

Volume 5 Issue 3
Spring, 2010-2011

District Events:**April 6**

1:00 Early Dismissal

April 18

School Board Meeting -
Rowley 6:30 p.m.

April 20

1:00 Early Dismissal

April 22

No School

May 4

1:00 Early Dismissal

May 23

School Board Meeting -
Brandon 6:30 p.m.

May 24, 25 & 26

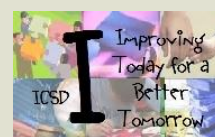
Snow Make-up Days

May 26

Last Day of School
1:00 Early Dismissal

May 27

Teacher Workday

***From the Desk of Jean Peterson, Superintendent*****Exploratory Committee for New Junior-Senior High School Formed**

An exploratory committee has been formed to examine the size, cost, and funding sources for a new Junior-Senior High School. A broad cross section of the district is represented on this volunteer committee. It includes parents, teachers, administrators, board of education members, coaches, farmers, city officials and alumni. The committee also has representation from all towns within the district (Brandon, Rowley, and Independence).



Jean Peterson,
Superintendent

The exploratory committee has been researching sizes and features of new school facilities of similar size in eastern Iowa, as well as neighboring districts. The committee has toured the existing Junior-Senior High School to evaluate various aspects of a tentative design plan. Some of the committee members have also personally toured other facilities in the area. Additional sub committees have been identified to further research and analyze the project, such as a cost-benefit analysis committee and a marketing committee.

The committee recently met with the architectural firm of HSR & Associates to evaluate the most efficient and effective size of a new facility. One of the design goals is to utilize projected enrollment trends to ensure the structure is not too large yet allows for cost-effective expansion.

The committee recognizes that the help of teachers, parents, and community members from Brandon, Rowley, and Independence will be very important in accomplishing this project. A new secondary facility is essential to the future of the Independence Community School District. Our exploratory committee is currently organizing plans, and in the very near future we look forward to meeting with stakeholders to share proposed plans for a new facility.

Please contact me if you are interested in helping the district plan for the future. The exploratory committee expects to complete tentative design plans in the next few weeks, at which time, the efforts of the committee will be share with the public.

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From the Desk of Jean Peterson, Superintendent

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2011-2012 Projected Staffing

The Independence Community School District's Board of Education held a work session on Monday, March 7th. Lynnette Engel, our Director of Finance, and I facilitated a discussion with the Board in regard to the financial outlook for the Independence Community School District. I know everyone has been wondering what the future will look like for our school in terms of projected staffing. Lynnette and I recommended the following to our Board:

- ❖ The decline in funding due to the decrease in enrollment this past year will be made up with leftover Federal Education Jobs money as well as the additional money we will receive due to the sharing of our Director of Transportation position with the Jesup School District.
- ❖ In regard to class sizes, we feel we can make some internal transfers to continue to stay within the 20-25 students per section through out the elementary levels without having to add or cut any current teachers.
- ❖ We are predicting right now to not make any major job or program cuts for the 2011-2012 school year. However, we go into this knowing that unless something changes, we may be looking at a "funding cliff" for the following year (2012-2013) which would require some cuts.
- ❖ We may need to eliminate positions currently paid with the Federal Education Jobs money. These employees were hired with the understanding that it might just be for one year.
- ❖ We have two major variables playing into our budget right now (as do all other schools)- allowable growth and pre-school. Neither has been decided by the Legislature as of this writing. We are setting our budget and predictions using the 0% allowable growth estimate and also discussing what our PK4 options may be.

Lynnette and I have been working hard to get a handle on our school's budget. As you are aware, we ended the last school year with a negative balance. We are predicting that this year we will have a positive ending balance. All the cuts this district has had to endure the past couple of years have helped us start to chip away at our negative balance. And, we will continue to chip away until we can get to a healthy solvency ratio.

I continue to be impressed with what I am seeing in our classrooms and our activities programs. We have so very many good things happening each day. This school district does have a great number of strengths. But, are there areas for improvement? Absolutely, and it is my job to determine our needs, create an environment where all stakeholders can be heard and tackle adversity head-on. The business of education never ends. We will continually evaluate what we do as a school district and how we can help our students be the best they can be.

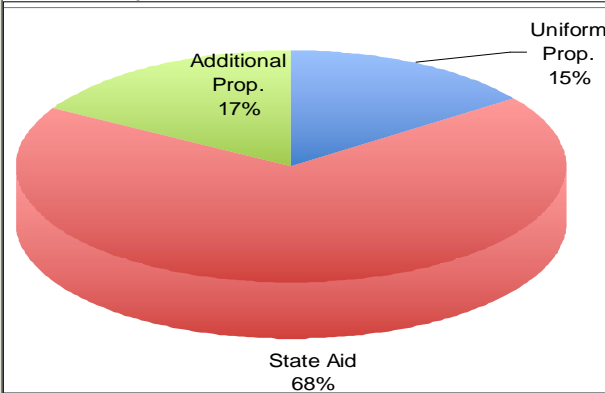
~Nobody who ever gave his best regretted it.~

George Halas

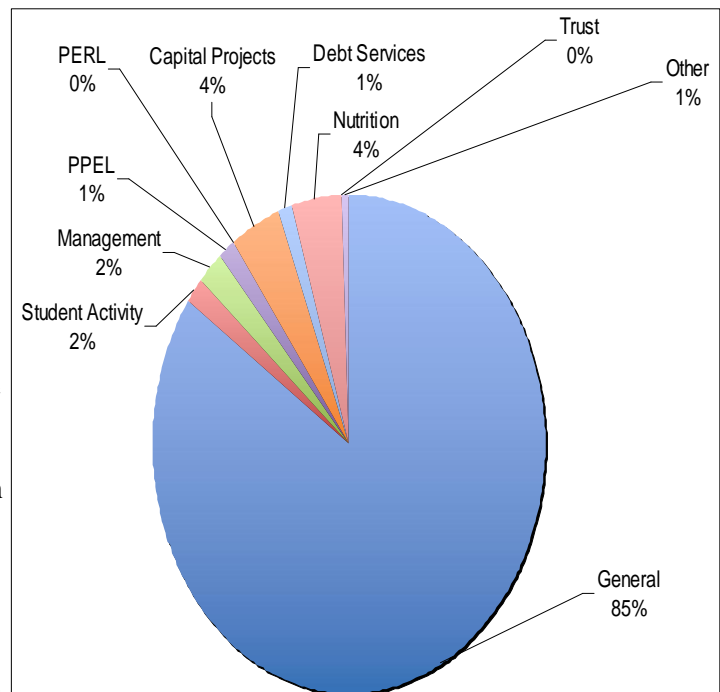
WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

By Lynnette Engel, Director of Finance

The study of school finance is a very complicated subject. The governmental bodies do their very best in trying to make sure it is complicated and confusing. However, there are a few simple ways to help explain school finance that I would like to share with you. There are three major sources that make up the majority of the budget for all schools. They are the Uniform Property Tax, State Aid and then the additional property tax portion. All school districts start out with what is referred to as a Uniform Property Tax assessed to them. Regardless of size, location or financial condition of the school, all districts in Iowa are assessed \$5.40 to make up the first tier of their school budget. In Independence, that generates around 15% of our total combined district cost. Compared to other districts such as Waukee and Okoboji who have very high property values, we rely heavily on the second portion of the puzzle and that is State Aid. The State of Iowa has decided over the years that regardless of how much you can raise in property taxes, they want all kids in the state to be on an equal playing field. With that said, the State will make sure every district is brought up to 87.5% of their combined district cost. What this means, is that rural Iowa districts, like Independence, are given a lot more state aid than your growing urban areas. To end the equation, every district is responsible to tax the additional amount needed to reach 100%. You can see with the graph below that Independence Community School District receives 68% of its total combined district costs from State Aid and we pay a total of



32% through our property taxes. What this shows is that years where there has been a budget cut in State funding, it has really had an impact on Independence Schools since two-thirds of our funding is from State Aid.



