

**Volume 11 Issue 3**  
**Spring, 2016 - 2017**

**District Events:**

**May 15**

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

**May 21**

Graduation

**May 29**

No School -  
Memorial Day

**June 1**

Last Day of School -  
1:00 Early Dismissal

**June 19**

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

**July 17**

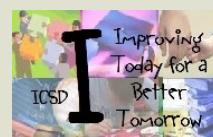
School Board Meeting -  
Independence 6:00 p.m.

**August 21**

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

**August 23**

First Day of the  
2017-2018 School Year



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

Another school year is going very fast. I am sure our seniors are counting down the days until graduation. It won't be long until we watch another senior class walk across the stage to receive their diplomas. We do wish them the very best and hope they feel prepared to take the next steps in their plans for after high school!

Many sincere thanks go out to all of the staff who work in our school district. Thank you for the work you do with our students. The connections our staff members have made with our students this year will be awesome memories to hold forever!



**Jean Peterson,  
Superintendent**

**School Board Recognition Month**

May is School Board Recognition Month. This is an opportunity for local schools and communities to honor Iowa's nearly 1,900 locally elected school board members for their dedication to children and schools.

Our board members are locally elected, non-salaried public officials entrusted with the task of providing direction for the education of our community's children.

Our school board members donate countless hours of personal time in service to our Independence Community School District students. Today, public schools are being asked to raise the bar of academic achievement, while remaining good stewards of the public's investment in education.

Our school board members have taken the time to become very knowledgeable in several key areas including leadership, school improvement, school finance, advocacy, and more, while keeping student achievement as their primary focus.

Many thanks go to our board members: Shelly Whited, Eric Smith, Brian Eddy, Heather Meador, and Kim Hansen. We truly appreciate the leadership and guidance they provide for our school district.

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## **Wellness Plan**

All school districts in Iowa are required to have a Wellness Board Policy and also a plan to implement that policy. The purpose behind this policy is to advocate for the idea that health and success in school are interrelated. Schools cannot achieve their primary mission of education if students and staff are not healthy and fit physically, mentally, and socially.

Our school district has a Wellness Committee who has established goals and action steps for our local plan. These goals revolve around physical activity, nutritional promotion and awareness, and other school based wellness activities for both staff and students.

We have been partnering for the past several years with the Buchanan County Health Center. Their staff members have helped us design activities to provide nutritional awareness and physical activities for our students and staff. We also partner with Buchanan County Iowa State University Extension in an effort to promote the local foods program into our school district as well.

## **Retirees**

We have had several staff members decide to take the retirement package that was offered by our school district this year. These people have been a part of our school district for many years. Their contributions have been immense. I sincerely want to offer my gratitude to all of them for their service to our school district. We wish them well in their retirement!

The retirees are:

Julie Flickinger – 1<sup>st</sup> grade  
Micki-Sand Cohen – 1<sup>st</sup> grade  
Kay Dolan – East Special Education  
Julie Spece – West Special Education  
Dawn Keenan – West Special Education  
Bret Adams – Jr/Sr High Guidance  
Greg Moen – West Guidance  
Dave Morkel – Jr/Sr High School Physical Education  
Rhonda Sheets – Jr/Sr High School Business Education  
Dennis Corkery – East Custodian  
Judy Kress – West Media Center Associate

## **Facilities**

Chad O'Brien, our Director of Building/Grounds, works hard to stay on top of our school's facilities. He and I worked with our school board to create a Master Facility Plan. If you haven't had the chance to look at this plan, it is located on our school's website. Go to the District Tab and you will see it listed there. I do hope you will take some time to go through this information.

The purpose of creating this long-range facility plan was to provide our community with an understanding of our existing facilities and also a projected plan for future improvements. We want to make sure all of our facilities and grounds are well maintained and developed in a responsible manner.

## Chromebooks for 2017 by Steve Noyes, Director of Technology



**Steve Noyes,  
Director of Technology**

Why is the school district switching from their long history of Mac-based computers to Chromebooks and what exactly are Chromebooks?

