



January 1, 2012

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I hope that each of you had a joyous and wonderful holiday season. At the beginning of each new calendar (and school) year, it seems that I always find myself thinking about new projects and making resolutions. With that in mind, I am pleased to report that at our November, 2011 Board of Education meeting, the Indian Creek Board was able to pass a resolution for the second year in a row to abate the portion of your taxes that should have been collected to make the payment for the building of Shabbona Elementary School.

As you may or may not know, each year taxing bodies in the state of Illinois (of which Indian Creek is one) must submit a levy request to their respective county clerks' offices. This request tells the county clerk how much money the district will require in local taxes in order to continue operations for the next fiscal year. It is through the use of the sum of all taxing bodies' requests and the estimated assessed valuation given to your land and property from the county, that your taxes are calculated.

Many school districts in Illinois are "tax-capped". This means that there is a limit as to the amount of taxes that a school district can request for certain district funds that include the Education, Operations & Maintenance, Transportation, Working Cash, Special Education, Fire Prevention/Safety, and Leasing funds. Indian Creek CUSD #425 is a tax-capped school district.

While work on the school district's levy request began well in advance of their December board meeting, at that meeting, the Indian Creek Board of Education approved an actual final levy request that was submitted to the county clerk in December of 2011 after the December board meeting. Each year with this annual levy request process, Indian Creek also submits its annual request for the payment that was approved by voters in 2002 for building Shabbona Elementary School. The amount that is requested annually for that payment equals the amount of the bond payment that is due for that year as our building payment. While the original passage of the referendum for building SES allows for this additional taxation to be requested and it is used for the yearly payment (until SES is paid for), these additional "voted-in" taxes **will not** be requested as a part of the 2011 tax levy request.

As a result of abating the tax request for the annual SES building payment, the school district requested tax rate that will be applied to the estimated assessed valuation of your property and land will be lower than it should have been. Once more, this low rate request is an example of sound fiduciary decision-making on the part of the Indian Creek Board of Education.

Sincerely,
Pamela R. Rockwood, Ph.D.
Superintendent

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS: Student Council has had a very successful year so far! Every Monday and Thursday morning we have been operating a school store with the help of Mrs. Malm. In addition to the school store, various committees have been at work within student council. The Good Breakfast Bunch (formerly Good Lunch Bunch) committee, consisting of Ellen Witte, Taylor Johnson, and Delany Bend, hosted the breakfast on November 22. For this event, teachers could treat deserving students to a breakfast to recognize their exemplary behavior. The following teachers nominated the students below:

Mrs. Snider	Clayton Kaus
Mr. Bell	Gabbie Cultra
Mrs. Malm	Michael Young
Mrs. Rood	Shelby Kroeschel
Mrs. Tyler	Kendal Baker
Ms. Zwinak	Shayne Phillips
Ms. Rhodes	Ally Bretzing & Anna Ostrander
Mrs. Kuntz	Nichole Mucha
Mrs. Sturk	Nate Walthour
Mrs. Hogan	Emilee Myers
Mrs. Crutcher	Ariel Russell
Mrs. Richardson	Bailey Martenson
Mrs. Johnson	Nolan Hickey
Mrs. Fleming	Carole Fleetwood

Alexandria Corriveau, Nolan Hickey, and Andrew McComb collected hats, mittens, and scarves to donate to Hope Haven in DeKalb. The drive began November 28 and ended December 20. This committee will also be organizing a canned food drive in February to benefit the NICE Center in Lee.

In addition to the hat, mitten, and scarf drive, the door decorating contest was held. This year's decorating theme was "A Cookie Cutter Christmas". With this theme, each advisement was given a classic holiday cookie cutter to base their decorations on. Mr. Dawson's advisement won the best door decorations and received the prize of milk and cookies. Mrs. Tyler's advisement won second place and Ms. Roberts' class won third place. The door decorating contest was organized by Emily Bergstrand, Khloe Gordon, and Winston Simpson.

Lastly, a committee consisting of Sydney Bend, Kalia Foster, and Megan Flewellyn is planning a fun fair for the spring called "The Last Bash". All school clubs will be invited to participate in various games and competitions. More information will be available as the event approaches.

As always, thank you to everyone who helps make Student Council a success!

Alexandria Corriveau, Secretary

SAFETY TIP FROM THE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT:

Did you know????? Pictures you've e-mailed or uploaded from your smartphone could leak information **that reveals the location of your home, children's school, and play areas, which can threaten your safety or that of your children.**

Smartphones leave a high-tech invisible trail using the same geotracking technology that enables a particular social website and handheld map apps. It works much like in the GPS device in your car.

