuals February 23rd at Maquoketa Valley and State Individuals March 8th at Starmont.

Read Across America!

March 3rd is **Read Across America Day** across the country! This event, sponsored by the National Education Association to honor the birthday of late Dr. Seuss, has been called the world's biggest celebration of reading.

Families can participate in **Read Across America** as well as schools and libraries! The following are tips for parents to encourage their children to read all year round ó not just during **Read Across America Day**.



- Let your kids see YOU read everyday
- Get a subscription in your child's name to an age-appropriate magazine. When relatives ask for gift ideas, suggest magazine subscriptions, books, or a bookstore gift certificate!
- Make reading fun ó a time your child and you can look forward to!
- Keep lots of books, magazines, and newspapers around the house. Visit the library often and shop

for books at garage and yard sales, swap meets, and used bookstores.

- Don't fret if *Captain Underpants* has captivated your child rather than *Robinson Crusoe*. The important thing is they are reading! Encourage it and they are likely to move on to more sophisticated titles as they get older.

Top 10 Titles from the Teacher's Top 100 list of books to read:

1. *Charlotte's Webb* by E.B. White
2. *Where the Wild Things are* by Maurice Sandak
3. *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein
4. *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss
5. *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown
6. *Love you Forever* by Robert N. Munsch
7. *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo
8. *Oh, the Places You'll Go* by Dr. Seuss
9. *The Little House* by Virginia Lee Burton
10. *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg

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:

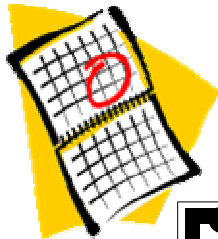
Creating a climate in which individuals of the ICSD will strive to become effective communicators, problem solvers, responsible citizens, and productive people

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>



Mark Your Calendars!

- * March 3rd - No School
- * March 4th - 2 hour late start
- * March 12th - Full Day of School; Early Dismissal Cancelled
- * March 21st & 24th - No School - Spring Break
- * March 26th - Full Day of School; Early Dismissal Cancelled
- * April 9th - Full Day of School; Early Dismissal Cancelled