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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

Budget

-Devin Embray, Superintendent

This year was probably the most difficult year of reductions that this district has seen in a very long time. There was a lot of emotion and passion in favor of the programs identified for reduction. It is not an easy process. Often, communication during this difficult time is skewed and twisted at best. Many do not understand why something is considered for reductions over something else. Some even state it is pretty clear what needs to be reduced and what doesn't. I want to assure you that it is not an easy task to do. The reductions for next year are as follows:

- K-5 Spanish
 - One Art position at high school
 - One Administrative position
 - 9-12 French*
- *French will be phased out over the 2007-2008 school year and not offered in 2008-2009

If our variables of declining enrollment and low to flat line increases in assessed valuation for our district continue, we will again be faced with many tough decisions to be made for the following year. We already know that our allowable growth is set at 4% for next year. Based on the loss of students this year our 4% was actually 2.3%. School districts tend to be reactionary creatures, due to the fact that we don't have the power to change our future on our own. It will take many different entities to come together for the purpose of changing our declining enrollment trend.

While this year was extremely tough with making the ends meet, it appears our near future will be more of the same. Our current enrollment projection projects us losing another 75 students over the next three years.

[Continued on p.2]

April, 2007

Superintendent's



Devin Embray

Corner

Calendar of Events

April 6th – NO SCHOOL K-12 – Spring Break

April 9th – NO SCHOOL K-12 – Spring Break

April 12th – Match Subject Area Committee meeting

April 12th – Social Studies/World Languages/Business/Industrial Technology Subject Area Committee Meetings

April 13th – NO SCHOOL K-12 – professional development for teachers

April 17th – Curriculum Coordinating Council meets

April 18th – 1:00 Early Release – professional development

April 23rd – Special Education Subject Area Committee meets

April 24th – Science/Technology Information Literacy Subject Area Committees meeting

April 25th – Core Team - Respect and Protect meeting



**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
Charlie McCardle, Director
Kevin (KC) Robb, Director

Superintendent

Devin Embray
319.334.7400

**Director of Curriculum and
School Improvement**

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319.334.7400

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

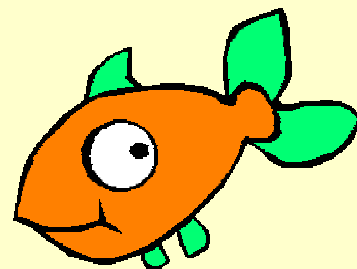
**District News and Information****Budget [Continued from page 1]**

The projection is based on the difference between the number of kindergarten students we have verses the number of students we have that are graduating. When a class of 140 will graduate and we have a class of 105 kindergarten students, the district sees a loss of 35 students. We know that we have students move in and out over the year and this number tends to balance itself out therefore the kindergarten verses graduation number is the one used.

In my last article I stressed that we need to encourage more families to come to our district for a list of various reasons. I forgot to mention that we have one of the strongest mentoring programs around. At last count we had over 130 matched pairs thus far this year. It is a wonderful program that meets the various needs of students across the district. If you know a family that wants excellence for their children in: achievement, social skills, involvement, and an attitude of caring, let them know about the Independence Community School District - we can meet those needs.

