



First Quarter Newsletter

Indian Creek Elementary

A Note From Mrs. Kretschmar

Dear Indian Creek Families,

It is hard to believe how quickly this beginning of the school year has gone...we are just finishing our first quarter of school. All of the students have adjusted to being back in school and all seem to be happy and enjoy being here with their friends, staff and wanting to learn.

As many of you know, Linn-Mar has adopted a new K-2 reading program called SuperKids. We have seen the impact this new curriculum has in building foundational reading skills for our younger students which is important, but what we have also discovered is the children LOVE the characters in SuperKids and are wanting to read and learn more about them. It is wonderful to see such an interest in reading! A special note, our third and fourth grade students will be experiencing new reading curriculum next year.

It's almost impossible to overestimate the tremendous impact parents have on their child's reading success. Throughout the first years of school, teachers are helping your child develop reading skills that will enable him or her to become a proficient reader. Learning to read takes practice, practice, and more practice. We often have parents ask us, "what can we do at home to help our children with reading?" and we would like to take this opportunity to offer some tips:

- Talking to your child often helps to building listening and speaking skills, and it also helps develop vocabulary. Ways you can develop this is to:
 - Talk with your child as you go about your daily activities.
 - Have your child make up and verbally tell you stories. Asking them questions about his/her story helps him/her to expand on ideas in the story.
 - Tell them stories about your childhood.
 - Discuss books you read together.
- Play alphabet and word games:
 - If your child is in kindergarten have him/her identify and name the letters of the alphabet.
 - Sing songs and say nursery rhymes. Play rhyming games.
 - With an older child play Boggle or Scrabble Jr.
- Read to your child often and talk to him/her about the words and ideas in the book.
 - Before reading, discuss pictures in the book. This helps building background about the story.
 - As you read, point out book feature such as the title, author's name, and front/back of book.
 - While reading, occasionally stop and talk about the meaning of the book.
 - Encourage your child to ask questions about the story.
 - Explain the meaning of new vocabulary words (children are good at pointing to words that are new to him/her).
- Listen to your child read.
 - Be patient and let your child know how proud you are of them.
 - If your child does not know the word, help him/her sound it out or simply tell him/her the word – don't slow down the reading process.
 - Rereading is a great way to develop fluency.
 - Explain the meaning of new vocabulary words.

We hope these tips are helpful when helping your child read at home.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Laura James, Indian Creek Counselor

Hard to believe that we have ended our first quarter of the 2021-2022 school year! Within this first quarter, students are already making great strides in their learning, nurturing friendships, making new ones, and getting settled into their classroom routines. It is great to see all the success that has happened so far in this short amount of time we have been back to school. In guidance classes we have been talking about what it looks like to be respectful and responsible learners. We talk about this in order to be good listeners and successful at following directions; we need to have that ready to learn brain with us each day! A ready to learn brain is one that focused and feeling good. We talk about the importance of a good night's rest and fueling our bodies with nutrient packed meals to sustain that focus on our learning instead of on our growling tummies or tired bodies. When I am in their classrooms teaching, I am noticing more and more tired and hungry bodies and less of those ready to learn brains.

This time of year, gets busy with many after school activities and having a solid routine can be hard. However, it is important to remember that kids need that structure and routine to be successful. A sleep routine is one way to help impact your child's day not only at school, but at home too. Establishing a routine allows for kids to have better night's sleep, helps with working memory, attention, and other cognitive skills. This routine can also improve their moods and behaviors. As a family, do you have a set bedtime routine? If not, it may be something fun to start doing as a family! It may be a few books that you read together, or a chapter of a book read and then lights go out. Another important part of the routine is focusing on what time kids are going to bed. Most elementary aged students need roughly 12 hours of sleep a night. Even getting an extra 30 minutes at night sleeping can make a huge difference on sustaining focus and learning for the day!

I look forward to the next quarter of learning with the students and continuing to watch their growth and development in their academic areas but also social-emotional learning as well! As always, please reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have. I am happy to be a part of your child's elementary years of learning and want to be that support for not only them, but you as parents as well!

Facilitator News...

COURTNEY SKONECZKA, SCHOOL FACILITATOR

Hey Parents and Guardians!

We all know emotional regulation is important, so why not give our students the tools and knowledge to regulate their emotions?

With that being said, Indian Creek has introduced something new and exciting this year! We now have Calming Corner baskets in each classroom! In there, students will find several different fidgets and calming tools that they can use to help regulate those big feelings and emotions!



One of our main goals is to keep students in the classroom and learning, but just like anyone, sometimes we get frustrated or struggle to stay in the 'ready to learn brain'. Mrs. James has done a wonderful job teaching each class during guidance about how to properly use the calming corner, so students can stay in the classroom, continue to hear instructions, all while trying to get back in that ready to learn mindset!

