

Volume 9 Issue 3  
Spring, 2014 - 2015

### District Events:

#### April 20

No School-Prof Dev

#### April 20

School Board Meeting -  
Independence 6:00 p.m.

#### May 18

School Board Meeting -  
Independence 6:00 p.m.

#### May 19

Last Day of School

#### June 15

School Board Meeting -  
Independence 6:00 p.m.

#### July 20

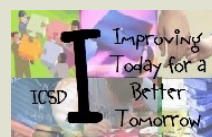
School Board Meeting -  
Independence 6:00 p.m.

#### August 17

School Board Meeting -  
Independence 6:00 p.m.

#### August 31

First Day of the  
2015-2016 School Year



### *From the Desk of Jean Peterson, Superintendent*

The 2014-2015 school year really seems to have gone very fast. With the arrival of spring comes a super busy time here in the ICSD. With the various activities of golf, track, soccer, and tennis, our students are involved in something each and every night!

Our teachers are certainly working hard as well on the many things that need to be accomplished in their classrooms before our students leave for the summer. It will not be long, too, before we say good bye to another graduating class. Our Commencement Ceremony is scheduled for May 17th at 2:00 p.m. in the Jr/Sr High School Gymnasium. I know our seniors are officially on the count down to that Commencement date!

Our last day for students, other than seniors, is May 19th. May 19th will be a full day of school. There is no early dismissal for students that day.

As we head into the summer months, I would like to sincerely thank everyone for their support of our school district. We have a great team of teachers, support staff, administrators, school board, parents, and community members who work hard every day to provide the best education possible for all of our Indee students.

#### **School Board Approved 2015-2016 School Calendar**

The Board approved the school calendar for 2015-2016 at their April 6, 2015 Meeting. The 2015-2016 calendar is located on our school's website under the Quick Links section.

#### **New Bus Garage:**

Our new bus garage is nearing completion. We are excited to be able to move into it very soon. There will be an Open House for the public to tour this new facility on May 6, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. We hope that many of you can come out and take this tour.

*Continued on page 2*

### Inside this issue:

From the Desk of Jean Peterson	1-3
School Improvement	4
ECC/East News	5-9
West Elem News	10-12
JR/SR High News	13-14
Volunteer Mentor Program	15



**Jean Peterson,  
Superintendent**

*Continued from page 1*

## **May is School Board Recognition Month**

The Independence Community School District will join school systems throughout the state to salute their local education leaders during Iowa's annual School Board Member Recognition Month in May.

Iowa School Board Members are chosen by their communities through election to manage local schools. They oversee \$5 billion in budgets which fund education programs for more than 500,000 students in 338 school districts. Their personnel decisions affect 35,000 teachers, 1400 administrators, and tens of thousands of support workers.

School Board Members are responsible for formulating school system policy, approving curriculum, maintaining facilities, and adhering to state/federal law. Legal concerns and the complexities of school finance require them to spend many hours in board training programs and personal study to enhance their understanding of these issues.

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to our current board members, **Brian Eddy, Shelly Whited, Heather Meador, Eric Smith, and Rusty Donnelly**, for their dedication and commitment to our school district. Each of them devotes many hours of volunteer time to help our school run efficiently, effectively, and smoothly.

## **School Nurse Appreciation Day**

The School Nurse Appreciation Day is May 6, 2015. Teri Schloss and Rhonda Jasper are the nurses in our school district. Rhonda is at the Jr/Sr High School and Teri travels between East and West Elementaries. Lois Johnson is a medical assistant who helps Teri at both East and West.

I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to these three individuals. They all have to juggle many balls in the air throughout the school day in regard to both medical and social issues. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated employees who really care about our students, our families, and our staff members.

Please take some time during the first full week of May to thank our nurses for all of the support they give our school district.

## **Affirmative Action Plan**

Under the District Tab on our school's website, you will find our Affirmative Action Plan. Every school district in Iowa is required to have such a plan.

