

Indian Creek News

Fall 2023

Kelly Kretschmar

August 2023

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 21 Kindergarten Parent Night 6:00 PM | 22 | 23 1st Day of School for Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 1st Day of School for kindergartens with last names beginning with the letter A-L | 24 1st Day of School for kindergartens with last names beginning with the letter M-Z 4 th Grade Parent Night 6:00 PM | 25 All Kindergarteners 2 nd day of school |
| 28 1 st Grade Parent Night 6:00 PM | 29 K3rd Grade Parent Night 6:00 PM | 30 2 nd Grade Parent Night 6:00 PM | 31 | 1 |

September 2023

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--|---------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| 4 NO SCHOOL Labor Day Holiday | 5 | 6 | 7 Volunteer Workshop 9:00 – 10:30 AM IC Multi-Purpose Room | 8 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 Fall School Picture Day | 21 | 22 PTO Fall Carnival 5:00-7:00 PM on the Playground |
| 25 NO SCHOOL Professional Development Day | 26 | 27 | 29 | 29 |

Dear Indian Creek Families,

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! We are all excited to be back at Indian Creek and look forward to an amazing school year full of high levels of learning for all! We especially want to extend a warm welcome to the families new to our school.

Indian Creek has an incredible staff who are committed to educational excellence for all students. Our staff collaborates in Professional Learning Communities to improve upon instructional practices and ultimately the learning for our students. We will continue to provide meaningful and challenging learning opportunities for all students in a safe, respectful, and responsible environment.

Collaborating with our parents is important to our student's success. Our families and staff partnership is valuable to every student's learning. Indian Creek's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is a group of parents and staff who are committed to enrich curricular and extracurricular experiences through the support they provide each year. Through your child's enrollment at Indian Creek, you are automatically members of our PTO, and we strongly encourage you to be an active member of this group. Volunteering in a classroom and/or for other events held throughout the day is another great way to support our partnership. Please watch for more information from PTO and our volunteer coordinators on how you can be involved in our school community!

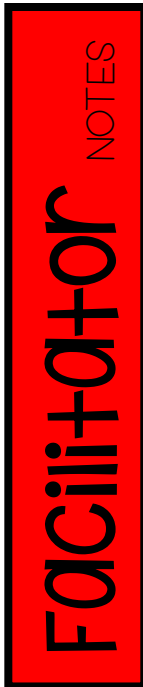
We all are looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

Kelly Kretschmar



Mrs. James is the school counselor here at Indian Creek! She can be seen in the classrooms teaching a guidance lesson, interacting with students throughout the school day, and visiting with parents about concerns they may have. Mrs. James will have helpful ideas and tips and other valuable information to add to the Counselor's Corner in the Indian Creek newsletters.



Mrs. Skoneczka (Mrs. S. as they student's call her) is our Indian Creek facilitator. Mrs. Skoneczka is ready to help our students be the best they can be and always has an encouraging word to share with them. She can be found interacting with students at most times throughout the school day. She is ready to help solve problems and conflicts that arise. Watch for Mrs. Skoneczka's facilitator's notes in the newsletter.

Online Registration on PowerSchool is Now Open

All families will need to log on to PowerSchool and complete an eRegistration for each student at Indian Creek for the 2023-24 school year. Please complete your online registration no later than August 18, 2023.

You will need your PowerSchool username and password to log on (just a reminder the username and password were created by you when you set up your PowerSchool account.) Be sure to go through each screen, making any changes that need to be made and click submit at the bottom of the page (this will save all changes). If you do not need to make changes you will still need to click through the screens on PowerSchool and click submit at the bottom of each screen.

Be sure to complete the permissions at the end of the eRegistration as these need to be updated every year. Also, just a reminder, the "Use of Student Photographs, Videos, and Likenesses", "Student Internet Access", and "Student Online Accounts" have changed as of July 1, 2015 and now require a letter to be written to their building principal no later than September 15th (or within two weeks of student enrollment if enrollment occurs after this date) if parents/guardians have objections to these three permissions.

