

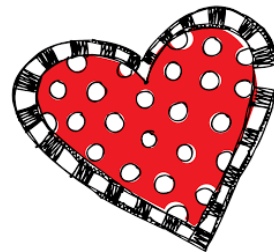
Indian Creek News

February 2018

Marilee McConnell Principal

February Dates To Remember

- February 1 Volunteer Workshop 8:30-10:30 am
- February 1 5th Grade Band Concert 6:15 PM (High School)
- February 5 Box Tops Due Date
- February 6 5th Grade Orchestra 6:00 PM (High School)
- February 8 Indian Creek Day/Night at La Cantina (Marion)
- February 11 Indian Creek Night at Super Skate 4-6 PM \$7.00 Per Person
- February 12 PTO Meeting 6:30 PM Library
- February 13 Online Conference Scheduler Opens at 7:00AM
- February 14 Valentine Exchange
- February 16 No School K-5 Work Day
- February 19 No School Staff Development Day
- February 21 Indian Creek Day/Night at Zio Johno's (All Day Event)
- February 22 1st Grade Music Program 6:30 PM Gym
- February 22 Online Conference Scheduler Closes 10:00PM
- February 23 Report Cards go home
- February 23 PRIDE Day
- February 26-March 9 Conference Window
- March 1 Late Night Conferences
- March 6 Late Night Conferences



From The Principal....

Dear Indian Creek Families,

This is such an exciting time of the year in elementary schools. The students seem to soar and we see lots of academic growth in these winter months!

We hope everyone is staying as healthy as possible. Please remind your children of good hand-washing habits as one way to remain healthy and ready to learn.

We are proud to continue and deepen our use of an additional academic communication tool here at our school. Teachers are using SeeSaw to showcase student learning at Indian Creek. Seesaw is a student-driven digital portfolio which allows parents to communicate with their student about the learning process. Seesaw gives families an immediate and personalized window into their child's school day, helping to answer that question "What did you do at school today?"

One goal that we have here at Indian Creek with the use of SeeSaw is to mold students that are visible learners. Students that can speak about their learning journey, who know how they learn best and students who own their learning. This tool gives us opportunities to develop visible learners at our school.

The month of February brings a few special events to keep us all excited! Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history. In the United States, we also celebrate Presidents' Day on the third Monday of February. Presidents' Day is a United States holiday popularly honoring George Washington's February 22nd birthday and Abraham Lincoln's February 12th, birthday, and sometimes all of the U.S. presidents are recognized.

Thursday, February 15th is the last day of the second trimester! The school year will be two-thirds over! Can you believe it? Due to this, Friday, February 18th is a No School Day for Indian Creek students as teachers will be updating report cards. These report cards will be sent home on Friday, February 23rd prior to Parent/Teacher Conferences. Late Night Conferences will be held on Tuesday, March 1st and Thursday, March 8th.

Also, Monday, February 19th is also a No School Day as teachers will participate in professional learning to enhance their instructional practices. Our PTO will meet on Monday, February 12th at 6:30 PM in our school library. Lastly, students will enjoy a Valentine Exchange on Wednesday, February 14th.

Thank you for your attention to this information

Sincerely,

Marilee McConnell

Attendance Exception Requests for 2018-2019 due March 1

Parents/Guardians of Linn-Mar resident students wishing to attend a Linn-Mar school outside their assigned attendance center area must submit their annual letter for an attendance exception request in writing by March 1. Letters may be mailed to Shannon Bisgard, Associate Superintendent, 2999 North Tenth Street, Marion, IA 52302. Requests will be evaluated after an assessment of classroom seat space is made. Requests are **NOT** guaranteed from year to year. Interested parents should be aware that district transportation is **NOT** available to students receiving approval for an attendance center request.



CONGRATULATIONS

Vania Baird, Emily Brunson, Madelyn Eley, Jack Knatz, Sarah Pfaff, and Cameron Potter represented Indian Creek at the East Central Iowa Choral Directors Association 5th and 6th Grade Honor Choir at Coe College on January 26. They spent the day rehearsing with 200 other singers from around this part of Iowa and gave a great concert that evening. Congratulations!

