

Jr. Highlights

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

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

The Principal's Perspective

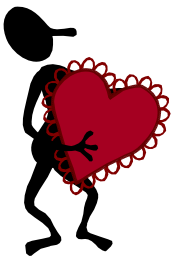
Welcome to 2010! The start of this new year has been a snowy one from the weather perspective! Let's hope it isn't a sign of things to come this winter. I don't know about you, but I was ready for spring starting January 2! With the new year, we start the second half of the school year (Wow, that went fast!). This affects students mainly in the area of their electives, providing a nice change for them to encounter new things. The second half of the year brings many exciting things, including our school musical coming up in March, as well as the 7th Grade Orientation in February, 3-on-3 Basketball, the Volleyball Tournament, and our Community Vision Award, just to name a few. Our new marquee, purchased for us by STUCO, usually posts events like these, so keep your eye on it!

One issue that winter brings for us is the safety issue. Please tell your children to make sure they are careful when coming to and from the school. It can get icy out there, and we don't want anyone falling and getting hurt. They also need to be aware of traffic hazards during inclement weather.

There has been much talk about the future of IJHS. Please realize things are in the discussion stages at the school board level, but we will certainly keep everyone posted if there should be any changes in the future. Please attend the regularly scheduled board meetings to be part of the process! We need your insights and input!

Have a happy Valentine's Day and stay warm!

Chris S. Stultz



Assistant Principal's Highlights

Happy New Year to you and your family! It is hard to believe that yet another year is upon us, and we are half way through this school year. As we work our way through the upcoming winter months, let us focus our attention to reminding and encouraging our children to keep up with homework and strive to do their best in each class.

As assistant principal, one of my responsibilities is to enforce the district's attendance and discipline policies. These policies can be found in your child's assignment book. This assignment book is also used as the student's pass book and must be used each time a student needs to go to another area of the school during class time. The students are required to get the assignment book signed by their teachers if they want to leave class for any reason, such as using the restroom or reporting to the nurse's or guidance offices. If your child has lost his or her assignment book, a new one can be purchased in the main office for \$4. Please take a moment to review and reinforce these policies with your child. It is our goal to work collaboratively with you to consistently promote the safety and well being of our school community.

The Music and Art Departments sponsored the Character Counts theme, **Responsibility**, for January. The World Language Department will sponsor our February Character Counts theme of **Perseverance and Hope**. By highlighting a positive character trait each month, we hope these qualities will manifest themselves in the lives of our students each and every day.

Upcoming events:

- Junior High Dance sponsored by the Language Clubs, **February 5**
- 7th Grade Orientation, **February 17 (New date!)**
- Community Vision Assembly, **February 18**
- Battle of the Faculties, **February 19**
- PTSA Midnight Volleyball/Basketball, **February 26**

I look forward to the second half of the school year and working with your child in developing the desire to become a lifelong learner and a responsible caring citizen. Thank you for supporting our students and enjoy the remaining months of winter!

Marilyn Walther

Please note that second semester Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on February 15.
To schedule, phone 724-463-9718.

Caring Homes Directory

by Dr. David R. Allen, District Psychologist

The ninth edition of the Indiana Area School District's Caring Homes Directory has been mailed. I am happy to say that we reached this year's goal of having 45% (1,294) of our district's students represented in the directory. The directory has certainly grown since the very first directory in 2001, which had 13% (442) of our students included. If you have received this year's directory please carefully exam your family's information, and let us know if any corrections are needed. We try our best to keep up with current information but we do make mistakes and sometimes the ever-changing family information gets passed us. We apologize if we did not "get it right" for your family.

I believe that the growth of the directory can be directly related to the value that parents place on communication with other parents. Parents want to be assured that there is appropriate supervision whenever their children leave their homes. Please continue to utilize the directory and encourage your friends to take the Caring Home Pledge for the 2010/2011 directory. Information about the Caring Home Program and a printable version of the pledge can be found on the district's Website (www.iasd.cc). That's right, we are already accepting pledges for next year's directory.

