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District News from Independence Community Schools

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If you have items you would like to see in the newsletter, or if you have information you would like to place in the newsletter, please contact Mary at the Administration Building by calling 334-7400 or e-mail her at mcooksley@independence.k12.ia.us

October, 2006

Preliminary Student Counts

-Devin Embray, Superintendent

We always look at our budget, which is driven by student numbers, when it comes to staffing and programming. In the past eleven years our district has seen a declining enrollment in each of those years. A few years out of the total have been small declines around 1-2 students. In other years it has been as many as 30 students or more. The average loss of students per year over that time period has been approximately 25 students. Since our overall budget is set by the number of students we have it is very important to keep track of those numbers. This past year we saw the South Elementary Building close as well as the Tyson Plant in Independence and Oelwein close. Our state projections for our enrollment had us losing approximately 25 students this year in addition to any issues relating locally to our district. We knew that the closing of the Tyson Plant had the potential to affect us negatively by 75 students and the Rowley Elementary closing had to affect us negatively by 75 students

and the Rowley Elementary closing had many parents considering other districts instead of Independence to the tune of approximately 25 students. Going into this year we had the potential to lose approximately 125 students. (Tyson, Rowley and State projection added together) At our preliminary counts last week we were down only 7 students. If these numbers hold, (our official count date is October 2, 2006) this will have been a true blessing on our district. Although we will still need to look at budget reductions this year, they will be far less deep than what we had initially been planning for should the numbers hold. I can attribute many things for this small reduction instead of a huge one. First, the word is spreading as to the quality of programming we have in our district and the dedicated staff that are responsible for it. Second, we have much going on in terms of economic development and that is attracting families to our wonderful communities that support our district. Third, we have homes that are starting to come available for first time homeowners all across our district. I truly believe that we have a very strong district that cares deeply for the success of our students and with the support of the parents and the communities we will only continue to rebound from our past eleven years of declining enrollment.

Calendar of Events

October 2 nd -	JV Football
October 3 rd -	MS Cross Country 8 th Grade Football 7 th and 8 th Grade Volleyball HS Cross Country HS Volleyball
October 5 th -	Freshman Volley Ball
October 6 th -	HS Football
October 7 th -	HS Cross Country
October 9 th -	Freshman Volley Ball JV Football
October 10 th -	HS Volley Ball
October 11 th -	Early Out - 1:00 Dismissal
October 12 th -	HS Volley Ball HS Cross Country 8 th Grade Football 9 th Grade Volleyball
October 13 th -	HS Football
October 14 th -	HS Volleyball
October 16 th -	JV Football
October 20 th -	HS Football
October 23 rd -	HS Volleyball JV Football
October 25 th -	Early Out - 1:00 Dismissal
October 26 th -	9 th Grade Football
October 27 th -	HS Football
October 28 th -	HS Cross Country





District News and Information

Independence Community Schools

1207 1st Street West
Independence, Iowa 50644
319.334.7400

Visit our website at:

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

Board of Education

Dawnye Sturtz, President
Bob Reiff, Vice President
Kevin Greenley, Director
Marty Brown, Director
Kevin (KC) Robb, Director

Superintendent

Devin Embray
319.334.7400

Director of Curriculum and School Improvement

Mary Cooksley
319.334.400

Director of Finance

Chris Kimball
319.334.7400

Transportation Director

Michael Donnelly
319.334.7435

Food Service Director

Nancy Michels
319.334.7415

Technology Director

Dan Good
319.334.7405

East Elementary Principal

Dr. Mary Jean Blaisdell
319.334.7425

West Elementary Principal

Josh Lyons
319.334.7430

Middle School Principal

Meredith Miller
(319) 334-7415

High School Principal

Karl Kurt
(319) 334-7405

High School Asst Principal/Athletic Director

Dave Ross
319.334.7405

Big Brothers, Big Sisters

Coordinator
Jeannie Neeley
319.334.7415

MANAGING YOUR STUDENTS LUNCH ACCOUNT ONLINE

The Independence Community District has a computerized point-of-sale system that makes paying for lunch easy. Families may send money with any student and it will be deposited into a family account. All students that are assigned to that account will use that account when purchasing items and funds will be withdrawn from the account.