The majority of the money we receive through State Aid and taxes go into our General Fund. As you can see to the right, we use 85% in our General Fund. The largest expense to come out of that fund of course are the salaries and benefits of our staff. We spend the remaining amount on supplies, purchased services and property. The school is told every year how much its total combined district costs will be. The formula is based on enrollment times the Regular Program District Cost determined by the state on an annual basis (currently at \$5,883). These two pieces alone determine 83% of our total budget. Independence Community Schools has had to make some very tough

budget decisions over the last few years. These decisions were based on economic situations the school was in. I am happy to report that these decisions are paying off as time moves on. Even though we are still in a negative cash situation, we are making headway to dig out from the hole and have set our budget on track to continue that climb in the right direction. I am driven on a daily basis with the sheer excitement that soon this school will be financially stronger again.

I presented a power point presentation to the Board of Education last month on the basics of school finance and how it all applies to our school. This power point is out on the school website under the finance tab if you would like to look it over. As always, if you have any questions regarding school finance, please give me a call.

Principal's Corner

by Mary Jean Blaisdell

As spring begins, students are often shedding their warmer clothing for lighter jackets. It is at this time of year, however, that we need to be watchful of weather changes. Please see that your child is dressed in layers of clothing so that, as the day warms, outer layers can be removed or put back on as the day cools. Boots will still be required when the ground is soggy. Students are asked to stay out of wet areas but as the ground begins to dry, this may be difficult to totally avoid. An extra pair of pants and socks is a good idea for students to have on hand in case they get a little wet during recess.

April brings several things to our calendar. Students will celebrate Earth day this month with various activities related to our environment. At the end of April, we begin our last round of assessment for the year.

Looking ahead!

Vocal Music Concert for 1st and 3rd grades will be Thursday, April 14 - 6:30 p.m. @ West. Come to see the First Grade Easter Hat Parade.

The last school day for students is Thursday, May 26.

Thanks,
Mary Jean Blaisdell



Mary Jean Blaisdell, Principal

Preschool Place

In March we celebrated Dr. Seuss' Birthday! We played many fun rhyming games and enjoyed quite a few of Dr. Seuss' books. One of our favorites was Mr. Brown Can Moo! Can You? There were many interesting sounds that we got to make throughout the book. We recognized many of the characters Dr. Seuss created like The Cat In The Hat, Horton, and Sam I Am. We got to read Green Eggs and Ham, watch the movie and even try green eggs and ham! Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!



Kindergarten Corner

Kindergartners Look Forward to Spring!

Kindergarten Round-Up was so much fun at East Elementary! We were excited to have the students attend. We look forward to seeing them again this fall.

April is a month filled with signs of spring and Easter. Earth Day is April 22. Sondra Cabell, the naturalist from Fontana Park, will be coming in celebration of this special day on April 27th at East. We will study the rain forest and how our actions influence our environment.



Kindergarten students learn about the 5 Senses with Sondra Cabell.

First Grade Focus

April will be busy month as we watch for more signs of spring and get ready for our spring concert on the 14th. The Hat Parade is one of the highlights of our first grade year! It is always great fun to see the wonderful hats that our families make!

As we prepare to celebrate Earth Day on the 22nd, we will have a hands-on presentation about recycling by Sondra Cabell. First graders will focus on making every day ðEarth Dayö as we practice the three R's---Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!



First Graders Learn About Sharks

Second Grade Scene

Second grade students are working full speed ahead as we are in our last trimester. Students will be participating with a Read-A-Thon this month. Money raised from the Read-A-Thon will go towards purchasing books for the Independence Public Library. In the past we have raised as much as \$700! Please continue to read with your child and provide encouragement as they are developing into life long readers. A food drive for the Food Pantry will take place this month. Several Earth Day activities will also take place toward the end of this month. Hopefully spring like weather will allow us to do many of the activities outdoors.



East Elementary TAG NEWS By Megan Rawlins

East Elementary had winners in the Creative Writing and Poetry Contest for the Eastern Iowa Reading Council. Winners are: 2nd Grade-Jazlyn Smith (1st place Creative Writing), Avery Hanaway (2nd place Creative Writing), and Jesse Ludwig (3rd place Poetry). The students all worked very hard on their stories and poems. At East Elementary we are currently working on problem solving and using clues to get the answers.



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 the PE teacher, Brian Loughren at East Elementary to volunteer your time!

Mentors Needed!

If you are interested in being a mentor and volunteering your time to work with a child for

approximately 30 minutes each week on a regular basis, please call and let us know!

Wanted: Substitute Associates

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

We need YOU!

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

We continue to collect General Mills Box Tops, Pop Can Tabs & bottle caps and bag tops from Kwik Star products. This is a good way to help us earn extra money for things we need. Thanks!

If you are interested in spending time at school or at home sorting/cutting and redeeming these items for our school, please call 334-7425.

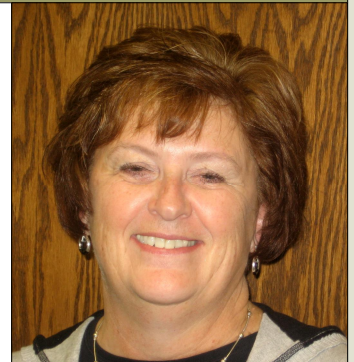
News From West Elementary by Sandy Merritt, Principal

West Memory Book

Our students are making many memories this year and we will be capturing many of them in our 2010-11 West Memory Book. Our PTO is sponsoring this project.



The book will contain a class composite for each classroom, special events, and classroom activities that have occurred throughout the year. There will be advice from our 6th graders and a place for autographs at the end of the book. This is not a fundraiser. Books will be available to students for the cost of the printing. At the present time we estimate that the cost will be approximately \$10. Books will be available in May. More information will be available soon.



Sandy Merritt, Principal

Third Grade News

One of our third grade math GLEs deals with measurement. The students measure objects for length, capacity, weight, and temperature using U.S. standard measurements. Mrs. Kimball's class just started the measurement unit this week and they are enjoying themselves! To begin the unit, each student made a Mr. Gallon! Mr. Gallon is a visual aid we use to learn and understand customary capacity units. By studying Mr. Gallon, students can easily remember the number of each unit that makes up one gallon. For example, Mr. Gallon's body is the gallon, each upper arm and upper leg represent one quart, each part of the lower arm and lower leg represent one pint, and each finger and toe represent one cup. They like their Mr. Gallons! The pictures show the class with their Mr. Gallons and two students measuring each other.



