

# Indian Creek News

April/May 2024

Kelly Kretschmar Principal

## April 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 NO SCHOOL	2	3	4 Volunteer Workshop 9:00 - 10:30 AM IC Multi-Purpose Room	5
8	9 Kindergarten Grade Music Program 6:30 Program	10	11	12
15 ISASP Testing	16 ISASP Testing	17 ISASP Testing	18 ISASP Testing	19 ISASP Testing
22	23 Art Show 4-6 PM	24	25	26 NO SCHOOL
29	30 2nd Grade Swimming			

## May 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1 2nd Grade Swimming	2 2nd Grade Swimming Volunteer Workshop 9: - 10:30 AM IC Multi-Purpose Room (MPR)	3 2nd Grade Swimming
6 2nd Grade Swimming	7 Encore Concert 6:60	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27 NO SCHOOL	28	29	30 2 Hour Early Dismissal Last Day	31

## A Note From the Principal...



Dear Indian Creek Families,

I hope everyone had a great spring break in March! It is hard to believe that we only have two months left before summer break.

As the year begins to wind down, we will work together as a staff to determine student classroom placements for the 2024-25 school year. We have an excellent staff at Indian Creek and we feel that students will benefit from any teacher's instruction, but we do recognize that finding the right fit of teaching and learning styles is important for a whole year of learning. The teachers and I consider many different factors when compiling class lists including:

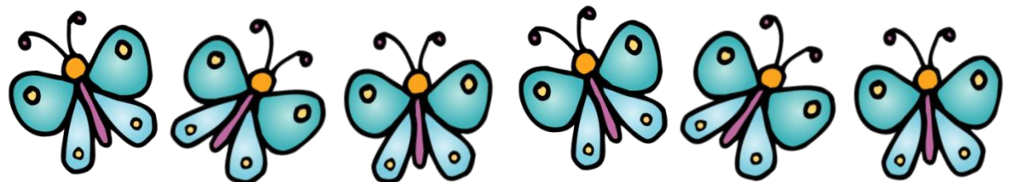
- Balance by gender
- Heterogeneous academic ability levels
- Organizational skills
- Behavioral skills
- Social and emotional needs
- Special education needs
- Medical needs
- Positive or negative relationships among individual students
- Teacher, counselor and administrative recommendations
- Learning style needs
- Previous relationships between the teacher and the family
- Information provided by parents
- Other needs that the individual student may have

Because this is such a delicate and important balance, we do not accept specific requests for individual teachers, but we do accept feedback from parents/guardians that will help ensure the best fit possible for their student. If you have information that you want to share about your student to help with the classroom placement process for next school year, please email me at [kkretschmar@k12.ia.us](mailto:kkretschmar@k12.ia.us) or send me a written note by Friday, April 19th.

I hope everyone will be able to enjoy some beautiful spring weather soon! Life will quickly turn green! ☺

Sincerely,

Kelly Kretschmar, Principal





It is no secret that when us adults were growing up, the school office or principal's office was a place we didn't want to end up – a place for discipline, strict conversations, and a place our parents considered as "bad". Over the last several years, Indian Creek has worked really hard to change that image for students and parents. At Indian Creek, students are taught from the first week of school, that the office is a neutral place to go for various reasons:

- talk with an adult about their feelings
- reset so they can return back to class ready to learn
- a quiet workspace
- a quiet place to rest, when needed
- and many more

There are often times students arrive to the office overwhelmed or worried, thinking their parents are going to be bad at them for being "sent" here. We like to look at spending time in the office as more of a positive resource or a tool. Yes, there are times we talk through mistakes or school expectations, but more so, students come to reset and get back on track for learning.

Here at Indian Creek, we believe in students advocating for themselves when they feel they are not at their best and need a reset. Students have several different options with this- a stars break (locating hidden stars in the hallways), suitcase break (moving around weighted suitcases through the hallway- a grounding exercise) or coming to the office to check in with an adult.

How this works is:

1. Students ask their teacher for the reset break card
2. Students walk down to the office and check in with either Mrs. Strauser or Mrs. Harder. There they receive a 2-3 minute timer for their choice in break.
3. Students do their break and when the timer goes off, they stop and return to the office where they exchange their timer for their break card
4. Students head back to class- refocused for learning

When sitting around the dinner table or after reading a book at night, check in with your kiddo and ask them to explain our reset system! This will help normalize the office space as a positive place and ensures students and parents are on the same page!

**FACILITATOR**

NOTES

# PBIS

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

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

## Recess Expectations:

As the arrival of warmer weather draws near, it's important to revisit our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) expectations for outdoor recess with all students. Our students and staff have been reviewing these expectations to ensure that everyone demonstrates respect, responsibility, and readiness during each recess. Students have been revisiting the specific rules for different areas such as the blacktop, play space, and lining up. We need to refocus on using equipment properly, following game rules, taking turns, including all, and playing fair. Following these rules is essential for the safety and enjoyment of all, allowing everyone to have the best time with their peers.

## School-Wide Celebrations:

During the month of February, students had the opportunity to vote for their school-wide celebration when they earned a Thank You Note. They could vote for School-Wide Bingo or School-Wide Dance Party. The winner, by a landslide, was school-wide dance party. The voting jar was exploding with Thank You Notes! Right before Spring Break, we were able to see everyone's best dance moves throughout the building and in the hallways.



ART SHOW

Mark your calendar!



The Indian Creek Art Show Gallery Walk will be held on April 23 from 4:00-6:00 PM. Please plan to join us to see your child's artwork during this time. Watch for more details to come from Mrs. Havlicek as we get closer to the Art Show Gallery Walk.



## Kindergarten For The 2024-25 School Year

If you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 15, 2024, he or she will be eligible for kindergarten! If you have not yet called the Indian Creek office to speak with Pam (319-447-3270) about adding your child to our growing kindergarten list, please do so as soon as possible to see what steps you will need to take to get your child pre-registered for 2024-25 kindergarten class at Indian Creek!

If you happen to know of any neighbors or friends that have a child who would be eligible for kindergarten, we would be so appreciative if you would please share this information with them. Thank you!



## STUDENTS NOT RETURNING TO INDIAN CREEK FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

If you have a currently enrolled student at Indian Creek and you know that your student will NOT be returning to Indian Creek for the 2024-25 school year, please contact Pam (319-447-3270) in the office.

We will keep track of those students that will be moving so we can be ready to process student records to the new school once we receive a records request and transfer information.

**Last day of school for the 2023-24 school year is Thursday, May 30, 2024 with a 1:15 early dismissal.**







School will not be in session on the following days:

Monday, April 1

Friday, April 26

## 2 Hour Early Dismissal

Indian Creek will have 2 hour early dismissals on Thursday, May 30, which is our last day of school for the 2023-24 school year.



## VIRTUAL BACKPACK

Don't forget to check out the Linn-Mar Virtual Backpack! This is where you can stay up to date with latest community activities, events, volunteer opportunities, and more! Check back often as ne items are added weekly. Use this link to access the virtual backpack: <https://www.linmar.k12.ia.us/backpack/>

### School Year Calendars for 2024-2025 & 2025-2026

To assist our families with their long-range planning, the Linn-Mar School Board has approved the academic calendars for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years.

[Linn-Mar 2024-25 School Calendar](#)

[Linn-Mar 2025-26 School Calendar](#)