

# Jr. Highlights

Mr. Christopher S. Stultz, Principal  
Ms. Marilyn J. Walther, Assistant Principal

Parent Newsletter – April 2010  
Mrs. V. Haney, Editor – Mrs. S. Grant, Publisher

## The Principal's Perspective

Ah, springtime! In schools that means a lot of things. It means concerts, spring sports, musicals, choirs, Kennywood, baseball, hotdogs, apple pie, and so on. It provides us with a reprieve from the harshness of a bitter winter and the hope of a beautiful summer. It also means standardized tests for most of our students, particularly grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11. We are preparing for the PSSA exams for both our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, who will each take reading and math assessments. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders will also have writing and science exams, so April will be quite busy for them.

There always seems to be a sense of negativity when it comes to the PSSA exams. No Child Left Behind was responsible for these tests when the Federal Government mandated that all students would be proficient by the year 2014. "Impossible!" many exclaimed, and even more cried unfair when schools would be held accountable. That's right, 100% proficient. 100% proficient? When I pondered this, I thought to myself, what if we set the mark at 95% proficient. Wouldn't that be both realistic and outstanding? But then I thought, that would mean that I would plan to leave 5% behind, and who would that 5% be? Kids with special needs? Poor kids? African American kids, or limited English speaking kids? How about my kids? No way! If the Indiana Junior High School does not have 100% of our kids proficient, starting now, it will not because we didn't try or have a mind that all kids would be proficient. That is why I love the PSSA exams. It provides data for us, and data are key. With it, we can see where we need to change curriculum, how we can provide better instruction, where we are failing, and what classes we are succeeding. We have already made incredible advances with our most needy students because of this data and have aligned our curriculum to the Pennsylvania State Standards. That simply means our 7<sup>th</sup> graders are getting 7<sup>th</sup> grade instruction in ALL areas—not 5<sup>th</sup> grade instruction or 6<sup>th</sup> grade instruction—but 7<sup>th</sup> grade instruction! As they pass through the doors of Indiana Junior High School, they will be truly prepared for high school, ready to take high school classes. This is what the PSSAs are all about!

Therefore, I need each and every student to be mentally and emotionally prepared for these exams. Please talk to your children about doing their best, eating breakfast in the morning, and getting a good night's rest. These things, coupled with the instruction they received throughout this school year, should put them in position to do well. Thank you!

## Highlights From the Assistant Principal

Spring is finally here! It's hard to believe that we have only a few months remaining this school year. As we move into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, please reinforce with your children the importance of being diligent in their efforts toward their schoolwork. What better way to reinforce positive attributes that lead to success than to encourage our children to set goals, always do their best, stay focused, and never give up. These traits will not only serve them well now, but also throughout their entire lives.

**Courage** is the Character Counts theme for April. The English department will be sponsoring this month. By highlighting a positive character trait each month, we hope these qualities would manifest themselves in the lives of our students each and every day.

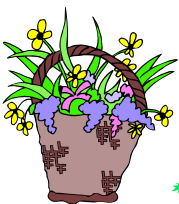
Another area that we can help our kids be responsible is by teaching them to use technology safely and responsibly. As an administrator, I deal with discipline daily and one of the issues that bring conflict between students is the inappropriate use of cell phones and the Internet. Texting and sites such as MySpace, Facebook, and Xanga offer a means of communication that carries no face or personal contact. Therefore, it makes it easier to say hurtful things, make threats, harass, and even bully other students. Often students do not realize the impact these negative behaviors have on others and also the consequences involved with their actions. In some cases, those threats turn into conflicts that spill over into school and become discipline issues here. We emphasize, on a daily basis, the importance of treating others the way we would like to be treated – with respect and tolerance. Once words are spoken, they cannot be taken back. Most times parents and the school are not aware of these communications and they go unchecked. It is important that we bring awareness to this issue. Please discuss with your children the importance of being responsible when using these forms of communication. Remind them not to send or respond to any message that is belligerent or threatening in nature and to also inform you immediately if they receive these types of messages.

Our students raised money for Haiti through our Hearts for Haiti campaign. Many of our teachers volunteered to do some "crazy" things to help raise money for this worthy cause. As a result, we reached our goal of \$2000. Thank you to the students of IJHS for their generous donations for this very worth cause.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to help our students interact in a positive manner within our school and community.

