

Independence District



Newsletter

January/February, 2015

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Famous Indee Artwork



This beautiful poinsettia was created by Rhianna Theisen from Mrs. Sonsalla's fourth grade. She did a marvelous job utilizing the "recipe" she learned in art class to create value (dark to light) using oil pastels. Happy Holidays!

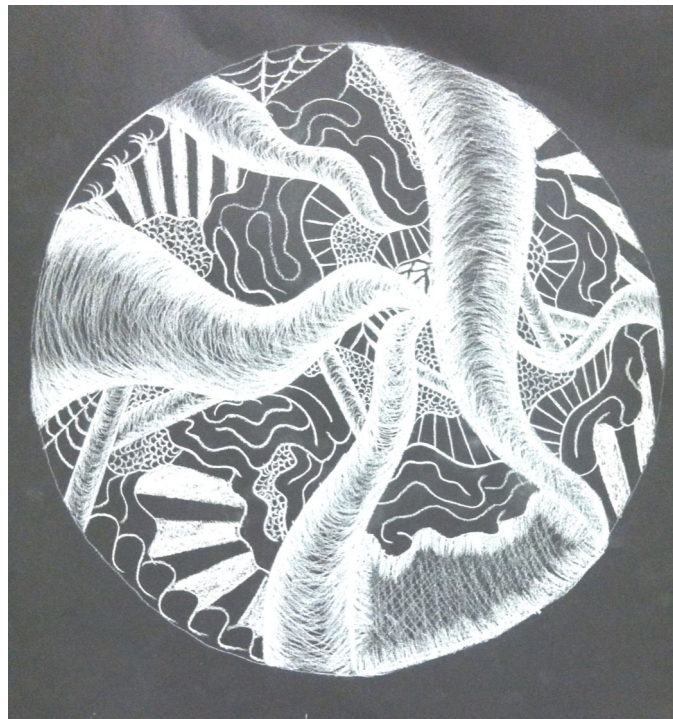


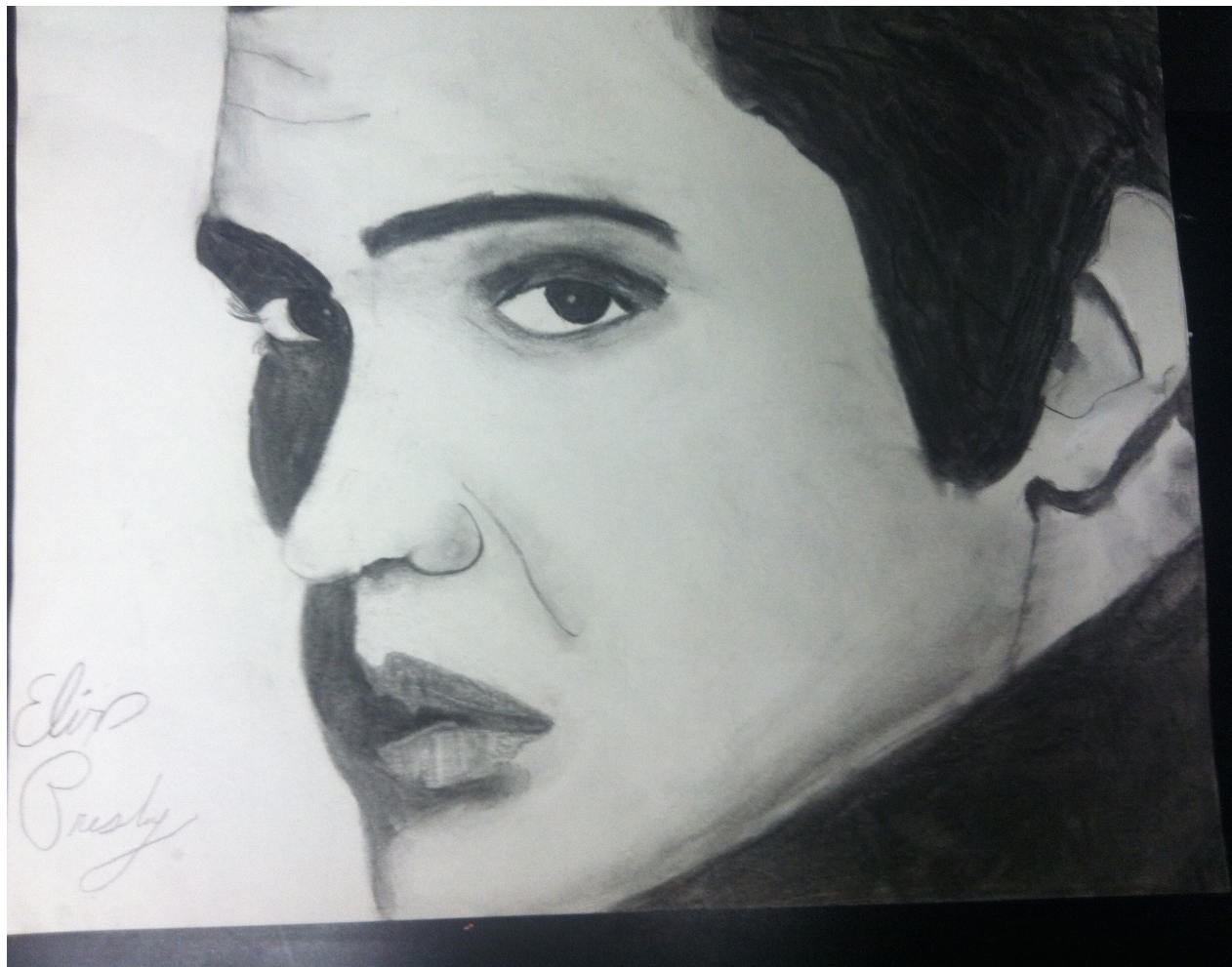
MAIN OFFICE: (715) 985-3172

CHECKOUT OUR WEBSITE! WWW.INDPS.K12.WI.US

Independence K-12 1st Semester Art

To see more artwork, look at the Independence K-12 Art Facebook Page and Like Us.





Vine Line

Happy Holidays & Celebrate Students and Staff

As 2014 comes to a close and each of us attempts to balance the demands of family, work, and celebrate the holidays, it is easy to become a bit overwhelmed. It is also at this time of the year that it seems appropriate to reflect on the past year and thereby take the time to acknowledge some accomplishments as well as some of the efforts by staff and students to make a difference for others. The United States educational system is the envy of most nations in the world.

