

November, 2011

Greetings,

The schools of today are not the schools of the 1930's, the 1950's or even the 1990's. The needs of our students, the curriculum taught and the strategies used to teach it have all changed significantly since these times. If you read last month's newsletter, you noted that our school district was beginning curriculum work seeking to align our currently taught curriculums to the Common Core Standards. This is just one of the many State of Illinois mandates that have changed the way things are done and the curriculum that is taught in Illinois schools.

Today's curriculum and many of the instructional strategies used to teach it integrate technology (in the form of single stand alone machines or networked computer labs) and the Internet. In May of 2011, the Center for Digital Education issued a special report stating that technology has become a part of our daily fabric to which students expect to have access (p. 26 and 27). That statement has held true here at Indian Creek, as for over the past 10 years, our students have had access to high speed Internet through our network and T1 lines (which are copper lines). However, as today's curriculum and instructional strategies have changed to integrate more technology, our network and Internet usage demand has grown exponentially to the point of the following analogy: Picture a sink from which the water flow is less than one-fourth flowing. (This is the current situation with our usage.) Now picture that same sink with a gushing water flow. (This would be our preferred situation in using the network and Internet.) This analogy points out that we needed to seek a way to achieve our preferred situation when providing our educational program to our students, while remaining financially responsible. That is exactly what our school district did in May of 2011.

At their May, 2011, regular board meeting the Indian Creek Board of Education approved our district's participation in the DeKalb Advancement of Technology Authority (DATA) project. This project provides fiber optic connectivity for our network to the Internet, and by participating in it, our students and staff will now have the access to our network and Internet resources as illustrated with the "full water flow" analogy above. This project is the result of a successful federal grant proposal written by DeKalb County, and it provides for the installation of fiber optics (which are much faster than copper lines), as well as additional equipment that is necessary. By participating in the project, we will also have (in the near future) the capability of upgrading our communications system district-wide. An added benefit to our participation is a projected yearly cost savings. This progressive decision to participate as made by our Board of Education was one that kept the excellence of our students' education foremost in mind, while remaining true to the principle of sound fiduciary responsibility.

Sincerely,

*Pamela R. Rockwood, Ph.D.*

Superintendent

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS DESERVE OUR THANKS: When it comes to selfless giving, school board members deserve thanks from everyone in the community...because they represent so many different facets of their community. They are ordinary people and in their everyday lives they might be farmers or bankers, homemakers or doctors, truck drivers or professors, business owners or retirees.

But they all have one thing in common: an extraordinary dedication to our public schools. And it's time we thanked them for their untiring efforts.

Everyone knows that board members attend meetings, but those hours represent just a fraction of the actual time that they devote to leading their districts. They attend extracurricular events to support their schools. They also attend seminars to learn how to be better board members. And often they are involved in other community activities, representing themselves, their community and their district.

More than any other public servant, school board members must listen to the voice of their community and then craft a vision, mission and goals for their district to accurately reflect those voices in the design. They must guard two of the community's most precious resources – their children and their tax dollars – while they create the best educational environment possible with the money available.

Too often communities are quick to criticize school board members without really knowing all the details that went into their decisions. As a result, the efforts of school board members often go unrecognized and unrewarded.

November 15, 2011, has been designated as School Board Members Day in Illinois. This is a time to show appreciation and to begin to better understand how school board members work together to provide leadership for schools.

Help us join with others from throughout Illinois to say “thank you” to the men and women who provide the grassroots governance for public schools. Make a special effort to tell each school board member his or her hard work has been noticed and is very much appreciated.

We thank Indian Creek School District #425 school board members: Vaughn Boehne, Cheryl Palombo, Pam Ottengheime, Jill Konen, Jim Hicks, Jeff Martenson, and Dan Sanderson.

