

Independence District

Newsletter



May, 2015

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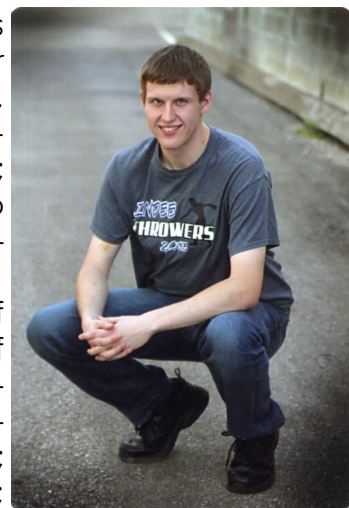
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Valedictorian and Salutatorian Named for the Class of 2015



Valedictorian
Brittney Lyga

Valedictorian of the Class of 2015 is Brittney Lyga, daughter of Dave and Cindy Lyga. Brittney's accomplishments include Class Vice-President; STARS; Yearbook; POPS. Brittney plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.



Salutatorian
Desmond Nielsen

Salutatorian of the Class of 2015 is Desmond Nielsen, son of Stacy Nielsen. Desmond's accomplishments include Class President; Student Council; ECO Club; I-Club; STARS; High Quiz Bowl; FFA; Band; POPS; Football; Boys' Basketball; Track; Cross-Country. Desmond plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Class of 2015 Graduation

The Class of 2015 will graduate Saturday, May 23, 2015, at 1:00 PM in the high school gymnasium.

Class Motto: "Remember yesterday, dream of tomorrow, but live today." - Mariska Haring

Class Colors: Purple and Black

Class Flower: White Rose With Purple Tips

Class Song: "Life is a Highway," by Rascal Flatts

Class Advisors: Darin Gray, Pamela Lehmeier, Barry Schmitt



MAIN OFFICE: (715)985-3172

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

Class of 2015 - Candidates for Graduation

Alea Nicole Baldrige	Alexandra Noelle Huff	Cameron Skroch
John Hillig Bragger	Cody A. Kabus	Cole C. Smieja
Ana Maria Esteban Diaz	Dayton Daniel Keenan	Bayli Jo Truog
Lacey Filla	Nicholas D. Koval	Kaitlynn A. Tuschner
Sara Ann Filla	Brittney Ann Lyga	Christopher James Warner
Lizabeth Gonzales	Benjamin Thomas Marsolek	Ace A.W. Whitwam
Emily Doris Guza	Desmond Nielsen	Austen A. Whitwam
Hillary Josephine Halama	Brooklyn Leona Olson	Benjamin A. Woychik
Nicholas J. Halama	Mathias Risler	Alec Joseph Wozney
	Mikayla Judith Rotering	

Other Academic Achievement Seniors

Academic Achievement is based on a cumulative grade point average of 9.5 and above. Other Academic Achievement Students of the Class of 2014 at Independence High School are:

Sara Filla is the daughter of Dave and Sandy Filla. Her accomplishments include National Honor Society; Student Council, Vice-President, Secretary; ECO; I-Club, Treasurer; STARS, Vice-President; FFA, President, Secretary; Band, Dairyland Honor Band, Color Guard; Yearbook; POPS; Volleyball; Girls' Basketball, Captain; Track, Captain; Homecoming Court; Prom Court. Sara plans to attend Chippewa Valley Technical College.

Lacey Filla is the daughter of John Filla. Her accomplishments include National Honor Society; ECO; I-Club; STARS; FFA, Reporter; Yearbook; POPS; Volleyball, Captain; Girls' Basketball, Captain; Softball, Captain; Homecoming Court. Lacey plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Kaitlynn Tuschner is the daughter of Paul and Terri Tuschner. Her accomplishments include Class Secretary; I-Club; STARS; Foreign Language; FFA, Treasurer; Band, Dairyland Honor Band, Color Guard, Pep Band; Yearbook; POPS; Volleyball; Girls' Basketball; Softball; Prom Queen. Kaitlynn plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Cody Kabus is the son of Ted and Jami Kabus. His accomplishments include National Honor Society; Class Secretary; ECO; I-Club; STARS; FFA; POPS; Golf, Captain; Prom Court. Cody plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

Christopher Warner is the son of Mike and Pata Warner. His accomplishments include National Honor Society; Student Council; I-Club; STARS; Academic Decathlon; Foreign Language; FFA; Choir; Forensics; Teen Court; POPS; Cross Country, Captain; Wrestling, Captain; Track. Christopher plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

Alec Wozney is the son of Steve and Sue Wozney. His accomplishments include ECO; I-Club; STARS; High Quiz Bowl; Drama; POPS; Football; Track, Captain; Wrestling. Alec plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Austen Whitwam is the son of Anthony Whitwam and Angela Foster. His accomplishments include National Honor Society; I-Club; STARS; FFA; Football, Captain; Track; Homecoming King; Prom Court. Austen will be joining the Army. After, he plans to enroll in the Police Academy at Chippewa Valley Technical College.