A Chromebook is a computing device running Google's Chrome only. Everything on a Chromebook runs in Chrome web browser and is Internet-based. Chromebooks are not as powerful as their Mac or PC counterparts, but they do not need as much power. Chromebooks use the power of the Internet to accomplish its tasks. Google has created G Suite for Education as the foundation for the Chromebook and we have been using these tools for several years. Chromebooks are very easy to manage and only require restart for the latest software installation.

Mac computers have served the district for over 15 years. Starting in the fall of 2017, there will be very few student Mac computers left in the district. Staff will continue to use their preferred device, either a Mac or a Windows computer. Students from grades 3-12 will be using Chromebooks as their primary computing device.

The District Technology Committee has evaluated student work, projects, and educational goals and reviewed general groupings of work -- Internet-based, creation of slide shows and movies, writing tasks, and advanced computer applications. They have determined Chromebooks to be the best device to meet the technology needs for the District's 1:1 Learning Initiative.

Most students are already using Chrome as a browser and many Internet sites have been updated to better adapt with mobile devices and depend less on the host computer. Canvas, Internet-searching, and Google Apps all work very well in Chrome, and therefore, will work on a Chromebook.

The Microsoft suite of products is not as dominant as in the past. Google Suite is powerful and easier to use. They offer many of the options as Microsoft Office products, and more importantly, Google is easy to share between people. Grades 7-8 have not used Microsoft products for several years and many of the 9-12 students have already moved to Google.

Apple's iMovie product is great for creating movies, but again there are Internet-based options. The Internet-based options may not have all of the bells and whistles of iMovie, but are capable programs and a great experience for schools. The skills of creating, editing, and publishing content are very important and will continue.

Regarding advanced computer applications, the Independence Junior-Senior High School will continue to operate the CADD Lab, the Business Lab and Yearbook computers as students move towards Chromebooks. We have had these labs for years and plan to keep them.

All modern computers work best if there is a reliable Internet connection. Chromebooks require an Internet connection, but many tools also have options to work without the Internet and will sync when Internet is available. Students will use many of the same strategies they used this year with the Mac. Teachers will show students how to prepare work without an active Internet connection. Students will have access to the school network before and after school or on the weekend.

*Continued on page 16*

## School Improvement by Erin Burmeister, Director of School Improvement

I simply can't believe that the school year is beginning to wind down. What a year it has been! In the area of school improvement, it seems that there is always work to do and it is easy to get overwhelmed. However, it is important to take time to recognize our accomplishments and reflect on the progress we have made. The list of accomplishments is long, so I will just choose a few to focus on.



**Erin Burmeister,  
Director of School Improvement**

### Curriculum Work

Curriculum and instruction are two areas we are always working to improve. This year we have focused on two core subject areas, literacy and science. Both the literacy and science subject area committees met last summer to begin the work of unwrapping and aligning the standards. Each group had one full day, in the summer, to work and throughout the school year this work has continued.

With literacy as our main focus, staff has engaged in monthly professional learning around literacy standards, effective teaching strategies, as well as quality assessments. Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) have met regularly to unwrap the literacy standards and determine Essential Learning for each grade level/content area.

Science is the second core subject area we have been focusing on. As some of you may know, the Iowa Department of Education approved the adoption of new state science standards. The adoption was based on a state review team's recommendation that Iowa adopt the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The adoption was made with some modifications to the current NGSS. First, performance expectations were adopted as the standards, rather than the whole document. Second, for grades 6-8 specific standards from the grades 6-8 span were assigned to specific grade levels.

Iowa will be fully implementing the new science standards during the 2018-2019 school year for all grades (with the exception of middle school – only one grade is expected in 2018-2019, with the remaining middle school grades implementing in consecutive years). These new science standards are forcing districts, like us, to look closely at curriculum as well as instruction and assessment. The Iowa science standards utilize three-dimensional learning. The three dimensions are: Disciplinary Core Ideas; Scientific and Engineering Practices; and Cross Cutting Concepts. These three dimensions of learning are meant to emphasize the vision that science involves both knowing and doing. In order for us to support students' understanding of science and engineering, all three dimensions need to be fully integrated into curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

*Continued on page 5*

## School Improvement by Erin Burmeister, Director of School Improvement

*Continued from page 4*



The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) provide an important opportunity to improve not only science education but also student achievement. Based on the *Framework for K–12 Science Education*, the NGSS are intended to reflect a new vision for science education.