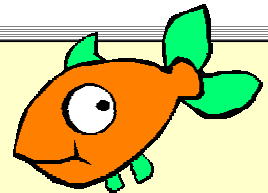


We have also added a new feature that allows you to go online and make deposits to your account through either a debit/credit card or directly from your checking account. There is a nominal \$1.00 charge for the transaction charged by the company that processes those payments. Deposits may be made on a reoccurring basis or as a one-time payment.

You may also check your account balance online anytime. Go to the school district website at www.independence.k12.ia.us. Under the lunch account link click on "check account balance". Enter your family id number and your pin number to proceed.

If you would like more information on our online payment system or need your family id or pin number to check your account online, please call us at 319-334-7423 to get that information.

Fish Nominations



- ❖ **Choose Your Attitude**
- ❖ **Be There**
- ❖ **Make Their Day**
- ❖ **Play**

High School

- **Teresa Nenning** - Family and Consumer Sciences
- **Dave Ross** - Asst. Principal, Athletic Director
- **Linda Gremmert** - Special Education Teacher
- **Michelle Dinger** - Special Education Teacher
- **John Neil** - Special Education Teacher
- **Karl Kurt** - Principal
- **Cathy Butler** - Language Arts Teacher

East Elementary

- **Brandi Klima** - 1st Grade Teacher

Does your child have a teacher that possesses the Fish! Philosophy Principles each and every day? Nominate them for entry into the Fish! Community. **Make Their Day** by showing your appreciation for all they do for students. To make a nomination call Mary at 334.7400 or e-mail the nomination to: mcooksley@independence.k12.ia.us

Curriculum Work Continues

Curriculum revision begins this school year in the areas of Social Studies, the World Language, K-5 Language Arts, Industrial Technology and Business. The picture at right are Social Studies teachers engaging in conversation over the National Social Studies Standards and how they relate to the Independence curriculum needs. A questionnaire will go out to all Social Studies teachers to determine what is currently being taught across the district. Decisions can be made as to what Should be taught at what grade levels for summer curriculum and Grade Level Expectation writing. Pictured are: Clockwise from the top: Jonathan Carey (7th grade) Corinne Love (8th Grade) Ronda Hilbert (MS Sp. Needs), Donna Miller (2nd Grade) Carol Franz (1st Grade), Jennifer Beatty (Kindergarten), Rachel Hurley (HS history and sociology), Kelly Egan (HS history), Sandy Hood (HS history), Jon Testrake (HS history and Economics), Joel Dinger (HS government, geography, contemporary issues, and psychology), and John Neil (HS Sp. Needs)



Learning Teams met at the Middle School to hear information about collaboration and community building

Professional Development

Monday, September 11, 2006 was a professional development day for teachers across the district. Students did not attend school that day so teachers could learn about some strategies that would enhance collaboration and instruction in their classrooms.

Melissa Clarke from AEA 267 and a teacher from Waverly and Cedar Falls helped present information on what collaboration and community building looks like within a Learning Community and the Learning Teams we have established across the district with teachers and administrators.

The afternoon 3rd -12th grade teachers spent tie learning a new vocabulary strategy called the LINCing Routine/Strategy. It allows students to use their prior knowledge and visualization skills to learn and apply vocabulary terms they are learning across the subject areas. This strategy is being implemented across the district. The Middle School has decided to implement this school-wide, whereas other teachers are utilizing the strategy where appropriate.

K-2 teachers spent the afternoon with Alison Bell from AEA 267 discussing what a quality reading program would look like for early elementary students. Training and discussions are scheduled the rest of the year as well on this topic. Enabling students early will make them life-long readers and inevitably allow them to learn at a faster rate and excel in all subjects – reading is fundamental!



East Elementary teachers focus on what a quality reading program looks like at the lower elementary level.

