

February 7, 2011

Greetings,

I would like to begin by first thanking you for your help with our projects that were successfully funded through the "Donors Choose" organization and in cooperation with Border's Book Store. During this initiative that took place in December of 2010, Indian Creek was able to submit two projects for potential funding to "Donors Choose". (One project requested library books for our two elementary schools and the other project requested library books for our middle school and high school.) In December, Border's then gave patrons a \$15. gift card (with any purchase) that could be contributed towards any "Donors Choose" project. As a result of this cooperative initiative, our school district received approximately \$1400. total in books for our schools' libraries. Again, a big "thank-you" to staff and community members who helped us reach our goal in funding both of these projects.

Speaking of successes, we have again just received notification from the Illinois State Board of Education that two of our schools have received 2010 Illinois Academic Excellence Awards. These awards are the result of 90% of our students meeting or exceeding state standards in both reading and mathematics for the three most recent school years. Waterman Elementary School has now received this award three years in a row, and Indian Creek Middle School received its first award. WES and ICMS were among the 459 schools statewide that earned this recognition. At approximately the same time of receiving this good news, we also received notification that the Indian Creek High School pep band has been selected for a second time in three years to perform during the boys' state basketball tournament.

On a final note, you may remember that in January of 2010, the district published and distributed its first annual community progress report that outlined district highlights and achievements from 2009. The second annual community progress report, highlighting 2010, is now ready for distribution with that taking place soon. While 2010 truly was an outstanding year for Indian Creek Schools, it appears that 2011 will be no less.

Sincerely,

Pamela R. Rockwood, Ph.D.

Superintendent

Community Service Announcement

Blood Drive

Indian Creek High School is sponsoring a blood drive on Saturday, February 12, 2011 from 9 am - 12 p.m. in the gym at Indian Creek High School. Donors may call Jamie Lauer at 815-758-7268 to schedule a time to donate or to ask questions. Donors may also sign up on line at www.heartlandbc.org

Donors must bring photo ID to the blood drive. Donors must be 17 years old and in general good health. Sixteen-year-olds may donate if they have written approval from a parent/guardian. Go to http://www.heartlandbc.org/Permission_IL.pdf to download form. Each donor will receive free flannel pants (pajama pants). Also, high school students who donate receive credit for the Red Honor Cord Graduation program.

ICHS is located at 506 S. Shabbona Road, just south of the Casey's on Route 30 in Shabbona.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- Please check the daily announcements/guidance web page/facebook for updated information or students can visit the scholarship file outside of Mr. Lindley's office.
- Please check the school website for updated local scholarship information.
- Please read the requirements needed to be eligible for certain scholarships.
- All scholarships that are part of the Indian Creek Education Foundation can be mailed to:
Indian Creek Education Foundation Board, P.O. Box 426, Shabbona, IL 60550.
The deadline for these scholarships is April 4, 2011.

GRANDPARENTS DAY AT SHABBONA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: The annual Grandparents Day will be held on Friday, March 25, 2011 at Shabbona Elementary School. Grandparents, please join us for this fun event from 8:30-11 a.m. This is a great way to share your grandchild's school and school experience with them. Grandparents will be able to visit your grandchild/ren, the classrooms, and enjoy a special musical program performed by all of the SES students. We hope to see you there!

F.F.A. NEWS: Hello everyone from the Indian Creek F.F.A.! January has been a big month for the F.F.A. and we have many new events coming up soon in February. We hope that everyone who attended the F.F.A. pork chop supper on January 14 enjoyed their dinner and we thank you for coming and supporting both the F.F.A. and the boys' basketball teams. This year was a great one for the F.F.A. supper and the basketball teams! January 25 was the job interview CDE at Indian Creek High School where Jordan Flewellyn competed for Indian Creek. Jackie Prestegaard, Kye Witek, Ian Anderson, and Hannah Bialas interviewed and applied for their state degrees this year. This is a very prestigious degree that is only awarded to the dedicated and hard working members of our state. These members have had to keep meticulous records over the past few years of their SAEs and had to complete a list of requirements in order to apply. Good luck to these candidates and congratulations for all your hard work so far! We also have

several members that will be competing at proficiency awards. As well, these students had to keep detailed records of their SAE enterprises throughout high school and will be interviewing at Kishwaukee College on February 10 in their specific areas. Good luck to all and we look forward to having a strong start to this year!