*Chris S. Stultz*

*Marilyn Walther*



## Soccer Camp Registration!



The Indiana Soccer Boosters will be holding their Annual Soccer Camp again this summer for boys and girls entering 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The camp will be held **June 14-17**. Please watch next month's newsletter or look on [www.indianasoccer.org](http://www.indianasoccer.org) for all of the details. Please call Peggy Mullen at 724-357-0711 with any questions.

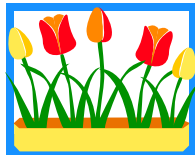


## Indiana Girls' Basketball Skills Camp

Summer vacation is almost here, and the Indiana Girls' Basketball Staff is busy working on its summer plans. Once again those plans include the annual weeklong Basketball Skills Camp. Next year's seniors are excited about taking on their roles as camp counselors. If you're new to the game, it's a good chance to learn the basic skills. If you're a seasoned veteran, our staff will help you elevate your game to the next level. Hope to see you at camp. Bring a friend and expect to have a great time ☺!

Entering Grades 7, 8, or 9—Fall 2010  
**Tuesday, June 8 - Friday, June 11, 2010**  
at the Indiana Senior High School  
8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Cost: \$70 by May 31  
Cost: \$75 June 1 or after

If you have any questions regarding camp, please call 724-349-3924 or email [dwoodall622@yahoo.com](mailto:dwoodall622@yahoo.com).



## Blooming Soon at IJHS!

The Indiana Junior High School Garden Club recently planted 40 tulips bulbs in front of the school. Keep your eyes open as our school colors spring from the ground in the next few weeks! Thanks go to members: **Brittany Adamson, Deanna Bennett, Courtney Blystone, Luisa Branco, April Butler, Brea Frenzel, Gregory Gardner, Danni Hullenbaugh, Noah Ludwig, Malik Meterko, Noah Moody, Alexa Strong and Coley Yosurack.** Mrs. **Jacquie Gentile** sponsors the Garden Club.

*Jr. Highlights* is the newsletter for families of students at Indiana Area Junior High School. It is published monthly during the school year under the authority of the Indiana Area School District, 501 East Pike, Indiana, Pennsylvania 15701.

## From the Attendance Office



Please **call the school (724-463-8568)** whenever your child is absent. A **written excuse** must be presented to the homeroom teacher by the **third day** following the absence. A doctor's excuse is necessary for students who have been notified that one is required otherwise the absence will be considered unlawful. This applies to half-day absences as well.

**Early dismissals** for medical appointments, court hearings, or funerals should be requested in writing. Students should bring the written excuse to the attendance office before homeroom. The excuse must contain the time, exact reason for the dismissal, and whether the student is expected to return to school. Students are expected to return to school after the appointment with a card signed by the physician or dentist or other legal authority. Two hours are allotted for local appointments. Parents who call the school requesting early dismissals must come to the attendance office in person to pick up their child. It is requested that these situations be kept to a minimum because they create a disruption in the school day.

**Absences for educational trips, medical procedures, religious holidays, and other situations known in advance must be pre-approved.** The student should present a written excuse to the attendance office before the anticipated absence. A week's notice is preferred. The excuse must contain the dates of the absence, reason, and if a request is made for a trip, the destination. The excuse will be attached to a pre-approval form, which the student will present to all teachers notifying them of the expected absence. It is the student's responsibility to return these papers to the attendance office **before the absence** to complete the pre-approval process.

**Students must be in homeroom by 7:40** each morning to avoid being marked tardy. Discipline action begins with the fifth unexcused tardy.

**Please plan to have your child in attendance until the end of the school year. A written excuse is required for any school absence including the last day.**

**Class Absences vs. Absence from School** – When a student is absent from school for a half-day or an entire day, the absence is recorded as part of the permanent record. These absences are also recorded in the **school attendance** section near the bottom of the report card. A single half-day absence will not appear on the report card because of a limitation in the reporting program. If you wish to check on your child's school attendance, please call the attendance office.

**Class absences** are recorded on the report card to correspond with each class. When a student is absent from school, a class absence should be reported as well. However, students may be reported absent from a particular class even if they are in school. Reasons for missing an individual class include music lessons, visits to the nurse, meeting with a guidance counselor, an assembly, a field trip, meeting with the principal or assistant principal, a drama performance, a dismissal for a dentist or doctor appointment, a school sponsored activity such as "Poets-in-Person," and sports dismissals. Please check with your child first to account for these class absences. Further questions may be directed to the individual class teacher, the student's guidance counselor, or the attendance officer.

