

Jr. Highlights

Dr. Jill Earman, Principal
Mr. Michael Minnick, Principal

Parent Newsletter – November 2011
Mrs. V. Haney, Editor – Mrs. M. Snedden, Publisher

Our Principals' Perspectives

The second quarter of our school term begins on **November 2**, and we are immersed in a variety of learning experiences here at IJHS. I am excited about the array of academic programs and extra-curricular activities that have been designed for our young community of learners.

During the first week of December, IJHS will participate in a "lockdown" drill. Information will be shared with students and staff prior to the drill, so that everyone is prepared for the serious nature of it. Our hope is that the more prepared students and staff are, the safer they will be in an actual emergency situation.

Please make plans to join us on **Friday, November 4**, and **Saturday, November 5**, for the first dramatic production of the year, *A Midsummer Night's Dream, or the Night They Missed the Forest for the Trees*, starring our own IJHS cast of characters under the direction of **Ms. Robyn Bailey-Orchard**. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. each evening.

We are so thankful for those who are currently defending our country, and those who have done so in the past, in an effort to uphold the freedoms we cherish. We thank and honor our veterans, and wish a safe and speedy return to the U.S.A. for all of our men and women who are serving abroad in the nation's military. IJHS will present a Veterans Day program on **Wednesday, November 9**, at **8:00 a.m.** in our auditorium. The program is under the direction of history teacher **Miss Kristine Bunyak**. Please call ahead if you would like to join us for the program.

From **November 14 through November 18**, we will celebrate American Education Week. We are thankful for our dedicated teachers and staff members who, on a daily basis, make a positive impact on the lives of our students.

As Thanksgiving approaches, please take a few moments to reflect on all of things for which you are thankful: family and friends, a caring school community, and a country that provides many freedoms we cannot take for granted. I am thankful to serve and work with the students, teachers, and parents of the Indiana Area School District. May you and your family enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving!



Sincerely,

Dr. Jill Earman

Greetings! Fall is upon us and with this beautiful time of year comes an excitement and anticipation with the change of seasons and all that goes along with it.

Thank you to our nation's veterans for serving our country and providing a peaceful existence and bright future for all of our children! We honor those who have served and are serving our country with a Veterans Day assembly on **November 9**, in the IJHS auditorium. Please contact the school if you are interested in attending.

PTSA? Yes, the IJHS-PTSA is looking to get back on the map! I know that we have many willing and able members waiting to sink their teeth into a meaningful partnership with the Indiana Junior High. If you were active (or not) in your child's elementary PTA, you found that this kind of work is both rewarding personally and enriching to your child's school experience. Please attend the next PTSA meeting on **November 9**, at **6:00 p.m.**, in the IJHS Library, or drop by our office and pick-up a membership form. We need you! We welcome you! Join the IJHS-PTSA!

Parent/Teacher Conferences are right around the corner. Please try to schedule time to visit with at least one teacher from your child's grade level academy to check on the rate of learning and progress her or she is demonstrating at the first quarter marker. It also is an opportunity for us educators to get insight from you as you know your child best and can only add to our understanding and delivery of a challenging school program for your child.

Camp Lutherlyn has once again provided our 6th graders with an experience they won't soon forget. I am so proud of the way our boys and girls represented themselves, our school, and their families. We continue to receive praise from the coordinators at Lutherlyn for how well prepared our students are for the lessons/activities that they embark upon, the manner in which they conduct themselves, and the overall responsibility and care for the facilities that they demonstrate. Lutherlyn continues to be a terrific experience for our students!

A season of expressing *Thanks* – I am thankful for so much! ...For my family, friends, colleagues, and loved ones, first and foremost. I truly believe that the essence of life is about people and the experiences that we share amongst one another. We at IJHS happen to be in the ultimate "people profession", that is, the *learning* profession. I am thankful to be here and to have the students, colleagues, families, and community that make the Indiana Area School District so special.