BULLYING POLICY: Indian Creek C.U.S.D. #425 has a bullying policy online. Go to indiancreekschools.org and click on board policy on the left hand side, go to the policies in section 7 and click on 7:180. If anyone would like a hard copy of the policy, please contact the district office at 815/824-2197.

I.V.V.C. STUDENTS OF THE MONTH: Indian Valley Vocational Center recently announced its January 2011 list of Students of the Month. Lindsay Stager from Indian Creek was the student of the month in Culinary Arts. IVVC is owned and operated by eleven school districts including Indian Creek.

SNOWCOMING DANCE: Indian Creek High School's Student Council is sponsoring a winter dance on Saturday, February 26 from 7:30-10:30 p.m. in the high school gym. This is for high school students and their guests high school aged or older. Students should register their guests in the high school office. Cost is \$5 per person and tickets are available at the door. Refreshments will be provided.

DENTAL EXAMS A MUST: The Illinois Senate passed a law that requires all children in kindergarten, second and sixth grades in any public, private or parochial school to have a dental examination and form completed by a licensed dentist on file in the school by May 15 of this school year.

The proof of dental examination and the waiver forms will be uniform for statewide use. Please make sure if you have a kindergartener, second grader, or sixth grader to have your exam forms into the appropriate school office by May 15.

LET US DO THE COOKING: Eighth grade students attending the Washington, D.C. educational trip in June will be hosting a delicious homemade spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, February 23 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Students or the ICMS office have tickets available for \$7.00. Carry-outs are available. The dinner will be held just before the ICMS play "Pinocchio" that will be held in the small gym at 7:00 p.m. Don't miss this special family night out at ICMS.

EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION: Eighth grade graduation is on Tuesday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the middle school big gym.

Music News

ICMS



Illinois Grade School Music Association

All ICMS band students will be participating in the Illinois Grade School Music Association Solo and Ensemble Contest, which will be held on February 26th at Genoa-Kingston. Choral students will be given the option of participating with a solo or ensemble. All band students have been given a solo to begin learning. Students will be assigned an accompanist, if their piece requires, in February. We will also be holding extra rehearsals in February to help students prepare for this event.

The ICMS seventh & eighth grade band will participate in the IGSMA Organizational Band Contest on Saturday, March 19th at Washington Middle School in Aurora. Our performance time will be announced later in February and notes will be sent home with all contest information. Students have begun work on contest selections and are being given specific weekly assignments to prepare for this contest.

Spring Music Concert



ICMS Spring Concert – The ICMS Spring Concert will be held on Wednesday, April 20th. It will feature the SES-WES fifth grade band, 6th grade band, 7/8th grade band and the ICMS chorus. An afternoon all school assembly will be held at 2:00 p.m. and community members are welcome to attend. The evening concert will be held at 7:00 p.m.

ICHS



Pep Band

The ICHS Pep Band will play on Friday, February 11th and Saturday, February 12th for Boys and Girls Senior Night. These remaining games are required.

Little Ten Band Festival at ICHS



ICHS is host to the Little Ten Band Festival on Tuesday, March 1, 2010. Students from the Little Ten Schools will rehearse during the day with guest conductor, Stacey Larson, from Vander Cook College of Music and then present an evening

concert at 7:00 p.m. in the ICHS Gymnasium. Music Booster parents will be needed to help throughout the day, to help serve the evening meal to all students and set-up and tear-down. Notes will be sent home in the next few weeks for parents to sign up to help.