Danielle Meyer, our Director of School Improvement, is our district's Equity Coordinator. As our Equity Coordinator, she is responsible for the following:

- Has knowledge of Federal and State Civil Rights Laws
- Makes sure Board Policies and Administrative Procedures are up to date
- Disseminate information (notifications) to both the staff and community
- Provides professional development opportunities
- Facilitates the grievance process
- Monitor and analyzes the disaggregated data and diversity on advisory committees

*Continued on page 3*

*Continued from page 2*

We do a workforce analysis each year and share that data with our school board. We also try to target our recruitment efforts to boost the representation of applicants in underrepresented categories. We do post our vacancy notices in the local newspapers, on our district's website, on the National Schools Application Network (IAREAP), and on Teach Iowa.

Just a reminder: Board Policy 401.2 deals with the rules for Equal Employment Opportunity in our school district. Board Policy 106 was also put into place to give an overview of our Anti-Bullying/Harassment guidelines. There are more specific procedures and forms in regard to bullying/harassment prevention in each of the building's student and staff handbooks.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, do contact Danielle Meyer. Her email address is: [dmeyer@independence.k12.ia.us](mailto:dmeyer@independence.k12.ia.us). She can be reached by phone at 319-334-7400.

## Canvas, Learning Management System

"My student talks about Canvas. What is Canvas?"

"I have heard about Canvas, but I do not know anything about it."

"I have never heard about Canvas. Have I missed something?"

We have created a website to help answer questions and provide video links for parents:

<https://sites.google.com/a/independence.k12.ia.us/canvas-by-instructure/>

Canvas was purchased for the 2014-15 school year and implemented by grades 7 and 8 with the objective of improving interaction between students, teachers and parents. The 7th and 8th grade teachers love the program and "cannot imagine teaching without it."

Canvas allows students to see all assignments from their classes in one location with a common calendar. Students are able to complete assignments and teachers give feedback directly in Canvas. Students may review lessons multiple times and view material if they are absent from class.

Over the summer and into the fall, the District will expand Canvas to include grades 3-6 and 9-12. Some 9-12 teachers are already implementing Canvas. The District will provide training opportunities over the summer for additional teachers to learn about the program and its possibilities. Canvas requires time for teachers to effectively integrate the program into their classroom environment.

As teachers create lessons using Canvas, parents will be invited to join the classroom through the program as observers. Parents will be able to see actual assignments, test responses, writing projects, and student-created work.

Because so many Iowa school districts have chosen Canvas, Hawkeye Community College has also chosen Canvas to use in their classroom. Our students will be able to go to Hawkeye and already be familiar with the program of choice for their learning management system. Even if students do not attend Hawkeye, many colleges use similar programs for student learning.

Please visit our website to learn more about Canvas and have great summer.



**Steve Noyes,  
Director of Technology**

## School Improvement by Danielle Meyer, Director of School Improvement

### Iowa Assessments

*Student assessments include both formative and summative assessments. The results of the assessments are used by all stakeholders to make program, staffing, professional development, instructional, financial, and personal decisions. They are an important component of both the Collecting/Analyzing Student data step and the On-going Data Collection step in the Iowa Professional Development Model.*

*State-wide and district-wide summative assessments are mandated by Iowa Code (Chapter 12) and used for district accreditation and federal reporting, as defined by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. Formative assessments are on-going and are used to inform the instructional process and develop student learning goals.*

*-Iowa Department of Education*



**Danielle Meyer,**  
**Director of School Improvement**

Students in grade third through eleventh grade took the Iowa Assessments. On the April 20th Professional Development day teachers will have time to go through and analyze student's results. This is an important process, as it will help the teachers prepare their instruction for the 2015-2016 school year. Teachers will look for overall trends of students in each grade level and also look at each student's results.

The overall results will be shared with the School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) at the spring meeting. The committee will then help the district set achievement goals for the school district. The achievement goals will drive the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan for the Independence School District. School districts are required to submit a revised five-year Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) by September 15 of the school year following the comprehensive site visit specified in Iowa Code.

