

Jr. Highlights

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

Parent Newsletter -- March 2010
Mrs. V. Haney, Editor - Mrs. S. Grant, Publisher

The Principal's Perspective

Greetings! As you are quite aware, February has been a difficult month for all of us with the weather and the snow days. We thank you for adjusting to the cancellations, the delays, and new time frames all of this has caused. Although we have days built into our calendar to absorb these things, we really take a hit on student activities such as school dances, athletic activities, and even our rehearsals for our school play. The district has also lost valuable in-service time for our training in the NWEA software. It's been tough! But—spring is indeed coming and we will find creative ways to make the right adjustment. I was so pleased to hear the weatherman say spring is only a few weeks away!

As we enter into March, we have the ever-looming PSSA tests on our minds. Those tests take place during the month of April where Reading and Math will be tested for both 7th and 8th graders. Those lucky 8th graders also get to take the Writing and Science assessments. As you can see, they will be busy in April, but they will also be busy in March preparing for them. Although we do some test preparation, good scores on these PSSA tests come through good instruction of the state standards, and of course, student learning! There is no magical thing a school can do, or a plan to “teach the test”—we believe good scores are a result of what we do everyday in the classrooms. If we find that we are falling short in an area, we make the adjustments to correct it. Although the PSSA scores are a great indicator of students' individual progress, it is great collective data for our school to insure we are delivering the best instruction possible.

March also brings the final athletic season, as well as our prized musical production. Spring brings track and field season, baseball, girls' volleyball, girls' softball, boys' tennis, and boys' lacrosse. We value students' participation in extra-curricular activities and want all of our students to be involved. Our musical this year, *Little Miss Christie*, will be **March 5 and 6**. The cast and crew, under the direction of **Mrs. Robyn Bailey-Orchard, Mr. Nevin Saylor, Mrs. Mary Bender, and Mrs. Cindy Kline**, have been working hard for this year's production, compensating for the lost time due to the snow days. They say they can do it—the show must go on!

I just want to close by saying a big “Thank You!” to all of the 6th grade students and parents who came to our 7th Grade Orientation Night. We were thrilled that so many of you came, and our teachers truly enjoyed meeting you, answering questions, and or simply explaining what they do. We sincerely look forward to the Class of 2016 coming to our school next year!

Chris S. Stultz

Highlights From the Assistant Principal

The school year is moving by quickly. We are well into the 3rd quarter and soon spring will be upon us. It is important that we continue to encourage our children to stay focused and to put forth their best efforts and keep up with their studies. It is our hope that all students will achieve to their maximum potential and continue to persevere through the remaining winter months.

Our students are raising money for Haiti through our Hearts for Haiti campaign. Many of our teachers have volunteered to do some “crazy” things to help raise money for this worthy cause. Several teachers offered to get a pie in the face; **Mrs. Karen Lowman** said she would kiss a cockroach; **Mrs. Sue Steffy** and **Ms. Maria Patsy** will dye their hair a crazy color; **Mr. John Lyons** will shave his beard that he's had since 1977! These are just a few examples of the incentives being offered. If you would like to make a donation, checks can be made out to IHHS and dropped off at the main office.

Honesty/Trustworthiness is the Character Counts theme for March. The Science 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.

Attendance plays a big part in a student's success in school. Communication, cooperation, along with parental support is imperative to enforcing the school's attendance policy. Please take a few moments and review this policy with your child. The attendance/tardy guidelines are found on pages 6-11 in the discipline handbook.

Upcoming events:

- Junior High Musical, **March 5 & 6, 7:30 p.m.**
- Daylight saving time, **Sunday, March 14**
- Junior High Choral Concert, **March 30, 7:30 p.m.**

Thank you for your continued support of our school and our students.

Marilyn Walther



Sports News



The first day of spring sports is **March 8**. Spring sports include 7th and 8th grade boys' and girls' track. Ninth graders may participate in senior high boys' baseball, girls' softball, boys' lacrosse, boys' tennis and boys' and girls' track. Any athlete that has already had a physical earlier in the school year must turn in a recertification form. Any athlete that has not had a physical this year must get one before they are permitted to tryout.

Lunar Rocks Fall Into Science Classes

Students, faculty, and staff had the opportunity to study samples of moon rocks and meteorites at the Indiana Junior High recently. Attendance officer and science/math teacher **Ms. Lucinda Kline**, who earned NASA certification for the lunar sample program during a graduate class at Penn State last summer, obtained the samples. **Mrs. Sue Steffy** helped coordinate the study with other teachers in the science department.



