

**Volume 2 Issue 9**  
**May, 2008**

**District Events:**

**May 1st**

High School Parent-Teacher Conferences  
3:45 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

**May 7th**

CCC Meeting 4:00 p.m.

**May 12th**

Band Night 7:00 p.m.  
High School

**May 14th**

1:00 Early Release

**May 19th**

Choir Night 7:00 p.m.  
High School

**May 25th**

Graduation 2:00 p.m.  
High School Gym

**May 26th**

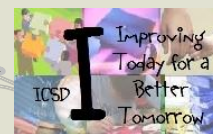
No School  
Memorial Day

**June 3rd**

Last Day of School  
1:00 Dismissal

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***School Board Recognition Week May 11-17, 2008***

As citizen leaders, school board members face complex and demanding challenges. Yet few people fully understand the scope and far-reaching implications of board members' responsibilities. All Iowa citizens should recognize the vital contributions of these men and women and focus attention on the crucial role these elected public officials play in the education of our children. Their job is to establish a vision for the education program, design a structure to achieve that vision, ensure schools are accountable to the community and strongly advocate continuous improvement in student learning. That job entails an endless string of meetings and school functions to attend; reams of reports, agendas, proposals and other information to read and study; and a host of difficult decisions to make.

School board members come from all walks of life. They are farmers, accountants, doctors, lawyers, homemakers, architects, truck drivers, professors, business owners and real estate agents, to name a few. Although they wear many hats in the workday world, school board members put on a collective hat when they get down to the business of leading their school districts. Board members must pull together as a team toward a common goal—helping students achieve. Though they may individually disagree on certain issues, their role as a board is to consistently strive toward that goal.

Board members contribute thousands of hours each year leading their districts. Whether it be crafting policies, hiring top-notch administrators, listening to staff and student concerns or recognizing outstanding programs, board members always keep their eyes on the goal of student achievement.

The time spent in board meetings represents just a small fraction of the hours school board members spend leading in their districts. They also work hard at seminars and training sessions to keep abreast of the latest trends in educational leadership, are deeply involved in community activities and spend many hours in the schools and at extracurricular events. Their love for learning, and concern and caring for students, staff and community, drives board members' desire to lead so students can achieve.

In recognition of the dedicated service of Iowa school board members, May 11-17 has been designated School Board Recognition Week. This is a time to show our appreciation and begin to better understand how school board members work together to provide a better future for our children. Join with others from throughout our district and state to salute the men and women who provide grassroots governance of public schools. Make a special effort to tell each school board member that his or her hard work has been noticed and is truly appreciated.

**School Board  
Recognition Week**

May 11-17, 2008



Your school board is working to help  
all students reach new heights.  
Take the time to say thanks.



Iowa Association of  
School Boards  
5000 Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50312-1417  
1-800-795-4272  
www.iasb.org