Work with NGSS in our district will continue this summer when we get our science subject area committee together again to take a closer look at the standards, evaluate are current curriculum and instructional strategies, and make a plan for science education at ICSD.

Science and Literacy are the core areas we are focusing on, but work is always being done to evaluate all of our programs. Improvements are currently being made to our K-12 Counseling Program, K-12 Drop Out Prevention (At-Risk) Program, and K-12 Talented and Gifted (TAG) Program, just to name a few.

### **Professional Learning Communities (PLC's)**

The establishment and work of our Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) is another accomplishment that needs to be celebrated and reflected upon. We know that if we want to ensure students learn at higher levels we must improve teaching. How does a system do this? One way is through the PLC model. The Professional Learning Community at Work (PLC) model offers a systems approach to school improvement. At ICSD buildings are embracing this model. Teachers across the district are organized into grade level or content area teams in which they work interdependently to achieve a common goal.

Currently, the PLC's are working to establish Essential Learning for each grade level and/or content area. Additionally, they are creating and agreeing upon common assessments to monitor student learning. Each team uses the evidence of student learning to identify individual students who need additional support, to discover problematic areas of the curriculum that require attention, and to help each member become aware of his or her instructional strengths and weaknesses. The amount of professional learning that takes place is amazing.

Although school improvement can be a daunting, we are making progress and we have accomplished a lot. I am proud of all the work that is being done to ensure that Independence Community School District is second to none.



Spring is here! What a wonderful time of year it is for our PK-2 students. There are so many fun trips and activities planned. Our students were able to see the author of Pete the Cat at the Jr/Sr High. It was a fun morning filled with stories and singing. Various grade levels have many fun activities planned in the next few weeks. We will have our Field Day in May, trip to see Lyle Lyle the Crocodile, 1st grade plans to go visit a farm, and 2nd grade will have a Farm Safety Day. Parents, please check your student's bag for more information. It is a great time of year to be a Little Mustang.



**Danielle Meyer,  
Principal**

## Preschool

We had so much fun learning in March! We celebrated Dr. Seuss week with lots of fun activities and a Dress-up week! We also talked about Rainbows, Spring, Weather, and Dinosaurs.

During Dinosaurs week, one of our favorite activities was our Dinosaur Dig in the sensory table! We used tools that a Paleontologist would use such as brushes or small shovels, and searched for dinosaur skeletons and fossils!

During Rainbow week, we had a blast making an Exploding Rainbow Volcano! We used baking soda, vinegar, and watercolor paint to create a beautiful, bubbly rainbow. We did it several times, because we had so much fun making it!



## Kindergarten

Kindergartners are ready for spring and warm weather!

In April we will continue to work on reading and math skills that will help prepare us for first grade. Our units of study for this month are spring, seeds, and baby animals! Mr. Hayden's

High School Ag class came to our classrooms to do a plant

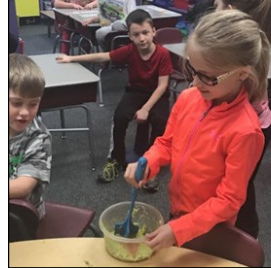
lesson. The students all planted their own seeds! For Earth Day, Sondra and Angie will bring animals into our classrooms for us to observe and enjoy. We will also learn about the importance of taking care of our environment.



## 1st Grade

Spark - avocados - learned how to make guacamole

Literacy - Learned about moon/space and made rockets using duct tape, bottles, popsicle sticks, straws, in collaborative groups. We then shot our rockets using baking soda and vinegar.



## 2nd Grade

Our math curriculum had an emphasis on money. Students earned coins toward going on a "Tropical Vacation". Students made money exchanges, purchased a plane ticket, learned a Hawaiian dance, tasted tropical foods, and did many other activities. The grand finale was spending their earned coins on souvenirs.



## Specials

In art we have been finishing our study of shapes. Students can recognize the difference between an organic shape and a geometric shape.