Hillary Halama is the daughter of Jerome and Tracy Halama. Her accomplishments include National Honor Society; Class Treasurer; Student Council, President, Vice-President, Treasurer; ECO; I-Club, Secretary; STARS, President; Academic Decathlon; High Quiz Bowl; Foreign Language; FFA; Band; Teen Court; POPS; Volleyball; Girls' Basketball; Track; Cheerleader Football; Homecoming Court; Prom Court. Hillary plans to attend St. Norbert College.



Famous Indee Artwork



This ceramic vessel was created by Lizbeth Gonzalez. Lizbeth is a senior and the daughter of Elizabeth Patino. Students used a hand-building technique that involves rolling out a slab of clay and adding texture before forming it loosely into an organically shaped vessel. Lizbeth created a beautiful example of this technique.

Independence School District

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Summer School Offerings

The Independence Public School will again be offering summer school for elementary students. Summer School will run from July 20, 2015 - August 7, 2015 from 8:30a.m. to 12:00/



noon. Letters have been sent home to those students that are invited to attend. The curriculum focus will be on Math and Reading to provide those children with specific skills in those areas to become more successful. Band lessons will also be provided at this time.

We are working with Pape Bus, Inc to arrange a couple of pick up and drop off points in town to help with transportation to and from summer school. FREE Breakfast and lunch will be served during the three weeks of summer school to anyone in the district under the age of 18 regardless if they attend summer school or not. Breakfast will be served from 8:00a.m. - 8:30a.m., if your child is attending summer school please have them at school by 8:15a.m. if they wish to eat breakfast. A sack lunch will be offered from 11:30-noon each day of summer school as well. Families of summer school students should pick up their child(ren) by 12:00/noon each day.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Dr. Paul Vine or Melissa Pientok at (715) 985-3172.

End of the Year Device Check In



We would like to thank the students for taking such good care of the laptops in our first year of our 1:1 initiative. The District leases these devices from Apple and in the summer District technology staff will be going over the machines to make upgrades to software. As a result students will be “checking” the devices back in prior to the end of the school year. Below is a summary of the process.

Prior the end of the school year **all middle school and high school** students will be returning their devices to the school district. On **Monday, June 1**, all students will be asked to have their computer, case and charger (with extension cord) at school as we will be returning to the check-in/check-out procedure, like

the one at the beginning of the school year. Students will still have access to their computer each day but will not be able to bring them home these last few days of school.

Seniors will be returning their laptops to school on their last day, May 22 prior to their class picnic. Any senior who does not turn in their laptop on this day may not be able to participate in the graduation ceremony.

8th grade students will check in their devices the morning of June 1st before graduation. 8th grade students whose computers are not checked on June 1st will not be allowed to attend the 8th grade class trip on June 2nd.

On June 3, all students in grades 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 will be turning in their laptop at designated times throughout the morning.

Each device will be collected and checked in by the student on their designated day to Mr. Peterson and Mrs. Pientok in the Cafetorium. This allows the tech staff to look over the devices and accessories to determine if there is any damage and/or if the student will be charged.

If the device **is** damaged or is behaving irregularly, please bring it to Mr. Peterson or Mrs. Pientok **immediately** so they can evaluate it before the end of the year check-in. Damage resulting from negligence will be a charge of up to \$100 for the first incident as stated in the Acceptable Use Policy.

When students check in their laptop, they will need the following:

- Macbook Air
- Case
- Macbook Charger
- Macbook Charger Extension Cord

If the student does not return the charger at the time of check in, they will have until the end of the last day of school to check in or will they be charged in full for the Macbook charger. **Cost of charger is \$80.00.**

During the check in time the Technology staff will be looking for the following things:

- Dents and Dropped Damage
- Missing or Damaged Keys
- Trackpad Issues
- Cracked screen, Pixel Issues
- Case Condition, Missing or Damaged Foam, Strap Condition

The Student/Parent will still be charged up to \$100 for the first incident for any damages that were not reported to the Tech Department before check in, as stated in the Acceptable Use Policy. Failure to pay before the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year may result in the student not receiving their device when school starts in the Fall.

Any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Peterson or Mrs. Pientok.

Thank You,
Independence Tech Department

Vine Line



As many of you know I will be retiring at the end of the 2014-15 school year. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to work with the Independence students, staff, and school board for the last three years. I have

truly enjoyed the chance to help make a difference in the lives of our students.

I took this job in 2012 as an interim and planned to stay here only one year. However, I came to enjoy the daily contact with students and staff. I also enjoy the challenges of meeting the needs of a diverse population of students. I loved working with a group of very dedicated and committed secretaries, aides, custodians, teachers, and administrators. I loved seeing our very hard working teachers, help ALL of our students improve academically, by implementing a direct, systematic approach to instruction and using data to make instructional decisions.