The school district will use the achievement data from the Iowa Assessments to help drive the professional development that will be offered in 2015-2016. These assessments are vital in how the district improves our achievement. You can see the overall trends from last year in the Annual Progress Report post at [www.independence.k12.ia.us](http://www.independence.k12.ia.us). The 2014-2015 results and trends will be posted this fall.



## Principal's Corner

by Mary Jean Blaisdell



**Mary Jean Blaisdell,**  
**Principal**

Hopefully spring is finally here to stay! It is hard to believe that the school year is nearly at an end. We are looking forward to an active month of May and the excitement of the upcoming summer!

Class lists for the 2015-16 school year will be developed during the summer and will be posted at East Elementary on August 1st. Parents will, however, know the name of their child's teacher at registration time online. It is important that your child has a successful year. Teachers will be giving input on students' needs and abilities. This information is used to try to find a good match with a teacher and to create a good balance in classes with other students. A lot of time and effort will go into this process. If you, as parents, feel you have valuable information about your child that should be known for this process, let me know by June 1st by completing the form available in the office. Requests for individual teachers will not be acknowledged due to the impossibility to grant all of these requests. Thank you for your patience and support in this process.

Fall Registration will be ONLINE ONLY beginning mid July!

## Preschool in Pictures

Spark is a Preschool program put on by the Buchanan County Health Center to encourage young students to try healthy foods and exercises. Twice a month, students participate in this program. The Health Center provides fruits and vegetables in two different formats for children to sample. They also introduce a new exercise for students to attempt. The preschoolers enjoy this program, and it is a great way to encourage healthy life choices at a young age.



**Preschool students enjoying "Spark!"**

## Kindergarten Corner

Our school year is coming to an end!

Kindergartners look forward to an activity filled month. We will be enjoying Inflatables on May 12th. This activity is sponsored by PTO. Fitness Day will take place on May 18th. We look forward to these fun days with our class!

Kindergarten students are well on their way to becoming First Graders! They will need opportunities and encouragement this summer to help maintain the skills they have learned. Practice letters and sounds, writing words and sentences, and READ, READ, READ! Also, don't forget to practice math skills – identifying, counting, and writing numbers to 100, as well as basic addition and subtraction facts.

Thank you for a great year and have a terrific summer!!

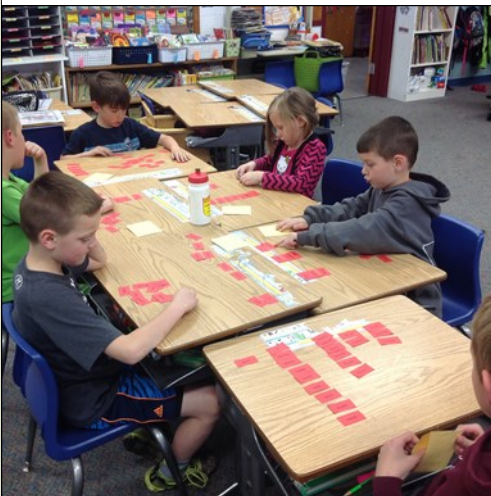


**Mr. Howard was a guest reader in Mrs. Pogue's Kindergarten class.**

## First Grade Focus

Spring has sprung! You always know it is truly Spring despite what Mother Nature or the weathermen say, when you see Mustang First Graders sporting their Easter Hats at their Spring Concert. Thanks to Music Teacher, Mr. Dalton, for another fine performance and to our first grade families for your help in making the wonderful hats!

Other signs of Spring are our East Elementary's annual Earth Day programs presented by Angie Auhl and Sondra Cabell, Fontana Naturalists. First Graders learn how recycling works and then practice what we learn, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Restore !



**First Graders work on reading skills during Mustang Time!**



## First Grade Focus

To go along with our winter weather, Buchanan County Naturalist Sondra Cabell presented a wonderful program on examining and making unusual snowflakes.