In November the Independence School District was recognized by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for exceeding the target expectations for improvement by students with Limited English Proficiency. For 2013-14 Forty-One (41) percent of our students were expected to improve in Reading. In that year Forty Seven (47) percent improved. Congratulations to Holly Knutson, ELL coordinator and all staff for the hard work they do to help every student every day. It takes a very specific set of skills to help students learning a second language. Our staffs, with Holly's guidance, were willing to study those strategies and do what it takes to help our growing number of Spanish speaking students.

At the start of the 2103-14 school twenty-six (26) percent of our students in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade were reading at or above their grade level. At the start of the 2014-15 school year fifty-One (51) percent of this year's Kindergarten through 5th grade students were reading at or above grade level. Thank you classroom teachers, and Reading Specialist Tim Foslin for all of your hard work in making a difference for all of our students.

In July 2014 the Board of Education authorized the district to purchase a laptop computer for every Middle School and High School Student. These have greatly increased our student

and staff access to enhanced curriculum and improved knowledge. Thank you to the board of education for having the foresight and vision to keep our students and staff up to date in the area of technology.

In October the Sp. Ed department completed the mandatory Department of Public Instruction's self-assessment, which includes selected requirements of IDEA 2004 and state law, which are closely related to improving student outcomes. Twenty randomly selected Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and evaluations were reviewed and found to be in compliant with all federal and state laws. Thanks to the special education staff and Wendy Stuttgart for ensuring that our students receive education plans in compliance with special education requirements intended to help those students reach their potential.

In the Middle School/High School there has been a significant reduction in the student discipline issue for the first three months of this year as compared to the first three months of the 2013-14 school year. This year discipline referrals are down by almost 200 referrals as compared to last year. Congratulations to the Middle School and High School staff and Mr. Schmitt for their commitment to maintaining high expectations.

I continue to be impressed by our students and their many accomplishments. We are blessed with many caring students and staff. There is little doubt, 2015 and the years ahead will be filled with many challenges. However, it is my sincere belief we have much to be thankful for. At this time, I hope each of you will take time to appreciate the positive accomplishments of the past year. May 2015 be a year of joy, peace, good health, and prosperity for each of you.



Mapping Curriculum for Success

The last few years at Independence have been a time of progressive change in the School District. Most notably was the change in the schedule from the block schedule to the current 7-period schedule with an advisory time at the beginning of the day and an intervention/enrichment block at the end of the day. This year the most notable change was the distribution of laptop computers to all of our 6-12 students. The culture of a professional learning community and time devoted to collaboration among peers has also been a significant philosophical change.

There are four questions that schools in a professional learning community ask when they begin their transformation. The first is "What do we want our students to know?" The next three are "How will we know they know it?", "What do we do if they don't?", and "What do we do if they do?"

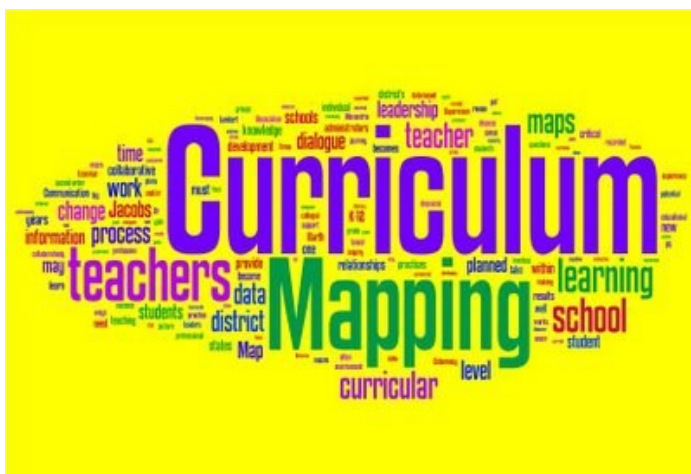
Last year we spent a great deal of time discussing and answering the first question. Although these questions are simple enough, much time and energy by educators across the district, state, and nation has gone into answering this question. The Common Core State Standards in Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics is an example of an answer to the question. Our District used these standards to develop our "Power" Standards in Reading Language Arts and Mathematics, but the other subject areas weren't so lucky to have such a resource. They needed to develop their "Power" Standards from either State or National standards that have been used or from professional organizations in the field of education. Our teachers used guidelines to rate content standards into three categories, "Need to Know", "Important to Know", and "Nice to Know". The "Need to Know" standards were those that we felt were absolutely essential for our students to be college and career ready. "Important to Know" are those that would be beneficial for most of the students as they progress in their education and "Nice to Know"

were standards that would be covered when the higher priority standards were mastered.

The process to organize these standards is called "mapping". To make these "maps" as efficient and useful as possible the district purchased a license to a software product called Mastery Connect. This software not only allows teachers to house their standards, but also has "trackers" to help teachers assess if the standards have been mastered. This assists in the second question, "How will we know they know it?" In addition to those tools the software also allows our teachers to network and share knowledge and assessments with teachers from all over the nation using an interface that would be similar to Facebook. It's a great tool and our next step is to eventually allow parental access to some of the information currently stored with this software.

All in all it is a very exciting time for our District. The tools and philosophy we are using are definitely a shift in some traditional methods, but our methodology is based on research and data. This change is sometimes hard to accept, but is essential to give our students the best opportunity to learn and compute in our modern world. It is an essential step into making us the "Best School Ever".

Bärry Schmitt
6-12 Principal



Baseball Project Appreciation



Darin Pape is shown receiving a plaque from Barry Schmitt (Athletic Director) and Joe Brägger (School Board President) in appreciation for all his work in heading up the baseball field project.

Booster Seeking Chair Sponsors

The Independence Booster Club has purchased 30 purple gym chairs to be used at athletic events. (See picture) Any individuals or businesses that would like to sponsor a chair should contact Mr. Schmitt at 985-3172. This would place your name or the name of the business on the back of the back-rest for public view. The cost to sponsor one chair is \$85. For two chairs the cost would be \$150. For more than two chairs a sponsorship fee would be negotiated. Thank you for your support.



Santa Stops for a Visit

On Friday, December 5th, Santa and Mrs. Claus stop in to school to see the students in Kindergarten – 3rd grade. He was making a list and checking it twice! While Mrs. Claus handed out candy canes to the students.



Independence School District

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Oratorical Scholarship Contest



L to R: Bob Luethi, Jonathan Warner, Sophie Woychik, Anna Brägger, Brittany Brown, Madelyn

The Annual American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Contest was held Monday December 1st at IHS. This is one of the largest local scholarships available to Independence Students and they may compete in each year of high school.

Participants must prepare an 8-10 minute speech on any part of the US Constitution they wish.

- 1st place and \$1000 award was earned by Sophie Woychik
- 2nd place and \$500 awards was earned by Madelyn Woychik
- 3rd place and a \$300 award was earned by Jonathan Warner.