2nd Grade Swimming

Indian Creek 2nd graders will be going to the Linn-Mar aquatic Center to participate in a five day aquatic experience on February 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 20th. Students will be bussed to and from the Aquatic Center. Students should bring their swimming gear in a bag to take to the Aquatic center each day. The swimming schedule is as follows:



2JD Mrs. Dechant 8:30-9:35
 2KF Mrs. Felber 9:05-10:10
 2AL Mrs. Ludwig 12:25-1:30
 2JM Mrs. Moore 1:00-2:05

CogAT Testing for 5th Grade Students

Each year, the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) is given to all 5th graders in the district. The CogAT is a standardized test, but is quite different from NWEA and Iowa Assessments. The skills measured by the test show the cognitive processes that a child has developed to learn new things and solve problems. Experiences in and out of school affect this skill development.

The CogAT consists of three separate tests: Verbal, Non-Verbal, and Quantitative. The test battery will be administered over three days during the week of February 20-23 for 45-50 minutes each day. The results of this test, in combination with NWEA and Iowa Assessment scores, are used in the identification process for the Middle School Talented and Gifted (TAG) program.

Please make sure your child is at school on time each day. It is important that students are well-rested and eat a healthy breakfast to help them do their best. If you have any questions about the test, please contact your school counselor or Brenda Bauermeister, Elementary TAG Coordinator, at bbauermeister@linnmar.k12.ia.us.



The Learning Enrichment Opportunities (LEO) Program

The Learning Enrichment Opportunities (LEO) Program will soon begin the process of formal identification in each of the district's second grade classrooms. There will be a group of students recommended at each building for possible participation in the third grade LEO program. LEO, the elementary talented and gifted program, provides academic challenge to students through differentiated learning experiences.

During the next few months, initial screening data will be collected on all second grade students. An additional assessment will be given to some of those students. Parents of these students who demonstrate a need for the additional assessment will be notified by mail. Final identification decisions will be made in June. Parents and students will be notified at that time.

If you would like additional information on the LEO program or the identification process, please contact Brenda Bauermeister, Linn-Mar's Elementary TAG Coordinator, by email at bbauermeister@linnmar.k12.ia.us.

HEALTHY KIDS INITIATIVE & BLUE ZONE!

The staff at Linn-Mar Community Schools is committed to promoting the health and well-being of our students. In accordance with Linn-Mar's designation as a Blue Zones School District the following procedures are in place to provide students with healthier lifestyle choices in regards to birthday celebrations in the classroom.

Student birthdays may be celebrated at school. Birthdays can be celebrated with non-food options including (but not limited to) name recognition on the school announcements, a special acknowledgement from the school office and classroom recognitions (i.e. birthday crowns, sit with a special friend at lunch, being designated as the line leader for the day, etc.). Students may also choose to bring in nonfood items to share with classmates and school staff such as pencils, special note pads, pens, other writing tools, etc. Sugary treats should be avoided and are discouraged for birthday treats at school.

Thank you so much for your cooperation with our Blue Zone district!

Mini Dance Marathon

Friday, January 19, Indian Creek Elementary School held a Mini Dance Marathon in the Indian Creek gym. Students, parents, and staff danced the night away while supporting our very own first grader Micah Marasch who has been diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma. Thank you to all who made this event so successful and so much fun for families.



The Indian Creek lost and found is filling up, so you might want to stop by and take a look for those missing mittens and other things.



Orchestra News.....



The 5th Grade Orchestra students have been working very hard on new notes and rhythms in preparation for the Winter Orchestra Concert on Tuesday, February 6th. Students will be meeting in the High School Auditorium for the Dress Rehearsal before school that morning from 7:00 – 7:30 a.m. Parents, please drop your child off on the north side of the building (door #3) by 6:50 a.m. to allow students enough time to unpack and find their seat on stage. A bus will provide transportation back to school following our rehearsal together.

The concert begins that evening at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend and support our 5th Grade Orchestra!!

~ Mrs. Vieth ~

Upcoming Orchestra Events...

- Thursday, March 22nd – Members of the 5th Grade Orchestra will perform during the High School Band & Orchestra Assembly at 8:30 a.m.
- Monday, May 7th – 5th Grade Orchestra Spring Concert in the Excelsior Gym



First Grade Music Program

Please join us Thursday, February 22nd for the first grade music Program at 6:30 PM in the Indian Creek gym. Students should report to their classrooms by 6:10 PM as the program will start promptly at 6:30 PM. Students should wear nice clothes as we want to look as good as we will sound.