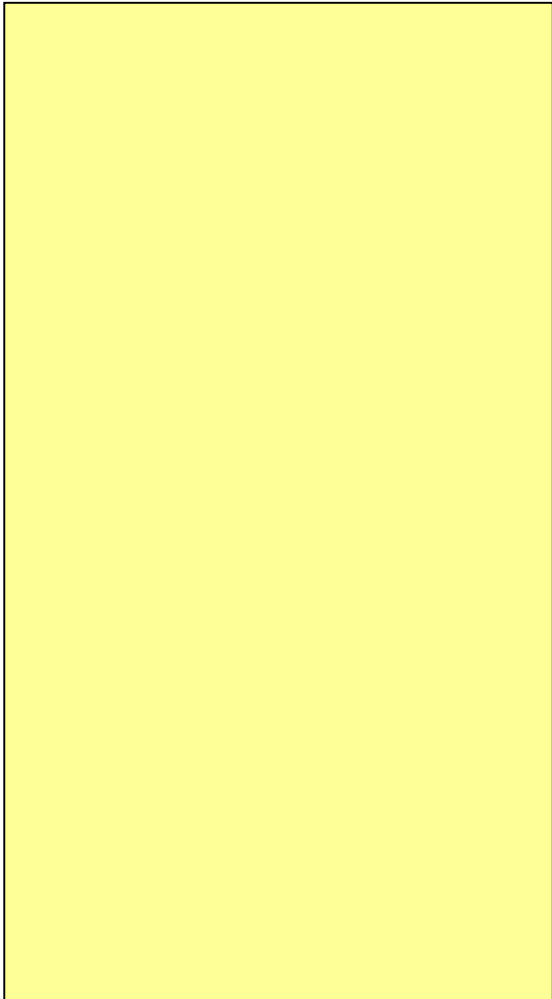
Fish Nominations

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



- **Beth Conklin** – Middle School Special Education Teacher Associate
- **Diana Sloan** – East Elementary Special Education Teacher Associate
- **Shelly Brown** – High School Secretary
- **Amanda Bock** – Middle School Language Arts teacher
- **Judy Spinler** – West Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher
- **Nancy Black** – West Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher
- **Shelly Staker** – West Elementary – 5th Grade Teacher
- **Nikki Mattheisen** – West Elementary – 4th Grade Teacher
- **Kelly Egan** – High School Social Studies Teacher
- **Keith Donnelly** – West Elementary and MS PE Teacher
- **Pam O'Loughlin** – West Elementary Medical Assistant
- **Devin Embray** – Superintendent of Schools
- **Mary Cooksley** – Director, Curriculum and School Improvement
- **Tracy Steger** – High School Language Arts Teacher
- **Cathy Butler** – High School Language Arts Teacher
- **Virginia Staton** – Accounts Payable – Administration Office
- **Christine Carnelley** – East Elementary and High School Nurse
- **Rhonda Sheets** – High School Business Teacher
- **Pennie Anderson** – Superintendent's Secretary – Administration Office

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





April is National Poetry Month

The Academy of American Poets (AAP) holds a month-long national celebration of the art of poetry, the lives of poets, and U.S. poetic heritage every April.

April was chosen because it is during the year and schools and students can participate.



No permission from the AAP is needed to celebrate National Poetry Month, and there are thousands of ways to celebrate. A list of 30 ways is on the Academy's website, www.poets.org/index.php

Join with other lovers of poetry and celebrate in April. But don't let that stop you from celebrating all year long.

"How was school today?"

Questions to ask your kids

Parents want their children to be successful and research indicates that parent involvement makes a difference be successful. These questions are intended to help start conversations that will strengthen family connections and support success in school.

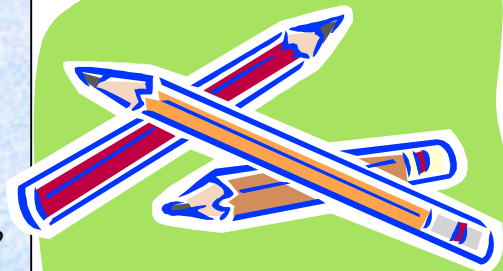
- What would you like to tell me about school today?
- What was the funniest thing that happened?
- What was the most interesting thing you learned?
- What questions did you ask today?
- What was the best thing about school today? The worst?
- How would your teachers say the day went?
- What was the nicest thing you did for someone today?
- What do you like most about school? The least?
- What are you looking forward to tomorrow?
- If you were the teacher, what would you do differently?
- What will you remember most about your day today?
- What helps you learn?
- What one word best describes your day?
- What challenged you most today?
- If you could have one class be longer what would it be?
- What makes it a good day at school?
- If you became a teacher, what subject would you teach?
- How do you choose who to sit with at lunch/on the bus/in class?
- What makes a good friend?
- What is your favorite subject? Why?

Bus Transportation Request

I would like to ask all parents of East, West, and Middle School students who ride the rural busses home to call the bus garage if their children are not riding the bus home due to being picked up by parents or going home early.