“Big Buck” Contest

The Independence Booster Club hosted a "Hunting Partner Big Buck Contest" over this year's 9-day deer gun season. The contest was open to any Independence Public middle school or high school student. Participants, with a \$3 entry fee, were randomly assigned a hunting partner and together competed as a team. Forty participants signed up, comprising 20 different teams, and any buck harvested was brought in to school for Mr. McConnell to officially score according to the Boone and

Crockett scoring system. All paid participants were edible for over \$300.00 in donated prizes from local businesses, organizations, and families. Any individual that brought in a buck received an additional entry into the drawing. This years winner was a unique team. During the drawing of partners, a student had accidentally entered his name in the contest twice, leaving the last person drawn with no partner. After asking if any other students were willing to enter, Mr. McConnell allowed Ben Marsolek (the last person selected) to select any Independence Public School staff member as his partner, he selected Mr. McConnell. In the end Mr. McConnell and Ben Marsolek recorded the highest team total giving them top honors. Mr. McConnell decided to transfer his award to Gina Gamroth who took the highest scoring buck of students entered. The Independence Booster Club would like to thank all the following who donated to the competition, and they hope to host again next year.

Mississippi Valley Whitetails Unlimited
 Central Builders Supply
 Bushy's Meat Market
 Troy's Gas and Grub
 Pietrek's Service Station
 Indee Mini Mart
 Independence FFA
 Scott and Dana McConnell



L to R: Blane Olson, Zane Palkowski, Brennan Christianson, Dayne Keenan

Christmas in Milwaukee



L to R: Nicole Skroch, April Skroch, Darby Smieja, Hannah Halama, Barbara Suchla, Abby Przybilla, Hillary Halama, Anna Skroch, Tessa Brägger, Bayli Truog

Independence High School sent 10 students to Milwaukee on December 6 and 7 to participate in an all state field trip in the arts. Chaperone, Tracy Halama, along with 6 parents, and the students joined nearly 200 other Wisconsin high school students as they attended more than four different arts events representing different art forms: visual arts, dance, music, and theater.

The art forms of music and theater were well represented in the Broadway Theatre's *The Wizard of Oz*, the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's *Harvey*, but perhaps, the most popular event was *The Lion King*. The national tour of this Disney musical skillfully demonstrates how several artists can collaborate on a creative piece. The original production and subsequent touring productions are designed by famed Julie Taymor.

Students had a chance to experience the arts on a professional level and meet other students in the state with interests in the arts. Participating high school students were: Nicole Skroch, April Skroch, Darby Smieja, Hannah Halama, Barbara Suchla, Abby Przybilla, Hillary Halama, Anna Skroch, Tessa Bragger, and Bayli Truog.

Veteran's Day Program

Independence Public School and Saints Peter and Paul students and faculty, community members and special guests honored local veterans with song, speeches and a presentation of colors at the annual Veterans Day assembly.

On Tuesday, Nov. 11, with several veterans in attendance, the Independence High School Band opened the assembly with a rousing march. After the posting of the colors by American Legion Post 186 Colorguard, IHS Student Council President Hillary Halama led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Indee Singers, Saints Peter and Paul Middle School Choir, and the Independence Middle School Choir all sang tributes to our country and veterans. "Taps" was assisted by Alex Truog.

Following a speech by American Legion Post 186 commander Robert Luethi, the Independence High School Band, directed by Mrs. Pamela Lehmeier performed "Marches of the Armed Forces" and asked all veterans to stand as their service song was played.

The program concluded with the veterans and community members being invited to stay for lunch in the Veterans Hospitality Room.



L to R: Ardell Melby and Roger Melby

Elementary School Perfect Attendance 1st Quarter

4K

Lucian Ambriz Bustos
 Travaires Conner
 Josephine Gamroth
 Rachael Hovey
 Carson Klimek
 Marcos Mendoza
 Evelyn Suchla
 Hadley Sylla

Kindergarten

Madison Dittner
 Cayden Faldet-Platteter
 Eduardo Hernandez
 Emily Hovey
 Dalton Jasin

1st Grade

Kaelyn Dittner
 Gavin Konter
 Brennan Steinke

2nd Grade

Kendra Klimek

3rd Grade

Jacob Heiden
 Adison Pronschinske
 Kaylee Pronschinske
 Xavier Santillan
 Diego Tomas Pascual
 Evan Daniel Vasquez Aguilar

4th Grade

Mason Gierok
 Kiley Przybilla
 Carson Rajkowski
 Rheanna Steinke

5th Grade

Melinda Aguilar
 Brayden Crebo
 Weston Gamroth
 Alan Hernandez Sandoval
 Avery Pape
 Mackenzie Taylor



PBIS INDEE PRIDE WINNERS 2014-2015 First Quarter

The Elementary School will continue the Indee Pride initiative for K-5 students. Each quarter a student from each classroom is selected to receive a certificate and Indee Pride sign making improvements in Reading, Math, or behavior. Following are the winners for the first quarter.

KINDERGARTEN

<u>READING</u>	<u>MATH</u>	<u>BEHAVIOR</u>
Justyce Rumphol	Issac Halvorson	Annaleli Coronado Tomas
Alisyn Conrad	Hidver Monroy Montalvo	Ava Knopps
	Daisy Maldonado Ortiz	Jaelyn Pronschinske



First Grade

<u>READING</u>	<u>MATH</u>	<u>BEHAVIOR</u>
Kaelyn Dittner	Owen Gierok	Yolanda Bautista Santiago
	Preston Solberg	



Second Grade

<u>READING</u>	<u>MATH</u>	<u>BEHAVIOR</u>
Savanna Conner	Sam Marsolek	Noah Amador
Henry Esteban Diaz	Drew Bragger	



Third Grade

<u>READING</u>	<u>MATH</u>	<u>BEHAVIOR</u>
Kaylee Pronschinkse	Adison Pronschinske	Jasmine Montalvo
Perla Garcia	Gracie Rombalski	Carlos Montalvo



Fourth Grade

<u>READING</u>	<u>MATH</u>	<u>BEHAVIOR</u>
Damon Connor	Rheanna Steinke	Bianca Najera
Luis Esteban Diaz	Andi Laehn	Noah Heiden



Fifth Grade

<u>READING</u>	<u>MATH</u>	<u>BEHAVIOR</u>
Kevin Halvorson	Brayden Crebo	Chloe Cooper
Avery Pape	Weston Gamroth	Agustina Romero



Mississippi Valley Gifted and Talented Fall Update



On October 28th, Amy Lien, Alyssa Kulig, Ashley Lundgren, Jorgiann Gierok, Aaron Hunter and Miguel Diaz traveled to Black River Falls, to compete against other area schools in the 8th Grade Quiz Bowl. This event was put on by the Mississippi Valley Gifted and Talented Network. The students took 5th Place but had a very rewarding and enjoyable experience. They won 2 of the 4 matches they competed in and did an excellent job representing our district. Way To Go Students!