Lyle Leinbaugh Remembered by Class of 1996

Lyle Leinbaugh, or Coach, as he was often referred to was honored by the Independence Class of 1996 on Saturday, September 16th at River Walk Park. The class of 96 was gathered for their ten year reunion and they chose this weekend to remember a former teacher and coach that meant so much to them.

As a lasting tribute to Coach Leinbaugh, they decided to plant five trees that would be a constant reminder to everyone that this great teacher touched so many lives in the 30 some years he worked at the high school.

Pictured to the right is Mike McGill, along with Coach Leinbaugh's daughter, begin digging a hole for one of the trees that will line the volleyball court. Also in attendance that day were Coach Leinbaugh's wife, daughters, Granddaughter and Great Granddaughter.

Mike McGill and Emily McGrath, class of 96, were instrumental in organizing and carrying out this event.



Mike McGill and Coach Leinbaugh's daughter, Leslie Richardson, dig one of the holes that five trees will line the volleyball court. These trees will serve a constant reminder to those who new and respected Coach Leinbaugh as a teacher and a role - model. Those in attendance remembered Leinbaugh as a caring, friendly and positive person. He brightened the day of those he came into contact with daily. He inspired and held high expectations for behavior, attitude and work ethic.



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.





Elementary

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Oct 11 1:00 Dismissal – In-service
Oct 12 Fundraiser kickoff!!
Oct 18 East/JK/EC Picture Retakes
Oct 23 Red Ribbon Week
Oct 25 1:00 Dismissal – In-service
Oct 29 Daylight Savings Time Ends
Nov. 1 1:00 Dismissal – In-service
Nov 2 700 pm PTO @ East
Nov 15 1:00 Dismissal – In-service
Nov 20 1:00 Dismissal – Parent Teacher Conferences (1:30-8:00)
Nov 21 1:00 Dismissal – Parent Teacher Conferences (1:30-8:00)
Nov 22-24 No School
Nov 27 Classes Resume
Nov 29 1:00 Dismissal – In-service

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.



Principal's Corner

By: Dr. Mary Jean Blaisdell

Another year has begun and it's great to see all those smiling faces at our doors each day! The weather will be changing to cooler temperatures soon and it's time to think about jackets and warmer clothing.

The beginning of the school day is an important time. Although the day officially begins at 8:30, students are let in the building much earlier than that. 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 time 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. Students who arrive later miss out on this opportunity to prepare for their day and have time to converse with their teacher. **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.**

Reading continues to be an area of priority for us as we provide opportunities for students to progress from their instructional level towards their reading goal by developing strategies for attacking new words and understanding what is read. Parents can help with reading by spending at least 15 minutes a day reading to their child (or having them read to you!) Math is also an area of priority. We continue to develop strategies for learning math facts and understanding mathematical concepts. 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 learning about co-teaching in the regular classroom, researching background and strategies for increasing overall reading achievement and specifically developing strategies to increase reading comprehension. We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to improve the educational experience of your children.

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 three 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! Our BIG outing will be to see, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" at the Gallagher Bludorn Performing Arts Center at UNI in Cedar Falls. We are so excited!



Students in Mrs. Beatty's class review calendar concepts

2nd Grade Communities

With those first few hot days of school behind us, second graders are hard at work. Academic routines and schedules have been established with reading, math, and writing well- underway. In social studies we are completing our unit entitled "Personal Community." We have discussed our classroom as being a community where people work together and depend on each other. Throughout our unit the district's "Respect and Protect" curriculum has been infused to show the relationship between respecting each other and a healthy community.

This year's curriculum focus is language arts. Language Arts includes reading writing, speaking, and listening. Second grade will continue to revise and improve upon our newly-written math and science curriculums.

We're off to a great start to the school year. There is a lot of enthusiasm and excitement in each of our classrooms. It's going to be a wonderful year.