Sincerely,

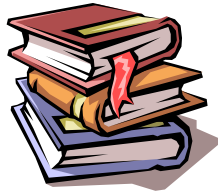
Mr. Michael Minnick

Important Caring Homes Message

David R. Allen, Ph.D.

For several excellent reasons, the 2011/2012 Caring Homes Campaign will continue but the Caring Homes Directory will be updated on an every-other year basis. For ten straight years, the directory has been updated, published, and given to all of the families who signed the pledge. We believe that the 2010/2011 Directory will continue to serve these families well as we gather updates for the 11th Edition which will be published and disseminated in the Fall of 2012/2013 school year.

For those families who have not yet signed the pledge, please take a look at the Caring Homes Campaign description and Caring Homes Campaign Pledge accompanying this newsletter (pages 5 & 6). You can complete the pledge and return it to your child's school for inclusion in the 2012/2013 Directory. All new families signing the Caring Homes pledge will receive a current 2010/2011 Directory.



Accelerated Reader (Motivational Program)

The 7th graders are busy reading books to earn points toward the Accelerated Reader competition. The program not only encourages students to read, but it also provides students with the opportunity to evaluate their comprehension by checking their scores on books they have read. Any student who earns 500 points or more will have his or her name engraved on a plaque that is on display in the building.

As of October 25, one student has already become a member of the "400 Point Club," two students are members of the "200 Point Club," and four students are now members of the "100 Point Club." Each month, students who have earned 100+ points, will be recognized in our *Jr. Highlights*. One hundred forty-nine 7th grade students have already taken and passed tests on our Accelerated Reader computers since the start of the school year.

Top readers so far include:

Hana Wahi-Anwar	412 pts.
Charlie Bennett	239 pts.
Scott Mitsko	206 pts.
Keaton Libengood	147 pts.
Savanna McMillen	138 pts.
Athena Nakrosis	120 pts.
Patrick Pearce	113 pts.

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.

Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness

On Friday, October 14, staff and teachers were permitted to wear jeans and pink to bring awareness to breast cancer for a minimum donation of \$5. The teachers collected **\$230** for Birdie's Closet through this event. The money was donated to the M. Docas Clark Women's Imaging Center at Indiana Regional Medical Center Day. **Miss Kristine Bunyak**, 8th grade social studies teacher, coordinated this event along with Mrs. Sue Majoris, Certified Breast Health Specialist and Nurse Navigator of the Women's Imaging Center. Some of our participating staff and teachers are pictured below:



Front: Miss Kristine Bunyak, Mrs. Tracy Beard, Mrs. Susan Kovalcik, Mrs. Mary Bender, Mrs. Ilga Cilo, and Mr. John Lyons.
Back: Mrs. Karen Lowman, Ms. Diane Canale, Miss Kayla Taylor, Mrs. Brook Brautigam, Mrs. Valerie Haney, and Mr. Jim Geidel.

Indie Strings Perform in the Community

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 **Caffe Amadeus at 4:00 p.m.** Come on out and support your friends as they rock out on violins, violas, cellos and basses!

News from the Athletic Office

Winter Athletic Physicals. Seventh and eighth grade students who plan to participate in a winter sport for the 2011-2012 school year, must have their PIAA Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation (CIPPE) form completed by an Authorized Medical Examiner. **Forms must be completed and returned to the nurse by November 9.**

If a student has been participating in a fall sport, **they still need to stop in the nurse's office to pick up a Re-Certification by Parent/Guardian Form (FORM 5).** This form must be completed by a parent/guardian before they are able to tryout for winter sports. Supplemental Health History questions on Form 5 must all be checked **NO**, and the **re-certification form must be completed and turned into the nurse by November 9.**

EXCEPTION: If any Supplemental Health History questions are answered **YES** indicating that there has been a change in health status on the PIAA Re-Certification Form 5, the student will be **REQUIRED** to complete PIAA (FORM 6) Comprehensive Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation and Re-Certification Form, and be re-evaluated by a **MEDICAL EXAMINER.** The student will not be able to practice or participate until this form has been completed and turned into the school nurse.