## April Fish! Nominees

**Shelly Bertelli** ó Success Center Instructor

**Kim See** ó High School Custodian

**Judy Olsen** ó High School Media  
Specialist

**Devin Embray** ó Superintendent of  
Schools

**Mindy Voss** ó High School and Success  
Center Counselor

**Virginia Staton** ó Central Office Accounts  
Payable Department Head

**Karla Cornwell** ó High School Secretary

**Mike Donnelly** ó Transportation and  
Grounds Director

**Rachel Hurley** ó High School Social  
Studies Instructor

**Angela Webb** ó Success Center Associate

**Casey Reinkoester** ó Juvenile Court  
Liaison Officer ó Elementary/MS

**Heidi Puffett** ó High School Special  
Education Associate

**Rhonda Sheets** ó High School Business  
Instructor

**Stephanie Sheldon** ó Success Center  
Associate

**Jami Tekippe** ó Central Office Secretary ó  
Payroll

**Debbie Curry** ó High School Secretary

**Jayne Beyer** ó High School Special  
Education Instructor

**Mary Cooksley** ó Curriculum/School  
Improvement Director

**Linda Hanna** ó West Food Service

**Lori Flaherty** ó Administrative Assistant  
at Central Office

**Teri Schloss** ó Nurse at West and Middle  
School

**Rhonda Jasper** ó Nurse at East and High  
School

**Kari Schwartz** ó High School Art  
Instructor

**Micki Sand-Cohen** ó 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Instructor

**Brandi Klima** ó 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Instructor

**Sue Knott** - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Instructor

**Kris Reidy** - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Instructor

**Carole Franz** - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Instructor

**Robin Crawford** - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Instructor

**Jason Drucker** ó High School Science  
Instructor

**Jim Heinz** - High School Science  
Instructor

**Gary Waters** - High School Science  
Instructor

**Becky Christiansen** ó High School  
Special Education Associate

**Linda Armstead** - High School Special  
Education Associate

**Buffy Campbell** ó High School Activities  
Director

**Justin Mullnix** ó Substitute Teacher

**John Neil** ó High School Special  
Education Instructor

**Angie Tournier** ó High School Food  
Service

**Carol Fratzke** ó Middle School Food  
Service

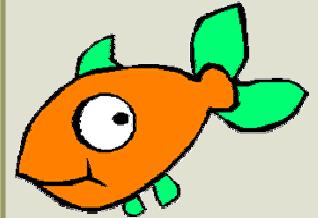
**Elaine Price** ó East Elementary Food  
Service

**Ginny Jensen** ó Middle School Food  
Service

**Betty Hare** ó High School Food Service

**Maureen Morehouse** ó West Elementary  
Food Service

**Connie Maynard** ó Food Service  
Substitute



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

Call Mary at  
334-7400

**Fish**  
**Philosophy**  
**Principles**

**Make**  
**Their Day**

**Choose**  
**Your**  
**Attitude**

**Be There**  
**Play**

## Helping Your Child Succeed

### *You Can Create a Bright Future for Your Child*

By Mary Cooksley, Director, Curriculum and School Improvement

School will be out soon and as the end of the year approaches, students are likely to think "Yeah, no more school!" No more school does not mean there doesn't have to be no more learning. Many families take vacations during the summer or take part in sport camps. But have you taken the time to think about continued learning? When you do take the time, do you think of summer school or can you get more creative? Remember, we are surrounded by learning opportunities every day. We just have to look for them!

Of course, if one of your child's teachers recommends summer learning in a particular subject area, address that first. Summer school or a tutor could be helpful. Don't be afraid to ask for guidance and referrals until you have found the resources your child needs.

Here are some ideas to expand your child's horizons while enjoying the summer break

For instance:

- **Have you ever visited your county extension office and learned about growing a vegetable or flower garden?** A summer garden can provide hours of learning away from the television and computer, as well as some delicious rewards or fresh flowers for the house.
- **Have you taken your child to a retirement home to volunteer?** Many retirement homes welcome children and adolescents into the retirement homes to serve coffee or even calling out bingo or simply visiting and talking about life experiences.
- **On your family vacation, have you thought about places you can visit that will provide excellent learning experiences?** If you are traveling through a state, check to see if a historical figure once lived in any of the towns you are passing through or you could visit the home. Maybe a factory that makes potato chips, or chocolate, or cars. There are even opportunities right in our own backyard that your children may not have seen.

**Do you discuss relevant issues with your child?** Share your views openly at home and allow your child to do the same. With this being an election year, what a perfect time to talk about the election process or some of the issues being discussed by the candidates. Allow your child to form opinions on their own or without you telling them yours.

Learning experiences come in all shapes and sizes and some of the most valuable knowledge is not learned in a classroom. It is important to keep in mind that a goal of parents should always be to create lifelong learners. A child won't be excited about learning if they feel pressured or if learning is surrounded by negativity. This summer, make learning a top priority. As a partner in education, you can help create a bright future for your child!

#### **Quick Tip:**

**Express your own excitement at learning something new, as you will inevitably be learning along with your child.**

## “Operation Snow Pile” Concludes at Central Office

Mary Cooksley

This winter was especially harsh – more snow than anyone wanted (at least those at the Central Office). In order to make all of the snow a little easier to bear, a contest to decide when the snow pile behind West Elementary would finally melt was started.

West Elementary students played on this large snow pile all winter long – it was probably at least 20 feet tall!!!! Of course the students loved playing “king of the mountain” and socializing at the top of that snow pile. While the students enjoyed the snow pile, it was a constant reminder for those who looked out the Central Office window at it day after day that winter was still here.



Participants in the contest chose the date they felt the pile would be totally melted – then kicked in 25 cents each. To the winner went ice cream as well as bragging rights!