Valentine's Day brings an emphasis on friendship and kindness to our classmates. President's Day will shift our focus to our current and past presidents. We will learn about the duties of the president as well as some interesting facts about presidential families and their time in the White House. First graders are also continuing to work hard practicing their reading, writing, and math skills.



## Second Grade Scene

This past month in second grade we read several versions of *Stone Soup*, and then celebrated in each classroom by preparing and eating our "Stone Soup". The story teaches children a valuable lesson in friendship and sharing.

As the school year comes to a close we have several activities planned for the second graders. We will see the 6<sup>th</sup> grade play *Forgiven* at West Elementary, and then in May we will go to Heartland Acres for Farm Safety Day.



**2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes planted spinach, lettuce and peas in the school garden in late March. Students also cut up fresh vegetables for the making of "Stone Soup."**





## Mad Scientist assembly from University of Iowa sparks student interest in science investigations.



## 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:

### Substitutes

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

**We need YOU!**

## Summer Reading

Let books take you ANYWHERE this summer. No matter if you plan to travel this summer or stay close to home, books can take you all over. You can make reading books an adventure with your kids this summer. All you need is a map, some dot stickers or a marker, and BOOKS! Every time you read a book with your student talk about where the book took place and put a sticker or draw a star on the map. (If the book takes place in a made up place or outer space create a spot on the map to put those dots or marks.) You can use the map as a learning tool to find some books or go online to read and learn more about the places you mark. Add more to it and make your own scrapbook with photos and information about the places in your book. With the magic of online photo editing you could even put a picture of you reading the book on a picture from where the book takes place. Let your imagination be your guide! At the end of the summer you can even measure on the map how many miles you read in the books.



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

We continue to collect Pizza Ranch Wagon Wheels, Donuts to Dough, 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.



## The Old Creamery Theater performs skits for K-6 students.



## *News from the Principal:*

Hello from West Elementary! The 2014-15 school year will soon be coming to a close. Teachers and students are still working hard at making this school year a success. Students are excited about the summer and teachers are working hard to get the material students need to learn, taught.

As we prepare for the summer, there are some very important things to remember. First, learning should not stop. Please encourage your child to continue reading. If at all possible, help your student get to the public library to check out books on a regular basis. Just like in extra curricular activities, the more time you spend doing something correctly, the better you will get at it. Reading is no different. If a student reads 1 minute each day of the summer, they will have read approximately 90 minutes for the summer. If a student reads for 5 minutes a day over the summer, it will amount to 450 minutes or about 7 ½ hours. If a student reads 20 minutes a day over the summer, they will have read 1,800 minutes or 30 hours. Please encourage your child to make this commitment to their learning. It will make a huge difference in their success as a student! Second, please keep involving your child in ways to utilize their math skills. This will allow students to see why math is important and also to hone the skills they have. Accompanying parents to the grocery store is an excellent way to show them relevant use of math processes. Finally, encourage them to get outdoors. Exercise and rest are essential to healthy childhood development. These two in combination will allow students to build strong bones and allow their minds to get the stimulation it needs.

Lastly, thank you so much for all of your support over the course of this year. The school year offered me many opportunities to meet many parents and I have learned you are very important in the educational process of our students.

Go Mustangs!

~Mr. Hupke



**Dewey Hupke, Principal**

## Media Center Information

**BUY ONE, GET ONE  
FREE  
BOOK FAIR**  
Stock up for summer reading!

**Scholastic Book Fair is Coming!**  
**West Media Center**  
**April 21st - April 24th**  
**Family Night: Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

## News from 3rd Grade

The third graders are excited to finally have warm weather! It has been a long, cold winter and we are all ready to get outside and play. We did enjoy the February reading incentive when we were able to go sledding over at the old high school! In math we have been working on fractions. The students are learning about numerators, denominators, and equivalent fractions. We also continue to work on multiplication and division. In writing, we are working on opinion paragraphs. We have also been working on prefixes, suffixes, synonyms, and antonyms. Our Nutrition and Digestion unit in science is winding down. We were very excited to have Miss



Grace Rathert from FoodCorps join us for special lessons focusing on nutrition. The students had a wonderful time exploring various foods. She was an engaging and entertaining guest teacher! Miss Angie from Fontana also came in to talk with the students about nutrients. We will be moving on to our final unit, which focuses on Sound.