Stephanie Kachonik-Bertolino holds up one of the displays.



Stephanie Kachonik-Bertolino, Cody Sexton, and Deidra Benamati proudly display the lunar rocks from NASA.



Jerry Morton examines the lunar rock with a microscope during 8th period science class.

REMINDER:

There **will** be school on **March 15** in order to make up a snow day.

Summer Course Registration

Registrations are now being accepted for summer courses. Courses include: Algebra, Geometry, Advanced Algebra, Functions/Statistics/Trigonometry, Precalculus/Discreet Math, Computerized Keyboarding, Computer Applications, and a SAT prep course. Registrations close **April 16**. For additional information and fee schedules, please contact the guidance office.



Jazz Pianist Jonathan Batiste Coming!

It's once again time for our annual jazz artist in residence week at IASD. The artist in residence program started in 1996 and since that time we have brought many outstanding professional artists to the IASD. This year we are bringing in a guest pianist and his trio from Manhattan. His name is Jonathan Batiste. His trio consists of Jonathan Batiste on piano, Phil Kuehn on bass, and Joe Saylor on drums. Phil and Joe are IASD alumni. Although Mr. Batiste lives in Manhattan, he is originally from New Orleans. He brings with him a rich heritage of New Orleans music and culture. He will be spending three days in our school district doing clinics, workshops, assemblies, and a final concert on **Wednesday, March 31, at 7:30 p.m.** in the IJHS auditorium. He will be playing with both the Indiana Junior and Senior High Jazz Ensembles. The junior high jazz band will also be performing in a dress rehearsal on Monday AND in an assembly on Wednesday. The IASD music faculty is excited to hear the Jonathan Batiste Trio be the premier performance for our new Yamaha C6 concert grand piano!

Come on out on **Wednesday, March 31**, and enjoy an evening of celebration. The Jonathan Batiste Trio will be celebrating Mardi Gras, the Saint's Super Bowl victory, and most of all, **JAZZ**, one of America's true art forms and treasures!

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.

The deadline for yearbook orders is
April 1, and the cost is \$24.

Orders can be submitted to
homeroom teachers or Ms. Lorenzo.

ORDER YOURS TODAY!



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 January were:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Grade</i>
Lalah Ali	8	Nicky Kloszewski	9
Ted Avolio	9	Ashley Martin	9
Krupa Brahmbhatt	9	Malik Meterko	8
Shivani Brahmbhatt	9	Mariel Nupp	9
Alexander Castro	9	Kaya Schmidt	8
Krista Champ	8	Kordell Sesock	8
Tyler Cousins	9	Megan Shoenthal	8
Brittany Evans	9	Ryan Sorber	8
Justin Fleming	9	Riley Stapleton	7
Krista Gibbon	9	Devin Steffey	9
Courtney Henry	8	Alexa Strong	8
Austin Jasper	9	Alexis Tshudy	9
Emily Kastelic	9		

Prerequisite Test Offered March 31

Parents of Seventh Graders: As you know, the school board and administration have adjusted the 8th grade curriculum to include Computerized Keyboarding in every 8th grader's schedule. This change allows students to gain or maintain vital computer skills before enrolling in Computer Applications, which is a graduation requirement.

We are encouraging your child to stay enrolled in Computerized Keyboarding; however, we realize that some of our students may have already acquired and mastered touch keyboarding and formatting skills (identified below), and/or may wish to take accelerated summer courses. Therefore, we are offering the Computer Applications Prerequisite Test on **Wednesday, March 31**. Successful completion of this test will allow your child to schedule Computer Applications without taking Computerized Keyboarding.

Parents of Ninth Graders: The Computer Applications Pretest is open to any ninth grade student who has not taken Computerized Keyboarding and believes that he or she has the skills (identified below) to enroll directly into Computer Applications.

Students must demonstrate the following competencies:

- use the **touch method** to type at least 30 GWAM for three minutes with 5 or fewer errors (without correction).
Students must use a speed skin cover while taking the test.
- maneuver the mouse and/or keyboard to correctly format and edit a letter with 80% accuracy:
 - ✓ Log on to the network
 - ✓ Use application software to type a letter
 - ✓ Set margins
 - ✓ Adjust line spacing
 - ✓ Proofread and correct all grammar and typing errors
 - ✓ Save the document to network folder F:\\class on education_1/highschool
 - ✓ Print the document

To register your student for the prerequisite test, please complete the form below and return it by **March 24**. Study guides are available in the guidance office.