You can read more about this at:

http://www.nbcactionnews.com/dpp/news/local_news/investigations/smartphone-picture-uploads-can-reveal-the-location-of-your-children%27s-home%2C-school%2C-and-play-areas#ixzzlfnFUUPF5

Or view the NBS news clip at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2vARzvWxwY&feature=share>

For directions on how to disable geotagging on your smartphone:

<http://icanstalku.com/how.php#disable>

8th GRADE WASHINGTON, D.C. TRIP: There are currently 24 8th grade students signed up for the trip. In the near future we will be kicking into high gear for our fundraising. Our first activity will be the spaghetti dinner on Thursday, March 15, 2012 (specific hours to be named later). We will discuss supplies, desserts, and hours in January. Our second event will be the Fays BBQ dinner on Monday, April 30, 2012 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. We thank everyone involved and hope to have a great trip this year!

Joe Malm, Advisor

WEATHER WATCH: Do you have a winter weather plan? We are in the time of year when weather conditions can change quickly. We need to make arrangements for school closing days (in the event that becomes necessary). We trust that all our families will also make arrangements in that event. If school must be cancelled or closed early because of poor weather conditions, or any other emergency, the following radio and television stations will announce local school closings:

WSPY-FM 107.1, WQSR-1560 AM, WLBK 1360 AM, B95-WDKB 94.9 FM, WGN 720 AM, WBBM 780 AM, WBBM CBS TV channel 2, WMAQ NBC TV channel 5, WLS ABC TV channel 7, WGN TV channel 9, WFLD FOX TV channel 12. If the weather appears to be bad on any given morning, please turn to one of these stations for information regarding our district. You will also be notified by the Alert Now system. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOLS! Families should discuss and prepare the procedure they will follow in the event of school closing.

HOOP-A-PALOOZA: The third annual Hoop-A-Palooza will be held on Saturday, January 7 beginning at 12:00 noon with freshman boys, 1:30 p.m. for sophomore girls; 3:00 p.m. for sophomore boys; Hall of Fame ceremony at 4:15 p.m.; 5:00 p.m. for varsity girls; and 6:30 p.m. for varsity boys. The teams will be playing Rockford Christian. Regular admission prices are \$4 for adults, \$3 for high school students from other schools, \$2 for K-8 students, \$1 for senior citizens ages 65 and older. If you wish to leave one game and return for another, you will be stamped so you don't have to pay an additional admission charge. Food will be served by the Music Boosters and the concession stand will be open.

ICMS 2011 8TH GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL: The 8th grade boys basketball team at Indian Creek Middle School recently completed a very successful season. Their overall record of 16 wins and 8 losses, 10 and 0 in conference play, earned them first place in the Junior 10 Conference. Some other accomplishments include a second place finish at the IC-Tip Off Classic, third place in the Sandwich Tournament, and second place in the Junior 10 Conference Tournament. Coach McClure is extremely proud of all their accomplishments.

Overall, the team was a pleasure to coach and played tough all season long. Coach McClure would like to express his appreciation for making this season so much fun to be a part of. The team included Kurtis Rood, Evan Ostrander, Zack Witek, Casey Hauck, Riley Johnson, Ryan Todd, Scott Ahlback, Kevin Drendel, Jake Krantz, Dale Rissman, Emerson Witte, Peyton Gatz, Nic McCord, Brock Myers, Ehren Nelson, Drew Headley, Jacob Wehrman, Adrian Lippmann, and Charles Schmidt.

A special thanks goes out to Jordyn Bergstrand, Alyssa Feltz, and Amanda Smith for managing this year's team. They did an excellent job keeping the stats and the scorebook for the team. We also need to thank Mrs. Frankel and our wonderful cheerleaders who supported the team during every home game. ICMS would like to express our gratitude to all the fans, parents, and parent groups who came out and supported us all year long. Congratulations to the team, its managers, and Mr. McClure on a very successful season.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: Please check the daily announcements/guidance web page for updated information or students can visit the scholarship file outside of Mr. Lindley's office.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: A reminder that students must be dropped off in the drive at the front of Shabbona Elementary. Please do not drop off students by the playground or in the bus lanes. Also, if buses are stopped in the parking lot or on school grounds (of all schools) with the stop arm out, vehicles must stop. Violators may be prosecuted.

ALERT NOW REMINDER! Parents/guardians: please inform the school your child attends of any changes to your address, phone number, etc., so that all information is updated in the Alert Now emergency contact system. It is very important that we have your correct information on file in case of early school closings or other emergencies. Thank you!

THANK YOU: The first used book drive was a tremendous success. Thank you to all those who donated books. We had several thousand books donated. We sold over 300 books, donated about 500 to local charities including Hope Haven, Safe Passage, We-Care Pregnancy Center, DeKalb County Nursing Home, and Shabbona Nursing Home. The rest we donated as part of a new book swap that is starting at the high school, and finally Goodwill. Thank you for your generous support. We look forward to doing it again next year!

