

# Indian Creek News

December 2017 & January 2018

Marilee McConnell, Principal

## December & January Dates to Remember



December 1 PTO Movie Night 6:00-7:30 PM



December 2 Encore Singing at Indian Creek Nature Center



December 5 2nd Grade Music Program 6:30 PM



December 6 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Invention Convention



December 7 Volunteer Workshop 8:30-10:30 AM



December 8 Giving Tree Items Due (in the office)



December 11 PTO Meeting 6:30 PM



December 12 Indian Creek Day @ Fuzzy's Taco Shop

December 15 Pride Day Wear your red & black



December 21 Pajama Day Students and staff are encouraged to wear their Pajamas to school



December 21 Winter Parties



**December 22-January 2 NO SCHOOL Winter Break**

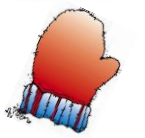


January 3 School Resumes

January 4 Volunteer Workshop 8:30-10:30 AM



January 15 NO SCHOOL K-8 Comp Day



January 19 Mini Dance Marathon 6:00-7:30 PM Gym



January 23 Indian Creek Night @ Urban Pie 4:00 PM to Close



January 26 PRIDE Day Wear your red & black



January 30 2018-19 Kindergarten Parent Informational Meeting



February 1 Volunteer Workshop 8:30-10:30 AM



PTO Will not hold a meeting in January ~ See you at the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting!

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.

Now it is time to say "Season's Greetings!" The holiday season is a busy time of the year for our students, staff, teachers, and families. There is excitement and, at times, apprehension in the air! It is often difficult to settle the children into their school-day routines during the month of December. Teachers and staff strive to find engaging, high-interest learning activities for the students. Please call a staff member if we can be of any assistance to your family during this time.

The school year gets very focused during January and students typically make good progress during this month. Teachers and staff look forward to settling into a daily routine at school after the hectic month of December.

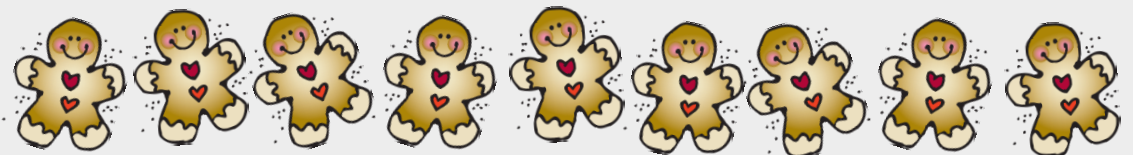
Don't forget that Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, is a No School day for our students.

If you haven't thought of a New Year's Resolution yet, there is always a most perfect one to consider—a daily reading time with your children. It would be a resolution that could have long-lasting, positive effects on your children's futures!

Thank you for your attention to this information. Have a wonderful month of December, 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,

Marilee McConnell





# Invention Convention News!

Indian Creek 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be participating in an Invention Convention on Wednesday, December 6. All inventions will be judged during the morning. Parents may come to view the inventions from 2:00 to 2:30. Winning inventions will be announced at the end of the day. Parents may take their student's inventions home at this time and if you wish to take your child home please sign out with your child's teacher.