Prerequisite Test Request

_____ would like to take the Computer Applications Prerequisite Test on **March 31**.
(Print Your Child's Name)

Successful completion of the test will satisfy the prerequisite for Computer Applications.

Homeroom # _____ Grade: 7 9 (circle one)

If applicable, please circle the period of your child's study lab: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)

Please return to the Guidance Office by **March 24**.

Get a Clue!



The Indiana Area Junior High Thespians Society, under the production team of **Ms. Robyn Bailey-Orchard** (director), **Mrs. Mary Bender** (vocal director), **Mrs. Cindy Kline** (choreographer), **Mr. Nevin Saylor** (pit conductor), and **Mr. Rob Stoerkel** (tech director) proudly presents their spring musical, the mystery *Little Miss Christie*. Performances are at **7:30 p.m., Friday, March 5,** and **Saturday, March 6,** in the IJHS Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 each and will be available at the door.

This tuneful thriller is loaded with mystery, action, and laughter. Strange things are happening at spooky Saltmarsh Manor, the old house next to Greystone Academy. Helen and Martha have seen ghosts, heard the organ play with no one at the keys, and been terrorized by everything from a hangman's noose to clanking chains. Madam Orloff, the psychic, says the spirit of August Grimm, also known as "Mad Monk," has returned. But what does he want? Obviously, it's a case for Christie Blake, the devoted fan of mystery writer, Agatha Christie. Christie involves the student body of Greystone Academy in these strange happenings. The chills and thrills end in a hair-raising séance that pits Christie against evil forces.

The Cast

Christie Blake	Savanna Smith
Andy	Tyler Kane
Helen Saltmarsh.....	Keely McCune
Martha Saltmarsh.....	Vrenda Soni
Jan.....	Olivia Kimmel
George Saltmarsh.....	Jem Bailey-Orchard
Kit Carson.....	Megan Dickson
Ted Carson.....	Caleb McCombie
Alice	Kathrine Evans
Elvira	Sloane Healey
Leonard.....	Jacob Williamson-Rea
Eve Scoop.....	Katie Browe
Burt.....	Sam Grieggs
Barbara.....	Ciara Hughes
Hank	Adam Lenze
Dolly.....	Ashley Hill
Mrs. Blake	Maddie Afshar
Mrs. Carson	Diana Watson
Miss Stone	Emily Lauber
Madam Orloff.....	Lana McArdle
Officer Moriarty.....	Thomas Nakrosis
Oscar Putnam.....	Jerry Morton

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.

The Students at Greystone Academy

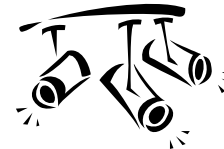
Jem Bailey-Orchard, Reed Bair, Natalie Brownlee, Javan Cook, Nick Cornell, Frannie Hanna, Kaitlyn Hoff, Isaac Mbogo, Marcus Miheleic, Jerry Morton, Allison Olson, Breanna Rebo, Molly Ryan, Laura Werner, and Jacob Williamson-Rae

The Pit

Rehearsal Conductor.....	Ms. Shauna Tudor
Concert Master.....	Mariel Nupp
Flute	Karina Montgomery & Mary Zimmerman
Clarinet.....	Jason Baumler & Nick Kloszewski
Alto Sax	Paul Birch & Katelyn Valeski
Tenor Sax.....	Michael Kahle
Trumpet.....	Ted Avolio & Justin Fleming
Trombone.....	Mariel Nupp
Piano	Krista Gibbon
Bass.....	Haley Stapleton
Drumset.....	Brandon Dunlap

The Production Team

Stage Manager	Jeanne Marie Stalteri
Assistant Stage Manager 1 ..	McKenzie "Mack Attack" Campbell
Assistant Stage Manager 2.....	Makenzie Covey
Set Construction.....	Sean Coleman, Megan Dickson, Tyler Kane, Olivia Kimmel, Caleb McCombie, Brandon McGinnis, Marcus Miheleic, Thomas Nakrosis, Allison Olson, Peter Short, Payton Smith, Savanna Smith, Jeanne Marie Stalteri & Yahya Tariq
Props	Gabby Ricupero
Lights	Payton Smith
Follow Spot.....	Vince Campisano
Sound	Sky Semone & Peter Short
Running Crew.....	Brandon McGinnis, Thomas Kanyarusoke, Dylan Murphy, Lily Smith, Justin Spencer & Yahya Tariq
Wardrobe.....	Joe Pivetz & Abby Sergent
Make Up	Brooklynne Sharbaugh



Breakfast Poster Contest Announced

IJHS Cafeteria and Chartwells are pleased to announce a Breakfast Poster Contest! Students are encouraged to create a poster that illustrates the benefits of eating a healthy breakfast. All entries must be submitted by **Friday, March 5,** and Poster paper size should not exceed 24" x 36." Prizes may include an iPod Shuffle and a Sports Kit or an iPod Nano! Please see **Mrs. Patricia Mumau** in the cafeteria for more information and entry forms.