First grade classes created a moon to collaborate with their space study in their classroom. White glue was used to create craters on the moon. Watercolors were then used to paint the moon. Lastly, the moons were cut out, glued and decorated with oil pastels. They will be hanging in the hallways soon!

## Instructional Coach

It has been a pleasure working with the ECC & East Elementary teachers this year. I meet with each grade level on a weekly basis and provide guidance in creating common assessments to inform instruction. We have also been working on developing and prioritizing essential standards in English Language Arts. Another role I provide to teachers is support in small group math instruction, comprehension strategies and interventions (Mustang Time). It's been a great year of building relationships, reflecting with teachers and learning! Go Mustangs!



## 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 Val Maximovich at 319-332-0626 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 Val at 319-332-0626 and let her 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!**

### 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.

**Independence Schools had quite a few winners in the annual Creative Writing and Poetry Contest put on by the Eastern Iowa Reading Council.**

**Poetry winners are:**

**Kindergarten-** 1st place; Victoria Price(2nd Place at State), 2nd place; Persephanie Franck, 3rd place; Claire Eager.

**1st Grade-** 1st place; Carver Wieland, 2nd place Tie; Trevor Mast and Isla Reed, 3rd place Tie; Nyles Senne and Tavah Stevens.

**2nd Grade-** 3rd place; Emma Fischer

**7th Grade-** 3rd place; Lillian Giddings

**8th Grade-** 3rd place; Jazlyn Smith

**9th Grade-** 1st place; Jenna Smith(1st place at State), 2nd place; Taylor Justason, 3rd place; Lilly Henkes

**10th Grade-** 1st place; Zander Smith, 2nd place; Veronica Wagner

**11th Grade-** 1st place; Lydia Butter(2nd place at State), 2nd place; Josie Fischels, 3rd place; Chandlyne Reichenbacker

**12th Grade-** 1st place; Elizabeth Kurt(2nd place at State), 3rd place; Autumn Diesburg

**Creative Writing Winners are:**

**Kindergarten-** 1st place; Landon Allen, 2nd place; Emma Wiley, 3rd place; Brecken Fuelling

**1st Grade-** 2nd place; Kypton Ward,

**2nd Grade-** 2nd place; Emelia Lange and Taylor Kitner, 3rd place; Will Heidenreich

**5th Grade-** 1st place; Grace Price, 2nd place; Jackson Wolf

**8th Grade-** 1st place; Jazlyn Smith and Sierra Kruger(2nd place at State), 2nd place; Jazlyn Smith

**9th Grade-** 1st place; Taylor Justason, 3rd place; Emma Hansen

**10th Grade-** 1st place; Jaita Nolting(1st place at State), 2nd place; Noreasa Higgins

**11th Grade-** 3rd place; Josie Fischels

**12th Grade-** 2nd place; Elizabeth Kurt

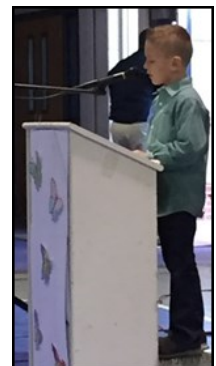
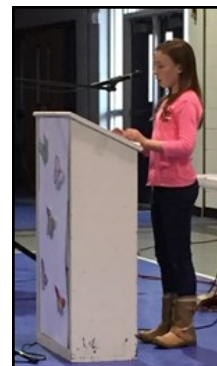


Elementary: Front Row left to right; Emma Wiley, Emma Fisher, Claire Eager, Nyles Senne, Kypton Ward, Brecken Fuelling, and Victoria Price. Back Row; Trevor Mast, Carver Wieland, Tavah Stevens, Isla Reed, Persephanie Franck, Emelia Lange, and Taylor Kitner.



HS Front Row left to right; Emma Hansen, Lillian Giddings, Jazlyn Smith, Josie Fischels, and Taylor Justason. Back Row; Lilly Henkes, Veronica Wagner, Jenna Smith, Noreasa Higgins, and Jaita Nolting.

Grace Price and Landon Allen reading at the Banquet.





