

**Volume 3 Issue 1
Oct/Nov, 2008**

District Events:

Oct 8

1:00 Early Dismissal

Oct 15

CCC Meeting 4:00 p.m.

Oct 22

1:00 Early Dismissal

Oct 27

School Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.

Nov 5

1:00 Early Dismissal

Nov 12

CCC Meeting 4:00 p.m.

Nov 19

1:00 Early Dismissal

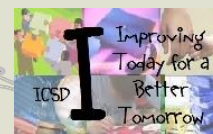
Nov 24

1:00 Dismissal
K-12 Parent-Teacher
Conferences 1:30-8:00

Nov 25

1:00 Dismissal
K-8 Parent-Teacher
Conferences 1:30-8:00

Nov 26-28 No School
Thanksgiving Holiday



REFUNDS *By Devin Embray, Superintendent*

Earlier this spring we cancelled the band/vocal trip to Hawaii. The reason for that cancellation was due to the fact that Hawaii State Tours, the travel agency that handled our trip, notified us that the price was going up a minimum of \$550/person. We investigated the situation and found that the reason the price went up was due to the agency's failure to book airline and hotel accommodations as per the contract. We then found out that the agency didn't have our deposit money to return to us. Our legal counsel instructed us to refund the money that people had deposited to the trip. We did this by taking money from the unspent balance cash portion. We have almost completed that process. If you were going on this trip and have not received your money back (short of fund-raising) please notify the Central Office so we can find out why. I want to let folks know that we have worked out a repayment plan with the travel agency to get our money back and we should not see a negative impact to our general fund due to this repayment plan. The board approved another trip to Orlando after implementing a series of new protocols in regards to how a trip like this would be organized and I personally feel good about the trip to Orlando as well as travel agency, Bob Rogers Travel. This experience was a nightmare of sorts for those involved, but I believe we have come through this in good shape and are marching forward.



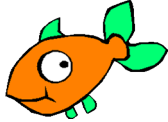
On August 4th, a declaratory order was issued from a court case launched in another district in the state of Iowa with regards to transportation fees. It was determined through this order that partial reimbursement for travel was no longer acceptable. We have been working real hard to organize the repayment of monies to our parents for this charge. In addition we found out that the locker fee assessed in 6th and 9th grade was also not acceptable. We will be refunding those monies as well. I want to assure our patrons that we are doing everything we can to stay within the legal requirements of the Iowa Code and when we are made aware or find out that something is no longer acceptable or is not acceptable we make the appropriate corrections and changes. Three years ago we stopped charging for Art, Industrial Arts, and Family Consumer Science in the area of required projects. Parents should have received their repayment for the transportation and locker fees by now. If you haven't please contact the Central Office so we can find out why.

Should you have any questions, concerns or comments, please do not hesitate in contacting me at the Central Office. I would be happy to hear from you.

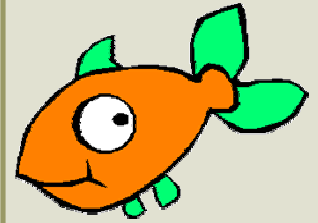
Inside this issue:

Fish! Nominees	2
Tips and Tools	3
East Elementary News	6-7
West Elementary News	8
School Lunch News	9
Middle School News	11-13
High School News	14-15

September Fish Recognition



Kathy Tegler - East Elementary
Sandy Merritt - Central Office
Steve Noyes - District Technology
Erin Blasberg - Middle School
Rhonda Sheets - High School
Teresa Wheelock - High School
Charles Bare - High School
Dave Jacobson - Middle School
Sarah Van Buren - West Elementary
Rudi Hameister - West Elementary
Beth Conklin - Middle School
Teresa Barske - Early Childhood Center
Tiffani King - Early Childhood Center
Jeanne Bachman - Middle School
Jayme Beyer - High School
Lori Flaherty - Central Office
Buffy Campbell - High School
Jami Tekippe - Central Office
Karl Kurt - High School



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

Watch your
e-mail for
more
information
or
call Devin
at 334-7400!

Fish Philosophy Principles

**Choose
Your
Attitude**

Play

Be There

**Make
Their Day**

Scenes from the 1st Tips and Tools of 2008-09





When: September 9th—October 9th

**Give Something Back and
Watch Your Community Grow**

Bigs and Littles have received \$25 seed money from BankIowa to kick-start their fundraising efforts for the Independence Public Library.

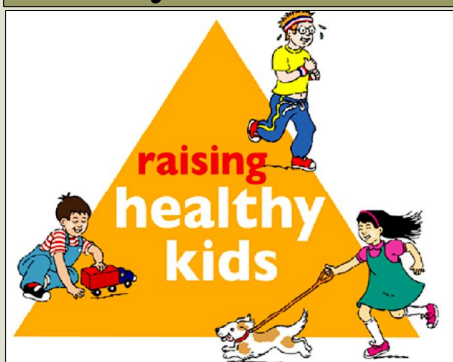
Each pair that participates will wear an official badge and t-shirt that identifies them as a “Big GIVE participant.” So, when you see them in the community raising funds, be sure to contribute!