Solo and Ensemble Contest

Several ICHS musicians will be participating in the ICHS Solo and Ensemble Contest, held at Princeton High School on Saturday, March 5th. Times will be posted later in February.

Pep Band performs at March Madness

Congratulations to the ICHS Pep Band for being selected to play at the Boys State Basketball Tournament on Friday, March 11th at the Peoria Civic Center. The students will depart from ICHS on Thursday evening and will perform early in the morning at the opening of the March Madness exhibits and then all day during the tournament. More information will be sent home with students as information becomes available.

Band and Choir Organizational Contest

The ICHS Band and Choir will be participating in the IHSA Organizational Contest on Saturday, April 16th at Morris High School. Performance times will be posted later in March and all students are required to attend.

Spring Music Concert



The ICHS Spring Concert will be held on Sunday, April 17th at 3:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. It will feature the Concert Choir and Concert Band as well as end of the year awards program. All community members are welcome to attend.

IC Music Boosters – CCC Luncheon

The IC Music Boosters will be providing the lunch for the CCC Auction on Sunday, March 13th. This is a major fundraising event for the Music Boosters and we appreciate the opportunity to continue this tradition. We will serve Ham Sandwiches, Italian Beef Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Chips, Nachos & Cheese, Chips, Deserts and Drinks. Lunch will begin at 12:00 noon. Parents and Students will be needed to help prepare, set-up, serve and clean-up. A note will be going home in the next few weeks to ask students and parents to sign up for help.

High School 1 YEARS

Working together for lifelong success

Short Clips



In touch with counselors

Encourage your teenager to drop in and say hello to her school counselor from time to time. If the counselor knows your child well, he'll be able to offer more targeted support for course selection, job prospects, or college choices. Plus, he can be a trusted adult for her to talk over problems with.

Listen up!

High school students spend several hours a day listening. Encourage your student to be an attentive listener by using the acronym "SOLER." He should squarely face the teacher, open his posture by uncrossing arms and legs, lean in a bit to show interest, make eye contact, and relax.

Being accountable

Accepting responsibility when you make an error shows character. To help your child learn to be accountable, encourage her to admit—and correct—her mistakes. For example, if she returns the car without gas, she should apologize ("Sorry I forgot to fill the tank") and then make it right (put gas in the car).

Worth quoting

"One kind word can warm three winter months." *Japanese proverb*

Just for fun

Q: What did the mathematician say to her child when he misbehaved?

A: "If I've told you n times, I've told you $n + 1$ times..."



Challenges with teens

The teenage years can be an exciting time in life, but they also bring challenges for parents. Here are three common concerns and ways to handle them.

"My teen's never home."

It's normal for teens to spend more and more time out with friends. But you need to stay connected so you know what's going on in your child's life. You might set up times he needs to be home, such as mealtime or an hour or two before bedtime. Or consider limiting him to one or two nights out on week-days. *Idea:* When he has somewhere to go, offer to drive him so you can chat in the car.

"My teen is so rude sometimes."

While rudeness can be typical in teens, you shouldn't allow it to go unchecked. Say your high schooler walks away while you're talking and screams, "What-ever!" Tell him firmly, "I know you're angry, but it's not okay for you to act this way." Then, set consequences for his behavior



(loss of privileges). *Tip:* Encourage family members to speak nicely by modeling kind words and a soft tone of voice.

"I don't like my teen's friends."