Handy Contact Information for Indian Creek



Principal: Mrs. Kelly Kretschmar

E-mail: kkretschmar@linnmar.k12.ia.us Phone: 319-447-3271

School Facilitator: Mrs. Courtney Skoneczka

E-mail: courtney.skoneczka@linnmar.k12.ia.us Phone: 319-447-3312



Principal's Secretary: Mrs. Pam Harder

E-mail: pharder@linnmar.k12.ia.us Phone: 319-447-3270

Guidance Counselor: Mrs. Laura James

E-mail: laura.james@linnmar.k12.ia.us Phone: 319-447-3274



Attendance/Guidance Secretary: Mrs. Kitty Strauser

E-Mail: kstrauser@linnmar.k12.ia.us Phone: 319-447-3272

Health Assistant: Mrs. Stephanie Rosendale

E-mail: srosendale@linnmar.k12.ia.us Phone: 319-447-3273



Instagram

Follow Indian Creek
Elementary on
Instagram

@indiancreekelementary

WE ARE LINN-MAR®

Communication, Notifications, & Cancellations or Delays

It is very important that you have your current e-mail listed on your contact page in PowerSchool. This is where not only, Indian Creek, but also the Linn-Mar District will pull e-mail addresses from to send out notifications. The Linn-Mar District will also use text messaging, so it is also very important that you have a mobile phone number listed if you wish to receive text messages. *Please be sure you select "mobile" in PowerSchool for that phone number as that is how the systems identifies the number to text.*

Indian Creek Elementary Communications

Indian Creek families will receive weekly e-mails from our school secretary, Pam Harder. These e-mails will normally be sent out on Monday afternoons with important information for the upcoming week. Be sure to watch for them and let Pam know if you are not receiving them. Newsletters will also be published on the Indian Creek website several times throughout the school year.

Our teaching staff will also be using a communication tool called Seesaw to send out various communications throughout the school year to you. Be sure to watch for Seesaw information to come from your child's teacher.

Linn-Mar District Text and Email Notifications

Linn-Mar is partnering with School Messenger, a text service provider to better communicate with our families in case of emergencies, weather, or school closings.

In order to receive the text messages and other important information, we remind families to please update their PowerSchool contact information.

Please Update your PowerSchool Information:

- School Messenger is looking for the top two active contact accounts that have an email or phone number associated with them. If an active account is at the top but does not have any phone or email address, it will be skipped, as there is no way to contact that person.
- Additionally, School Messenger will ONLY send text messages to phones tagged as "mobile". So, if a number is listed as "daytime", "home", or "work", it will not try to text that number. Update your contact information and change phone to mobile.

Here's How:

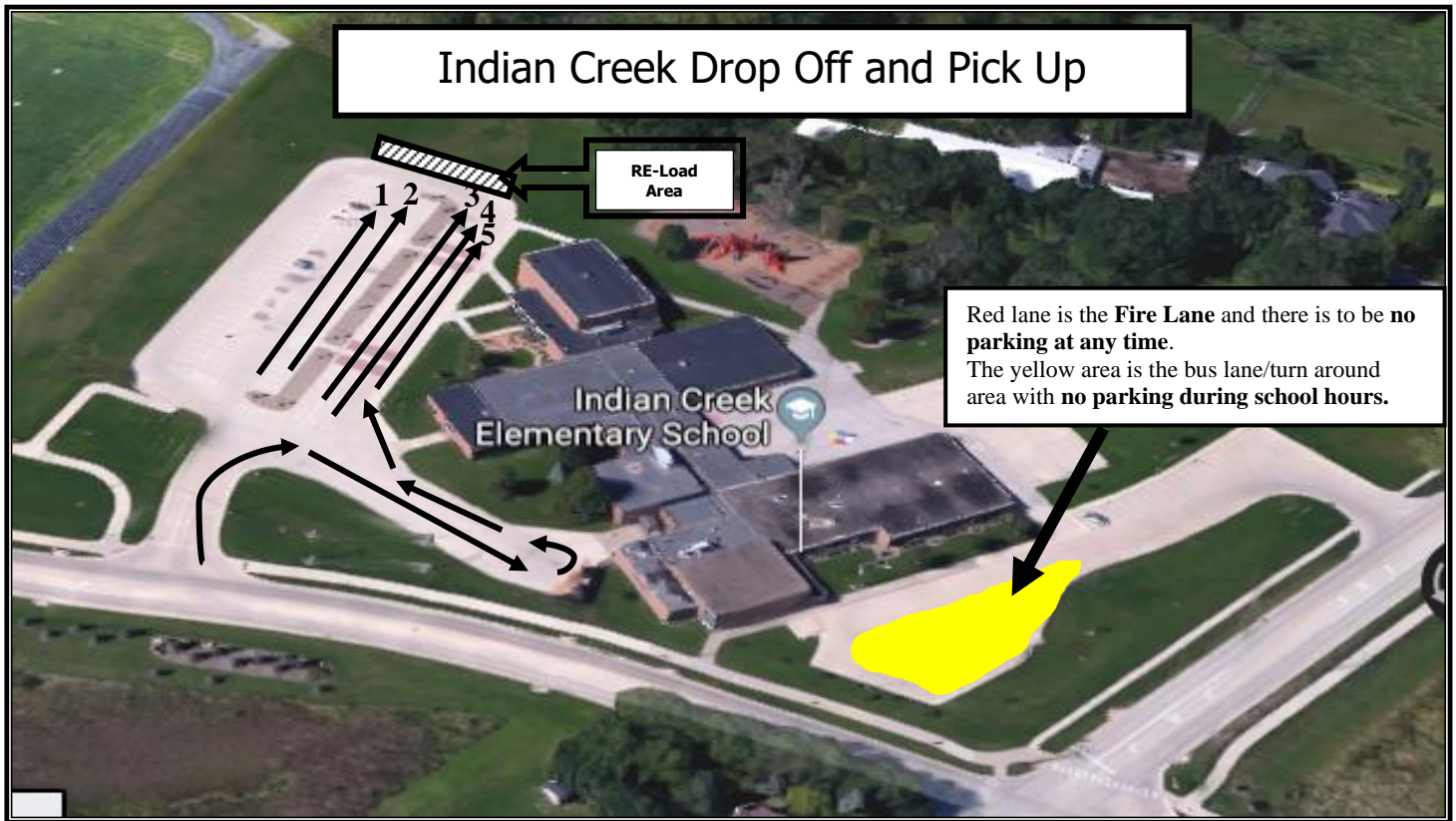
1. Log in to PowerSchool, you will see two options for contacts. Update and Sort. These will be near the bottom of the left-hand side.
2. Click on update contacts and you will see tabs near the top of the page that list each contact.
3. Click on any tab to update that contact. **Under Phones, make sure that any mobile numbers are appropriately tagged as mobile.**

Once this is all entered correctly, you should automatically receive a text from School Messenger the next morning. You will be all set to receive future text notifications from Linn-Mar as a district AND building-specific information.

Weather Cancellations/Delays

All weather-related announcements will be communicated via:

- **Television:** KCRG-TV9, CBS-2/FOX 28, and KWWL-7
- **Radio:** WMT KMRY KKRQ KHAK KZIA KCCK KXEL
- **School Messenger**
- **District Website:** www.linnmar.k12.ia.us (an alert will be visible on the top of the homepage)
- **District Social Media: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.**



Morning Drop Off Procedure:

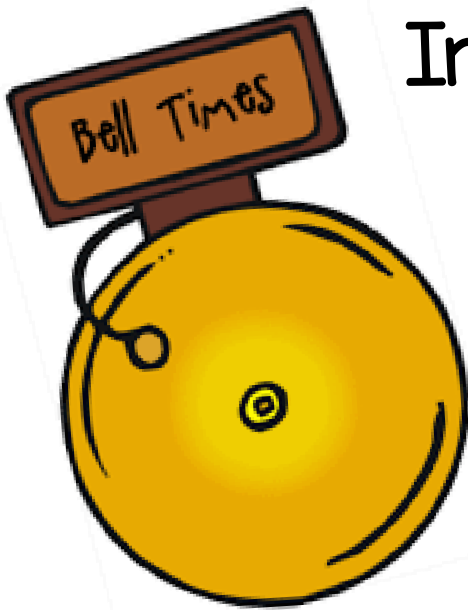
Enter the back parking lot off of 29th Avenue. Pull into lane 5, next to the sidewalk, and as far forward as possible. If you are the first vehicle you will park just beyond the corner of the gym and **wait for an on-duty staff member** to assist your student. Students will exit the vehicle on the passenger's side of the vehicle. *Drivers: please REMAIN in your vehicle* and watch for direction from staff on duty. If Lane 5 is full pull behind the vehicles in the lane forming a U shape (see the arrows above) holding pattern. Lane 5 will fill as vehicles exit the lane. All vehicles need to **stay in the line** (do not pull out and around the vehicles in front of you) following the vehicle in front of them to the end of the lane where vehicles will turn left, staying along the edge of the parking lot back to the 29th Avenue driveway.