For more information call Big Brothers Big Sisters, Independence Office Mentor Coordinator, Val Maximovich, 319-334-3353



Family Fun in the Kitchen

From the Iowa State University Extension



Welcome!

Giving children the opportunity to choose and prepare foods is an ambitious goal for any parent. This quarterly newsletter offers simple recipes and tips to help you turn kitchen time into family time.

Jump in – get started

Children enjoy helping in the kitchen and are often more willing to eat foods they help prepare. With your child...

1. Choose a recipe you want to try.
2. Read through the recipe together.
3. Find all the ingredients and utensils you will need.
4. Wash your hands! It's the number one way to prevent foodborne illness. (Also clean all kitchen surfaces that will touch food.)
5. Make, eat, enjoy! (And don't forget to share the clean-up.)

Fresh is fun

Visiting a farmer's market or pick-your-own farm helps children learn about where food comes from and how it is grown. Now's a good time to look for apples, cider, winter squash, potatoes, pumpkins, eggs, and meat.

CHECK THESE RESOURCES —

- *Farmers' Market Directory*
www.agriculture.state.ia.us/farmersmarket.asp
- *Fresh Vegetable Guide (PM 2034)*
www.extension.iastate.edu/store
- *Iowa Network for Community Agriculture*
www.growinca.org/food.html

Recipes to try

Rainbow Veggie Pocket

You will need:

- 1 red or orange vegetable (carrot, tomato or red pepper)
- 1 green vegetable (broccoli, green pepper, or cucumber)
- 1 other color vegetable (cauliflower, yellow pepper, or cooked corn)
- Pita pockets (pocket bread) or whole wheat flour tortilla
- Fat-free salad dressing

What to do:

1. Wash all vegetables and pat dry with paper towel.
2. Peel vegetables as needed and cut into small pieces with adult help.
3. Fill each pita or tortilla with three different color vegetables and top with a little salad dressing.

Cran-Apple Crisp

You will need:

- 4 apples
- 1 can (16 oz.) whole cranberry sauce
- 1 cup uncooked oatmeal
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons soft margarine
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F.
2. Wash apples. With adult help, cut into thin slices and put into a bowl.
3. Add cranberry sauce, stirring to mix. Pour into an 8x8-inch pan.
4. Combine oatmeal, brown sugar, margarine, and cinnamon. Sprinkle over apple mixture.
5. Cover and bake for 15 minutes. Uncover; bake 10 minutes more. Makes 8 (3/4 cup) servings.

FIND MORE RECIPES at this Web site —

www.extension.iastate.edu/food

Let everyone help

Younger brothers and sisters in the HOME, too! age range are likely to want to join the fun. Here are some age-appropriate tasks for them.

2-year-olds can

• Wipe table tops

• Wash and tear salad greens

• Move ingredients and utensils from one place to another

3-year-olds can do the same plus

• Wrap potatoes in foil for baking

• Knead and shape bread dough

• Pour cold liquids

• Stir ingredients

• Spread soft spreads

• Put things in the trash

FIND MORE IDEAS at this Web site—

www.usda.gov/cnpp/

(Search for “Tips for Using the Food Guide Pyramid for Young Children.”)

Fall Fitness Ideas

- * Lose (and find) your family and friends in a corn maze
- * Walk to a Friday night football game
- * Hike and hunt for pumpkins and apples
- * Rake leaves into a jumping pile

FIND MORE RESOURCES at this Web site—

www.extension.iastate.edu

... and justice for all The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914 in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jack M. Payne, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.

Principal's Corner - Mary Jean Blaisdell

The year is off and running and the students are well into their learning! As the weather begins to turn cooler, it's time to think about jackets and warmer clothing. Students will need several layers to keep them warm in upcoming months. Please note that students will be required to wear snow pants and boots once the weather turns cold or begins to snow. If they do not have these, they are asked to stand on the sidewalk.

Although the school day officially begins at 8:30, students are let in the building at 8:10. In classrooms at that time, coats are taken off and hung up, book bags are put away and students get materials ready for the day. This time in their classroom is often spent in quality interactions with their teacher and friends. Individual issues such as notes from parents about rides home, illness issues, or other concerns are taken care of at this time. One of the best ways you can help your student succeed at school is to be sure they arrive on time! Better yet, be sure they arrive when students are allowed in the building at 8:10. In addition, if your student is eating breakfast at school, please be sure they are arriving in time to sit and eat for at least 10 minutes. Breakfast is no longer served past 8:20, so students need to arrive before 8:10 in order to have time to eat.

Parents can help with their child's education by spending at least 15 minutes a day reading to their child (or having them read to you!) Parents can help with math by using math in the world around them daily (such as counting/adding objects at home).

Beginning of the year assessments occurred in September. These assessments measured reading accuracy and comprehension, fluency, and phonemic awareness. These tests help us determine what direction instruction should take for each student. Similar tests will be given in January and again in April to determine how much growth has occurred for each student. Testing results will be shared with parents at conference time.

In-service time for all teachers is important to the progress of your child. September's early dismissal in-service was spent setting goals for our learning teams and learning how to analyze student performance data. We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to improve the educational experience of your children.