On November 18th, Adison Pronschinske, Jayden Matchey, Seb Sonsalla, Gracie Rombalski, Kaylee Pronschinske, and Tayler Lambright participated in the 3rd Grade Creative Problem Solving day at the Blair-Taylor School District. Students were lead by the the Blair-Taylor National Honor Society Members through a number of problems and had to work with other students to solve them. They had to creatively untie themselves, build structures using certain supplies and think like a scientist. These students had a great time thinking outside of the box to problem solve and create throughout the day.



Public School Open Enrollment

The Open Enrollment Application Season for the 2015-16 School Year is February 2, 2015 - April 30, 2015.

If you have any questions, please contact the DPI at openenrollment@dpi.wi.gov. or call toll free: 888-245-2732

What is Open Enrollment?

The inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend public school in a school district other than the one in which they reside.

Who can apply?

Any Wisconsin resident in five-year-old kindergarten to grade 12 may apply to attend a nonresident school district under the open enrollment program. However, a child may transfer to a nonresident school district for early childhood education or four-year-old kindergarten only if the child's resident school district offers the same type of program and only if the child is eligible for that program in the resident school district.

When can parents apply?

The regular open enrollment application period for the 2015-16 school year begins on February 2, 2015, and ends at 4:00 pm on April 30, 2015. The best way to apply is online (a link to the online application is at the top of this page during the application period).

An alternative application procedure allows pupils to apply for open enrollment at any time during a school year if certain criteria are met.

Can applications be denied?

Both the nonresident and resident school districts may deny an application for reasons specified in state law. If an application is denied by either the resident or nonresident school district, the parent may file an appeal with the DPI within 30 days. The DPI is required to affirm the school district's decision unless the DPI determines that the decision was arbitrary or unreasonable.

How do students get to school?

Parents are responsible to provide transportation to and from school in the nonresident school district, except that transportation required in a child's IEP must be provided by the nonresident school district. A nonresident or resident school district is permitted (but not required) to provide transportation to open enrolled pupils, however the nonresident school district is prohibited from picking up or dropping off a pupil within the boundaries of the pupil's resident school district unless the resident school district agrees. Low-income parents may apply to the DPI for reimbursement of a portion of their transportation costs.



Independence Public School

Fall Awards Night 2014**Football**

Participants: Shawn Boland, Hunter Fredrickson, Russell Heiden, Dayne Keenan, Dustin Knopps, Isaac Pape, Jesse Pientok, Ian Pfaff, Tyler Slabik, and Nick Bangiorno

Letter Winners: Cody Blaha, Josh Conrad, Aaron Gierok, Andrew Grulkowski, Bryan Morales, Blane Olson, Dakota Waletzko, Jonathan Warner, Dylan Boland, Brennan Christianson, Steven Gamroth, Justin Gierok, Alex Grulkowski, Ben Heiden, Henry Pfaff, Jose Salazar, John Brägger, Desmond Davis, Connor Cooke, Weston Gumbert, Nick Halama, Dayton Keenan, Nick Koval, Cole Smieja, Weston Werlein, Ace Whitwam, Austen Whitwam, Ben Woychik, and Alec Wozney

Most Improved: Nick Halama and Justin Gierok

Most Valuable: Austen Whitwam and Desmond Davis

Lineman of the Year: Desmond Davis

All Conference Team

First Team Offense: Desmond Davis, Nick Koval, Ace Whitwam, and Austen Whitwam

First Team Defense: Desmond Davis, John Brägger, Ace Whitwam, and Austen Whitwam

Second Team Offense: Dayton Keenan, and Weston Gumbert

Second Team Defense: Weston Gumbert, and Alex Grulkowski

Honorable Mention Offense: Justin Gierok, Alex Grulkowski

Honorable Mention Defense: Nick Halama



Volleyball

Participants: Bailie Bautch, Brittny Brown, Tayea Campbell, Olivia Conrad, Lupita Madrigal, Heather Marsolek, Jazmin Nielsen, Alexis Noble Meraz, Chelsea Rachel, Elizabeth Rivera, April Skroch, Darby Smieja, Barbara Suchla, and Susan Thoma

Letter Winners: Lacey Filla, Sara Filla, Gina Gamroth, Emily Guza, Jaydin Guza, Hannah Halama, Hillary Halama, Cheyenne Loewenhagen, Sara Marsolek, Anna Skroch, and Morgan Speltz

Most Improved: Hillary Halama

Most Valuable: Morgan Speltz (Offense), and Emily Guza (Defense)

All Conference Team

Second Team: Morgan Speltz

Honorable Mention : Emily Guza



Cross Country

Boy Letter Winners: Dustin Skroch, Colton Bork, Jordan Speltz, Dustin Marsolek, Nathan Warner, and Christopher Warner

Girl Letter Winners: Cassidy Kabus, Madelyn Woychik, Tessa Bragger, Caitlyn Cooper, and Sophia Woychik

Most Improved: Dustin Marsolek and Tessa Bragger

Most Valuable: Christopher Warner and Cassidy Kabus

All Conference Team

First Team: Christopher Warner and Cassidy Kabus



Cheerleading

Participants: Alexis Noble-Meraz, Kellie Woychik, Nicole Skroch, Heather Marsolek, Aliyah Walentin, and Makayla Saul

Letter Winners: Dabry Smieja, Sophie Woychik, Miranda Stegerwald, Paige Lieberman, Brittny Brown, Susan Thoma, Tessa Bragger, Maddie Woychik, and Abby Przybilla



Academic All-Conference

Dylan Boland, Tessa Bragger, Brittny Brown, Brennan Christianson, Caitlyn Cooper, Lacey Filla, Sara Filla, Gina Gamroth, Aaron Gierok, Justin Gierok, Alex Grulkowski, Andrew Grulkowski, Emily Guza, Jaydin Guza, Hannah Halama, Hillary Halama, Nick Halama, Cassidy Kabus, Dayton Keenan, Nick Koval, Cheyenne Loewenhagen, Sara Marsolek, Blane Olson, Abby Przybilla, Darby Smieja, Morgan Speltz, Susan Thoma, Dakota Waletzko, Christopher Warner, Jonathon Warner, Nathan Warner, Ace Whitwam, Austen Whitwam, Madelyn Woychik, Sophia Woychik, and Alec Woychik

We Appreciate Your Support!