## News from Third Grade!

The third graders are hoping to have warm, dry weather sometime soon! It has been a wet spring already, and we are all ready to get outside and play. In math, we have been working on fractions. Our next unit will focus on multiplication and division. We will be learning various strategies, such as Partial Products and Lattice, to solve two-digit and three-digit multiplication problems. Students continue to work on basic facts.

We will soon be finishing our Nutrition and Digestion unit in science. Mrs. Auel, from Fontana, came in to share information about nutrients. Students explored the diets of various animals, focusing on proteins, vitamins, fats, and carbohydrates. We are excited about our upcoming field trip to Fontana to explore sound for our next science unit.

In writing, students have focused on the three types of writing: narrative, opinion, and informative. We continue to work on writing complete sentences and paragraphs.

The third graders have been reading between 300 and 400 minutes each month. In February, we were able to go to Pizza Hut to celebrate with our Book It certificates for a personal pan pizza. What an exciting field trip! We will be heading to Pizza Hut again this month to celebrate our March reading achievements. We are looking forward to meeting our reading goals in the next two months and continuing the celebrations!

Our students had their spring performance of *Arf!* It was exciting for the students and for the families. They really seemed to enjoy the stage and the spotlight! Way to go 3rd graders!



Cheri Reed, Principal

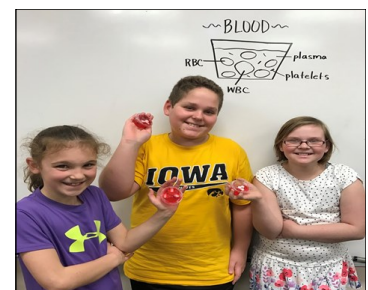
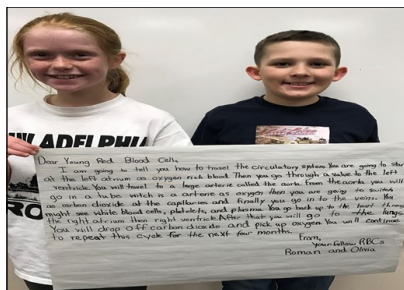


## News from Fourth Grade!

As the end of the year is quickly approaching, the remaining science units in fourth grade are the circulatory system and the weather unit. The southwest and west regions will be studied in social studies. Everyday Math units will focus on multiplication, division, perimeter, area, fractions, decimals, and percent.

The fourth grade students are always excited to learn the new genre focus in reading and share their creativity when writing. Students who have met their reading goals in the past couple of months were able to participate in many fun incentives: crafts, slime, and treats. Upcoming incentives will include outdoor activities!

The students have really enjoyed spending time with the young (Kidsville children) and the elderly (West/East Village and Prairie Hills residents) this year. They had so much fun reading, writing, and playing BINGO!



## News from Fifth Grade!

Fifth graders have been working hard to finish up the year strong. In math, fifth graders are learning about fractions. The students will end the year multiplying and dividing fractions, along with an introduction on volume. In reading, the students have been working on literature circle group novel discussions. They have really taken ownership in leading their groups in productive, on-task discussions. Fifth graders have also been working on a culminating biography paper, which will use skills the students have been working on most of the year. Mrs. Holtzman's class is busy preparing for the annual colonial fair. The students are excited to share what they have learned. Coming up in May, the fifth grade class will also be participating in Fish Iowa, a fun field trip put on by local DNR to encourage students to get outside and enjoy nature.

## News from Sixth Grade!

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 Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, all of the DARE students in Buchanan County will graduate and celebrate. This year's invited speaker is long-time news anchor for KWWL, Ron Steele. Winner of this year's essay contest is Kylee Jacobsen, who will read her 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 can 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.

The week of May 15th, sixth grade science classes will have the opportunity to explore a mobile learning lab (Mobile STEM Exploratorium) from Hawkeye Community College. This trailer is equipped with cutting-edge technology that will provide educational exploration. The students will be excited about this experience.

As a young boy growing up in Northwest Iowa the son of a nurse and teacher I loved school and many things associated with it. My father was a high school physical education teacher and coach of many sports. Extra curricular activities were as important to my education as math and reading. Now, as I have become a school administrator, I have seen many students who may benefit from these same extra curricular activities as I still do today.