Mary Jean Blaisdell, Principal

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

Oct 1 Kindergarten
Fall Pictures

Oct 2 1st/2nd Grade
Fall Pictures

Oct 8 12:50 Dismissal
In-Service

Oct 20 Red Ribbon
Week

Oct 22 12:50 Dismissal
In-Service

Nov 5 12:50 Dismissal
In-Service

Nov 19 12:50 Dismissal
In-Service

Nov 24 12:50 Dismissal
Parent-Teacher
Conferences
1:30-8:00

Nov 25 12:50 Dismissal
Parent-Teacher
Conferences
1:30-8:00

Nov 26-28 No School

Dec 1 Classes Resume

Less TV Opens Doors to Literacy

FAST FACTS

- American children watch nearly three hours of television every day.
- Children spend more time in front of the tube each year than they do in school
- Children who watch six or more hours of television per day score significantly lower on reading proficiency tests than those who watch one hour or less.
- Studies involving more than 400,000 students find that television is bad for academic achievement.

TAKE ACTION

- Limit TV-viewing at home. Make rules about school nights and mornings. Take the TV out of your child's bedroom
- Always make books available to your children. Take trips to the public library. Give books as gifts.
- Read with your children. Ask them about the books they are reading. Encourage your kids to try new genres and writing styles.

Consider living without TV.

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.

First Grade Goes Buggy

Our first grade classes have been very busy with our insect units. We have been studying the life cycle of the monarch and watched our caterpillars form their chrysalises, and then emerge as beautiful butterflies. We had a great time at Fontana Park where we looked for insects in the field and by the water. We watched as the Naturalist tagged some of our monarchs and we hope they will be found and identified later in Mexico! We also looked at the animals. It was especially fun to see Tana, the black bear, the bald eagle, and the turtles that were all adopted by East Elementary last year!

We were happy to have such a good turn out for Open House. The children were thrilled to show off all their hard work and give tours of their classrooms.

We have been working hard on letter formation and on our beginning reading and writing skills. Checking out books from the Book Cart helps give us extra practice on our reading. We have also been working on a graphing unit in math.

As we continue to move through our fall activities, we look forward to our Adopt-An-Animal Project for Fontana and becoming a Green Team for the community. Start saving your papers and cardboard!



First Graders at Fontana Park

Kindergarten Corner

Kindergartners at East Elementary have been off to a busy year! Our students learn many things through hands on activities and play. Math tubs help students learn counting, sorting, and patterning. Through play our students also gain valuable social interaction and begin to make appropriate behavior choices. During group instruction and seatwork time, students practice body basics, line basics, academic skills, and extend their attention spans.

September and October will bring two activity-based field trips! We will visit Fontana Park to experience the changes that fall brings, as well as learn about how animals prepare for winter. At the Independence Fire Station we will learn about fire safety and equipment. Ask us about stop, drop, and roll!

Second Grade Scene

In September, second graders have been doing a short study on frogs and toads and will enjoy a presentation from our Fontana Naturalist on frogs and Toads in October. In September second graders made a visit to our new library and each student was given the opportunity to get a library card.

In October Second graders will be learning about the community of Independence, and look forward to learning about more of the history of our community in the spring. This next trimester students will begin our science units of either balance and motion or solids and liquids.

The Kitchen Corner

Parents, grandparents and other visitors are welcome to join their student for lunch at times. Please remember, however, that the kitchen may not have prepared enough if you wish to do this as a last minute thing. If you plan to join your student for lunch, please call the school a day in advance so that the kitchen can plan for enough food. If you plan to bring in food from a local fast food restaurant (such as McDonald's or Pizza Hut) please be prepared to eat with your student in another room so that other children are not feeling left out of a special treat.

When packing a cold lunch for your student, please be sure that a healthy lunch is prepared so that students can get the nourishment needed to meet the demands of their day. Please DO NOT include pop or Kool-Aid drinks in cold lunches.

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!

From West Elementary by Rudi Hameister, Principal

Another new and exciting school year full of possibilities is up and going. Students have quickly gotten back into the swing of things learning new routines, expectations, and academic content. It has been great to see the hallways and classrooms full of students again.

This year at West Elementary we will continue to emphasize the Character Counts program and continue to build upon students' knowledge of the six pillars of character. Our hope is to provide students with the confidence to become respectful, responsible citizens within the walls of the school building as well as carry these characteristics out into the community.

We hope that parents at home will continue to support the pillars of character by having discussions with their children about what it means to be a respectful responsible citizen and examples of how to exhibit these behaviors.

As West Elementary's new principal I will be focusing on our reading instruction and strategies; Working to share Cooperative Learning Strategies with the staff; Assessing writing instruction and strategies with focus being put on the 6+1 Traits of Writing; as well as continuing the work started last year to develop and implement the Instructional Decision Making model. The IDM process focuses on data regarding students' responses to instruction to guide future educational decisions. It drives how curriculum is delivered through instruction. This is a proactive process. The Iowa Department of Education supports, but does not mandate, this process.