Please continue collecting for our school. The money earned goes towards field trips for students in grades 4K through eighth grade. We are also using the money right now to help supply those in need with winter apparel. Items that you can collect and bring to school include:

- Pop Tabs
- Campbells Soup Labels
- Office Depot Back to Schools Program
- Our Town Receipts
- Cans for Kids
- Box Tops
- Milk Caps
- Donuts to Dough
- Computer Ink Cartridges
- Target Take Charge of Education

Academic Decathlon Competition



After ten weeks of preparation, the Academic Decathlon team traveled to La Crosse Logan High School on November 10th for their local competition. They competed against four other teams: two teams from Sparta and two teams from La Crosse Logan. The team completed examinations in the subjects of math, social science, language & literature, art, music, and economics. Team members included Christopher Warner, Dayton Keenan, Nathan Warner, Caitlyn Cooper, Hailey Skroch, Brittany Brown, Miranda Stegerwald, and Jonathan Warner. Dayton Keenan achieved the highest average score on the team and had the highest individual score on the science test. Caitlyn Cooper tallied the highest team score on the economics exam, and Brittany Brown recorded the highest score in music. Jonathan Warner had the highest team score on the Language and Literature exam, while Hailey Skroch scored the highest in Math and Art. It was a balanced attack from the team with everyone contributing to our overall score. Congratulations to the team and thank you for all your hard work and efforts this fall.

Darin M. Gray
Academic Decathlon Advisor

Drama Play

The Independence Drama Club had their annual performance on Friday, November 14 and Saturday, November 15 at 7:30PM in the auditorium. This year's production was Scott Haan's "Annie Play Will Do", a comedy about a miscommunication in the school's drama department that results in chaos on the stage.

"The students worked very hard with their production and I'm very proud of them," said Miss Marsolek, the drama coach for the 2014-2015 school year. "This was a challenging play, especially for our lead actors, but they all enjoyed working on the play. They laughed a lot, and the great thing about this play was that they could laugh while the audience laughed with them."

The drama department would like to extend their thanks to Richard Hayter, Russ Niedzielko, Keith Pronschinske, and Gene Kohnert for helping stage set-up and preparing for the show. They would also like to thank Julie Manor, Deb Marsolek, Lynette Speltz, Danielle Lahr, Pamela Lehmeier, and Pat Halama for all of their help and assistance with putting things together for the big show, as well as a special thank you to the parents of the cast and crew for contributing to concessions. Finally, Miss Marsolek would like to issue a big thanks to her cast and crew; without their hard work and dedication, this show would not be possible.



High Quiz Bowl



Over the last two months the Indees have been putting their massive brains to work against some of the brightest from other schools in the area in High Quiz Bowl. We struggled to keep our numbers over the time period but managed to always have enough for our varsity team to compete. We had several core students that made up the group including our literary expert Hailey Skroch, our math genius Haley Christianson, our sports aficionado Alex Truog, and our master of minutia Nathan Warner. These four were at almost every high quiz bowl meet and helped earn most of our points. Throughout the season we were also able to snag the help of the intelligent minds of Alexis Noble Meraz, Vincent Skroch, Colton Bork, Henry Pfaff, and Brennan Christianson. All together the Indees put up a great fight and really flexed our mental muscles in the matches. Mr. Nix really enjoyed being their coach this year and looks forward to the competitions next year!



National Honor Society



In the fall of each school year the Independence National Honor Society chapter selects its' new members for the current school year. The students who are eligible based on grade point average of 10.0 receive a letter inviting them to apply to become a member of the Independence National Honor Society for the current school year. In order to apply the students need to complete an application form that is based upon the following aspects "Scholarship, Leadership, Character, and Service," which are the main pillars of the National Honor Society. The application consists of the following tasks: describing their leadership positions in both the school and outside community, volunteer/service work they have participated in, extracurricular activities that they belong to, and a written description describing why they feel they should be a member of the National Honor Society here at Independence High School.

Once students have finished their application the teaching staff at the Independence High School assesses each application. The teaching staff assesses the applications based on the students' "Scholarship, Leadership, Character, and Service" as the applicants need to score high in each category. Once the staff members have completed this there is an all staff meeting in which the final members are

selected. The students are then notified of their acceptance verbally.

For the current 2014-2015 school year the following students were accepted into the National Honor Society: Tessa Bragger, Lacey Filla, Morgan Speltz, Justin Gierok, Sophia Woychik, Austen Whitwam, and Anna Skroch. They were welcomed by Hillary Halama, Cody Kabus, Sara Filla, and Christopher Warner, which were accepted in the 2013-2014 school year. The members of National Honor Society are required to attend monthly meetings in which they discuss various aspects and service work to be completed in the community. In addition to the meetings, the National Honor Society members participate in a variety of service or volunteer projects within the community. Such service activities include: hosting the lunch-in for the Veterans Day Ceremony, highway clean up, aiding at the choir holiday concert, volunteering at the reading outreach night, and various other service projects throughout the year. Congratulations to all new members of the 2014-2015 school year.

What Do I Need to Know About the Common Core?

What do I need to know about the Common Core?

There is much information; some myth, some fact, some negative, some positive about the Common Core State Standards. We hope that our parents and community members will take the time to truly understand the CCSS. In the next several newsletters we will share with you some key main points taken from achievethecore.org. As always, we welcome your questions and feedback on this and all aspects of your child's education.

By the 1990's, most states had a set of standards that determined what students should know and be able to do at each grade level, but they were different for each state. This meant that children in one state were

learning different things at different times (and in different years) than children in another. When students came into classrooms from another state, we had to spend a lot of time finding out what they knew or didn't know. Between states, teachers would find a year or more difference in student expectations.

Additionally, the standards that were in place in each of the states were really long lists that typically kept getting longer with every new version. So, even though there was the idea that standards could bring consistency to what was being taught within a state, there were far too many expectations in each subject in each grade to realistically expect teachers to cover the material. Teachers were forced to make decisions each year about which standards to include and not include, leading to even more inconsistencies.

In 2007, governors and chief state school officers decided that the educational standards in their states needed to be updated to reflect new information about what it means to be college and career ready. They agreed that there should be shared standards from kindergarten to twelfth grade.

The goal of these shared standards is to make sure students are well prepared to compete internationally (the USA is currently ranked 30th in the world in math and 20th, in reading, according to the Program for International Student Assessment test results comparing students from 65 countries). The old standards were often a collection of unrelated concepts that did not tie together from year to year, and students were left without crucial connections between previous concepts and new ones. Teachers had to cover too many topics each year without being able to teach them in depth. Also, the standards typically saw 12th grade as the end point, rather than thinking about how to build a K-12 system that supports college and career expectations. The new standards, in contrast are connected from grade to grade and they hone in on specific areas for each

grade level, allowing children to truly master concepts before moving on.

