

Indian Creek News

August 2017

Marilee McConnell, Principal

August Dates to Remember

August 3 Online e-Registration Opens

Please log in to your PowerSchool account and complete your child's e-Registration. You may also pay your fees online at this time.

August 8 Kindergarten Camp

Session I ~ 8:30-10:00 (Last names A-K) Session II ~ 10:30-12:00 (Last names L-Z)

August 9 Walk-In Registration

(Just for those who have NOT completed their online registration)

August 21 3rd Grade Parent Night ~ 5:30 PM Classrooms

August 21 5th Grade Parent Night ~ 6:00 PM Multi-Purpose Room

August 22 Meet & Greet and Supply Drop Off ~ 7:30-9:00 AM Classrooms

August 23 1st Day of School

August 28 1st Grade Parent Night ~6:00 Library

August 28 PTO Meeting ~ 6:30 PM Library

August 29 2nd Grade Parent Night ~ 6:00 PM Library

August 31 4th Grade Parent Night ~ 6:00 PM Classrooms

September 4 NO SCHOOL ~ Labor Day Holiday

September 6 School Picture Day

September 7 Volunteer Workshop 8:30-10:30 AM Multi-purpose Room

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



Dear Indian Creek Families,

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year!

Indian Creek Elementary School is committed to educational excellence for all students. Our staff collaborates in Professional Learning Communities to improve instructional practices and ultimately the learning for our students. Indian Creek specialists serve students in visual arts, physical education, vocal and instrumental music. Classroom teachers will collaborate with our teacher librarian to provide library skills and technology integration that embed important technology skills into the rest of our curriculum. Our school counselor will guide students with many valuable lessons in developing their social-emotional skills—including making friends, managing emotions, and solving problems—to set them on the path for social success and academic readiness. Our support staff guide students who need additional structures for their learning. The staff at Indian Creek provides meaningful and challenging learning opportunities for all students in a safe, respectful, and responsible environment.

Partnering with parents and our community is vital to our success. Families know their children best and our partnership is valuable in learning to support the unique needs of each student. Indian Creek's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is a group of committed parents and staff who enrich curricular and extracurricular experiences through the support they provide each year. All of our families are automatic members of our PTO through their child's enrollment at our school and we encourage you to become an active member of our PTO. Please join us at our first PTO meeting of the school year on Monday, August 29 at 6:30 in the library.

You will find a welcoming atmosphere at Indian Creek. We are proud of our Indian Creek family and love to share our work and accomplishments. We will plan for an excellent school year. Together we make a difference!



Warmest regards,

Marilee McConnell, Principal

Registration for 2017-2018

eRegistration on PowerSchool will open August 3.

All families will need to log on to PowerSchool and complete an eRegistration for each student at Indian Creek. You will need your PowerSchool username and password to log on (just a reminder the username and password were created by you when you set up your PowerSchool account.) Be sure to go through each screen, making any changes that need to be made and click submit at the bottom of the page (this will save all changes). If you do not need to make changes you will still need to click through the screens on PowerSchool and click submit at the bottom of each screen. Be sure to complete the permissions at the end of the eRegistration as these need to be updated every year. Also, just a reminder, the "Use of Student Photographs, Videos, and Likenesses", "Student Internet Access", and "Student Online Accounts" have changed as of July 1, 2015 and now require a letter to be written to their building principal no later than September 15th (or within two weeks of student enrollment if enrollment occurs after this date) if parents/guardians have objections to these three permissions.

You may also pay school fees and deposit money into your family lunch account at this time ~ all online. We encourage you to complete all of your 2017-18 registration online.

For those who are not able to complete their eRegistration online, a walk in registration will be held on August 9th during regular office hours (7:30-3:30). The walk in registration will simply consist of completing your eRegistration on a school computer, if needed, and paying your fees in person. If you have completed your eRegistration and have paid your fees online you do **not** need to come to the walk in registration.



Phone Numbers



Attendance: 447-3272



Health Office: 447-3273



Principal, Mrs. McConnell: 447-3271



Facilitator: Mr. Frazier: 447-3312



Main Office (Pam): 447-3270

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

**We care at
Indian Creek!**





Recess Before Lunch

Many schools across the nation have moved to scheduling recess before lunch. They have done this in order to give students an opportunity to play first and then come inside and focus on eating a healthy lunch. Indian Creek will once again be scheduling recess prior to lunch for the 2017-18 school year. Please see the schedule listed below.