Finally, I would like to give a great big "shout out" to the Armstrong-Indiana Drug and Alcohol Commission. Its general financial contribution made this year's directory a reality. Funding for the project was provided through the Commission's Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant. A special thank you to Executive Director Kami Anderson and Deputy Director Carrie Bence. It is wonderful to be in a caring community where many people and agencies are interested in the health, welfare, and safety of our children. If you are unfamiliar with the Armstrong-Indiana Drug and Alcohol Commission, you can learn all about them at their Website (www.aidac.org).



News from the Athletic Department

Spring Sports Start Soon! Please remember that all physical forms must be completed by a parent/guardian before students are able to participate or tryout for a spring sport. If students have not participated in a fall and/or winter sport, complete the Pre-Participation physical forms (sections 1-4). Students who have participated in a fall and/or winter sport this school year, will only need to complete a Re-Certification Form (section 5). All forms can be picked up in the nurse's office or downloaded from the school district's Web site.

Forms for 7-8-9 grade girls' volleyball must be completed by **Wednesday, January 28**. Forms for all other sports must be completed by **Monday, March 1**. Girls' volleyball for grades 7-8-9 will start **February 2**. The official start date for all other spring sports will begin on **March 8**. Junior high spring sports include: baseball, boys' tennis, softball, boys' lacrosse, and track & field.

Attention Parents!

Please complete survey by February 15!

As you know, our school participates in the HALT!® Bullying Prevention Program, which is part of the Highmark Healthy High 5 Initiative, a project of the Highmark Foundation. IJHS is working hard to address the issue of school-based bullying through our Olweus Bullying Prevention Program.

Parent input is important to the success of the HALT!® program. Each year parents are asked to complete a brief, anonymous survey. This survey is used to learn about your perceptions of and experiences with bullying at your child's school. This information helps us ensure that the program fits the needs of students, staff and parents.

We would like you to participate in an online survey. Your answers are completely anonymous. No identifying information will be recorded, so we ask you to be completely candid in your responses.

Please take time today to complete this short ONLINE survey **BY FEBRUARY 15**.

The survey can be found at

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB229PMPLP>
[PQ2](#).



Hearts For Haiti

The IJHS Olweus Bullying Prevention Program is raising money for the suffering people of Haiti through a program we're calling **Hearts For Haiti**. Students, faculty, staff, families, and community members will be able to donate money that will be given to the American Red Cross to assist with its humanitarian efforts in this devastated nation. Donations will be accepted from **February 1 through February 11**, either in the main office or at the *Hearts For Haiti* table during all three lunches in the cafeteria. Checks may be made out to Indiana Junior High School.

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



Here are six important attendance reminders:

1. Please **call the school** whenever your child is absent – **724-463-8568**. A **written excuse** with the correct days of absence listed, the reason for the absence, and the signature of a parent or guardian must be presented to the homeroom teacher by the **third day** following the absence. Excuses listing personal reasons or family emergency are not acceptable. A doctor's excuse is necessary for students who have been notified that one is required; otherwise, the absence will be considered unlawful. Unlawful absences result in a "0" for the day's work.
2. **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. 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. An excuse from the doctor, dentist, or legal authority is required following return to school.
3. 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 at least one week before the anticipated absence (or as soon as possible.) 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 to notify them of the expected absence. It is the student's responsibility to return these papers to the attendance office to complete the pre-approval process and to complete assignments as requested by the teachers.
4. **Students must be in homeroom by 7:40** each morning to avoid being marked tardy. Students arriving between 7:40 and 9:15 a.m. are considered tardy. Disciplinary action begins with the fifth unexcused tardy.
5. **All students who are not in homeroom by 7:40 must report to the attendance office to receive a tardy admission slip.** This includes students who arrive on a late bus unless a special announcement is made by the office.
6. **When a student arrives tardy to school, a note stating the reason should be presented.** Students, who arrive late because of a doctor, dentist, or legal appointment, must present an excuse from that office. If the student arrives without a note, he/she will have until the following morning to present the note. Please be aware that most tardy arrivals to school are unexcused.