Bus garage #334.7435
24 hour answering machine

Thank you, Mike Donnelly





Elementary

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Apr 10 - 7:00 pm, PTO meets at West

Apr 6, 9 - No School: Spring Break

Apr 13 - No School: K-5 teachers attend Reading Conference

Apr 18 - 1:00 Dismissal: In-service

Apr 30 - May 4 Grades JK-5 CBM testing

Mileage Club Volunteers Needed!

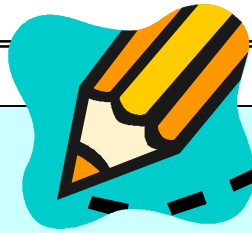
If you would like to devote 15-30 minutes each week outside at recess to help students reach their goals in the Mileage Club, please call East Elementary to volunteer your time!

Mentors Needed!

If you are interested in being a mentor and volunteering your time to work with a child for approximately 30 minutes each week on a regular basis, please call and let us know!

Wanted: Substitute Associates

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



Principal's Corner

By: Dr. Mary Jean Blaisdell

Spring has sprung! After a mild and then rough winter, it's finally spring! Of course, as spring approaches, 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.

April brings several things to our calendar. Students will have no school Friday, April 6 and Monday, April 9 due to Spring Break. There is also no school on Friday, April 13 due to professional development as teachers attend an all day conference on teaching reading. Students will celebrate Earth day in April with various activities involving the study of our environment. At the end of April, we begin our last round of assessment for the year.

Looking ahead...

East students will participate in **Field Day** on **Friday, May 18**. The last school day for students is Thursday, May 31.

Thanks,
Mary Jean Blaisdell



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!

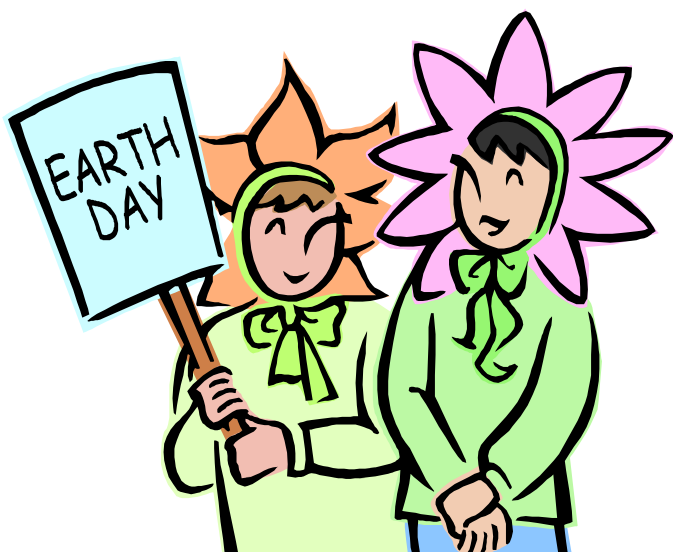




Kindergarten Corner

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. Earth Day is April 22. Sondra Cabell, the naturalist from Fontana Park, will be coming in celebration of this special day on April 10-12 at East. We will study the rain forest and how our actions influence our environment.



First Grade Welcome Spring!

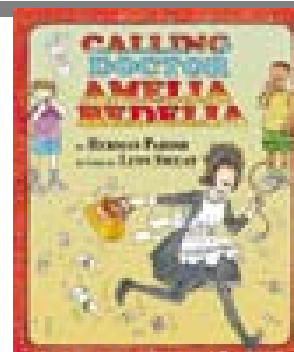
Recently, first graders were part of a spring music program presented by vocal music teacher Pat Thomas. The evening performance at the high school included springtime songs, and featured an Easter Parade with almost 100 one-of-a-kind bonnets created by the first grade children. Thank you to all the parents, friends and relatives who participated in this special event.

In the classroom, first graders are preparing for Earth Day now, and hope to practice Reduce, Reuse and Recycle every day. Naturalists from Fontana Park will help classes celebrate and teach new ways to take good care of the planet.

Second Grade Scene

Second grade students got to enjoy the live presentation of Amelia Bedelia. Classes saw the performance at the Gallagher Bluedorn in Cedar Falls on April 5th. Students studied puns (idioms) in language arts prior to going to the presentation.

Students continue to work on addition and subtraction facts. They are doing subtraction with and without regrouping. Knowing the basic subtraction facts makes this process much easier. Several Earth Day activities will take place toward the end of this month. Hopefully spring like weather will allow us to do many of the activities outdoors.





