

# Indian Creek News

December/January 2023/24

Kelly Kretschmar Principal

## December 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				Hearing Screening (k & l)
4	5	6	7 Volunteer Workshop 9:00 - 10:30 AM IC Multi-Purpose Room	8
11	12 Encore Concert 6:30 PM	13	14 PTO Cookie Craft (6:30-7:30) multi-purpose room	15 Indian Creek Spirit Day
18	19	20	21	22 Winter Parties 2 (1:15) Hour Early Dismissal
26 NO SCHOOL Winter Break	27 NO SCHOOL Winter Break	28 NO SCHOOL Winter Break	29 NO SCHOOL Winter Break	30 NO SCHOOL Winter Break

## January 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 NO SCHOOL Winter Break	2 NO SCHOOL Winter Break	3	4 Volunteer Workshop 9:00 - 10:30 AM IC Multi-Purpose Room (MPR)	5
8	9	10	11	12 End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter
15 NO SCHOOL	16	17	18	19
22	23 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Music Concert 6:30 PM	24	25 PTO Bingo Night 6-7 multi-purpose room	26 Indian Creek Spirit Day
29	30	31	1 Volunteer Workshop 9:00 - 10:30 AM IC Multi-Purpose Room	2

Dear Indian Creek Families,

As you read this newsletter, Thanksgiving has come and gone, and we hope each Indian Creek family was able to take some time to give thanks and spend time with family and friends.

It is now time to say, "Season's Greetings!" This holiday season is always a busy one for our students, staff, and Indian Creek families. The next four weeks will fly by with lots of learning that will be taking place in the classroom while at the same time managing the excitement of Winter Break.

Do not forget on Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup> and Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> are No School Days for our students. The end of our first semester is January 11<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned, as we will provide directions on how you can find the report card information on PowerSchool as well as the window in which you will be able to view the report card.

If you have not thought of a New Year's Resolution yet, there is always a most perfect one to consider - daily reading time with your child/children. It would be a resolution that could have a long-lasting, positive effects on your child's/children's future(s)!

We hope you have a wonderful month of December and a joyous holiday season and a happy new year! It is our hope that the New Year will be a happy and prosperous one for our Indian Creek families and staff members.

Sincerely,

Kelly Kretschmar



### Children's Mental Health and the Holidays

We tend to believe that the holidays are one of the most magical times of the year for children and that the stress that the adults feel getting everything perfect and ready is only felt by just the adults. However, kids are equally under stress and feel the stress of those around them. Simple things such as being around family members they potentially have not seen for a year, the extra attention focused on them, having conversations with others or just extra excitement surrounding the events can be enough to send a child's brain on overload. It is important as adults to remember that stress can be a natural and automatic physical, mental, and emotional response to events and many kids don't quite yet have the coping skills to navigate it on their own. It is important as adults to look for the signs and help your child cope. Some signs you can look for are increased irritability, emotional outbursts, and frequent headaches or stomach aches. Some ways we can help children cope would be planning ahead and letting them know what the holidays will be like, creating a space and time for them to express themselves and let you know how they are feeling, setting clear expectations and as the adults responding, not reacting. If your child is reacting, how can you coach them with appropriate coping skills? These are all things we talk about in guidance often so they should have some skills ready to use! Wishing all our Indian Creek family members a wonderful, safe and healthy holiday season! As always, if you need anything, please reach out to me via email at [laura.james@innmar.k12.ia.us](mailto:laura.james@innmar.k12.ia.us).

It feels like just yesterday it was August, and we were starting off the 2023-2024 school year. It's amazing how fast the school year flies by! It's no secret that the weather has changed, and that cold air has moved in... if only we still had that warm August weather!

With the weather change in mind, please make sure your child(ren) is coming to school prepared for a successful and warm recess! Hats, gloves, winter coats, snow boots, etc. Being cold is not a great feeling so having your students come to school with the necessities allows your child(ren) to make the most of their recess time- fresh air, moving around, & playing in the snow- allowing for a successful brain break during the academic day!

One thing I have personally learned since the start of my Facilitator journey and have since applied in my own home is labeling EVERY piece of clothing that my kiddos take to school! Indian Creek's lost and found is FULL! So, ask yourself... Is your child missing one shoe? Two shoes? A sweatshirt? One glove? Their new hat? If the answer is yes, please encourage your child to check out the lost and found! I personally check every single lost item for a student's name and hand deliver anything that is labeled!

**Facilitator**  
NOTES

# PBIS

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

We are Respectful,  
We are Responsible,  
We are Ready,  
We Care at Indian Creek!

At Indian Creek, we know and show our school-wide expectations daily. All staff are watching for students displaying these behaviors within the classroom, lunchroom, hallways, art, PE, music, and all other common areas. Each week, classrooms can earn some extra recognition for showing the expectations.

