

Volume 2 Issue 3
November, 2007

District Events:

November 7th

CCC Meeting

November 14th

1:00 Early Release

November 19th

1:00 Early Release

K-12 Parent Teacher

Conferences: 1:30-8:00

November 20th

1:00 Early Release

K-8 Parent Teacher

Conferences: 1:30-8:00

November 21st -23rd

No School

Thanksgiving Vacation

November 28th

1:00 Early Release

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School Alerts; Sign Up Now!

By Devin Embray, Superintendent

The Independence Community School District has signed up to take part in a new notification system offered by the State of Iowa called "Iowa School Alerts." You may have already heard about this program from Senator Rasmussen's article in the *Bulletin Journal* a couple of weeks ago. We feel that this program is a wonderful addition to how we communicate out our releases from school. The fact that parents can have personal accounts set up is a great thing as well.

This program gives parents, the media and others the opportunity to sign up to receive e-mail notifications directly when we have cancelled classes, or will be dismissing early or starting late due to weather or other factors. This service, which was developed by IT staff at the Department of Administrative Services, is **free of charge** to you and the school.

The State funded the development of this program through the IOWAccess initiative, which seeks to bring more e-government services to the people of Iowa. And because the system is funded and operated by the state, you can be assured

that your e-mail addresses will not be sold to anyone and you will not receive advertisements or spam due to enrolling in the program.

Here's how you can take advantage of this free service & sign up for e-mail alerts:

1. Click on "Sign Up!" in the Main Menu at <https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov>. This will take you to the "Enterprise A&A" screen for the State of Iowa. If you already have an account with the State (say, for another online application), there's no need to create another one.

2. Follow the on-screen instructions to enter your name and e-mail address, and create secret questions and your password. This step involves obtaining a code from an e-mail sent to you to confirm your registration.

Once you have created and confirmed your account registration, you will be taken back to the School Alerts site where you can click on "My Subscriptions" to add the school districts/buildings you would like to receive notices for.

Once you've selected a school,



you are asked to enter the e-mail addresses or cell phone addresses where you would like notifications sent. You can add as many e-mail addresses as you'd like! (Please note that some wireless services providers may charge you for receiving e-mails or text messages. You are responsible for those charges.)

We will still make sure that local media outlets are notified when there's a change in our classes so notices will still be made on the television and radio, but we hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to be directly notified as well!

If you have any questions about signing up for Iowa School Alerts, please contact the school's administration office or e-mail schoolalertsinfo@iowa.gov.



When to Keep Them Home by Teri Schloss and Rhonda Jasper, School Nurses

Again this year, Independence Schools are working with the Iowa Department of Public Health to track influenza. If you call your child's school to report them ill, you may be asked to give some symptoms that they are currently experiencing. Your school nurse reports weekly to the Iowa Department of Public Health the number of students out of school due to illness. No identifying information is given. Influenza symptoms include: fever, exhaustion, headache, non-productive cough, and severe body aches. These symptoms usually come on quickly. Other reasons to keep your child home from school include:

Fever – If your child's temperature is 100.0 degrees or higher, keep them home. They need to be fever free for 24 hours (without fever reducing medicine) before returning to school.

Stomachache, Vomiting or Diarrhea – Consult your doctor if your child has a stomachache which continues or is severe enough to limit his/her activity.

If vomiting occurs, keep your child home until he/she can keep his food down for twenty-four hours. A child with diarrhea should be kept at home until the diarrhea subsides. Keep your child home until 24 hours after the last episode. Call your doctor if improvement doesn't occur.

Sore throat – A minor sore throat without fever is not a problem at school. A severe sore throat, even without fever could be contagious. Strep throat can also cause stomachache and headache. If your child is put on antibiotics for a throat infection, they may return to school 24 hours after treatment begins.

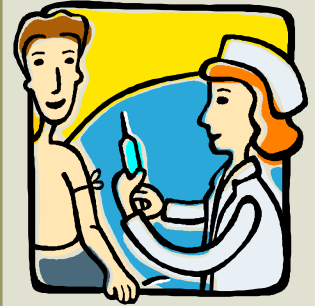
Mild cough or runny nose – If there is no fever, the child may remain at school. Children with bad coughs should stay home and perhaps see a medical professional.

Rash – Many diseases can cause a rash. Children with rashes from an unknown cause should remain at home and may need to be seen by a doctor to rule out an infectious origin.