Jami Tekippe, payroll secretary at the Central Office, guessed correctly – April 10<sup>th</sup> is when the snow pile officially was gone!!!!!! The picture here shows what the snow pile looked like when it was gone! Also pictured is Jami enjoying her winnings – a hot fudge sundae!

As spring finally approaches and the warm months of summer arrive, I am sure we will remember the long, hard winter.... Until we start complaining about the heat!! Stay tuned, maybe we will have another contest!!



The pile after it was “officially” gone – all that was left was gravel and dirt



Jami Tekippe enjoying her “winnings”

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Tips and Tools a Success!

By Mary Cooksley, Curriculum and School Improvement Director

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Tips and Tools was held at the Middle School Thursday April 17<sup>th</sup>. The keynote speaker was Detective Bob Kremer from the Cedar Falls Police Department. He spoke candidly to parents about his job as a detective looking for predators using the internet to target and find children to abuse. After the keynote speaker, parents had four sessions to choose to attend. The Plug-In-Drug, Healthy Snacking for Your Kids, Introduction to Digital Cameras, and Making Sense of Test Scores were those offered at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Parent University offered by Independence Community School District. The night was funded by grants from Bank Iowa and The Buchanan County Foundation. Their generosity made the three evenings possible. See the pictures below for highlights of the evening.

Detective Bob Kremer talks with two parents who attended the Tips and Tools Night



### **Door prizes were given away at the conclusion of the night.** **The winners and the prizes they received are listed below:**

- 3 month membership to the Falcon Civic Center ó Jodi Behan
  - Ranch Pack courtesy of Pizza Ranch ó Angela Webb
  - \$20 WalMart Gift Card ó Cole Martinson
- 3 month membership to the Falcon Civic Center ó Chris Jones
  - Ranch Pack courtesy of Pizza Ranch ó Shawn Phelps
  - Game Night/Movie Night Package ó Jennifer Joyner
  - Kodak Easy Share Digital Camera ó Debbie Marsh
  - Kodak Easy Share Digital Camera ó Dan Putz
    - i-Pod Nano ó Joe Kremer
    - i-Pod Nano ó Troy Bertelli

Thank you to everyone who attended! And thank you to those who attended more than one event. The school district hopes to provide Tips and Tools nights next year as well. Tips and Tools have been very successful, but without the support of parents, they would not be as successful as they have been. If you have any ideas for sessions, do not hesitate to contact Mary at 334-7400. Thank you for your continued support!

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Tips and Tools a Success! Continued.....

By Mary Cooksley, Curriculum and School Improvement Director

### The following are comments about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tips and Tools Night!

- × Fabulous (Internet Safety)
- × Learned a lot about what TV is doing to my children
- × Good Information
- × Very excited about reading the book ó this is something that interests me (participants of the ðPlug In Drugö received a copy of the book by the same name)
- × Wow! Very scary (internet safety) I am glad to have this info now!
- × Good information in a clear and kind format (Digital Cameras)
- × Great Job
- × Ran out of time!
- × Excellent Programs
- × (Internet Safety) should be required at HS
- × Very enjoyable evening
- × Internet Safety was a good topic



Devin Embray presents *The Plug In Drug* as part of Tips and Tools



Parents listening to a presentation on the effect of television on children



Steve Noyes gives information to parents on Digital Cameras



Kelly Duritsa talks to parents about making healthy choices for kid's snacks



Josh Lyons provides information to parents about test scores



## Audit Team Presents to CCC and Board of Education

By Mary Cooksley, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement

Independence Community Schools is voluntarily conducting an audit of its academic programs and processes. Teresa McCune and Lou Howell of the Department of Education came to our district to go over the results of the audit to the Curriculum Coordinating Council and the Board of Education during its regular meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>. They reported the strengths of our district as well as those items we might consider for further study. The Curriculum Coordinating Council, and the leadership teams in each building, have analyzed and discussed the findings of the audit documents and prioritized the areas we feel need to be focused on next school year. It should be noted that these are not new things to our district we are addressing; rather they are things we are currently doing but we are looking for ways to be more effective. The categories decided as areas of priority are as follows:

- × **Consistent Communication**
- × **Academic Goals and Expectations - including using data to make instructional decisions at the classroom level**
- × **Implementation issues related to the curriculum process**

Though these are the three areas we will focus our energies on, we continue to improve in the other aspects noted in the audit. Monitoring instruction, learning team consistency, and quality professional development are a few of the other items the district wants to make more effective. The next steps in the audit process are to determine the current reality (what IS happening) in these three areas, what is the desired result (what we WANT to happen) and determine steps to reach the goals we have set for ourselves. Action steps will be created and we will monitor the implementation of these steps next year and in the future. Final action steps developed will be provided in the June newsletter.