Indian Creek Day

At Fuzzy's Taco Shop

Tuesday, December 12

10:00 Am – 10:00 PM

Mention Indian Creek & 10% of your purchase will go to Indian Creek PTO



2nd Grade 

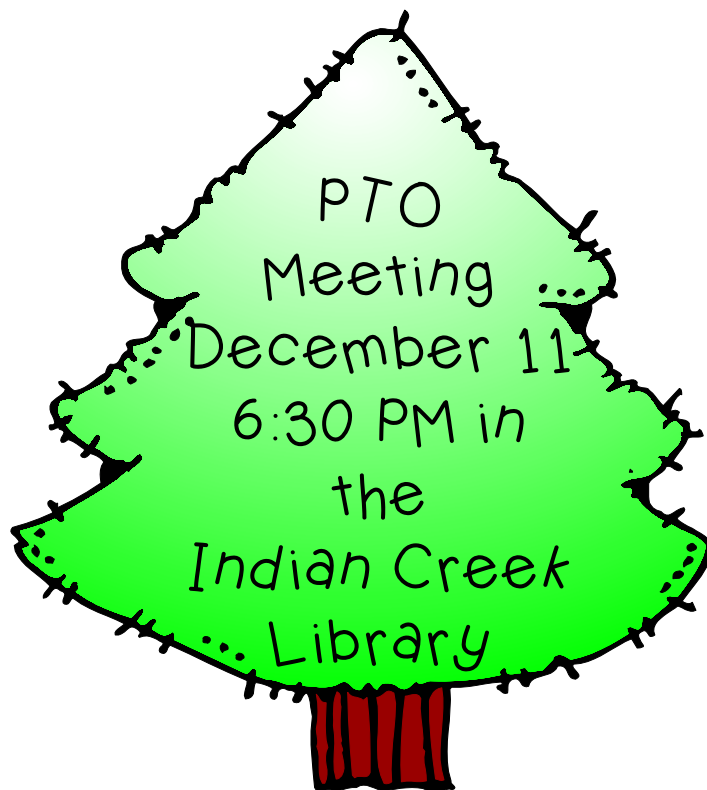
Music Program

Tuesday, December 5th

At 6:30 PM

in the Indian Creek Gym

Students should wear nice clothing and report to their classrooms by 6:10 PM







# The Indian Creek Giving Tree

Thank you to all who have taken a tag from our Giving Tree. Please remember all gifts should be returned to the office by **December 8<sup>th</sup>**, unwrapped with the gift tag attached. Last year's "Giving Tree" was a huge success. Thank you for reaching out to families in need. We all benefit from this experience.



## Volunteer Workshop

Thursday, December 7  
8:30 - 10:30 AM



## Pajama Day

On Thursday, December 21, Indian Creek students and staff are encouraged to wear their pajamas to school for a fun day of learning!



## Cash 4 Students Contest

Hy-Vee receipts due December 21st. There will be a popcorn party for the class that has collected the most Hy-Vee receipts in grades 1-5 and another party for the kindergarten class that has collected the most Hy-Vee receipts. Please place receipts in a clearly marked envelope/baggie with your child's name and classroom teacher.

## REMIND Messaging Tool

Mrs. McConnell will be using Remind (a safe messaging tool) to inform parents of late arrivals, early dismissals, cancellations, and other important information. Remind is a free, safe, and simple messaging tool to share important updates and reminders with staff and parents. Subscribe by text, e-mail, or using the Remind app. All personal information is kept private, no one will ever see your phone number.

To receive messages via text ~  
 send a text to 81010 with a message of @mrsmmcco  
 If you are having trouble using 81010 try texting  
 (319) 774-3159 with a message of @mrsmmcco  
 To receive messages via e-mail ~  
 send an e-mail to [mrsmmcco@mail.remind.com](mailto:mrsmmcco@mail.remind.com)

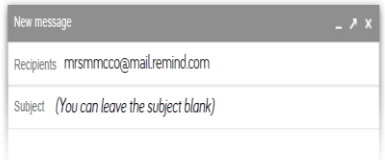
To receive messages via text, text @mrsmmcco to 81010. You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe @mrsmmcco'.

Trouble using 81010? Try texting @mrsmmcco to (319) 774-3159 instead.



\*Standard text message rates apply.

Or to receive messages via email, send an email to [mrsmmcco@mail.remind.com](mailto:mrsmmcco@mail.remind.com). To unsubscribe, reply with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.



**DRESS FOR RECESS**

Parents, please assume that your child will 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.

**Lost & Found**

We have an over flowing amount of coats, hats, mittens, water bottles and other various items in our lost and found. Please check to see if you might have lost something.