You may obtain physical forms in the nurse's office or download the forms mentioned from the school website. Follow these important steps:

- Type www.iasd.cc
- Click on **Indiana Area School District**
- Click on **IJHS Athletics**
- To the left of the screen - Click **Download Sports Physical Forms**
- Select desired physical forms

The following sports have designated their first day of practice. Please be aware that if students do not have completed physical forms to the nurse by November 9, they will not be able to participate in their sport until they are up-to-date with the physical forms. Students need to read the athletic white boards for practice times.

Sport	Grades	Start	Place
Boys' Basketball	7-8	11/18	JH Gym
Wrestling	7-8-9	11/18	JH Wrestling Room
Hockey	7-8	TBA	Ice Rink
Cheerleading	7-8	11/18	JH Café



A Night to Dream of

The Indiana Area Junior High Drama Club is presenting their fall comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, or the *Night They Missed the Forest for the Trees* at **7:30 p.m., Friday, November 4, and Saturday, November 5**, in the IJHS Auditorium. Tickets will be available at the door and cost \$4 each or \$15 for a set of four.

STUCO News

Student council representatives, under the supervision of sponsor **Mrs. Lisa Kinter**, organized a superb fall craft show on October 22. According to STUCO public relations correspondent **Prihana Shetty**, the annual craft show cleared \$1,700. For November members are working on two major projects including Teacher Appreciation Week and the Love Basket Food Drive. Teacher Appreciation Week will be held from **November 13 to November 19**. Non-perishable foods and items will be collected for the Love Basket Food Drive during the week of **November 14 to November 18**. This year's STUCO members include:

Kacey Raible - President
Reed Harkleroad - Vice President

8th Grade:

Stef Anna
Brendon Curry
Brooke Evans
Ashley George
Latif Ghandi-Nabi
Mack Kuhne
Alicia Kunkle
Savanna Michele
Prihana Shetty
Jamie Simmons
Conner Tshudy



7th Grade:

Eric Bray
Alex Fefolt
Dylan Kane
Athena Nakrosis
Chelby Youd

6th Grade:

Vince Birch
Dominic Ciocca
Makenzie Kessler
Dylan Latore
Taylor Sebring
Sandra Shanshala
Rebecca Shellenbarger
Clara Sherwood
Rachele Smith



Love Basket 2011

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! **Conner Tshudy** and members of the Indiana Junior High School Student Council, along with **Mrs. Valerie Haney**, will coordinate the annual Love Basket food drive this year at IJHS. The Love Basket is a non-profit, all volunteer emergency food bank in and for Indiana County residents. The dates for this year's collection at IJHS will be **Monday through Friday, November 14 through November 18**. Students, faculty, and staff are asked to donate non-perishable items like canned or boxed food, household paper products, or personal hygiene items. IJHS collected 2,206 items last year. We can top that mark with your support! Please help us help the less fortunate families in Indiana County.



Report Cards

The first quarter ends November 1. Report cards will be given to students to take home on **November 8**.

School Store Grand Re-opening



The IJHS School Store reopened its doors on October 24, to an eager group of shoppers! Store operators this year include **Ryan Holby, Morgan Madill, Sarah Polansky, Zach Prugh, Larissa Rocco, and Bryanna Yeager**. Under the direction of **Mrs. Janice Brocius** and **Mrs. Valerie Haney**, the school store sells Indiana clothing, pens, pencils, tablets, locker accessories, and other school necessities for reasonable prices. Store managers assume roles of cashiers, managers, and inventory specialists, while learning to market store items using Microsoft Publisher and PowerPoint application software. The store is open for business on Days 1, 3, and 5, during Flex (9th) Period.



Remembering our Veterans

We would like to honor those who have served and those who are serving in the military by asking you to bring in a photograph(s) of your loved ones (Grandfathers, Grandmothers, Fathers, Mothers, Brothers, Sisters, Uncles, Aunts, and Cousins). These photographs will be displayed in the main lobby during the month of November.

Please place your photograph(s) in a frame; mark your name along with the name your loved ones on the back of the frame/picture. You may want to indicate on the front side their name and information about your loved one's military service.