Head lice – If your child is sent home with head lice, they must be treated and checked by the school health staff when they return to school.

Pain – If tooth pain occurs, contact your child's dentist. An earache is cause to take your child to the doctor. Headaches (unless severe) are generally not cause to keep your child home unless other symptoms are present.

Some ways to keep yourself and your children healthy include getting vaccinated for influenza, washing hands often and thoroughly, cleaning surfaces in your home (doorknobs, computer keyboards, telephones) frequently, coughing or sneezing into your sleeve, eating nutritious meals, getting enough rest and avoiding closet contact with others who are ill. As always, consult your healthcare provider if you are ill.



Let's try to do our best to stay healthy this cold and flu season!

Quick Tip:

Encourage Good Sportsmanship when your child participates in competitive activity.



Helping Your Child Succeed

What You Need to Teach Your Child About Competition

- Discourage your child from comparing himself or herself to others. You should avoid comparing your child to others as well, including his or her siblings and yourself. Your child has strengths and weaknesses that most likely will not match your school performance or that of anyone else. Making comparisons can only lead to hurt feelings and resentment in the long run.
- Encourage your child to compete with his or her last performance and commit to personal improvement. Approaching competition this way can accelerate your

child's learning and stimulate high levels of achievement.



- Remind your child that learning is about really understanding and thinking about something, not being the first one finished or the one with the highest grade.
- Competition often encourages students to focus on the recall or trivial information. Encourage your child to spend enough time thinking about a lesson to actually

understand what is being taught.

- Help your child become internally motivated. Competition with other students is an external motivator. The goal is to achieve the privileges that come from ~~winning~~. Your child should be focused on the benefits that come from mastering concepts and developing skills for the future.
- Teach your child that collaboration and cooperation are better than competition in the classroom. Collaboration and cooperation allow students to support each other.

October Fish! Nominees

Julie Rouse – East Elementary and West Elementary Guidance Counselor

Lois Johnson – Medical Assistant – East Elementary

Rhonda Jasper – East Elementary Nurse

Donalyn Pogue – Kindergarten Teacher

The Entire East Elementary Staff

Penni Gaul – Pre-school Teacher

Nancy Black – 3rd Grade Teacher

Steve Noves – Technology Director

Angie Tournier – Head Cook – High School

Gloria Pullin – High School kitchen

Carol Fratzke – High School kitchen

Elaine Price – High School kitchen

Ginny Jensen – High School kitchen

Karyl Hand – Middle School kitchen

Mary Jean Blaisdell – East Elementary Principal

Tracy Steger – High School Language Arts Teacher

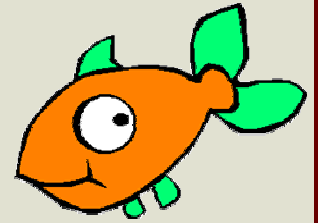
Trish O'Loughlin – High School Industrial Technology Teacher

Teresa Nennig – High School Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher

Jamie Beyer – High School Special Education Teacher

Virginia Staton – Central Office Secretary

Karl Kurt – High School Principal



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

Call Mary at 334-7400

What's happening around the district?

By Mary Cooksley – Director, Curriculum and School Improvement

I was talking to someone the other day and we remarked how fast the school year is going ó it is almost a quarter completed! Time flies when we are working so hard. What are teachers working hard on so far this school year? Well, I am glad you asked that question! I will tell you some of the things we are working on from a district perspective.

First, the Middle School has created a task force to investigate the 6th grade achievement decline phenomenon. Across the state the trend is for achievement to decrease once students arrive in 6th grade. Not all schools see this decline, but Independence has been experiencing it along with many other districts. Since we do not want to accept this for our students, a group of dedicated individuals from the Middle School staff are investigating what might be occurring. Data is being collected from other schools the same size as our school. Interview questions are being devised to ask schools regarding how their schools are organized ó for instance, what grades are in which buildings - , what programs are in place in their schools to assist students with the transition from elementary to middle school, among many other questions which will provide us with some insight into our own school and programming. I will keep you informed on our progress.

Of course curriculum work continues. K-5 teachers, Industrial Technology teachers, Spanish teachers, Business teachers, and Social Studies teachers had the opportunity on October 10th to attend a Vendor Day where they had the opportunity to see up-close products and resources in their subject area. 14 vendors were on hand to answer questions, provide information, and send free samples to teachers. Now the work of deciding which products might best meet the needs of our students in the classroom. These teachers will analyze these resources during the rest of the school year.

