

October 2009 Newsletter



Thursday,
October 1, 2009

Volume 6, Issue 2

Principal's Message.....

We have had a wonderful first month of school. Our students are working hard and exhibiting excellent behavior. In addition, our teachers have provided rigorous instruction and warm classroom environments where our students are succeeding. I am proud of the students and staff of Indian Head Elementary School.

On Friday, October 2, 2009 from 6:00-8:30 p.m. we will have our Silent Auction and Dinner at the Village Green Pavilion. This is a fun family event planned by our PTO.

We began our PTO Coat Drive on October 1st. If you have any children's coats in good condition that you would like to donate, please bring it to our main office. We will accept donations this month. If your child is in need of a coat, please contact Valentina Kennedy, our school counselor.

Interim reports were issued on Monday, September 28, 2009. Interims are issued to students who are endangered of receiving a D or E in any subject area on their report cards. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's performance in school, please contact your child's teacher.

Children should not arrive at school before 9:00 a.m., as there are no adults on duty to supervise them. Teachers need this early morning time to make final preparations for the school day. ***If you drive your child to school, please be sure not to drop him/her off before 9:00 a.m.***

Our school hours are 9:15 to 3:45 p.m. It is essential that our students are on time for school and remain the entire day. Your child's educational program is filled with many rich learning opportunities. Learning is more challenging when your child is late or absent. Illnesses and medical absences are understandable. Please remember to submit a doctor's excuse or note from home when your child is late or absent.

If you have not already, please be sure to submit your child's emergency cards (white and yellow) to school. We rely on this information to contact you in the event of an emergency. Remember to contact Mrs. Buckey, Registration Secretary, when you have a change in your phone numbers.

Enjoy the Fall weather!

Toni C. Melton-Trainor, Principal

October

- 1 PTO Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- PTO Coat Drive Begins
- 2 Claire's Gourmet Fundraiser ends
- PTO Silent Auction & Dinner 6:00-8:30 p.m. at the Village Green Pavilion
- 5 Individual Picture Day
- Title I Parent Math Workshop – North Point H.S. 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Regional Road Show—Lackey H.S. 5:30-8 p.m.
- 12 Columbus Day—Schools open
- Flu Mist Administered at IHES
- 12-23 CCPS 1st Quarter Assessments for Gr. 1-5
- 16 MSTA Convention – Schools are closed
- 21 Two-hour early dismissal – No 3's Program
- 22 PTO Executive Board Mtg. at 2:15 p.m.
- 27 PAC Meeting – Starkey Bldg. – 7:00 p.m.
- 28 1st Quarter Ends
- Terrific Three's Field Trip to Schlagel Farm
- Family Math Night 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 29 Two-hour early dismissal – No 3's Program
- 30 Halloween Parade/Class Parties/PTO Coat Drive Ends

November

- 3 PTO Meeting 6 p.m.
- 5 Parent & Teacher Conference Day
- No school for students
- 6 Big Event
- PTO Sock Hop 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- 10 1st Quarter Awards Assemblies
- 9:30-10:15 PK-Gr. 2
- 11:00 Terrific Three's
- 2:30-3:15 Gr. 3-5
- 11 Veteran's Day/American Freedom Day
- 12 Claire's Gourmet Pick-up 4:30-7:00 p.m.
- 16-20 CoGat Assessment for Gr. 2 & 5
- 17 Individual Picture (Re-take)
- 18 Family Reading Night 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- 19 County First Bank Art Awards 6:45 p.m. Neal E.S.
- 25-27 Thanksgiving Holiday

** Counselor's Corner **

The school year is underway and with that comes more responsibilities for our children. As the school year progresses, the students are given more responsibilities and have many more things expected of them. Therefore, for the month of October, our guidance lessons will be focusing on being responsible. Responsibility means being accountable for your actions, taking care of your duties, and following through with what you say. Please go over responsibility at home with your children. Some great ways to reinforce being responsible at home is to set time aside for homework and making sure it goes into the backpack once it is done, giving your children chores, pet ownership, and modeling responsible behavior for them. Make cleaning up the house a game by setting a timer for each room and seeing if you can beat the previous time. Another great way to reinforce responsibility is to read a book such as *Strega Nona* by De Paolo.

Thank you in advance for your support. It is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns about your child, please feel free to contact me by phone at 301-743-5454 or email at vkennedy@ccboe.com. Have a fantastic school year!

Sincerely,

Valentina Iasnik Kennedy
School Counselor



Fire Prevention Week and Emergency Preparedness

During the month of October, we will be working closely with Chief Jeff Williams and his team at the Indian Head Fire Department. The children will be learning about fire prevention. The Indian Head Fire Department will bring their fire engines and special friends to teach our children about being safe during a fire. Our Pre-K and kindergarten classes will be visiting the Fire House to learn about the role of our fire department.

The Indian Head Fire Department will be assisting us in our annual site evacuation drill to the Village Green Pavilion. The purpose of this drill is to teach the children how to stay safe in the unlikely event we need to evacuate our school.

On Friday, October 8th, the Indian Head Fire Department will present assemblies on fire prevention and fire safety. **This is a great time to discuss a home escape plan with your family and to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.**



Parent Visitation/Observation Board Policy 1240 Superintendent's Rule

Parents/guardians are encouraged to come to their child's school during normal operating hours. All visitors are asked to sign in at the main office and obtain a visitor's badge to ensure the safety and security of students and staff.