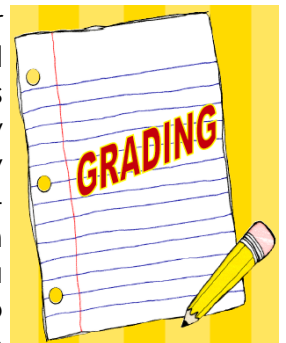
I enjoyed learning and using a positive behavior support system, PBIS, a research based process, focuses on love and caring, instead of fear and intimidation, to help students become better people and citizens. I loved working in a school that is successfully using a Response to Intervention (RTI) system which takes students from where they are and helps them learn no matter how gifted or needy they are.

I am proud of the many board policy updates, using collaborative method to create new staff handbooks, and new alternative compensation model for teachers. I am also proud of the technology updates in creating a viable wireless network and a reliable fiber backbone. I am also excited to support and be part of the boards' commitment to provide every middle and high school student a laptop. I am also proud of is the improvements our students have made in math and reading.

Kelley and I are in the process of completing our home at our family Christmas tree farm in Neillsville. We will be moving there at the end of June. I plan to spend more time with our 50,000 Christmas trees. However, I will always have fond memories of the many great students and staff here in Independence. Thank you again for providing Kelley and I this wonderful opportunity. We wish students, staff and the community all the best in the future.

Making the Grade

Readers of this newsletter and followers of our school realize that the District has been researching a new grading and reporting policy for well over a year. This began late in the fall of 2013, in November of that year a committee was formed to implement



“district-wide policies and practice that would ensure effective and consistent implementation of the grading and reporting of students' learning.” This committee then did extensive research and reading on best practices in grading. The compilation of this work was presented as a “draft” to the staff during the end-of-the-year in-service in June of 2014. The document presented a philosophy, guidelines, and practices. It became evident very soon that despite being receptive, much of the staff did not understand the components of the draft as well as the committee members did, therefore any type of implementation would have to wait.

In a collaborative culture, which is what a Professional Learning Community is all about, it is important that all knowledge is shared and understood by everyone. Although the committee had done this, it became evident at the in-service that the knowledge the committee had, would have to be shared with the rest of the staff in a more extensive fashion before they would understand the proposal. This

began early in the 2014-15 school year. At the same time the Grading and Reporting committee prioritized which guidelines and procedures should be presented to the staff.

Finally, this past March, the entire K-12 staff came to a unanimous consensus that all teachers in the district would use a grading system in which at least 80% of a student's grade would be based on summative assessments and no more than 20% of the grade would be based on formative assessments. Many teachers already had a system similar to this, but it did now require all teachers to be consistent.

So for the layman, what does this mean? What are summative and formative assessments? Examples of summative assessments are unit exams or culminating projects that assess what standards students have mastered or what content they know. Formative assessments are checks for understanding that teachers use to adjust their instruction. Many formative assessments are very informal such as verbal questioning or a thumbs up or down. Some may be more structured such as quizzes or exit tickets. Homework could be considered a formative assessment at times, but I like to think of homework as "practice" for the "game", with the "game" being the summative assessment.

What this policy does is ensure that the majority of the grade is based on what the student actually knows, instead of being based on behavior or effort. This is not to say that behavior, work ethic, and homework are not important, but a grade should report what a student actually knows in content or what the student has mastery of instead of being based on being a "good kid" or they "try hard". Those characteristics can be communicated by other means and should not be reflected in a grade that is supposed to report what a student knows.

When our students are assessed on statewide standardized tests and those results are compared to students in other schools, the score is based on what students know. Therefore our grades should reflect the same philosophy.

As we continue to pursue best practices in grading, there will be many controversial topics that will need to be addressed. I ask that before you make any judgments regarding school grading policies and guidelines that you first review the research or contact an administrator to discuss the research the policy is based upon. As our draft policy states the primary purpose of grading is to communicate achievement status to students, parents, and others. The District is working hard to do that in a consistent and fair manner. The task is far from over and more guidelines for grading will be proposed and researched before deciding if they are a good fit for the "Best School Ever".

Bärry Schmitt, 6-12 Principal

The Journey Continues

As we wind down the 2014-15 school year, it is always a time of reflection and evaluation of the previous year and to use that information to move forward to next year. As many of you also know, my responsibilities will change for next year from 6-12 Principal to District Administrator and 9-12 Principal. As I said four years ago when I became 6-12 Principal, I am honored to be able to serve this district. This year marks my thirtieth year working for the School District of Independence and there is no other place I would rather be. I am not sure when this journey will end. I have enjoyed the ride so far and hope to continue it until the time is right to move on to another chapter in my life.