The PTO has returned to West Elementary School. Under the leadership of Tiffany Martinson, with the help and support of her husband Cole, the PTO will once again be working to make West, and East, Elementary the best school they can be. Along with a rebirth of the PTO, West Elementary School is also participating in Sustaining Parent Involvement Network (SPIN). This is a program funded through the U.S. Department of Education. A committee of volunteers from West Elementary will be working to make sure that West Elementary is a welcoming place that honors both students and families while working to connect families with school staff. Two of our parent volunteers working with the SPIN committee are Dan Lake and Terri Janaszak.



Rudi Hameister, Principal



Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids' Sake

Sunday, November 2, 2008 Lucky 10 Lanes - Independence, IA

• What is Bowl for Kids' Sake?

Bowl for Kids' Sake is about having **fun** to help kids!

It is Big Brothers Big Sisters' most important fundraising event of the year.

Funds raised go directly toward matching children with caring Big Brother and Big Sister volunteers in our school district and Buchanan County.

You can be a sponsor, a bowler, or both!

If you are a **sponsor**, you get the reward of knowing that your support is helping put Big Brothers and Big Sisters in children's lives. If you are a **bowler**, you get to enjoy a fun outing with friends as well as the satisfaction of knowing you're making a big difference to kids in your community.

How does it work?

- Form a team of 4-6 bowlers
- Each team raises \$500
- Come to Lucky 10 Lanes on Sunday, November 2nd for:
 - *2 FREE games of bowling!
 - *Great door prize drawings!
 - *FREE shoe rental!
 - *Lots of laughs and fun!!!
 - *FREE pizza!

To sign up or for more information, contact Val Maximovich at 334-3353.

What is Going on with School Lunches?

By Kelly Duritsa, Food Service Director

Well, I'm into my second year as Food Service Director and I am continuing to learn and change things in hopes of making this lunch program better and better! I would just like to touch on two changes we've made this year, that seem to be producing the most confusion for students and parents. Hopefully, this article will clarify both of them!

First, we are changing what the students see on the computer screen as they go through the lunch line. Secondly, we are changing the way we deal with families who have a negative balance on their account. Both changes will positively affect a family's privacy and lessen the repercussions of a family's negative balance on their children.

In years past, when students went through the lunch line, the family's lunch account balance was displayed on the computer screen as the student's Lunch ID number was punched in. In order to maintain each family's privacy, this year we are not displaying the lunch account balance on the computer screen.

So, you may ask, "How will I know if our balance is getting low?"

Well, at the Elementary Schools we are still sending out "Owe Slips" once a week, to families who have less than \$10.00 in their account. These slips do not necessarily mean you are in the negative. It only means you have less than \$10.00 in your account. We print these slips off on Tuesday afternoons and they usually make it into your child's bag by Thursday or Friday. Please keep this in mind if you've made a deposit into your account between Tuesday and the day your child brings home the Owe Slip.

At the Middle School and High School, we have to rely on the students to tell their parents that they are getting low. Instead of showing the actual balance, the computer displays the words "LOW BALANCE" if the family account has less than \$10.00 in it. Again, this does not necessarily mean the account is negative. In the lunch line, each student is told verbally either, "You have a low balance" or "You need to bring money in." These phrases do not mean the family is negative, but "low". Your student may misinterpret what the "low balance" means and think that they can't eat, which is false. A "low balance" does not affect, in any way, your child's ability to have a meal or purchase from the a la carte line.

Unless a different policy is adopted, your student will not be told they cannot have a meal from the main breakfast or lunch line for any reason. Denying a student a meal cannot be used as punishment, nor can we deny a meal on the basis of the amount of money in your lunch account.

Now, when we're talking about negative balances, there is only a slight difference and it only affects the a la carte lines and any extras the students might want. If you have a student at the Middle School or High School, this may affect you. When your family's account balance is negative any amount, your child will not be allowed to put an a la carte item or an "extra" on the family's account. When your account balance is negative, the only thing your child can charge to it is a complete breakfast or lunch. Any student can pay CASH for the full amount of the item they wish to purchase that day, but, again, they cannot charge anything from the a la carte line or any extras to the account.

My staff tries to communicate this information to each student, but it's difficult when they are going through the lunch line so quickly. Please help us by helping your child to understand how the balance on your family's lunch account will affect them. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call me or e-mail me! Thank you for participating in the school lunch & breakfast programs!

Kelly Duritsa, Food Service Director
319-334-7423
kduritsa@independence.k12.ia.us



Kelly Duritsa,
Food Service Director



Notes from your School Nurses

By Teri Schloss RN and Rhonda Jasper

If your child is sick, please keep them home from school. This will not only benefit your child but the other children and staff in the classroom at school. Please do not send your child to school to have the nurse determine if they are sick enough to go home. If you are unsure about your child's illness or the symptoms persist, it is best to see your family's health care provider.

It is best to keep your child home if they have any of the following:

1. Temperature greater than 100 degrees.
2. Nausea or vomiting within the last 24 hours
3. Diarrhea
4. Sore throat with swollen neck glands
5. Runny or stuffy nose accompanied by a headache
6. Rash of unknown origin
7. Redness or discharge from the eyes
8. Persistent cough
9. Loss of energy or decrease in activity.

