



**Volume 5 Issue 2
Winter, 2010-2011**

District Events:

Feb 2
1:00 Early Dismissal

Feb 16
1:00 Early Dismissal

Feb 21
No School -
4th Snow Make-up Day

Feb 21
School Board Meeting -
Brandon
Public Hearing 6:00 p.m.
Regular Mtg 6:30 p.m.

Feb 28
No School

Mar 1
2 hour Late Start

Mar 11
No School

Mar 16
1:00 Early Dismissal

Mar 21
School Board Meeting -
Independence 6:30 p.m.



From the Desk of Jean Peterson, Superintendent

Since I started work here as the Superintendent for the Independence Community School District this past July 1st, I have been doing a great deal of listening and learning about our school community. After identifying the positives and assessing current issues and concerns, I have established four goals for myself that I see as priorities right now.

These four goals and action steps to address those goals are as follows:

1. Financial resources will be monitored and distributed to promote long-term stability and planning.
 - A) I will present a summary financial health document to the Board which will include a five-year trend analysis of unspent balances, solvency ratios, taxation rates, total resources, and total expenditures. Using this information as a guide, I will also create a three to five year long range financial picture of the district as well.
 - B) I will present a line item budget for the Board's review
2. A plan to better communicate with all stakeholders will be developed.
 - A) A public relations plan will be developed.
 - B) A redesign of our school's website will be determined.
 - C) A plan to keep Channel 8 updated will be created.
3. Create a plan to update our technology and a vision for the future.
 - A) I will work with our Technology Committee to update our short/long range technology plan which will include the purchase cycle as well.
 - B) I will assist in the design of professional development training for all teachers so the integration of technology will be meaningful and incorporated into each curriculum area.
 - C) We will explore and create a plan for the one-to-one student lap top computer initiative. Students in grades 7-12 will have their own lap top. We will purchase lap top carts for each of the K-6 grade levels.



**Jean Peterson,
Superintendent**

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Principal's Corner

by Mary Jean Blaisdell

Where has the time gone?! We will soon actually be thinking about the 2011-12 school year and incoming Kindergartners! There are two important dates to remember this spring:

Kindergarten Registration at East Elementary 1:30-7:30 Thursday, February 24

At Kindergarten registration, you will have an opportunity to provide information about your child to the school, talk to a nurse about any health concerns you may have and important information regarding immunization will be available as well.

Kindergarten Roundup at East Elementary Thursday/Friday, March 17/18 8:30 - 11:00; 12:30 - 3:00

Kindergarten Roundup is designed to give teachers a chance to get to know your child and make recommendations regarding readiness for Kindergarten. If you know of any child who will be five years old on or before September 15, 2011, please fill out the form included in this newsletter and return it to the principal's office at East or West Elementary Schools.

Winter weather continues to make it necessary for students to dress warmly. Even though our buildings are heated, children should be wearing warm clothing such as long sleeved shirts and/or sweaters or sweatshirts to keep them warm inside. This will serve as an extra layer to help them when they are playing outside as well! Just a reminder: if there is wet or snowy weather, students will be required to wear boots, coats, hats, mittens and snow pants to keep them warm and dry. Students do not go outside for recess if the temperature and/or wind chill is below 0 degrees.

Thanks,
Mary Jean Blaisdell



Mary Jean Blaisdell, Principal

Calling All 2011-2012 Kindergarteners!



We are trying to locate all children in the Independence Community School District who will be five years old on or before September 15, 2011 for entrance into Kindergarten in the fall of 2011. If you have a child who is of this age or know of a child of this age, please fill out the form below and return it to the Principal's Office at East or West Elementary School by February 4, 2011.

Child's Name: _____

Birth Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fun With Friends in February!

February is a friendship month in kindergarten. We will celebrate by giving cards to our classmates during our Valentine's Day party. February is also Dental Health Month and we will be learning about good dental health habits.

Thanks for practicing your child's address, phone number, birthdate, and how to tie shoes during these winter months.

The highlight of this month will be going to the Gallagher-Bluedorn Theater, in Cedar Falls, on February 8, to see three Mercer Mayer stories reenacted by the Omaha Theater Company. They are, "There's An Alligator Under My Bed," "A Nightmare In My Closet," and "Something In My Attic." We can't wait!