When I came to the district in 1985 as a mathematics and computer science teacher, I really had no idea what I would be doing in 30 years. I was naive and excited to be starting my career in education. What I did know though, is that I wanted to be pre



pared for whatever opportunities would present themselves. As I stated in my first newsletter article as 6-12 Principal in August 2011, "I'd rather have something I'll never have to use, than to miss an opportunity because I don't have what is needed." Therefore, I continued my education by first earning a Master's Degree and then continued to earn credits to become licensed as a Principal and then last June as a District Administrator. Education is the key to opportunity and that is something I will continue to emphasize to the students, staff, and community of this great school.

I truly do believe this is a great school and one of my first priorities will be to communicate that. I see a number of Indee Pride signs around the community and I truly am proud of this school. I will strive to instill that pride to everyone in the District.

By no means do I take my new position lightly. Although I have no experience as a District Administrator, I am not as naive as I was thirty years ago when I came to Independence. I understand the challenges that lie ahead of me, such as acquiring resources in response to the state budget, retaining quality teachers, and increasing academic achievement of all students. At the same time I must maintain those things we excel at like our progressiveness as a district with technology and our high participation ratio of students in extracurricular activities. I also must continue to keep myself energized by balancing my professional and personal life. Any area of education can overwhelm an individual so it is important to find time for family and recreation. My philosophy in that area is to always be productive with your time. Professionally that means pursuing the goals of the District. Personally that means doing activities that I enjoy such as the outdoors and athletics.

In concluding, I again would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Board of Education, the staff, and the community for the faith they have shown in me by offering me the position of District Administrator. It is a goal of mine to bring those three mentioned groups closer

together and agree on the mission of the District. I said in my interviews that I would work to achieve that. Now I have that opportunity. Please feel free to contact or approach me at any time. Together we will become the "Best District Ever!"

Bärry Schmitt

BSE

FFA Banquet & Awards Night

On Saturday April 11th, 2015 the Independence FFA held their 76th FFA banquet. The banquet was conducted by 2014-15 FFA Officer team; President Sara Filla, Vice President Tessa Brägger, Treasurer Justin Gierok, Secretary Steven Gamroth, Sentinel Nick Halama, Reporter Lacey Filla and Student Advisor Cody Kabus. Our new 2015 - 2016 officers are as follows; President Steven Gamroth, Vice President Hannah Halama, Treasurer Justin Gierok, Secretary Tessa Brägger, Sentinel Dakota Waletzko, Reporter Jaydin Guza, and Student Advisor Susan Thoma.



Receiving their Greenhand FFA degrees included Allison Brägger, Jacob Rotering, Andrew Proulx, Brian Gamroth, Gina Gamroth, Russell Heiden, Sara Marsolek, Heather Marsolek, Morgan Becker, Anna Brägger, Hunter Fredrickson, Jonny Warner, and Josh Conrad.

Receiving the Chapter FFA degrees included Dakota Waletzko, Susan Thoma, Cody Kabus, Abbi Kotlarz, Alex Grulkowski, Hannah Halama, Alejandro Ramos, and Lacey Filla.

Receiving the Star in Agriscience Award was Geri Fredrickson. Receiving the Star Chapter Greenhand was Hunter Fredrickson. Receiving the Star in Agriculture Placement Award was Dakota Waletzko. The Chapter Star Farmer

Award was presented to Nick Halama. Sara Filla also received the DeKalb Award, which included a \$100 scholarship sponsored by Independence FFA Chapter.

This year's "Friends of the FFA" inductees included Russ Niedzielko, Ann Miemietz, Julie Pronshinske, and Bill & Ginger Maliszewski. The FFA Chapter raised \$5,300 during the Live Auction, hosted by Northern Investment Company and auctioneer Jamie Back.

by Jaydin Guza

Ag Mechanics Team Competes at State!

The Ag. Mechanics Team of Alex Grulkowski, Justin Gierok, John Brägger, and Dakota Waletzko competed at the State FFA Career Development Event Contest held at UW-Madison and Madison Area Technical College on Friday, April 24th. The team finished in 10th place out of 20 schools. Justin Gierok placed highest individually, ranking 9th.



Left to Right: Justin Gierok, Alex Grulkowski, Dakota Waletzko, John Brägger

FFA Members Compete at UW-River Falls CDE Contest

On Saturday, March 28th 11 Independence FFA members competed in the Regional Career Development Event Contest at UW-River Falls.

The Ag Mechanics team finished in First Place and Qualified for the State Contest at UW-Madison on Friday, April 24! Individually, Alex Grulkowski finished 7th individually, Justin Gierok 10th, Dakota Waletzko 12th, and John Brägger 18th.

The Wildlife Team of Cody Kabus, Dayton Keenan, and Steven Gamroth finished 11th out of 37 teams. Cody Kabus finished 9th overall individually out of 116 contestants.

Dairy Cattle Evaluation- Anna Brägger and Morgan Becker placed 27th out of 49 schools and the Horse Evaluation team of Jaydin and Lacey finished 19th out of 30 schools.