Generally, your child may return to school when they have had no vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours or when they are fever free (without use of Tylenol or ibuprofen) for 24 hours. Remember, the best prevention for illness is hand washing. Have your child wash their hands with soap and water often, especially before meals, before and after using the restroom and after using a tissue.

If your son/daughter needs to take medication at school it needs to be brought to school in its original container with the student's name, medication name, instructions for administering medication and prescriber's name. We cannot accept medication that is placed in a plastic bag or an unlabeled bottle. We will also need written permission from the parent/guardian to administer the medication. Antibiotics that need to be given three times a day should be given at home in the morning, after school and bedtime.

As cooler weather approaches, please send your son/daughter to school in appropriate clothing for the season. Coats, hats, gloves and boots marked with the student's name are essential when they travel to and from school and during recess.

Please remember to update your telephone or cell phone numbers to your child's school as this is the only way we can get in touch with you if your child has an emergency throughout the school day.

Teri Schloss RN

Rhonda Jasper RN



Middle School News

By Dave Jacobson, Principal

Lori Flaherty sent out a memo last week to all of us, which she has done many times already this year saving many of us, as a reminder that our first newsletter was due in a week and I took a great deal of time to reflect on the direction it should go. Do I put a list of names together to say a very sincere THANK YOU to the hundreds of people that have helped this "NEWBY" through his first 2 months on the job, do I mention many of the great things our students and faculty are accomplishing, what about the parental involvement I have experienced from the other side of the desk as an administrator for the first time, should I mention what's coming up that everyone is excited about in the next few weeks, then there's the professional development our district provides to help all of us raise the achievement bar for our students/sons/daughters, etc. so the options to pick from could go many directions. It hit me on the day before this letter is due, since I've had the opportunity to work in four different school districts I should reflect on a few of the things that have had the biggest impact on me that are unique to the Independence School District. Things seem to flow downhill so the caring, helping,

high expectations and quality of work I have witnessed from the group we term as the district's "admin team" is outstanding. Their work ethic, always find a way attitude and expertise has not only helped me but I have been able to see the impact it has on our students and faculty.

It is so refreshing to see how the students here at the Middle School are approaching their education. In our assembly the first day of school I talked with the students about their priorities in life. In any order they choose, I asked them where the quality of their education is and encouraged them to consider placing it in the top three with family and religion. As I've walked the halls, been into classrooms and talked with faculty our students have given me a charge of excitement. In my first year of teaching in 1979 and every year since I have always felt good going home in the evening and coming to work the next day. There are not many careers that can provide you that opportunity and now as an administrator I feel better about it than I did waaaaaay back then!

Last, the Respect and Protect Program and the opportunity to use it with Casey Reinkoester



Dave Jacobson, Principal

and Greg Moen. Their professionalism, placing students first and the effectiveness it provides making our school a safe and caring learning center is outstanding.

We're all looking forward to the Camp EWALU trip in the next couple of weeks. I'm sure you've felt this from your sons/daughters and let's hope for great weather to add to the tremendous learning experience this will provide all us. A very special and sincere "THANK YOU" to Joe Olson for his time on the school board and all the positive influence he has had on the Independence School District. Please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns with your son or daughter. **GO MUSTANGS!**

7th Grade Language Arts by Miss Amanda Bock

This year is going to be filled with lots of fun activities and projects while we work on improving reading comprehension and writing skills. The focus of seventh grade language arts is to study various genres of literature and increase writing and speaking skills. Right now we are beginning with our Greek and Roman Mythology unit. The students will finish this unit with a Myth Puppet show. The students will put one of the myths we've studied into a puppet show, making their own puppets and performing it in front of the class in groups.

Other parts of the 7th grade language arts class include weekly spelling words, and daily VW (vocabulary words). The students will also have an opportunity to use various types of technology throughout the year including creating a PowerPoint, using a MIMIO Board, and spending time on interactive websites to enhance their learning.

As a class we will also be corresponding with a Peace Corp volunteer in Africa. We will be learning about the work he/she is doing as well as what life is like there. Through this correspondence, the students will have a chance to work on their writing and research skills.

Oct/Nov Calendar

Oct

- 2 CC : W Dub @ Epworth 4:15
VB: Vinton Shellsburg 4:15
7th Vinton; 8th Indee
- 6 VB: Denver 4:15
7th Indee; 8th Denver
- 7 CC: W Del Inv 4:00
FB: Dyersville Beckman 4:15
7th Indee; 8th Dyersville
- 8 1:00 Early Dismissal
- 9 VB: Benton Comm 4:15
7th Benton Comm ;
8th Indee
- 13 CC Party 3:25
VB: Anamosa 4:15
7th Indee; 8th Anamosa
- 14 FB: W Del 4:15
7th Indee; 8th Anamosa
- 22 1:00 Early Dismissal