Art and Fine Arts (Music and Band) are beginning to look at what they are currently teaching and will identify what student need to know and should be able to do during this school year. This summer they will have the opportunity to write Grade Level Expectations for their courses. This is the final curricular area to write their curriculum. They are anxious to complete this work!

Learning Teams continue to collaborate and work toward district and building goals. Reading Comprehension is an area we are concentrating heavily on again this year. All teachers are implementing a strategy in their classroom to assist in higher achievement and increased learning. Learning Teams meet during some of the early release days scheduled this year.

If you ever have any questions or concerns regarding the work we are doing, please feel free to e-mail or call Mary at 334-7400. I would be more than happy to talk with you about the work we are doing across the district. Thanks for your continued support!

Fish Philosophy Principles

**Make
Their Day**

**Choose
Your
Attitude**

**Be There
Play**

Principal's Corner - Mary Jean Blaisdell

The school year is progressing well and we're fast approaching the holiday season. The students are developing skills and becoming accustomed to routines in their daily lives at school. We are looking forward to sharing their successes at school with parents at conference time this month.

In-service time in October was spent learning about explicit instruction – a teaching strategy to help students apply reading skills.

We also spent time looking at materials that might help us deliver our new curriculum. This is important time for faculty and we thank you for your continued support in our efforts to improve the educational experience of your children.

The **Fontana Adopt-An-Animal** fundraiser was a great success. Students raised over \$300 to help feed Tana the bear and other animals at Fontana. This is a source of great pride for us as we support this great

learning facility that brings us so many educational experiences.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Monday-Tuesday, November 19 & 20, 1:30-8:00pm. Conference time is crucial to the educational development of your child. It is a chance to learn more about your child's academic progress and to share information with the teacher who can help him/her to best meet your child's needs.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov 14
12:50 Dismissal – In-service

Nov 19
12:50 Dismissal – Parent Teacher Conferences (1:30-8:00)

Nov 20
12:50 Dismissal – Parent Teacher Conferences (1:30-8:00)

Nov 21-23
No School

Nov 26
Classes Resume

Nov 28
12:50 Dismissal – In-service

Dec 12
1:00 Dismissal – In-service

Dec 24-Jan 2
Winter Break

Jan 3
Classes Resumes

Kindergarten Give Thanks

November will include a study of Thanksgiving and things we are thankful for as kindergartners. A highlight of our unit will be a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving Feast. We will also be holding Parent/Teacher conferences November 19 & 20. We look forward to sharing your child's progress with you! Kindergartners continue to develop their alphabet and number skills, as well as the practice of line basics and body basics.



Mileage Club Continues!

The **Mileage Club** continues to go very well! Students at East Elementary are really "getting into" getting fit. When students reach the 5-mile mark or more, they earn a Toe Token. Walking is such an easy thing to do for exercise and the students are excited about the healthy habits they are forming.

What can parents do to help children reach and maintain their best weight and live a healthy lifestyle? Parents can demonstrate a healthy lifestyle. Children learn by example.

- Parents need to offer the child a variety of nutritious foods at regular intervals. Planned meals and snacks give the child regular sources of energy, help the child develop sensible eating patterns and encourage the child to learn correct food behavior in social situations.
- Parents can help the child learn to identify and pay attention to feelings of hunger and fullness.
- Buy fewer high-calorie, low-nutrient foods. Buy healthy choices for snacks.
- Parents should not put children on a weight reduction diet which can become a form of punishment.
- Make exercise a part of the family routine! A family that exercises together, stays fit together!



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!
334-7425

First Grade Focus

Thank you to the wonderful, supportive parents of East Elementary students! All Kindergarten, First and Second Grade classes were able to attend a puppetry performance of Leo Lioni classics at the Gallagher Bluedorne Performing Arts Center on October 30th. This was a great opportunity for students to experience live theatre, designed especially for young children.

Back at school...we are all hard at work with weekly spelling words, nightly book reading and writing words and sentences. Daily practice for students along with parental interaction and support really helps children bloom in first grade.

November holds important days for our nation and our school. We fall back for day light savings on November 4th.