Winter Band Concert

The 5th Grade Band Winter Concert will be held on Thursday, February 1st, 2018 in the HS Auditorium. Concert time is 6:15 PM, and monetary donations will be accepted. Band students from all 7 buildings will be performing together!

All fifth grade band students should arrive at the High School between 5:45 and 6:00 PM and be in the Little Theatre ready to warm-up NO LATER than 6:05 PM. Coats and cases can be kept in the LT. Students will need to bring their Instrument, and Band music from home. Tubas, baritones, and all percussion instruments will already be at the HS. Please have students wear nice dress clothes for this MAJOR concert (no jeans or tennis shoes please). During the concert we will be having a group photo taken by Hall's Photo. 8 x 10 color photographs can be ordered for \$10.00. Order forms will be sent home with students that day, and available at the concert.

In preparation for the concert we will be practicing together THAT morning BEFORE school (7:30 am – 8:30 am) in the HS Auditorium. Please drop your student off at the HS AUDITORIUM Circle Drive entrance (DOOR 1) – Not the North Entrance...between 7:15 and 7:20 am. All students will be transported from the HS to their building after our rehearsal. Because this is our only chance to rehearse with all 173 students together, it is VERY important that every Band student attend this rehearsal! The students have been working extremely hard to prepare for this big concert. We hope you will attend.

Kevin Makinster

Director of 5th Grade Bands

kmakinster@linnmar.k12.ia.us

February Hy-Vee Receipt Challenge

We are going to have a friendly classroom challenge to see which classroom can collect the most Hy-Vee receipts during the month of February! The winning classroom will be treated to a popcorn party!

Be sure to label the receipts with your child's classroom!

Indian Creek Online Parent-Teacher Conference Scheduling System

Indian Creek will be using an online conference scheduling system. Through the online conference scheduling system, parents/guardians will be able to see the dates and times available for conferences and can select times that work best for their family's schedule. Once you have scheduled a conference you will receive email reminders beginning three days before the scheduled conference, up until the actual conference day.

A conference scheduling web link will be activated on Indian Creek's web site **at 7:00am on Tuesday, February 13**. The conference scheduling system will be open to parents/guardians **until 10:00pm on Thursday, February 22**. Please note that conference scheduling will be based on a first-come-first-served basis. Parents/guardians will have an option to change their scheduled conference date/time online until February 22, if necessary; however, time slots will become more limited as the scheduling window gets closer to the scheduling closing date of February 22. ***After the closing date of February 22, please contact your child's teacher directly to schedule your conference.***

*****Parents/guardians who do not have Internet access to use the online system are asked to stop by the library to use a computer to schedule their student's conference. You may also call Mrs. Harder at 447-3270 to schedule a conference time with you student's teacher.***

Families with joint custody, the primary and secondary parents share username/access code information and **will need to coordinate scheduling one conference time together**. *If a shared conference time cannot be arranged, please contact your student's teacher directly.*

To access the online conference scheduling system please visit the Indian Creek web site at www.linnmar.k12.ia.us (click on "schools" and then on "Indian Creek" look for the "Conference Registration Site") or you can access the online conference scheduling system directly at:

https://www.myschoolsystems.com/LinnMar/indiancreek/conferences.php?where_from=student

Please be watching for an instruction sheet similar to this to be coming home with your child on or about Friday, February 9, 2018. The instruction sheet will contain the log in information for your child.

Instructions for Using Online Conference Scheduling System

- 1) Log on to:
https://www.myschoolsystems.com/LinnMar/indiancreek/conferences.php?where_from=student
- 2) Enter your student's LEGAL first and last name in the boxes
- 3) Enter your access code (*refer above*)
- 4) Click on "Login"
- 5) Click on the "schedule" button next to the classroom name
- 6) You will see a listing of times that this teacher has available
- 7) Click on the button next to the time you wish to schedule
- 8) Click "schedule time" and you are finished
- 9) Three days before your conference you will begin receiving email reminders of your conference date/time
- 10) If you need to schedule a conference with a teacher that is not your student's homeroom teacher, please contact that teacher directly to schedule a conference

♡Thank You ♡ Thank You ♡ Thank You♡

Thank you to the Indian Creek PT♡ for the December Staff Appreciation treats. We do have the best PT♡!
Thank you!