Fourth Grade

Fourth graders at West Elementary are exploring a variety of kinds of literature. Most recently, they have focused on biographies and autobiographies. Students have been given the opportunity to write their own autobiographies. The fourth grade has been trekking across the United States as they study the regions. Students recently finished units on the Southeast and are currently exploring the landforms, culture, and history of the Midwest. The students are working on a variety of concepts in math, which range from fractions and decimals to measurement and long division. They are also working to refine their problem solving skills in mathematics. In science, students have studied both the respiratory and circulatory systems. They are presently discovering the parts of the heart and the way the blood circulates oxygen throughout the body. The students have many more exciting learning opportunities to look forward to throughout the remainder of the year.



Fifth Grade

Fifth graders have been working hard to improve their math skills through small group intervention at the end of the day, three days a week. Examples of some things they are working on include: using manipulatives, problem solving, fractions, and of course improving basic math facts.

Students have also been learning reading skills in small group instruction that include learning how to read nonfiction and combining other curricular areas into reading time. The fifth grade would like to congratulate the fifth grade students who participated in the writing and poetry contest.

Mrs. Shaffer and Miss Bantz's classes have been discovering unique information on the skeletal and muscular systems. The fifth grade has also hosted a couple of special guests. One was Dr. Matt Fuelling, a chiropractor in Independence, who answered questions from the kids about bones and bone health. Another was Miss Maas's brother who works for the Black Hawk County Animal Rescue Program. He shared information about the program and brought several different types of owls to share with the fifth graders.



Students are anxiously awaiting another exciting field trip coming in May, Fish Iowa!

Sixth Grade

Venomous snakes, jumping spiders, howling monkeys, and giant cockroaches are the types of company you might keep while in the rainforests of Central America. The sixth grade students learned about the possibility of these encounters while listening to Jon and Pam Voelkel, a husband and wife author team, share their experiences researching for their young adult book series, The Jaguar Stones. On Wednesday, March 16, the sixth graders traveled to Oelwein to join other schools from northeast Iowa for the author presentation. Students learned about the ancient Mayan civilizations, present-day Maya people, the rainforests located in that region of Middle America, and the experience of being authors. It was a fabulous opportunity to gain background knowledge for our upcoming social studies unit that will cover Central and South America, in addition to learning about the rainforest habitat and the excitement of being published authors. The most memorable part of the day was watching our teachers eat barbequed mealworms!



TAG

The sixth grade Future Problem Solving team competed at the FPS Regional Competition in Cedar Falls on January 23, 2011. Their performance earned them an invitation to the Future Problem Solving State Bowl, which will be held at ISU in Ames on April 8 & 9, 2011. The team members are: Ryan Adams, Grace Bertelli, and Tia Whited.

Band

The 6th Grade Band received a Superior + rating at the NEIBA Large Group Festival on Thursday, March 10th. This is the band's 15th consecutive Superior rating.

Honorary Crew

Sixth graders, Dusty Williams, Liberty McKiney, Kelsey Cain, Avri Ruffcorn, Emma Meador, Haley Hansen, Ryan Adams, and Cassidy Martinson, got an opportunity to work for McDonalds for two hours. They partnered with a McDonalds worker to learn about all aspects of the job, including waiting on and serving customers. Students were selected for this honor based on a written job application.

Curriculum and School Improvement

By Sandy Merritt, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement

Mustang Foundation Dinner

The Second Annual Mustang Foundation Dinner was a huge success. A total of 208 people attended this event on January 22, some 30 more than last year. The dinner was again held at Heartland Acres featuring a prime rib dinner catered by Bill's Pizza and Smokehouse. There were 46 silent auction items and 9 live auction items for guests to bid on. The live items included an iPod Touch, a GPS system, I-KAM Xtreme Video Sunglasses, a Blu Ray disc player, 2 Coach purses, a Terry Redlin framed print, an opportunity to be the UNI Coach for the Day, and seats on the 50 yard line for the upcoming Independence football season. Twenty-five community dessert chefs created and served their special creations to the guests in hopes of raising the most tips and receiving the title of "Best Chef". Jennifer Sornson took top honors with her Caramel Pecan Cheesecake. The event raised about \$16,000 for the Foundation, with about \$5,000 of that going to the new multi-purpose building. Those attending shared that it was a great time!



Curriculum and School Improvement

By Sandy Merritt, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement

Professional Development

What do teachers do on our early dismissal days? These days are very important to our district as staff uses this time to grow in their professional expertise. We are using these days this year to focus attention on the Characteristics of Effective Instruction. These include teaching for learner differences, assessment for learning, student centered classrooms, checking for understanding, and providing instruction that provides the right amount of challenge and is relevant to students' lives. Professional development is presented by a variety of people - staff, administrators, and outside speakers. Teachers sometimes work with their entire building and sometimes with their content or grade level teams. Learning, in order to be most effective, must be presented and reviewed on a regular basis. We are able to do that with our early dismissals twice a month.

Do we have to have this many days? The number of days allocated for professional development is set by the state. Our calendar committee recommends to the board when those days will be assigned on the calendar.

School Nurse News

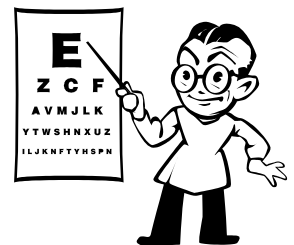
Athletic physical night will be held on Wednesday, May 4th from 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at West Elementary. You can pick up a physical form from West Elementary or the Junior/Senior High School office.

Is your child over the age of 11? Many people believe that vaccines stop when a child enters kindergarten. Getting immunized is a life-long disease preventing process. Your child may be due for a booster of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis), or vaccines against diseases such as Hepatitis A, HPV, or meningitis. Now is a good time to check with your healthcare provider to see if your child needs any of these immunizations.

Warmer weather means more exposed skin to the sun. Remember, there is no such thing as a safe tan. Exposure to UV rays, whether by natural sunlight or tanning beds, increases your risk for skin cancer. Encourage your child to avoid tanning beds and use sunscreen when outdoors. Sunless tanning lotions are a safe alternative to sun damaged skin.

Vision changes, especially near-sightedness, have a high incidence of occurrence during adolescence due to changes in the eye caused by normal growth. Having your child's vision examined by an optometrist or ophthalmologist is important at this stage of their development and should be part of regularly scheduled preventative health visits. Vision problems are easily corrected but only if identified.

Teri Schloss, RN
Rhonda Jasper, RN



ICSD, øMustang Roots and Shootsø School Garden Update

Here's a little history:

In the spring of 2009, our school garden started with 2 raised beds, purchased with Farm to School money, placed right outside Micki Sand-Cohen's 1st grade classroom over at the old East building. She and her class planted tomatoes, potatoes, bell peppers, zucchini, and a few other little things. Micki used the vegetables in her classroom to make salsa, mashed potatoes and zucchini bread, all tying it into the lessons! We had just enough tomatoes left to serve them at lunch to all the students at East on one day.

In the Spring of 2010, we got permission to put a larger garden behind the Admin Building. Building the current garden was truly a community and school-wide effort! Joe Olsen and Mike Donnelly coordinated to have the custodians make 13 raised beds from the old bleacher seats. They also scooped dirt for us from the wetlands area and used the front-end loader to fill the beds once they were in place. Donated cardboard and newspaper were used as an under layer to keep the weeds down. Students and teachers together planted all of the plants that year, all in ONE day!! Middle School FCS students helped spread the mulch around between the beds, also to keep weeds and grass from growing up. The plants and seeds were donated by Micki Sand-Cohen and by Hawkeye Community College's Horticulture program.

