

# Indian Creek News

Fall 2023

Kelly Kretschmar, Principal

## October 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1	2	3 Volunteer Workshop 9:00 - 10:30 AM IC Multi-Purpose Room (MPR)	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Swimming Unit	16 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Swimming Unit	17 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Swimming Unit	19 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Swimming Unit America Reads Day!
21 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Swimming Unit	22 2 Hour Early Dismissal CONFERENCES	23	24 2 Hour Early Dismissal CONFERENCES	25 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>

## November 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
28 PTO Trunk or Treat 6:00-7:00 PM	29 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Music Program 6:30 PM	30 School Picture Retake Day	31 Fall Parties	1
4 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> PTO Meeting 6:30 PM IC Library	5 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	6	7 Volunteer Workshop 9:00 - 10:30 AM IC Multi- Purpose Room	8
11	12 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Music Program 6:30 PM	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	28 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	29 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>

Dear Indian Creek Families,

October brings a crispness to the air and thoughts of the change in seasons. Our focus at school is on high levels of learning for all. We look forward to parent/teacher conferences as a way to share goals for the school year.

Parents often ask us here at school, what can we do at home to help our children with reading? Parents are their child's first and most important teacher. It's almost impossible to overestimate the tremendous impact parents have on their child's reading success. Throughout the first years of school, teachers are helping your child develop reading skills that will enable him or her to become a proficient reader. But make no mistake, learning to read takes practice, practice and more practice-much more than a child can get during a school day.

You can provide reading opportunities and extra guidance at home by simply implementing some simple activities. They are sure to help your child with reading comprehension regardless of what skill level they are currently at. Equally important, these activities will help foster a love for reading.

The good news is that teaching reading comprehension strategies are really second nature to parents. For example, when a mother says something like, "Jenny, tell your dad what we did at the zoo today," that builds a foundation for understanding how narratives work. While it would be great if all instructional techniques were this intuitive, most parents need a little nudge in the right direction.

Helping your child develop good reading comprehension skills involves planning. In other words, you need to give them the tools they need to apply to whatever kind of book you're reading together.

Before reading a book about ocean life, for example, first talk to your child about how fish are different from mammals and have to live in a water environment. Preview the text to find unfamiliar words like "gills" and "vertebrate" and explain them before you start reading. Talk about the fish you may have seen in a pet store or at the beach. You can even go the extra mile and take your child to the local aquarium. Does this sound a little extreme? Not at all - teachers do it all the time! Just trust that these steps will go a long way in comprehension development.

Studies show that children are exposed to a larger variety of words in children's books that are read to them than from what they hear on prime-time TV. That means anything you read to them will enlarge their vocabulary much more than the conversational dribble heard on television. Remember that your child's listening vocabulary is much larger than their reading vocabulary. When you read books that are interesting to your child, both reading and writing vocabularies increase. That's because if they have heard a word before in context, then when it's presented in the classroom, they will be able to recognize it with greater comprehension.

Good readers unconsciously create visual images in their heads while they are reading. It's all part of the comprehension process. While you are reading to your child, think out loud about the images you see or the questions that may arise. That means explaining the ideas, pictures, questions, and connections that go through your mind as you read a passage. Here's an example of a think aloud: The title of this book is Bobby: The Bravest Boxer. There is a picture of a dog on the cover so that tells me Bobby is a boxer dog instead of a man that boxes. I wonder what the dog did that proved his bravery. I need to read ahead and find out. Oh, on the next page it says, "Bobby got very nervous when the children were playing outside all alone, especially if they are near the street." That tells me that Bobby may do something to protect one of the children in the family. But how? I have to read on to find out more.

Most all children jump at the opportunity to play a little role reversal. As you and your child are reading, take turns coming up with questions, making predictions, and summarizing. You be the student and let your son or daughter be the teacher. Children love being able to say things like "Dad, tell me what you think will happen next!"

One of the most important things parents can do is to provide reading material that is interesting and relevant. Nothing turns a child off reading like boring content.

By consistently using these reading comprehension tips and strategies you'll provide a learning environment that will accelerate your child's reading comprehension development. Not only that, you'll form a parent - child bond that will serve your child well as he or she meets the challenges of school years and beyond.