We hope the groundhog doesn't see his shadow so spring will arrive early!



Friends in Mrs. Malek's class look forward to Valentine's Day together!

First Grade Focus

To go along with our winter weather, Buchanan County Naturalist, Sondra Cabell, presented a wonderful program on examining and making snowflakes. The hundredth day of school gives us a variety of activities centered on the number 100.

Valentine's Day will bring an emphasis on friendship and kindness to our classmates. President's Day will shift our focus to our current and past presidents. We will learn about the duties of the president as well as some interesting facts about presidential families and their time in the White House. First graders are also continuing to work hard practicing their reading, writing, and math skills.



First Graders Share Their Writing

WANTED!

Mileage Club Volunteers Needed!

If you would like to devote 15-30 minutes each week outside at recess to help students reach their goals in the Mileage Club, please call the PE teacher, Brian Loughren at East Elementary to volunteer your time!

Mentors Needed!
If you are interested in being a mentor and volunteering your time to work with a child for

approximately 30 minutes each week on a regular basis, please call and let us know!

Wanted: Substitute Associates

If you are available to substitute occasionally as a classroom, office, or library associate (duties vary), please call 334-7425.

We need YOU!

Box tops for Education/ Pop Can Tabs/Milk Moola for Schoola

We continue to collect General Mills Box Tops, Pop Can Tabs & bottle caps and bag tops from Kwik Star products. This is a good way to help us earn extra money for things we need. Thanks!

If you are interested in spending time at school or at home sorting/cutting and redeeming these items for our school, please call 334-7425.

Second Grade Scene

Many second graders were busy in January with their "Balance and Motion" science unit. "Balance and Motion" is just one of two FOSS units that students participate in during the year. These kits were developed to encourage students to think about science in an active way. Through experimentation, students work alone or in groups to explore basic questions like "How do I know something is balanced?" and "How can I get something to move?" All the hands-on work makes for a very exciting time.



Mrs. Lake's class drops the Twirlers they made in science.

"Work on Writing" is another component of The Daily 5. This is time given to students to work on writing topics and styles that really interest them. Students' work during Work on Writing may include cards & notes to friends, lists, comic strip creation, or small moments stories -- true stories about their lives. 2nd Graders may work independently or with peers. The writing may be informal and finished in one day or be a story published and available for reading in the classroom library.



Mrs. Goedken's class' published books.



School Nurse News

We are beginning to see influenza here in Buchanan County. If your child is exhibiting signs of influenza, please keep them home from school. Symptoms can include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ Fever (typically above 100 °)
- ❖ Headache
- ❖ Extreme tiredness
- ❖ Dry cough
- ❖ Sore throat
- ❖ Runny or stuffy nose
- ❖ Muscle aches



Washing your hands continues to be the best way to avoid the spread of germs. Wash frequently and properly with soap and water before and after eating, going to the bathroom, or touching pets, phones, or keyboards.

Head lice are a fact-of-life for school aged children. You should be routinely checking your child's hair and scalp for any evidence of lice or nits. If your child has been treated for lice, please have the school nurse check them before they return to their classroom. Head lice carry no disease, they are just a nuisance. For more information regarding head lice please see the Iowa Department of Public Health website at http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hcci/common/pdf/headlice_brochure.pdf

Children love snacks! If you provide snacks for your child's classroom, try to bring healthy nutritious snacks. Some examples can include: fresh fruit and vegetables, cheese and crackers, dried fruits, pudding cups, yogurt, and string cheese.

For some good healthy snack ideas see <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/healthnutrition/>

Does your child need health insurance? Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (hawk-i) offers free or low-cost health insurance for children under 19 years old. The hawk-i program covers doctor visits, immunizations, hospital care, eye exams and glasses, prescription drugs, routine dental and much more. A family of four making \$66,000 may be eligible for hawk-i. To find out if your children qualify, go to www.hawk-i.org. You can even complete the application online.

Yours in health,

Rhonda Jasper, RN
Teri Schloss, RN



News From West Elementary by Sandy Merritt, Principal

Winter Fun

What do West students do in the winter? Some students got to have a limo ride and lunch at Pizza Hut because they sold 24 or more items at the PTO fundraiser.



Sandy Merritt, Principal

Our students have had lots of fun playing in the snow and building snowmen at recess.