Back Row (L to R): Alex Grulkowski, Dakota Waletzko, John Brägger, Justin Gierok, Morgan Becker, Anna Brägger

Front Row: Steven Gamroth, Cody Kabus, Dayton Keenan, Jaydin Guza, Lacey Filla

The Independence School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs, activities, or employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 may be referred to the District Administrator, School District of Independence, 23786 Indee Blvd., Independence, WI 54747. Any complaint alleging noncompliance with Title IX must be in writing and include a statement of facts comprising the alleged non-compliance, and to signed and dated.

Forensics Wrap-up

The 2015 High School Forensics season has drawn to a close and the Independence team has had a very successful year! In January and February, the team traveled to Holmen High School and UW-Eau Claire for invitational tournaments. These tournaments encourage early preparation and also serve as learning experiences for younger team members.

March brought our first real contest, Subdistrict, held at Alma High School. Team members need to score 16 or higher [out of 25] in two of three rounds to earn the right to go on to District Contest. The entire team went on to District.

Those competing at District were Brittny Brown, Solo Acting; Rebecca Casper, Solo Acting; Christopher Warner, Moments in History; Jon Warner, Prose; Dustin Marsolek, Moments in History; Miranda Stegerwald, Poetry; Susan Thoma, Poetry; and Alex Truog and Nathan Warner, Play Acting.

At District, members needed to score 20 or higher [out of 25] to earn the right to go on to State.

The annual Showcase for parents and friends was held on Monday, April 13.

The team traveled to UW-Madison for State Contest on Saturday, April 18.



Left to Right: Susan Thoma, Miranda Stegerwald, Becky Casper, Brittny Brown, Alex Truog, Christopher Warner, Dustin Marsolek, & Nathan Warner

At State, Susan Thoma and Christopher Warner won bronze medals. Rebecca Casper, Dustin Marsolek, Miranda Stegerwald, and Brittny Brown won silver medals.

Alex Truog and Nathan Warner won gold medals for a perfect performance.

Congratulations, all! Coaches Susan Solli and Danielle Lahr are very proud of you!

Independence Public School Medal Winners for Solo and Ensemble Festival

The 2015 Solo and Ensemble Music Contest was held at Blair-Taylor High School on Saturday, March 28th. Music students in Grades 6 through 12 were eligible to compete. Congratulations to all students as well as their instructors Ms. Lahr and Ms. Lehmeier.

Class C is considered the beginning class - easier literature and the judging is lenient - looking for mainly the basics of rhythmic accuracy and correct pitches with some expression. Class B is the intermediate class. Literature list is more difficult in keys and time signatures. Stylistic playing and technique is judged more critically. Class A is the advanced class, which encompasses masterworks in literature of all time periods and styles. Judging is intense in all areas of tone, intonation, accuracy, interpretation, techniques. Students typically begin in Class C and move up as their skill set increases.

Class C

Bronze- Hallie Miller and Jennessa Kamrowski
(Vocal Duet)

Silver- Gabriel Rombalski (Vocal Solo)
Alyssa Kulig and Melanie Ovalle
(Vocal Duet)
Breanne Brown (Vocal Solo)
Peyton Hale (Vocal Solo)

Gold- Harley Goetting (Vocal Solo)
Joseph Pyka (Trumpet Solo)
Brittny Brown (Tuba Solo)

L to R: Aleigha Campbell & Harley Goetting



Class B

- Silver-** Aleigha Campbell (Vocal Solo)
 Amy Lien (Vocal Solo)
 Melanie Ovalle (Vocal Solo)
 Isabella Steinke and Destiny Campbell (Vocal Duet)
 Katie Frederickson (Vocal Solo)
 Brittney Brown and Becky Casper (Vocal Duet)

- Gold-** Destiny Campbell (Vocal Solo)
 Priscilla Medina and Elvecia Najera (Vocal Duet)
 Isabella Steinke (Flute Solo)



Isabella Steinke



Jorgiann Gierok



L to R: Cody Blaha, Joseph Pyka, Brittney Brown, Miranca Stegerwald

Class A

- Bronze-** Becky Casper (Vocal Solo)
- Silver-** Devon Diebold and Lupita Madrigal (Vocal Duet)
 Cody Blaha (Vocal Solo)
 Miranda Stegerwald (Vocal Solo)
 Susan Thoma (Vocal Solo)
 Brittney Brown (Vocal Solo)
 Miranda Stegerwald (Music Theater)
 Susan Thoma (Music Theater)
 Becky Casper (Music Theater)
- Gold-** Jorgiann Gierok (Vocal Solo)
 Jorgiann Gierok (Music Theater)
 Baillie Bautch (Vocal Solo)
 Baillie Bautch (Music Theater)
 Mikayla Rotering (Sax Solo)
 Alex Truog (Trumpet Solo)
 Baillie Bautch and Mikayla Rotering (Duet)



Dorian Update

Approximately 625 musicians participate in the Dorian Band Festival on the campus of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. Students are a part of three festival bands: two Festival Massed Bands and the select Festival Symphonic Band. The Symphonic Band consists of the 70-80 students who audition for chair placement upon their arrival for the Festival. The following Independence High School students were selected to attend the 2015 Luther College Honor Band Festival.