We hope this has given you some tips about helping your child with reading at home. Meanwhile, enjoy the beautiful autumn weather during the month of October!

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 has had lots of fun starting the school year off with your students. During classroom guidance, students have been working their way through the Character Strong curriculum. This is our second year using the Character Strong curriculum as a building and district. Character Strong is being utilized not only during Mrs. James's guidance lessons, but also within the classrooms during their morning meeting times. This is a great way for students to take what they are learning and use it routinely in all facets of their day. So far this school year, students spent 4 weeks learning the trait of respect and we are currently learning all about responsibility. Each grade level has a different area of focus they worked on when we looked at respect and the same is true for responsibility. During respect, areas of focus included listening skills, understanding different perspectives, and conflict resolution. Responsibility focuses on following directions, flexible thinking and how to be organized. Over the next few months, we will continue to learn new skills and focus our attention on different traits such as gratitude, empathy, perseverance and cooperation. Be on the lookout for messages from your student's classroom teacher about the home connections that correlate with our Character Strong trait we are working on as a building. Her hope is that you are also seeing an increase of the traits we are working on at school at home as well! Mrs. James also works with students individually and in small groups to strengthen their skills. Areas she works with students on are social skill building, emotional regulation, impulse control, and a variety of other topic areas. These individual and small group times are a great opportunity for students to develop relationships, learn important skills, and learn how to cooperatively work together with others dealing with similar needs. Mrs. James makes these opportunities fun for the students through cooperative play and engaging lessons based on students' needs.

Be on the lookout for helpful ideas and tips as well as other valuable information from Mrs. James throughout the school year in the Counselor's Corner in the Indian Creek newsletters.

Hey Indian Creek Families!

It's that time of year already where our lost and found is getting pretty full! With the colder season almost here, students will be bringing their warm gear! To help us out, please label your child's gloves, hats, sweatshirts, coats, etc. I promise you we double check every lost and found item for a name!

Also, if you notice your student is coming home without their belongings, please give them a friendly reminder to check the lost and found!

Every year, there are so many items left unclaimed and we would love nothing more than to help find your child's lost items and return them!

FACILITATOR NOTES



## Indian Creek Is a PBIS School

What is PBIS? Positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) is an approach schools use to promote school safety and good behavior. With PBIS, schools teach kids about behavior expectations and strategies. The focus of PBIS is prevention, not punishment. Be watching for updates from our PBIS committee throughout the school year.

# OCTOBER & NOVEMBER NO SCHOOL DAYS!

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



OCTOBER 25  
NOVEMBER 4  
NOVEMBER 5  
NOVEMBER 27  
NOVEMBER 28  
NOVEMBER 29



## 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)

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Swimming Unit

Indian Creek 4<sup>th</sup> Graders will be participating in swimming unit during October. More information will be sent home with 4<sup>th</sup> grade students as the date get closer. The dates and times for the swimming unit are listed below.

**Mrs. Favero's Class: October 15, 16, 17, 18 & 21 from 9:40-10:45**  
**Mrs. Pederson's Class: October 15, 16, 17, 18 & 21 from 10:20-11:25**  
**Mrs. Phillips' Class: October 15, 16, 17, 18 & 21 from 11:00-12:05**  
**Ms. Boeckenstedt's Class: October 15, 16, 17, 18 & 21 from 12:55-2:00**

# Indian Creek Music Program Schedule



We are excited to share the Indian Creek Music Program schedule for the 2024-25 school year!

October 29 ~ 6:30 p.m.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Program
November 12 ~ 6:30 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Program
December 10 ~ 6:30 p.m.	Encore Concert
February 11 ~ 6:30 p.m.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Program
March 25 ~ 6:30 p.m.	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Program
April 8 ~ 6:30 p.m.	Kindergarten Program
May 6 ~ 6:30 p.m.	Encore Concert

Students will report to their classrooms no earlier than 6:10 PM. All of the music programs will start promptly at 6:30 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)

