

Indian Creek News

December/January 2024/25

Kelly Kretschmar Principal

December 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2	3	4	5 Volunteer Workshop 9:00 - 10:30 AM IC Multi-Purpose Room	6
9	10 Encore Concert 6:30 PM	11	12 PTO Cookie Craft (6:30-7:30) multi-purpose room	13
16	17	18	19	20 Winter Parties 2 (1/5) Hour Early Dismissal
23 NO SCHOOL Winter Break	24 NO SCHOOL Winter Break	25 NO SCHOOL Winter Break	26 NO SCHOOL Winter Break	27 NO SCHOOL Winter Break
30 NO SCHOOL Winter Break	31 NO SCHOOL Winter Break			

January 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1 NO SCHOOL Winter Break	2 NO SCHOOL Winter Break	3 NO SCHOOL Winter Break
6	7	8	9 Volunteer Workshop 9:00 - 10:30 AM IC Multi-Purpose Room (MPR)	10 End of 2 nd Quarter
13 NO SCHOOL	14	15	16	17
20 NO SCHOOL	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

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 three 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 Monday, January 13th and Monday, January 20th are No School Days for our students. The end of our first semester is January 10th. 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.

It feels like just yesterday it was August, and we were starting off the 2024-2025 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!**

Indian Creek School Expectations and PBIS Update

At Indian Creek, we practice and reinforce our school-wide expectations every day. Staff members actively observe and celebrate students who demonstrate these positive behaviors in the classroom, lunchroom, hallways, Art, PE, Music, Library, Guidance, and other common areas.

Each month, classrooms have the chance to earn a "Golden" item from the Essentials team. The focus will align with our monthly character trait, which is taught through the *Character Strong* program. Classrooms that earn a Golden item by the end of the month will be rewarded with extra time in the specific Essential area that recognized their outstanding character trait.

We Want Your Feedback!

Our PBIS team values your input. Please take a moment to complete this short survey on Family and Community Engagement. [Complete the Survey Here](#)

PBIS at Home

Ask your student about earning Golden Awards at school! Review your home routines and expectations together—do they align with Indian Creek's expectations of being respectful, responsible, ready, and caring? Are there any similarities or differences you notice between school and home expectations?

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us foster a positive school community!

Indian Creek

ENCORE

Choir

Please join us on Tuesday, December 10, 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 29th 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@linmark12ia.us

December and January No School Days!

Please note the following days school will not be in session.



December 23
December 24
December 25
December 26
December 27
December 30
December 31
January 1
January 2
January 3
January 13
January 20



Early Dismissal

Friday, December 20th,
will be an early dismissal day here at Indian Creek.
We will be dismissing at 1:15.

Students will need to be picked up by 1:30.
This will also be the last day of school prior to winter break.
We will see you back at school on Monday, January 6th.



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.



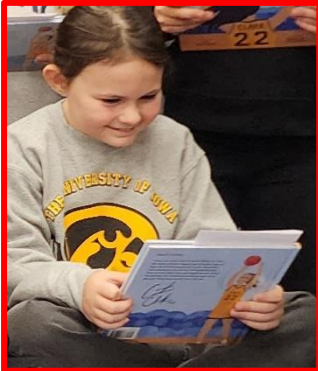
DRESS FOR RECESS

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.



Catching the Reading Fever!

Indian Creek 2nd graders were gifted a fun "Just Like Caitlin" book from the Jensen Family! Dickson and Luann Jensen are proud Iowans, business owners, coaches, parents and grandparents. They are proud of Caitlin and believe she is a great role model for all Kids. Because of their love for children and desire to impact the next generation, they hope this book inspires Kids to believe in their future can be greater than they imagine.



You can find Indian Creek Elementary School on Instagram!
indiancreekelementary



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!

Thank you for your support of Indian Creek!

THANK YOU INDIAN CREEK PTO!



THE KONA ICE TREAT WAS JUST THE BEST!



4th Grade Tie Dye Shirt Project

Indian Creek 4th graders had fun tie dyeing their 4th grade t-shirts during art. Thanks to the Indian Creek PTO for supplying the t-shirts for every 4th grader!



We LOVE Our Volunteers!

Volunteer Workshops



December 5
January 9
February 6
March 6
April 3
May 1

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

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
JANUARY 7
FEBRUARY 3
NO MARCH MEETING
APRIL 7
MAY 5

ALL PTO MEETINGS WILL BEGIN AT 6:00 PM IN THE INDIAN CREEK LIBRARY.



PTO COOKIE CRAFT

Please join the Indian Creek PTO for a fun cookie craft on Thursday, December 12 from 6:30-7:30 PM in the Indian Creek multi-purpose room. Watch for more details and sign up to come.

