Independence District



Newsletter

March/April 2016

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Famous Indee Artwork



Eighth grader Rebecca Heiden created this drawing in exploratory art third quarter. Students were learning about the op art movement in the 1960's. Optical illusions are anything that "trick your eye" and Rebecca created the neverending heart as her final work. Rebecca is the daughter of Allen and Julie Heiden.



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Upcoming

MAIN OFFICE: (715)985-3172

CHECKOUT OUR WEBSITE! WWW.INDPS.KI2.WI.US

From the Desk of Mr. Schmitt Collaborative Leadership



For twenty-six years, I taught as a mathematics and computer science teacher for Independence High School. Except for my early years, I was basically the only math teacher in the high school. Also during the majority of those years I was a head

coach in football, wrestling, and baseball and also the athletic director. All of these leadership roles are very autonomous, and my mentality many times was "my way or the highway". And I was comfortable with that style of leadership because I was confident that I was an "expert" in my field, even though I knew I didn't know everything and could always improve. It's ironic then as a principal and District Administrator, I rely more on collaborative leadership to make decisions. Of course, I could still have the "old coach" approach of "do it because I said so", but I've found that taking input from colleagues and committees enhances the amount of buy-in, support, and morale of my subordinates. They follow my lead because they have been part of the process.

This style of leadership for me didn't happen overnight or by coincidence. A perfect storm of experience, opportunities, and circumstances led to it, the most influential being my introduction to professional development opportunities in the area of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). I realize the role of a principal and now as District Administrator forces you to make decisions in areas you are not an "expert" in and therefore you need to rely on input from colleagues with more knowledge in those areas to base your decisions.

So how does collaborative leadership work or look? The vaguest definition would be that it is mostly just gathering information and "talking it out" with the other

stakeholders to determine the best decision to make. In reality this means having numerous committees and meetings to review the data and information and to formulate strategic plans. A detailed description of how this works at Independence follows.

Weekly at Independence I meet with my administrative team and discuss issues and topics that are either regular events (master calendar, master schedule, PT conferences, etc) or random areas (discipline, instruction, professional development opportunities, etc.). There is a predetermined agenda and detailed notes are kept of the meeting. Information for this meeting is gathered from a number of areas, but mostly from the monthly faculty meetings (there is an elementary meeting and a 6-12 meeting), special education meetings, elementary leadership meeting, PLC leadership committee meetings, PBIS (elementary) and Indee Way (secondary) meetings. Output from the administrator's meeting is then either shared back at these meetings or more likely through other mediums such as emails or personal communications to affected staff.

The other big area of collaborative decision making is through committee work and currently we have a number of committees that involve District wide policy. One committee that had ties



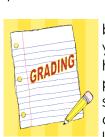
to the Strategic Planning process that was initiated about two years ago is the Mission and Vision committee, which did create a school Mission and Vision statement that was Board approved. This was significant because before this committee, the school had one Mission statement and the Strategic Planning committee had another. The Mission and Vision committee was made up of Board members, administration, and teachers. Our current school Mission statement is "We will maximize learning and empower all students to prepare for tomorrow's opportunities." A Mission statement defines the purpose of the school. Our current

Vision statement is "In partnership with the community, our school will be an innovative leader in education with excellent, focused, collaborative programs and staff." A Vision determines how the school will accomplish its Mission. Notice the Vision statement mentions "collaborative", so that also gives me guidance in the expectation for leadership in the District. The next step for this committee is to determine the values and collective commitments of the District and to set Goals and Objectives.

Another Committee is the Safety committee which meets about every month. As the name implies its purpose is to develop plans and keep



them updated regarding the safety of the children in our school. Currently we are researching and being trained in the ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) protocol. This involves writing Emergency Operation Plans, Communication Plans, and planning drills and scenarios for staff and law enforcement. The committee consists of staff, administration, Board members, and local law enforcement personnel.



The Grading Committee has been in existence for about two years, but has done numerous hours of work in this area. The purpose of this committee is to research best practice in grading and to develop a policy and philosophy for grading. The Board

did direct the administration to develop a new Grading Policy and it is one of the Board Goals to have this policy approved for implementation next year. The process being used to develop this policy is that the committee presents a proposal to the entire staff on a specific area of grading, for example, "Separate achievement from all other dispositions and behaviors.", and then there is a vote to see if the staff is in consensus. There is also research associated with the proposal to support the proposal and inform staff how to implement the proposal. If

there is consensus on a proposal then the committee works on the next proposal and also begins planning for professional development on the approved proposal. All proposals are shared at School Board meetings and a final Policy/Philosophy will be reviewed and voted on later this year.

Finally, another committee that meets a few times a year is the Alternate Compensation committee. For many years, teachers were paid based on their years of experience and

level of education. More recently, a different system has been implemented where current performance of the teacher is factored in as well to determine the salary of a teacher. Performance is a more subjective variable so input from the teachers is very important to determine how performance should be judged. This committee helps determine what should be used for performance decisions such as administrative evaluations, professional development goals, leadership positions, and extra duties and responsibilities in the District. All of this information is then reviewed by the Board to determine the compensation model.

There are also more short-term committees, such as Homecoming and Quality Instruction, but I think you can see that there is significant time and effort put into decision making in this District, as there should be, when it relates to the education of our children. Our Board, administration, and staff are all very serious about providing the safest and best education possible within the limitations of our resources at this school. Most of this work is done outside of the school day, either before or after (and during the summer), with time on Wednesday afternoons devoted to teachers having the opportunity to meet as grade level teams or subject disciplines to do "collaborative leadership" at the classroom level and look at the data of the students involved.

Although this type of leadership is intensive, time consuming, and sometimes leads to conflict (but so does authoritative leadership), I truly

feel it is the best way to lead. It is no longer "my way", but "our way" and we all win when the team wins. Go Indees! The "Best School Ever!"

> Bärry Schmitt District Administrator/9-12 Principal

Referendum Thank You

I would like to personally thank the residents of the Independence School District for their support of the In-



dependence Schools. The passing of the referendum benefits the financial stability of the District and will allow the continued growth of our students. It is very gratifying and humbling to be a leader of such a progressive and forward thinking District. Without a doubt, we're the "Best School Ever!"