TAG News

Does the washing machine eat your socks? Do you ever walk into the bathroom, sit down, get ready to wipe and there's no toilet paper? Does your gerbil chewing or scratching keep you awake for hours? These are just a few of the things that "bugged" fourth and fifth grade Project Think students.

After identifying three things that "bugged" them, students choose the one that bothered them most and brainstormed lists of ways the problems could be solved. They selected one of their inventive ideas and created it. Students wrote log sheets and drew sketches to document the process throughout the project. They also kept a record of costs to produce their model or prototype. Students will be presenting their problems and the demonstrating the inventions they created to solve them.

The Invention Convention will be held on Thursday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the West Elementary gymnasium. Everyone is invited to attend!

Students have also explored some notable inventors and inventions throughout the unit and found creative ways to share the information they have learned. Below is an acrostic poem that was written by fifth grade student, Stephanie McMillan about Orville and Wilbur Wright and their fascination with flight.

Two brothers
Had a dream
Enduring challenges



With their heads held high
Responsibly and
Ingeniously
Getting information for a
Helpful invention
They



Built a flying machine (airplane)
Rejoice and show they did not
Only patented and protected
Two brothers
Had a dream'
Enduring challenges that they overcame
Respected forever
Special people



Remember to put April 12 on your calendar and come see some great young inventors and their inventive solutions to many everyday problems. We are looking forward to seeing you at the Invention Convention!



April, 2007



WEST ELEMENTARY

the bottom line

by Josh Lyons, Principal

Spring is a time for change and a feeling of new things to come. As we head into the final stretch of the school year there is anticipation for summer vacation, field trips, and warmer weather. With all of this excitement we sometimes tend to lose focus on the work to be completed. Please remind your children of the importance of staying focused thought the end of the year. We have a great deal left to accomplish with very little time to accomplish it.

Student Needs Form

This year teachers are taking on the job of placing students into classrooms for next year. This form is different from past years. Our goal is to consider the needs of your children and place students in classrooms based on this information instead of requesting a specific teacher. We would love to have parent input and information regarding their children. Please pick up a form or request one be sent to you from the West Elementary office. Please call 334-7430 or email Mr. Lyons at jlyons@independence.k12.ia.us. These forms are due to the office by no later than Friday, April 27.

CLIMB Theater Presents to West

CLIMB Theater actors and actresses presented a play for students at West Elementary on Thursday, March 8th. The theme was "Ride of Your Life." Students were taken on a journey by an alien to discover the truths about what bullying and harassment look like. The play addressed the issue for identifying the difference between tattling on another student and reporting incidents.

Students, although entertained, also witnessed what bullying looks like and that we have to stand up to bullies. Even innocent bystanders have a responsibility to stand up for others and report bullying to an adult.

Students learned a new strategy to help them stand up to bullying called CALM. This acronym stands for Cool down, Assert yourself, Look the bully in the eye, and Mean it. Posters were provided to the school to reemphasize the strategy and give students the confidence that they can stand up to bullies.

This was an outstanding presentation and we hope to get them back next year.



West Elementary Music:

Music class at West continues with our regular mix of instruments, singing, note reading, and games. With the Winter Concert behind us, we can now focus on building serious musical reading and playing skills.

Third graders recently used the xylophones to compose individual compositions based on the poem "Pease Porridge Hot". Students notated the melody on the musical staff, and then performed for the class! In addition, third graders are practicing offbeat rhythms while playing fun circle games, such as "Little Johnny Brown".

Fourth graders have begun using both hands on the recorder, playing such tunes as "Captain Go Sidetrack Your Train" and "I Got a Letter This Morning". They are also learning about and applying sixteenth note rhythms in various combinations.

Fifth graders are studying 6/8 time, a difficult concept to read in music, but easy to perform (think skipping rhythms). Melodically, these students are exploring the C Major Scale, which uses all notes on the xylophone. In addition, we are listening to recorded music of various classical composers to prepare us for the **trip to the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony on April 17**. More information will be sent home about this field trip in the near future.