**Dewey Hupke, Jr/Sr High School  
Assistant Principal**

**BENEFITS OF HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES** - The following excerpts are taken from “The Case for High School Activities” published by the National Federation of State High School Associations. At a cost of only one to 3 percent (or less in many cases) of an overall school’s budget, high school activity programs are one of the best bargains around.

**ACTIVITIES SUPPORT THE ACADEMIC MISSION OF SCHOOLS.** - They are not a diversion, but rather an extension of a good educational program. Students who participate in activity programs tend to have higher grade-point averages, better attendance records, lower dropout rates and fewer discipline problems than students generally.

**ACTIVITIES ARE INHERENTLY EDUCATIONAL.** - Activity programs provide valuable lessons for many practical situations. Through participation in activity programs, students learn teamwork, sportsmanship, winning and losing, the rewards of hard work, self-discipline, build self-confidence, and develop skills to handle competitive situations. These are qualities the public expects schools to produce in students so they become responsible adults and productive citizens.

**ACTIVITIES FOSTER SUCCESS IN LATER LIFE.** - Participation in high school activities is often a predictor of later success - in college, a career, and becoming a contributing member of society. A 1989, nationwide study by the Women’s Sport Foundation indicated that athletes do better in the classroom, are more involved in school activity programs, and stay involved in the community after graduation. The study, based on an analysis of data collected by the U.S. Department of Education’s High School and Beyond Study, indicated that girls receive as many benefits from sports as boys. Sports involvement was significantly related to a lower dropout rate in some school settings and minority athletes are more socially involved than non-athletes.

Although all activities may not be for all students, I believe all students can find something to connect them to school, outside of the classroom. It would be my hope and desire that your student may enjoy the same great opportunities as I did.

**Go Mustangs!**

## What's Happening at Independence?

1976 was quite a long time ago. Here is a refresher for those who can remember — which is not I since I was only two. The United States just celebrated its bicentennial. Gerald Ford was in the White House with Nelson Rockefeller by his side. Gas was (an almost unbelievable by today's standards) fifty-nine cents per gallon while a stamp was thirteen cents. Young and old alike “grooved” to Captain and Tennille, the Rolling Stones, Thin Lizzy and (my favorite from that era) the Steve Miller Band. “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest,” “Taxi Driver,” and “Rocky” brought people to the theaters. And Alex Haley and Gore Vidal published two of the most famous literary works in history: Roots and 1876. But the most important occurrence, in terms of this article, was the debut of a sitcom depicting the lives of three working-class African-American teens living in Watts called, “What’s Happening!”



**John Howard, Jr/Sr High School  
Principal**

Wait, Wait, Wait! I know exactly what most readers are thinking. It is not too challenging to decipher. Alright — everyone in unison: “Huh? What does a show from over three decades ago about a poor area of Los Angeles have to do with Independence?” Well, the answer is simply that the title is a great premise. Let’s discuss “What’s Happening at Independence.

- The Jazz Band just finished participating in the Iowa Jazz Championships...for the 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year. To put that into perspective, the last time Indee did not qualify for this event, I was a freshman in college!
- Ericka B. was recognized as an outstanding soloist in Class 3A at the Iowa Jazz Championships. She was one of only 4 musicians given this designation.
- Emily N and Josie F were selected to All-State Speech and performed very well. I had the privilege of attending Emily’s session, and it was phenomenal.
- Our girls’ soccer team is ranked #10 in the latest poll.
- Class registration for 2017-2018 is well underway.
- Administration has started the search process for candidates to fill our vacant positions for the upcoming school year. We have a lot of “big shoes” to fill but are confident in recruiting the best possible replacements.
- Some of our best teachers were nominated for Teacher of the Year and recognized at the annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner.
- The girls’ golf team return many players from last year’s WaMAC West Championship team, so the expectations for this group is pretty high.
- Seniors have started the “countdown” to their last day. In fact, the actual numbers are posted in the Commons.
- Mustang Time was recently changed to the afternoon for grades 7-12, and this time adjustment has been very good.
- NWEA MAP testing is coming up later this month, and the staff is expecting great results from the students.
- There are many parents fretting about graduation celebrations and “shipping off” their children to college or the workforce.
- Finally, and maybe most importantly, many are anxiously awaiting graduation day as well as the last day of school, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

So, 1976 was (seemingly) ages ago—41 to be exact. But the name of a modestly-rated television sitcom from that year called, “What’s Happening” provided a “groovy” theme for this edition of the Mustang Newsletter. Hope you enjoyed it. Go Mustangs!