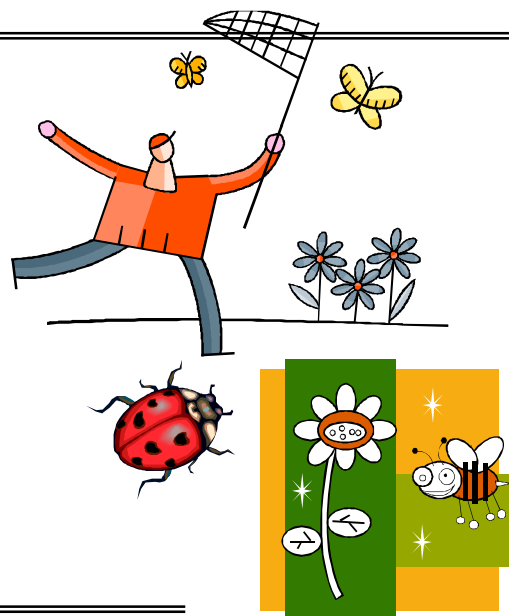
Mrs. Goedken's second graders read in small groups



First Grade Goes Buggy!

First graders at East Elementary have just completed their study of insects. One focus of the unit was the life cycle of the monarch butterfly. Students observed the tiny caterpillars as they munched and grew on milkweed leaves. They watched as the mature caterpillars formed chrysalises, and counted the days until the adult monarchs emerged.

The students also took a field trip to Fontana Park to look at the habitats of insects and had the opportunity to participate in a variety of insect related activities.





Hola! Bienvenidos al ano escolar 2006! ***Hi and welcome to the 2006 school year!***

I thought I would take a moment and write a note to all Elementary parents and let them know a little bit about a new program here in the Independence Schools. I am Senora Sarah Crawford, and for many of you, I am a familiar face and/or name. This year I have been given a unique opportunity to develop a new program for our elementary students. Spanish (or as your child may say "espanol") is being introduced to all k-5 students through the six day specials cycle in the elementary. Being the first year of the program, similar curricular materials are being introduced to both the lower elementary students and the upper elementary ones. One major difference being that the 3-5 students are expected to take vocabulary notes in a spiral with which they travel to class.

The emphasis each year for Spanish classes will be a mix of the language itself, plus cultural and geographic information. Many of the things covered this first year will focus on the child themselves (introducing themselves in Spanish, later describing themselves and their likes and dislikes) and the cultural focus and geography will stress Mexican related items.

To date, the lower elementary students have made name tag necklaces using traditional Mexican shapes such as the sombrero (hat), burro pinata (donkey pinata), maraca, or pimiento (pepper), while the upper elementary students have desk plates expressing "me llamo" (my name is...) and their first names. With near 600 student names to learn, it will take Senora a while to be able to call each student by name! And many of them would like to have Spanish names as well! Ay caramba!

As a Spanish major in my college years, a 10 year veteran high school Spanish teacher here in Independence, and the founder and instructor of the local elementary Summer Spanish camp for the past 11 years, I hope to draw upon my experience to bring the love I have for the Spanish language and culture to your children. I have many hands on realia from Spain, Mexico, and Costa Rica from my travels to share with the students as they venture through the Hispanic culture with me.

Make sure and ask your child from time to time to teach YOU a phrase or two from their class studies; I sure enjoy hearing them use it here at school!

**Hasta muy pronto, y con mucho carino,
Senora Sarah Crawford
maestra de espanol**



**East
students
learn
how to
speak
Spanish**



New Specials Classes at East

East Elementary has added two new specials classes for K-2 students. Over the years, students have had opportunities to participate and learn concepts in physical education, music, art, guidance and media center classes. This year, a computer lab class and a Spanish class was added. Students in the K-2 computer class will learn the basics about computer hardware and learn how to use some very useful software! In Spanish class, students will learn basic vocabulary and usage of a foreign language as well as about Spanish culture. We are very excited about these two new additions to our curriculum!

**K-2 students enjoy
learning more about
computers**



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/South 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, and bottle caps and bag tops from Kwik Star products. Our PTA will again be taking care of these collections for us! 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!



Welcome New Teachers at East!