Parents/guardians may either visit the classroom (including the playground) at the teacher's/school's invitation or request to make a formal observation of a classroom. Making an appointment with the school at least two (2) school days in advance of an observation is not only a courtesy and a requirement, but enables the parent/guardian to schedule the observation for the maximum benefit. Teachers cannot stop teaching to confer with parents/guardians who stop by without an appointment. Parents/guardians may schedule up to two (2) classroom observations of up to forty-five (45) minutes in duration each grading period. Staff will accompany visitors to the classroom. Siblings should not attend. Teachers will be happy to discuss the observation at a mutually convenient time. Parents/guardians are welcome to visit the cafeteria and eat lunch with their child.

Kindergarten & Grade 3	11:20-11:50
Pre-K & Grade 1	11:50-12:20
Grade 2 & 4	12:40-1:10
Grade 5	1:10-1:40

In order to protect the privacy of other students, and in order to maintain a proper learning environment, parents/guardians may not use any audio or visual recording device at any time during the visitation and must turn off all cell phones and pagers.

Principals retain the authority to deny access to the school for any individual who has been disruptive or may disrupt or disturb the learning environment or who lacks a valid or legal purpose for entering the school. Our shared commitment and cooperation is essential for the safety of our students and staff.

Parent - Teacher Conferences

November 5, 2009

Parent-teacher conferences will be held on November 5, 2009 for our Terrific Three's through Grade 5. Your child's teacher will contact you to schedule your meeting. You will receive your child's first quarter report card during this conference. Parent-teacher conferences are an important way to learn about your child. Here are tips to help you have a more successful parent-teacher conference.

1. **Plan.** Before you come to your conference, write down any questions you would like to ask the teacher. You may want to ask the teacher about how your child behaves and gets along with others. Inquire about your child's reading and math abilities. Is your child performing at the expectations for this grade? Learn about your child's strengths and weaknesses.
2. **Ask to see your child's work.** This is a good way of seeing your child's progress.
3. **Ask for suggestions.** If your child is performing well, find out how you can keep your child on the right track. If your child is struggling, find out what you can do to help at home.
4. **Ask for clarification.** If you don't understand what the teacher is saying, just ask for clarification.



Cupcakes and Party Snack

Parents, please remember when sending in cupcakes and snacks for birthdays and celebrations, to send in prepackaged items and not home cooked treats. Some of our children have food allergies and cannot consume certain foods. Also, please expect your child to share birthday treats during the class's scheduled lunch period. Thank you for your cooperation.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

MESA—To Be Announced (TBA)

Gr. 3 Math Team—TBA

Gr. 4 Math Team—TBA

Gr. 5 Math Team—TBA

Gr. 4 Robotics—Tuesdays & Thursdays (4:00-5:00)

Gr. 5 Robotics—Thursdays (4:00-5:00)

Just Say No Club—(monthly beginning Sept. 30th at 2:00 –2:45)

DI—TBA

* Days are subject to change. Please see newsletters from team coaches.

Hello from Nurse Rita



This month I wanted to give you information about the flu. The Health Department will be giving the flu mist (for the seasonal flu) to those who signed up, at the school on Oct. 12th during the day. If you missed signing your child up to get the flu mist at school the Health Department will be having flu vaccine clinics on the following days: Friday, Oct. 23, 2009 9a-6p, Wednesday Nov. 18, 2009 9a-6p, and Wednesday Dec. 16, 2009 9a-6p. You can also receive the vaccine from your health care provider.

Signs and symptoms of the flu include: Fever, cough, body aches, sore throat, headache, chills, fatigue. If your child has a temperature of 100 or greater, or is vomiting, they need to stay home from school. They need to be fever free for 24 hours without the use of Tylenol, Advil, or Motrin, before they can return to school. Prevention is the key:

- **Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or cough into your elbow. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.**
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.**
- **Try to avoid close contact with sick people.**
- **If you get sick with the flu, the CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting others.**

If you have any questions please call me.

Nurse Rita

PTO Events and Happenings

October PTO Meeting

October 1, 2009, 6 p.m. in the IHES Library

Special Topic: Flu shots and winter time illnesses.

Silent Auction and Reggiano's Dinner

October 2, 2009, 6 p.m. at the Indian Head Village Green Pavilion

This is the PTO's main fundraiser to help support our activities and events throughout the school year.

Tickets will be available at the door and are \$15 per person with two free children per paying adults (limit 100 children).

There will be: over 100 themed baskets for auction; door prizes; children's auction; and a magician for entertainment.

All payments will be in cash or check only.

Please join us there!

Coat, Hat and Glove Drive

October 1-October 30, 2009, Drop-off in the front office of the school

Once again this year the IHES PTO will be sponsoring a Coat Drive for those in need. We have moved up the time of collection so that when the cold weather hits everyone will be ready. Please donate new or gently used coats, hats, gloves, scarves, or any other wintertime outerwear you wish. There will be a drop-off box located by the front office or send items in with your child.

Halloween Band Lunch

October 30, noon

The Lackey Marching Band will be playing for the IHES Halloween Parade. The PTO will be providing them with a pizza lunch before they play. Please let a PTO Board Member know if you would like to help with this event.

FREE Money

There are many ways that PTO can raise money for school events and activities but the easiest way is to get FREE money by collecting Box Tops for Education, Tyson's Labels, Campbell's Soup Labels, and drink pouches. These various items are collected in the classroom. The PTO will tally the contributions of each class...the class with the most contributions at the end of the year will get a special classroom presentation.

You can also register your Giant, Safeway and Food Lion club cards. That way, each time you buy groceries, the school gets money back. These various items are collected in the classroom.

Don't forget the November PTO meeting

November 3, 2009, PTO Meeting, 6 p.m., Special Topic: Internet Controls, Geek Squad