

INDIANA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

EAST PIKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

November 2011

Mr. Donald Springer, Principal
www.iasd.cc

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PRINCIPAL NOTES...

Fall is one of my favorite times of the year. I enjoy seeing the oak leaves change. This fall, Mrs. Jack has attempted to institute the smile mile in the mornings when students get off the bus. Children are invited to make their way outside and run/walk a mile before 9:00 AM. Unfortunately Mother Nature has provided an obstacle in making this a daily occurrence. We have high hopes for November. Speaking of Mrs. Jack, did you happen to see page 12 in the **Community Health** magazine?

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you into East Pike on November 9th for the annual Veteran's Day Program and Visitation Day. On this day you are welcome to attend a program, have lunch, and stay as long as you are able. We look forward to sharing a snapshot of what your child experiences on a daily basis. A luncheon will be available during the time your little person will be having lunch but needed to be ordered ahead of time. When you sign in, you will receive a lunch ticket that indicates the time you will need to be in the cafeteria to eat. This is a special day and we welcome the opportunity to thank the many veterans for their service in our County's Armed Services as well as teach our children the importance of service and community.

The close of the first nine weeks is just around the corner. On November 10th we will hold parent teacher conferences. Please take the time to stop in and visit with our teachers. All staff will be available and willing to meet with you. This is a day to share information about your child and listen too as we develop a plan that will ensure that everyone has a productive and exciting year. Your child works very hard to be successful at school. Try to make time to celebrate their hard work and visit East Pike on the November 10th. Please watch the backpacks as we send home information regarding scheduling a conference.

Mr. Springer

Dates to Remember

| Date | Event |
|--------|--|
| Nov 5 | 4:00 PM Free Admission to IUP Women's Volleyball game |
| Nov 18 | Downtown Indiana Holiday Parade-More info to follow. |
| Dec 14 | Winter Showcase- Band, Chorus & Vocal Ensemble. 7:00 PM at the Jr. High |
| May 8 | Spring Showcase-All Four Elementary Schools' Music Performance Groups. 7:00 at the Jr High |

COUNSELORS' CORNER

Throughout the month of October our Bully-Free Theme was RESPONSIBILITY. Our focus was on empowering the bystanders! The bulletin board read: "Be Response 'A Bull', Don't Bully. Each student's goal was to get caught doing something responsible. Once recognized, they were awarded a ticket with their name on it to be displayed on the bulletin board for all to see. Our classroom meetings centered on what it means to be responsible at school, at home and in our community. We discussed how important it is for everyone to accept responsibility. We once again stressed to students the importance of including everyone in different situations. There was some role-playing and stories used to demonstrate how to invite someone to sit or play with you. Later in the month we focused on reporting vs. tattling. For students to understand that tattling is to try and get someone in trouble vs. reporting is where your words and/or actions have been ignored and so you must report a problem. During our last meeting of the month we discussed Halloween safety and that we should always "Do The Right Thing", even when no one is watching.

November theme: Love

Mrs. Lychalk



CLASSROOM NEWS



KINDERGARTEN

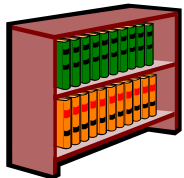
The Kindergarteners have had a very exciting and busy October. We have been learning about fire prevention and the signs of fall. One of the highlights of last month was a unit on pumpkins. The children learned about how pumpkins grow. We read pumpkin stories and made pumpkin crafts. Each room had a class pumpkin, which we used for measuring, weighing, counting seeds, and making a special pumpkin snack. Then we wrote in our journals about our experiences. And of course we carved it in time for our Halloween festivities. This month we will begin a new unit of study about different kinds of Transportation as part of our Language Arts Program. The kindergarten classes will also begin a unit about Our Five Senses and the children will discover how our brain and senses help us everyday. We will use our sense of sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch to explore the world around us. November will also be filled with many Thanksgiving related activities. We will celebrate the season with a Harvest party on the 21st this month.

1ST GRADE

October is ending with festive sights as the first graders don their holiday attire to celebrate the season in colorful costumes. Homeroom parents prepared party-time packages of goodies and planned activities for the children. First grade is looking forward to another busy month. We are continuing to look for signs of fall as leaves are quickly floating to the ground. On Wednesday, November 9th we will be honoring our grandparents and veterans with stories and writings to share. As the end of the month approaches, we will be reading about the first Thanksgiving, and participating in activities in order to celebrate Thanksgiving Day.

2ND GRADE

A new take home library is in place in second grade.



Students are now able to select books on their own reading level for practice at home. This program should produce many positive results in your child's academic

progress and begin to instill a lifelong love of reading. By listening to your child read, you can help them to develop fluency in addition to decoding and comprehension skills.