We will continue to try and meet the needs of every student every day. Stay tuned in upcoming newsletters and the district website for more specifics on the common core. If you would like to speak to a district staff member about what is happening with your student or at a particular grade level please contact Barry Schmitt, Middle School/High School Principal; Dawn Woychik, District Guidance Counselor or Paul Vine District Administrator/Elementary Principal at 715-985-3172.

If you are interested in learning more about the common core visit www.coresstandards.org/about-the-standards/myths-vs-facts/ or for info in English and Spanish visit www.commoncoreworks.org/domain/131



Wisconsin Technology Initiative Grant



This past month the School District of Independence applied for the Wisconsin Technology Initiative Grant. This grant provides funding to K-12 schools to advance the use of technology in learning environments throughout the state of Wisconsin. We have applied for this grant to provide consistency with the technology in all of our classrooms. With this grant we would be able to purchase and install 15 new SMARTboards and projectors as well as

purchase 10 SMART document cameras. A SMARTboard is an interactive whiteboard that uses touch recognition for user input. These boards and the software that comes with them allow teachers to create lessons that engage our students by getting them out of their desk to manipulate objects on the board, providing a hands-on experience. With the SMART document camera teachers will be able to easily capture images, video and audio. The document cameras transform complex lessons and abstract concepts into a hands-on learning environment. If awarded this grant the district will receive \$50,000.00 to purchase both the SMARTboards and document cameras. We will hopefully be notified this month if our grant application was accepted and approved.



District Exceeds State and Federal Goals on Increases for ELL Students

The Independence Public Schools have recently received word that the district has exceeded state and federal targets for achievement among Limited English Proficient (LEP) students for 2013-2014. Each year state and federal education laws hold districts accountable for the outcomes of LEP students, known as English Language Learners (ELLs). ELL students take a state-mandated English proficiency assessment, the ACCESS test, every winter in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. ELL students receive a score in those four areas, as well as in oral language, literacy, and an overall composite score. The overall ACCESS composite score factors into Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs), which hold districts accountable for progress in English language acquisition among its LEP students.

For the 2013-2014 school year the AMAO goal required that 41% of ELLs would gain 0.4 or more in their composite English Language Proficiency (ELP) level score. The DPI data report shows that 47.2% of ELL students gained 0.4 or more on their composite ELP level score, which exceeded the state and federal goals! This means that not only has the district exceeded expected targets, but that more and more ELL students are progressing in their English language acquisition and are reaching English language proficiency comparable to native English speakers. Let's keep up the great work!

Holly Knudtson



Deb Suchia, Director
 Government Center - 35245 Main Street
 P. O. Box 67 Whitehall, WI 54773
 (715) 538-1768 • Fax (715) 538-4274
 Toll Free 1-877-538-2311
 Email: tchumser@tremplocounty.com

Press Release

From: Trempealeau County Children's Services

Date: December 9, 2014

RE: Positive Solutions for Families – Parenting sessions

Every parent will tell you that parenting is the most rewarding job in the world and can also the hardest job in the world. Parents know all too well that even though you love your kids dearly, sometimes you need a little extra help in getting through the day.

This January, local parents seeking ideas, tips and strategies for effective parenting can learn from a trained Parent Educator and talk with other parents who are in similar situations. There will be four sessions in the series entitled "Positive Solutions for Families". Each session will be held from 6:30 – 8:30 pm on Thursday nights in January. Topics to be covered include strengthening the bond with your child, understanding the meaning behind your child's challenging behaviors, using logical consequences and parent stress-reduction.

Sessions will be held at:
 Our Saviour's Lutheran Church – Education Building
 36197 Main St.
 Whitehall, WI

Thursday, January 8-	6:30 – 8:30 pm
Thursday, January 15-	6:30 – 8:30 pm
Thursday, January 22-	6:30 – 8:30 pm
Thursday, January 29-	6:30 – 8:30 pm

Positive Solutions for Families is a voluntary no-cost series with no income requirements for families. These sessions are targeted for parents of children ages birth to eight years old. Sessions are open to any families living in the Trempealeau, Buffalo, or Jackson county area. Child care will be provided on site for parents in attendance. If you are a parent looking for more information or you know of parents who might be interested please consider joining us.

Seating is limited so please register in advance by calling Deb Mason from the Parenting Place in Onalaska at 608-784-8125 to register or for more information.

*We are dedicated to strengthening individuals, families, and communities
 to achieve social, economic, emotional and personal well-being.*

Independence Public School Scholarship Opportunity Summary

(subject to change)

Complete application materials for most local scholarship applications are available on our school website: www.indps.k12.wi.us. Click on schools-high school.

Deadline for most local scholarships is March 1st.

Award	Amount	Criteria
Academic Excellence Scholarship	\$10,000	Highest cumulative grade point average as of the students 7 th semester. Must be citizens or permanent residents of the US.
*Administrator's Leadership Scholarship	\$500	3.0 GPA. Must be enrolled as at a four year accredited college or university.
American Legion Oratorical Contest	\$1000, \$500, \$300	Deliver an 8-10 minute speech on student's choice of the Constitution of the United States. Students may participate each of their four years of high school.
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 186	Pending	
Ashley Furniture Engineering/Design	Pending	
Beef River Livestock	\$400	Member of Beef River Livestock Shipping Association.
Buffalo County Farm Bureau	\$500	Parent/Guardian must be a member. Student must be pursuing a degree in Agriculture.
Countryside Cooperative	Up to 20 \$500	Parent/Guardian must be a member and their occupation must be associated with an Agricultural Industry.
Community Investment Healthcare Scholarship	\$1000	Student must be pursuing a degree in healthcare. Applications may be found at www.tricountymemorial.org
*Edmundson Memorial	Approx. \$100	Student must be pursuing a Bachelor's Degree. Student must have a high school class rank of 10 or lower.
Elk Rod and Gun Club	\$500	Student must be pursuing a degree in Conservation.
Ginger Everson Memorial	\$1000	Student must be pursuing a degree in healthcare. Applications may be found at www.tricountymemorial.org
FFA Old Timers	Various	Students must be pursuing a degree in an agricultural field.
*Laura Graul Memorials	3-\$1000	Student interest in the Performing Arts, Agriculture or Athletics.
*Independence Public School Memorial Scholarship Fund	2-\$250 (may vary)	Student must have attended Independence Public School the last two years. 2.5 GPA
*Independence Education Association	\$500	Student must be pursuing a degree in education
Independence State Bank	\$500	
*Isaacs Memorials	3-\$1500	Leadership, Financial Need, Academics
Knights of Columbus Council #2787	\$250	Must be a member.
*Kulig Memorial-Natural Resources	\$250	Student must be pursuing a degree in Natural Resources.
*Lions Club	\$350	Student must be pursuing a service related field or participated in a service work during high school.
Ed and Bernice Lyga Memorial	\$500	3.0 GPA