> Bärry Schmitt District Administrator

Vanderloop Scoop

Teaching and Learning with the Heart in Mind



As educators, our job is to maximize the time we have with our students and teach them the necessary skills to take them to the next level. For some students, it is the next grade, and for others, it is their next chapter in life, post-

graduation. Whatever their grade level, each day students will be learning from us and we will be learning from them.

The teachers and staff in the Independence School District are some of the most 'studentfirst' staff I've ever had the chance to work with. Our discussions throughout the day, and

especially during collaboration time Wednesdays, are spent focused on the support we provide for our students, and how we can continue to improve our teaching and their learning.

Our teaching staff are evaluated under the state mandated evaluation system, Educator Effectiveness, and this process is modeled after some of the best Effectiveness educators in the country, specifi-



cally Charlotte Danielson. In this model, teachers are evaluated on four different categories, and many subcategories. There are different levels of proficiency that are used to determine if the teacher has strengths or areas to improve in the different subcategories. Some categories include: student engagement, discussion techniques, managing student behavior and classroom procedures. As I reflect upon the first semester of school, I have noticed a strength in the teachers here at the Independence School District in the subcategory of Creating an Environment of Respect and Rapport. This category specifically relates to the interactions teachers have with students in the classroom. The teachers here love the students they serve!

This love is evident for over 8 hours a day from the time students come into our doors in the morning for breakfast to the final bell at the end of the day, and extended through our extra-curricular opportunities. Teachers are making sure students are ready to start the day, welcomed with a smile and held accountable for behavior that doesn't promote the type of behavior we want them to display to their peers or adults. Our teachers set high expectations for their students in the classroom, but treat each student as an individual because teachers know all students learn differently and are motivated by different things. Teachers are creating an environment of respect and rapport with and amongst their students.

The love our staff shows for their students can be seen in other ways throughout the building as well. An example of this love comes out during collaboration every Wednesday. Staff are

talking to other staff about student test scores or how to best meet the needs of the students they serve. As students show us things through the data we collect, we are discussing how to best help each one. Students are known by name at Independence and teachers are learning from other teachers as students need to be taught differently to succeed. This is the power of the collaboration time we have each week. There are constant conversations between elementary teachers, middle-level, high school and specialist about how students are performing academically and behaviorally. Right when the teacher thinks they have hit a wall, another teacher offers a suggestion to

improve the situation. As the old saying goes, "two heads are better than one." This rings true as multiple staff members work together to



help support the needs of individual students. Teachers realize the power of these discussions and know they cannot do this important work alone.

As we come to a time of the season when our halls are abound with hearts, flowers, and the colors red, white, and pink, I want the community to know that our staff are teaching and learning with the heart in mind. They are trying to maximize every minute they have with students. They are tirelessly working for each student in building and will do whatever is needed to continue to provide a safe place to learn and grow. The power to teach another person something of value is said to be one of the best aifts any one person can give to another. As February turns to a hallmark holiday month, please know our staff are giving one of the best gifts of all to each student in the Independence School District, the aift of their love and support.

Robert Vanderloop PreK-8 Principal/Director of Special Education

New School Banners

The Booster club purchased new conference banners. Come and check them out.



State Bank of Arcadia Donation

Josh Grzadzielewski of the State Bank of Arcadia presents District Administrator Barry Schmitt with a \$1,050 check to be used for student instructional needs. The donation is from proceeds generated by the Bank's Credit Card Program. Thank you State Bank of Arcadia!



Mr. Schmitt & Josh Grzadzielewski

Donations & Support Page 6

Memorial Scholarship Donation



The Independence Public School Memorial Scholarship Fund received a significant donation in memory of Jerry McCaffrey.

Gerald "Jerry" H. McCaffrey passed away in 2015, but his legacy of community service lives on thanks to a significant

donation to the Independence Public School Memorial Scholarship Fund that his family made in his memory.

Jerry was born in 1942 to James and Elsie McCaffrey. He graduated with a Master's degree in Business Education from Winona State University and taught Business Education at Independence High School for more than 35 years before retiring in 1999.

In addition to teaching his Business Education classes, Jerry served as an advisor for many classes and organizations, including the year-book.

Jerry's loyalty to and pride in Independence were always evident. He loved Indee Sports and was a staple at all Independence athletic events. In addition to cheering on his teams, he volunteered by keeping score, running clock, and helping out any way he could. He supported Independence Wrestling by volunteering as a driver to meets and as an assistant coach. As a result of his service, he was awarded the Independence Wrestling Contributors Award in 2015.

Jerry always kept his kids up to date with how the teams were doing. He enjoyed Minnesota Vikings football, many sporting events, traveling, and spending time with his close friends. He was also active in his church and numerous community events.

There was nothing Jerry enjoyed more than spending as much time as he could with his children and grandchildren. Through his smile, sense of humor, and laughter, he brought happiness to everyone he knew.

The donation made in Jerry's name will help support the post-secondary education of Independence students for years to come. Administered and safeguarded by the Eau Claire Community Foundation, the purpose of the Independence Public School Memorial Scholarship Fund is to encourage students to become more engaged in their community and school, as well as support their continuing education. The scholarships it awards to Independence graduates will help them attain their dreams of higher education.

Anyone interested in donating to this Fund online can visit the Eau Claire Community Foundation website (www.eccommunityfoundation.org) and search "Independence Public School Memorial Scholarship Fund" under the "About the Foundation/Family of Funds" tab. They can also call the Foundation at (715) 552-3801 for more information about donating to this or any other



Fund.

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.ktz.wi.us, the School District of Independence. Please note the Independence Public School Memorial Scholarship Fund on your check.

Everyone, Every Day

New Faces Page 7

New Faces at Indee



The Independence School District is happy to announce the addition of **Areny Bork** to their staff. Ms. Bork will be working in a new position as a Bilingual School/Community Liasion. This position was created to meet the ever increasing

needs for Spanish interpretation and translation as well as mentorship for Hispanic students. Another objective is for Ms. Bork to help close the achievement gap for Hispanic students and to be a liason for the Hispanic parents of these students.