Election Day is held on November 6th. Veteran's Day will be observed November 12th. We look forward to meeting with each student's family for Parent/Teacher Conferences on November 19th & 20th. Then we all will have time to spend with our families with no school November 21st, Thanksgiving Day on November 22nd and no school on November 23rd!



**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!!**



Mrs. Klima's students practice their spelling words.



Mrs. Cohen's students choose books to read.



Scholastic Book Fair is Coming!

East Elementary will host a **Scholastic Book Fair** from **November 13th - November 16th** from **8:00-3:00** and on **November 19th-November 20th** from **8:00-8:00**. Families, teachers, and the community are invited to purchase books during these fair dates.

Book Fair proceeds will benefit each school's media center. Those attending also can help teachers build classroom libraries by purchasing books for classrooms through the **Classroom Wish List** program. We hope to see you there!



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!

Second Grade Scene

Second graders had a busy month in October! In our new Social Studies curriculum we are learning about the community of Independence, the history of our town, and map skills. Our first field trip was to The Mill where we learned about the history and importance of the Mill. We also took the opportunity to learn about the Wapsipinicon River. Sondra Cabell discussed the reasons a town was started here by the river and Katie from Cedar Rock told the Legend of Wapsi and Pinicon. Ask your child what they learned!

This spring we will be going to The Train Depot and the one-room schoolhouse.

We have also been working on social skills such as using manners, respect, and following rules at school. They have shown a lot of improvement since the beginning of the school year!



Second grade field trip to the Mill and Wapsipinicon River

Box tops for Education/ Pop Can Tabs/ Milk Moola for Schools

We continue to collect General Mills Box Tops, Pop Can Tabs, and 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!



the bottom line By Josh Lyons, Principal

Failure. What does it mean to fail? Is failure based on a percentage or a score? Or, is it based on a set of values or beliefs? For me failure means falling short of a goal and not taking time to try again and again.

Each day children fill our classrooms bringing with them their hopes and anxieties for what the day might bring. Teachers also shoulder the same hopes and anxieties when it comes to helping their students become successful. They do as much as they can or know how in order to push students to success. They hold them in from recess to correct work or re-teach concepts. Teachers keep students after school to complete work. They search for new ideas and resources to assist with lessons and to

meet the needs of struggling students. However, after all of the extra time, additional resources, and effort by both teachers and students, there is still the possibility of failure. It is not that there is a lack of effort in trying; it is simply that we fall short of the goal we set out to accomplish.

So, then the question is, "Now what?" There is not a simple answer to this question and there should not be one. When we look at our students and you look at them as your children, we have to realize that they are not robots and there is not a way to simply type in a code or password to program them to be successful or at least not to fail. It takes hard work, passion, persistence, and most of all courage to keep

moving forward.

The point is this, failure means something different to everyone, whether it be losing in a game, not getting the job you wanted, not meeting the Grade Level Expectation, or breaking a promise to a friend, we all measure failure differently. Our students, your children, are judged upon many variables to determine success or failure. Out of all these variables, there are only some of which we can control, and one of those variables is time and effort. Take time to celebrate the successes of your children, but also take time to talk about failures and the importance of overcoming challenges.



Spring Forward, Fall Back

Don't forget to change your clocks on Sunday, Nov. 4th at 2:00 a.m. or before you go to bed on Saturday

Change Your Clock & Change A Bulb!

The National Fire Protection Association and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommend that consumers change the battery in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors when we change the clocks for Daylight Saving Time.

While you've got the ladder out to check your smoke detectors, why not **change a bulb**?

Switching to energy efficient bulbs in your ceiling fixtures could save you \$30 a year **per bulb** on your electricity bill.

Energy efficient lighting is particularly important in the fall when Daylight Saving Time ends and the days are shorter.

The latest generation of energy-saving lighting includes compact fluorescent bulbs that fit in standard light sockets and provide pleasant, uniform light.

Low-energy halogen or LED lighting is also becoming widely available.

Visit www.energystar.gov or www.fypower.org for information on lighting rebates and discounts.



It is a good time to change the battery in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors when you change the clocks for daylight saving time. Change the light bulbs too!

Third Grade News

It has been a wonderful start to the new year and the third graders are adapting well to their new school. They are discovering new things each day and finding that the pace is a little faster here.

Our study of math this year has begun with learning about place value. We are reading and writing numbers to the hundred thousands. After place value we will be focusing on our addition and subtraction facts. Our goal is to do 100 facts in 5 minutes with 95% accuracy. Please help your son or daughter by practicing for just a few minutes each evening on their basic facts.