*Maliszewski Agriculture Scholarship	\$500	Student must be pursuing a degree in agriculture.
Rainbow Community Club	2-\$500	
Riverland Energy	\$1000	Parent/Guardian must be a member. Application available at www.riverlandenergy.com Random drawing but must be present at annual meeting to win.
Lisa Rostvold Memorial	\$1200	Student must be pursuing a degree as a nurse. Applications may be found at www.tricountymemorial.org
Schaumberg Law	Varies	Preference given to a student pursuing a degree in law or business.
Schoenburger Memorial	\$500	Student must be pursuing a degree in Police Science, Criminal Justice or related field.
Sobotta Engineering /Science Scholarship	\$2000	Student must be pursuing a degree in Engineering or Science.
*State Bank of Arcadia	\$250	
Trempealeau County Association of Cooperatives	\$250	Parent/Guardian must be a member.
Tri-County Communications Cooperative	Up to 25-\$500 awards	Random drawing
Trygvasson Lodge	\$100	Student must demonstrate interest in international cultural exchange.
Voiture 260 Nursing Scholarship	\$2000	Student must be pursuing a degree in Nursing.
Windjue Memorial	\$500	
WHTL Mary Little	4-\$250 awards	3.0 GPA and Varsity Letter
Wings Over Wisconsin	Varies	Student must be pursuing a degree in conservation, forestry or agriculture.

State and National Awards (Subject to change)

(As these come in seniors will receive an email message and, if there is a paper copy, they will be at table in Student Service. You may help yourself to these)

Kohl Excellence Award	\$1000	Leadership, Citizenship, Community Involvement and Academic Achievement.
Schneider-Emanuel American Legion Scholarship	3 statewide awards of \$1000	Descendant of an American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary
Angel on My Shoulder	Various statewide awards of at least \$1000	Cancer survivor or immediate family member affected by cancer.
NFO	Various	Student must be pursuing a degree in agriculture.
TIP (Talent Incentive Program) Grant	Up to \$1800 for up to 10 semesters	http://dpi.wi.gov/weop/tipgrt.html

FASTWEB.com—Free Nationwide scholarship search.

The Independence School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person/people has/have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Paul Vine Superintendent 23786 Indee Blvd. Independence, WI 54747 715-985-3172 ext. #104 vinep@indps.k12.wi.us.

**January 1 – Thursday**

- **NO SCHOOL – Winter Vacation**

January 2 - Friday

- **NO SCHOOL – Winter Vacation**
- BBB @ Eleva-Strum 6:00/7:30pm

January 3 - Saturday

- GBB vs. Whitehall 1:30pm/3:00pm
- MSGBB practice begins

January 4 - Sunday

- Open Gym 5:00pm – 8:00pm

January 5 - Monday

- BBB vs McDonell Central Catholic 6:00/7:30pm

January 6 - Tuesday

- GBB vs. Augusta 6:00/7:30pm

January 7 - Wednesday

- PLC – 2:30pm Dismissal

January 8 – Thursday

- 7th Grade High Quiz Bowl @ BRF (SD Jan. 15)
- BBB @ Augusta 6:00/7:30pm

January 9 - Friday

- FFA Halftime Conference
- GBB @ C-FC 6:00/7:30pm

January 10 - Saturday

- FFA Halftime Conference
- Wrestling @ Osseo 9:30am

January 11 - Sunday

- Open Gym 5:00pm – 8:00pm

January 13 - Tuesday

- MSGBB vs. Gilmanon 4:30pm
- BBB vs. C-FC 6:00/7:30pm **PARENTS' NIGHT**

January 14 - Wednesday

- PLC – 2:30pm Dismissal

January 15 - Thursday

- Wrestling @ C-FC 5:00pm
- GBB vs. Lincoln 6:00/7:30pm

January 16 - Friday

- End of 2nd Quarter
- 12:15pm dismissal
- JV Wrestling @ Boyceville 5:30pm
- BBB @ Lincoln 6:00/7:30pm

January 18 - Sunday

- Open Gym 5:00pm – 8:00pm

January 20 – Tuesday

- MSGBB vs. BRF 4:30pm
- MS Wrestling @ Mondovi 5:00pm
- GBB @ Mel-Min 6:00/7:30pm

January 21 - Wednesday

- PLC – 2:30pm Dismissal

January 22 – Thursday

- MSGBB @ Lincoln 4:45pm
- MS Wrestling @ Luther HS 5:00pm
- MS Forensics @ Eau Claire South 5:00pm
- BBB vs. Mel-Min 6:00/7:30pm
- Wrestling @ Luther 7:30pm

January 23 – Friday

- GBB vs. Blair-Taylor 6:00/7:30pm
- MS Wrestling @ Arcadia 6:00pm

January 24 - Saturday

- Northwest Basketball Tournament
- Wrestling @ Arcadia 9:30am

January 25 - Sunday

- Open Gym 5:00pm – 8:00pm

January 26 - Monday

- GBB @ Mondovi 5:55/7:30pm

January 27 - Tuesday

- MSGBB vs C-FC 4:30pm
- BBB @ Blair-Taylor 6:00/7:30pm

January 28 - Wednesday

- PLC – 2:30pm Dismissal

January 29 - Thursday

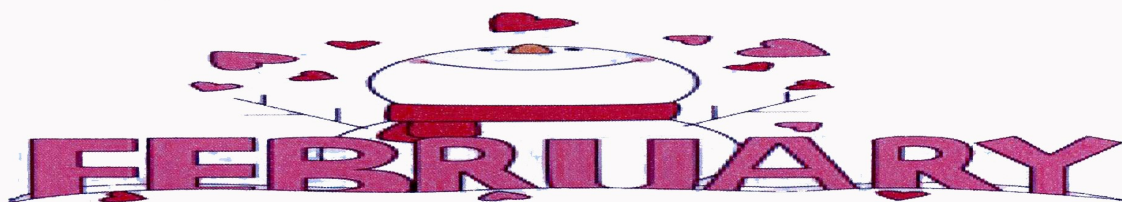
- MSGBB @ Blair-Taylor 4:30pm
- MS Wrestling vs. Aquinas/B-T/C-FC/WHTL 5:00pm
- GBB @ WHTL 6:00/7:30pm
- Wrestling vs. Blair-Taylor 6:30pm
- Wrestling vs. C-FC 7:30pm