Accelerated Reader (Motivational Program)

The 7th graders are earning more points each day on the Accelerated Reader program. As of February 19, **Paul Birch** has distinguished himself by becoming the **Top Points Leader**. Four other students (A. J. Shellenbarger, Priya Soundararajan, Stephen Kopczyk, and Cole Rosenberger) are close behind and are also members of the **400-Point Club**. In addition, six students are members of the 300-point club, and eight are members of the 200-point club. We have 24 other students who have earned 100+ points, and 30 students who have earned at least 50 points.



Top readers so far include:

Paul Birch	449 pts.
A. J. Shellenbarger	424 pts.
Priya Soundararajan	421 pts.
Stephen Kopczyk	411 pts.
Cole Rosenberger	404 pts.
Tianshi Wang	387 pts.
Jacob Grata	371 pts.
Chris Kang	371 pts.
Dereck Yoder	351 pts.
Sophie Nowell	322 pts.
Brandon Griffith	304 pts.
Dylan Rinehart	276 pts.
Kevin Zangl	251 pts.
Ropafadzo Shumba	249 pts.
Jesse Lauber	242 pts.
Lily Smith	238 pts.
Megan McCunn	230 pts.
Neda Karimi	209 pts.
Nathan Shirley	200 pts.
Layne Sheldon	187 pts.
Brian Waryck	184 pts.
Christian Santos	173 pts.
Ryan Watters	173 pts.
Danelle Hullenbaugh	147 pts.
Michael Kahle	146 pts.
Connor Quarles	145 pts.
Payton Smith	144 pts.
Ashlee Steiner	139 pts.
Tyler McCrea	133 pts.
Jessie Jennings	132 pts.
Lucille Bujdos	132 pts.
Lorraine Yerger	125 pts.
Mackenzie Donahue	123 pts.
Hannah Schwartz	123 pts.
Rosa Williamson-Rea	117 pts.
Amia Redd	116 pts.
Matthew Denver	115 pts.
Noah Lemmon	111 pts.
Max Kittelmann	106 pts.
Ruvini Navaratna	103 pts.
Kristin Nibert	102 pts.
Baylee Sergent	101 pts.

From the Attendance Office



Please review our attendance policies in your son or daughter's red assignment book. You may also find information on early dismissals, pre-approved absences, and other attendance policies in past issues of the *Jr. Highlights*.

Unexcused Tardiness – When a student accumulates four unexcused tardy arrivals to school, a letter is mailed home to alert the parent or guardian of the situation. Beginning with the fifth unexcused tardy, after school detention is assigned. With continued tardiness, the discipline response may result in in-school detention. **To avoid being marked tardy, students must be in homeroom by 7:40 a.m.**

Unexcused/Illegal Absences – When a student is truant from school or fails to present an acceptable excuse for an absence by the third morning following the return to school, the absence is considered illegal. The student receives a “0” for all work during the time of the illegal absence. Following three illegal absences, Official Notice is given to the parent or guardian that any additional illegal absences may result in charges being filed with the magistrate. Official Notice, once given remains in effect for the remainder of the student's enrollment.

Excessive Absence From School – Parents or guardians of students who accumulate **10 days of absence** from school will receive a “calendar letter” from the school indicating the number of half and full days of absence. Following the accumulation of **15 days of absence**, a letter may be sent requiring all future absences be verified by a physician, or in the case of a legal matter, by the court. Failure to supply the required documentation will result in the absence being considered illegal.

Late Bus – Students arriving on a late bus or van should report to the attendance office for a pass if they arrive after 7:40 a.m.

Please make every effort to have your student in school and on time each day that school is in session.



Clothing Drive

Cleaning out your closets? The Girl Scout Troop at IJHS is conducting a clothing drive and could use your help! We are asking for gently used *Spring and Summer* clothing sizes infant-adult. Items of special need are infant and toddler clothing and jeans in all sizes. Shoes and blankets are also welcome.

The clothes will be sorted and donated to Katie's Closet. Katie's closet is a local, nonprofit organization that helps those in need with clothing and household items. We will have a collection box in the lobby through the end of March. If you would like more information on Katie's Closet or are in need of assistance you may call 724-465-5597. Thank you so much for your help!