HALL OF FAME INDUCTION: An induction ceremony for the Indian Creek Hall of Fame will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2012 at approximately 4:15 p.m. in the Indian Creek High School gym at Shabbona, Illinois. Eight former members of the Shabbona, Waterman, and Indian Creek High Schools will join previous members who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame. The ceremony will take place between games.

PORK CHOP SUPPER: The Indian Creek High School F.F.A. chapter will have their annual pork chop supper on Friday, January 13 from 4:30 until 7:30 p.m. at the high school cafeteria. Tickets are available at the door and will be \$10 for a two pork chop meal and \$8 for a one pork chop meal. Meals include: baked beans, applesauce, dinner roll, baked potato, pork chops, and dessert. Carryouts will be available by driving through the front circular driveway entrance of the high school. After dinner the Indian Creek High School boys basketball team will host Hinckley-Big Rock. Admission is \$4.00 for adults, \$3 for high school students (other than I.C. students), \$2 for K-8 students, and \$1 for senior citizens (age 65 and older).

Please join us for a great meal and a great basketball game between two long-time Route 30 rivals.

High School 1 YEARS

Working together for lifelong success



Short Stops

Be a role model

When your child talks about people she likes, such as a friend, teacher, or coach, ask her what traits she admires in each one. Maybe they are loyal or honest. Then, encourage her to focus on being the same kind of person herself so she can be a role model to others.

Outdoor winter fun

Cold weather doesn't have to keep your teen from getting outside for fresh air and exercise. He might gather friends for a game of Frisbee, baseball, or football. Or he could put on layers of clothing and go running or biking. If it snows, suggest that he help younger siblings build a snowman or a snow fort.

The big picture

If your high schooler pressures herself to get high grades, she may be discouraged by a less-than-perfect score on a paper, project, or quiz. Help her keep it in perspective by pointing out that it's only one grade and reminding her of other accomplishments. Then, listen if she wants to discuss how she can do better next time.

Worth quoting

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

Jane Goodall

Just for fun

Q: Why did the alien leave the party?

A: Because the atmosphere wasn't right.



Study on

As a new year begins, suggest that your high schooler take stock of his study routine. Is he spending enough time studying? Is the time he's putting in paying off? Share these ideas for effective studying that can save him time and frustration—and lead to better results.



Plan, don't cram

Rushing to study just before a test won't serve your teen well. To handle tests and quizzes in multiple subjects, he needs to divvy up studying so he does some every day. Reviewing the same information (notes, math formulas) more than once will help store concepts and facts in his long-term memory. Also, he'll be calmer and more confident knowing he's on top of things.

Do more in less time

Many students think they spend hours studying, when in reality they aren't getting much done. Encourage your student to set a specific time to

do his work. He can use a timer to get into the habit of starting and ending at a certain time. Also, he should work away from noise and distractions (turn off the TV and his cell phone).

Get motivated

Students don't always feel like doing schoolwork. That's why learning to motivate themselves is so important. Your child might write his own "Top Five Reasons to Study" and post them on the wall by his desk ("I feel good when I'm finished," "It makes test taking easier"). If he's having an especially hard time getting started, he might tackle an easy assignment first to gain momentum. 👍

I wouldn't miss it!

Teens who attend school regularly have stronger bonds to their school and are more likely to graduate. Good attendance also creates a habit that can carry over into work later. Consider these tips:

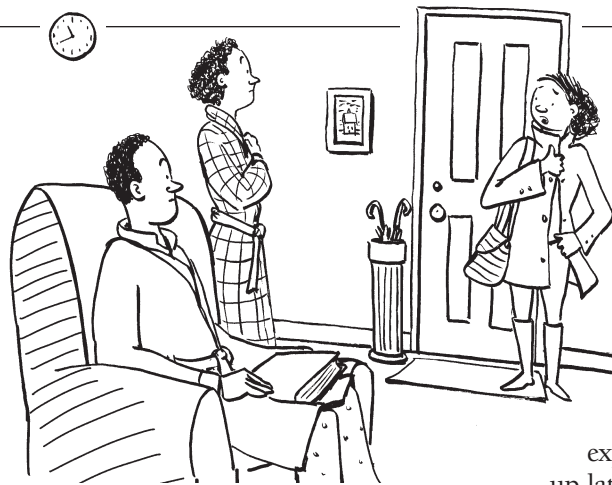
- Set expectations. Being out for even a day or two a month can hurt your child's performance. Tell her that the only acceptable excuses are illness, family emergencies, or pre-approved college visits.
- Discuss consequences. Point out that missing school means she'll have to make up coursework in several classes. If she falls far behind, she may have to retake courses in summer school or next year.
- Keep in contact. Write notes or call attendance lines for excused absences so the school knows your child's not skipping. If she does skip class, contact the school so you can create a plan to get her back on track. 👍



(Re)building trust

You set a curfew for your teen, and she comes home an hour late. How should you respond? Teens often push boundaries and test limits as part of growing up—and that can be upsetting. When it happens, try these three steps.