# Kindergarten 2018-19

We have started compiling our list of kindergarten students for the 2018-19 school year! . If you have a child that will be starting kindergarten in the 2018-19 school year or have a friend or neighbor with a first child starting kindergarten in the fall, please ask them to call Pam (447-3270) as soon as possible, to be added to our growing kindergarten list.

Our kindergarten parent orientation meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 30, at 6:00 PM. This meeting is for PARENTS ONLY. Students will visit their classrooms in August. Paperwork may be dropped off beginning at 5:45.

Children must be 5 years old by September 15, 2018 to enter school in the fall. Verification of birth (hospital certificate, baptism certificate, or certified birth certificate) must be presented on or before school registration in August. These documents may be presented during registration at the orientation meeting in February.

Parents should attend the orientation meeting in the building assigned to their home address. If a request for an Attendance Exception Request (AER) to a different building is desired, parents should still attend their assigned building's orientation. Anyone who has questions regarding the boundaries of the elementary attendance areas may call any of the secretaries at the elementary buildings.





# Roller-skating at Indian Creek!



We will begin our PTO sponsored 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade Roller Skating Unit after winter break. It will begin on Monday, January 8th and will run through January 19th. Permission slips will be sent home in December. They need to be signed before your child will be able to skate. All students will need to bring and wear their own bike helmet or check one out to wear while participating in this roller-skating unit. We will not be sharing helmets and we only have a few helmets to check out. If you have any further questions, please contact Amy Hutcheson at 447-3294 or [ahutcheson@linnmar.k12.ia.us](mailto:ahutcheson@linnmar.k12.ia.us).



All Indian Creek students will soon have artwork displayed on the ARTSONIA ART GALLERY. This is a wonderful Internet Showcase of Indian Creek artists. See [www.artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com)

If your child's artwork is not displayed it is because you specifically requested that student work not be published at registration time. You can change this by logging onto the Artsonia website listed and updating that. Be looking for your student's code on a paper that will sent home Friday, December 1st. If by chance you would like to remove your students' artwork from the website, let me know. You may also purchase gifts with any of your student's artwork printed on it. These make very memorable keepsakes. By the end of the school year, it is our hope that your student will have at least 5 pieces of Art on their own mobile museum. You may share this site with relatives and friends to show how creative your students are. As always, please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,  
Mrs. Havlicek  
[lhavlicek@linnmar.k12.ia.us](mailto:lhavlicek@linnmar.k12.ia.us)



# Flashlight Reading Day!

Friday, January 19

Bring your flashlight to school  
for some fun reading activities

## ❄️❄️❄️ Attendance Procedures ❄️❄️❄️

- If your student will be absent or arriving late, parent are asked to call the Indian Creek attendance line (447-3272) by 8:00 AM. Please be sure to state your students name, the homeroom teacher and the reason for their absence. If you child is ill please give a short description of the illness (for state health reporting).
- If your student will be arriving late, please indicate their lunch choice either hot, alternate, Lion Cub, or cold lunch.
- If your student will be leaving early, please call the attendance line at 447-3272 and let us know who will be picking up your student and the time he/she will be leaving.
- **We will not call students to the office until you arrive**, please allow a few extra minutes when picking up your student.

There will **NOT**  
be a January  
PTO Meeting.



## Volunteer Workshop

Thursday, January 4  
8:30 - 10:30 am





## "Inclement Weather" Policy

It's that time of year when we need to give some thought to weather-related late arrivals and early dismissals. If severe weather, including fog, forces a late arrival or the closing of school for the entire day, announcements will be made on local radio and television stations, starting by at least 6:30 a.m. Announcements can also be accessed on the Linn-Mar website at [www.linnmar.k12.ia.us](http://www.linnmar.k12.ia.us), or online at KGAN.com or KCRG.com. You can choose to receive notification of an early dismissal/late arrival by Twitter or Facebook, just go to the Linn-Mar website and click on the corresponding icons (at the bottom of the page) to sign up for notification via these social media sites, including the option to have text messages sent directly to your cell phone. You may also get a text notification from KCRG; just sign up on their web sites.