JUNIOR CLASS FUNDRAISER: Indian Creek High School's junior class is selling Innisbrook wrapping paper and chocolates as a fundraiser for the 2012 prom. Innisbrook has a great selection of high quality wrapping paper just in time for the holiday season. Are you looking for a gift for a teacher, paper boy, or someone special but hard to buy for? Try the boxed chocolates they offer. Please contact a junior class member or Mrs. Fleming at the high school 815/824-2197.

INDIAN CREEK F.F.A. ALUMNI CLUB CALF SALE: The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Indian Creek F.F.A. Alumni Club Calf Sale will be held at the Lee County 4-H Fairgrounds outside Amboy on Sunday, November 20. Calves can be viewed before the sale at noon and the auction begins at 1:00 p.m. This year it runs in conjunction with a craft show. To consign a calf, please fill out the forms online at [www.indiancreekschools.org](http://www.indiancreekschools.org) on the high school page or the F.F.A. page. Entries must be filled out and sent to Laura Harvell at the address, email, or FAX number included on the paperwork.

WALK ACROSS THE UNITED STATES: The third annual Walk across the United States has begun by the Indian Creek middle school students. This voluntary program "The United States Walk and Bike Across America" will visit national parks, historic sites, and key agricultural locations as participants journey across America. The middle school gym will be open during the school day from 5:30 to 8:10 a.m. for community members and 7:30-8:10 a.m. for students to walk. We feel this is a great opportunity for students, teachers, staff and community members to become involved in an adventure that promotes healthy lifestyles for all involved.

SPORTS NEWS: Indian Creek High School winter sports picture day will be Wednesday, November 9 at 3:15 p.m. in the high school gym. Meet the T-Wolves scrimmage will be on Friday, November 11 in the high school gym. All the basketball teams will scrimmage beginning with the girls at 5:30 p.m.

BOYS VARSITY/JV GOLF: The members of the 2011 varsity/jv boys golf team were: juniors: Tyler Reynolds; sophomores: Justin Hatfield, Garrett Parks, Josh Sandine, and Devin Witek, and freshman: David Boehne, Clayton Kaus, Chris Pickwell, David Rueff, Winston Simpson, Jake Wieseler, and Max Williams. The varsity team ended the season with an overall record of 6-9 and a 4-5 record in the Little Ten Conference for third place. The jv team ended the season with an overall record of 4-5 and a ninth place finish at the Ottawa Invitational and a fourth place finish at the Indian Creek JV Invitational.

I.V.V.C. STUDENTS OF THE MONTH: September Students of the Month at I.V.V.C. from Indian Creek High School were Emily Bergstrand in Early Childhood Development and Kristen Westbrook in Sports Medicine. Congratulations to these students!

WINTER PROGRAMS: The Indian Creek High School winter concert will be on Sunday, December 4 at 2 p.m. in the high school gym. The Shabbona Elementary winter program is Monday, December 5 in the Indian Creek High School gym and the Waterman Elementary winter program is Tuesday, December 6 also in the high school gym. The performance begins at 7:00 p.m. Children should arrive by 6:45 p.m. All students in grades K-5 are involved. The Indian Creek Middle School winter program will be on Wednesday, December 14 at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend all the winter programs.

STATE REPORT CARDS: The 2011 state report cards for Indian Creek High School, Indian Creek Middle School, Shabbona Elementary, Waterman Elementary, and the district are available online at the Illinois State Board of Education website under report cards. Anyone who would like a hard copy may request one by calling the district office at 815/824-2197 and ask for Mrs. Loes.

INDIAN CREEK SPORTS BOOSTERS: The Sports Booster club meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the ICHS faculty room. All ICMS and ICHS parents are invited and encouraged to attend booster meetings. Thank you to everyone who helped at the annual I.C. Tip-Off Classic Tournament at Indian Creek Middle School. The I.C.H.S. fall sports awards night will be Wednesday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school gym. "Meet the T-Wolves" will be Friday, November 11 to kick off the winter sports at I.C.H.S. Boosters will have wolfwear available at both events.