1. Get the facts. Ask your child for her side of the story. Maybe she had a flat tire, or maybe



she was embarrassed to tell her friends her curfew was earlier than theirs. Knowing the reason can help you decide what to do.

2. Explain that trust has been damaged. Let her know why you're upset. ("You didn't hold up your end of the bargain. That makes us think we can't trust you.") You might also explain how it affected you. ("We stayed up late worrying and didn't get enough sleep to get up for work in the morning.")

3. Let her gradually earn it back. Give her the chance to rebuild trust a little at a time. You might try an earlier curfew, and if she abides by it, go back to the original one. Knowing she can regain freedom gives her something to work toward. 👍

Word detectives

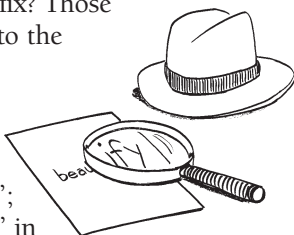


Your teen encounters an unfamiliar word in a book or on an exam. How can he tell what it means? Having strategies to decipher words will help him in high school and on college entrance exams.

Suggest these ways to figure out the meanings of new words.

Connect to known words. Does the term relate to another word he knows? That word's meaning may give valuable clues (knowing the definition of "punish" could help him define "punitive").

Pull the word apart. Does it contain a prefix or suffix? Those add meaning to the root word (the prefix "micro" in "microchip" means "small"; the suffix "ify" in "beautify" means "to make"). *Tip:* Your child can Google "root words" to find lists.



Use visuals. Check illustrations, pictures, charts, tables, and graphs in the text. That context may clear up the meaning of specific words. 👍

Q & A Break-up etiquette

Q *I was disappointed when I heard that my son broke up with his girlfriend on Facebook. How can I encourage Brandon to be more thoughtful in the future?*

A Facebook and texting have become such a big part of teens' lives that they don't always see a reason to speak in person or even by phone. Tell your son that while communicating this way may be fine for day-to-day matters, serious issues should be handled with more care. You might ask him how he'd feel if the roles were reversed—would he want to find out on Facebook that he no longer had a girlfriend?

Even if it's awkward, breaking up in person shows more respect for his girlfriend and the relationship they had. Tell him he could simply say he doesn't want a commitment and suggest that they still be friends. Even though she'll probably still be hurt, she'll feel more valued hearing it from him face-to-face. 👍



Parent to Parent Affording college

My 11th-grade daughter wants to attend college. Although she's a good student, she isn't likely to get a scholarship, and I can't afford four years of tuition, room, and board. At the same time, I don't want Kyla borrowing so much money that she'll have trouble repaying it.

I suggested that Kyla talk with the school counselor. He told her that she could

get her associate's degree at the local community college and then transfer the credits and finish her last two years at a state university. Not only is the tuition much lower, she can live at home. Even with the cost of a car, gas, and insurance, we could save a lot of money.

My daughter and I are both happy to know she can earn a degree—without taking on a lot of debt. 👍



OUR PURPOSE

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

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LABELS FOR EDUCATION PARTICIPATING PRODUCTS

Both schools participate in the Labels for Education program. Please clip and save UPC's and beverage caps from participating products and give to either Shabbona Elementary or Waterman Elementary or leave in the box at Wisted's Country Market in Shabbona.

BIC ball pens
BIC dry erase markers
BIC Ecolutions
BIC Gel
BIC highlighters
BIC mechanical pencils
BIC permanent markers
BIC roller
BIC Wite-Out brand correction tapes
BIC mailing labels
Campbell's Chunky Soups
Campbell's Soups
Campbell's Select Harvest
Campbell's Soup at Hand
Campbell's Soup and Recipe Mix
Campbell's Tomato Juices
Campbell's Healthy Request
Campbell's Beans
Campbell's Gravies
DANNON Kids Yogurts
Emerald Nuts
Foodservice
Franco-American
GLAD Food Storage
Pace
Pepperidge Farm
Pop Secret 100 Calorie 4 Count
Pop Secret 3-Count, 6-Count, 10-Count, and 10-Count Snack Size
Post Cereals & Treats
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SpaghettiO's
Swanson
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