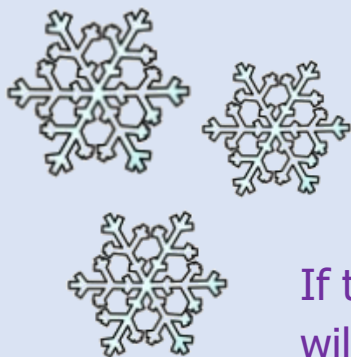
**Please do not call the school.** If a late arrival is declared, school will start at 10:00 a.m. and students may enter the building at 9:45 a.m., with bus pickups occurring two hours later than usual. For example, if the bus usually picks up your child at 7:24 in the morning, he/she will be picked up at 9:24 a.m. on a late arrival day. Early dismissals are announced on the local radio and television stations as well. If the weather seems threatening, keep in mind that an early dismissal is possible and listen for news announcements on your radio or television. Please discuss with your child where he/she is supposed to go in the event of an early dismissal. Unless we have been notified by a parent or guardian, we have them go home in their usual way. Thank you!

***Breakfast will be something very simple (granola bar and juice) on late arrival days, even to Hand in Hand students. If the late arrival occurs on a "band" day, band will not be held, but lessons will continue as usual, so have your child bring their instrument.***

## 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.





## 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 bag 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.** Our health office is no longer loaning winter wear for students to use at recess. Thanks!!!!



# Mini Dance Marathon

## Friday, January 19

6:00-7:30 PM  
Indian Creek Gym





## 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.



## PTO News



Next PTO meeting is December 11th at 6:30 pm.  
There will be no meeting in January

## Box Tops

Thank you to everyone who sent in Box Tops so far this year! Keep on collecting those Box Tops! A few helpful hints when trimming, please make sure that the expiration date & the 3 or 4 digit merchant code are clearly visible. We cannot send in any Box Tops that are expired. When you turn them into school, please mark the teacher's name on the bag or paper so credit can go to the correct classroom. Thanks everyone!

## CASH for Kids

HY-vee receipts due Thursday, December 21st. There will be a popcorn party for the class that has collected the most HY-vee receipts in grades 1-5 and another party for the kindergarten class that has collected the most HY-vee receipts. Please place receipts in a clearly marked envelope/baggie with your child's name and classroom teacher.





## Notes from the Health Office



•If your child contracts a communicable illness, such as strep throat, pink eye, etc., please call Mrs. Rosendale, our health assistant, at 447-3273. She will distribute informational notes to the other students in your child's classroom. Then, teachers and classmates can take additional measures to reduce the spread of these illnesses. In the case of a communicable illness, please wait 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment before sending your child back to school.

•Since the cold and flu season is upon us, please do not send your child to school if they are ill. Students who have been ill should not return to school until they have been fever, vomit, and diarrhea free for 24 hours.

•If a student needs to take cough drops during the school day, you may send cough drops from home. Our health assistant can give students cough drops with written permission from parents. A doctor's signature is not required. Students should bring cough drops to the health office; they should not be taken to the classroom. Cough drops will be labeled with the student's name and will be kept in the health office. An entry will be made in our health log every time a student is given a cough drop.

•A physician's order (which can be faxed to the school office at 373-9233) and written parental permission is required for over-the-counter medications to be given to students at school. All medications will be distributed through the health office.

•Students in elementary school are allowed to refrain from participation in outdoor recess or physical education classes for health reasons for up to three (3) consecutive school days with a written request from the parent or guardian. A physician's note, explaining the nature of the student's limitation and recommended length of non-participation, shall be requested after the third excused day.