Third Grade News

With the new year comes many new activities for third graders. Reading assessments have been completed and new goals set for the second half of our year in reading. Guided reading groups have proved to be a wonderful fit for our students as they are reading materials that interest them and meet their needs. In math we are polishing up our addition and subtraction skills so we are able to work with larger numbers. Our next big step will be multiplication. Some of our third graders are currently exploring the world of sound, while the others are learning about digestion and nutrition. Once the students have mastered one science unit, they will switch and work on the other. The students are finishing up their cursive instruction and will now be using what they have learned in their daily work. More emphasis will now be put on creative writing using the 6 + 1 Writing Traits to become better sentence and paragraph writers. Several of our students recently entered writing pieces in a local and regional writing contest. We are so proud of our students' achievements!



Fourth Grade Happenings

Fourth graders have been reading a variety of kinds of literature in small groups and independently. We recently wrapped up a unit on animal adaptations in science. Each student had the opportunity to choose an animal, write a report, and share it with the class. Students are now delving into a science unit on the respiratory system. The focus of math class has been multiplication. Students are given opportunities to practice math skills they've mastered while gaining independence in newly acquired skills. In social studies, we continue our trek through the regions of the United States. Currently, students are studying landforms and history in the Southeast. Discussions in the classroom revolve around real world connections and making lessons meaningful to students.

Visit Mrs. Shaffer's Fifth Grade Blog

Students have been blogging about classroom activities. Included on our blog is information about what students are doing in the classroom. We recently published some poems from our poetry unit. Anyone can visit our blog at <http://www.shafferssuperstars.blogspot.com/>, and even become a follower!

In November, our class wrote to the soldiers in the 133rd Infantry Regiment in Kalagush, Afghanistan. Our hopes were that the soldiers would begin corresponding with members of our class. We are VERY excited to share that we have received our first letter from a staff sergeant in this unit. We will continue to correspond with our service men and women and will encourage other classes to do the same.

Explorers Meet the Native Americans



Students in Mrs. Kinseth and Mr. Abildtrup's classes concluded a recent study of explorers and Native Americans by presenting short plays to parents. Students wrote the scripts and designed sets and costumes for the event. They even took questions from the audience about the people they had been studying.

Some Sixth Grade Highlights

Students in Mrs. Keenan's 6th grade math class worked on a Christmas financial planning activity in December. Students were given a budget to plan a Christmas "get-together" for family/friends. They used current ads from various retail businesses to purchase decorations, gifts, wrapping paper, food, and beverages for the event. They chose what to do, what to eat, and who to invite, making sure that everyone attending would have a gift and that they stayed within the specific amount of money given them. It was a meaningful, real-life activity that gave them insights into living within a budget. It was a lot of fun for everyone!

Curriculum Corner By Sandy Merritt, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement

As you may know, the United States Department of Education has developed what is called "Common Core" standards in the areas of language arts/reading and math. This will ensure consistency in educational opportunities for every child in our country because every state must comply with these standards. Iowa had already put in place the Iowa Core Curriculum with the same intent of commonality across the state. The Iowa Department of Education has spent time comparing the Common Core to Iowa Core and determined that Iowa standards are closely aligned with that of the Common Core. This means that we can continue our work in the Iowa Core.

What does that mean for Independence? We have been studying our curriculums and because our teachers aligned their Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) with national standards in all content areas when they wrote their curriculums, we are very closely aligned with Iowa Core and the Common Core. Hats off to the teachers who spent many hours working to develop quality curriculums that are now aligned with national and state standards!!

TeRRiFiCC Times

Character Counts News from West Elementary January 2011

Six Pillars of Character

T = Trustworthiness

e

R = Respect

R = Responsibility

i

F = Fairness

i

C = Caring

C = Citizenship

Responsibility Pillar Kids of Character

3rd Grade

Kenzie Fischels	Tim Michael
Grace Janaszak	Jack Rummel
Elizabeth Moore	Brady Webb

4th Grade

Sam King	Sophie Michael
Madison Larson	Jaxon Miller
Claudia Henningsen	

5th Grade

Alma Cashen	Ben Kelly
Julia Coonrad	Karlie Michael

6th Grade

Hannah Brunko	Regan Liss
Haley Hansen	Courtney Main

Kid of Character winners received a certificate, a pizza party, a Mustang Pride wristband and a pencil.