Grade Level	Recess Time	Lunch Time
Second Grade	10:30-10:50	10:50-11:15
First Grade	11:00-11:20	11:20-11:40
Kindergarten	11:15-11:35	11:35-12:00
Third Grade	11:40-12:00	12:00-12:25
Fourth Grade	11:50-12:20*	12:20-12:45
Fifth Grade	12:10-12:40*	12:40-1:05

*Fourth and fifth grade students will have 30 minute recess times to accommodate the Healthy Kids Act.

Indian Creek School Hours



7:45 AM First Bell Rings

(Students may enter the building)

8:00 AM School Day Begins

(Students are expected to be in their seats ready to begin class)

2:45 PM School Day Ends

Students are Dismissed

(It is the expectation that all students (with the exception of those attending Hand In Hand after school care) will be picked up by 3:00 PM.)

Welcome to Indian Creek..

Please join us in welcoming the following staff members to Indian Creek for the 2017-2018 school year.

- Mrs. Marissa Phillips ~ Reading Specialist and Student Support Services
- Mrs. Tammie Tomash ~ 1st Grade Teacher
- Mrs. Nicole Green ~ Educational Assistant with Student Support Services
- Miss Marie Azbill ~ Custodian

Staff Changes...

Indian Creek staff members who have changed positions for the 2017-2018 year...

- Mrs. Beth Frangella ~ 3rd Grade Teacher

Student Directories

Individual grade level directories will be compiled once all eRegistrations and permissions have been completed through PowerSchool (usually directories are available around the first part of October) . Grade level directories, once completed, will be provided upon request.



Indian Creek Newsletters

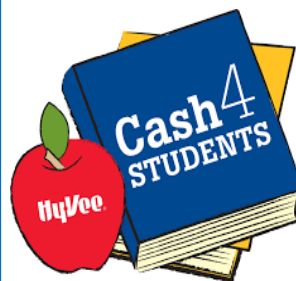
The Indian Creek Newsletter is published at the beginning of the month. The full version of the newsletter can be found on the Indian Creek website located at the bottom of the "About Indian Creek" page. A printed version can be sent home with your student if you do not have computer access and would like a copy. Please let Mrs. Harder know if you would like to be added to the list.

PTO Communication

If you would like to be added to the PTO e-mail list, please send an email to indiancreekpto@gmail.com. PTO is a separate organization from Indian Creek, therefore, unable to acquire e-mail addresses from the district database. We need your help to supply us with your e-mail information so we can keep you up to date on our activities, PTO minutes, and various other communications throughout the year.

Txtwire

Txtwire will provide district-wide text notifications regarding emergencies and school closures and allow parents to sign up for text alerts for each building they select. Go to the Linn-Mar Cancellations and Delays page to sign up for Txtwire.



BENEFITING ALL AREA STUDENTS

Hy-VEE Cash 4 Students

Hy-Vee is running a great donation program again this school year. They will donate \$1.00 to Indian Creek for every \$200 in Hy-Vee receipts that we turn in. All we have to do is save and turn in Hy-Vee or Hy-Vee Drugstore receipts from any of the 14 local stores. The receipts can be dated anywhere from May 1, 2017 to April 1, 2018. This is a really easy way to make money for Indian Creek and we don't have to purchase anything other than the groceries we would normally be buying! Please save your receipts and send them in to the school office. Thank you for supporting Indian Creek!

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, and record your volunteer hours on the volunteer computer. 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 9:00 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:

- If your child has forgotten something from home, you may leave it in the office and we will make sure your child receives the item. We do ask, to not add distractions to learning, that you do not go to the classroom yourself to deliver the item.
- All visitors should have made 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 8:00 AM to 2:45 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; unless approved by the teacher in advance.

September Volunteer Workshop

When: September 7, 8:30-10:30 AM

Where: 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.

****** ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL DETAILS ******

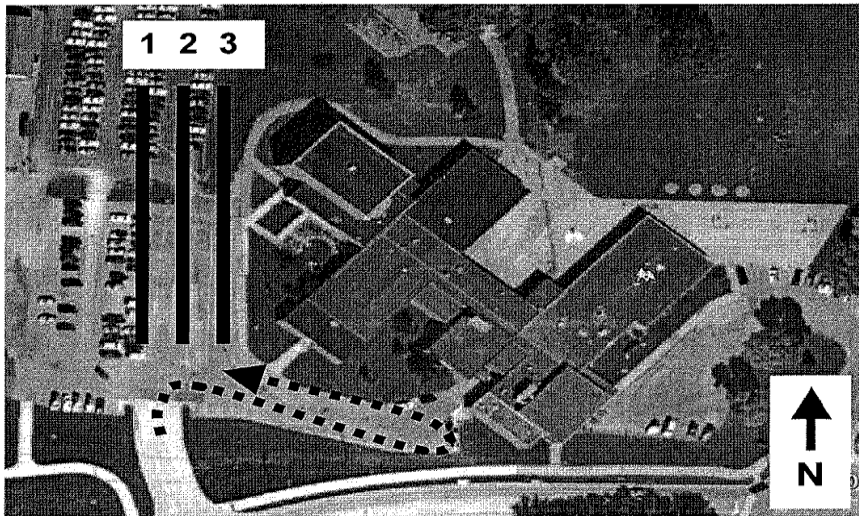
Students **traveling by car** at regular arrival and dismissal times should be dropped off or picked up at the back gym entrance at the rear of the building. The back gym entrance will be unlocked only during arrival and dismissal times (7:35-8:00 a.m. and 2:45-3:00 p.m.) Parents dropping off or picking up students at other times should park in the visitor parking at the front of the building and come to the office to sign children in or out.

Please help us by not parking by the front entrance between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. or between 2:30 and 3:00 p.m. as our busses need all available room to turn around.

Crossing guards will be out at 7:35 to 7:55 to cross students in the morning.

Thank you too, for helping our students experience independence by coming into the building on their own, unless it is after 8:00 AM, which then requires a parent to sign students in.

Indian Creek Elementary Student Drop Off & Pick Up Procedures



AM Drop Off

- Enter Indian Creek’s west parking lot – 29th Avenue entrance.
- Drive north, next to the sidewalk by the building into lane 3. Pull up as far north as possible. First car in line will park just beyond the corner of the gym. Student exits car on passenger side. Drivers: Please remain in your car.
- If the lane is full, pull behind the leader cars winding in a U shape (dotted line with arrow) holding pattern on the south side of the building. Lane 3 will reload as the leader cars exit.
- Wait for the cars ahead of you to exit first. Drive to the end of lane and turn left, staying on the far edge of the parking lot back to the 29th Avenue entrance.

PM Pick Off Up

- Enter Indian Creek’s west parking lot – 29th Avenue entrance.
- 3 lanes are identified next to the sidewalk. Fill lane 1 first, then 2 & 3. The first car in each lane will park just beyond the north corner of the gym. If the lanes are full, additional cars will wind in a U shape (dotted line with arrow) and wait for instructions from the parking lot supervisors.
- Using a walkie-talkie, a supervisor will identify drivers and call for students. Students will walk down the passenger side of each lane to load, following the instructions given them by the supervisors. Please remain in your car.
- If still waiting for your student and the lane is ready to exit, pull forward and park on the north edge of the lot. A supervisor will escort your student to the car.



Attendance Procedures

Please be sure to call the Indian Creek office (**Mrs. Strauser at 447-3272**) by 8:30 AM when your student is going to be absent or late to school. Be sure to state your student's name, classroom teacher, reason for absence or late arrival, anticipated time your student will arrive if applicable, and lunch choice.

If we do not hear from parents, Mrs. Strauser will call home to find out why the child is not at school. All illnesses are reported to the school nurse. The nurse uses this information to help monitor current contagious diseases that may spread through the building.

If your student arrives late or leaves early, parents need to stop in the office to sign them in or out. Students are asked to check in at the office with a parent when arriving to school late.

If you plan to pick up your child from school during school hours, a **written note** should be sent to your child's teacher. **Students *will not* be called to the office until a parent or guardian arrives to sign them out.** Please do not go to your child's classroom, someone from the office will either call the classroom or go down to the classroom and get your student to meet you in the office.

Our first priority is to make sure your child reaches the proper destination after school. If you need to change the way your child typically goes home in the afternoon, it is **best to send a written note** to your child's teacher the morning stating how your child will be going home from school. You may also call the office at 447-3270 as soon as possible and *no later than 2:00 pm*, unless there is an emergency. *Please do remember we do not recommend e-mails simply because e-mails are not a guarantee that your message will be received in time.*



E-Mail from Indian Creek

Mrs. Harder (Pam) will send out a weekly e-mail with important information for the week, look for these e-mails on Monday afternoons. She will also send reminders and notifications throughout the school year. Please be sure your e-mail is up to date in PowerSchool, this is where the e-mail addresses are pulled from. If you have not been receiving the e-mail messages from Mrs. Harder, please email her at pharder@linnmar.k12.ia.us and she will be sure to add you to the list. Just a reminder; sometimes our e-mail messages end up in your junk folder due to the large amount of recipients we send messages to. A simple way to prevent the e-mail from going to your junk folder is to add pharder@linnmar.k12.ia.us to your address book.