## Accelerated Reader (Motivational Program)

The 7<sup>th</sup> graders continue to earn more points each day on the Accelerated Reader program. As of March 24, **A. J. Shellenbarger** continues to set high goals and has earned an astounding **564** points. Other well-read students are keeping the competition close. Included in the 500-Point Club are **Cole Rosenberger**, **Priya Soundararajan**, and **Paul Birch**. Currently we have five outstanding students who have earned over 400 points and four students who have earned 300+ points. Thirteen students are now in the 200-Point Club, and twenty-six students are members of the 100-Point Club. An additional thirty-nine students have earned at least fifty points. Keep up the good work, 7<sup>th</sup> graders!



Top readers so far include:

<b>A. J. Shellenbarger</b> -----	564 pts.
<b>Cole Rosenberger</b> -----	529 pts.
<b>Priya Soundararajan</b> -----	521 pts.
<b>Paul Birch</b> -----	503 pts.
<b>Tianshi Wang</b> -----	495 pts.
<b>Jacob Grata</b> -----	467 pts.
<b>Stephen Kopczyk</b> -----	453 pts.
<b>Dereck Yoder</b> -----	443 pts.
<b>Chris Kang</b> -----	439 pts.
<b>Jesse Lauber</b> -----	380 pts.
<b>Sophie Nowell</b> -----	358 pts.
<b>Brandon Griffith</b> -----	313 pts.
<b>Megan McCunn</b> -----	309 pts.
<b>Lily Smith</b> -----	284 pts.
<b>Dylan Rinehart</b> -----	276 pts.
<b>Kevin Zangl</b> -----	264 pts.
<b>R. Shumba</b> -----	249 pts.
<b>Christian Santos</b> -----	240 pts.
<b>Brian Waryck</b> -----	232 pts.
<b>Nathan Shirley</b> -----	229 pts.
<b>Layne Sheldon</b> -----	225 pts.
<b>Ryan Watters</b> -----	215 pts.
<b>Neda Karimi</b> -----	214 pts.
<b>Noah Lemmon</b> -----	212 pts.
<b>Michael Kahle</b> -----	200 pts.
<b>Rosa Williamson-Rea</b> -----	198 pts.
<b>Ruvini Navaratna</b> -----	176 pts.
<b>Connor Quarles</b> -----	171 pts.
<b>Ashlee Steiner</b> -----	167 pts.
<b>Payton Smith</b> -----	166 pts.
<b>Danelle Hullenbaugh</b> -----	166 pts.
<b>Mackenzie Donahue</b> -----	166 pts.
<b>Tyler McCrea</b> -----	164 pts.
<b>Hannah Schwartz</b> -----	156 pts.
<b>Lorraine Yerger</b> -----	154 pts.
<b>Jessie Jennings</b> -----	141 pts.
<b>Lucille Bujdos</b> -----	141 pts.
<b>Baylee Sergent</b> -----	140 pts.
<b>Amia Redd</b> -----	140 pts.
<b>Max Kittelman</b> -----	128 pts.
<b>Matthew Denver</b> -----	128 pts.
<b>Chantal Sisko</b> -----	125 pts.
<b>Andrew Roth</b> -----	125 pts.
<b>Ben Linder</b> -----	116 pts.
<b>Kristin Nibert</b> -----	113 pts.
<b>Katelyn Ray</b> -----	112 pts.
<b>Lexi Gamble</b> -----	108 pts.
<b>David Zimmerman</b> -----	107 pts.
<b>Luke Lewandowski</b> -----	105 pts.
<b>Emily Wagner</b> -----	100 pts.

## Poetry Slam a Success!

On March 29, over 50 budding poets showcased their talents for a crowd of 120 at Slamarama, the junior high's first poetry SLAM. Intern **Tony Lang** and teachers **Mrs. Carol Tanweer** and **Ms. Jeanne Mitsko** hosted the event. Judges from the audience awarded **Hannah Cochran** with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place, **Isaac Mbogo** with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and **Jesse Lauber** with a 1<sup>st</sup> place for their stellar performances. The event was such a success that the Young Writers Coordinators will begin discussing plans for the next event soon.