WOLFWEAR: There are several new items...sweatshirts, t-shirts, stadium padded bleacher seats, bag chairs, winter headbands and scarves, umbrellas and much more. I.C. items make great Christmas gifts!!

INDIAN CREEK HIGH SCHOOL  
2011-2012 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER HONOR ROLL

Honor Roll 3.00 – 3.49 GPA

Freshman

Morgan Carlson  
Isaac Challand  
Drew Diehl  
Hannah Mathews  
Tiffany O'Neal  
Whitney Ostrom  
Chris Pickwell  
David Rueff  
Rylie Schreck  
Brooklyn VonBergen

High Honor Roll 3.50 – 4.00 GPA

Mike Armstrong  
Delaney Bend  
David Boehne\*  
Rebekka Boehne\*  
Cory Bradford\*  
Alicia Chambers  
Gabby Cultra\*  
Natasha Freund\*  
Emma Goodrich  
Rebekah Goodrich  
Koooper Gordon\*  
Nancy Ibarra  
Riley Jensky  
Chantel Kyler\*  
Vivian Limrick  
Bailey Martenson\*  
Andrew McComb\*  
James McCormick\*  
Nickey Peterson  
Emily Schilling  
Winston Simpson\*  
Cody Suddeth  
Jake Wieseler  
Drew Winterton\*

Sophomores

Lauren Frances  
Kenneth Harper  
Debra Johnson  
Kristen McRoberts  
Desiree Mendoza  
Savannah Phillips  
Jenna Pitstick  
Garrett Post  
Kaitlyn Sorbel

Sophomores

Dayna Anderson  
Kailyn Buchholz  
Katherine Drendel  
Megan Flewellyn  
Jenni Fredrickson\*  
Katelyn Fredrickson  
Garrison Govig  
Kirsten Herrmann  
Nolan Hickey  
Taylor Johnson  
Kayla Kauffman  
Shayla Koehler  
Samantha Mosley  
Stephen Muetze

Juniors

Kortnie Berg  
Nick Cipra  
Stephen Dodd  
McKenzie Hackler  
Dillon Martenson  
Sam Meredith  
Tyler Ostrom  
Tyler Reynolds  
Carlos Sanchez  
David Sroczynski  
Jaron Todd

Juniors

Alyssa Arends\*  
Jacob Bjorneby  
Dallas Boehne\*  
Katie Carlson  
Alexandria Corriveau\*  
Michaela Cowan  
Sarah Faivre\*  
Virginia Filicetti  
Nicole Goodrich  
Khloe Gordon\*  
Kristen Hauck  
Mitchell Lave\*  
Megan Malone  
Katelynn Merrill  
Shayne Phillips

Emily Rueff\*  
Ariel Russell  
Riley Ryburn\*  
Christina Sommerfeld  
Tim Tausch  
Kathryn Thuestad\*  
Kayla VonBergen  
Alanah Wieseler\*  
Ellen Witte\*  
Emily Wittke

Seniors

Kendal Baker  
Sydney Bend  
Rick Cruise  
Christian Deutsch  
Maddie Gatz  
Megan Gleason  
Megan Govig  
Ivan Harvell  
Katie LeRoy  
Joseph Miller  
Kaylyn Nehring  
Brittany Sandine  
Sarah Schilling  
Amanda Woodbury  
Zachary Woodbury  
Michael Young

Seniors

Emily Bergstrand  
Allison Bretzing  
Megan Boldt  
Breanna Cooper  
Megan Drendel\*  
Dana Duriavich\*  
Josh Elliot  
Carole Fleetwood\*  
Chris Forde  
Kalia Foster  
Deanna Francis  
Claire Goodrich\*  
Morgan Haas\*  
Andrew Hall\*  
Sarah Korhnak\*  
Nicole Mucha  
Emilee Myers  
Anna Ostrander  
Sara Sanderson\*  
Jessica Shroka\*  
Alan Suiter  
Amy Taylor  
Morgan Taylor  
Kristen Westbrook\*  
Deanne Winterton

(\*) means 4.0 GPA

# High School **1** YEARS

Working together for lifelong success



## Short Stops

### Pre-game fun

With high school football in full swing, have your teen invite friends over for a party before a game. They could gather in your yard or driveway for pizza or snacks. This will give your child a reason to hang out with his friends at home, and you can make sure they socialize safely.