Ms. Bork previously worked at an elementary school in Winona. Before that she worked as a volunteer at a military base in California. She is also working towards her mathematics teaching certification. She currently lives in rural Fountain City with her husband and 2 children.



Through partnership with the Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (WSPEI), the Independence School District is excited to welcome **Tracy Marsolek** to our Special Education Department as the Volunteer

District Family Engagement Liaison. This volunteer position will help families with students who have a disability in many ways. Mrs. Marsolek will help our district and families by:

- Assisting in developing family engagement activities and supports which welcome, honor, and connect all families to student learnina
- Promoting positive working relationships between families, students, staff and community agencies
- Disseminating information about special education topics, family engagement, and DPI grant-initiative resources

- Encouraging positive communication for problem solving
- Referring students and families to CESA Family Engagement Coordinators and DPI Initiative contacts for support
- Attending WSPEI Core trainings in her first year and additional training in subsequent years
- Collaborating with special education staff
- Assisting the school district with strategies regarding Indicator #8 Parent Involvement survey which welcome, honor, and connect all families to student learning

Mrs. Marsolek is in year one of this volunteer position and will have completed her training later this Spring. Please look to see more information regarding this support for our families throughout the 2016-2017 school year. On behalf of the Independence School District, especially the Special Education Department, a special thank you to Tracy Marsolek for accepting this volunteer position and for so graciously

providing us with her knowledge and time.

Collin Manley is currently in his fifth year at UWEC. He is very eager to be able to be a part of Mrs. Susa's first grade classroom. Collin has been very excited for this opportunity to be in the

classroom ever since he got involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters in his hometown of Arcadia. Since then he has had many other experiences to work with elementary students through coaching and summer school. Collin says, "It is a joy to be able to work with students and help being a part of their learning process." Along with his Elementary Education degree he is pursuing a minor in mathematics so that he could someday teach middle school math. Collin is also a huge sports nut and hopes to someday have his own coaching position wherever he is teaching.

Small School-Big Opportunities

It has always been a priority here to be sure our students, in this small rural school, have every opportunity possible to allow them to follow their dreams and be successful in their choice



of college or career. This time of the year that work comes to life as we prepare to work with students and families on their academic schedule for 2016-17.

Last week, I had the privilege of spending most of an afternoon with our 8th grade students. It is always an exciting afternoon for them, as we talk about the choices for their high school schedule. My last words to them are always "Think and plan for your life, not your best friend's" as I want them to develop a path that will make them happy and develop their individual skills and interests. These aspiring high school students were eager to learn about the many options they have in high school electives such as Agriculture, Technical Education, Art and Business. Many quickly look to see that they can make room for band and choir. Others want to understand how they can earn college credits. All are excited for the journey.

Sometimes I wonder if we do enough for our students. Have we got this right? I was reminded recently that maybe we are doing this right. That maybe we are providing the comforts of a small country school with the opportunities available in larger districts and just possibly, we offer more. I recently read a portion of a scholarship essay written by one of our seniors in reflection of her high school years. It read, in part:

 I have had the opportunity to attend a small rural school in Independence, Wisconsin. This school has changed me in more ways than one and I will be forever thankful for that. The saying "bigger is better" is a false accusation especially towards my rural school. My school has so many valuable opportunities to offer and it continues to impress me everyday. These opportunities have molded me into the person that I am today. I owe it all to my school and community for all that I have ever learned and become.

So, I look forward to our discussions, planning, preparing, and scheduling to build the best possible opportunities for the students of our small rural school.

Some reminders:

- Coursebook and Tentative Master Schedule can be found on the school website under the 'District' tab and 'Student Services'.
- Parents, it is very important that you are involved in this process. Your child is making decisions that can have long term effects on college and career choices. Remember that every effort is made to accommodate your attendance at scheduling appointments so if you need to change an appointment please contact Mrs. Woychik or Mr. Schmitt.

Dawn Woychik
Director of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment

Independence School District

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Enrichment Update

Enrichment opportunities for our district students are underway. This year our students have already competed in the 8th Grade Quiz Bowl and 7th Grade Quiz Bowl, Performing Arts Fair and Spelling Bee activities. Our 4th graders are busy working on their Heritage Fair Projects and a few of our 6th graders will be participating in the 6th grade Quiz Bowl. We also have some creative writers that will be participating in a workshop with a published author to get some more information about becoming better writers.

As the year progresses, I wanted to take the opportunity to explain that the Enrichment Program is not necessarily a "program" for only the most talented students. Much of the enrichment that our students are receiving is coming from the classroom teachers through collaboration with me, the Enrichment Coordinator. I meet weekly with the elementary classroom teachers to discuss and design activities that will allow those students that are performing above grade level to go above and beyond what is expected of them. These activities can range from deeper level critical thinking questions to improve comprehension, adding in technology to have students' present information they have researched, to taking a story and turning it into a reader's theater script to be performed for others. Teachers are using rubrics to evaluate student's work and within these rubrics you will find expectations that allow our students to rise up to the challenge to go above the grade level expectation.



Within the daily activities teachers consistently use formative assessments to find out where each student is at based on grade level expectations. When they find that students have already met the expectations, they have tasks in place

that allow them to be challenged within a particular skill or concept. This approach allows all of our students to be challenged when they demonstrate mastery in a particular area. We continue to offer events through the Mississippi Valley Gifted and Talented Network as well, that provide opportunities for our advanced students to be creative and interact with other students from the area.

Most recently, our students have participated in the Indee Spelling Bee. The Indee Spelling Bee took place on January 8th. We had 30 spellers from grades 4-8, the competition was fierce and in the end the top three spellers were Carllie Barker, Rebecca Heiden, and Gabriel Rombalski. Gabriel was our Spelling Bee Champion and Rebecca was our Runner-Up, they both were invited to the Regional Spelling Bee held in Westby to represent the Independence School District.



L to R: Mr. Vanderloop, Rebecca H., Gabriel R., Carllie B.