## 4th Grade

We are blogging! Fourth grade students have their own blogs within their classroom blogs. They are sharing writing pieces and their opinions with others. It is a great learning experience that they are really enjoying. As the end of the year is nearing, the remaining units in science are the



circulatory system and the weather unit. The southwest and west regions are the final regions that will be studied in social studies. Students that have met their reading goals in the past couple of months were able to participate in the sledding and bowling incentives. Make sure that your child is being responsible (reading at home and returning the reading log) so that s/he can participate in the final incentives!



## 6th Grade Spring Activities

Once a week this fall, Sheriff Wolgram taught D.A.R.E. classes to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. In this program, the students learn the negative outcomes of making poor choices particularly when dealing with stress, bullying, alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. They practiced using a decision-making model to help them in making responsible decisions for a most successful future. On Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, all of the DARE students in Buchanan County will graduate and celebrate. This year's invited speaker is Steven Parker, the voice of McGruff, the Crime Dog. Winner of this year's essay contest is London Stoner, who will read his paper at the ceremony.

"A Global Marketplace" was the Junior Achievement program enjoyed by 6<sup>th</sup> grade this year. Volunteers from the community taught six one-hour sessions where kids explored a variety of interesting topics. They scavenged the classrooms to find the countries where items were made and then imported to the U.S. Quota, tariff, subsidy, and embargo were a few other terms they came to understand. Students learned how culture and language will affect a restaurant menu and the construction of a product. The exchange rate for currency and the World Trade organization were two other topics addressed.

Throw several familiar fairy tale creatures together and there's bound to be a great story like "Forgiven." The talents of our students are showcased in the performance of this fractured fairy tale. The play will be presented for the elementary students on April 10th and for the public at 2 pm on Saturday, April 11th and 3 pm on Sunday, April 12th. Many students, as well as the volunteer directors, have put in countless, dedicated hours preparing for this play. Gina Homan and Catherine Smith are this year's lead directors.



## 5th Grade

It's been a busy several months in Ms. Ferres' classroom. Recently, we have been working on cause and effect, as well as making inferences when we read. Making connections is also a reading strategy we have discussed in detail. We finished the book Little House on the Prairie and started Island of the Blue Dolphins. We have been making comparisons between these two books and the Native American Tribes we are learning about. In language arts, we are writing narrative stories. Naughty leprechauns were the topic of every story. We also started learning about figurative language and different types of poetry. In math, we have been busy learning how to add, subtract, and multiply fractions. We also have been learning about converting fractions to decimals and percents, as well as simplifying fractions.

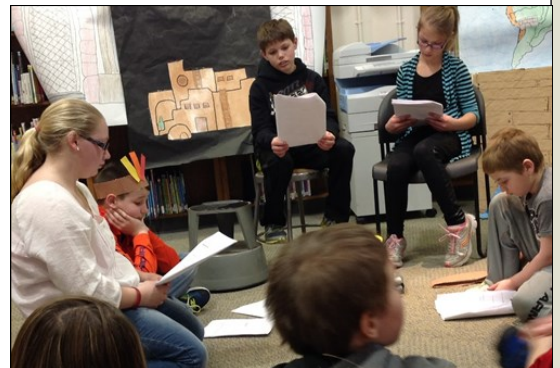
Mr. Abildtrup's class just finished reading the novel Number the Stars and are currently developing their own board games based on the book. We have been working hard on adding description in our writing by using similes, metaphors, and personification. In science, the students are learning how the bones and muscles of the body work together to help us function. Students are putting together a lap book to display their knowledge. Students are continuing to learn how to add, subtract, and multiply fractions.