The first unit in science is on Rocks and Minerals. There are six areas of study (components) that will be mastered which include the study of the earth's layers, the difference between rocks and minerals, the three types of rocks and their properties, weathering, and landform changes. Sondra Cabell from Fontana will do some fun activities with all of the third grade classes. After we finish this unit, we will be doing a social studies unit on communities, their history and geography.

The fourth week of October we will visit Heartland Acres Agribition Center here in Independence. We also have begun the Pizza Hut Book-it Program. Be sure to record the number of minutes your child has read each night. This is a good time to read AR books from school.

As the weather gets cooler, please have your child wear a jacket or a sweatshirt in the mornings. Thank you. Mrs. Wendling, Mrs. Black, Miss Bolger and Mrs. Spinler

3rd Graders Visit Heartland Acres Agribition Center



Becca Lang



Eddie Wegmuller, Ethan Burk & John Makepeace



Mackenzie Solomon & Becca Lang



Keegan Crawford



Noah Studebaker standing in front of a Studebaker.



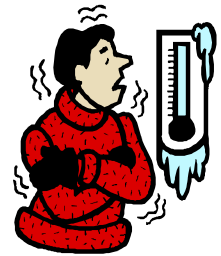
Students from Miss Bolger's Class



Zach Miller



"As the weather gets cooler, please have your child wear a jacket or a sweatshirt in the mornings."



The Pizza Hut Book-it Program has started. Encourage your child to read!

Fourth Grade News

Fourth graders recently enjoyed a field trip to Fontana Park to further their studies of vertebrates. They enjoyed a presentation on the characteristics of amphibians, birds and reptiles by Buchanan county naturalist, Sondra Cabell and her intern. Exploration in the Interpretive Center proved interesting, and

students had fun looking at the animal exhibit.

Mastery of basic multiplication facts continues to be a goal for students. Daily practice at home will help students be successful in achieving this goal.

Thank you to all who are encouraging their

students to read twenty minutes at home. We look forward to sharing your student's progress at the upcoming November conferences.



Fifth Grade News

The Fifth grade had a great trip to Living History Farms on Thursday, October 18th. The students were able to see many things that we will discuss in Iowa history classes. The tour included a three hundred year walk through the history of Iowa farming. The student's learning was focused on the changes in technology at the three farm sites. Fifth graders first visited a 1700 Iowa Indian village and then walked

150 years further into the future to see an 1850 pioneer farm. They next traveled to the year 1900 to see how Iowa farmers used horses to help with the farm work.

The 1875 town of Walnut Hill gave the students a glimpse into the community life of Iowa's past. It included visits to the cabinet maker, a one room school, farm implement dealer, The Flynn mansion, and a

blacksmith shop. Throughout the tour, students were made aware of the advancement in technology and how it changed people's lives.

We were pleased with all the positive remarks made by Living History Farms staff members complementing our West Elementary fifth graders on their listening skills, interest, and manners.

"Fourth graders recently enjoyed a field trip to Fontana Park to further their studies of vertebrates. They enjoyed a presentation on the characteristics of amphibians, birds and reptiles by Buchanan county naturalist, Sondra Cabell and her intern."



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

Fall is officially here as of September 21. The sun is south of the equator and we are moving from Fall Equinox to Winter Solstice. During the last month many things have happened at the Middle School. The Magazine Fundraiser has come and gone. Students earned and won a variety of prizes from big pens to a Limo ride and lunch for a lucky few. Dave Rausa, besides having an extremely catchy name, delivered an enthusiastic environment for the students with games such as Deal/No Deal, Money Scramble and Bingo for those that sold. Mrs. Wulfekuhle contributed to the fun by helping out with the games and was even brave enough to go for limo ride with at least one group of students! As a token of appreciation she was presented with a big purple pen, that she kept, and a nifty, battery-powered, Black Light that she was kind enough to put into a staff drawing. The light now resides in Corrine Love's room and is available for viewing upon request.

The Middle School also sent its first two representatives to Daggitt's R4 at AEA 267 on September 24. R4 is an acronym for rigor relevance, relationships and reflection. R4 promotes a philosophy focused on making

learning challenging and real-world applicable. Jan Reed and I were in attendance and we will be joined by Tia Schaffer at the next meeting on November 26th. The concepts of R4 provide an excellent vehicle for improving instruction and encourage all individuals in the quest to become lifelong learners.