Back to School Supply Kit Pick Up Days

If you ordered a back to school supply kit, last spring, online from shopkits.com. the supply kits will be available for pick up on August 8 for Kindergarteners and August 9 for students entering grades 1-5. If you do not pick up your child's kit it will be placed in their classroom by August 22 for supply drop off day.



Notes From the Health Office



If your child comes down with an illness that requires taking medication at school, your pharmacy will split your prescriptions so that your child can bring only the needed amount of his/her medication to school. This will eliminate sending prescription bottles back and forth. Please let Mrs. Rosendale know if your child changes medications, so that the information can be added to their health records.

Handy Contact Information for Indian Creek



Principal: Mrs. Marilee McConnell (mmccconnell@linnmar.k12.ia.us / 319-447-3271)



School Facilitator: Mr. Maurice Frazier (mfrazier@linnmar.k12.ia.us / 319-447-3312)



Administrative Secretary: Mrs. Pam Harder (pharder@linnmar.k12.ia.us / 319-447-3270)

Guidance Counselor: Mrs. Kelly Ward (keward@linnmar.k12.ia.us / 319-447-3274)

Attendance/Guidance Secretary: Mrs. Kitty Strauser (kstrauser@linnmar.k12.ia.us / 319-447-3272)

Health Assistant: Mrs. Stephanie Rosendale (srosendale@linnmar.k12.ia.us / 319-447-3273)



Healthy Kids Initiative

The staff at Linn-Mar Community schools has committed to promoting the health and well-being of our students. In accordance with Linn-Mar's Designation as a Blue Zone School District, new procedures have been implemented to provide students with healthier lifestyle choices in regards to birthday celebrations in the classrooms.

Student birthdays may be celebrated at school. However, students will be encouraged to no longer bring food or beverages to share with classmates. Instead, 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 (ie birthday crowns, sit with a special friend at lunch, being designated as the line leader for the day, ect.) Students may also choose to bring in non-food items to share with classmates and school staff such as pencils, special note pads, pens, other writing tools.



Linn-Mar's Virtual Backpack

Be sure to check out the Linn Mar virtual backpack at <http://www.linnmar.k12.ia.us/pages.asp?uid=868AFC410C5B4D159895091FB7DC17D0&pid=1>
In the virtual backpack you will find lots of information and flyers for various groups and camps. Check it out!

Indian Creek is a Blue Zone School!

What is Blue Zone?

Blue Zone began as a National Geographic expedition to find the longest living cultures and has evolved into a recipe for living longer that is now popping up as Blue Zone Projects across the country.

Blue Zone Projects are a community well-being improvement initiative designed to make healthy choices easier through permanent changes to environment, policy, and social networks.

In keeping with the Blue Zone Project here at Indian Creek we are making healthier choices too. Our lunch program has already made healthier choices for our students. We are also asking snack/birthday treats are in line with Blue Zone guidelines. Listed below are a few suggestions for snacks. Thank you for your cooperation in making Indian Creek a Blue Zone School!

Healthy Snack Options

- Fruits
- Dried Fruits
- Vegetables
- Low and Non-fat Yogurt
- Applesauce (with no added sugar)
- Whole grain crackers
- Hummus
- Canned Fruit
- Popcorn (no trans fat)
- Barnum Animal Crackers (due to peanut allergies Barnum is the only brand)
- Fruit Roll-ups
- Go-gurts
- Pretzels
- Jello
- Snack Pack Pudding
- Welch's fruit snacks
- Cottage Cheese (skim or 1%)
- Sun Chips-Cheddar Harvest
- Whole grain Wheat Thins
- Triscuits



Other guidelines to go by...