School Board member KC Robb, West Elementary Principal, Josh Lyons, and CCC members listen as the Department of Education provides information about our district.



Lou Howell and Teresa McCune, from the Department of Education, present to the CCC and the Board of Education April 16<sup>th</sup> the results of the voluntary audit the ICSD is conducting.

## Principal's Corner - Mary Jean Blaisdell

Hopefully the cold/rainy weather is behind us! Whew! It is hard to believe that the school year is nearly at an end. We are looking forward to an active month of May and the excitement of the upcoming summer!

Class lists for the 2008-09 school year will be developed during the summer. It is important that your child has a successful year. Teachers will be giving input on students' needs and abilities. This information is used to try to find a good match with a teacher and to create a good balance in classes with other students. A lot of time and effort will go into this process. If you, as parents, feel you have valuable information about your child that should be known for this process, let me know by May 31st. Requests for individual teachers will not be acknowledged due to the impossibility

to grant all of these requests. Thank you for your patience and support in this process.

May is a fun month to look forward to! East Elementary students will get to meet the real DW (sister to Arthur in the *õArthurö* book series) at a LACES-sponsored assembly on Monday, May 12th. East Elementary students will also participate in Farm Safety Day on Tuesday, May 13th and Health and Fitness Day on Friday, May 30th. This is a non-competitive, fun event filled with many activities outdoors (hopefully!).

Our last school day for students is Friday, June 3rd. Have a great month and enjoy the summer!

Thanks,  
Mary Jean Blaisdell

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### May

**May 13 Farm  
Safety Day**

**May 14 1:00  
Dismissal  
In-service**

**May 26 No School  
Memorial  
Day**

**May 30 Health/  
Fitness Day**

### June

**June 3 Last Day of  
School**

## Kindergarten Corner

May holds a chance to celebrate the great outdoors!

We look forward to an outing to Buffalo Creek Park, east of Winthrop, on May 9th, farm/safety day on May 13th, as well as an activity filled field day on May 30th. The kindergarten class has also been asked to escort the seniors for Baccalaureate on May 21st. We anticipate Tuesday, June 3rd to be the students' last day of school.

Kindergarten students are well on their way to becoming First Graders! They will need opportunities and encouragement this summer to help them maintain the skills they have learned. Practice identifying letters & sounds, writing words, and READ, READ, READ! Don't forget about fundamental math skills, too: count out loud to 100, count objects to 30, name and print numbers to 30.

Thanks for a great year and have a terrific summer!



Mrs. Meyer's class



Mrs. Meyer's students sort shape tiles by color.

## Summer AR Available

Due to the success of the Accelerated Reading Program during the school year, East, West will have their libraries open for a Summer AR/Library Program during June and 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, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 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.

## East Elementary raises \$7,670 for Jump For Heart!

By Crystal Seamans

We find it important at East Elementary School to help students understand the importance of community service and physical activity. During February and March students and families participated in the fundraiser Jump Rope For Heart. It is a nationwide event that helps students learn about the benefits of regular physical activity and heart health while raising funds to support vital research and educational programs.

This year the school raised an incredible \$7,670.58. That is over \$2,500 more than what was collected last year. There were several students that went above and beyond what was expected of them. Zander Smith, a first grader in Mrs. Knott's class, was our #1 fundraiser. He raised a grand total of \$500. Great job Zander!

Other top fundraisers include: Cliff Baldwin (\$311), Richard Tournier (\$225), Ashley Selken (\$153), and Alexia Wilson (\$150).

**Congratulations to everyone!**



## 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.

## Don't Forget to Read & Write! By Title I Teachers

Research shows children lose 1 to 3 months of learning every summer. They forget the skills they worked so hard on during the school year. Then they have to work even harder to catch up in the fall. You can prevent this loss. Keep your kids reading! Here are a few ideas:

ÉSwap books with a friend throughout the summer.

ÉSet a goal of reading a certain number of books, then do it.