At the end of the school year in 2010, suggestions for a name for the garden were taken from all students in the District. We then held a school-wide vote, so everyone could take part in the school garden. The new name for the school garden is øMustang Roots and Shootsø.

Produce from the garden last year was used in Micki Sand-Cohen's classroom, and in the school lunches, as it was ready in the fall. Things like tomatoes, onions, a few peppers, zucchini, cucumbers, cabbage, potatoes, Brussels Sprouts and fresh rosemary, were all used in either the school lunches or in the classroom. Micki and Joe Olsen also had the kids harvest Brussels Sprouts one day last Fall. Joe then sauteed them in Micki's classroom, using the Cooking Cart, and put some shredded cheese on them. It is not an exaggeration to say that the students LOVED the Brussels Sprouts and even asked for seconds!



Here are few things we have in the works for this Spring:

New Partnershipsí ..

-We have a fund being set up through the Buchanan County Conservation Board just for the garden, so if anyone wants to donate, they are able to give easily through this fund. We already have a handful of community members who have offered donations as soon as we get the fund set-up.

-Rudy Kubik has offered to till up any ground that we might need tilled.

-Micki has been working with Loren Hamilton, who had volunteered to build a cold frame over one of the raised beds and build a compost bin for us. Loren talked to Spahn and Rose, who have now donated the Plexiglas and other materials to make the cold frame! A cold frame will enable us to start some plants in the ground early and also harvest some crops later in the fall.

-Joe Olsen re-connected with FarmTek, a farm and garden supply company out of Dyersville. Sam Shroyer from FarmTek was hired as part of a new initiative that focuses on hoop house/greenhouse, hydroponics and vegetable growing so this is a work in progress for FarmTek. He came here and visited the schools with Joe and took a look at our garden, the greenhouse at West Elementary, and the greenhouse at the High School. We have just received estimates on both greenhouses from them and we'll be taking a look at our options.

-We received a donation of hundreds of seed packets from Scott Smalley, Oelwein's High School Horticulture Teacher and FFA leader.

-We've also developed partnerships with Hawkeye Community College. Dan Lichty, from their Horticulture Department and his students made garden plans for us last summer, donated plants, offered to grow plants for us to put in the garden this year and Dan has volunteered to come out and talk to our elementary classes.

Continued on page 12

ICSD, Mustang Roots and Shoots School Garden Update

Continued from page 11

Gardening in the Classroom

-Joe Olsen, Jessi Dorsey and I have all been in discussions with Rhonda Sheets, whose High School students are working on logos and other marketing materials for the school garden. We hope to have such things as plant sign markers, signs in the garden to indicate its purpose, brochures, posters, car window clings, t-shirts, and business cards.

-Micki and Jessi are busy planning the beds using a vegetable garden planning program. Not only will the beds be planned this way, they are taking the whole plans that Dan Lichty and his students drew up for us, and just altering them to make it more childlike and fun. Perhaps a winding yellow brick road is in the future for the garden!

-5 or 6 teachers will also be using this program to plan a raised bed for their classrooms. Micki, Joe and Jessi will then work with each classroom to get the plants and seeds for them, have someone come to talk to their students, and get into the garden and get things planted this spring.

The Future of the Garden

-We've also discussed taking over the entire grassy area behind the Admin Building with Mike Donnelly. We are not to that point yet, but it may be a possibility in the future.

-We will be applying for a \$500 grant through Team Nutrition to buy small equipment and plants for the garden and garden related activities.

-Farmer's Market for the produce as it becomes ready in the summer and fall, until the crops are done producing.

--run by students, would teach gardening skills, marketing, sales, money management, and professional interaction with customers, AND would raise money!

-Garden tours, given by students.

-Possibly working with Val Maximovich to bring in Seniors to volunteer in the garden this summer, perhaps those who no longer have a garden of their own to work in.

-Possibly doing some light processing of our own produce to sell as a fundraiser. (I am attending a webinar in April on light processing. I still need to look into what it takes to get a processing license for the school district.)

What's in store for next Fall?

There is a very important event happening in Buchanan County this fall, on September 15-17th. The Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards (IACCB) is having their annual conference here, at the Heartland Acres Agritourism Center. The theme, based on a quote from Teddy Roosevelt, is "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

Joe Olsen, Micki Sand-Cohen, and I will be speaking at the event on Friday, Sept. 16th about our Farm to School program. Then on Saturday, Sept. 17th, attendees will be going on field trips, one of which will be to our school's prairie area, wetlands area, and the school garden.

Here is a link their website for more information.

<http://www.iaccb.com> At their homepage, click on "Events." You can also contact Dan Cohen with the Buchanan County Conservation Board at 319-636-2617.

Next time you drive over to the Administrative Building, or through the West Elementary parking lot, take a look at the garden. It will change with the seasons, always providing a good educational experience and fresh produce for the students in our district!

-Kelly Crossley, Food Service Director



Jr High News

By Dave Jacobson, Assistant Junior-Senior High School Principal & Activities Director

We're just a few days away from the end of the 3rd quarter and once again, where has this school year gone? So far we've had a better year weather wise than the past few with only 4 snow days, which in turn will not push our school calendar and the end of the year back too far. A lot has happened in the junior high since the winter newsletter! í í í

The 7th & 8th grade students completed their ITBS testing sessions even though we had to postpone a few of the testing sessions due to the weather. We are anxiously awaiting our results and are confident our ITBS prep package has helped our students be ready to test at a higher level. Thank you to the committee members for their efforts on this since the start of the school year; Julie Gowans, Amy Gustafson, Dave Jacobson, Brian Jesse, Greg Moen and Rachel Thomsen. Also thank you to the students for their efforts as they tested. The committee has already met again plus gathered input from the faculty while it was all fresh in our minds as to how we can improve our testing procedures for next year.



**Dave Jacobson,
Assistant Junior-Senior High
School Principal and
Activities Director**

Speaking of testing, our 7th & 8th grade students will also complete the spring sessions of the NWEA/MAP testing battery during the last 2 weeks of March. These scores will be compared with their fall testing scores to reflect progress. The faculty will utilize the DesCarte Skills to improve their instruction so they can better meet the individual needs of all students.

Mr. Moen, our 7th & 8th grade Guidance Counselor, is planning our annual Community Clean-up Day for early April. We have our students go out to various public areas like our local parks and do a spring clean-up. It helps beautify our parks, get them ready for spring use, assists our park & rec services and most importantly the students experience give back for the benefit of others.

The 7th grade students will be taking their annual Farm to School Field Trip in the middle of May. Kelly Crossley will oversee this awesome trip and provide the students with an opportunity to visit an apple orchard, a dairy farm and an organic farm. Funding for the field trip comes from a grant as well as the Magazine Sales fundraiser our students do each fall.