- All items must be trans-fat-free
- Snack items must be 200 calories or less per portion as packaged
- Calories from saturated fat must be less than 10% per serving
- Sodium must be limited to less than 230 mg per portion as packaged and less than 480 mg per entrée
- Items should contain no more than 35% of calories from total sugars per portion as packaged
- Products with cereal grains must contain at least 2 grams of fiber per package

News from Nutrition Services

Lunch Prices are as follows for the 2017-18 school year:

BREAKFAST

Grades K-12: \$1.50
 Reduced Price Grades K-12: \$.30
 Adult: \$1.70

LUNCH

Elementary, Grades K-5: \$2.60
 Middle School, Grades 6-8: \$2.65
 High School, Grades 9-12: \$2.70
 Reduced Price Grades K-12: \$.40
 Adult: \$3.55

Payment Options:

1. **Cash or checks may be sent to school daily.**
2. On-line credits may be entered at <https://intouch.linnmar.k12.ia.us/>. Follow the prompts to access your account.
3. **Credit and debit cards are acceptable.** Deposits must be completed by 8:00 a.m. in order for funds to be available for same day purchases.
4. There is **no fee** for this service.

Meal Account Balances

Meal account balances from the 2016-17 school year have automatically rolled to the building where your student will attend for the 2017-18 school year.

Free and Reduced Meal Eligibility

If your family is eligible for free school meals based on **food stamp eligibility**, you do not have to complete a new application for the 2017-18 school year. If you qualify for free or reduced meals based on your **income**, we will need a new application completed in August. Forms will be mailed to households this summer. Please return your form on registration day. Sometimes families are surprised to see the upper limits of eligibility. Please take time to read through the information you receive. Reduced price meals are \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch. This can be a BIG savings for families. All meal choices are available to all students regardless of their status. Information regarding meal status is confidential and is not "identifiable" at the cashier station. Please contact the Nutrition Services office at 447-3302 if you have questions.

Joining us for Lunch.....

Would you like to join us for lunch? We are pleased to see so many parents of elementary students eating lunch at school. Since we do satellite food to several of our elementary buildings, we ask that you phone ahead to let the school office know if you plan to eat lunch at school. Simply call **Mrs. Strauser at 447-3272 *before 9:00am*** the morning you are planning to come to lunch and order a school lunch. This way we are sure to have enough food for everyone. Then stop in the office to sign in and pick up a VISITOR badge before joining your child for lunch.

Adult lunches may be scanned from your child's lunch account or paid for in the main office. ***If you choose to pay with cash for your lunch we ask that you have the exact change.*** Thanks so much for your help. We hope to see you at lunch!

When coming for lunch, we do ask that you decide to either eat school lunch or bring a sack lunch from home. **Please do not buy lunch at a fast food restaurant such as McDonald's or Burger King to bring to school. Do not send pop to school.** Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



Indian Creek Volunteer E-Mail List

If you would like to receive e-mails from the Indian Creek volunteer coordinators pertaining to upcoming volunteer opportunities please be sure to send an e-mail to icvolunteers@linnmar.k12.ia.us and let them know to add your name to the list.

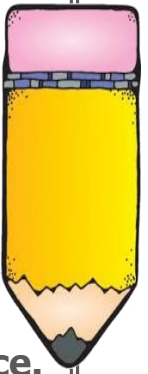
Thank you for all you do to support our school. We ♥ our Volunteers!

Recording Volunteer Hours

Record your volunteer hours online at:

<http://volunteers.linnmar.k12.ia.us/>

Login by entering your email address as your username. If you have not yet created a password, or you have forgotten your password, click on "forgot password," and a password will be sent to your email account. Hours can be logged by clicking on the "record hours" icon. **You may still record your volunteer hours on the volunteer sheets located in the Indian Creek Office. Record your hours on "either" paper or computer, but not both. Thanks!**



Indian Creek Volunteer Coordinators

Angela & Shawn Burke and Julia Neihart Thielen icvolunteers@linnmar.k12.ia.us

Indian Creek Volunteer Orientation



**If you are a new volunteer to Indian Creek Elementary, or if you have yet to attend a volunteer orientation, please attend this year's Volunteer Orientation.
September 13
9:00 AM
Indian Creek Multi-Purpose Room**



How do I get involved at Indian Creek Elementary?

Complete the **Volunteer Registration Process**

online at <http://volunteers.linnmar.k12.ia.us/>

If you have not already turned in a disclosure form for the 2017-18 school year, **print and sign** the volunteer disclosure form located at the above site.

Return the Volunteer Disclosure form

with your signature to:

Karla Terry
Community Services Office
2999 N. Tenth Street
Marion, IA 52302