Mrs. Holtzman's class mastered adding and subtracting fractions during the month of March. Next, we plan to take on multiplying and dividing fractions. In reading, we are working in literature circles. The kids have had some great discussions. After finishing our biography literature circle, the students are now working hard on writing a biography paper. In science, the kids learned a lot about the skeletal system and are excited about dissecting owl pellets. Next, we will be learning about the 13 original colonies.

Fifth graders in Mrs. Kineth's classroom completed a Social Studies Unit learning about Native Americans and Explorers of the Americas. The capstone for this unit was a Grand Encounter. The students performed small skits where they reenacted the encounter of the Explorers with the Native Americans in that area of exploration. They wrote and rehearsed their skits. They performed their skits in front of their parents and 4th and 5th grade classrooms. They did an outstanding job!

In Science we learned about the human eye! We learned the parts and functions of the eye. We dissected a pig's eye

from Mark's Locker. The students really learned a lot during this unit.



### Turning Weaknesses into Strengths

“What is your weakness?” That question is challenging and most times cannot be answered immediately. The question causes the recipient to be reflective and if they are honest could cause some internal anguish. The process of recognizing and acknowledging parts of our lives we may need to “make better” can be difficult and working to make a weakness not so weak may never get started.



**Josh Payton,**  
**JSH Assistant Principal**

We’ve all heard the stories of professional basketball players Larry Bird and Ervin “Magic” Johnson. Larry would shoot 1,000 shots a day for 365 days. “Magic” would also practice his basketball handling skills everyday. He was so dedicated he would shovel snow off of the basketball court so he could practice his dribbling in the wintertime. There are countless other stories of people working to improve/incorporate/advance areas of their lives. As individuals, students, teachers, parents, and community members, we can reflect on personal successes or knew people who’ve changed their lives. What did those people do to be successful?

“Strength and growth come only through continuous effort and struggle.” Napoleon Hill

SMART is a mnemonic device to guide goal setting to goal achievement, are the goals Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound. SMART Goals can be used in many areas of life and provides guidance to giving people the best opportunity to reach their goals. Work with your students to create goals that are attainable, putting your goal on paper, then putting it somewhere you will see it is a start, however, will not give the best chance to reach the goal.

Setting a goal is just like getting out of bed, it’s a start. Having a plan and support to attain your goals will ensure that your identified weaknesses are turning in to your strengths!

## *“Celebrating & Sentiments”*

*by Mr. Howard*



**John Howard,  
JSH Principal**

Four weeks and counting till the celebration for the Class of 2015.

Parties are being finalized with dates, times and sites. Colorful, creative invitations have been sent with this information.

Decorations and food to solidify the menus have been purchased.

Finally, the relatives and friends have made their travel plans. Yes, in just about twenty-eight days Commencement 2015 will be here. But, when this life-altering event arrives, in six hundred and seventy-two hours, what exactly are we celebrating? Well, this article tries to answer this question as well as provide my heartfelt sentiments and advice for the class.

The reasons for celebrating the graduation of the Class of 2015 are many, but only four can be listed here. Obviously, we first extol the seniors for “making it”. We all know that it is not easy, but each has met all the academic, financial and discipline requirements set forth by the state and Independence Jr/Sr High School. Second, we commemorate and congratulate the tremendous accomplishments of these students on the academic, athletic, extra-curricular, and social “fronts”. They certainly have continued Independence’s tradition in some areas while also making history in others. In essence, the senior class has “set the bar high” for others to follow. Third, thanks to all the parents, grandparents and other family members for supporting these pupils in every conceivable fashion. For void of these self-less contributions, many in the class would not be celebrating in the next month. Finally, there is no doubt that the faculty and staff at Independence Jr/Sr High School have provided the members of the Class of 2015, like so many before them, an excellent foundation to be successful in the future. For all of these facts, and many more not listed here, we celebrate the Class of 2015.