Please give your photographs to your social studies teacher or send them to **Miss Kristine Bunyak's** room #323, before **November 9**.



Attention 6th Grade Parents

Physical examinations are required for students in **sixth grade**. If your child has had a private physical in the last year, please return the completed form to the nurse. If you prefer to have a school physical for your child, Dr. Twal will be conducting free school physicals at the Indiana Junior High on **Friday, December 2, at 9:00 a.m.**

A school physical permission form will be sent home to all students who had not turned in a private physical form. Please return these forms as soon as possible. As always, if you have questions, please call **Brenda Pearce, RN, School Nurse**, at 724-463-8568.

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 **Dr. Jill Earman** or **Mr. Michael Minnick** in advance. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate you.

Attendance Update



Attention Hunters...Hunting is not usually considered an excused absence. However, if parents **submit a request in writing** to the attendance office **no later than two weeks before the expected date of absence**, the absence *may be approved*. **Excuses presented after an absence for hunting will not be accepted or excused.** It is expected that days requested for hunting will be kept to a minimum. ***Unexcused absences will result in a "0" for the day's work.***

Holiday Information...Anyone planning a family **trip over the holidays** that will require students to miss school must notify the attendance office **at least one week before the absence; a two-week notice is requested for extended absences over three days.** Parents or guardians must write a **note explaining the reason, location, and dates of absence.** Students should present this excuse at the attendance office between 7:30 and 7:40 a.m.

Religious Holidays...Excuses for religious holidays should be presented to the attendance office **at least one week in advance** in order for them to be pre-approved.



*****Special Note***** For all pre-approved absences, a form is given to the student with your note attached. The student is responsible for obtaining *all of the required signatures* and returning the form and attached note to the attendance office *before the requested absence!*

Early Dismissals...Although school is dismissed at 11:00 a.m. on certain days in the school year, attendance is taken for a full day.



Testing Days...Appointments requiring dismissals from school should not be scheduled on standardized test days or during final exam days.

Appointments during the school day...Parents requesting dismissals for students during the school day are expected to **keep such requests to a minimum** and are asked to **follow our established procedure.** A written excuse should be provided and contain the student's name, reason for the dismissal (medical, dental, legal appointment, funeral etc.), time of the dismissal, and time that the student is expected to return. The student should present this excuse at the attendance office before 7:40 a.m. An excuse from the doctor, dentist, magistrate, etc. should be provided when the student returns from the appointment. Students are allowed two hours for local appointments. Students should be in school for as much of the day as possible, and arrangements should be made to pick students up a short time before the appointment and return them to school as quickly as possible. Dismissals not following this procedure may result in unexcused absence time.



Tardy/Half Day Absence...Students arriving between 7:40 and 9:15 a.m. will be marked tardy. Most tardy arrivals are unexcused, and a discipline plan is in place to deal with excessive tardy arrivals. Students arriving after 9:15, but before 12:30, will be marked as being absent for 1/2 day. **Students must arrive to school by 9:15 a.m. in order to participate in any sports or other school-related activity.** Students dismissed from school before 9:15 and not returning to school will be assessed a full day's absence and may not participate in sports or other school activities. Students arriving late from doctor, dentist, legal appointments, etc., must provide an excuse from that authority.

Caring Homes Campaign

What Is The Caring Homes Campaign?

Parents today are concerned about the alarming use of alcohol and other drugs among our youth, as well as the social acceptability. Parents also are aware of the need to help children resist alcohol and other drugs. Young people must be able to feel that it is OK to abstain from alcohol and other drugs. Therefore, it is important for parents to take a unified stand on this issue. You are invited to join the Caring Homes Campaign, a voluntary program sponsored by the Indiana Area School District.

The Caring Homes Campaign is a way that parents can join together to help provide a safer community for their children. It does not require a commitment of extra time or effort for already busy family members. It is simply a public agreement to follow some common sense principles aimed at providing an alcohol and other drug free environment for children. Caring Homes encourages communication between parents and youth and emphasizes a strong parental support network.