Looking towards the end of the year, 6th grade students have been selected based on recent benchmark scores, as well as teacher recommendations to participate in the 6th Grade Quiz Bowl on March 1, 2015. They will be meeting with me to hold practices to prepare for this quiz bowl. The 4th graders are gearing up to begin the process for creating their Heritage Fair Project and those selected to move on to the Regional Event will go to Galesville in April. To end the year there will be two competitions for Battle of the Books. Students are interested in participating in this event should be reading the list of books given to them at the beginning of the year. I will be meeting with

those students in March-May to prepare them for the competition. Students in grade 5-8 are encouraged to participate.

We are proud of all the high achieving students here at Independence Public School and will continue to provide appropriate opportunities for them to expand their knowledge and experience. If you would like more specifics on the enrichment opportunities available for your child, you can contact Melissa Pientok at 715-985-3172 Ext. 114 or email at pientokm@indps.k12.wi.us

Melissa Pientok Technlogy Integrator Specialist

2016 Dorian Choir Festival

Bailie Bautch, Brittny Brown, Devon Diebold, Jose Salazar, Jonny Warner, Brennan Christianson, and Steven Gamroth proudly represented Independence High School at the 2016 Dorian Choir Festival at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Over 1200 singers from Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakotah, and Missouri took part in this fabulous music festival. The students were under the direction of Dr. Allen Hightower (shown with students). Dr. Hightower is the director of the Nordic Choir on the campus of Luther College. #ilovedorian



L to R Top: Devon D., Brittny B., Dr. Allen Hightower, Steven G., Brennan C.
L to R Bottom: Jose S., Bailie B., Jonny W.

High School Booster Activities

On January 8th, the Middle School and High School student worked on their Indee Way Expectations through booster activities. They celebrated by having the high school students compete in different relays to qualify to compete against the staff in a Hungry Hungry Hippo game! They also invited the elementary to help celebrate their Winter Sports teams in a pep assembly!







Recent Events Page 11

Elementary Celebration

Elementary students celebrated on January 15th with carnival games after they have spent the last couple of weeks refreshing themselves on school wide expectations. The celebration ended with a hippty hop race against Mr. Vanderloop!





L to R Top Pic: Noah, Mason, Hidver, Mr. Vanderloop, Kevin, Ariana, and Preston

L to R Left Pic: Octavio, Mrs. Pape, and Evelyn

100th Day of School

On February 4th, students at Independence celebrated the 100th day of school. Lessons and activities in their classes today included counting out 100 objects, measuring 100 inches, 100 centimeters, some worked in physics, and 100 snowballs.



L to R: Xavier, Seb, Jacob, and Miguel







L to R Top Pic: Al and Elizabeth

L to R Left Pic: Dominic, Dillion, and Mr. Gibbons

Celebrating 100th Day in 4K

Students in Ms. Schultz's Four Year -Old Kindergarten students celebrated the 100th Day of School with lots of counting! The students continue to practice counting with hopes of counting to 100 on their own before entering Kindergarten or soon after. We practiced our counting while putting 100 stickers on a celebration hat for the 100th day of school. For our snack, we sorted snack items into 10 groups of 10 for a 100-piece snack! The students had lots of fun counting and making 100 using sets of 10. We are definitely 100 days SMARTER!

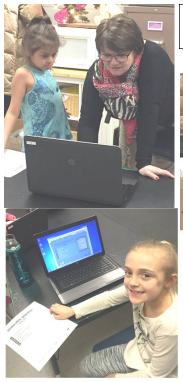


L to R: Kevin and Jillian



1st Grade Acrostic Poems

1st Grade students completed their Acrostic Poems using a website in IEB. These poems told about who they were as a person, what they liked to do or about their favorite things.



L to R Left Pic: Sophie and Mrs. Halama



Top Pic: Ally

Left Pic: Jaelyn

Off to the Principal's Office

These 3rd grade students earned a trip to the principal's office for their positive behavior. They played games during their lunch and recess



L to R: Olga, Camila, and Mr. Vanderloop

1st Grade Astronauts

1st grade read about the moon and astronauts. To really understand what types of food astronauts eat in space their teachers were able to get some astronaut ice cream to share with all students! The 1st graders were excited to try this different type of food!





Top Pic: Mrs. Zillman and Mrs. Susa with students

Left Pic: Cayden



- Independence Public School
- Independence K-12 Art
- Third Grade at Independence
- 4th Grade Independence Elementary
- Independence Athletic Booster Club
- Indees Volleyball
- Independence Indees Girls' Basketball
- Independence Indees Boys' Basketball
- Independence—Gilmanton Track & Field
- Independence High School Powerlifting
- Indee Drama Club
- Independence FFA

Basketball Superstar

After the third grade class read about Michael Jordan, one of our very own superstar boys basketball players demonstrated a Slam-Dunk for us to see. Thanks Jordan Speltz! Awesome "dunks"!!!





Volleyball Open Gym



Fun competitive volley-ball for anyone in grades 8 and up, family, friends (no children under 8th grade) at the Independence High School gym on Saturdays, February 27, March 5, 15, 19 & 26 from 7:00 PM—9:00

PM. For more information or questions, e-mail Tracy Halama at halamat@indps.k12.wi.us.

Sports & Clubs Page 14



Indee Powerlifting

The Indee Powerlifting Team has been very busy competing all over Wisconsin. Starting in December with meets in Adams Friendship and Barron, then January brought about traveling to Mauston, Holmen and La Crosse Central. So far there are four lifters qualified for state competition, which will be held in La Crosse in March. The Indees have nine heading to Nationals in Orlando, FL in April. The team is coached by Dale Skroch, Simone and Robert Mikayla Dingfelder, Rotering, and Woychik. The next competitions will be in Necedah on February 20 and the regular season finishes in Whitehall on February 27.