Dave Jacobson

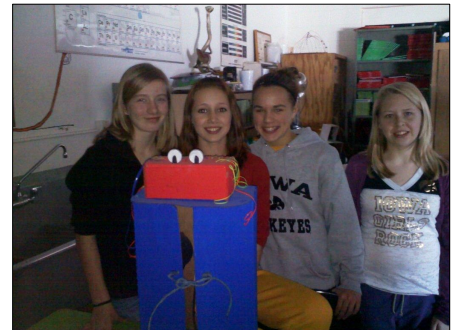
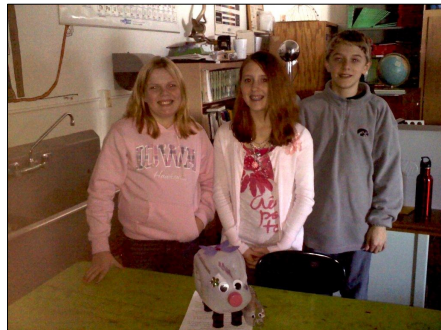
Junior-Senior High School Assistant Principal & Activities Director



7th Grade Life Science By Garry Anderson

Some of the exciting curriculums we have covered thus far this year have included making cell models, working with the scientific method, using the microscope, creating a creature, skeletal system, digestive system, and circulatory system. The students really enjoyed the process and outcome of the create a creature series. This project demonstrated all the characteristics of living things. Students were placed in groups and asked to think outside the box in order to create a creature of their very own. Though this project was completed early during the year, the winners of each class were displayed in the classroom.

Top 3 Place Winners

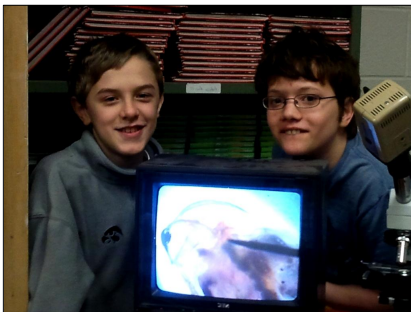


1st - Left: going left to right: Mari Lopez, Jacey Schwarting, Hannah Peterson, Jake Juhl

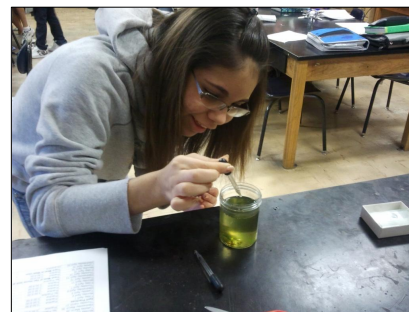
2nd - Middle: going from left to right: Alyssa Jensen, Madison Arend, Colin Kirchoff

3rd - Right: going left to right: Hope Staker, Autumn Meiborg, Jenna Price, Koral Morgan

During our Circulatory system unit 7th Graders test the effects of drugs on a water flea (daphnia). Students really enjoy working with microscopes throughout the year and really liked to see the effects of different drugs on the daphnia's heartbeat. Some students were surprised by which drugs were stimulants and which were depressants.



Water flea under the microscope Colin Kirchoff, Austin Lange



Mari Lopez getting a water flea



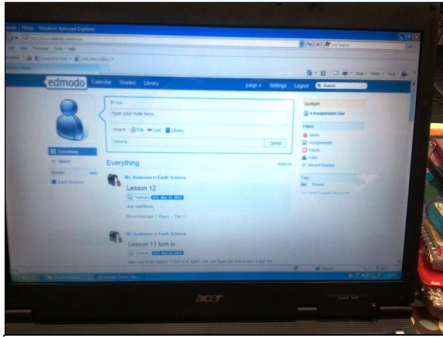
Jenna Price, Caleb Feltes, Cindy Huang, Tristan Dilley
Working; looking at a water flea in the microscope



Matt McMillan getting a water flea

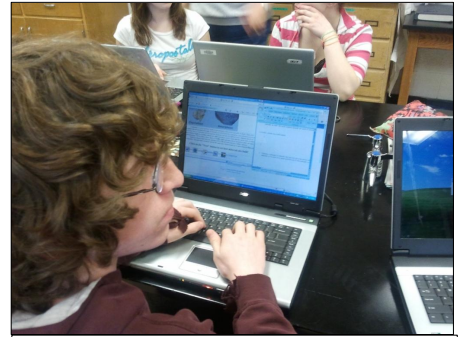
8th Grade Earth Science By Garry Anderson

So far this year 8th graders curriculum has included Astronomy, Stars and Galaxies, Solar System, Plate Tectonics, Earth's Interior, Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and Rocks & Minerals. The last couple of years we have had some major Earthquakes causing Tsunamis and Volcanic Eruptions. We have been studying both earthquakes and volcanoes via the internet. Students are using EDMODO an online program to work on 5 lessons covering our rocks and minerals

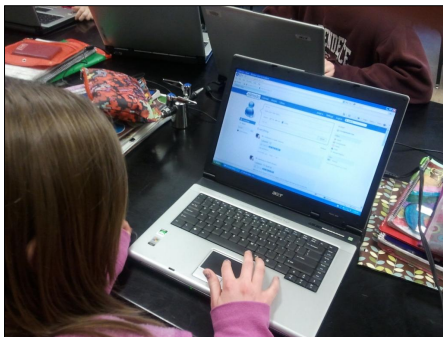


EDMODO our program (free)

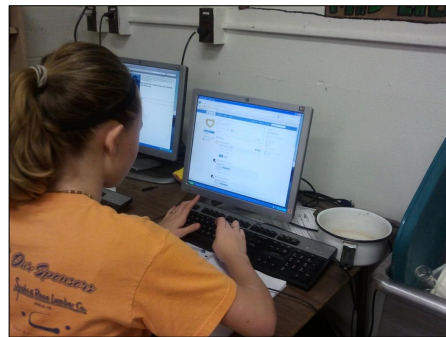
unit online. Students are using Microsoft Word to type all their answers and send them to the teacher through this wonderful program. The best thing is that this program is absolutely free to use and we are not wasting paper. Here are some pictures of some 8th graders hard at work in science.



Will Porter hard at work



Paige Sents at work



Courtney Bailey at work

TAG NEWS By Megan Rawlins

In 7th grade we had: Mitch Ohl (1st place Poetry), Kara Davison (2nd place Creative Writing), and Adam Goedken (3rd place Creative Writing).

In the Jr. High we are working on many different projects. We had a group of students go and compete at the local Future Problem Solving Bowl at the AEA



Mitch Ohl, Adam Goedken and Kara Davison

267 Center in Cedar Falls. We will find out in March if they will qualify for the State competition. They are as follows: Ross Thedens, Adam Goedken, Cecily Corkery, Lauren Jimmerson, Denver Studebaker, Molly Gustafson, Steph McMillan, and Matt Beebe.

In the month of March we will have a group of High School and Jr. High students competing in the Battle of the Books competition.



Molly Gustafson, Lauren Jimmerson, Adam Goedken, Denver Studebaker, Matt Beebe, Ross Thedens, Cecily Corkery, and Steph McMillan

Spanish I By Mrs. Crawford

Spanish I students are working hard on improving their language skills. The "skinny" classes are nearing the completion of their text work, and will work on specific drills to improve their abilities with various subjects and their verbs.

Block Spanish I is at the mid point of their studies and have done a nice job picking up their second language and on using it to describe classes they are in and will continue with this, along with describing sports they enjoy, healthy eating habits and what they can do to improve these habits.

Both block and skinny classes have done class presentations and skits for class. They get lots of practice time in class to use their second language skills - encourage this at home, as well.



7th Grade Social Studies By Mrs. Crawford

7th grade Social Studies covers all of the Eastern Hemisphere - this keeps us VERY busy! We are wrapping up our studies of the African continent, and will be moving on to Southeast Asia next.