ÉTake advantage of the summer reading program at the library.

ÉTell stories.

ÉPut on a play.

ÉMake your own birthday cards, party invitations, and thank-yous.



*The last day  
of school  
is ...*

**June**



## If the Shoe Fits..... By Rhonda Jasper, School Nurse

Now that the warm weather is here the children are wearing their warm weather clothing and footwear. This sometimes brings on a new problem for children. When young children wear open-toed sandals with no socks, sandals with higher heels, strappy sandals, or thong-type flip-flops, they are running the risk of injury to their feet and toes. Many injuries have been seen involving students here at school that would have most likely been prevented had the child not been wearing the type of shoes that described above. These shoes are not sturdy for the type of play that students of this age participate in at recess such as running, jumping, climbing, or crawling. Wood chips get pushed up under toe nails, skin is torn around toes and heels, blisters form, and sprains and fractures occur. Many times these injuries were caused solely or in part by the shoes that the student was wearing.

Please consider not sending your student to school in these types of shoes. They should be wearing sturdy shoes and socks to school. This will prevent blisters, sores, cuts and more serious injuries. Also, please note that on page 7 of the school calendar/handbook it does state that students are not to wear thong-type flip-flops to school.

Thank-you for your understanding of this matter and we hope we have a safe and enjoyable end to our school year.



## BEACH PARTY READ-A-THON

A huge thank you to the families and friends of East Elementary First Grade students! Students spent the afternoon of April 11th sharing stories in their classrooms. Dan Cohen, Director of Fontana Park, was a guest reader in all six classrooms. Students brought beach towels and read on the floor. Snacks were eaten in celebration of raising over \$650 to purchase new books for the first grade book carts. The book carts are an essential tool for encouraging beginning readers. They offer students a chance daily to check out books that are high interest and at an easy reading level. 100% of the money donated will stay at East Elementary to purchase new books!

"We are so grateful for the generosity of the families in our school district."



First grade students can check out books from the book cart daily to practice their reading skills.



Fontana's Dan Cohen talks to students in Ms. Klima's class



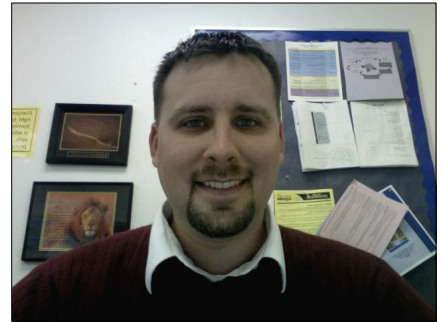
**"We are so grateful for the generosity of the families in our school district."**

Mrs. Franz' class practice being recycling workers - sorting and supervising.

## the bottom line

By Josh Lyons, Principal

If you have not heard by now, I have resigned my position as the West Elementary Principal for the 2008-2009 school year. This decision was based on the needs of my family and the desire to stay close to home. For the last two years I have been privileged to be a part of the Independence Community School District and a part of your children's lives. My experience as a principal in your community has been extremely rewarding and given me the opportunity to grow as a professional and a person. You truly care about your children's education by being supportive of teachers' efforts to help every child learn and be successful. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your children's lives. I wish all of you well and a prosperous future. I will be around until June 30<sup>th</sup> to continue planning for the transition into the 08-09 school year.



**Josh Lyons, Principal**

## NWEA Testing

During the month of April and into May, students will be taking the NWEA assessment. This assessment will be given to students through the use of computers. We will provide parents with this data at the end of the year along with ITBS data. The NWEA data will be used to identify areas of learning that students are ready to learn. This also provides evidence as to how much the student has grown as well as how they compare to their peers academically. This information will go home in May, prior to the year ending.

## 3rd Grade News

The third graders have been working to complete theme six in the reading textbook, plus they have been reading chapter books and discussing them during reading. Maybe they could tell you about Herbie Jones and Lucas Cott. We hope that you have noticed how much your child has grown in his/her reading ability this year. It is important that your children continue reading during the summer so that they maintain or further their reading skills.

The students have been learning about fractions, decimals, measurement, and multiplication in math. They work on various problems during Accelerated Math.

In science, the third graders have learned about the digestive system. They have learned about sound and did several experiments with vibrations.

Our field trips this trimester were going to see the play, "Henry and Ramona" in Waterloo. We visited Crumbacher Nature Preserve near Independence.