Every spring the Iowa High School Athletic Association has its member schools do a student participation survey. While discussing our articles Mr. Hupke and I wanted to share a similar theme. Mr. Hupke and I both believe strongly in the role activities play in the educational process. He wrote about all the benefit activities can have on students, and I am going to share with you our number of student who take advantage of our activity offerings. While this process can be a little time consuming I find the numbers interesting enough that I thought I would share in this spring newsletter. It should also be noted the Iowa High School Athletic Association is the governing body of boys sports so some information is geared more toward male participation.



**Justin Putz,  
Activities Director**

Total Students in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade- Boys 69    Girls 62  
 Total Students in 10<sup>th</sup> Grade- Boys 61    Girls 65  
 Total Students in 11<sup>th</sup> Grade- Boys 65    Girls 59  
 Total Students in 12<sup>th</sup> Grade- Boys 62    Girls 50

Total Boys Participating in Sports (Each student is only counted once no matter how many sports he participates in.):

9<sup>th</sup> Grade- 42  
 10<sup>th</sup> Grade- 42  
 11<sup>th</sup> Grade 38  
 12<sup>th</sup> Grade 32

	TOTAL BOYS	TOTAL GIRLS
Baseball	30	0
Basketball	34	18
Bowling	10	5
Cross Country	22	11
Football - 11 Player	73	0
Golf	17	19
Soccer	32	27
Softball (2016)	0	28
Tennis	18	26
Track & Field	22	29
Volleyball	0	48
Wrestling	47	0
MUSIC – Band	46	55
MUSIC - Vocal	31	62
SPEECH - Individual Events	6	18
Speech - Large Group	13	27
SPIRIT - Cheerleaders	1	26

While compiling this data I always find it interesting to see how many students we have involved in something. In addition to what the state asks us to report, we offer various other activities or clubs that are not included in this survey. At Independence CSD we have a large majority of our students involved in something and over 1/2 involved in multiple things. However, we still have some that are not involved. With such a wide variety of sports, activities, or clubs I recommend that every student take advantage of doing something that interests them. As Mr. Hupke wrote activities enhance the educational experience. Studies have shown that students who are involved feel more connected with their school. When students feel connected they have a better overall high school experience. Someday I would like to fill out a report like this or look at our own data and see 100% of students involved.

## News from Nursing Service:

### 2017-2018 School Year: State Requirements:

1. **Kindergarten: All students need an up to date Immunization record to attend school.** For information on vaccine's that are required please visit: <https://www.idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/Ordering/Immunization/Forms/Files/Immunization-Law-Brochure.pdf>
2. **7<sup>th</sup> Grade & 12<sup>th</sup> grade New Immunization Law:**  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Must have:
  1. Meningococcal Vaccine one dose if born after September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004.
  2. Tdap Vaccine for students born after September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2000, upon entrance into 7<sup>th</sup> grade.**12<sup>th</sup> Grade (Seniors):** If born after September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1999 must have 2 doses of the Meningococcal Vaccine or 1 dose if received when students are 16 years of age or older.  
**Students entering 7<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grades must have the vaccines before entering school.**
3. Dental Requirement:  
**Kindergarten:** Are required to have a dental screening which may be performed by a licensed dentist, dental hygienist, nurse, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. Your dentist should have the required form to present to your school nurse or visit the school web site for the form.  
**9<sup>th</sup> Grade (Freshmen):** A dental screening may be performed by licensed dentist or dental hygienist only.
4. Vision Requirement:  
**Kindergarten & 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders:** Are required to have a vision screening performed no earlier than one year prior to the date of enrollment and no later than six months after enrollment into school.