Ms. Meyer
Special
Education
teacher



Mrs. Rouse
East/West
Guidance

Miss Seamans
PE



Mrs. Crawford
East/West
Spanish



Mrs. Pogue
Kindergarten



Mrs. Flickinger

Mrs. Higgins
Reading
Recovery/Title I



Mrs. Cohen
1st Grade

OCTOBER 2006



West Elementary



WELCOME JOSH LYONS, NEW WEST ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Josh Lyons is the new principal at West Elementary. He is replacing Mr. Ken Howard. Mr. Lyons has been a teacher for the past seven years. Most of his experience has been working with fourth grade students. Most recently, he was teaching fourth grade in the West Branch School District where he was also a coach in the girls' varsity basketball program. Mr. Lyons's wife is an elementary music teacher with the Solon School District. He has a little girl, Kerrigan who will be seventeen months old this month. Mr. Josh Lyons looks forward to working with the families and teachers of West Elementary.

Teachers Learn L.I.N.C.S. Strategy

On Monday, September 11th, teachers took part in a district-wide inservice, which introduced the concept of LINCS, a strategy to assist students with the memorization of vocabulary terms introduced as a part of grade-level curriculum.

Did you know that on average a student needs to be exposed to a new word 15-20 times before it is remembered. Now, this does not mean that a child should recite or re-read the word twenty times. This means that a student needs to be exposed to the new word in

the context of something the child is reading. It is important to understand that lower achieving students need to be exposed to the new word almost two to three times more often (30-60 times).

The LINCS strategy assists students in creating a connection to a new word by allowing them to utilize their creativity in defining the word along with developing a unique picture which allows the student to recall the word more easily.

This strategy utilizes auditory and visual memory devices to assist the student with recalling a term. However, the most vital piece to this strategy is having the student make a connection to prior knowledge.

Tapping into a student's prior knowledge about a specific topic allows for unique connections to be made.

The LINCS strategy is research based and gives our teachers another tool to utilize to increase student understanding.

Important Dates:

Oct. 9-13	NWEA Testing: 4th Grade
Oct. 11	1:00 Early Release
Oct. 18	Picture Retakes
Oct. 25	1:00 Early Release

the bottom line

By Josh Lyons
West Elementary Principal

How do we measure success? Everyone has a different measure as to what success is and how to become successful. I

believe success is the feeling of overwhelming pride that one feels when a goal has been accomplished. Whatever that goal may be and however large or small it may seem, it has been accomplished and this is something to be proud of.

When we examine the success of our students, we often become engrossed in achieving good grades, being outstanding in sports or other activities, and having a

strong social circle. But what about the small things. I know I feel a great sense of humility when I see a student who has difficulty with reading, finally be able to comprehend what they have read.

Success is defined differently by everyone, but being able to identify success is truly individual and is what drives us to continue to achieve our goals.

Media Center News

The Media Center has been a busy place this first month. It is wonderful to see our students reading and to see how excited many of them are about the books that they have read. Providing a variety of new books and authors is a good way to encourage our students to read. One way that we do this is through the book fairs that we have in the fall and spring. Our book fair last spring provided over \$600 in new books to our Media Center. **The next book fair begins on September 29 through October 6.** We thank you for your support in the past and look forward to another good fair this fall as we join with you in encouraging our students to read.

Thank you to those of you who brought in toner cartridges over the summer. This is an on-going fundraiser that allows us to purchase computers for our school. We earn between \$.25 to \$.50 for inkjet and toner cartridges. These do add up so if you have a business with a printer or a printer at home, we do hope that you will send those empty cartridges our way rather than throwing them out. We do appreciate your recycling efforts.



East students learn how to speak Spanish



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I thought I would take a moment and write a note to all Elementary parents and let them know a little bit about a new program here in the Independence Schools. I am Senora Sarah Crawford, and for many of you, I am a familiar face and/or name. This year I have been given a unique opportunity to develop a new program for our elementary students. Spanish (or as your child may say "espanol") is being introduced to all k-5 students through the six day specials cycle in the elementary. Being the first year of the program, similar curricular materials are being introduced to both the lower elementary students and the upper elementary ones. One major difference being that the 3-5 students are expected to take vocabulary notes in a spiral with which they travel to class.