At school, we have worked hard on writing and spelling, learned cursive writing, and added to our knowledge from our special classes. We have had good experiences, but---we are looking forward to some summer fun, relaxation, and fourth grade!

## 4th Grade News

It looks like Spring is finally here! With warm weather students may tend to let responsibilities slide. Please make sure homework is still a priority. The students that have met their goal of reading and passing the AR test on 10 children's choice books will be celebrating with an ice cream party at the end of May. The fourth grade had a wonderful opportunity to go to the performance *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere* at Gallagher Bludorn. We were proud of the students for being so well behaved. We will be wrapping up social studies with the western region and science with weather.

Sincerely, Fourth Grade Teachers

## TeRRiFiCC Times By Mrs. Rouse

*Character Counts News from West Elementary May 2008*

### Trustworthiness Pillar

#### Kids of Character



Haley Hansen, Nick Hunter, Levi King, Isaiah Miller, Drew Davis, Hannah Petersen, Nick Steger, Paige Stoner, Uriah Close, Lauren Jimmerson, Nathan King, Megann Kinseth and Taylor Wulfekuhle

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

**Haley Hansen** – Haley is a third grade student in Ms. Bolger's class. She was nominated for the Trustworthiness pillar because she can be trusted to do her best and be kind to people. "Haley is a good friend who can be counted upon," stated Ms. Bolger.

**Nick Hunter** – Nick has been selected to represent Mrs. Black's third grade class for the Trustworthiness pillar. Mrs. Black stated, "Nick is very trustworthy. He faithfully has his work done and his agenda is generally signed. I know that if I give Nick a responsibility, he will follow through and get it done."

**Levi King** – Levi was nominated by his third grade teacher, Mrs. Spinler. "Levi King is a very sincere person. He keeps his promises and is a student who is very reliable. He is a good friend to all and loyal person also," stated Mrs. Spinler with appreciation.

**Isaiah Miller** – Isaiah was selected as Kid of Character by his third grade teacher, Mrs. Wendling. He represents the Trustworthiness pillar because his teacher can always depend on him to do the right thing. "He is always reliable at getting his work done on time, and remembering where he is supposed to be and when. He is well liked by his classmates because they know they can depend on him also," praised Mrs. Wendling.

**Drew Davis** – Drew is a fourth grade student in Mrs. Mueller's class. He was selected for the Trustworthiness pillar because he is kind to all his peers. "Drew follows through on a task with a positive attitude. I can ask him to do something and I know it will get done. Drew is honest and dependable," commented Mrs. Mueller.

**Hannah Petersen** – Hannah is representing Mrs. Matthiesen's fourth grade class for the Trustworthiness pillar. Hannah knows what is right and always wants to do the right thing. Mrs. Matthiesen stated, "I trust Hannah to do her work and always have it in on time. I can count on her to do errands or jobs for me. She often gets her work done ahead of schedule and can help others. She is very trustworthy, sincere, thoughtful and always kind to others."



### The Six Pillars of Character

Trustworthiness

e

Respect

Responsibility

i

Fairness

i

Caring

Citizenship

## TeRRiFiCC Times By Mrs. Rouse continued

### Kids of Character cont....

**Nick Steger** – Nick is a fourth grade student in Mrs. Hearn's class. Nick was selected for the Trustworthiness pillar because he is a true leader and encourages his classmates to do the right thing. "I can count on Nick to make good choices and to be a reliable student," praised Mrs. Hearn.

**Paige Stoner** – Paige was chosen as Mrs. Grover's fourth grade class Kid of Character for the Trustworthiness pillar. "Watching Paige interact with others it is easy to see that she can be depended on to stand up for herself and others. Paige sets goals for herself and works hard to meet those promises she has made. I find Paige to be very honest, telling the truth, even if sometimes the truth is unpleasant," commented Mrs. Grover.

**Uriah Close** – Uriah is a fifth grade student in Mrs. Smith's class. Uriah was nominated for the Trustworthiness pillar because he is a responsible, trustworthy student. Mrs. Unwin appreciates Uriah because "he follows school rules and treats his classmates with respect."

**Lauren Jimmerson** – Lauren is a fifth grade student in Mr. Buresh's class. Lauren was chosen as a Kid of Character for the trait of Trustworthiness because she is dependable. "Lauren keeps her promises and has the courage to do what is right. She is a good friend to her classmates and has a reputation for being trustworthy," praised Mr. Buresh.