### Hats off to veterans

Veterans Day is November 11, a perfect chance for your child to learn about history. Encourage her to look online or read library books to find out how the holiday started. She could also compare how veterans were treated after military conflicts (World War I, Vietnam, Persian Gulf) or talk to relatives who have served.

### Special introductions

Single parents may wonder how to introduce a significant other to their teens. When a relationship becomes serious, tell your child—but also assure him that it won't change your feelings for him. Then, arrange a short, informal meeting like going out for lunch, and let your teen warm up at his own pace.

### Worth quoting

"Sometimes the most important thing in a whole day is the rest we take between two deep breaths."

Etty Hillesum

### Just for fun

**Q.** Who can shave six times a day and still have a full beard?

**A.** A barber!



## Reading to learn


When your high schooler opens a textbook, does he know what to look for so he can get the most out of the material? He can learn to approach non-fiction text in ways that will boost comprehension and help him quickly find the key points. Share these strategies.

**Preview with purpose.** Before diving into lengthy chapters or passages, scan for the highlights. Check main headings, subheads, boldfaced or italicized words, and fact boxes. Then, go back and read the chapter or passage with those points in mind. Also, seeing how the material is organized can help you understand how concepts relate to each other (for example, three subheads in an economics chapter might present different facets of one principle).

**Take action.** Good readers quiz themselves or summarize information to make sure they understand the material. Turn headings and vocabulary words into questions ("What's the definition of annex?"), and answer end-of-chapter




review questions. Another idea is to follow up your reading by restating the ideas you've learned—either out loud or in writing.

**Pay attention to "tip-offs."** Certain words and phrases can help you understand the type of information about to be presented. For example, when you see "On the contrary," that means an opposing fact or viewpoint will be shared. "Accordingly" indicates that a cause-and-effect will be explained. *Idea:* Make a list of words like this to watch for, or see the list at [www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/docs/pivotal\\_words.doc](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/docs/pivotal_words.doc). 

## Is it cheating?

Studies show that many high school students think cheating is wrong, but they don't always agree on what cheating is. Being aware of what crosses the line can help your high schooler make good choices. Talk about these examples:

- When working in groups, sharing information and exchanging ideas comes naturally. But it's dishonest to copy each other's answers on assignments.
- Asking a friend how a test went is typical hallway chatter. But it's cheating to get (or give) the questions on a test before taking it.
- Websites are an important part of research. But it's plagiarism to copy sentences, paragraphs, or articles. 



## We can help!

Young people who volunteer tend to have higher self-esteem, do better in school, and show more empathy for others. Volunteer as a family, and you multiply that benefit across your entire household. Here are ideas for helping your community.

**Shelters.** Call homeless shelters for information on how you can pitch in. Your family may be able to shop for ingredients or serve meals. Or shelters may need donations of socks, knitted items like hats or blankets, or individual toiletry kits that you could put together.

**Sick children.** Organizations that help families with sick children need volunteers. You might host a movie night,



straighten up playrooms, or bake cookies for families staying at a Ronald McDonald House while their children are in the hospital. Or you could hold a fund-raising dog or car wash for a group like the Make-a-Wish Foundation, which grants wishes to terminally ill children.

**Outdoors.** Ask your parks and recreation department about opportunities. They may want help with one-time projects like setting up for events or with ongoing projects such as weeding gardens, repairing fences, or cleaning up trails. 👍

## Meet the teachers

Attending parent-teacher conferences gives you a chance to gain insight from the teachers who are with your teen all day. Consider these ideas:

■ Ask your child for input before you go. Is there anything he is concerned about? Write down his questions, and be sure to share the answers when you get back.