With that being stated, please allow me to finish this article with my personal sentiments toward and suggestions for these students (soon to be alumni). I want to initially say, “Thanks for everything.” You are quality students and people. I certainly have enjoyed working with all of you, in some capacity. I also want to express, “I am proud of each and everyone of you.” Not only have you represented your school well, but also you have been very good “ambassadors” for Independence. From my point of view, you have Lived the Mustang Way. As my initial class as the principal at Independence Jr/Sr High School, the Class of 2015 will always have a special place in my heart. My “pointers” as you go forward from our halls are: work hard, have a good attitude, listen well, do what you love each and every day, be good role models for others and forever be proud that you graduated from Independence Jr/Sr High School in 2015.

Now, there are only six hundred seventy one hours and thirty minutes before Commencement 2015. Congratulations to the Class of 2015. Goodbye (for now) and Good Luck! Go Mustangs!





## **Independence Community Schools Volunteer & Mentor Program Update by Val Maximovich**



*We say "Thank you" to all our volunteers!!*

We appreciate the volunteers and mentors that come and see us every day, every week or every month, throughout the school year. We appreciate your dedication and being part of the team!

The last week in May, the adult and student volunteers that volunteer during the school day will be recognized by the children at the end of the year award assemblies in each building. *Be watching your email for the date and time!*



**Val Maximovich,  
Volunteer & Mentor Coordinator**



**Attention, Mentors! SAVE THE DATE!!**

***Tues. May 12, 2015, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.***

**Annual Mentor Picnic**

***Be ready to have fun!***

*All mentors and mentees come out to the Fiesta at West Elementary!*



### **Silver Cord High School Volunteers**

Just a reminder deadline is May 1 for the graduating seniors only. All other students will continue to accumulate hours through the summer, however it is recommended to turn in your hours from this school year before summer. We are proud of all of them that have volunteered for a variety of activities in the Independence and surrounding area. The Fall 2015 school newsletter will include the total year end volunteer hours for the 2014-15 school year!

Go to the Independence Community Schools website at <http://www.independence.k12.ia.us/> OR log in directly to Silver Cord at <https://sites.google.com/a/independence.k12.ia.us/silver-cord-program/home>

1. Click on "Activities" on the side or top tab and choose Silver Cord. When on the site you have 2 choices to find activities:

- a. "Volunteer Opportunities" for the monthly calendars
- b. "Other Volunteer Opportunities" for general activities

**Be sure to visit the Independence school website for updates on  
Silver Cord, Mentoring or the Volunteer program.**

Be sure to take a look at the Independence Community School's Mentoring Program Official Facebook page. Be sure to like us on facebook! Or follow us on Twitter!



*If you would like to be a **mentor or a volunteer**, please contact Val at 319-334-7400 ext. 626 or email [vmaximovich@independence.k12.ia.us](mailto:vmaximovich@independence.k12.ia.us), or download the volunteer registration form at <http://www.independence.k12.ia.us/district-departments/volunteer-information/>*





## Independence Community School District

1207 First Street West , Independence, Iowa 50644



### INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS VOLUNTEER MENTOR PROGRAM

If you would like to be a mentor or a volunteer, please contact Val Maximovich at 319-334-7400 ext. 626 or email Val at

[vmaximovich@independence.k12.ia.us](mailto:vmaximovich@independence.k12.ia.us)

or download the volunteer registration form at

<http://www.independence.k12.ia.us/district-departments/volunteer-information/>

**We're on the Web**

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

### EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The board will not discriminate in its educational activities on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status.

The board requires all persons, agencies, vendors, contractors and other persons and organizations doing business with or performing services for the school district to subscribe to all applicable federal and state laws, executive orders, rules and regulations pertaining to contract compliance and equal opportunity.

The board is committed to the policy that no otherwise qualified person will be excluded from educational activities on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, gender, socioeconomic status, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. Further, the board affirms the right of all students and staff to be treated with respect and to be protected from intimidation, discrimination, physical harm and harassment.

### NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Independence School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact: Danielle Meyer, Director of School Improvement, 1207 1st Street West, Independence, IA 50644, (319) 334-7400 or [dmeyer@independence.k12.ia.us](mailto:dmeyer@independence.k12.ia.us)