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Make sure and ask your child from time to time to teach YOU a phrase or two from their class studies; I sure enjoy hearing them use it here at school!

**Hasta muy pronto, y con mucho carino,
Senora Sarah Crawford
maestra de espanol**



School

Meredith Miller, Principal

Calendar of Events

2 - Open House, 7-8pm

3 - CCC West Delaware Invite @ 4pm,
VB Vinton-Shellsburg @ 4:15pm
7th-H, 8th-Shellsburg
FB Vinton-Shellsburg @ 4:15pm
7th-H, 8th-Vinton

5 - VB Vinton-Shellsburg @ 4:15pm
7th-Shellsburg, 8th-H

11 - 1:00 Dismissal, Staff Development

12 - FB Benton Comm @ 4:15pm
7th-Van Horne, 8th-H

25 - 1:00 Dismissal, Staff Development

Magazine Sales

Every fall at the Middle School we conduct our magazine sales campaign, and we have just completed this year's campaign. However, we don't have any final figures on how well we did is still an "unknown."

However, I think our students had a lot of fun this year. Some of the games and prizes (in addition to beaded necklaces) included the mechanical Pig Races, bingo party, limo lunches, the Typhoon Chamber, the Flying Monkeys, Flush 'Em (similar to a dunk tank), and the Dash for Cash.

The funds generated from the magazine sales is kept in an activity account that is used to support student activities - anything from helping to pay for chartered buses for the band to providing uniforms for the athletic teams. We have used the fund to buy computers and TV's, pay for field trips and assemblies, and "needed" stuff that our general instructional budget is unable to fund. Major purchases last year included team benches for the athletic field, a new trap set for the band, a new sound system in the gym, and new backdrop curtains for the stage. So far this year, we've purchased new girls' basketball uniforms, new blocking dummies for football, and help pay for some new weight room equipment.

We certainly appreciate your support of our students' activities!

Open House

The Middle School **Open House** is scheduled for Monday, October 2, 7:00 - 8:00pm and I'd like to invite the families of all middle schoolers to attend. This is a chance for you to meet your child's teachers and for your child to give you a brief tour of the building.



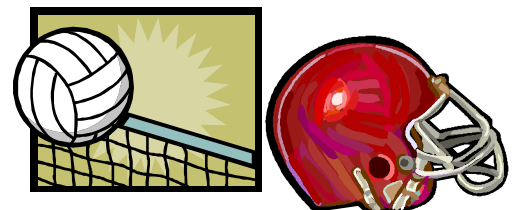
And by attending the Open House, you'll have a chance to check out the books and materials available in the **Book Fair** in the Media Center. The Book Fair is scheduled to run September 29 through October 6.



Athletics

Our fall athletics are well underway and finish their seasons mid-October. Our 7th & 8th grade football teams play 5 games each (as allowed by the athletic association); our 7th & 8th grade volleyball teams compete in 9 meets each; and our 7th & 8th grade cross country team runs in 6 meets. We have 50 girls out for volleyball; 17 out for cross country; and 70 boys out for football. There are still opportunities for you to come watch some great competition.

Wrestling and girls basketball will begin in late October.





Marching Band

On Friday October 20 you will have the opportunity to watch the Indee Middle School Marching Band perform at half-time of the varsity football game. This is a show you won't want to miss!



Mrs. Amanda Atkinson Sixth Grade Special Education

Welcome to the new school year! My name is Amanda Atkinson, and I am a sixth grade special education teacher. As many of you may know, some of the teachers at Indee Middle team-teach. That means one section of math and one section of Language Arts for each grade level is taught by two teachers: the regular math/L.A. teacher and a special education teacher. This makes it possible for many of our students who are entitled to special education services to have their needs met in the general education setting. In this way, they can truly get the same education as the rest of the population. All of the students in the team-taught classroom (entitled or not) can benefit from the presence of a second teacher in the room to help.