■ Jot down notes from each teacher so you can follow up. For instance, if the teacher wants your teen to come in for extra help, you can check with your child in a week or two to see if he has.

■ Parent-teacher conferences are a good time to find out how your child behaves in the classroom and gets along with others. You might ask if he talks too much or takes part in class discussions. You can also find out how he treats classmates or how he is treated. 👍

### OUR PURPOSE

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

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## Parent to Parent

### Scientifically speaking

My daughter Avery loved science in elementary school, but the older she got, the less she seemed to like it. I decided to talk to her science teacher about ways to rekindle her interest.

He thought that Avery might like science more if she got involved in science activities. He said he would talk to her about joining the science club or participating in the science fair. He also said he'd ask her to help set up experiments in class from time to time—if she got involved from the start, she would probably be interested in the outcome.

The teacher suggested that we have Avery talk to people who use science in their jobs. I took her with me to my chiropractor, who explained that a high school anatomy course got her started on the road to her profession. And when we picked up Avery's allergy medicine, I had her talk to the pharmacist about what he does.

I'm not sure if my daughter will wind up loving science as much as she did when she was younger, but she does seem to be showing a little more interest in it now. 👍



## Q & A Managing money

**Q** I want to teach my son to handle credit so he'll be ready to manage his money when he's on his own. How can I start?

**A** Teaching your teen to deal with credit now is smart. He can learn to handle finances with smaller amounts of money and less serious consequences.

Start by suggesting that he open a checking account and request a debit card. Or you might cosign a low-limit credit card in your child's name and tell him you'll try it for a month. Define what he's allowed to use it for

(emergencies, clothing up to a certain limit). Explain that he shouldn't charge anything he can't afford to pay back each month and that he'll be charged interest on balances not paid that month. And review the late fee for payments that aren't made on time.

Regardless of which option you choose, your high schooler should keep his receipts to track spending. Help him monitor his account online, and when the statement arrives, go over it together. Then, encourage him to pay the balance as soon as possible. 👍



Career Cruising: Career Cruising is an internet –based career guidance and portfolio development system. The system provides career interest and work skills assessment, in-depth occupation profiles, multimedia interviews with nearly 1,100 employees in over 550 occupational areas, comprehensive information on over 4,000 technical schools, colleges and universities nationwide, a career portfolio, and printable lesson plans, assignments, and worksheets. The career and skills assessments provide students with clear and helpful personal feedback. To login, go to [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com). The username is Indian. The password is Creek. We hope you find this to be a useful tool when planning your child’s future. This system was granted to our school from VALEES (Valley Education for Employment System).

### SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Please visit the scholarship file and read the daily announcements.

### EXPLORE/PLAN Testing

Freshmen will be taking the EXPLORE test on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 and the sophomores will be taking the PLAN test on Thursday, December 8, 2011. These tests help students prepare for the ACT test, which they take as Juniors and is an important test in regards to college admissions and readiness. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Lindley.

### 2012-2013 Course Registration

All underclassmen (Juniors - Current Freshmen) and incoming freshmen will be receiving registration sheets for high school courses for the next school year around mid-November. Please take some time and consideration in filling these sheets out with your child. More information will be provided when the sheets are passed out. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Lindley.

### Freshmen Orientation

There will be a meeting on Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at 6 P.M. in the ICHS gym for all incoming freshmen for the 2012-2013 school year. There will be a presentation of information and course registration sheets will be turned in this night as well. There will also be tables set-up in the gym where students can visit the various courses/clubs offered at ICHS. Parents and students will also have the opportunity to walk around the high school. Mr. Lindley will be visiting ICMS on Monday, November 21, 2011 to hand out registration materials to students. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Lindley at (815) 824-2197 or [alindley@kidsroe.org](mailto:alindley@kidsroe.org)