Nov

- 5 1:00 Early Dismissal
- 6 GBB: Marion 4:15
7th Marion; 8th Indee
- 10 End of 1st Trimester
GBB W Del 4:15
7th W Del; 8th Indee
- 11 Wrestling: W Del & CPU @ CPU 4:15
- 13 GBB: Vinton Shellsburg 4:15 7th Indee;
8th Vinton-Shellsburg
- 14 Wrestling: Vinton Shellsburg & Benton Comm @ Van Horne 4:15
- 17 GBB: Benton Comm 4:15 7th Norway;
8th Benton Comm
- 18 Wrestling: Oelwein @ Indee 4:15
GBB: Oelwein 4:15
7th St Johns;
8th Oelwein

Continued on Next Page

Sixth Grade Science with Mrs. Reed

Sixth graders are learning valuable lessons about the scientific methods and its six steps. Step 1: How to define the problem (coming up with a question we want answered). Step 2: Collect information. Step 3: Form a hypothesis (or prediction about the question). Step 4: Perform an experiment. Step 5: Record and analyze data. Step 6: Draw a conclusion with claims and evidence that answer the question and determine if the hypothesis was correct.

Currently, we are using a variable unit to aid us in learning the scientific method. We have covered two sections of the variable unit with the first on swingers (pendulums) and how to do controlled experiments. The second is on lifeboats and how the variable, capacity of the boat, affects the outcome of our experiments. The third section will have the students involved with many variables affecting toy airplanes. The unit will wrap up with experiments involving catapults.

Our class is very hands-on. A lot of our units throughout the year will see students immersed in science and learning by observation and experimentation. Another learning opportunity is science topics found in the newspaper. Letters were sent home that told how each student must fill out a sheet with a 5 sentence summary, two sentence response on the article's effect on his/her life, and a statement telling which area of science the article's topic fits under (life, earth, or physical). Two articles are required each trimester.

The science department is collecting caps and the plastic tops cut from Kwik Star milk and juice. You can also cut out the price on the glazers. These can be deposited in the box near our department. We are looking to use the money from these to purchase science equipment.

Mr. Dederer's Room

I always look forward to the start of a new school year with excitement and hope. With the start of the 2008-2009 year, the students and I welcomed five new 6th grade students into our class. One student moved on to the high school this year and we will miss him.

In our studies, we try to make instructional connections to the real world that students will encounter in the future. We started off learning about the main parts of plants in Science and have just begun a unit that involves using a personal checking account in Math.

Our Science unit involved recognizing the stems, roots, and leaves. We also talked about the flowers, fruit, nuts, seeds, and tubers. To help identify these components we had a tasting party on Wednesday the 10th of September. The students saw, touched and tasted a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. I would like to thank Wal-Mart for providing a gift card that allowed us to purchase the food items to experience some foods that many students had never seen or tasted.

The folks at Bank Iowa supported our checking account unit in Math. They provided checks and registers to record our classroom transactions. We learned to write checks and make purchases while keeping an eye on the bottom line. We utilized a game to recognize the importance of a positive bank balance. As we near the end of our activities, we hope to make a trip to Bank Iowa to see first-hand how a check is processed through the bank.

Our community is extremely important in the success of our school. We are very thankful for the support they give us every day of the year. Again, I want to thank Bank Iowa and Wal-Mart for their specific involvement in these two projects.

Oct/Nov Calendar

Continued

Nov Continued

- 19 1:00 Early Dismissal
- 20 GBB: CPU 4:15
7th Indee; 8th CPU
- 21 Wrestling: Beckman @
Dyersville 4:15
- 24 1:00 Early Dismissal
Parent-Teacher
Conferences 1:30-8:00
- 25 1:00 Early Dismissal
Parent-Teacher
Conferences 1:30-8:00
- 26 No School -
Thanksgiving Vacation
- 27 No School -
Thanksgiving Vacation
- 28 No School -
Thanksgiving Vacation

Dec 1st Classes Resume



8th Grade American History By Corinne Love

What a year for the making of history. Destructive floods take their toll in Iowa. Iowans' own Shawn Johnson wins the gold at the Olympics. Mark Phelps collects more gold than any Olympian. The Democratic party nominates the first African American candidate for President. The Republican party nominates its first female vice presidential candidate. Plenty of happenings to keep students awake in history class.

At Middle School we have new stuff. Mr. Jacobson is our new principal. In eighth grade, Ms. Bantz is our new language arts teacher. We have new technology soon to be installed in the American history class -- Mimio board and LCD projector. Most of all we have brand new history books. Ten years has passed since new textbooks have been purchased for the American history class. All books have been covered and designed by each eighth grade student for their first project grade.

As in the past, we are starting off with a review of geography. We have discussed theories of humans migrating to North America over the land bridge or sailing along the coast. Next we reviewed explorers of the Age of Discovery. Our study of colonization begins with the identification of the thirteen colonies and the people who established them. Soon we will learn about the colonists declaring their independence from England and their victory in the American Revolution. Then United States develops the two party system and doubles it size when Thomas Jefferson orchestrates the Louisiana Purchase.