•Emphasize the importance of hand washing to your child/ren. Washing hands after using the restroom, sneezing, coughing, blowing your nose, and before eating can help keep us healthy.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

The Linn-Mar Community School District offers programs for three, 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 Three Year Olds

- Age 3 on or by September 15,2018
- \$200 Monthly tuition
- Half day, Four days a week

### 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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

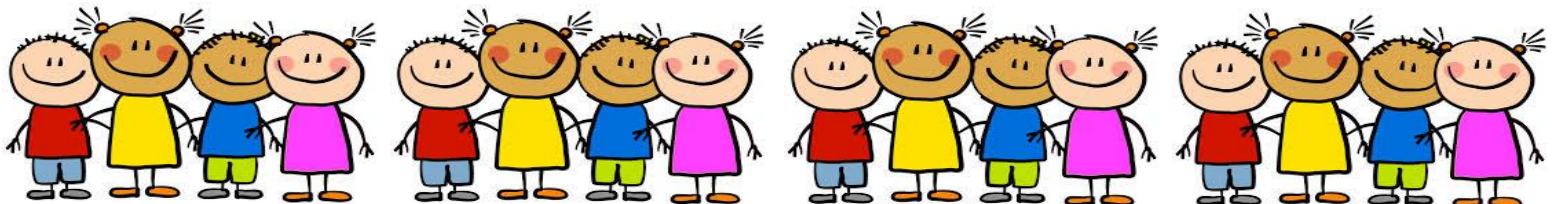
Kindergarten Information Night is January 30<sup>th</sup>. Please contact your neighborhood school for the time.

### 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 process.

**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.**





# EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Inspire Learning. Unlock Potential. Empower Achievement.

## HOW CHILDREN GROW AND LEARN

Children begin to learn as soon as they are born, and they keep learning every day. Although children develop at different rates, every part of development is important and contributes to learning. All areas of development are connected and influence children's success in school and life.

Birth date or chronological age is no guarantee of readiness for school. Your child's physical, social, and emotional developments are key pieces in determining school readiness and success.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

The Linn-Mar Community School District offers programs for three, 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.

### Three Year Olds

Children will have the opportunity to participate in a year of half-day, four day a week, school-based experience with a focus on social, emotional, behavioral growth while still supporting academics. This tuition-based program utilizes Creative Curriculum, which aligns with the Iowa Early Learning Standards. Three and four year olds will learn together in the same classroom.



### Four Year Olds

Children will have the opportunity to participate in a year of half-day, four day a week, school-based experience with a focus on social, emotional, behavioral growth while still supporting academics. This program utilizes Creative Curriculum, which aligns with the Iowa Early Learning Standards. Four year old children will be served in a blended classroom with either three year olds or five year olds.

### Five Year Olds

*Five year olds may be served in one of two program models:*

### KINDERGARTEN

A Full-day, every day standard kindergarten program is available in all buildings and follows the regular school day schedule for each building. Our district's grade level expectations describe concepts, knowledge and/or skills that will be instructed and regularly assessed. This includes: language arts, math, science, social studies, health, art, music and physical education.



### EARLY CHILDHOOD BLENDED PROGRAM

Children not yet ready for our standard kindergarten program will be offered all-day programming. One half of the day will be devoted to a blended classroom that includes four year olds and will focus on social, emotional, and behavioral growth, while still supporting academics. The other half of the day will have a literacy and math focus with only five year olds attending. The first Wednesday of each month will be Professional Development time for staff and children will not attend. Enrollment in this program will be determined by data collected from parents and through a screening process to help identify how we can best meet your child's needs. To help us with this process, parents are asked to fill out the Linn-Mar Kindergarten Information Sheet. Parents know their child best, therefore this information will be used, along with information gleaned during the screening process. The five main areas that will be considered include: social readiness (e.g. separates easily, follows directions), fine motor skills (e.g. cutting, prints name), pre-reading skills (e.g. letter identification, rhyming), and pre-math skills (e.g. number recognition, sorting). Please contact Dianne Van Praag (447-3015), at the Learning Resource Center, to set up an appointment. Screening dates are March 5th and March 7th at the Learning Resource Center.

Within all programming options, the developmental needs of the child will be monitored on a regular basis to ensure the current placement is appropriate for the child. Teacher and parent communication is important during the first several months of school so that the educational experience of the child is successful.