Given that youth begin to form friendships with peers who may be unknown to parents, Caring Homes provides a vehicle for establishing contact with other families with whom your child may be associating. It also provides a way to know your child's whereabouts and activities. The goal is to encourage parents to talk with other parents about what their children are doing.

Last year, over 809 families participated in the Caring Homes Campaign, representing 1,336 children and youth. Based on positive feedback and interest, we are offering the opportunity for information to be updated and additional families to be added to this effort.

If you participated in 2010/2011, you need not submit a new pledge card since we will automatically include you in the directory and generate the grade change of your child. However, if there are any other family changes, please complete a new pledge card (change in address, phone number, etc.).

Why Should I Join the Caring Homes Campaign?

- Joining lets your child know that you care.
- It helps parents establish a clear and consistent "no use" message about alcohol and other drugs.
- Your child should know that you are talking with other parents and that parents have agreed on similar rules and guidelines for their children.
- You will have access to a **Fall 2012** Caring Homes Directory of parents who support this effort.

The Caring Homes Campaign Pledge

The Caring Homes Pledge is not a legal contract. Rather, the Pledge is intended to signify a good faith effort to follow its principles. It creates no legal liability for the Indiana Area School District. Parents do not create any additional legal liability for themselves or their households by participating.

Every adult in the home is encouraged to sign the pledge. Only one form per household is necessary. ***By signing the pledge, unless otherwise indicated, participants grant permission to have all information that they provide listed in the Fall 2012 Caring Homes Directory.***

Caring Homes Campaign Pledge

I Pledge to Provide a Caring Home

Although I will do my best to uphold this pledge, I cannot guarantee the safety of any child or adolescent that is visiting my home.

I will:

- Provide clear family rules for all children visiting my home.
- Provide a safe storage place for all forms of alcohol and prescription medications.
- Make an effort to inform any parent of a child that I personally observe using alcohol or other drugs.
- Welcome calls from any parent who observes or suspects my child of using alcohol or other drugs.
- Welcome calls from any parent whose child has been invited to my home.

I will not:

- Knowingly allow parties or unauthorized gatherings in my home when I am not there.
- Knowingly allow illegal drugs in my home.
- Serve minors or knowingly allow youth under the legal drinking age (21) to consume alcohol in my home or on my property.

Personal information submitted on the card below will not be sold or intentionally distributed for solicitation purposes by the Indiana Area School District.

Questions regarding the Caring Homes Campaign should be directed to David Allen, District Psychologist, at 724-463-8713.

Once completed, pledge cards may be dropped off at your child's school office. Pledge card deadline: **October 4, 2012.**

Please Print Clearly

Parent(s): _____ Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

Others: _____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

Address _____ Phone # _____

City/State _____ Zip code _____

**Email Address _____ (please indicate if case sensitive)

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

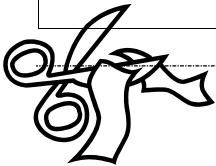
Elementary Bldg. (if applicable) _____

****By including an e-mail address we can set up an online network between families.**



November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 End of Qtr. 1	2	3	4 IJHS Drama Production 7:30 p.m. 	5 IJHS Drama Production 7:30 p.m.
6	7	8 Report Card Distribution 	9 Community Veterans Day Presentation 7:30 p.m. PTSA 6:00 p.m.	10 Parent/Teacher Conferences No School for Students	11 School Closed Veterans Day	12
13	14 Love Basket Collection Week (Nov. 14-18)	15 	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 School Closed	24 School Closed Thanksgiving Holiday	25 School Closed	26
27 	28 School Closed	29	30			



2011-2012 *Red Feather* Yearbook Sales

If you want to remember all the great times from the 2011-2012 school year, this is what you do....

Complete the form below. Put the completed form and **\$30** in an envelope and give it to your first period teacher.

Name _____ Grade _____

First Period Teacher _____ First Period Room Number _____

Cash _____ Check _____ Check # _____

Checks are made payable to IJHS.