Team teaching, also called cooperative teaching, is recognized across the nation as good practice for both the students with and those without special needs. Research has shown that high-achieving students benefit from teaching/assisting struggling students almost as much as the struggling students benefit from it. Having two teachers in the room splits the student to teacher ratio in half and gives the teachers more time and availability to speak individually with any student needing assistance. The following website is a good resource for a basic understanding of cooperative teaching if you would like more information:

http://www.milforded.org/teachers_rooms/profdev/CT%20Page/ct.htm

Parent Portal

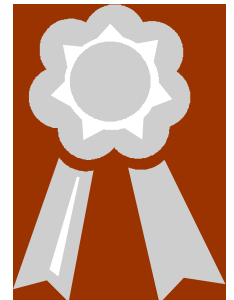
As many of you know, our district uses Pearson Centerpoint, a web-based student information management system. One function of the system allows parents to log on to view their child's attendance, grades, and other course information. When we opened the parent portal last January, parents were mailed their username and password.

A couple of weeks ago, we mailed usernames and passwords to parents of students whose oldest child has started Middle School, as well as parents of students new to the district. If for some reason you have not received a username and password, please call the Middle School office.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Red Ribbon

We will also be participating in
National Red Ribbon Week
activities,
October 23 - 31. You can
keep track of our
Red Ribbon Activities by
logging on to our
web site.





High School

By Karl Kurt, High School Principal

The 2006-2007 School Year

The school year is off to a great start. Our students have been doing an excellent job of keeping up with their academic requirements, and they continue to show that they are as good of a collection of students that you will find throughout the State of Iowa.

Reading 10

This year is the first year

Thanks

A thank-you to all the parents who attended our parent-teacher conferences on September 21st. Also, a big thank-you to the parents that attended the Freshmen Parent Meeting. We hope that you found the presentation useful.

Reminders

You can follow along with how your son or daughter is doing in their classes by using our web-based system. If you need any assistance using SIPS please contact Independence High School.



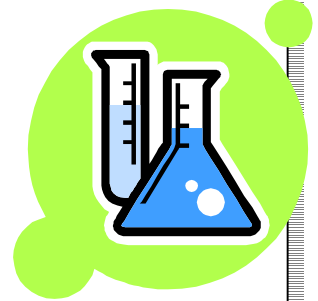
Spot Light on an Independence High School Teachers

Mr. Jason Lang—Science Teacher

Congratulations are in order for Mr. Jason Lang. Mr. Lang recently received a Master's Degree (MA) in Science Education from UNI. His thesis was entitled:

Biotechnology Education in the State of Iowa: A Survey of Teachers and Factors affecting Inclusion.

As part of his thesis Mr. Lang surveyed 1477 teachers with 468 responses asking whether or not biotech was being included in their classrooms, the degree to which it was included, and the barriers to inclusion.



Mr. Lang's thesis has been nominated by the College of Natural Sciences to be entered into the outstanding masters thesis award competition sponsored by the UNI Graduate College.

Mr. Lang has been pretty busy with his Master's Degree and thesis, but he still found time to work over the summer. He had an excellent opportunity and gained some valuable experience working as part of the RAISE (Research Avenues for Iowa Science Teachers) program sponsored by NCLB and the UNI College of Natural Sciences.

He was able to learn many new techniques common in biotechnology labs. The final result of his research was that the research team was able to match very specific areas on the chromosome map of a common fungus of corn to the known DNA sequence of that fungus.

Mr. Lang looks forward to incorporating some of the material and knowledge that he has learned into his various Science classes.

If you see Mr. Lang, tell him congratulations on his degree, and ask him to explain his thesis. Wait!! Come to think of it, just tell him "Congrats!!"