Middle School Forensics

The Middle School Forensics Team traveled to Eau Claire, Wisconsin on February 11th, and participated in the Level I competition at South Middle School. All of the participants on the Indee team earned scores high enough to allow them to compete at the final Level II competition in Whitehall, on February 23rd. Congratulations to the following team members:



Weston Gamroth, Kevin Ramirez, Johnavy Garcia, Alan Hernandez, Kevin Halvorson, Chloe Cooper, Lleymi Hernandez, MacKenzie Taylor, Leslie Garcia, Agustina Romero, Breanna Kulig, Isabella Steinke, Rebecca Heiden, Jennessa Kamrowski, Mercedes Matchey, Emerson Pronschinske, Hailey Witte, Ziyannah Conner,



L to R Back: Riley B., Dustin K., Sophia W., Ian P. and Nick B.

L to R Front: Brennan C., Caitlyn C., Gerry F., Madelyn W.

Missing from photo are: Hailey S. and Bethany S.

Sports & Clubs Page 15

Independence FFA



Independence **FFA** Chapter has been promoting leadership, personal growth, and career success for 77 years, and is led this year by President Steven Gamroth, Vice President Halama, Secretary Hannah Tessa Bragger, Reporter Jaydin

Guza, Treasurer Justin Gierok, Sentinel Dakota Waletzko and Student Advisor Susan Thoma. FFA Advisor is Mr. Jason Hovell.



L to R Front: Jaydin G., Susan T., and Tessa B.

L to R Back: Dakota W., Steven G., Hannah H., and Justin G.

The Indee FFA kicked off the year with the annual FFA officer training at Jellystone Resort, in Warrens WI, to start planning for the upcoming year's activities. In October, students traveled to the World Dairy Expo to compete in Dairy evaluation and Dairy product judging competitions. Sev-

eral FFA students, along with Plant Science, Animal Vet Science and middle school agriculture classes continue to care for a grape vineyard on the school grounds over the summer and into fall. They also have been working hard on building things such as dog houses, curling stones and ice fishing poles. In October the FFA had students participate in the fall Highway Cleanup in the morning, as well as participate in a paintballing activity the afternoon following the highway cleanup. Officers Steven and Justin applied for their State Degrees in late January.

During the nine day gun season in Wisconsin, the FFA held a big buck contest. Every person who signed up got their name put in for a drawing. Geri Fredrickson had the biggest buck

and won a ten dollar gift certificate from Pat's Market and a big buck hunter hat. Over all eight bucks were entered.

FFA members also sold fruit, nuts, meats, and cheese for our annual fundraiser to offset the costs for trips and scholarships. Students who attributed to this fundraiser learned how they can become active leaders in their school and community. FFA members and Plant Science students also cared for poinsettia plants in the greenhouse this fall.



In January, Dakota Waletzko served as a delegate at the Halftime Conference, where he began planning for the second half of school year. Also in January, the chapter hosted the concession stand for the Indee Invite wrestling tournament.

The District Speaking

Contest was held in February in which every officer is participating in an event. Upcoming events include the upcoming FFA Week which will include a staff appreciation breakfast, FFA emblem hunt, ice cream during lunch, and a bowling night. Students are beginning to prepare for the Career Development Event Competition at UW-River Falls, and the 77th Annual FFA Awards Banquet held in April. Also, Steven Gamroth and Justin Gierok will receive their State FFA Degrees in June at the State FFA Convention.

High School member on this year's roster includes:

- Seniors: Justin Gierok, Steven Gamroth, Tessa Bragger, Gina Gamroth, Alex Grulkowski, Zane Olson, and Alejandro Ramos.
- Juniors: Hannah Halama, Susan Thoma, Da-Jaydin Guza, Andrew Waletzko, Grulkowski, Sara Marsolek, Jonathan Warner, Miranda Stegerwald, Joseph Pyka, Blane Olson, Jazmin Nielson, Brian Gamroth, Bryan Morales, Abbi Kotlarz and Brittny Brown.

Sports & Clubs Page 16

- Sophomores: Morgan Becker, Allison Bragger, Anna Bragger, Hunter Fredrickson, Dayne Keenan, Jacob Rotering, Vincent Skroch.
- Freshman: Chase Cooper, Nicole Filla, Geri Fredrickson, Elaina Gamroth, Isaak Gierok, Rylie Guza, Carter Koval, Alyssa Kulig, Jeffrey Myers-Woychik, Zachary Taylor, Lynnsey Tuschner, Daniella Warner, Andy Woychik, and Al Woychik.



Spring Sports Begin Practice



Track, Softball, Baseball, and Golf will all begin practicing in March. The first possible dates for practice are listed below, but coaches may change start dates depending on their availability and schedule.

- Boys' and Girls' Track March 7th
- Girls' Softball March 14th
- Boys' Baseball March 21st
- Boys' Golf March 28th

All of the above sports are cooperative programs with Gilmanton except golf. If a student hasn't participated in a sport yet this school year, then they must have had a physical in the past two years on file in the District office and sign the concussion protocol forms. There are also athletic fees associated with sports participation and details can be found in the student athletic handbook. Please call the school if you have questions.

Booster Club News

Ashley For the Arts Sign-up:



Once again the Indee Booster club will be supplying for the volunteers for this years event on August 12 & 13. All proceeds

will go to the booster club or the sport that is working the event. Go to the following link to sign-up:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/ d/1YvvPUsTGNBlonQyyw9g3k4wGPDI_5tvorz KxII4BUe4/edit?usp=sharina



Next Meeting

Our next meeting is Sunday, March 6th at 7:00 in Room 106.

Booster Club Apparel

The Independence Booster Club has established a site to order Indee apparel for any occasion. The link to the site: http://www.cvsports.com/Default.aspx? TabID=5208 will allow you to Chippewa Valley access Sporting Goods website to



browse the choices of apparel. Orders can be placed now and we will close the first order on March 11th. If you have any questions, contact Mr. Ruhland at the school: 715-985-3172 ext. 136.

Home of the **Indees!**

Every one. Every day.

Student Council Thanks You for a Successful Coat Drive

The Indee student council collected over \$400 and several large bags of coats, hats, blankets, and other winter gear in the



month of November. Cash donations were used to support struggling families within our district through purchases. Student council members delivered the coats and winter gear to Trempeleau County and received a thank you letter for their efforts to reach out to the community at large. Thank you for your donations!