**Nathan King** – Nathan has been selected to represent Miss Offerman's fifth grade class. Nathan is a very trusting and respectful person. "He has shown tremendous leadership throughout the school year and has proven himself to be a wonderful student and classmate in and outside of the classroom," commented Miss Offerman.

**Megann Kinseth** – Megann was nominated as a Kid of Character by her fifth grade teacher Mrs. Smith. Megann is an excellent representative of the Trustworthy pillar because whenever a classmate needs help, when Mrs. Smith is helping someone else, Megann will give her time and talents to help. "Megann kindly volunteers to help out when others are absent. She is kind and considerate," stated Mrs. Smith.

**Taylor Wulfekuhle** - Taylor has been selected to represent the Trustworthiness pillar for Mrs. Kinseth's fifth grade class. He is very helpful to others and is someone that others can trust to do the right thing. He tells the truth and keeps his word. "Taylor is one that I can always count on to get the job done. He is a great role model for others in 5th grade. He is a great friend who cares about everyone in class. He has a great sense of humor and always has a smile on his face," commented Mrs. Kinseth.



# 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 a pencil and their choice of a McDonald's free ice cream cone, a Trustworthiness backpack pull, or Trustworthiness wristband. Students were entered into the raffle if they were recognized by classmates for TRUSTWORTHY behaviors.

The following students received raffle prizes:

**Brynn Martin**  
**Grace Bertelli**  
**Matthew Bolton**  
**Sonia Carmona**  
**Cassidy Martinson**  
**Brady Melka**  
**Ross Thedens**  
**Starr Johnson**  
**Adam Goedken**  
**Chloe Henningson**  
**Cindy Huang**  
**Tristan Dilley**  
**Nathan King**  
**Ally Flaucher**  
**Megann Kinseth**  
**Skyler Lehman**  
**Andrew Frank**  
**Madison Davis**  
**Alyssa Jensen**



### Classroom of Character

Classroom of Character awards were given at the Character Counts assembly on Tuesday, March 25th. The winning classrooms received the Classroom of Character sign, a free recess, the game 20 Questions, and a movie and popcorn celebration. The winners are.....

*3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Mrs. Black's Class*

*4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Mrs. Grover's Class*

*5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Mrs. Smith's Class*

### What pillar is next?

The next pillar of character West Elementary will be striving to meet is FAIRNESS. Let's dare to be FAIR Who have you seen demonstrating justice and openness? Be sure to write a TeRRiFiCC News to show your appreciation for that student.

#### F Justice

**DO:** Be fair and just – Treat people equally – Make decisions without favoritism or prejudice – In imposing punishment be sure the consequence for wrongdoing are consistent, certain, and proportional (not too harsh or lenient)

**DON'T:** Take more than your fair share – Take advantage of or blame others unfairly

#### E Openness

**DO:** Be open-minded and impartial – Consider what people have to say before you decide – Be careful when making decisions – Make sure you have all the facts, including opposing viewpoints, when making decisions (especially blaming or accusing another)



**THE SIX  
PILLARS OF  
CHARACTER**



## MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT CARD

pick up

**June 12 & 13**

**@ Middle School Office**

**for**

**6th-8th Grade only**

**7am-3pm**

### May News

#### Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Iowa

Last month we had meetings with all the students in the School Based Plus and Community Based programs. It was great to meet all of them! We are now looking ahead to the end of the school year ó we will be surveying all the teachers and the students involved with the mentoring program. From this survey we compile an end-of-the- year report that is shared with contributors and potential contributors. Since this program is solely supported through donations, this information is critical. We appreciate your cooperation in this process.

During Administrative Professionals Week, April 20-26 we would like to say many, many thanks to each of the secretaries in the district for their dedication and assistance given to our program. We also say a big thank you to all our volunteers during Volunteer Appreciation Week April 27- May 4! We couldn't do this without you!

We are still interviewing mentors with hopes to bring some on board before the school year ends, and with the plan they will return in the fall. Call today to *Make a difference in the Life of a Child.*

Val Maximovich, Mentor Coordinator, 334-3353

### May

2

GT & BT WaMaC @  
Center Point 4:30 p.m.