Raffle Winners

West Elementary highlights one of the six pillars for approximately one month. During that time students can have their name entered into a raffle if their classmates catch them demonstrating the highlighted pillar. The raffle containers have been full of names. At the two Character Counts assemblies this year, there have been 80 raffle winners. Prizes include pencils, backpack pulls, lunch bag, and wristbands.

What pillar is next?

The next pillar of character West Elementary will be striving to meet is TRUSTWORTHINESS. Who do you know that demonstrates trustworthy behavior? Be sure to write a TeRRiFiCC News to show your appreciation for that student.

Thank you again to all of the Character Counts supporters.
Your support is greatly appreciated!



**THE SIX
PILLARS OF
CHARACTER.**

Mini Mustang Bank

Some Mini Mu\$tang Bank depositors came up big winners in December! Each week they deposited \$2 or more in their Savings Account, they put their name in a drawing to win a \$50 Savings Bond from Security State Bank. The winners from each grade level and staff were: Gabe Wright from third grade, Sydney Hearn from fourth grade, Brian Smith from fifth grade, Megann Bohlken from sixth grade, and Brenda Hearn, fourth grade teacher. Congratulations!



The Mini Mu\$tang Bank continues to help West Elementary students learn the advantage of saving money on a regular basis. Small amounts weekly can add up to considerable sums by the year's end. Students keep track of their accounts with their own Savings Book. It's not too late to open an account for this year. The West Elementary office can provide the necessary forms to fill out. We also encourage adults and students to stop on the West Elementary Stage any Thursday morning from 7:50 to 8:20 to see how MMB works with student tellers and student board members. Visitors are surprised to see elementary students performing the tasks of real tellers, but without computers or calculators. Student tellers are responsible for balancing at the end of each bank day. What a good way to teach more math skills and responsibility.

The MMB Board of Directors decides on monthly promotions, designs and puts up a bulletin board with the help of Stephanie Bern, Security State Bank officer. They make signs and buy necessary supplies. Security State Bank provides money each year for the students to manage their bank. The MMB treasurer writes checks for supplies.

Current MMB Board members are: Tia Whited, Brynn Martin, Eddie Wegmuller, Grace Bertelli, Cody Gerken, Ryan Adams, Kelsey Gruber, Brian Smith, Kelsey Gruber, Michael Dinger, Kelsey Gruber, Zander Smith, Madison Larson, and Ryan Thompson.

By Harriet Short, Volunteer Coordinator of MMB

Jr High News By Dave Jacobson, Assistant Junior-Senior High School Principal & Activities Director

The ITBS and NWEA/MAP Committee has spent a great deal of time preparing our faculty and student "PREP PACKAGE" since last school year. The ITBS testing sessions will be held over 4 school days, (Monday January 31, Tuesday February 1, Thursday February 3 & Friday February 4), with approximately 90 minutes of testing each day. Student prep sessions will be held over a month during ADVISOR and all CORE classes. Areas we attempted to address and meet; successful test taking strategies, familiarity with testing batteries & foils, minimal disruption of the regular student day, best time of day to test, best days of the week to test, the optimal amount of testing time each day, familiar teachers & settings for the students, class sizes, motivational ideas and parental involvement.



**Dave Jacobson,
Assistant Junior-Senior High
School Principal and
Activities Director**

The Independence Junior High 8th grade class has been selected to represent schools across the state of Iowa and the nation by participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress, NAEP. NAEP is given by the National Center for Education Statistics within the U.S. Department of Education and tells us what our nation's students know and can do in key subject areas. The results of the NAEP are published in a report called The Nation's Report Card. The NAEP assessment will be given to our 8th graders on Wednesday, February 16. Students will complete a 90-minute test battery in mathematics, reading or science.

We will be holding the 7th & 8th grade 1st semester Awards Assemblies at the end of January. The 7th grade assembly will be on Tuesday, January 25 @ 2:30 PM and the 8th grade assembly will be on Wednesday, January 26 @ 2:30 PM. The assemblies will be held in the high school cafeteria. We want to encourage all parents and family members to attend if possible. Students will be recognized for their first and second quarter academic success. This will continue to be a very happy and festive occasion honoring our quality students.