We have talked a lot about culture and its influences on the people of all of these countries. Various religious beliefs are introduced and students have made many comparisons to their own culture and the cultures they are studying. Please encourage your son or daughter to share with you what we study in class, and encourage them to keep up on the daily work, as it can be easy to fall behind.



Math Help at Home By Mrs. Tracy Curtis, 7th/8th Math Instructor

The general nature of math makes it an important subject to monitor throughout a child's education. Early understanding and mastery of mathematical concepts is critical for success of material in the long run.

Unfortunately, mastery of concepts may not show up in the present due to short and long-term memory skills. Too often some skills, or lack of skills, may not show up for months or even a year after mastery was suppose to have been achieved.

As a 7th/8th grade math teacher parents sometimes have concerns that they may not be able to help their child with what they are learning in class. Math concepts and understanding is much more than what they are currently learning in the classroom. As parents, be willing to discuss multiple representations of math. Estimation skills are used daily, from grocery bills to gas mileage. When shopping, discuss what discounts, and taxes mean. When dining, discuss calculating tips. Help teach measurements, fractions, and decimals, by having your children help with baking, building, and balancing checking accounts. All of these skills help reinforce concepts taught at each grade level, long-term memory skills, and real-life application of concepts.

As far as homework help, here are a few tips to help:

- ** Try having your child explain what they are doing. What the directions, notes, or book examples are showing. This will help put information in their words and hearing it aloud is helpful.
- ** Look through student's textbook and notes to help walk you through examples.
- ** Look over your child's work regardless of age.
- ** Encourage your child to show their work. If they are having difficulties, it is much easier to see what they are thinking when you can see some work, for both parents and teachers.
- ** There is a wealth of information on the Internet including online tutorials, extra practice, and U-tube videos to discuss problems. Help guide your student through a search to find online help.

Goals By Jennifer Sornson, Jr/Sr High School Principal



Jennifer Sornson,
Jr/Sr HS Principal

GOAL SHEETS for RECORD BOOKS. If you have ever been a 4-H member then you know what that first statement means. I was a six-year member of the Monroe Merry Makers. Not a very serious name but we were serious about achieving. We were led by Audrey (a drill sergeant in a former life) whose mission was to ensure that all record books were completed to her standards. Why do I tell you this story from my childhood? Because this is where I learned the importance of goal setting.

The overriding goal of the 2010-2011 school year was to create a Junior-Senior High. That goal has been met. The building is being used to the maximum. Staff members are instructing more students than in the past. Numerous staff members work with both Junior and Senior High students.

Now that we have a 7-12 building we need to focus on the next goals. Our first goal is to provide consistent scheduling for all students. That means getting to one bell system. By having one system, students would have more uninterrupted instructional time. Our second goal would be to improve our lunch schedule. Currently we have students that attend class, go to lunch, and then return to the same class. We want to greatly reduce the number of teachers that have to start class twice. Our third goal would be to continue our efforts to be one building. The staff needs to work as 7-12 groups, develop a better understanding of the needs of each grade level, and hold more common events such as parent-teacher conferences.

öGoals are the fuel in the furnace of achievement.ö

Brian Tracy

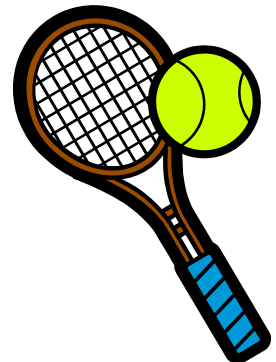
Getting back to my original story about 4-H. Being forced (Audrey) to start with a goal, you eventually learn that this is the best way to start a project. It does not matter if you are talking about a fair project or a school. The goal is the starting position and the end result is a blue ribbon.

Jennifer Sornson
Principal
Independence Junior-Senior High

Girls Tennis By Mrs. Crawford

Girls tennis is just underway, and we have 33 girls signed up for this Spring! Many girls are picking up a racket for the very first time, but in the short time we have been together, much improvement has been made. We have several returning letter winners from last year, including two seniors: Emily Hickey and Kayla Flemming, who will help mentor the new players on our team.

The first meet of the season will be at Marion on April 7th, so we are hoping for a sunny, warm day. We host many home meets, so check the school's web site and come out and support the girls as they make their way through another season of tennis action.



Speech News..... By Dan Putz

The Independence Speech Team had a fantastic year. Here is a recap!

SPEECH TEAM ADVANCES 11 GROUPS TO STATE

On Saturday, January 22nd, the Independence Speech Team traveled to Cascade for District Large Group Speech Contest. Congratulations to the eleven events that earned I ratings and advanced to the State Large Group Speech Contest that was held February 5th in Decorah.

Those earning top honors were the Readersø Theater øThurber Carnivalö, the Radio News Team KHAR, the Group Improvs of Emily Goedken, Hannah Butler and Olivia Kaiser, Aubrey Nabholz, Sarah Lake and Madison Diesburg and Stephanie McMillan, Molly Gustafson, and Abigail Goedken, the Choral Reading øCasual Approach to Violenceö, the TV News Team KIHS, the Ensemble Acts øCrayon Rallyö and øHomecoming Interviewsö, the Group Mime øLove Stole My Heartö and the Short Film øThe Harpersville Murderö.

Those earning II ratings were the Ensemble Act øSisterly Loveö, the One-Act Play øBooby Trapö, the Musical Theaters øChicagoö, Annieö and øNewsiesö.

SPEECH TEAM EARNS THREE I RATINGS AT STATE

The Speech Team traveled to the State Large Group Contest on February 5th in Decorah. Congratulations to those that earned I ratings. They included Hannah Butler, Emily Goedken and Olivia Kaiser in Group Improv, Makaela Schulz, Amber Juhl and Chloe Kaiser in the Ensemble Act øHomecoming Interviewsö and Garrett Clampitt, Jeannett Clampitt, Tiffany Bean and Ryan Kurt as the TV News Team KIHS.

Those earning II ratings included Hayden Reynolds, Garrett Clampitt and Alisha Thompson as the Radio News Team KHAR, Sara Lake, Aubrey Nabholz and Madie Diesburg in Group Improv, Abigail Goedken, Stephanie McMillan and Molly Gustafson in Group Improv, Hannah Butler, Emily Goedken, Amy Shonk, Amanda Shonk, Zach Schulz and Adam Kurt in the Ensemble Act øCrayon Rallyö, Leah Snyder, Kodi Fratzke, Hayden Reynolds, Megan Lang, James Zieser, Cara Miller, Abigail Goedken, Amy Gissel, Rachel Wheelock, Rachel Barloon and Devan Cummings in the Readersø Theater øThurber Carnivalö, Meg Harper, Aubrey Nabholz, Adam Nash, Quinci Morris, Katelin Kremer, Mickayla Burk and Mikenna Rodriguez in the Choral Reading øCasual Approach to Violenceö, Rachel Barloon and Garrett Anderson in the Group Mime øLove Stole My Heartö and Logan Halverson, Luke Crawford, Anna Lahey, Daermon Garrigus, Tony Lake and Ben Andersen in the Short Film øThe Harpersville Murderö.

INDEE SPEECH TEAM WINS WaMaC WEST INDIVIDUAL EVENTS SPEECH TOURNAMENT

On Saturday, February 12th, Independence hosted the WaMaC West Individual Events Speech Tournament. Congratulations to the students on their outstanding performances! The Speech Team had 37 entries and 33 of those received I ratings or placed in the top five! Independence scored 121.5 team points to take top honors.