EARN COLLEGE CREDIT IN INDEPENDENCE

Fall Classes – August 21 - December 14, 2006

Course Title	Synonym #	Credits	Instructor	Days	Times
Fundamentals of Oral Comm – SPC-101-34	006300	3	Staff	MWF	2:00PM-2:50PM
Diversity and the Media – COM-148-1	006898	3	McFerran	T	8:00PM-8:50PM
Intro to Health Careers – PHN-102-1	006899	3	Krieg	TR	7:00AM-8:20AM
Statistics – MAT-156-14	006677	3	Staff	W	8:00PM-8:50PM
Human Biology – BIO-154-4	006299	3	Staff	TR	7:00AM-8:20AM
Applied Math – MAT-772-12	006669	3	Staff	W	8:00PM-8:50PM
Calculus I – MAT-210-8	006298	4	Lechty	MWF	8:00AM-9:30AM
Introduction to Psychology – PSY-111-28	004888	3	Staff	MWF	7:00AM-7:50AM
Composition I – ENG-106-38	006297	3	Staff	M	8:00PM-8:50PM
Latin Am History & Culture – CLS-150-4	006683	3	Pixler	M	8:00PM-8:50PM
Marriage and Family – SOC-120-5	006301	3	Staff	R	8:00PM-8:50PM
Plates – PEA-101-4	008029	1	Zubrod,	F	12:30PM-2:20PM

Fall EBS/CON Classes – August 21 - December 14, 2006

Course Title	Synonym #	Credits	Instructor	Days	Times
Intro to Business – BUS-102-11	006667	3	Staff	R	8:00PM-8:50PM
Calculus II – MAT-216-8	006311	3	Ernst	MTWRF	11:00AM-11:50AM
Statistics – MAT-156-11	006214	3	Syhre	MWF	10:00AM-10:50AM
Intro to Criminal Justice – CRJ-100-4	006522	3	Kalfan	TR	9:30AM-10:45AM
Pre-Algebra – MAT-052-13	006882	3	Staff	MW	4:30PM-5:45PM
Elementary Algebra – MAT-083-22	006908	3	Staff	TR	4:00PM-5:50PM
Introduction to Psychology – PSY-111-32	006761	4	Staff	W	8:00PM-8:50PM

Continuing Education Classes – Dates listed with class

Course Title	Synonym #	Fee	Dates	Days	Times
Senior Tech - Technology for Seniors					
Basic – YCMP-203-1201	007108	\$75	8/21/06 - 10/13/06	MW	1:00PM-3:30PM
Internet/E-mail – YCMP-203-1203	007101	\$75	10/16/06 - 12/8/06	MW	1:00PM-3:30PM
Spanish					
Spanish I	007992	\$50	9/12/06 - 10/24/06	T	8:00PM-8:30PM
Spanish II	007993	\$50	10/31/06 - 12/12/06	T	8:00PM-8:30PM

Must purchase Spanish Is Fun by Wald available at the Hawkeye Community College bookstore. The book is used for both levels of Spanish. The cost of the book is approximately \$22.00.

GED Classes

GED begins September 5th, 6:00PM-8:30PM, TR

Spring Classes – January 8 - May 8, 2007

Course Title	Synonym #	Credits	Instructor	Days	Times
Introduction to Sociology	006000	3	Staff	MWF	7:00AM-7:50AM
Introduction to Sociology	006000	3	Staff	R	8:00PM-8:50PM
Western Civ III – HIS-119-1	008119	3	Staff	TR	8:00AM-9:15AM
Fundamentals of Oral Comm – SPC-101-1	008023	3	Staff	W	8:00PM-8:50PM
Math for the Liberal Arts – MAT-110-1	008024	3	Staff	M	8:00PM-8:50PM
Environmental Issues – ENV-115-1	008025	3	Staff	T	8:00PM-8:50PM
Environmental Issues Lab – ENV-116-1	008026	3	Staff	W	8:00PM-7:50PM
Introduction to Computers	006000	3	Staff	T	8:00PM-8:50PM
American National Government	006000	3	Staff	M	8:00PM-8:50PM
Composition II – ENG-106-1	008027	3	Staff	M	8:00PM-8:50PM

M=Monday, T=Tuesday, W=Wednesday, R=Thursday, F=Friday, S=Saturday

➡ Complete class listing, including online classes, are available at www.hawkeyecollege.edu/schedules.

Compass testing now available at the Independence Center. Call for an appointment.

Highways 150 & 20, Independence, IA 50644
To register call 800-670-4743 or 319-334-3131
www.hawkeyecollege.edu



Independence Community School District

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Independence, Iowa 50644

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