Afternoon Pick Up Procedure:

Notice we have five lanes designated for pick up lanes. Lane 1 and 2 are in between the first and second row of the parked cars and lanes 3, 4 and 5 are located between the parking lot and the sidewalk next to the school. Enter the back parking lot off of 29th Avenue filling lanes 1 and 2 first, then lanes 3 and 4. Lane 5 is reserved for the daycare busses and vans. The first vehicle should pull up as far as possible in the lane. If the lanes are full vehicles should form a U shape (see the arrows above) holding pattern and wait for instructions to be given by the staff on duty. Indian Creek staff will use walkie-talkies to communicate. Staff will identify drivers and call for students. Students will walk down the passenger side of each lane to load vehicles and follow instructions given by the staff on duty. *Drivers: Please REMAIN in your vehicles*. If your student has not been loaded and the lane is ready to exit please pull forward and park on the re-load area (located on the north end) of the lot. A staff member will escort your student to your vehicle. Once your child(ren) have been loaded please **stay in the line** (do not pull out and around the vehicles in front of you) and follow the car in front of you to exit the parking lot.

Please share these procedures with anyone who maybe dropping off or picking up your student.

Thank you to all of our families for following these procedures and keeping our students, staff, and families safe during these very busy times of the day.



Indian Creek Elementary School Hours

8:15 AM First Bell Rings

Students may enter the building at this time

8:30 AM School Day Begins

Students are expected to be in their seats ready to begin class

3:15 PM Students are Dismissed

It is the expectation that all students will be picked up by 3:30 PM.
(with the exception of those attending Hand in Hand after school care)

*** ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL DETAILS ***

Students **traveling by vehicle** at regular arrival and dismissal times should be dropped off and picked up in the back parking lot (the parking lot off of 29th Avenue) **ONLY!** Staff will be on duty beginning at 8:10 to assist and supervise students. Please do not let students out of your vehicle prior to staff being on duty, do not get out of your vehicle to help your student exit your vehicle (our staff is more than happy to assist students) and do not pullout of the vehicle line to pass other cars. Once students have exited your vehicle they will go to their assigned entrance to enter the building.

Students arriving to school by bus will be dropped off in our front parking lot (the parking lot off of Indian Creek Road). Once students have exited the bus they will go to their assigned entrance to enter the building.

Students who walk or ride bikes to school will wait on the corners of 29th Avenue and Indian Creek Road for school crossing guards to stop traffic and assist students crossing this busy intersection. **Crossing guards will be out at 8:05 to 8:25 to cross students in the morning.** If you are a parent using the drop off line during the morning please be mindful and attentive to the crossing guard's directions while in the crosswalks.

Thank you too, for helping our students experience independence by coming into the building on their own, unless it is after 8:30 AM, which then requires a parent or responsible adult to sign students in.

FIRE LANE & BUS DROP OFF TURN AROUND AREA

During the day beginning at 7:15 am you will notice bright orange cones out separating the front parking lot (the parking lot off of Indian Creek Road) near the basketball courts from the space directly in front of our school building. These cones are set out to keep our fire lane open at all times and this space is also our bus loading and unloading area, which needs to be free of vehicles to allow busses access at any time during our school day. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping this area open throughout the school day.

Attendance Procedures

Indian Creek Attendance

Phone Number 319-200-1556

Please be sure to call the Indian Creek office (319-200-1556) by 8:30 AM when your student is going to be absent or late to school. Please to state the following information:

- Your student's name
- Classroom teacher
- Reason for absence or late arrival
- Anticipated time your student will arrive if applicable
- Lunch choice if applicable

If we do not hear from parents, Mrs. Strauser will call home to find out why the child is not at school. All illnesses are reported to the school nurse. The nurse uses this information to help monitor current contagious diseases that may spread through the building.