Center Point-Urbana placed second with 76 points.

1st Place- Luke Crawford in Solo Musical Theater, Tony Lake in Spontaneous Speaking, Zach Schulz in Public Address AND Spontaneous Speaking, Jeannett Clampitt in Expository Address, Hannah Butler in Acting, Easton Davis in Reviewing, Sarah Lake in Literary Program and Abigail Goedken in Poetry.

2nd Place- Hannah Butler In Solo Musical Theater, Alisha Thompson Public Address, Makaela Schulz in Storytelling, Amanda Shonk in Reviewing and Hayden Reynolds in Radio News Announcing.

3rd Place- Jeannett Clampitt in Storytelling, Ailis McCardle in Spontaneous Speaking, Adam Kurt in Improvisation, Makaela Schulz in Acting, Meg Harper in Literary Program, Amy Shonk in After Dinner Speaking and Garrett Clampitt in Public Address.

4th Place- Stephanie McMillan in Expository Address AND Storytelling and Logan Halverson in Review.

5th Place- Emily Goedken in Prose, Ailis McCardle in Radio News Announcing and Ryan Kurt in After Dinner Speaking.

Those earning I ratings included Ryan Kurt and Mikenna Rodriguez in Improvisation, Alisha Thompson in Radio News Announcing, Adam Kurt in After Dinner Speaking and Austin Wright and Logan Halverson in Prose.

Continued on page 19

More Speech News..... By Dan Putz

Continued from page 18

IHS SPEECH TEAM ADVANCES 30 ENTRIES TO STATE

On Saturday, February 26th, the Speech Team was at Maquoketa Valley for the District Individuals. The Team had 38 entries, and 30 received I ratings and advanced to the State Individual Speech Contest that was held on Saturday, March 12th at Starmont. Those that advanced to State included: Emily Goedken, Logan Halverson and Austin Wright in Prose, Hannah Butler and Makaela Schulz in Acting, Emily Goedken, Amanda Shonk and Abigail Goedken in Poetry, Ailis McCardle in Radio News Announcing, Zach Schulz and Alisha Thompson in Public Address, Zach Schulz, Ailis McCardle and Tony Lake in Spontaneous Speaking, Hannah Butler and Luke Crawford in Solo Musical Theater, Amanda Shonk and Easton Davis in Reviewing, Ryan Kurt and Adam Kurt in Improvisation, Jeannett Clampitt, Garrett Clampitt and Stephanie McMillan in Expository Address, Ryan Kurt, Adam Kurt and Amy Shonk in After Dinner Speaking, Stephanie McMillan, Makaela Schulz and Jeannett Clampitt in Storytelling and Meg Harper in Literary Program.

24 OF 30 SPEECH TEAM ENTRIES EARN I RATINGS AT STATE

On Saturday, March 12th the Speech Students traveled to Starmont for the State Individual Speech Contest. Congratulations to the Speech Students on their superior performances. Of the 30 entries, 24 received I ratings. Those earning I ratings included: Makaela Schulz in Storytelling, Emily Goedken, Amanda Shonk and Abigail Goedken in Poetry, Emily Goedken, and Austin Wright in Prose, Amanda Shonk in Reviewing, Jeannett Clampitt, Garrett Clampitt and Stephanie McMillan in Expository Address, Hannah Butler and Luke Crawford in Solo Musical Theater, Hannah Butler in Acting, Ryan Kurt and Adam Kurt in Improvisation, Zach Schulz, Ailis McCardle and Tony Lake in Spontaneous Speaking, Amy Shonk, Ryan Kurt and Adam Kurt in After Dinner Speaking, Zach Schulz and Alisha Thompson in Public Address and Ailis McCardle in Radio News Announcing. Those earning II ratings included: Easton Davis in Reviewing, Logan Halverson in Prose, Meg Harper in Literary Program, Stephanie McMillan and Jeannett Clampitt in Storytelling and Makaela Schulz in Acting. The Speech Team is coached by Emily Griffin, Coleen Meissner, Dawn Keenan, Dan Putz and Jon TeStrake. Thanks to all parents, students and friends who came to watch the performances.

THREE QUALIFY FOR ALL-STATE SPEECH FESTIVAL

Three Independence High School students earned top honors and were selected to perform at the Iowa High School Speech Association All-State Speech Festival from over 10,000 students that started at the district level of competition. Approximately 450 were selected for this honor from the entire state. The festival will be held on the campus of U.N.I. on Monday, March 28th.

- ❖ Abigail Goedken, a freshman, was nominated in the Poetry category. Her selections were a poem by Taylor Mali entitled "Miracle Worker" and "I Cannot Go To School Today" by Shel Silverstein. Abigail is the daughter of Jack and Joan Goedken.
- ❖ Emily Goedken, a junior, was also selected in the Poetry category. Her poems were "I Am" by Adam Goedken and "A Creed To Live By" by Greta Zehner. Emily is the daughter of Jack and Joan Goedken.
- ❖ Jeannett Clampitt, a sophomore, was selected in the category of Expository Address. Her speech entitled "Old MacDonald's Farm" was about hog confinements. Jeannett is the daughter of Jayne and Gregory Clampitt.

Abigail, Emily and Jeannett were a part of the speech team that had 30 entries at the state speech contest. 24 of those students received I ratings.

Special thanks to Mr. TeStrake, Mrs. Keenan, Ms. Griffin, Mrs. Meissner and Mr. Putz whose efforts allowed the team to be so successful!

Activities Newsletter by Activities Director Dave Jacobson

We were very fortunate with only a few weather related postponements and cancellations this past winter. Not to jinx our activities for this spring, but we certainly hope we have the same fortune for our spring sports that are now in full swing! í í like golfí í í .so to speak!

The Booster Club and a few of us this past winter decided to make an effort to ðBOOSTö our home attendance at home winter events. We formed a Spirit Committee and promoted a SPIRIT WEEK that would involve 1 girls & 1 boys basketball game as well as a wrestling meet. All fans of all ages were able to buy a ðWe Bleed Maroon & Whiteö t-shirt for \$5.00, students were able to sign up for drawings and winners received booster club clothing, food cards to local establishments plus the grand prize ó an iPod Touch. 14 students won food cards, 10 students won Booster Club clothing and the grand prize winner of the iPod Touch was Sam Priebe. Thank you to the winter cheerleaders, National Honor Society members, Julie Reeder, the Booster Club and Spirit Committee members: Bill Duffy, Dave Jacobson, Scott Meador and Trish O'Loughlin for their efforts and making Spirit Week a success.

Congratulations to the Independence Wrestling Team for their 6th place finish at State this past season. Head Coach Michael Doyle, assistant coaches Keith Donnelly, Brent Lenox, Mike Zimmerly, Matt Shannon, Brian Loughren, Kalika Staker, Ryan Nielsen, Josh Weber and junior high coaches Garry Anderson, Jon Carey and Dan Eschen deserve special recognition for their leadership and efforts.