SAVE THE DATE! Indee Blood Drive is sched-GIVE BLOOD uled for Monday April 11th from 1:00-5:30 pm. More information will be available via school website and sosave LIFE cial media.

Volunteers Needed

Parents, Grandparents and Com-

munity Members!

We are looking for additional volunteers unteers to help at our school. We would like help in the classroom, lunchroom, and library. This could be on a daily basis or as your schedule allows. If you have any time that can you can offer, please contact Leah Matchey at 715-985-2390 or email at

Volunteer/chaperone procedure at our school: attend the Volunteer Orientation or contact Leah Matchey for optional training opportunities, complete the necessary paperwork, and get approval from the Board of Education. Once approved, you need to attend the orientations every 3 years for updated information. If you are unsure if you are due for a renewal orientation, please contact the main office at 715 -985-3172.

Clipart Sources Throughout Newsletter

- http://www.google.com
- https://www.facebook.com/

matcheyl@indps.k12.wi.us.

Child Development Day



The Independence Public School will conduct Child Development Day on Monday, May 2, 2016. By law, school districts are required to provide screening opportunities to all children ages 2 ½ to 4

within the district. The primary purpose is to identify children with developmental delays who may be at risk for developing problems when they later attend school. Early diagnosis of delays can lead to interventions and participation in programs that can help prepare these children for their later years in school. This event will involve children 2 ½ years of age as of May 2, 2016, to those through age 4 who do not yet attend our school. The children will be encouraged to participate in a playgroup where social, communication, motor and early learning skills will be observed. Parents will also participate by completing a form about their child's development. Parents within the school district with children 2 ½ to 4 will be contacted and invited to have their children participate. Community agencies such as Head Start, Birth to Three and others will be available to answer questions parents may have and to offer additional information.

If you have a child or children in this age range and do not receive a letter informing you of Child Development Day by mid March, please call Student Services at the Independence Public School at 985-3172 for information.

Use of Our School

The following are Adult/Community Opportunities to use our school:

- Walking and community exercise 5:45am 10:00pm
- Meeting Areas/Rooms available on request by calling the office
- Athletic facilities can be reserved by filing a Facilities Request form available at the school.
- Weight room with a membership (see Leslie Kampa in Student Services)

Four Year Old Kindergarten Registration

Calling All Four-Year Olds!

It is time to start thinking about registering your child for Four-Year-Old Kindergarten. Four-Year-Old Kindergarten Registration will be held on Monday,



May 2, 2016 at the Independence Public School from 4:00-6:00 PM. In order for your child to register they must be age four by September 1, 2016.

If you have received the required registration paperwork, please bring the forms and documents below to the May 2 registration.

Parents are reminded to bring:

- Completed registration forms
- Completed physical and dental forms or scheduled appointment dates for exams
- A copy of immunizations
- A certified copy of the child's birth certificate (photo copies are not permitted)

If you have not received the registration paperwork, and have a child who is eligible for Four-Year-Old Kindergarten in the fall - please contact Student Services at 715-985-3172 ext 107.



Once again there will be a Post-Prom Party. Our goal is to discourage outside parties by keeping students entertained in a safe and alcohol free environment. The party will be held immediately after prom on Saturday, April 30th, 2016. Activities are not completely set, but any ideas that anyone (students or adults) may have are welcome.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! The cost of post prom is free and includes food and drinks, activities,

game prizes, and door prizes. We rely on donations from local businesses and individuals in the community to offset the costs involved. We would appreciate any-



thing you would be willing to contribute. Contributions could be in the form of prizes, gift cards, or money and can be done on an individual family basis or a group of families for a larger donation. Donations can be dropped off at the high school. Please indicate at the office that it is for the Post-Prom Party.

Volunteers are needed to help finish planning the event, supervise, and to help with activities the night of the party.

If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Tracy Halama at 715-985-3172 ext. 176 or halamat@indps.k12.wi.us.

Thank you for your support! Post-Prom Planning Committee

Volunteers Needed

Parents, Grandparents and Community Members!

We are looking for additional volunteers to help at our school. We would like help in the classroom, lunchroom, and library. This could be on a daily basis or as your schedule allows. If you have any time that can you can offer, please confortact Leah Matchey at 715-985-2390 or email at matcheyl@indps.k12.wi.us.

Volunteer/chaperone procedure at our school: attend the Volunteer Orientation or contact Leah Matchey for optional training opportunities, complete the

necessary paperwork, and get approval from the Board of Education. Once approved, you need to attend the orientations every 3 years for updated information. If you are unsure if you are due for a renewal orientation, please contact the main office at 715-985-3172.

Ads Page 19

Please continue collecting for our school. The money earned goes towards field trips for students in grades 4K through eighth grade. Items that you can collect and bring to school include:

- · Box Tops
- · Cans for Kids (aluminum cans)
- · Pop Tabs
- · Target Take Charge of Education
- · Campbells Soup Labels
- · Milk Moola Caps and Bags

Can Stock Photo







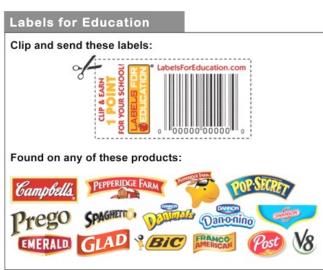
Kwik Trip will give the Independence School District 5 cents for every cap and bag top from Nature's Touch Milk and 16 oz. or larger Nature's Touch Ice Cream bar code, and 10 cents for every tan Glazers price oval.

Start saving now!

All proceeds will go the the Independence School District to help with field trip funding.