Art News

Fifth grade art students have been working on their Masterpiece paintings. They chose one art style to represent their idea. (Abstract, realism, still life, portrait, landscape, seascape, reproduction, logo, expressive or fantasy) Their paintings will be hung in the main hallway at West.

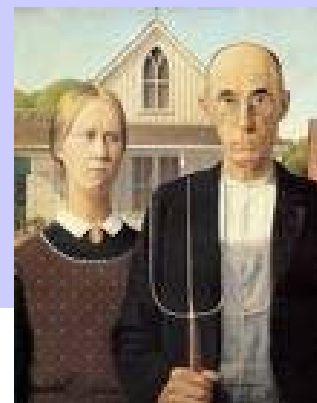
“Live Art” is a student presentation of famous works of art. Students will perform (in costume) in the main hallway at lunch time. This is always a favorite lesson for the students.

Fourth grade art students are working with clay. The concepts of proportion and form are taught to help students create a standing sculpture. Their project can be either a person or a cartoon character.

Third grade students are continuing to work on their Art History lessons. They have learned “How to look at art.” ...WHO made it? WHAT do you see? WHERE is the artist from? WHEN was it made? WHAT do you see? HOW was it made?

Artists that we have studied have been, Leonardo Da Vinci, Vincent Van Gogh, Winslow Homer, Pioneer crafts, and Grant Wood.

Mrs. Sorg
West Elementary



Fish Iowa in 5th Grade!

One of the highlights of fifth grade is the culminating unit called Fish Iowa. Fish Iowa is designed to teach students the skills needed to fish and it incorporates many subject areas, such as biology (fish anatomy/physiology and ecology) and geography (statewide rivers, lakes, and types of fish species). Fish Iowa helps students develop motor skills, teaches a lifetime recreational pursuit, and promotes mental health. Students will be attending a culminating day in May at the Buchanan County Wildlife Association Club. Fish ID, Water Quality, and Stream Table are some of the activities that are planned that day. Programs are taught or demonstrated by many Iowa DNR personnel. Fifth graders will have the opportunity to put to use the skills they learned in class on that day during a hands-on-fishing session.

Scott Kineth, Iowa DNR officer who organizes this event each year visits the classrooms several times before the May date to teach the classes about fish management, fishing ethics and regulations, fishing equipment and lures, and casting. In one session, Scott teaches fifth graders how to make their own spinning lure. This is one learning experience that students and staff look forward to each year.





Middle

School

Meredith Miller, Principal

Calendar of Events
APRIL

3 - D.A.R.E. Graduation
 6 - No School-Good Friday
 9 - No School-Spring Break
 10 - GT @ West Delaware
 4pm
 13 - No School - Staff Dev.
 17 - BT N. Fayette @
 West Union, 4pm
 18 - 1:00 Dismissal - Staff
 Dev.
 19 - BT Benton Comm. @
 Van Horne, 4:15pm
 20 - GT Benton Comm. @
 Van Horne, 4pm
 24 - BT Indee Relays, 4pm
 26 - GT Indee Relays, 4pm
 27 - BT @ Waverly, 4:15pm
 30 - GT Dyersville Beckman
 @ Dyersville, 4pm

Math Websites

Parents and students sometimes request websites for math help or reinforcement. Here are some math websites that offer assistance, practice, and fun games to reinforce skills.

Ask Dr. Math at the Math Forum

<http://mathforum.org>

The World of Math

<http://www.math.com>

Mrs. Glosser's Math Goodies

<http://www.mathgoodies.com/>

A+ Math

<http://www.aplusmath.com/>

Math Drills

<http://www.math-drills.com/>

Quia

<http://www.quia.com>

Math Playground

<http://www.mathplayground.com>

FunBrain

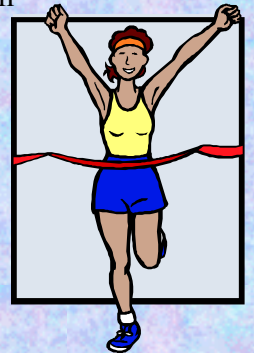
<http://funbrain.com>Independence Middle School Girls Track
2006-2007