Alex Truog, Trumpet; Lexi Huff, Bass Clarinet; Brittney Brown, Tuba; and Joseph Pyka, Trumpet.



L to R: Lexi Huff, Alex Truog, Joseph Pyka, Brittney Brown



L to R: Lexi Huff, Alex Truog, Brittney Brown, Mrs. Lehmeier



Middle School Track

Just a few short weeks ago we kicked off our Middle School track season. Thursday April 23 was our first meet at G.E.T. High School. Students competed in numerous events and had lots of fun. We competed against many area schools including Arcadia, GET, Whitehall, Black River Falls and Alma-Pepin. Athletes especially enjoyed participating in the relays together. We have three more meets this season with our upcoming meet on Friday May 8 at Arcadia. We'd love to have all the fans we can get to cheer us on!



Back Row (L to R):

Tyler Christianson,
Zach Taylor

Front Row (L to R):

Chase Cooper,
Jackson Konter



Middle School Forensics

The MS Forensics team traveled to Bangor for the final Level II contest. The entire team earned blue ribbons at the contest. Team members included:

- Amy Lien
- Nevaeh Scow
- Janelle Proulx
- Jorgiann Gierok
- Melanie Ovalle
- Alyssa Kulig
- Chase Cooper
- Ashley Lundgren
- Isabella Steinke
- Aleigha Campbell
- Johnny Fonstad
- Breanne Brown

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.

Register for Tractor Safety Class

The Tractor & Farm Machinery Safety course will be held June 8th -11th from 9:00 am-3:00 pm, and will be offered at Independence High School (Ag Room) being taught by Independence, Arcadia, and Whitehall Agriculture Instructors. Students will learn how to operate tractors varying from 30-200 horsepower. The cost for the course is \$15.00 to cover the cost of the work book, which the student keeps.

Students that are 12 years of age who will be operating tractors or self-propelled farm machinery on public roads for their own family need this certification, as well as youth 14-15 years of age need the federal certificate of training for employment on farm in accordance with Part 570, Child Labor Regulations. Please bring a sack lunch each day. To register, please contact Jason Hovell at school at 715-985-3172 ext. 127, or via email at hovellj@indps.k12.wi.us. **Registration for Tractor Safety is due by May 15th.**

To register for the course, please contact Jason Hovell at school at [715-985-3172 ext. 127](tel:715-985-3172), cell [608-534-0024](tel:608-534-0024) or via email at hovellj@indps.k12.wi.us.

ATV Safety Class

Independence Public School is hosting an **ATV Safety course June 29th-July 1st from 1:00pm-4:00pm** at Independence High School in the Ag Room, Room 319. The DNR requires all ATV riders to take this safety course if born after January 1, 1988 if operating on any land that is not owned by an immediate family member or on public trails or routes. Course Fee is \$10.00. **Registration deadline is June 12th.**

Please come to class the first day with a WI DNR Customer ID number, which you obtained while getting a hunting license. If you do not have one, you can get it by calling 1-888-936-7463. To register, contact agriculture instructor Jason Hovell at (715-985-3172 ext. 127, or hovellj@indps.k12.wi.us.

Capitol Tour



On Monday, April 20th the fourth and fifth grade class, along with Ms. Larson, Ms. Matejka, Ms. McCauley and Mrs. Sonsalla, took their bi-annual trip to Madison, WI to tour the state capitol. In fourth grade, the Social Studies curriculum is based on Wisconsin's History and Government, so the capitol trip was a first hand experience of our state's government at work. During the tour the students learned about the very first capitol building, the process of building the current building, and the jobs of each branch of government. Students made great connections between the natural resources in Wisconsin and how we used them to build the new capitol building. Our tour guide helped us understand the roles of our representatives, from our local area and the state level, in the branches of government. We want to thank the Board of Education and our Administration for granting us the opportunity to take a day to explore. A big thank you to our parent-chaperones for spending the day with us!



Enrichment Update

This year there have been several opportunities for students at the Independence Public School to expand their horizons and be challenged in various ways through events that are organized by the Mississippi Valley Gifted and Talented Network (MVGTN) along with differentiated activities within the classroom. Students have participated in challenge activities in their classroom as well as quiz bowls, spelling bees, performing arts and heritage fairs.

The 4th graders all had the opportunity to select and research a topic related to Wisconsin Heritage. April 15- April 17 students presented their projects to their classroom teachers, Mrs. Pientok, and Dr. Vine and from that presentation 6 students were chosen to represent Independence at the Regional Fair in Ettrick. All the 4th graders should be commended on their projects, they put a lot of hard work put into these projects all were excellent examples of Wisconsin Heritage.