Newsletter Available On-Line!

The *Jr. Highlights* is available on-line! Parents may view this newsletter on-line from the district Web site (www.iasd.cc) or from PowerSchool (www.iasdpowerschool.cc). Please help us "Go Green" by reading the newsletter with one of these methods. Another option available is to have the newsletter sent to your email as an attachment. For more information on how you can help us reduce paper usage and postage costs, please contact **Mrs. Valerie Haney**, newsletter editor, at vhaney@iasd.cc or 724-463-8568.



Character Counts at IJHS!

Students displaying positive character traits were nominated by their teachers and recognized by our Character Counts Committee. Students demonstrating outstanding qualities in **November** and **December** were:

November

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Justine Abel	8	Alyssa Millen	8
Logan Albright	7	Robyn Nicewonger	8
Logan Blystone	8	Dana Piper	8
Miles Dills	7	Spencer Poston	8
Tim Fairman	8	Trenton Ream	7
Cory Froggatt	8	Dylan Rinehart	7
Morgan Herrington	8	Brooke Ruffner	8
Rebecca Hilditch	8	Hannah Santana	8
Nathan Houck	8	Kim Scott	8
Rain Johns	8	Michelle Sgro	8
Bronwyn Kallsen	8	Megan Shoenthal	8
Tyler Kelly	8	Casey Simmons	8
Alex Kerr	8	Mandy Slupek	8
Lizzy King	8	Carly Snyder	8
Steve Kostryk	8	Teddy Sobolewski	8
Tony Lenzi	7	Charlie Trimarchi	8
Landon Martin	8	Mary Zimmerman	8

December

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Maddie Afshar	9	Kylie Horvath	8
Alexia Akbay	9	Evin Page	8
Bethany Balencic	8	Taylor Rupert	8
Nick Capone	9	Kaya Schmidt	8
Krista Champ	8	Haley Stapleton	9
Sean Coleman	9	Sarah Stauffer	8
Kerian Everett	9	Jacob Williamson-Rea	9

Accelerated Reader (Motivational Program)



As of January 15, six outstanding students have become members of the 300-Point Club and six students are now members of the 200-Point Club. In addition, 24 students are members of the 100-Point Club and 23 other students have earned at least 50 points. Competition continues to motivate many students to read more books accurately in order to earn maximum points on books they have selected.

Top readers so far include:

Stephen Kopczyk	386 pts.
Paul Birch	378 pts.
Priya Soundararajan	365 pts.
Cole Rosenberger	331 pts.
Chris Kang	303 pts.
Jacob Grata	300 pts.
Brandon Griffith	293 pts.
Derek Yoder	290 pts.
Tianshi Wang	246 pts.
Dylan Rinehart	243 pts.
Lily Smith	230 pts.
Ropafadzo Shumba	200 pts.
Kevin Zangl	198 pts.
Jesse Lauber	191 pts.
Sophie Nowell	191 pts.
Nathan Shirley	180 pts.
Megan McCunn	173 pts.
Layne Sheldon	170 pts.
Brian Waryck	168 pts.
Christian Santos	165 pts.
Neda Karimi	159 pts.
Payton Smith	144 pts.
Ashlee Steiner	139 pts.
Michael Kahle	137 pts.
Danelle Hullenbaugh	134 pts.
Jessie Jennings	132 pts.
Ryan Watters	126 pts.
Lorraine Yerger	125 pts.
Connor Quarles	124 pts.
Mackenzie Donahue	116 pts.
Noah Lemmon	111 pts.
A. J. Shellenbarger	108 pts.
Matthew Denver	107 pts.
Lucille Bujdos	107 pts.
Kristin Nibert	102 pts.
Tyler McCrea	101 pts.