Try to find out why your child chooses his friends by getting to know them better yourself. Have them stay for dinner, or go to games or other events where you can see how they act. If you feel your child is hanging out with a dangerous crowd, let him know you're concerned and why. Then, steer him toward activities where he can meet different kinds of kids, or talk to a teacher or coach for advice. 👍

Exploring online

Your high schooler probably uses the Internet for staying in touch with friends, tracking her favorite sports or movie stars, or listening to music. Here are ways she can use it to enhance learning, too:

- Encourage her to watch videos that teach her how to do things. For instance, she could find out how to make a curry (www.cookingvideo.org) or paint her room (www.diynetwork.com).
- Gazing into the sky is fascinating, but viewing photos can help your teen see the universe up close. She can look at an astronomy "picture of the day" at <http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html> or see all kinds of photos at sites like www.telescopes.cc.
- Searching the latest headlines can make your child more informed. Suggest that she bookmark news sites (www.pbs.org/newshour/extra and www.cnn.com/studentnews) and check them regularly. 👍



Be a reader!

You can encourage your high schooler to read for pleasure—and be a lifelong reader. Here's how.

Keep it interesting. Your teen may like to read about things that are happening in her life. She'll learn how characters in books or authors in real life handle the challenges of growing up (dating, friendship, career choices). Also, ask librarians to recommend titles teens enjoy or that pertain to your child's hobbies (quilting, horses).



Make it accessible. Place reading material where your teen can find it when she has a few minutes. Think about times in her day when reading may fit naturally (breakfast, bedtime). Then, leave books and magazines nearby. Every few weeks, stop at the library.

Share it. Whenever possible, let your child see you read. You might pass her the Sunday comics or the sports section when you're finished reading the newspaper. Read a funny e-mail out loud, or share items you come across in a magazine. If you're enjoying a book, tell her about it. *Tip:* If it's appropriate for her, pass it along when you've finished. 👍

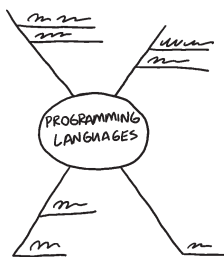


Great graphic organizers

No matter what subject your child studies, graphic organizers can help him identify key information, clarify ideas, and arrange his thoughts. Share these ideas:

■ A "series of events chain" will help your high schooler identify steps or stages. He can draw rectangles down a page and label each one ("Event 1," "Event 2," ... "Final Event"). *Example:* For stages of hurricane formation, he would list "tropical disturbance," "tropical depression," "tropical storm," and "hurricane."

■ A "spider map" is used to develop supporting facts for a main idea. In the center of a page, have your teen draw a circle (the spider's body) and write the topic in it ("Programming languages"). Next, he can draw four diagonal "legs" for main ideas ("There are many good languages for beginners"). Then, have him add horizontal lines next to the "legs" with supporting details ("Java," "Visual Basic," "Python"). 👍



Parent to Parent

Putting off chores

My high schooler kept putting off doing anything around the house. I had to remind Chloe over and over again that it was her turn to vacuum or that she needed to put away her clothes.

When I brought up her procrastinating, she said that between her schoolwork, activities, and friends, she just had too much to do. I explained that in a family, everyone needs to pitch in. Then, we talked about ways she could make time to do her share. We decided she could pick a day of the week to do each chore. For example, she might vacuum on Saturday morning or do laundry on Wednesday nights.

Each week Chloe posts a schedule in her room, and she's supposed to check off each item as she completes it. So far, she's doing pretty well—and I'm glad I'm not hearing "I'll do it later" anymore. 👍



Q & A Financing college

Q My son plans on going to college. How can we start planning now to pay for it?

A Paying for college can seem overwhelming, but planning early will help. First, begin researching possibilities for student aid, and be sure to apply by the priority deadlines. No matter what your financial circumstances, apply for aid—you don't know what you'll get unless you ask. If your financial picture changes, you can ask schools to reconsider their aid package.

Also, think about ways to lower the cost of your child's education. He might go to a community college for two years and then transfer to a four-year school. If he's a good student, he could take AP classes. If he does well on the AP exams, he could enter college with credits and pay for fewer courses.

Finally, consider having your son get a part-time job after school and during summers. He can save money for college expenses like books, food, transportation, and entertainment. 👍



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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