Other topics awaiting our attention include the westward expansion, with emphasis on the Oregon Trail, and the annexation of the Southwest after conflicts with Mexico. We will also cover the spreading of slavery into the new territories, which created a new Republican political party, and the election of Abraham Lincoln as president and the Civil War. We stop our journey in American history when Rutherford B. Hayes agrees to bring Reconstruction to an end. The students will complete their journey of United States History in high school.

Mix all of these events in American history with special days such as 9/11, Constitution Day, Columbus Day, Election Day, Veterans' Day, Pearl Harbor Day, Martin Luther King Day, Memorial Day and you have one busy year that I hope will help inspire your son or daughter to become an appreciative, informed and participating citizen of this great country of ours.



Success in Middle School ~ SIMS

Independence Community Schools' mission is to prepare all students for success in Middle School. In order to make this possible, we need to find ways to assist our students so they can meet these high expectations.

Learning is the result of effort, and even more effort is required if students are behind. With that in mind, we plan to assist students who need additional help to meet those rigorous expectations and produce the quality work that is necessary in Middle School.

We at Middle School are implementing the Success in Middle School (SIMS) program. SIMS, as outlined in the student handbook, is an after school program that will address homework and work habits. This program is being implemented as a preventative measure to address inadequate work habits before it affects a student not passing their Grade Level Expectations (GLEs).

What does SIMS look like?

- * Grade Level Teams will meet twice a month to assess students that may be assisted by SIMS.
- * Parents will be notified by a Grade Level Team member on a Wednesday if their son/daughter is assigned.
- * Students will be assigned for the SIMS program beginning the Thursday following the Grade Level Team meeting.
- * Students will be in SIMS beginning on a Thursday and will attend SIMS from 3:30-4:50 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, until it is determined that it is no longer necessary.
- * Students' participation will not be an option, and they will not be able to attend sporting practices or events when they have been assigned to SIMS.
- * If a student fails to attend SIMS night, he or she will be assigned a Saturday-In-School (SIS).

Due to the fact that late work must be completed so that teachers can correctly determine if students know and understand the expectations being taught and assessed, SIMS will be implemented as a preventative measure. Independence Community Schools want all our students to be successful, and we appreciate your assistance.

News from the IHS By Karl Kurt, Principal

Homecoming 2008 Daily Schedule of Events

Dear Parents,

We have been hard at work improving the Homecoming experience for our students and the community. Hopefully after seeing the plan below you will see that our efforts are designed to increase community involvement and school spirit.

Last year we created and organized a Homecoming Committee to look at our homecoming activities and try to make improvements. The committee was comprised of representative students, parents, and staff.

We talked about various activities and created a week of activities that we felt would be an improvement to our existing activities. We added a family movie night, have included more students in the organized activities, and we will be holding a community pep rally at the new Leinbaugh field. The parade was discussed and initially we had planned not to offer the parade. However, the Board of Education received feedback and encouraged us to add the parade back in. We are currently working on the parade and have made some adjustments and are hoping to make it a more positive experience for everyone.

Hopefully, after this year we will see improvements with community involvement and school spirit. However, it is a new plan and we will be reviewing it and making necessary changes, as we do want to celebrate our school system and community, our students, and alumni in the best ways possible.

Hopefully you can make time to come out and enjoy some of the Homecoming activities with us!! **GO MUSTANGS!!**



Karl Kurt, High School Principal

Sunday, September 28

Mustang Open 4-Person Best Shot Golf Tournament
River Ridge Golf Course
8:00 and 1:00 Tee Times
\$35/person includes Lunch and 2 beverages
Contact: Buffy Campbell at High School

Monday, September 29

Favorite Team Day (9th attendants judge)
MS Volleyball (8th) 4:15 P. Brown
Rough and Tough Volleyball - HS Gym
5:00 pm 9th vs 10th - Girls
6:00 pm 9th vs 10th - Boys
7:00 pm Jrs. vs. Srs. Boys

Tuesday, September 30

Dress your favorite decade (10th attendants judge)
Volleyball with Clear Creek Amana
9th - 4:30, 10th/JV - 6:00, Varsity at 7:00
Pack the Gym Admission \$4 students, \$5 adults
öRock the Houseö - bring your friends!
MS Night

Wednesday, October 1

Farmerø Day (Jr. attendants judge)
Mustang Pride Celebration
5:00 Pork Burger Feed
MS parking lot - all donations go to Athletic Department
Rain location - High School Cafeteria
6:00 Powder Puff Football Leinbaugh Field - no admission
7:00 Community Pep Rally
MS/HS Band performance, Introduction of Court, Coronation

Thursday, October 2

Gender Bender (Sr. attendants judge)
MS Volleyball (7th) 4:15 P. Brown
Movie Night - HS Gym, 7:00 pm öRemember the Titansö
\$1/person admission, popcorn and pop by booster club
* Early childhood - 5th grade need to be with an adult.

Friday, October 3

Spirit Dayö Maroon and White forever!
(King/Queen Judge)
AM - Mustang Pride Patrol visits businesses with sweet treats for those dressed in Maroon and White.