Coaches: Audra Kaiser, Diane Kinseth

<u>Time</u>	<u>Bus</u>
Tues., April 10	West Delaware
Fri., April 20	Benton Comm. @ Van Horne
Thur., April 26	Indee Relays (Kevin Long)
Mon., April 30	Dyersville Beckman
Fri., May 4	WaMaC @ Indee
Tues., May 8	Vinton-Shellsburg

Girls Invite:

Indee, Starmont, Vinton, CPU,
Wapsie Valley, Oelwein,
Cascade, North Fayette

Independence Middle School Boys Track
2006-07

Coaches: Paul Brown, Garry Anderson

<u>Time</u>	<u>Bus</u>
Tues., April 17	North Fayette @ West Union
Thurs., April 19	Benton Comm.
Tues., April 24	Indee Relays (Kevin Long)
Fri., April 27	Triangular or Quad @ Waverly
Holmes,	
	Waverly-Shell Rock, Jesup, Indee
Tues., May 1	Vinton-Shellsburg
Fri., May 4	WaMaC @ Indee
Tues., May 8	Marion

Boys Invite:

Indee, Oelwein, Starmont, Benton Comm., Wapsie Valley,
Vinton, North Fayette, Union





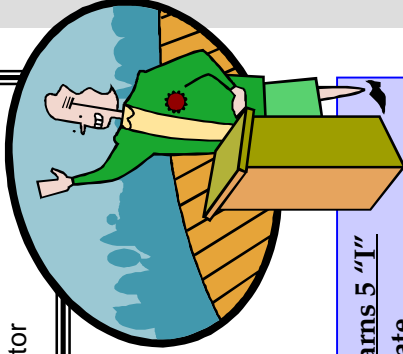
High School

HOST FAMILIES ARE NEEDED

Would you like to host an exchange student from another country this fall? AFS - The American Field Service, had a hosting night Thursday, March 22nd to explain the program. Student biographies are still available so you can select a student from a country of your choice. If you have a place in your heart and in your home for an exchange student, you will have an opportunity to form a life long relationship with someone from another culture.

If you have questions about the students or about hosting, call Dan Putz at the high school 334-7405 or 334-2738.

Dan Putz
High School AFS Coordinator



IHS Speech Club Earns 5 "I" Ratings At State

Congratulations to the speech students on their superior performances at the State Speech Contest, Saturday, March 17th in Forest City. Of the 8 entries, 5 received I ratings.

Those earning one ratings include:

Heidi Corbett in Storytelling; Samantha Miller in Poetry; Matt Carter in Radio News Announcing; Heidi Corbett in Public Address; and Paige Milbach in Original Oratory.

Those earning 2 ratings include Paige Milbach in Storytelling, Manuel Lopez in Acting and Matt Carter in Spontaneous Speaking

Thanks to all parents and friends who came to watch the performances and to Jon TeStrake and Linda Deutmeyer who coached the students on their performances.

By Karl Kurt,
High School Principal

It has been a tough time at Independence High School as we have lost a number of staff that will affect our staff, students, and our course offerings. In case you missed it, Dave Ross, Assistant Principal, will be going to Middle School to take over for Meredith Miller who is retiring. Congratulations to Dave and Meredith!! Buffy Campbell will move from her Art position to take over as the Activities Director. We will not replace the Art position that is vacated by Ms. Campbell's move and we lose the Assistant Principal portion of Mr. Ross's position. Buffy has worked with the office team in various capacities and we feel that this should be a smooth transition. We are happy that we are able to retain Ms. Kari Schwartz, who faced the possibility of being reduced during the 1st budget reduction meeting. Ms. Schwartz is an excellent student-centered teacher and we are very happy that her position is solidified at IHS. The shift that has taken place will affect some of the Art offerings that we have. However, we will do our best to offer the opportunity or experiences either through an Art club after school or through offering some courses on an every other year cycle. We also lose Ms. Kelly Egan, half-time Social Studies, to a full-time position to Edgewood. We are very excited for Kelly, but are disappointed as she was a great addition to our staff. We will not be replacing this position, so Mrs. Hurley will return to strictly teaching Social Studies, and will not be teaching our Second Chance Reading program. Finally, we will be phasing out our French program during the 2007-2008 school year. We are saddened to be losing Mrs. Vance, as she has been a wonderful consistent presence in our school and community. We hope the phase out will enable our students to complete as much French as possible during next school year to meet college entrance requirements and/or possible college graduation requirements.