3

7th & 8th Grade Band  
@ Adventureland

6

BT Marion @ 4:00p.m.

12

Band Night Concert @  
High School 7:00 p.m.

14

1:00 Dismissal  
Staff Development

19

2008-09 Athletic  
Physical Night  
@ Middle School  
6:00-7:30 p.m.

26

Memorial Day  
No School

### June

3

Last student day  
1:00 Dismissal

4

Teacher Work Day



**Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of Northeast Iowa**

## Nearly \$4,000.00 in McElroy Grants Awarded!

Three of the six grant requests were funded through the McElroy Grant. The purpose of the grant is to provide funding for classroom teachers to develop innovative, educational experiences to increase student achievement. They must be a part of the curriculum and exemplify excellence in education.

The programs and teachers receiving the grants were:

East & West Elementary ô

Nancy White, Carol Morkel, Katie Huebner, Candace Higgins, Lori Bowers: \$1,500 for using technology to enhance reading comprehension

Middle School ô

Music / Timothy Purdum: \$1,500 for percussion program

High School ô

Business Education / Todd Stabenow: \$984 for ethics, customer service, management and advertising board games

### HS May Calendar

- 1 – PT Conferences 3:45-7:30  
BSC at West Delaware  
GSC (H) West Delaware  
GTN—Maquoketa
- 3 – BG at S. Tama Invite
- 4 – Nat'l Honor Soc. Induct
- 5 – BTN at Columbus  
BTR WaMaC at Beckman  
GTR WaMaC at Benton
- 6 – BG WaMaC Super  
at Marion  
GTN at Western Dub  
GG WaMaC Super at  
Columbus  
BTN (H) Western Dubuque  
BSC (H) Maquoketa  
GSC at Maquoketa
- 8 – GG at Benton/Vinton  
GSC (H) Decorah  
BTN Districts at Waverly  
GTN at Oelwein
- 9 – BSC (H) Waverly  
GTN at Hudson  
BTR, Regionals at Decorah
- 10 – BG Sectionals at W Del  
BTN Prel. Sub State at W'loo  
GTN Regional Team at W'loo
- 12 – GG Regionals (H)  
Three Elms
- 13 – BSC (H) Anamosa  
GSC at Anamosa
- 14 – 1:00 Dismissal
- 15 – BSC (H) Substate  
GTN Regional Indiv at W'loo  
BTR, State
- 16 – BTR, State
- 17 – BG Districts at  
Webster City  
BTN Sub State at W'loo
- 19 – GSC at LaPorte City
- 20 – GSC at Benton Comm.  
Seniors Last Day
- 23 – BG, State at Ames  
BTN, State Individuals
- 24 – BG, State at Ames
- 25 – Graduation
- 26 – Memorial Day
- 27 – GSC, Regionals  
BTN State Team at Waterloo
- 28 & 29 – GSC Regionals

**It's Summer . . .  
Explore, Learn, Grow!**



öLearning Beyond the Classroomö

Discover Online Fun

[http://www.readwritethink.org/  
beyondtheclassroom/summer/](http://www.readwritethink.org/beyondtheclassroom/summer/)

Students of all ages will benefit from this  
web resource

**Check it Out!!!**





**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>

**Architects to Share High School Assessment**

The architect firms of Kane and Johnson and HSR and Associates invite you to attend an information session. At these sessions, they will present the recent assessment of the high school and share what they see as our community's options in addressing the high school. There are informational meetings set up with groups as well as general sessions. Please feel free to attend any meeting. The firms are seeking input from the public at these sessions. Input gathered at these sessions will be given to the Board of Education to help them determine what possible action may be taken in the future. Meeting dates and times are listed at right.

**Tuesday, May 6:**

12:00-1:00 p.m.: Rotary Club  
2:00-3:00 p.m.: Buchanan County Health Center  
3:30-5:00 p.m.: Falcon Civic Center  
7:00-8:30 p.m.: Brandon Community Center

**Monday, May 12:**

12:00-1:00 p.m.: Chamber of Commerce Board  
of Directors and Ambassadors  
3:00-4:30 p.m.: Falcon Civic Center  
5:30-7:00 p.m.: High School; Room 10  
Use SW entrance

**Thursday, May 15**

4:00-5:30 p.m.: Falcon Civic Center  
7:00-8:30 p.m.: Rowley Fire Station