Reflecting back on our move from the "old" Middle School, the transition to the new Junior-Senior High School has gone very well. I want to thank our faculty students and parents for their positive roles in this transition. We certainly were not able to foresee every obstacle but the vast majority of them were addressed, our school is functioning at a high level and we are moving forward in all areas.

Dave Jacobson,
Assistant Junior-Senior High School Principal & Activities Director

7th Grade Geography - Mrs. Love

Geography started out with a review of maps and other foundations of geography. We have since moved on to the a regional background of Europe and Russia. At present, we are now studying individual countries in Europe and Russia.

Playing board games and bingo with geographical terms and places has been an enjoyable way to learn more about the subject. Cheap prizes are a big hit.

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8th Grade American History - Mrs. Love

In American History class, we have just completed our unit on the American Revolution, one of the most interesting periods of our history. We began our study with the Age of Discovery and the colonial period. Writing with a turkey quill helped us understand what colonial writing was really like. All students literally pulled a name of one the 13 colonies from a basket and created a power point presentation with certain characteristics of that colony. Students will also prepare a Power Point presentation during our final unit of study on the Civil War.

On December 16, we celebrated the Boston Tea Party by having a õspot of teaö and watching the Johnny Tremain movie. Listening on a record player to the tune õThe World Turned Upside Down,ö which the British played at the final Revolutionary War battle at Yorktown, gave us a feel for the music of the times. Many of us were surprised that the Gadsden flag (Donø Tread On Me) that hangs in our classroom is the same flag that is used today by the Tea Party movement.

We are just beginning the third unit that describes the development of the new nation. The George Washington administration, Louisiana Purchase and the War of 1812 will be some of the events studied. We will learn sign language and sew a moccasin to get a feel for the Corps of Discovery.

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8th Grade Earth Science - Mr. Jesse

In 8th grade Earth Science, students learned about the layers of the Earth. As new information was learned in class, students worked in groups to design a model of the Earth. Every day as new concepts were introduced, students added more and more details to their Earth model. When the models were complete, they showed the layers of the Earth drawn to scale, the convection currents in the mantle, continental plates, and three types of boundaries between the plates. The models even included the spreading of the sea floor and the ocean trenches. At the end of the unit, each student met with Mr. Jesse and used their model to demonstrate their understanding. They had to describe the Earth's features, offer insight into how all of the parts of our Earth work together, and the effects the parts have on each other over time.

Teamwork By Jennifer Sornson, Principal



Jennifer Sornson,
Jr/Sr HS Principal

Teamwork and being a team player are words that are widely used in today's society. But how do you define good teamwork or how do you quantify a team player? I think everyone would say they recognize it when they see it. Like most members of society, I have been a member of numerous teams as a player, coach, teacher, administrator, or worker. I recognize the times in my life when I have been a part of a special team, it is a feeling of unity that you want to duplicate.

Over the last six months, we have formed a new team at the Independence Junior-Senior High. This new team of teachers, associates, administrators, secretaries, cooks, custodians, and counselors is large and diverse. We also have greatly increased the number of shared teachers. During the 09-10 school year, we only shared two teachers between the Middle School and High School. This school year we have 14 teachers that instruct both Junior and Senior High students.

To run an effective school everyone needs to work as part of the team. Of course the overall goal of the team is to provide a quality education for all 600+ students in the building. This can be a daunting task.

“No task is insurmountable. With a little courage, teamwork, and determination anything can be overcome.” B. Dodge

I feel it is safe to say that we have learned a great deal about each other in the past few months, but there is still much to learn. Everyone is working toward the common goal, to continue to improve. We all know that this team's journey has just begun. This team will continue to evolve and change, but it will never lose sight of the ideal of being part of a quality team.

Jennifer Sornson, Principal - Independence Junior-Senior High

From the Desk of Jean Peterson, Superintendent

Continued from page 1

4. Work with the Board on a timeline for a successful Bond Issue Vote.
 - A) Work with the Board to set a timeline for a successful Bond Issue Vote for a new 7-12 educational facility.
 - B) Design an action plan with specific steps to promote the Bond Issue.
 - C) Work on a marketing strategy to communicate with all stakeholders.
 - D) Design a brochure with “talking points” about the need for a successful Bond Vote to share with all stakeholders.

A Superintendent's main job goal is to provide district-wide leadership in improving teaching and learning that increases achievement and promotes success for all students. I see the four goals I have set for myself as the beginning steps to help me accomplish this main job goal.