The weekly OLWEUS bullying prevention class meetings are helping students to learn more about themselves, their feelings, and reactions.

This forum provides them with opportunities to express their personal opinions and develop a set of norms regarding how to interact appropriately with their peers. Guiding your children in making good decisions and allowing them to experience age appropriate consequences, will help prepare them to face increasingly challenging choices as they grow older

3RD GRADE

During the month of November, third graders will learn more about our Olweus theme LOVE. We will share a variety of literature that addresses this attribute. As we honor veterans on Veterans' Day, students will share their LOVE of our country and honor those who served in our Armed Forces.

Students will continue to enhance writing skills with the aid of our new personal dictionaries. Thanks to our local Rotary Club, all third graders in the Indiana School District received a dictionary. Dictionary skills will be practiced during the month, and throughout the school year.

4TH GRADE

It is electrifying in Mrs. Bell's room as the students assemble parallel and series circuits. We are also getting a charge out of building electromagnets! After learning about magnetism, we made temporary magnets using induced magnetism. May the force be with you!

5TH GRADE

In November, our math classes will focus on reviewing basic division facts, and expanding our study to include division by one and two digit divisors. This math unit also gives us an opportunity to use the estimation skills that we learned in Chapter 3. We will also be expanding our knowledge base of math vocabulary, divisibility rules, and an understanding of prime and composite numbers.



FROM THE NURSE

Vision Screening - Vision screening is underway at East Pike. Research shows that vision problems affect 1 in 20 preschoolers and 1 in 4 school-age children. Therefore, early detection is the key for the most effective treatment. It is noted by the Pennsylvania Optometric Association that it is possible the results of the school exam may not always match the outcome of the comprehensive exam completed by the eye doctor. However, it is strongly suggested there is no such thing as "over-referral". Ultimately, the vision testing that is completed in the school setting is strictly a screening tool. Either an optometrist or ophthalmologist completes the best diagnostic testing.

If you have any questions regarding the school vision-screening program, please feel free to contact Mrs. Mauk.

School Physicals

The Pennsylvania School Health Code requires a physical examination for children in Kindergarten or first grade if not done in kindergarten.

Documentation of a private physical examination must be completed on the form provided by the school.

Dr. Shafic Twal will perform physical examinations at East Pike for students who have not had a physical to meet this requirement.

Notifications have been sent home with those students who have not presented documentation of a private physical.

Contact Mrs. Mauk with questions.

Sore throats, upset stomachs as well as colds are common this time of year. If your child is sent to school with any of the following, they will be sent home: fever, a sore throat or cold accompanied by a fever, vomiting, and diarrhea, coughing that is not relieved by water or cough drops. **Your child needs to be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducers before they can return to school. They must be vomit and diarrhea free for at least 24 hours also.**

TITLE I

One of our Title I goals is to further parent involvement. Please consider joining our parent advisory group if you have a child receiving Title I services. We invite your participation as we support your child in reading. If you would like to be part of our advisory group, please contact your child's Title I teacher or email Madeline Rupert at mrupert@iasd.cc. Thank you!

Music News

Have you seen someone wearing a yellow T-shirt that says "Indie Strings?"

Indie Strings is a new performing group that is playing stringed music in the Indiana community. The group is made up of any bowed string player in grades 4 - 12 in the Indiana Area School District. The group plays a variety of music including rock (Iron Man), old-timey fiddle (Boil Them Cabbage Down), Irish (Road to Lisdoonvarna), and jazz (blues jams). The group is also planning to play Mariachi music (Mexico), Middle Eastern music, and ragas from India this year. Individuals in the Indie Strings group have opportunities to improvise (jam) on electric instruments, including electric violin and viola! There are also two electric bass players in the group, and we are hoping to add a drummer to play rock music on drum set and world music on djembe.

Indie Strings played their first gig on October 11 at Bethany Place Personal Care home. Our next gig is on November 15 at Cafe Amadeus at 4:00 PM. Come on out and support your friends as they rock out on violins, violas, cellos and basses!



INDIANA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mission Statement

Indiana Area School District is committed to excellence in educating our students to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens in a changing global society.

LOVE BASKET



Please help get the word out! East Pike Elementary will hold its annual Love Basket Food Drive Monday, November 7th through Wednesday, November 9th. If you would like to donate, please bring a non-perishable food item during your visit November 9th for the Veterans' Day program, or you can send them with your child anytime from November 7th - 9th.

Thank you!

(The Love Basket is a non-profit, all volunteer emergency food bank in and for Indiana County residents.)



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

What a wonderful site to see!! We average over 60 voluntary students jogging and walking the smile mile on a daily basis when weather permits. The Smile Mile is giving students an opportunity to improve their endurance going a mile without being timed. This will help our goal in improving our East Pike Fitness. It's amazing to see how many students are disappointed on rainy mornings.