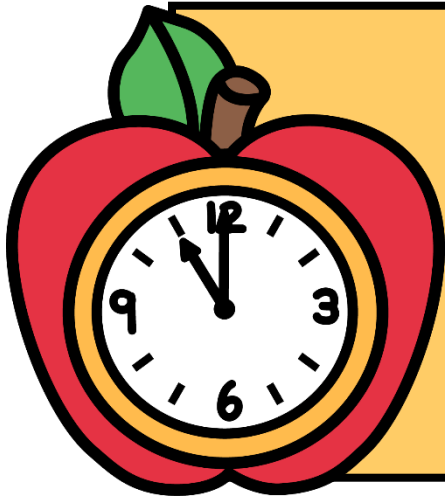


Follow Indian Creek  
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Instagram  
@indiancreekelementary

Thank you all for completing your student's eRegistration on PowerSchool for each of your students attending Indian Creek! We are 100% complete!

# Indian Creek Parent Teacher Conference Information

The Indian Creek conference days are set for October 22<sup>nd</sup> and October 24<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-7:00 PM. Please be sure to keep your scheduled 20-minute conference time with your child's teacher. If for some reason you will not be able to attend during your scheduled time, please call Mrs. Harder at 447-3270, or your child's teacher directly. We are very excited to hold conferences at Indian Creek. It is a special time for teachers and parents to dialogue.



Parent Teacher Conferences will be on a tight 20-minute schedule. Bell tones will ring every 20 minutes to signal conference stop and start times. Please be mindful of your time with the teacher and listen for the tone so we can keep everyone on time! Thank you for your cooperation.

Scheduling your parent teacher conference is done online via the conference scheduler. The conference scheduler will open to parents on October 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00AM. Conferences are scheduled on a first come first serve basis. Please watch for an instruction sheet to come home in early October.



# FAST or Formative Assessment System for Teachers

Three times a year, Kindergarten through Fourth Grade students will be assessed on a variety of skills that are essential to reading. The staff in the Linn-Mar Community School District is using the FAST assessment. FAST stands for Formative Assessment System for Teachers.

Throughout the school year, Kindergarten students are assessed on the following skills:

- Reading letter names and identifying letter sounds.
- Understanding concepts of print (eg. We read from left to right on a page).
- Identifying individual sounds, they hear in a word (eg. “at” has two sounds” /a/ and /t/).
- Reading commonly used words by sight (eg. “the”).
- Blending sounds together to read simple words.

The FAST/CBM assessment screens the following First Grade skills:

- Reading simple sentences.
- Number of words read correctly in one minute – related to decoding, vocabulary, and comprehension.
- Identifying individual sounds, they hear in a word (eg. “at” has two sounds” /a/ and /t/).
- Reading commonly used words by sight (eg. “the”).
- Blending sounds together to read simple words.

The FAST/CBM assessment screens the following Second through Fourth Grade skills:

- Overall measure of reading skills where the student reads aloud a passage for one minute. The teacher records the number of words the student reads correctly along with reading accuracy. The CBM Reading provides an overall indication of how well the student is reading and is related to other reading skills like decoding, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Your student should have brought home a letter home with his/her fall benchmark scores in his or her backpack on September 27, 2024. Teachers will also review this information with you at conferences.



## 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. 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 8:45 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.





## Communication, Notifications, & Cancelations 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 Cancelations/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 KCKK KXEL
- **School Messenger**
- **District Website:** [www.linnmar.k12.ia.us](http://www.linnmar.k12.ia.us) (an alert will be visible on the top of the homepage)
- **District Social Media: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.**

# Crossing Guard Safety

Please help us keep our crossing guards and students safe! Morning crossing at the corner of Indian Creek Road and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue is a very busy time. Please be sure to watch for directions from our crossing guards while you are at the intersection. A few points to remember. All vehicles must stop once the crossing guard or pedestrian steps into the cross walk and must remain stopped until the crossing guard and or pedestrian has safely crossed the street and is no longer in the cross walk. Making a quick right-hand turn is not ever allowed while the crossing guard or pedestrian is still in the cross walk.



## 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 do not call ahead of time to ask that your student be in the office waiting for you.
- Please know the name of your student's teacher when coming to sign him or her out of school.

## Linn-Mar Virtual Backpack

The Virtual Backpack is your space to stay up to date on the latest community activities, events, volunteer opportunities, and more! Check back often as new events are added weekly.