The MVGTN Heritage Fair took place on April 28, 2015 at Ettrick Elementary. The following students and their project titles presented their projects at this fair:

Mason Gierok-- From Farm to Factory, Cheese Making Process



Cora Sonsalla Ashley Furniture, Inc.



Rheanna Steinke Laura Ingalls Wilder



Carson Rajkowski The Green Bay Packers



Gavin Bragger -- Bow Hunting



Gifted & Talented Wrap-Up

As the year wraps up there are still a couple of events on the schedule. On May 1st, twelve 5th graders will get to experience what it is like to be on a college campus and even take some classes at UW-La Crosse for the day. Students, were asked to write an essay explaining why attending Kids College would be beneficial to them. From those essays and looking at achievement scores 12 students were selected to attend this event. Students experienced classes that showed how a TV production is put on, learned about the weather, took a Korean percussion class as well as learned about what it's like to live in a dorm and go to classes. The students thought that this was a great experience and really enjoyed the event.

Our last event of the year will be Battle of the Books, students in grades 5-8 were given a book list to read at the beginning of the school year. Four adventurous 5th graders took on the task of reading these books and now will compete against other teams to see who can remember the most from their readings. This competition will take place on May 12, 2015 in Arcadia.

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



Left to Right: Weston G., Kevin H., Marcelina R., Mackenzie T., Chloe C., Aubrie P., Leslie G., Avery P., Lleyimi H., Kevin R.

Family Reading Night

On Wednesday, April 8, students in grades 4K through 3 at both IPS and SSPP and their parents attended the third Independence Lions Family Fun Reading Night. In all, about eighty people came to school to enjoy reading-centered family activities.

The evening began at 5:30 with a supper of barbecue, hot dogs, chips, carrots, fruit, and bars. At 6 PM the participants were invited to choose which activity they would engage in for a 20 minute period. There were several activities to choose from, including making bookmarks, playing board games, exploring iPads, and listening to Celebrity Readers read their favorite books. The evening was structured so that participants could change two more times before the 7 PM drawing for door prizes. At the close of the evening, each child was allowed to choose a book to take home.

The evening was completely free for those who attended. Lions International continues to encourage participation in a literacy initiative through a Reading Action Program, and the

response to Family Reading Night continues to be positive. Lions members purchased and prepared the food for the supper and contributed their time and materials to helping the children and parents at the various activities. The Lions wish to thank the Rainbow Community Club for sponsoring the gift books; Pata and Daniela Warner and IPS language educators Holly Knudtson and Alie Bultmann for greeting and translating; Pamela Lehmeier and Anne Gierok for being Celebrity Readers; and Chris Pyka for helping with iPads. A special thank you goes to Girl Scout Leaders Renee Casper and Tiffany Theisen for bringing Cora Sonsalla, Rhianna Theisen, Jocelyn Perry, Grace Roskos, Rheanna Steinke, and Andi Laehn to help with the evening.



Lisa Schultz Benefit



A benefit is being planned for Lisa by friends and colleagues on Saturday, July 11, 2015 at Cabin Creek Bar in Elk Creek from 11:00am – Midnight. Planned activities for ALL AGES include music and the following entertainment:

Poker Run	Silent Auction & Chinese Raffle
Bake Sale	Live Auction
Bean Bag Toss	Food Stand
Possible Volleyball Tournament	Kids Bouncer

Donations of any size are welcome for the auctions, raffles, and door prizes. Donations can be dropped off at the Independence State Bank or the Independence Public School. Our community is known for supporting each other during difficult times and we sincerely hope you will consider showing your support for this family. Hope to see you July 11, 2015.

Race for Boxtops

The Independence elementary students have been taking part in the "Indee 500" Race for Boxtops. Each grade level was given the challenge in March to begin collecting boxtops. Their goal was to collect at least 500 boxtops for their grade level. Each week boxtops have been collected and the grade level's race car has been moved around the track. The grade levels that cross the 500 finish line will be having a celebration in their classroom. The "Indee 500" Race for Boxtops will be ending May 15. If you still have boxtops that need to be cut, collected and turned in please do so before that date. Great job to all the students who have brought in boxtops.

Each grade level is almost to the 500 finish line!



Elementary Clean-Up

Thanks to the Independence Elementary teachers and students for doing their part to keep our environment clean. On Monday, April 27 elementary students and teachers took their recess time to pick up trash around the Independence School building track and baseball fields. Thank you to all for making a difference.



Left to Right: Rhianna Theisen, Rheanna Steinke, Mitchell Halvorson, Damon Connor, Luis Esteban Diaz, Christopher Amador Perez



Left to Right: Kylie Przybilla, Andrea Laehn



PBIS INDEE PRIDE WINNERS 2014-2015 Third Quarter

Indee pride is in the air. On Thursday, March 26, the third quarter Indee Pride awards were given out to many lucky Independence Elementary students. The students received awards for achievements in Reading, Math, and Behavior. The students were chosen by their AimsWeb scores and looking at their PBIS data.