First Semester Volunteers

The following students volunteered to be aides during their study labs. We appreciate their help in making the school run more efficiently. Thank you, first semester aides!

Guidance Aides

Rebecca Alman
Ted Avolio
Darnae Clemons
Draven Hendricks
Austin Jasper
Kevin Jennings
Tiffany Johnson
Chris Letterle

Isaac Mastalski
Crystal Reeder
Laura Roof
Brad Speedy
Jordan Valentin
Kyle Valeski
Nathan Zlockie



Library Aides

Paighton Beard
Alec Billon
Shivani Brahmhatt
Crystal Brinkley
Michael Buchanan
Jordan Casses
Nick Cornell
Makenzie Covey
Nick DiGiorgio

Alexis Elgin
Taylor Elissalde
Sista Gamble
Ciara Hughes
Katarina Leonardo
Holly Prato
Mackenzie Shenkle
Charlie Trimarchi
Chyenne Yeager

Office Aides

Chantelle Bradshaw
Shivani Brahmhatt
Tiffany Bray
Devynn Delpra
Dezirae Freedline
Matthew Galonis
Kayla Grube
Chris Howard
Olivia Kimmel

Ben Manecke
Meagan McElwain
Jamie Mulac
Nyla Numan
Abby O'Neal
Harrison Padasak
Dana Piper
Holli Sottile
Olivia Stossel



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.

Top Bridge Designers of 2010 Announced

Excitement filled the air in physical science classes instructed by **Mr. Harry Lavsa** and **Mrs. Lori Shields**. All students were challenged to build a bridge constructed out of a maximum of 100 Popsicle sticks and limited glue that would span at least 25 centimeters (approximately 10 inches). Secondary goals of creativity, beauty of design, neatness and strength were also encouraged.



After measuring and recording bridge dimensions, the students in each class voted for outstanding bridges that exemplified creativity, beauty, and neatness. The strength test followed, earning many students bonus rewards. Following is a list of the top bridges of the 2009-2010 school year. All students included on this list built a bridge that met the specifications outlined on the entry form. Sound engineering and construction principles produced truly remarkable bridges!

Top Bridges of 2010 All Met Specifications

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Garrett Walker 299 lbs. | 12. Gray Smith 203 lbs. |
| 2. Rebekah Davis 265 lbs. | 13. Justine Abel 200 lbs. |
| 3. Jordan Casses 257 lbs. | 14. Katie Steetle 191 lbs. |
| 4. Austin Rhodes 237 lbs. | 15. A. J. Shellenbarger 178 lbs. |
| 5. Nick Barris 235 lbs. | 16. Lauren Peiffer 177 lbs. |
| 6. Kyle Monteleone 234 lbs. | 17. Lorraine Yerger 176 lbs. |
| 7. Rachael Mossgrove 232 lbs. | 18. Johnny Zarpentine 173 lbs. |
| 8. Grace Williams 217 lbs. | 19. Wei Wei Wu 170 lbs. |
| 9. Teddy Sobolewski 210 lbs. | 20. Brad Zoka 168 lbs. |
| 10. Tie: Alyssa Bothell & Tyler Wang 205 lbs. | 21. Mary Zimmerman 158 lbs. |

February 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 <i>Language Clubs Dance</i>	6
7 	8	9	10	11	12 <i>Emergency Snow Make-up Day #1</i>	13
14	15 <i>In-Service Parent/Teacher Conference No Classes</i>	16 <i>PTSA 6:30 p.m.</i>	17 <i>7th Grade Orientation</i>	18 <i>Community Vision Assembly</i>	19 <i>Battle of the Faculties</i>	20
21	22	23	24	25	26  <i>PTSA Volleyball/ Basketball</i>	27
28	