Lunch Menu	Page 20

March 2016							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		1 Breakfast	2 Breakfast	3 Breakfast	4 Breakfast	5	
		Apple/Cherry Strudel	Ham, Toast, Juice,	Bagels, Juice, Milk	Toast, Cereal, Juice,		
		Juice, Milk	Milk		Juice, Milk		
		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
		Cheesy Italian	Meatloaf, Potatoes,	Subs, Fruit, Veg	Pizza Dippers, Veg		
		Chicken Sandwich	Fruit, Veg		Fruit,		
6	7 Breakfast	8 Breakfast	9 Breakfast	10 Breakfast	11 Breakfast	12	
	WG Poptart, Juice,	French Toast Sticks	Sausage, Toast,	Oatmeal, Juice,	Toast, Cereal, Juice,		
	Milk	Juice, Milk	Juice, Milk	Milk	Juice, Milk		
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
	Pizza Burger, Fruit,	Chicken N Biscuits	Ham, Scalloped	Beef Hotdish, Fruit,	Fish Sandwich or		
	Veg	Fruit, Veg	Potatoes, Fruit, Veg	Veg	Chicken Alfredo		
13	14 Breakfast	15 Breakfast	16 Breakfast	17 Breakfast	18 Breakfast	19	
	WG Cake Donut,	Breakfast Pizza,	Muffins, Juice, Milk	Nutri Grain Bar,	Toast, Cereal, Juice,		
	Juice, Milk	Juice, Milk	Lunch	Juice, Milk	Juice, Milk		
	Lunch	Lunch	Turkey, M Pototoes,	Lunch	Lunch		
	Quesidillas, Fruit,	Hamburgers, Fruit,	Fruit, Veg	Popcorn Chicken,	Cheese Pizza,		
	Veg	Veg		Fruit, Veg	Fruit, Veg		
20	21 Breakfast	22 Breakfast	23 Breakfast	24	25	26	
	Pancake Wrap,	Eggs, Toast, Fruit,	Toast, Cereal, Juice,				
	Juice, Milk	Juice, Milk	Milk				
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch				
	Hotdogs, Potato,	Meatballs, M. Potatoes	Hot Beef Sandwich				
	Fruit, Veg	Potatoes, Fruit, Veg	Fruit, Veg				
27	28	29 Breakfast	30 Breakfast	31 Breakfast			
		Mini Cinni, Juice,	Pancakes, Juice,	Biscuits, Gravy,			
		Milk	Milk	Juice, Milk			
		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch			
		Corndogs, Potato	Bar-B-Ques, Potatoe	Spaghetti, G. Bread,			
		Fruit, Veg	Fruit, Veg	Fruit, Veg			
Independence Public School Website: www.indps.k12.wi.us							

Upcoming Events Page 21



March 1 - Tuesday

• BBB Regional 7:00pm TBD

March 2 - Wednesday

- PLC 2:30pm Dismissal
- School Board Meeting 7:00pm

March 3 - Thursday

• GBB Sectional Semi-Finals at West Salem 7:00pm

March 4 – Friday

- State Wrestling at UW-Fieldhouse Madison
- BBB Regional 7:00pm

March 5 - Saturday

- State Wrestling at UW-Fieldhouse Madison
- GBB Sect. Champ. at Richland Center 7:00pm
- BBB Regional Championship 7:00pm
- Volleyball Open Gym 7:00-9:00pm 8th grade and up

March 6 - Sunday

• Open Gym 5:00pm

March 7 - Monday

• First Day of HS Track practice

March 8 - Tuesday

- MS Wrestling at Osseo-Fairchild 5:00pm.
- Winter Sports Awards Night 7:00pm

March 9 - Wednesday

• PLC – 2:30pm Dismissal

March 10 - Thursday

- GBB State at Resch Center Green Bay
- BBB Sect. Semi-Finals at LaCrosse Central 7:00pm

March 11 - Friday

• GBB State at Resch Center Green Bay

March 12 - Saturday

- GBB State at Resch Center Green Bay
- Volleyball Open Gym 7:00-9:00pm 8th grade and up
- District Forensics 8:00am
- BBB Sectional Championship at Logan 7:00pm

March 13- Sunday

• Open Gym 5:00pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 14 - Monday

• First Day of Softball Practice

March 16 - Wednesday

• PLC – 2:30pm Dismissal

March 17 - Thursday

BBB State at Kohl Center Madison

March 18 - Friday

BBB State at Kohl Center Madison

March 19 - Saturday

- BBB State at Kohl Center Madison
- Volleyball Open Gym 7:00-9:00pm 8th grade and up

March 20 - Sunday

• Open Gym 5:00pm

March 21 - Monday

- First day of Baseball practice
- Track at St. Mary's University Winona 4:00pm

March 22 - Tuesday

• SB at WHTL 5:00pm Varsity

March 23 - Wednesday

• PLC – 2:30pm Dismissal

March 24- Thursday

- End of 3rd Ouarter
- SB at Augusta 5:00pm Varsity

March 25- Friday

NO SCHOOL

March 26 - Saturday

Volleyball Open Gym 7:00-9:00pm 8th grade and up

March 27 - Sunday

• EASTER

March 28 - Monday

- NO SCHOOL
- First day of golf practice

March 29 - Tuesday

- SB vs C-FC 5:00Varsity
- BB vs C-FC 5:00 Varsity

March 31 - Thursday

SB at Lincoln 5:00Varsity

Upcoming Events Page 22



April 1 - Friday

- GSB at B-T 5:00pm Varsity
- BBB at B-T 5:00pm

April 2 - Saturday

District Solo Ensemble at C-FC

April 3 – Sunday

Open Gym 5:00pm

April 6 - Wednesday

- PLC 2:30pm Dismissal
- Family Reading Night 5:00pm
- School Board Meeting 7:00pm

April 8 - Friday

- Track @ Luther High School 4:15pm
- BBB vs GET 5:00pm Varsity
- BBB vs Lincoln 5:00pm Varsity
- GSB vs Lincoln 5:00pm Varsity

April 10 - Sunday

• Open Gym 5:00pm

April 11 - Monday

- Blood Drive 1:00-5:00pm in the Cafetorium
- Golf at Mel-Min River Bend 4:30pm
- Forensics Showcase 7:00pm

April 12 - Tuesday

- Track at Eleva-Strum 4:15pm
- GSB at Mel-Min 5:00pm Varsity
- BBB at Mel-Min 5:00pm Varsity