Obviously, everyone involved wishes we were not facing budget reductions, but with continued declining enrollment that is a reality. As a community, we need to continue to work together to offer the best educational program that we can for our students in grades K through 12 with the limited resources that we have. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to contact me.



Ms. Schwartz is a high school art teacher and she is a person who sees the potential in her students. She does not stop there. She sees the potential for artistic expression in all areas of her classroom as well. What do I mean by that?

Well, when Ms. Schwartz looked around her art room she noticed the ceiling tiles in her classroom. The tiles were dirty, worn, and some were missing. Instead of complaining she decided to give her artistic eye and her students' talents a chance to make the art room more colorful and truly more like an art room. She chose the worst tiles and chose them first for students to paint.

As part of the Basic Design II final exam for the course, students are required to design a 3-dimensional tile and paint something in a 3-dimensional way. Ms. Schwartz found this a difficult and challenging for students since the ceiling tiles have a very rough texture. Students must be diligent and it takes time to do a quality job.

The pictures you see are of the art room as well as examples of the ceiling tiles students have painted. The art room is becoming more colorful and truly look.



The Art room at Independence High School is looking more colorful as a result of the artistic work displayed by Basic Design II students. Above, the art room with the painted ceiling tiles. Below: Two examples of 3-dimensional art on a 2-dimensional surface.





ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

What is Buchanan County Success Center (BCSC)?

We are an alternative educational program available to students in the school districts of Independence, Jesup, and East Buchanan. Our students come to us for a variety of reasons. In many cases, the traditional high school setting was simply not able to meet their needs.

What services are offered?

1. **Independent Work:** These students work on their courses away from the center on their own time. There are currently five students working independently.
2. **Evening Classes:** This is a new service designed for students who work full-time during the school day. They attend 2 – 3 evenings a week. Other students use these hours to make up time owed, catch up on schoolwork, or to get further along in their classes.
3. **Dual-enrolled:** Students enrolled in this service attend BCSC for one or two periods (out of four) and attend Independence High School for the other periods. These students are working towards an Independence High School diploma. There are 14 students dual-enrolled.
4. **Full-time:** Students attend one of two sessions; morning session is 8:30-11:30 or afternoon is 12:00-3:00. Upon successfully completing the requirements of our program, a BCSC diploma is issued. This is NOT a G.E.D. The BCSC diploma is a high school diploma approved and supported by each of the three school districts. We currently have 25 full-time students.
5. **Summer School:** For 5 weeks in June and July summer school is offered to IHS and BCSC students, as well as to students from other districts who agree to accept the credit.

What would you see if you visited?

You would see students sitting at tables or computers working on assignments, writing, reading, doing math, working on special projects, or talking to staff members. You may also observe a group session with a counselor, one-on-one counseling, game day, field trips, goal setting, or prize drawings for various accomplishments.

What do we hope for?

The success of the program depends on the ability of the staff to help each student grow as a “whole” person. At BCSC we take into account emotional, behavioral, physical, social, and intellectual growth.

As you can see, BCSC is a non-traditional setting used by a wide variety of students attempting to receive a high school diploma. Our goal is to see as many students achieve their goals in a safe environment and to see them move on to be productive members of society.

Mandala

In the fall our students were all given an opportunity to submit work to an Iowa publication of art and literature magazine (for students attending an alternative school/program) called, “The Mandala”. Four students had their work chosen for publication. Eleventh graders Kyrsten Armstrong and Samantha Hare and seniors Felicia Chacey and Timothy White each had work published in the magazine.

QUOTES

What students like:

- They treat me as a person.
- That it’s relaxed and can laugh about stuff; I can work at my own pace.
- I like only working on one or two classes at a time.
- Smaller class sizes.
- One-on-one attention.
- More help; fewer people to worry about fitting in with; everyone works to get along; shorter days.

What students dislike:

- Nothing
- It’s sometimes hard to concentrate for a person who has a hard time focusing.
- Maybe the lack of socializing opportunities.
- Need more rooms on busy days.



Independence Community School District

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