Checking Students in and out of School During the School Day

Checking Students into School:

- Students must check in at the office before going to their classroom.
- Students arriving after 8:30 AM, whether they are tardy or coming from an appointment are required to be signed into school by an adult.
- Students arriving to school after 8:30 AM need to be escorted into the school office by an adult who will sign the student into school.
- Students are asked to return to their classrooms on their own. Parents should not walk their student to the classroom.

Checking Student Out of School:

- A responsible adult will need to go directly to the Indian Creek Office to sign students out of school on the appropriate list.
- A staff member will call your student to the office once you have signed them out.
- Please know the name of your student's teacher when coming to sign him or her out of school.
- Students will not be called out of class to the office until an adult has arrived at the office to pick the student up.



School Breakfast



Breakfast begins at 8:10. Students who arrive to school by bus or car should go directly to the multi-purpose room for breakfast. Students just need to let the supervisor on duty know that they are going to breakfast, they are not to wait in line with the other students for the 8:15 bell to ring. Students walking to school should plan to arrive at the crosswalk at 8:05 to be in the first group crossed, this will give them plenty of time to cross, eat breakfast, and make it to class by 8:30 AM.



Lunch and Recess Time

| Grade Level | Recess Time | Lunch Time |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Kindergarten | 10:45-11:05 | 11:05-11:30 |
| First Grade | 11:10-11:30 | 11:30-11:55 |
| Second Grade | 12:25-12:45 | 12:45-1:10 |
| Third Grade | 11:35-11:55 | 11:55-12:20 |
| Fourth Grade | 12:00-12:20 | 12:20-12:45 |

Joining Your Child for Lunch.....



If you would like to join your child for lunch please call **Mrs. Strauser at 447-3272** before 9:00am the morning you plan to come to lunch to order a school lunch (our lunches are made off site and we need to place our order by 9:00 AM to ensure we have enough food for everyone).

When coming for lunch you will sign in at the office and fill out a VISITOR badge before joining your child in the cafeteria.. We do ask that you either eat a school lunch or bring a sack lunch from home. **Fast food such as McDonald's, Culver's, Burger King, etc.. and pop/soda are not allowed at school.**

Adult lunches may be scanned from your child's lunch account or paid for (cash or check) in the main office. If you choose to pay with cash you will need to have the exact change. Thanks so much for your help. We hope to see you at lunch!

A Few Reminders For Our Visitors

We require that **ALL** of our Indian Creek visitors sign in at the office and obtain a visitors' badge which needs be worn the entire time you are visiting Indian Creek. When leaving the building, make sure to stop in the office to sign out. Please note that this is a safety policy of the Linn-Mar District and is meant for everyone visiting Indian Creek during the school day whether or not you are staying just a few minutes, staying a long time, or you are a frequent visitor/volunteer.

Volunteering:

We ask when you are volunteering at Indian Creek to please check in at the office, obtain a visitors' badge, and record your volunteer hours on the volunteer computer. The district does host a 100-Hour Volunteer Recognition each year for those volunteers who reach 100 or more hours during the school year.

Visiting For Lunch:

If you will be joining your child for lunch, please be sure to phone Mrs. Strauser (447-3272) by 9:00 AM to order your lunch the day you plan on coming. We do ask that you check in at the office when you arrive to sign in, obtain a visitors badge, pay for your meal, if needed, or you may have the amount deducted directly from your child's lunch account, then you may either wait in the office or on the bench located directly outside of the office for your child to come from their classroom to the cafeteria. Please note that the office does **NOT** keep cash on hand so if you plan to pay in cash please have exact change.

Miscellaneous Reminders:

- ALL visitors must check in at the office upon arrival and check out when leaving the building.
- To avoid unnecessary distractions from learning during the school day we ask that parents bring only essential forgotten items to the office and a staff member will deliver the item to your child. We ask that parents not go to the classroom or to your child's locker by yourself to deliver forgotten items.
- All visitors need to make arrangements with the teacher prior to arriving at school for a visit.
- When visiting please be respectful and remember that school is in session from 8:30 AM to 3:15 PM.
- Younger siblings should not visit the classroom with you unless approved by the teacher in advance.
- Visitors should not bring gifts (balloons, flowers, etc.) to students at school.
- Animals are not allowed in the building, unless approved by the teacher and or principal in advance of the visit.