April 13- Wednesday

• PLC – 2:30pm Dismissal

April 14 - Thursday

- Indee Relays 4:30pm
- Golf at C-FC 4:30pm
- GSB at EC Immanuel 5:00pm Varsity
- BBB at EC Immanuel (Carson Park) 5:00pm Varsity

April 15 - Friday

Band Concert 7:00pm Grades 6-12

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 16 - Saturday

- State Forensics
- GSB Tournament at Arcadia 9:00am

April 17 – Sunday

• Open Gym 5:00pm

April 18 - Monday

- MS Track at C-FC 4:15pm
- Golf at Strum-Chip Shots 4:30pm

April 19 - Tuesday

- Track at Luther HS 4:15pm
- Golf at Whitehall Golf Course 4:30pm
- BBB at E-S 5:00pm Varsity
- GSB at E-S 5:00pm Varsity

April 20 - Wednesday

- Large HS Group Concert at Whitehall
- PLC 2:30pm Dismissal

April 21 - Thursday

- Large MS Group Concert at B-T
- Track at Whitehall 5:00pm

April 22 - Friday

- BBB vs Whitehall 5:00pm Varsity
- GSB vs Whitehall 5:00pm Varsity

April 24– Sunday

• Open Gym 5:00pm

April 25 – Monday

- Track Trempealeau County Meet TBD
- JV BBB at G-E-T 5:00pm

April 26 - Tuesday

- GSB vs Augusta 4:30pm Varsity
- Vocal Concert 7:00pm Grades 6-12

April 27 – Wednesday

• PLC – 2:30pm Dismissal

April 28 – Thursday

- Golf at Mel-Min (North Bend) 4:30pm
- Track 5:00pm

April 29 - Friday

- NO SCHOOL
- GSB at C-FC 5:00pm Varsity
- BBB at C-FC 5:00pm Varsity

April 30 - Saturday

- BBB Tournament at Lincoln 9:00am
- Prom 8:00pm –Midnight
- Post Prom Midnight 4:00am

Upcoming Events Page 23



May 2 - Monday

- Golf at Lake Wissota 3:00pm
- Track at Mel-Min 4:30pm

May 3 – Tuesday

- Golf at Strum Chip Shots 4:30pm
- GSB vs B-T 5:00pm Varsity/6:30pm
- BBB vs B-T 5:00pm Varsity

May 4 – Wednesday

- PLC 2:30pm Dismissal
- 7:00pm School Board

May 5 - Thursday

- Golf at C-FC 4:30pm
- Track at Whitehall 5:00pm

May 6 - Friday

- Track at Osseo-Fairchild 4:00pm
- BBB vs Pepin/Alma 5:00pm/Varsity

May 7 – Saturday

- GSB at Poynette
- BBB at Elmwood 10:00am

May 9 - Monday

• Golf at Whitehall Golf Course 4:30pm

May 10 - Tuesday

- BBB at Lincoln 5:00pm
- GSB vs Lincoln 5:00pm

May 11 - Wednesday

• PLC – 2:30pm Dismissal

May 12 - Thursday

- Track at B-T 4:00pm
- BBB vs Mel-Min 5:00pm Varsity
- GSB vs Mel-Min 5:00pm Varsity

May 13- Friday

- MS Track at Whitehall
- BBB vs EC Immanuel 5:00pm Varsity
- GSB vs EC Immanuel 5:00pm Varsity

May 14 - Saturday

• GSB 9:00am

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 16 - Monday

- Golf 18 Hole match conference 1:00pm
- Track (Rain date) at C-FC 5:00pm
- OR JV Meet at C-FC 5:00pm

May 17 - Tuesday

- BBB vs E-S 5:00pm Varsity
- GSB vs E-S 5:00pm Varsity

May 18 - Wednesday

• PLC – 2:30pm Dismissal

May 19 - Thursday

- Track at Whitehall TBD
- GSB at Fall Creek 5:00pm

May 20 - Friday

- MS Awards Program 9:00am
- HS Awards and Scholarships 1:30pm
- BBB at Whitehall 5:00pm

May 23 - Monday

• Regional Track at C-FC TBD

May 24- Tuesday

- Golf Regional at Valley Golf Mondovi TBD
- GSB Regional TBD
- BBB at Augusta 5:00pm Varsity

May 25 - Wednesday

- GSB Regional TBD
- PLC 2:30pm Dismissal
- Scribble Party 7:30pm

May 26 - Thursday

- Track Sectional at Bangor TBD
- BBB Regional TBD

May 27 – Friday

- GSB Regional Champtionship TBD
- End of 4th Quarter
- 12:15 Dismissal

May 28 – Saturday

Graduation 1:00pm

May 30 - Monday

Memorial Day

May 31 - Tuesday

- Golf Sectional at Cedar Creek Golf TBD
- GSB Sectional at McConnel High TBD
- BBB Regional TBD

SCHOOL CLOSING DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER School District of Independence 2015-2016

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	Eau Claire CARP 99.9FM	LaCrosse WKTY 580AM	Black River Falls WWIS 99.7FM			
Winona	I-94 94.1FM	WIZM 1410AM	Tomah			
KWNO 1230AM	WAXX 104.5FM	I Z93 93.3FM	WZFR 94.5FM			
KG Country 1380AM	WAYY 790AM	WKBT TV 8	WTMB 1490 AM			
KG-95.3FM	COOL 92.9FM	WTRV 95.7 FM 89.9)			
CD Country99.3FM	Z-100 100.7FM	CC 106.3	Eden Prairie, MN			
Soft Rock 101.1 FM	WEAU TV 13	MAGIC 105 104.9	KMSP 9			
	ESPN 1150AM	EAGLE 102.7				
	B-95 95.1 FM	Classic Rock 100.1				
	ROCK 92.1 FM	ESPN 105.5				
	News Talk 880	AM WLFN 1490 AM				
	Sports Radio 1400 AM					
	WQOW TV 18					
The Mix 98.1 FM						
www.wlcr.com	www.CC1063.com	www.lacrosseradiogroup.net	www.indps.k12.wi.us			

The monthly newsletter of Independence School District Independence, WI 54747