Afternoon:

1:15 High School Pep Assembly
1:45 Parade Line-up
2:00 Homecoming Parade
5:00 Fresh-Soph Football Game
7:30 Varsity Football Game

Saturday, October 4

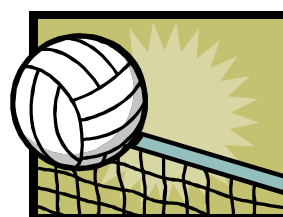
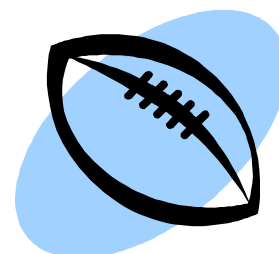
9 pm ö Midnight -
Homecoming Dance



High School Calendar

OCTOBER

Thursday Oct. 2	HS CC @ Western Dubuque	5:00 pm
Thursday Oct. 2	HS VB @ La Porte Union	4:30 pm
Friday Oct. 3	HS FB vs. New Hampton – Homecoming	5:00 pm
Saturday Oct. 4	HS VB @ Waterloo Columbus (Varsity)	9:00 am
Saturday Oct. 4	HS VB @ Vinton (10 th WaMaC)	9:00 am
Monday Oct. 6	HS VB @ Jesup/Oelwein (JV only)	5:00 pm
Monday Oct. 6	HS VB vs Jesup/Oelwein (9 th only)	5:00 pm
Tuesday Oct. 7	HS CC @ West Delaware	4:30 pm
Tuesday Oct. 7	HS VB vs. Vinton Shellsburg	4:30 pm
Wednesday, Oct. 8	1:00 Dismissal – Staff Development	
Friday Oct. 9	HS FB vs. Decorah	5:00 pm
Saturday Oct. 11	HS CC @ North Linn	8:30 am
Saturday Oct. 11	HS VB @ Hampton Dumont Tourney	9:00 am
Saturday Oct. 11	Mustang Marching Morning Madness	
	IHSMA State Marching Band Contest Valley Fest Showdown	
Tuesday Oct. 14	HS VB @ Columbus	4:30 pm
Thursday Oct. 16	HS/MS CC @ Anamosa WaMaC Meet	4:30 pm
Thursday Oct. 16	HS VB vs. Oelwein (9 th , 10 th , JV only)	4:30 pm
Friday Oct. 17	HS FB @ West Delaware	5:00 pm
Saturday Oct. 18	HS VB WaMaC meet TBA	
Saturday Oct. 18	Waukee Marching Band Invitational	
Wednesday, Oct. 22	1:00 Dismissal – Staff Development	
Friday Oct. 24	HS FB @ Waukon	5:00 pm
Saturday Oct. 25	HS Band/Vocal All-State Auditions	



NOVEMBER

Saturday Nov. 1	HS State CC Meet	
Wednesday, Nov. 5	1:00 Dismissal – Staff Development	
Tuesday Nov. 11	WaMaC Choral Festival @ West Delaware	1:00 pm, 7:00 pm
Monday Nov. 10	GBB practices start	
Thursday Nov. 13	Opus Honor Choir All-State Music Festival	
Friday Nov. 14	All-State Music Festival	
Saturday Nov. 15	All-State Music Festival	
Monday Nov. 17	BBB, Wrestling practices start	
Wednesday, Nov. 19	1:00 Dismissal – Staff Development	
Wednesday, Nov. 24	1:00 Dismissal – Staff Development Parent/Teacher Conferences	1:30 – 8:00
Tuesday Nov. 25	1:00 Dismissal – Staff Development	
	HS GBB vs. Anamosa	4:30 pm
Wednesday Nov 26—Friday Nov 28	Thanksgiving Holiday	



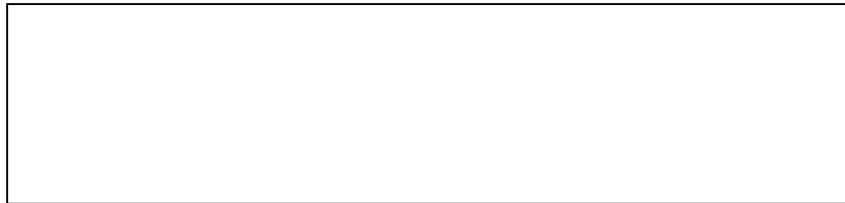


Independence Community School District

1207 First Street West
Independence, Iowa 50644



Non Profit Org.
PAID
Permit 197
Independence, Iowa



We're on the Web

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

"Improving Today for a Better Tomorrow"

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: *Compassion Perseverance Honesty Respect Integrity Responsibility Pursuit of Knowledge*

Independence Community Schools

**Independence Community
School District**

1207 1st Street West
Independence, Iowa, 50644

Phone: 319-334-7400
Fax: 319-334-7404

Mark Your Calendars!

- * Oct 8 - 1:00 Dismissal
- * Oct 22 - 1:00 Dismissal
- * Nov 5 - 1:00 Dismissal
- * Nov 19 - 1:00 Dismissal
- * Nov 24 - 1:00 Dismissal - Parent-Teacher Conferences
- * Nov 25 - 1:00 Dismissal - Parent-Teacher Conferences
- * Nov 26-28 - No School - Thanksgiving Holiday