Young Writers will also be hosting a writing contest in early May. Students should look for information soon on the announcements, in English classrooms, or through Ms. Mitsko's web page.

## STUCO News

**Talent Show.** The Talent Show is coming back to IJHS! It will be held **April 30**. STUCO hopes to reinstate it as an annual event. Acts can include jugglers, comedians, bands, singers, etc. There will be no winners; it is simply designed to showcase the many talents our students possess.

**Garage Sale.** This year, STUCO's garage sale will be held on **Saturday, May 1**. Donations for the sale will be accepted from now until **Friday, April 30**, when members will price items and set up the sale.

**Elections.** STUCO elections for the offices of president and vice president will be held in the month of April. Students who wish to run for an office must write and present a speech. The speech will be recorded and aired on the morning announcements on voting day. Also, students may make posters for their campaigns. More information will be provided soon. Elections for next year's representatives will be held during May. Although a speech is not necessary, students must write a short essay about why he or she would make a good representative. Additional information on representative elections will be given sometime during the month of May.



## 9th grade Kennywood Trip

The 9<sup>th</sup> grade Kennywood trip will take place on **Saturday, May 15**. Additional information will go home with the 9<sup>th</sup> grade students after the Easter break.

### Attending an Activity at IJHS?

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act and need assistance at an event, please make your needs known to Mr. Stultz or Ms. Walther in advance. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate you.

# INDIANA JUNIOR HIGH SPORT PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

## AT THE INDIANA AREA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL – SATURDAY, JUNE 19

Students planning **to participate** in a sport throughout the 2010-11 (fall, winter & spring) school year will **have the opportunity to have** their physical **Saturday, June 19, at the Indiana Senior High School**. You may choose to have a physical by a private physician; however **that physical may not be completed earlier than June 1, 2010**, for the fall sport season and 6 weeks before the sports first day of practice for the winter and spring sport season. If a private physician completes the physical form for a fall sport, please return the physical form to the junior high school (senior high for those students going into 10<sup>th</sup> grade) by August 10. This must be done before the student is able to practice. Forms can be picked up at Nurse's office or downloaded from the Jr. High athletic website.

### **Sports Physical Requirements**

The PIAA requires only one sport physical per year as long as a PIAA Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation (CIPPE) has been completed by an Authorized Medical Examiner, and the student has been cleared to participate in sports. This form must be on file in the nurse's office at the Jr. High School.

If subsequent sports are played in the same year, (Form 5) Re-Certification by Parent/Guardian Form must be completed by a parent/guardian prior to the next season. Supplemental Health History questions on Form 5 must all be checked NO and the recertification form must be turned into the nurse prior to the start of the winter/spring sports season.

**EXCEPTION: If any Supplemental Health History questions are answered YES indicating that there has been a change in health status on Form 5, the student will be REQUIRED to have a MEDICAL PRACTITIONER complete PIAA Form 6-Comprehensive. Re-Certification will be necessary. The student will not be able to practice or participate until this form has been completed and turned into the Nurse.**

*Physicals will be given June 19, at the Sr. High School in this order. (Please try to adhere to this schedule unless extreme extenuating circumstances prevent this.)* **Please wear shorts and a T-shirt.**

### **Physical times are:**


<i>Senior High</i>	<i>8:00 a.m. – last name beginning with A—M</i>		<i>Junior High</i>	<i>9:30 a.m. – last name beginning with A—M</i>
<i>Students</i>	<i>8:45 a.m. – last name beginning with N—Z</i>		<i>Students</i>	<i>10:15 a.m. – last name beginning with N—Z</i>

*No new physicals will be given after 11:00 a.m.*

Be prepared to spend at least an hour if not longer at the  
Senior High School  
on **Saturday, June 19.**



# April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>School is in Session – Act 80 Day; Dismissal 11:00 a.m.</i>	2 <i>School Closed</i>	3
4 <i>Happy Easter</i> 	5 <i>School Closed</i>	6 <i>Emergency Snow Make-up Day #4 – School is in Session</i>	7	8	9 <i>Report Cards</i>	10
11	12	13	14 	15	16 <i>Dance 7-9 p.m.</i>	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 
25	26 	27	28	29	30 <i>Talent Show</i> 	