Notes From the Health Office



** Is my Child too Sick for School?

Each day parents are faced with a decision: should they keep their student home or send them ill to school. A student should remain at home when he or she:

Vomits or has diarrhea within the last 24 hours

Has oral temperature higher than 100.0 degrees

Coughs almost constantly or complains of difficulty breathing

Keeping a sick student home prevents the spread of illness at school. It allows the student opportunity to rest and recover. An ill student cannot learn effectively and is unable to participate in a meaningful way.

** Medication in School

Prescription and non-prescription medications will only be administered during the school day with written authorization from the parent/guardian. All medications are to be brought to school by parent/guardian. No medication is to be kept by the student in their desk, lockers, backpacks or on their person.

Prescription Medication

Prescription medication must be supplied to the school in the original, labeled pharmacy prescription container. The pharmacy will provide you with a second bottle upon request. The label must include the name of the student, the name of the medication, dosage prescribed, frequency, and the name of prescribing physician. The *medication permission form* signed by parent/guardian must be on file. A physician signature is not required on the form.

In accordance with Iowa law (Code 280.16) a student with asthma or another airway-constricting disease may possess their medications while in school and at school-sponsored activities. The district shall incur no liability for an injury arising from self-administration. The student is responsible for having medications available and maintaining a self-administration record. If the student abuses self-administration, permission may be withdrawn. An Emergency Medication to Carry Form must be on file signed by parent/guardian AND physician.

Non-Prescription (over the counter) Medications

For student in Elementary and Intermediate School (Grades PK-6) a physician/dentist signature is required before any non-prescription medication will be given. This includes acetaminophen, ibuprofen and cough/allergy medications. All of these medications are to be provided by a parent/guardian.

** Sick At School

Students who become ill at school will need to go home promptly. If your child becomes ill at school, you will be notified by someone from the Indian Creek Health Office and either you or someone you designate will need to pick up your child within 30 minutes of the phone call. Please communicate with the health office who will be picking up your child.

Nutrition Services

The Nutrition Services Department offers nutritionally balanced, appetizing school meals to students, staff and parents during the school day. Meals are planned to follow high nutritional standards set by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Staff Contact

Stacy Fish

Nutrition Services Manager

Phone (319) 447-3302

Fax (319) 377-9252

Address: 2999 N 10th Street – Room 205 – Marion, IA 52302

Elementary School Lunch Prices are as follows for the 2023-24 school year:

BREAKFAST

Grades K-12: \$2.10

Reduced Price Grades K-12: \$.30

Adult: \$2.50

Milk (separate from meal) \$.50

LUNCH

Elementary, Grades K-5: \$3.10

Reduced Price Grades K-12: \$.40

Adult: \$4.85

Milk (separate from meal) \$.50

Payment of Meals:

Each student is assigned a computerized meal account. Parents/guardians pre-pay into a student's meal account by sending a check to the student's school, district office, or paying online with debit/credit card at <https://intouch.linnmar.k12.ia.us>. During meal service, students scan an ID badge at the cash register. The computer debits and records purchases from the student's meal account. You can find lunch deposit instructions at: <https://www.linnmar.k12.ia.us/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/2017-18-Lunch-Deposit-Instruction.pdf>

Free and Reduced Meals:

Forms for 2023-24 are located in PowerSchool and available in Linn-Mar's district handbook. Please complete, sign, and return all 3 pages of the application form as soon as possible. You may return the form in one of four ways:

1. Complete the application in PowerSchool.
2. Return the form to your students' school office or Mail or bring to the Nutrition Services office located at the Learning Resource Center, 2999 North 10th Street, Marion, IA 52302.
3. Complete, sign, scan and email to afish@linnmar.k12.ia.us
4. Fax the form to 319-377-9252.

If you have questions regarding applying for free or reduced meals, please contact Andrea Fish, Nutrition Services Coordinator, at (319) 447-3349.

Total Access – Meal Accounts

The district uses [Total Access](#), an internet-based system, to provide families with up-to-the-minute information regarding student meal accounts. Student account history for purchases and deposits is easily accessible. Additionally, the program provides email notifications when meal account balances are low.