If the students use the Calming Corner and still feel they need a break, out of their classroom, my space is always available!



Instagram

Follow Indian Creek Elementary on Instagram

@indiancreekelementary

PBIS

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports

What is PBIS?

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) provides school-wide proactive, systematic, and individualized strategies for all students. Our goal is to support our students social-emotional learning in a safe environment while preventing problem behaviors with all students.

How does it work?

At Indian Creek we have four positive expectations that are taught, practiced, and reinforced throughout the building and school year. Our students hear our expectations daily during the morning announcements: At Indian Creek we are respectful, responsible, ready and we care. Throughout the building our students are immersed in our universal, positive language from all staff. As a staff, we acknowledge students following our school-wide expectations with our Thank You notes.

Every classroom is working to earn 100 Thank You notes when they earn 100 Thank You notes, they will have a classroom celebration. As a school, we have a new visual to represent 100 Thank You notes, a giant gum ball machine. Every gum ball equals 100 thank you notes. This is amazing, so many positive behaviors taking place at Indian Creek this year, and it's only the 1st quarter!!



PBIS at home...

- Ask your student about our school-wide expectations.
 - Respectful, Responsible, Ready & Care
- Work together to decide what the Indian Creek expectations look like in your home and community.
- Ask your student about Thank You notes.
 - Have they received any this year?
 - Classroom celebrations?

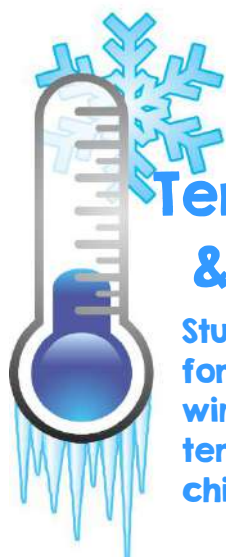


Fall and Winter Recess



Dress FOR Recess

INDIAN CREEK STUDENTS WILL GO OUTSIDE FOR RECESS EVERY DAY. DURING THE COOLER FALL MORNINGS STUDENTS MAY NEED JACKETS OR SWEATSHIRTS FOR MORNING RECESSES. SO PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK THE WEATHER FORECASTS AND DRESS APPROPRIATELY FOR OUTDOOR RECESS. EVERY DAY!



Frosty Temperatures & Wind Chill

Students will go outside for recess during the winter months unless the temperature or wind chill is **zero or below**.

Snowy Weather

If there is snow on the ground, these are the guidelines we will be using at Indian Creek for the playground:

1. Children without snow boots (boots that are not worn all day long) will be asked to play on the shoveled areas of the playground only.
2. Children with snow boots will be allowed to walk in the snowy areas.
3. Children with snow boots, snow pants/snow suits, and mittens/gloves will be allowed to play in the snow.

It is also a good idea to send hat/hood, ear band or earmuffs, mittens/gloves as well. Since we all know the weather in Iowa changes quickly, it would be helpful if you could send these things with your child daily (a plastic grocery bag or a one of the recyclable grocery bags would be a great carryall bag). This way we all are sure to enjoy the snowy days on the playground without becoming wet and cold.

Please label each item with your child's name.

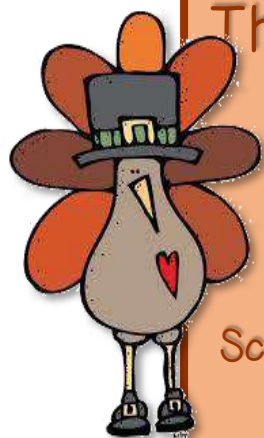
Our health office is no longer loaning winter wear for students to use at recess. Thanks!!!!

Be prepared for the fall & winter weather!
Bring your coats, hats, mittens/gloves, and boots to school.

Weather Related Announcements

On occasion due to inclement weather school may start late, be dismissed early, or not be in session at all. Please check the district website or listen to the local television and radio stations for current information on closings/delays.

- Radio stations include: WMT, KCKK, KFXA, KHAK, KKRQ, KMRY and KZIA.
- Television stations include: KGAN (2), KCRG (9), or KWWL (7).
- You can also check the scrolling banner at the top of the Linn-Mar District website at: www.linnmar.k12.ia.us.
- Parents can receive emergency notifications by going to the Linn-Mar webpage. To register, scroll to the bottom and locate the emergency notifications tab and follow the online instructions.
- Parents should make advance childcare arrangements in case of emergency situations. Be sure to talk to your student about the procedures they need to follow on early dismissal days. Indicate where your student should go in case of an emergency dismissal during your completion of the eRegistration process.



Thanksgiving Break

November 24

November 25

November 26

School will not be in session.

Enjoy your break!



Thursday, December 2,

is picture re-take day at Indian Creek.