As of this writing, there is a lot of uncertainty for education in Iowa. We do not know what the allowable growth will be for next year. Allowable growth is set by the legislature and is the annual dollar amount which is added to each school district's cost per pupil to provide additional funding to school districts. It is hard to plan our budget when we do not have this information. And, the legislature is in session now debating the preschool initiative, the Iowa Core Curriculum and the Area Education Agencies. All of these will greatly impact the educational landscape in Iowa.

The business of education never ends. We are continually evaluating what we do as a school district and how we can help our students be the best they can be. I look forward to this journey. I stated in my Superintendent's Entry Plan that my hope was to make the Independence School District “second to none” and I plan to chip away until we become just that!

Activities Newsletter by Activities Director Dave Jacobson



**Dave Jacobson,
Activities Director**

All of our winter sports teams, speech teams, band and vocal groups are going full speed. To date we have been very fortunate with few weather canceled events, however, as I write this we are in the midst of our second snow day off from school. Congratulations to Roger Barloon, Rod Conrad, Michael Doyle, David Lang and Dave Martin for their efforts as they lead their programs forward.

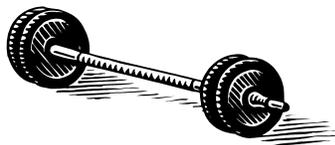
FYI to many of us have been cleaning, prepping, painting, moving equipment, etc. as we get the old IT room at the old Middle School or now West Elementary converted into a weight room. 2 walls have been put up, the room has been cleaned, primed & painted and we will be moving in the flooring as well as the strength training equipment ASAP. This room at our west campus will allow us to have our athletes strength train in a facility close to where many of them practice and utilize extra building space in an effective manner at a very minimal cost. A special thank you to: Stu Bagley, Mike Donnelly, Bill Duffy, Jamey Hurley, Jason Lang, Andy McCardle, Charlie McCardle, Cindy McCardle, Travis Meiborg and Brian Reidy. As we move forward to implement a year round strength training program for our students, discussions are now being held to connect this with our physical education programming, hopefully next year.

SPIRIT WEEK! A very special thank-you to Bill Duffy, Scott Meader, Trish O'Doughlin and our Booster Club for their time and efforts as we put a SPIRIT WEEK in place! We have picked 3 home winter contests to promote and improve student attendance at our home events. Students can purchase a "We Bleed Maroon & White" t-shirt for \$5, wear it and get in to all 3 events free. They can sign up for drawings for \$5 food coupons to local establishments as well as an iTOUCH. So far so good and we're planning to improve this for next winter!

The ICSD Facility Committee has just about wrapped up most of the needs as we plan, fund raise and build the new multi-purpose facility at the football/track stadium. More to come on this as we move forward but a HUGE thank-you to: Chad Beatty, Keith Donnelly, Bill Duffy, Brian Eddy, Stacy Henderson, the Mustang Foundation and Jennifer Sornson. This is a great example as to what can happen when people work together for the good of our students!

Independence Alumni Club. Brian Eddy is working with our athletic department and leading an initiative to form an Alumni Club. It is very much in the developmental stages but hopes are to have a web site with all athletic records, team information and future Alumni Event postings. GO MUSTANGS!

Dave Jacobson-Independence Activities Director



Volunteer Mentor Program

JANUARY



Mentoring Month

January was proclaimed as National Mentoring Month and celebrated here in our schools on Saturday, January 15, with a Dinner and a Movie for the Mentors and the students! Thirty mentor pairs, plus several others attended! They enjoyed dinner of pizza and breadsticks by Bill's Pizza and the movie, Ramona and Beezus, all held at West Elementary. As the movie began, the smell of popcorn filled the air as Dianne Hepke, Volunteer & Mentor Action Team member, popped popcorn for all to enjoy. Ben and Kolten helped to serve the popcorn. Every mentor pair and all others attending, had their picture taken under the big red umbrella (a Ramona favorite), by volunteers Brenda and Jamie Fuller. It was a great night of fun for everyone! Val Maximovich says thank you to everyone that attended and takes the time to mentor throughout the year. Gov. Culver stated in his news release for mentoring month "I want to thank each mentor for their service and encourage others to join them in sharing their skills as mentors to invest in Iowa's bright future."