Dave Ross

On October 1, the Middle School hosted an Open House in the evening. Parents and students visited with teachers and many connections were made. Midterms at the Middle School were calculated and sent home on October third or shortly after. Thus far the Parent Portal for viewing student grades has not been open in Power School; however, Mr. Noyes, ICSD's Technology Director is hopeful it will be available during the first part of November.

The fall sports schedule has been completed. Football, Volleyball, and Cross Country teams have turned in their uniforms and students are beginning to look forward

to wrestling and basketball. The first wrestling triangular is with West Delaware and West Dubuque on November first. The first girl's basketball game is with West Delaware on November sixth with eighth grade hosting and seventh grade visiting.

During half-time at the high school opener on October the twelfth, the Middle School Band performed a "Super" half time show. The performers and Ms. Yeager are to be commended for their enthusiasm and ability. Just in case you missed the show, it had a Superman theme ranging from the 1980s to the present.

As the days get shorter and the nights get longer, Red Ribbon Week and Jack O'Lanterns are in the air. On October twenty-ninth, thirtieth and thirty-first the Middle School will be participating in Red Ribbon Week. There will be daily prizes and contests culminating with music and a costume party on the thirty-first. Don't wait until the last minute to decide what to wear and as always...

YOGOWYPI!

Dave L. Ross

November

1st

WR West Delaware, W. Dubuque 4:15pm @ Indee

6th

GBB West Delaware, 4:00pm
7th-Manchester, 8th-Indee

8th GBB Vinton-Shellsburg, 4:15pm
7th-Indee, 8th-Vinton

9th WR Benton Comm, Vinton & Indee 4:15pm @ Vinton

12th WR Marion & Monticello 4:00pm @ Indee

GBB Oelwein, 4:15pm
7th-Indee, 8th-Oelwein

14th 1:00 Dismissal - Conf. Prep

15th GBB Benton Comm., 4:15pm
7th-Norway, 8th-Indee

19th 1:00 Dismissal K-12 Parent-Teacher Conf. 1:30-8:00pm

20th 1:00 Dismissal K-12 Parent-Teacher Conf. 1:30-8:00pm

21st No School

22nd Thanksgiving, No School

23rd No School

27th GBB CPU, 4:15pm
7th-Indee, 8th-Urbana

28th 1:00 Dismissal - Staff Development

29th WR Wapsie, Tri-County, Jesup, Indee, Oelwein 4:15pm @ Jesup

GBB Dyersville, 4:15pm 7th-Dyersville, 8th-Indee

30th WR Hudson, Waverly-Shell Rock, Indee 4:15pm @ Hudson

Special Needs By Dawn Keenan

During our first staff development afternoon in September, learning teams throughout the district met to choose instructional strategies to focus directly on reading comprehension. The Special Education Learning Team decided to focus on reading strategies in the content subject areas. Our learning team chose this as our area of focus because these strategies will be implemented in the content subject areas and will impact all students in the middle school.

It is the plan of our learning team to gather resources and to identify critical strategies for the individual subject content areas. Our

team will compile these strategies and then meet with the various content subject area learning teams to present and discuss the strategies that have been compiled. Each content area instructor will be given a folder which will include the various strategies for that subject area to use as a classroom resource. This schedule of steps will be followed for social studies followed by science, language arts, mathematics, and the special content areas. It is the opinion of our learning team that by utilizing these resources in the classrooms, reading comprehension can be improved.

6th Grade Math By Jackie Berryhill

First of all, I want to thank Mrs. Leisinger for substituting for me while I was away on maternity leave. For those of you who do not know, I had a healthy baby boy in July. He is a real sweetie, if I do say so myself!

While I was away, Mrs. Leisinger and the students finished the first math unit and took the first sixth grade GLE. Today, October 17, we started the next unit, which deals with decimal concepts and operations. By the end of this unit, I hope all of the students have a good grasp on their multiplication/division facts.

I greatly enjoy working with middle school students

and their unique personalities. Researchers have found that middle school age students consider school as a place where they can spend a great deal of time with their friends rather than a place to learn. I understand that math is not most students' number one priority, but listening to instruction, studying, and completing homework are three very important aspects of school. By simply listening to the tips that I give them, difficult math problems can be made understandably easy and actually enjoyable. I am confident that the sixth grade students and I will get along well, and that we will have a successful year. Any help from parents is always appreciated,

Thank you.