From Mrs. Havlicek, a classroom can earn the Golden Palette. In PE, Ms. V awards, two classrooms the Golden Shoe(s), and in the lunchroom, an entire grade level can earn the Golden Tray/Golden Utensils, Ms. Julie and Ms. Kelly are always watching for the best lunch group. The awards are announced on Monday morning and the classroom/grade level gets to keep the Golden item for the week. It's so fun to hear the cheering when the classroom hears their name on the Monday morning announcements!

PBIS at Home: Ask your student about earning the Golden Pallet, Golden Shoe, or Golden Tray/Utensil. Review routines and expectations for your home environment and see if they are similar to Indian Creek's expectations of respectful, responsible, ready, and care. Anything you wonder or notice about our expectations at school vs at home?

## OCTOBER



This group of Indian Creek student were nominated by their teachers for demonstrating RESPECT (our character trait for October) not only in their classroom but throughout the whole school! Way to go!

## NOVEMBER



This group of Indian Creek student were nominated by their teachers for showing how RESPONSIBLE (our character trait for November) they are, not only in their classroom but throughout the whole school! Woo Hoo, nice work!



# December and January NO SCHOOL DAYS!

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DAYS SCHOOL WILL NOT BE IN SESSION.



- December 25
- December 26
- December 27
- December 28
- December 29
- January 1
- January 2
- January 12
- January 15



Indian Creek

## ENCORE Choir

Please join us on Tuesday, December 12, to hear our Indian Creek Encore Choir concert.

The concert will begin promptly at 6:30 PM in the Indian Creek gym. Students may report to the music room no earlier than 6:10 PM.

Parents are asked to park in the back parking lot (the parking lot off of 29<sup>th</sup> Ave) and enter the building through the back gym doors (Door #6). The doors will open at 6:00 PM

Please contact Ms. Roesenkranz with any questions – at [trosenkranz@linnmark12.ia.us](mailto:trosenkranz@linnmark12.ia.us)

## K & I Hearing Screening

Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, Grant Wood AEA will be doing hearing screening with our kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students.

If you wish to opt out of the screening, please call the Indian Creek office (319-447-3270).

If you have a child in any grade other than kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> grade and you have questions regarding their hearing, please call Grant Wood referral line at 319-399-6746.



# Snowy Weather and the Playground

If there is snow on the ground, these are the guidelines we will be using at Indian Creek for the playground:

1. Children without snow boots (boots that are not worn all day long) will be asked to play on the shoveled areas of the playground only.
2. Children with snow boots will be allowed to walk in the snowy areas.
3. Children with snow boots, snow pants/snow suits, and mittens/gloves will be allowed to play in the snow.

It is also a good idea to send hat/hood, ear band or earmuffs, mittens/gloves as well. Since we all know the weather in Iowa changes quickly, it would be helpful if you could send these things with your child daily (a plastic grocery bag or a one of the new recyclable grocery bags would be a great carryall bag). This way we all are sure to enjoy the snowy days on the playground without becoming wet and cold. Please label each item with your child's name.



## DRESS FOR RECESS

For your planning ~ please assume that your child be going outside for recess every day. Children should have snow pants, boots, mittens, coats, and hats. Unless the wind chill is below zero, a few minutes in the fresh air gives the children a nice break.

# We LOVE Our Volunteers!

## Indian Creek Volunteer News

2023- 2024 Indian Creek Volunteer Coordinators

Meredith Foreman & Megan Render [icvolunteers@linnmar.k12.ia.us](mailto:icvolunteers@linnmar.k12.ia.us)

### How to become an Indian Creek Volunteer?

If you would like to apply to become a new Linn-Mar volunteer, please visit

<https://volunteers.linnmar.k12.ia.us/register.asp> to sign up! We would love to have you on our volunteer team!



## Volunteer Workshops

December 7

January 4

February 1

March 7

April 4

May 2

All Indian Creek volunteer workshops are scheduled from 9:00-10:30 AM and will be held in the Indian Creek Multi- Purpose Room

Thank you ~ Thank you

We would like to say a big thank you to all of the volunteers who have been busy at Indian Creek volunteering in classrooms, at the volunteer workshops, helping with everything in between!

We couldn't do it without you!

We always say Indian Creek volunteers are the BEST of all!



# Indian Creek PTO

## INDIAN CREEK PTO MEETING DATES

NO DECEMBER MEETING

NO JANUARY MEETING

FEBRUARY 5

NO MARCH MEETING

APRIL 8

NO MAY MEETING

ALL PTO MEETINGS WILL BEGIN  
AT 6:30 PM IN THE INDIAN  
CREEK LIBRARY.



## PTO COOKIE CRAFT

Please join the Indian Creek PTO for a fun cookie craft on Thursday, December 14 from 6:30-7:30 PM in the Indian Creek multi-purpose room. Watch for more details and sign up to come.



The Indian Creek PTO will sponsor BINGO Night at Indian Creek on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00-7:00 PM. Watch for more details to come!



Indian Creek PTO has a Facebook page! Please follow the link below and \*like\* our page to receive updates and reminders from Indian Creek PTO!

<https://www.facebook.com/Indian-Creek-PTO-132334564071200/>

Thank you for your support of Indian Creek!