

Indian Creek News

December 2020 & January 2021

Kelly Kretschmar, Principal

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 VIRTUAL SCHOOL	2 VIRTUAL SCHOOL	3 VIRTUAL SCHOOL	4 VIRTUAL SCHOOL	5
6	7 VIRTUAL SCHOOL	8 VIRTUAL SCHOOL	9 VIRTUAL SCHOOL	10 VIRTUAL SCHOOL	11 VIRTUAL SCHOOL	12
13	14 DAY 6B Virtual PTO Meeting 6:30 PM	15 DAY 7A	16 DAY 7B	17 DAY 8A	18 DAY 8B	19
20	21 DAY 1A Winter Parties Pride Day	22 DAY 1B Winter Parties Pride Day	23 No School	24 No School	25 No School	26 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK
27	28 No School	29 No School	30 No School	31 No School	1 No School	2 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 No School Professional Development Day	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Indian Creek PRIDE Day	30



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 virtually 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. This year's holiday season brings a unique feeling to the building as we are missing the excitement of the students. We are all learning something new - teachers are adapting to providing instruction virtually and students are adjusting to learning new skills as well as learning virtually at home. We appreciate your support in helping your child settle into their school-day routines during this time and we are sure you have discovered your child knows the ins and outs of logging into and accessing Zoom links and assignments found in Schoology. As we navigate through virtual learning, please remember communication is very important. Please call if you have questions or if we can assist your family during this time.

After the first of the year, we start students typically make good progress with their learning. Teachers and staff look forward to settling into a daily routine at school after the hectic month of December.

Do not forget on Monday, January 18th is a No School Day for our students. The end of our first semester is January 29th and report cards will be made available through PowerSchool. Stay tuned, as we will provide directions on how you find the report card information 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 - a 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

VIRTUAL LEARNING

Linn-Mar Families:

As the coronavirus positivity numbers continue to rise in our area, the Linn-Mar Community School District has requested a waiver from the Iowa Department of Education. We plan to move to **virtual learning for all students, Pre-K through 12th grade, during a two-week period from November 30th through December 11th, 2020.**

Now is the time for us to be extremely cautious and safe. I understand the challenges this places on our families and it has been my goal to avoid going virtual for as long as possible. Unfortunately, I feel we have reached the point that the move to virtual is now necessary.

- The Linn County COVID positivity numbers have remained at 20% or higher for two consecutive weeks.
- Our student case numbers, and staff absences have been on the rise.
- Our ability to obtain substitutes in all areas including teaching and learning, nutrition services, and transportation is becoming more of a challenge each day.

Our intent is to return to our current hybrid model on Monday, December 14th for PreK-12 grades, but we will revisit this plan and make a decision during the week of December 7th.

As we transition to virtual learning, we ask the following:

- Please continue to report positive COVID cases to your school nurse as this will be essential information for us as we decide our future school plans.
- If you need to pick up your child's medication, please contact your school nurse to arrange a time.
- Please note, families will receive specific information in the near future regarding daily virtual schedules and details on LIVE classroom instruction from their child's teacher and/or building
- Grab and Go meals will be available from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at various sites across the district. For more information see page

We appreciate your cooperation as we continue to work together to help keep everyone safe during this pandemic. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at info@linnmar.k12.ia.us

Take care and stay healthy,

Shannon Bisgard
Linn-Mar Superintendent

HYBRID LEARNING

Linn-Mar Families,

The Linn County COVID numbers have declined the last two weeks and our staffing numbers are much better than they were before Thanksgiving. As a result, **We plan to return to district-wide hybrid learning Monday, December 14th through December 22nd. Monday, December 14th will be a "B" day across the district.**

Also on Monday, December 14th, the school board will meet to discuss our plans for after the holiday break. Following the board meeting, we will communicate our decision to families and staff to help everyone plan accordingly. As always, we will continue to monitor our community COVID numbers and staff numbers over the course of the next week to help make this decision.