Need for MENTORS! There is always a need for school based mentors. For all children K-12. We have several individual children waiting. Other opportunities are: 5th grade group mentoring (4-6 in the group) which meets once a week, 5th grade book discussion at West Elementary, and Game Club once a week at West Elementary, all ages. Other opportunities coming up as the season changes!

Mentoring Program Community Fundraiser! SAVE THE DATE on April 2. Independence Community Schools Mentoring Program will be having a Community Fundraiser on a Night of Family Fun! Saturday, April 2, 5:30 to 8 p.m. at West Elementary Gym. The mentors and students will be here for rehearsal at 4:00 p.m., performance at 5:30 p.m. Mark your calendars and be watching for flyers with more details!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

High School Speech Contest Feb. 12, 8:30-1:30 we need timers and chair people
NWEA testing this spring at West Elementary - Sporting events and many other activities!

So please call, if you have the time, we have the need –

Val Maximovich, Volunteer & Mentor Coordinator, 334-7430, ext. 626, vmaximovich@independence.k12.ia.us

WALKING HOURS

EAST ELEMENTARY: 7:00-8:00 a.m. Monday through Friday (Enter Main Doors)

WEST ELEMENTARY: 6:00-7:30 a.m. Monday through Friday (Enter Main Doors)
4:00-6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (Enter South Doors)

JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL: 6:00-7:30 a.m. Monday through Friday (Enter Main Doors)

Buildings will be closed to walkers when...

- * there is a school activity in the building
- * there is no school
- * there is a late start (morning walkers only)
- * there is an early dismissal (afternoon walkers only)



Due to safety and to keep floors clean and dry, please bring shoes other than your street shoes to walk in.

INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS VOLUNTEER MENTOR PROGRAM VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

Volunteers are an important resource to the educational process in the Independence Community Schools. Please complete the information below and on the back so that we may best utilize your time and talent. Regular, ongoing help is not necessary. If you have questions, please call (319) 334-7400 Ext. 626 or email Val at vmaximovich@independence.k12.ia.us Thank you!

RETURN THIS FORM TO: Independence Community School District
Attn: Volunteer Mentor Program
1301 First Street West
Independence, Iowa 50644

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ - _____ - _____ Cell phone _____ - _____ - _____ E-mail _____

Employer _____ Business Phone _____

Current Occupation _____

Other occupational experiences _____

Retired? _____ yes _____ no Names and grades of any children in school _____

Do you have any health or physical limitations that might affect certain types of volunteer positions? yes no

If yes, please list: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____

Name	Phone	Relationship
------	-------	--------------

Where and when are you available?

District (anywhere needed) ECC (PK) East Elem (K-2) West Elem (3-6) Jr/Sr High School (7-12)

Time(s) available: Daily Weekly Variable, Occasional Other: _____

If you have specific hours on specific days, please list here: (Example, 8:00-9:30 on Tuesdays)

Monday _____

Tuesday _____

Wednesday _____

Thursday _____

Friday _____

Do you have a specific class or teacher request? _____

**PLEASE FILL OUT THE BACKSIDE TO LET US KNOW YOUR
INTERESTS/TALENTS.**



Independence Community School District

1207 First Street West
Independence, Iowa 50644



Non Profit Org.
PAID
Permit 197
Independence, Iowa



We're on the Web
<http://www.independence.k12.ia.us>

VOLUNTEER PREFERENCE CHECKLIST - Please check any and all areas you would help in.

Name _____ Today's date _____

Phone _____ Start date _____

Teacher Support

- Small group(s)
- Any in-class assistance
- Assist handicapped
- Clerical support
- Field trip chaperone
- Media center/library
- Specific grade request _____
- Specific teacher request _____
- Other: _____

Special Projects/Programs

- Classroom special events
- Volunteer bulletin board help
- Mentoring (lunchtime)
- After-school homework help
- Career exploration speaker
- Camp Ewalu (Junior High)
- Book fair help
- Music program help
- Athletic program help

At Home Help

- Computer work
- Material preparation
- Food/treats preparation
- Telephoning parents
about events, reminders
- Grade papers
- Assemble projects
- Make costumes (sew)
- Other: _____

Skills/Knowledge You Could Share Not Listed In Above Categories: _____