January 30 - Friday

- BBB @ Whitehall 6:00/7:30pm

January 31 - Saturday

- Wrestling – Indee Invite 9:45am



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1 – Sunday

- Open Gym 5:00pm – 8:00pm

February 3 - Tuesday

- 5th Grade Performing Arts @ Holmen
- MS GBB vs. Lincoln 4:30pm
- MS Wrestling @ Blair-Taylor 5:00pm
- BBB @ New Auburn 6:00/7:30pm
- GBB vs. EC Immanuel 6:00/7:30pm

February 4 - Wednesday

- PLC – 2:30pm Dismissal

February 5 - Friday

- BBB @ EC Immanuel
- Wrestling @ C-FC

February 6 - Friday

- Elementary Wrestling Tourn (H) 5:00pm
- GBB @ Pepin 6:00/7:30pm

February 8 – Sunday

- Open Gym 5:00pm – 8:00pm

February 9 - Monday

- MS Forensics @ Whitehall 5:00pm

February 10 - Tuesday

- MS Wrestling @ Arcadia 5:00pm
- BBB vs. Alma/Pepin 6:00/7:30pm

February 11 - Wednesday

- PLC – 2:30pm Dismissal

February 12 - Thursday

- MSGBB @ Gilmanton 5:30pm
- GBB vs. Gilmanton 6:00/7:30pm

February 13 - Friday

- MSGBB @ Alma-Pepin 5:00pm

February 14 - Saturday

- Wrestling Regional @ Arcadia 10:00am

February 15 - Sunday

- Open Gym 5:00pm – 8:00pm

February 16 - Monday

- GBB @ E-S 6:00/7:30pm

February 17 - Tuesday

- Wrestling Sectional @ Ladysmith TBD
- MSGBB vs. Pepin/Alma 4:30pm
- Forensics Sub-District 5:00pm
- MS Wrestling @ G-E-T 5:00pm
- BBB vs. Whitehall 6:00/7:30pm

February 18 - Wednesday

- PLC – 2:30pm Dismissal

February 19 – Thursday

- BBB @ Gilmanton 6:00/7:30pm

February 21 - Saturday

- GBB Dairyland Playoffs @ C-FC 10/12/2
- Wrestling Sectional @ Osseo 10:00am

February 22 – Sunday

- Open Gym 5:00pm – 8:00pm
- FFA WEEK

February 23 - Monday

- MS Wrestling @ BRF 5:00pm
- BBB vs. E-S 6:00/7:30pm

February 24 - Tuesday

- Grades 4-8 Writing Workshop @ Arcadia
- MS Forensics @ Bangor 5:00pm
- GBB Regional TBD 7:00pm

February 25 - Wednesday

- 12:15 dismissal
- Parent-Teacher Conferences 1:00-7:00pm

February 26 - Thursday

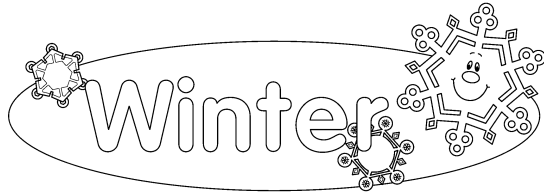
- Parent-Teacher Conference Make-up Day
- WIAA State Wrestling @ Kohl Center
- NO SCHOOL
-

February 27 - Friday

- WIAA State Wrestling @ Kohl Center
- NO SCHOOL

February 28 - Saturday

- WIAA State Wrestling @ Kohl Center
- BBB Dairyland Playoffs @ B-T 10/12/2
- GBB Regional Championship TBD 7:00pm



Did you Know?

Did you ever find yourself not being able to attend a concert or event that one of your family members are a part of? Well, don't miss another event! Many of the events, including concerts, special presentations and graduation, are live streamed using the school's Polycam camera. On the day of the event, log into the school's website (www.indps.k12.wi.us) and on the left side of the page there is a link called Indee TV Live. If you are not available to watch it live, you can also click on the link Indee TV and there are archived events listed.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED:

The School District of Independence is accepting applications for substitute teachers. You must have a valid Wisconsin teaching license or substitute teacher license.

If interested, please contact the District Office at [715-985-3172](tel:715-985-3172).

WANTED: Yearbook Pictures

The yearbook is in need of your help. If you have fantastic pictures of our Indee students playing a sport, having fun cheering at a game, or just plain fun, candid pictures, please submit them to Alie Bultman so that we have a lot of pictures to choose from for the yearbook this year. We are looking for all ages 4K-Seniors. Please remember that all high school pictures will be considered for the high school yearbook and all elementary and middle school pictures will be considered for the elementary/middle school yearbook. Please take and send pictures throughout the school year. Please call Alie Bultman if you have any questions at 715-985-3172, ext. 139 or via email at bultmana@indps.k12.wi.us. Submit pictures to her email as well.



Independence Public School Memorial Scholarship Fund

The purpose of the Independence Memorial Scholarship Fund is to support and encourage students to continue their education by granting yearly scholarship awards.

The Independence Public School Memorial Scholarship is a fund of the Eau Claire Community Foundation.



DONATE TODAY >>>

Send your donations to Eau Claire Community Foundation, 306 S. Barstow St. Suite 104, Eau Claire, WI 54701 or donate online at www.indps.k12.wi.us, the School District of Independence. Please note the Independence Public School Memorial Scholarship Fund on your check.

Everyone, Every Day



SCHOOL CLOSING DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER
School District of Independence
2014-2015

School Closings will also be posted on the Independence School District webpage and Facebook page, as well as a voicemail delivered to all families.

ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE ON THE FOLLOWING STATIONS:

Whitehall

102.3 FM

Winona

KWNO 1230AM

KG Country 1380AM

KG-95.3FM

CD Country 99.3FM

Soft Rock 101.1 FM

Eau Claire

CARP 99.9FM

I-94 94.1FM

WAXX 104.5FM

WAYY 790AM

COOL 92.9FM

Z-100 100.7FM

WEAU TV 13

ESPN 1150AM

B-95 95.1 FM

ROCK 92.1 FM

News Talk 880 AM

Sports Radio 1400 AM

WQOW TV 18

Moose Country 106.7 FM

The Mix 98.1 FM

LaCrosse

WKTY 580AM

WIZM 1410AM

Z93 93.3FM

WKBT TV 8

WTRV 95.7 FM 89.9

CC 106.3

MAGIC 105 104.9

EAGLE 102.7

Classic Rock 100.1

ESPN 105.5

WLFN 1490 AM

Black River Falls

WWIS 99.7FM

Tomah

WZFR 94.5FM

WTMB 1490 AM

Eden Prairie, MN

KMSP 9

www.wlcr.com

www.CC1063.com

www.lacrosseradiogroup.net

www.indps.k12.wi.us

The monthly newsletter of
Independence School District
Independence, WI 54747