Important notes:

- Starting Monday, December 14th, breakfast and lunch will be served at the regular hours at all learning centers. Grab and Go Lunches will return to Linn Grove, Novak, and Westfield elementary schools from 9 to 9:30 AM.
- All High School sports and activities will resume on Saturday, December 12th.
- Please contact your school nurse of any household COVID cases prior to returning on Dec. 14th

We appreciate your cooperation as we continue to work together to help keep everyone safe during this pandemic. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at info@linnmar.k12.ia.us

Take care and stay healthy,

Shannon Bisgard, Linn-Mar Superintendent









FAMILY RESOURCES

At Linn-Mar, we understand the difficulty of learning from home. To assist, we have created a website for families to utilize to find information, fun activities when in quarantine, community resources, and more. Please use this link to access the website:

<https://sites.google.com/linnmar.k12.ia.us/family-resources/home?authuser=0>

Indian Creek Virtual Learning Expectations



RESPECTFUL	RESPONSIBLE	READY	CARE
I am focused on my learning	I learn in a quiet place	My computer is charged	I look up when speaking 
I am an active listener 	I follow directions	My camera is on	I talk on topic
I stay in one place	My pets are in the other room 	My materials are ready and close by 	I use kind words and faces 
I stay muted until it is my turn to talk 	I sit up straight	I am on time for class and groups	
I complete my independent work on Schoology	I am always in camera view 	I eat before or after my lessons 	

Reporting COVID & Virtual Learning



It is still very important for parents/guardians to contact the Indian Creek Health Office (319) 447-3273) with COVID cases/information while we are learning virtually. We need to continue to monitor this information as it is an important piece to the District's decision-making process for returning to in-person learning. Thank you for your diligence in keeping the Indian Creek Health Office updated and informed of any COVID related cases/information.



Grab and Go Meals Locations Announced

Linn-Mar Community Schools District has announced it will be going virtual from November 30th through December 11th. Free Grab and Go Meals will be offered for all children 18 and under, Monday- Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Linn-Mar Buildings

1. Bowman Woods Elementary - 151 Boyson Road NE Cedar Rapids, IA
2. Linn Grove Elementary - 2301 50th Street Marion, IA
3. Novak Elementary - 401 29th Avenue Marion, IA
4. Westfield Elementary - 901 East Main Street NE Robins, IA
5. Wilkins Elementary - 2127 27th Street Marion, IA
6. Oak Ridge Middle School - 4901 Alburnett Road Marion, IA
7. Linn-Mar High School - 3111 North 10th Street Marion, IA
8. Boulder Peak Intermediate - 3920 35th Avenue Marion, IA

Local Residences

9. Marion Village Mobile Home Park - 700 35th Street Marion, IA (located behind front office)
10. Squaw Creek Mobile Home Park - 6201 Hennessey Parkway Marion, IA (parked on Navajo Drive)
11. Valley View Apartments - 635 Ashton Place NE Cedar Rapids, IA
12. Chapel Ridge Apartments - 1 Chapel Ridge Circle Marion, IA

Please note:

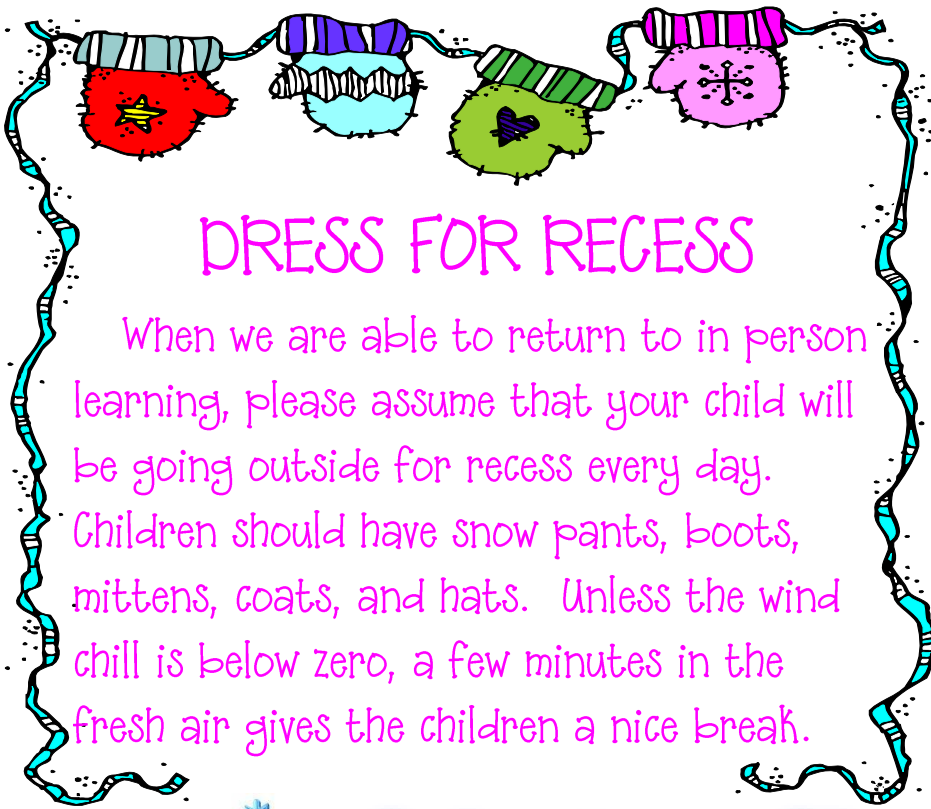
- No ID or paperwork is required
- Students do not need to be present to pick up meals
- Meal distribution methods are designed to minimize person-to-person contact and students/adults will not be permitted to enter district buildings or leasing offices.
- Meals will not be consumed onsite.