Keep up the great work Indees!

KINDERGARTEN

<u>READING</u>	<u>MATH</u>	<u>BEHAVIOR</u>
Evelyn Cano Lopez	Dalton Jasin	Ingrid Ortiz Ortiz
Miriam Cano Alejo	Sofia Gonzalez Rubio	Emmalee Jasin
Sophie Edge	Talon Sobczak	
Chloe Paulson		



First Grade

<u>READING</u>	<u>MATH</u>	<u>BEHAVIOR</u>
Aidan Kirtley	Brennan Steinke	Veanna Hyde
Alex Tomas Torres		
Nancy Maldonado Ortiz		



Second Grade

<u>READING</u>	<u>MATH</u>	<u>BEHAVIOR</u>
Olga Quintanilla	Kendra Klimek	Camila Cantu Lucio
Fernanda Hernandez Gardia	Jack Lopez Maldonado	Heidi Hernandez



Third Grade

<u>READING</u>	<u>MATH</u>	<u>BEHAVIOR</u>
Eimy Ambriz Bustos	Grace Fonstad	Cristian Blas Alejo
	Mason Brugger	Brandon Bustos



Fourth Grade

<u>READING</u>	<u>MATH</u>	<u>BEHAVIOR</u>
Kiley Pryzbilla	Jazlyn Rose	Eddy Torres
	Carson Rajkowski	Jacobo Medina



Fifth Grade

<u>READING</u>	<u>MATH</u>	<u>BEHAVIOR</u>
Christopher Tuma	Lleyami Hernandez	Jaiden Lambright
Alan Hernandez	Brenda Jimenez Ramos	Kevin Ramirez



**June 1 – Monday**

- 8th Grade Graduation 10:15am

June 2 – Tuesday

- Golf Sectional
- GSB Sectional Semifinals @Augusta HS
- BBB Regionals 5:00pm

June 3 - Wednesday

- End of 4th Quarter 12:15pm dismissal
- BBB Regionals 5:00pm
- Miss Independence Variety Show 7:00pm

June 4 – Thursday

- Teacher In Service Day
- GSB Sectional Championship @ Gilman HS

June 5 - Friday

- State Track @ UW-La Crosse
- BBB Regional Championship

June 6 - Saturday

- State Track @ UW-La Crosse
- Independence Day Celebration

June 8 – Monday

- Spring Awards/Senior Night 6:00pm

June 9 - Tuesday

- Tractor Safety Course
- BBB Varsity Sectional @ Bangor HS

June 10 - Wednesday

- Tractor Safety Course

June 11 - Thursday

- Tractor Safety Course

June 15 - Monday

- FFA State Convention

June 16 - Tuesday

- FFA State Convention

June 17 - Wednesday

- FFA State Convention

June 18 – Thursday

- FFA State Convention

June 30 – Tuesday

- Girls Basketball League 5-9pm HS Gym



UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4 – Saturday

- Happy 4th of July

July 7 - Tuesday

- FFA Officer Training

July 8 - Wednesday

- FFA Officer Training

July 9 - Thursday

- FFA Officer Training

July 20 - Monday

- Eagle Paw Football Camp 5:00pm-8:00pm

July 21 - Tuesday

- Eagle Paw Football Camp 5:00pm-8:00pm

July 22 - Wednesday

- Eagle Paw Football Camp 5:00pm-8:00pm

July 23 - Thursday

- Eagle Paw Football Camp 5:00pm-8:00pm



2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR, INDEPENDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOL Final – Board approved March 4, 2015

12:15 dismissal
 Teacher Day
 Vacation Day
 End of Quarter
 Holiday
 PT Conf
 * PLC 2:30 dismiss

<p>August 2015</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		3	4	5	6	7			10	11	12	13	14			17	18	19	20	21			24	25	26	27	28			31						<p>August 2015</p> <p>Teacher Days - 4</p>	<p>January 2016</p> <p>*6,13,20,27, PLC 2:30 PM</p> <p>1 New Years Day 4 School Resumes 15 End 2nd Qtr/12:15 Dismissal</p> <p>Student Days - 20 Teacher Days - 21</p>	<p>January 2016</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1			4	5	6	7	8			11	12	13	14	15			18	19	20	21	22			25	26	27	28	29	
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<p>Student Days</p> <p>First Qtr – 43 Second Qtr – 45 Third Qtr – 48 Fourth Qtr - 43</p> <p>Total 180</p>	<p>Inclement weather/snow make up days may be made up on the following days:</p> <p>May 31 snow make-up</p>	<p>June 2016</p> <p>1 <i>Snow Make up</i></p>	<p>June 2016</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		12	13	14	15	16	17		19	20	21	22	23	24		26	27	28	29	30																																											
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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