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### When your child is sick:

#### Children need to stay home:

1. Have a fever of 100 degrees or higher: Keep your child home until his or her fever has been gone for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen.
2. Have been having vomiting or diarrhea: Keep your child home 24 hours after the Last time they vomited or had diarrhea.
3. Has draining red eyes
4. Coughing or sneezing often and cannot control
5. Very tired or lack of appetite.
6. Antibiotics: Keep your child home until 24 hours after the first dose of antibiotics for anything like ear infection or strep throat.

When you call your child's school to notify them that your child will not be there due to illness, please provide some basic symptoms so we can help track influenza for the Iowa Department of Public Health.

If your child has a change in their health during the school year please call the school nurse with this information.

#### Independence Community Schools Nursing Service:

Molly Beatty  
East Elementary  
319-332-0533

Kelsi Donnelly  
West Elementary  
319-332-0589

Rhonda Jasper  
Jr/Sr High School  
319-332-0720



Val Maximovich,  
Volunteer & Mentor  
Coordinator

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



*A big "Thank you" all our volunteers during National Volunteer Week April 23-26.*

We appreciate the role they play every week in our classrooms and with our students throughout the school year. We appreciate their dedication them for being part of the team!

The adult and student volunteers that volunteer during the school day, will be thanked by the students and teachers during the end of the year award assemblies at East and West Elementary. Date and time to be announced soon!

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A special thank you to Michael Deuhr, and the Fraternal Order of Eagles here in Independence! The Independence Mustang Mentoring program was recently awarded a \$2,000 grant from their organization. We really appreciate the donations that contribute to the program!



## **Attention, Matey!** **Annual Mentor Picnic** *Mon., May 15, 2017, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at West Elementary* **Be ready for the adventure!**

*All mentors and mentees come and join the search for the treasure!*

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Congratulations to our Mentor of the Year, Denise Hawker. She has been a mentor for 14 years, the last 8 years with Kaleb. Thank you for your dedication to the mentoring program



## **Silver Cord Announcements**

It's time to recruit 8<sup>th</sup> graders to be part of the Silver Cord Volunteer program. They will hear all about it soon during Mustang Time.



**Attention: Seniors!** May 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for posting your final hours. This deadline is for the graduating seniors only. For reporting your hours go to the Reporting hours form at <http://208.81.193.174/fmi/webd#SilverCord> 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 begins. We are proud of all students that have volunteered for a variety of activities in the Independence and surrounding area.

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Find us on

Facebook

**It's time to recruit volunteers and mentors for the 2017-18 school year! If you would like to mentor or volunteer, please contact Val at 319-332-0626 or send an email 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/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Volunteer-Registration-Form-2015-2016.pdf>**



Students and staff had the opportunity to try out a Chromebook. Questions and potential issues have already been resolved. The Technology Department is keeping a running troubleshooting document for staff as we move to Chromebooks for 2017-2018.

**We re on the Web**  
<http://www.independence.k12.ia.us>

As we researched other Iowa districts, we saw many moving to Chromebooks as the computing device; many having already switched to Chromebooks as their primary student device.

As the district transitions to Chromebooks, we look forward to collaboratively working with other districts to offer the best possible technology-infused educational experience for 2017-2018 and beyond.

Please contact Steve Noyes, Director of Technology, with any questions. My phone is (319) 332-0719 or email: [snoyes@independence.k12.ia.us](mailto:snoyes@independence.k12.ia.us).

## It is a great time to be a Mustang!

### **EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

It is the policy of the Independence Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, 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: Erin Burmeister, Director of School Improvement, 1207 1st Street West, Independence, IA 50644, (319) 334-7400 or [eburmeister@independence.k12.ia.us](mailto:eburmeister@independence.k12.ia.us)

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.

### **NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION**

It is the policy of the Independence School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, 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: Erin Burmeister, Director of School Improvement, 1207 1st Street West, Independence, IA 50644, (319) 334-7400 or [eburmeister@independence.k12.ia.us](mailto:eburmeister@independence.k12.ia.us)

### **ANNUAL NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The Independence Community School District offers career and technical programs in the following areas of study:

Agriculture  
Business  
Family and Consumer Science  
Industrial Technology  
Marketing

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