Winter Break

December 23

through December 31.

No School Days

October 25

Teacher Collaboration Day

November 15

Professional Learning Day



Staff Spotlight




Mrs. Felber 2nd grade teacher. I love teaching 2nd grade! My husband Mark and I have two amazing kids. Quinn is a freshman at Kirkwood and Maclain is a freshman at Linn-Mar. I have two sisters who are also teachers in the area, and we love to spend time together with our families and our parents. You will often find me supporting all my nephews as well as my kiddos at sporting events.



Mrs. Fritz Instructional Strategist. After eight years of teaching special education and fourteen years in third grade, I am currently the Math Strategist at Indian Creek. I love being able to work on math with the teachers and students at all grade levels!



Mrs. Hutcheson PE teacher. I've been a Physical Education teacher here at Indian Creek for over 25 years. I enjoy working with young students, helping them find joy in physical activity, gain confidence and perseverance, help build lasting friendships, and inspire an overall healthy lifestyle.



Ms. Rosenkranz music teacher. I have been here for 27 years. I love sharing the joy of music to our students. I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, biking, and cooking!



Mrs. Strauser attendance & guidance counselor secretary. I have worked here at Indian Creek for just over 25 years. My favorite color is purple.



Mrs. Sanchez media assistant. I'm in my 16th year working at Indian Creek Elementary. My first 10 years were spent working as a Student Support Associate. and the last 6 years as the Media Associate. In my spare time, I love to READ, spend time with my family and work outside.



Mrs. Havlicek art teacher. I have been teaching art to students at Indian Creek for 21 years. I love seeing your children's art skills develop and grow. I enjoy spending time with my family, puzzling, being outside and cooking!



Mrs. Oliver 1st grade teacher. This is my 25th year of teaching Firsties at Indian Creek, and I love witnessing their brains growing so quickly! When I'm not here, I love spending time outside gardening, hiking, fishing, and relaxing with family and friends.



Mrs. Rosendale health assistant. This is my 20th year as Health Assistant at Indian Creek Elementary. My husband and I enjoy ballroom dancing. I love the outdoors and time spent with my family, friends, and my Great Dane, Merlin.



Mrs. Zahradnik 4th grade teacher. I have been teaching at Indian Creek for 13 years. I spent one year in kindergarten and the last 12 years in 4th grade. In my free time, I enjoy reading, baking, and walking my mini-schnauzer Dexter.

We  our Indian Creek staff!

Staff Spotlight



Mrs. Tipton reading specialist. I teach reading support for grades K-4. The 2021-2022 school year marks the 19th year I've been a teacher at Linn-Mar and the 37th year I've been in teaching. I enjoy sharing the love of reading with students.



Mrs. Franck kindergarten teacher. I am a Kindergarten teacher here at Indian Creek! I have been teaching k for 17 years! I love spending time with my family and friends, going to sporting events, and enjoy my silver lab George!



Mrs. Haugse kindergarten teacher. I have been teaching at Indian Creek for 18 years in kindergarten. I live in Mount Vernon, IA with my family. I love keeping busy by attending my own children's activities, walking, and reading.



Miss Joan kitchen server. I've worked at Indian Creek Food service for 14-15 years.. I love my daughter Sarah, my cat Remy 😊, love campfires, fishing, coffee on the front porch on summer mornings, and family get togethers. Love working at Indian Creek and all my kids, at Indian Creek 😊👍



Mrs. Monaghan kindergarten teacher. This is my 31st year of teaching. My husband and I have 5 kids, 2 son-in-laws, and 2 grandsons that we love to spend time with. We live on a farm.



Mrs. Taylor student support assistant. This is my 5th year at Indian Creek. I've so enjoyed getting to know the students, along with working with them as an associate. In my free time, some things I enjoy are reading, baking, and taking long walks



Mrs. Dechant 2nd grade teacher. This is my 17th year teaching, all at Indian Creek. I have 3 kids and love watching them play soccer, softball, baseball, basketball, and football. We stay busy on the weekends with sports and family time.



Mrs. Frank 1st grade teacher. I have been teaching for 19 years! I taught Kindergarten for 6 years and this is my 3rd year in 1st grade at Indian Creek! (You may know me as the teacher with LOTS of owls in my classroom!) 😊 When I am not at school, I enjoy spending time with my family and dog, Cooper!



Mrs. Bauermeister LEO teacher. I have enjoyed being the LEO teacher at Indian Creek for the past 7 years! I am also the teacher on duty at breakfast. It's a fun way to start each day!



Mr. Smith instructional coach. I enjoy a lot of outdoor activities like camping, fishing, golfing, hiking, and yard work. I have a one-year-old female black lab named Oaklea Special Smith and a 3-year-old rescued cat named, Fletcher Smith.

We ❤️ our Indian Creek staff!