Thank you volunteers!

We would like to say Thank you to all of the volunteers who braved the cold to help us at our December and January volunteer workshops
Thank you so much!!

Important Safety Reminders

We ask that all forgotten items at home, or school projects be delivered to the main office and our staff will make sure to get items delivered to your child's classroom. We ask any parent walking children into our building in the morning to use the front door and say good-bye to your child in the front foyer area. If you need to meet with your child's teacher, that will need to be prescheduled.

All visitors for lunch will wait for their student with whom you are having lunch in or right outside of the office after filling out a visitor's badge. We need to know if you plan to go out to recess and make sure your visitor's badge is visible on the outside of clothing.

Regular volunteers will continue to sign-in as you have done so well in the past.

You are welcome here at all times. We are simply following district safety protocol.

FIRST GRADE DRIBBLERS

On Friday, February 2nd, all 1st Grade students will have the opportunity to perform at halftime of the Linn-Mar Boys Varsity Basketball Game. In physical education class I will teach all students a dribbling and skills routine to music. We will perform this routine at the varsity boys' game during halftime. Please accompany your child to the game by 7:30 pm and have them meet me in the cafeteria 5 min. before halftime. Dribbler's will be admitted free into the game.



We are respectful.
We are responsible.
We are ready.

**We care at
 Indian Creek!**



INDIAN CREEK DAY/NIGHT at LA CANTINA (MARION)



THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8
 ALL DAY
 10% OF SALES WITH
 FLYER WILL BE
 GIVEN TO INDIAN
 CREEK!

Linn-Mar Virtual Backpack

Don't forget to check in the Linn-Mar Virtual Backpack for additional information on school and local events. You can find the Virtual Backpack on the Linn-Mar website under quick links. Check back often for additional information.



Geography Bee

Indian Creek held its second annual Geography Bee. All 4th and 5th grade students were able to compete in a preliminary round with their classmates. One winner from each classroom preliminary round advanced to the final round. Congratulations to final round participants!

Morning Car Drop Off Reminders

All students arriving to school as car riders are **expected** to be dropped off in the back parking lot. For everyone's safety please be sure to follow the following procedures for drop off.

- Pull up in the lane closest to the building, next to the side walk.
- The first car should pull up and stop at the start of the sidewalk (just past the corner of the gym). The next car in line should pull up directly behind the car in front of them and continue this pattern the length of the side walk. Our goal is to get as many cars off of 29th as possible and to unload the full length of the sidewalk at one time.
- Students will exit from the passenger side of the vehicle. Staff will be on duty to help students if needed.
- Drivers will remain in the car.
- All cars next to the sidewalk and all the way back to where the side walk ends will have students exit the vehicles safely then pull forward in line (do not pull around other cars) around the corner to the back lane to exit the parking lot.
- Please be alert to the staff on duty, helping children exiting vehicles, as they may indicate that students can exit before your vehicle reaches the sidewalk.
- Students should not be dropped off in the front parking lot.
- If after 8:00 AM students will need an adult to walk them into the building to sign them in for the day.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding of our morning drop off procedures. We want all of our students, families, and staff safe during the busy drop off time.



Parent Tips

Why Should My Child Read For 20 Minutes At Home?



Tommy reads an average of **20 minutes** per day.

Tommy reads **100 minutes** in one week.

Tommy reads **3600 minutes** in a school year.

Tommy reads **1,800,000 words** in a school year.



Jenny reads an average of **5 minutes** per day.

Jenny reads **25 minutes** in one week.

Jenny reads **900 minutes** in a school year.

Jenny reads **282,000 words** in a school year.



Kelly reads an average of **1 minute** per day.

Kelly reads **5 minutes** in one week.

Kelly reads **180 minutes** in a school year.

Kelly reads **8,000 words** in a school year.

By the end of 6th grade Tommy will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days, Jenny will have read for the equivalent of 12 whole school days, and Kelly will have read for the equivalent of 3 whole school days.

- Which student would you expect to read better?
- Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?
- How do you think each student will feel about himself or herself as a learner?



EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Inspire Learning. Unlock Potential. **Empower Achievement.**

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

The Linn-Mar Community School District offers programs for four and five year old children. The number of sections, the location sites, and daily schedules for these programs will be determined by the district after schools have collected the data needed for making these decisions.

Preschool for Four Year Olds

- Age 4 on or by September 15, 2018
- No cost due to Linn-Mar being a part of the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program
- Half day, Four days a week

Online registration will be held Tuesday, February 20th 2018, at noon. Registration and preschool information can be located at <http://tinyurl.com/EarlyChildhoodLM>. Computers will be available at the LRC building at 2999 North 10th Street in Marion for those needing assistance for registering their three or four year old children.

Priority enrollment will be given to families that live in the Linn-Mar School District and 20% of the enrollment for the four year old placements will be reserved for families that qualify as low-income.

Children age 5 on or by September 15, 2018, may be served in one of two program models:

Kindergarten

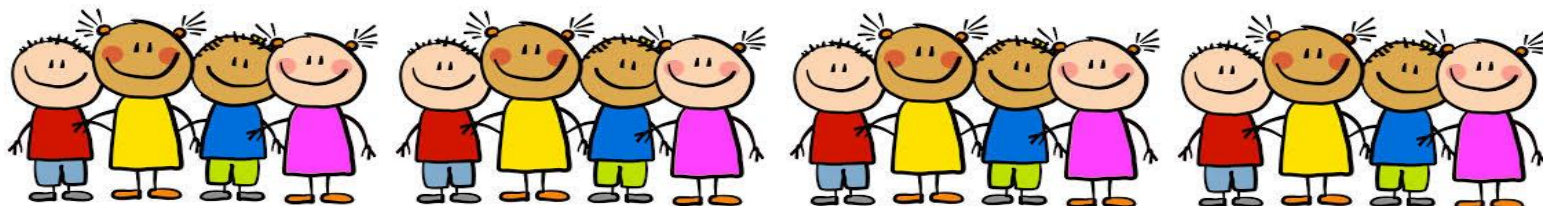
Kindergarten Information Night is January 30th. Please contact your neighborhood school for the time.

Early Childhood Blended Program

If you are unsure if your child is ready for kindergarten, Linn-Mar's Early Childhood Blended Program may be an option. This program is an all-day program for children that qualify through a

Screening dates are March 5, 2018 and March 7, 2018. If you plan on having your child screened, please contact Dianne Van Praag at 447-3015 to set up an appointment. Even if you are having your child screened, please plan on attending the Kindergarten Information Night at your neighborhood school.

For more information, go to <http://tinyurl.com/EarlyChildhoodLM>



Linn-Mar School Foundation News

Save the Date!

Linn-Mar Mane Event Friday, March 20

Help Impact Educational Excellence at Linn-Mar!



Please Join Us for A
Kentucky Derby
MANE EVENT

Friday, March 2, 2018 at 6pm
Cedar Rapids Marriott
Hosted by the Linn-Mar School Foundation

Register online www.tinyurl.com/LMFManeEvent
Early Bird Tickets through February 15th

Racing for Linn-Mar Education!

Linn-Mar Foundation's MANE EVENT
proceeds benefit the Linn-Mar Community School District



EARLY BIRD tickets
through February 15th
\$60 per person
\$55 LM Staff & Alumni

After February 15th
\$70 per person
\$65 LM Staff & Alumni

Purchase individual tickets
or gather a table of 10

REGISTER ONLINE AT
www.tinyurl.com/LMFManeEvent



Event Features

- NEW Format - Heavy Hors d'oeuvres, Social Time & Live Music from 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Easy & Fun Mobile Bidding
- Exciting Silent & Live Auctions
- Philips Diamond Necklace Booth
- Blackjack, Craps, Derby Racing Heads & Tails & Cash Raffles
- Fun Photobooth

6:00-8:00 p.m. Doors Open, Casino Games, Live Music - Hors d'oeuvres available until 8:00 p.m. only

8:00 p.m. Main Ballroom, Special Music by LM Band, Foundation Program, Dessert & Live Auction!

Casino Games resume after Live Auction

Presenting Sponsors Platinum Sponsors Gold Sponsors

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Thank you!