THANK YOU INDIAN CREEK PTO!

Thank you so much to the Indian Creek PTO for the sweet treat before Thanksgiving! We are so thankful for our Indian Creek PTO ~ You're the BEST!!

Thank you ~ Thank you!

Special thanks go out to Regan Dahlstrom for coordinating the virtual "Thankful for Books" day at Indian Creek.



DRESS FOR RECESS

When we are able to return to in person learning, 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.



Winter Break

December 23 through January 1.



Thank You!

Thank you so much for attending a virtual parent teacher conference with your child's teacher. The Indian Creek staff is grateful to be a partner in your child's learning and growth.

Masks are required in school.



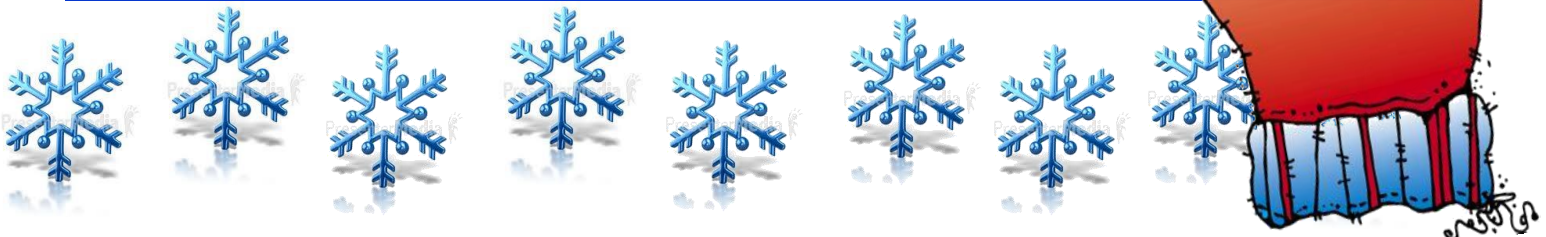


Snowy Weather and the Playground

If there is snow on the ground, these are the guidelines we will be using at Indian Creek for the playground:

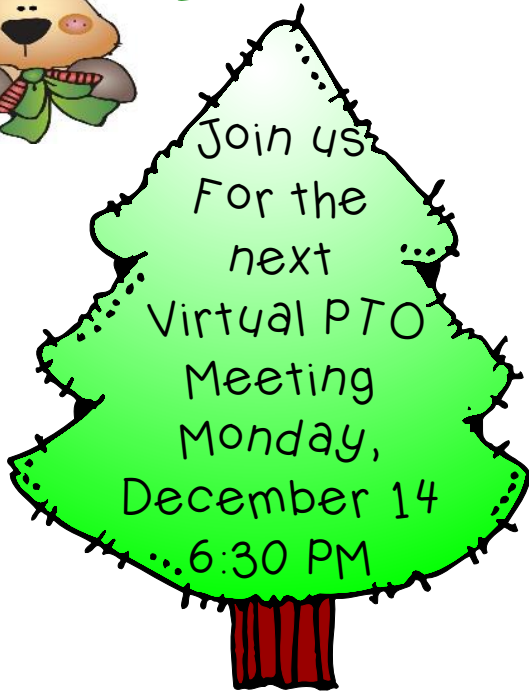
1. Children without snow boots (boots that are not worn all day long) will be asked to play on the shoveled areas of the playground only.
2. Children with snow boots will be allowed to walk in the snowy areas.
3. Children with snow boots, snow pants/snow suits, and mittens/gloves will be allowed to play 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.** Our health office is no longer loaning winter wear for students to use at recess. Thanks!!!!





PTO NEWS



Indian Creek Night at Pizza Ranch

Monday, December 7th
Marion Pizza Ranch
4:30-8:00 PM

Delivery or Carry Out Orders ONLY
Mention Indian Creek when you order or to your delivery driver and Indian Creek PTO will receive 15% of your order!

Thank you for supporting Indian Creek!



AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice ~ like Indian Creek PTO! For more information about AmazonSmile donations, go to org.amazon.com Look for Indian Creek Parent Teacher Organization EIN 21-0572257

**NO
January
PTO
Meeting**