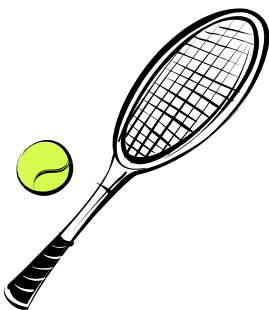
Congratulations to the Large Group Speech team members as well as the Individual Speech team members for their success this past season. Sponsor Dan Putz and assistants Jon Testrake, Dawn Keenan, Emily Griffin and Coleen Meissner deserve recognition as well for an outstanding season. The team had 11 groups advance to state from the district contest while earning ðlö ratings. The Individual Speech Team won the WaMaC Divisional Championship with 33 of 37 entries receiving ðlö ratings. In the State Speech Contest, 24 of 30 entries earned ðlö ratings with 3 qualifying for the All-State Speech Festival.

Congratulations to David Lang and the Independence Jazz Orchestra for receiving 1st place at the Tall Corn Jazz Festival on February 19. Congratulations to the Independence Band for being selected as the only 3A band in the state of Iowa to perform at the Iowa Band Masters Event in Des Moines on May 13.

Dave Jacobson Junior-Senior High Assistant Principal & Activities Director



Dave Jacobson,
Activities Director



The Independence Community Schools Volunteer & Mentor Program By Val Maximovich, Volunteer & Mentor Coordinator

Volunteers Everywhere!

You never know where volunteers might show up!! The latest volunteer adventure has been at the Junior High 8th grade Family Consumer Science sewing class! We had several volunteers helping students March 4 & March 23 sew pajama pants and some stayed the next class period for the 7th graders too! It's been a great learning opportunity for everyone involved! Many thanks to our volunteers!

April is Volunteer Recognition Month

We will again be recognizing our many volunteers and mentors for the 2010-2011 school year. Be watching for the recognition evening.

Mentor Picnic

It's hard to believe we are talking about the end of the year Mentor Picnic for the Mentors and the students! This annual event will be held on Tuesday, May 17th, West Elementary commons, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Hope to see you all then! Invitations will be coming soon.

Mentors still Needed!

The end of the school year may be coming quickly, but we still have a need for MENTORS! There is always a need for school based mentors, for all children. We have several individual children waiting, that we would like to get matched before the school year ends. Then when the school year begins in the fall you will be there for them! Other opportunities are: 5th grade book discussion group mentoring (4-6 in the group) which meets once a week, morning door greeters at all buildings and lunch greeters at East Elementary. And I'm sure even more coming next year! If you have the time, we have the need! Call Val Maximovich, Volunteer & Mentor Coordinator, 334-7400, ext. 626, or email vmaximovich@independence.k12.ia.us

HOME TRACK MEET VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We have a plea for volunteers for the upcoming home track meet on April 28th and 29th for many activities those two days. The weather should be great for being outside! Call Julie Weber at West Elementary 334-7430.

Students and Parents

Please take this short survey and send it back to school with your child by April 1st. This is your chance to contribute to the End of the Year Celebration this year!

We truly thank you for your feedback and valuable opinions! Thank you, very much!

1. The End of the Year Celebration is intended to bring both school and community together in a fun, positive way. It is intended to include all students, parents, school staff, and community members.

In your opinion, should it take place? .. (please circle your answer)

- A) During student's lunch time? C) Around 4:00PM?
B) Immediately after school? D) Around 5:00PM or after? E) Any of those will work for me.

2. Should the Celebration take place? .. (please circle your answer)

- A) Sometime during the week before classes get out for the summer?
B) May 23rd C) May 24th D) May 25th E) May 26th, the last day of school

3. What did you like most about last year's celebration? _____

4. What did you like least about last year's celebration? _____

5. What would you most like to change about last year's celebration? (please circle your answer)

- A) The date it occurred? (last year it was on the last day of school) D) The menu choices?
B) The time of day it occurred? E) I wouldn't change anything.
C) The way the parent and student meals were handled?

6. Please elaborate on any answers above that you feel need further explanation. _____

Your Contribution is Greatly Appreciated! Thank you!!

INDEPENDENCE SCHOOLS MENTORING PROGRAM
presents

Celebrate Mentoring Community Fundraiser

“*Lean On Me*
When You Need A Friend”

Family Night of Fun

Saturday, April 2

West Elementary Gym, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Special presentation of “Lean on Me” by students & mentors @ 5:30 p.m.

Admission: \$2 Adults, \$1 Children, \$10 per Family

“Soul” Out of Classic Rock Band & Mustang Cheerleaders

Mustang Mascot “Champ” & Mustang Tattoos, 50¢ each

Cake Walk, \$1 per Ticket & Leo Club Concessions

Bill’s Pizza, \$2.50 per Slice

For more information please contact:

Val Maximovich, Volunteer & Mentor Coordinator

Independence Community School District

334-7400 ext. 626

Community in Care funds

provided by Thrivent for Lutherans



INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS VOLUNTEER MENTOR PROGRAM VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

Volunteers are an important resource to the educational process in the Independence Community Schools. Please complete the information below and on the back so that we may best utilize your time and talent. Regular, ongoing help is not necessary. If you have questions, please call (319) 334-7400 Ext. 626 or email Val at vmaximovich@independence.k12.ia.us Thank you!

RETURN THIS FORM TO: Independence Community School District
Attn: Volunteer Mentor Program
1301 First Street West
Independence, Iowa 50644

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ - _____ - _____ Cell phone _____ - _____ - _____ E-mail _____

Employer _____ Business Phone _____

Current Occupation _____

Other occupational experiences _____

Retired? _____ yes _____ no Names and grades of any children in school _____

Do you have any health or physical limitations that might affect certain types of volunteer positions? ____ yes ____ no

If yes, please list: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____
Name Phone Relationship

Where and when are you available?

____ District (anywhere needed) ____ ECC (PK) ____ East Elem (K-2) ____ West Elem (3-6) ____ Jr/Sr High School (7-12)

Time(s) available: ____ Daily ____ Weekly ____ Variable, Occasional Other: _____

If you have specific hours on specific days, please list here: (Example, 8:00-9:30 on Tuesdays)

Monday _____

Tuesday _____

Wednesday _____

Thursday _____

Friday _____

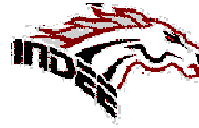
Do you have a specific class or teacher request? _____

**PLEASE FILL OUT THE BACKSIDE TO LET US KNOW YOUR
INTERESTS/TALENTS.**



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>

VOLUNTEER PREFERENCE CHECKLIST - Please check any and all areas you would help in.

Name _____ Today's date _____

Phone _____ Start date _____

Teacher Support

- ☐ Small group(s)
- ☐ Any in-class assistance
- ☐ Assist handicapped
- ☐ Clerical support
- ☐ Field trip chaperone
- ☐ Media center/library
- Specific grade request _____
- Specific teacher request _____
- Other: _____

Special Projects/Programs

- ☐ Classroom special events
- ☐ Volunteer bulletin board help
- ☐ Mentoring (lunchtime)
- ☐ After-school homework help
- ☐ Career exploration speaker
- ☐ Camp Ewalu (Junior High)
- ☐ Book fair help
- ☐ Music program help
- ☐ Athletic program help

At Home Help

- ☐ Computer work
- ☐ Material preparation
- ☐ Food/treats preparation
- ☐ Telephoning parents
about events, reminders
- ☐ Grade papers
- ☐ Assemble projects
- ☐ Make costumes (sew)
- Other: _____

Skills/Knowledge You Could Share Not Listed In Above Categories: _____