Indian Creek Volunteers

Are the BEST volunteers!

2023- 2024 Indian Creek Volunteer Coordinators

Meredith Foreman & Megan Render icvolunteers@linnmark12.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.linnmark12.ia.us/register.asp> to sign up! We would love to have you on our volunteer team!

INDIAN CREEK VOLUNTEER E-MAIL LIST

If you would like to receive e-mails from the Indian Creek volunteer coordinator pertaining to upcoming volunteer opportunities please be sure to send an e-mail to icvolunteers@linnmark12.ia.us and request to be added to the list. Thank you for all you do to support our school. We ♥ our Volunteers!

September Volunteer Workshop

When:

September 7, 9:00-10:30 AM

Where:

Indian Creek Multi- Purpose Room

Children are welcome to attend this volunteer opportunity as all work is completed in the Indian Creek Multi-Purpose Room and not classrooms.

Indian Creek Volunteer Orientation

If you are a new volunteer to Indian Creek Elementary, or if you have yet to attend a volunteer orientation, please attend this year's Volunteer Orientation.

September 7

9:00 AM

Indian Creek Multi-Purpose Room

INDIAN CREEK PTO NEWS

Join the PTO!

The Indian Creek PTO is a wonderful volunteer organization made up of Indian Creek parents, teachers, administrators, and support staff who are dedicated to make a difference for our students and staff at Indian Creek.

The purpose of the PTO is to provide support to our students and staff with educational needs, to provide a few fun events to our Indian Creek families, to build strong community connections, and to promote communication between the administration, staff, parents, and community.

As a parent of an Indian Creek student, you are automatically a member of the Indian Creek PTO. We would love your support by participating in activities, meetings, and events throughout the school year.

Please watch the Indian Creek PTO Facebook page for important information from the PTO. You can also sign up to be added to the Indian Creek PTO e-mail list to receive e-mail updates by sending an email to indiancreekpto@gmail.com. Since the Indian Creek PTO is a separate organization from Indian Creek Elementary School, we are unable to acquire e-mail addresses from the district database. We need your help to supply us with your e-mail information so we can keep you up to date on our activities, PTO minutes, and various other communications throughout the year.

Typically, the Indian Creek PTO meetings are held on the first or second Monday of the month beginning at 6:30 PM. This year the November meeting will be held on the first Monday and there will not be a meeting during the month of January. We hope to see you at a meeting this year!

Indian Creek PTO Meeting/Event Dates

September 22 Fall Carnival
October 2 Meeting
November 6 Meeting
December 14 Cookie Craft
January 25 Bingo
February 5 Meeting
March No Meeting/Event
April 8 Meeting
May 20 Playground Party
All meetings will begin at 6:30 PM in the Indian Creek Library

PTO E-Mail List

If you would like to be added to the PTO e-mail list, please send an email to indiancreekpto@gmail.com. PTO is a separate organization from Indian Creek, therefore, we are unable to acquire email addresses from the district database. We need your help to supply us with your e-mail information so we can keep you up to date on our activities, PTO minutes, and other information.



Find us on:
facebook®

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-pt0-132334564071200/> Thank you for your support of Indian Creek!

At Indian Creek we are...

Respectful
Responsible
Ready
and we CARE!



Indian Creek Elementary School

Collective Commitments

We have agreed upon these collective commitments as a basis for our values as adults working with students at Indian Creek Elementary School. These commitments are intended to serve as a means to guide our conduct, represent our shared purpose and to direct us as professionals. We aspire to align our work to the mission, vision and professional expectations of the Linn-Mar Community School District and Indian Creek Elementary School. We believe that every child deserves instruction and assessment that is tailored to their individual learning needs in order for them to reach high levels of learning and meet with success every day. We will create conditions using collaborative practices and professional conduct to foster an atmosphere conducive to reaching our mission. We honor traditions and culture while embracing innovation and implementation of best practices for student success.

Vision

The vision of Indian Creek Elementary School is "Through cooperation, collaboration and camaraderie among school, family and community, students will become successful, productive citizens in an ever-changing society."

Mission

The mission of Indian Creek Elementary School is "Success and learning for all every day!"

Goals

- We will raise every student's achievement.
- We will ensure a safe environment for learning.
- We will embrace technology as a tool for student learning.