Nurse News By Teri Schloss RN

By now your children should have had all of their baby shots. But, there are diseases that adolescents need protection against also. Here is a list of vaccinations that should be considered for your pre-teen or teen children. Please contact your healthcare provider for more information.

Meningococcal disease Rates for meningitis begin to rise in early adolescence. This vaccine will protect children into their college years. Some colleges now require this vaccine prior to admission.

Tdap Tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis. This immunization should be given when your child is 11-12 years of age. Most children have not had a tetanus shot since entering kindergarten. If your child is in need of a booster, ask your healthcare provider about receiving a Tdap vaccine.

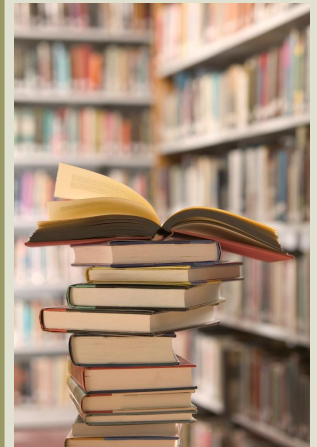
Human Papillomavirus HPV is a virus that is most common in teens and young adults. It is the major cause of cervical cancer. There is now a series of vaccines, Gardasil that can protect young females, ages 9-26, from this virus. Gardasil is a series of three injections given over a three-month period of time.

Influenza Yearly vaccination is recommended especially for those teens with chronic health problems.

Varicella Chickenpox Adolescents that have not been vaccinated or had the disease may require a two dose series. If vaccinated as a child with one dose, a second dose is now being recommended. Please check with your healthcare provider.

Hepatitis B This is a virus that affects the liver and can be spread by contact with blood or bodily fluids of an infected person. It is a series of three injections given over a six-month period. This series is now required in Iowa for school entry for anyone born after July 1, 1994.

Hepatitis A This virus can be spread by contaminated food or water or close contact with an infected person. Good hygiene practices may decrease your risk; however, vaccination is the best protection against the hepatitis A virus. It is given in a series of two injections.





New from the IHS By Karl Kurt, Principal

End of the 1st Term

By the time you read this article, the end of the 1st term will have come and gone. It is hard to believe we are already 25% through with the school year. I know our students are working hard in and out of the classroom, and we are very proud of their efforts. We recognize the tremendous amount of effort and some of the sacrifices they have to make to participate in extra-curricular activities. Our students work hard to represent our community, and we should be proud of how they have handled that responsibility. Personally, it has been rewarding to watch our students participate in so many different events and showcase their talents, commitment, and teamwork.

I would like to recognize and thank all the parents and community members who have made the effort to support our students in their extra-curricular activities. I know they appreciate your support and your recognition of their hard work.

We would also like to congratulate those students and their parents for all the hard work that has been necessary for them to earn the honor of being placed on the Dean's list.

It has been a rewarding 1st term and we look forward to much more as we enter our 2nd term of classes.

Sincerely,

Karl Kurt, Principal

Independence High School



Congratulations to Ms. Kari Schwartz for being named the Local Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Schwartz received a \$1,000 educational grant for the Independence High School, a \$100 gift card for supplies for her classroom and is eligible to apply for the state Teacher of the Year award.

November

14 – 1:00 Dismissal – Staff Development

19 – 1:00 Dismissal – Parent-Teacher Conferences
1:30-8:00 p.m.

20 – 1:00 Dismissal
BBB – Indee Jamboree

21 – NO SCHOOL

22 – THANKSGIVING
– NO SCHOOL

23 – NO SCHOOL

26 – JV BBB at Oelwein

27 – V/B & GBB at Jesup
9th GBB at Jesup
9th BBB at Indee

28 – 1:00 Dismissal – Staff Development

29 – WR at North Fayette

30 – JV/V GBB at Central DeWitt



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>



Meet the Wrestlers Night

*Friday, Nov. 16th at the Heartland Acres Event Center
Social Hour begins at 5:30pm followed by dinner, guest speakers, a live and silent auction and of course a chance to meet the 2007-2008 Independence Mustang coaching staff and wrestlers. Hope to see you there!
Tickets must be purchased in advance!
For more information, contact Coach Doyle at 334-7405 or Coach Donnelly at 334-7430.*

Go Mustangs!