

THIS ISSUE ELEMENTARY



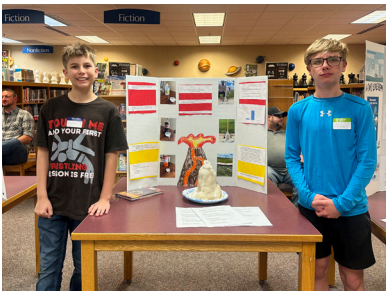
ICES second graders perform a Christmas program in the PAC.

INTERMEDIATE



ICES third graders sift through sand on a field trip to Blue Spring Caverns.

MIDDLE



Students brought back the science fair to ICMS.

HIGH



ICHS Student, Shayna Stevens Chosen as Work Based Learning Student of the Year for Indiana.

CORPORATION

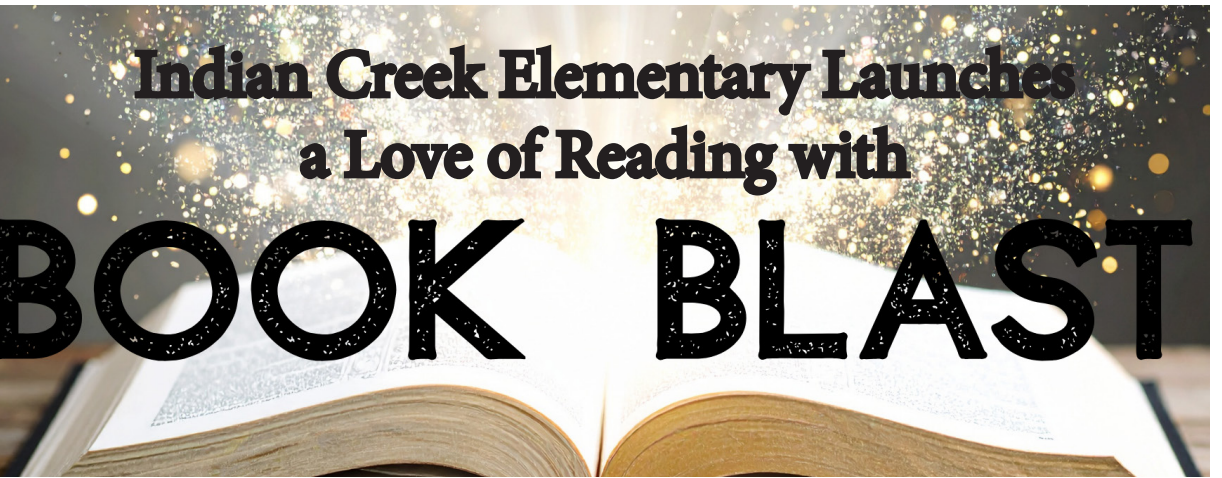


For the second straight year, IC receives the top honor from the Imagination Library.

By: MAGGIE SMITH
CREEK CURRENT NEWS EDITOR

Indian Creek Elementary's Book Blast program has given dozens of children access to books they never would have otherwise. This fundraiser is both a great way to get children involved in the community by raising funds and by giving them the chance to enhance their vocabulary and literary skills. Even if they are unable to donate and/or get donations, each student gains four new books for their home collection.

Through this fundraiser, ICES was also able to buy more books for the book vending machine, which students can earn trips to throughout the year. Mrs. Hall, the library media secretary for the elementary, is in charge of this groundbreaking program. She said,



"What makes this fundraiser so special is that 100% of the funds donated by our community goes straight back to our students getting books for their home libraries. I purposely chose to run the fundraiser in late spring so the books would be delivered right before students leave on summer break, giving them access to new books over the summer."

This program has helped



Second grader Joey Koron celebrates after winning one of the Book Blast treasure boxes.

so many students be excited about reading. By allowing the kids to be involved in the fundraising, it helps them not only feel more connected to the community, but it breeds competition for more new books. The Book Blast program has left and will continue to leave a lasting impact on the students involved in it. This involvement fosters a love for reading, which can positively impact the rest of their academic lives.

ICES Students Dash Through 500 Fun Run

By: ABRAM WISEMAN
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

ICES PE teacher Ms. Miller hosts an event called the 500 Fun Run. She's been

doing this event for several years, starting at Whiteland, then Edinburgh, and now at Indian Creek schools.

Miller takes the kids out to

the track and the kids run a 1-mile race. These kids have been practicing all year long for this, working on jogging, pacing themselves, and learning to do hard things. They've practiced running 18 laps in the gym, which adds up to one mile.

Each year Miller gets a new Kids Fit Curriculum from the Indy 500, and she uses those lessons throughout the year. "I started doing this event because my focus in class is lifelong fitness and I teach them many different activities that they can do at any age to exercise and calm down. I also collect data through jogging tests

throughout the year and that is our focus for showing growth," Miller said. Even though this year's run had to be moved inside due to rain, it didn't dampen the fun.



Eager elementary students get ready to sprint off in the 500 Fun Run as the green flag waves. Due to rain, the race was moved to the field house.



In themed attire, Ms. Miller celebrates with students after their run.

Former Musher Shares Experiences with Second Graders

By: ROWAN BRUNSMAN
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

ICES second grade students spend time throughout March learning about Alaska's culture and one of its most celebrate events - the The Iditarod race.

The Iditarod always takes place on the first Saturday of March. It is the longest sled dog race in the world, spanning 1,049 miles.

A musher is the driver who is charge of commanding the dogs. The teams have

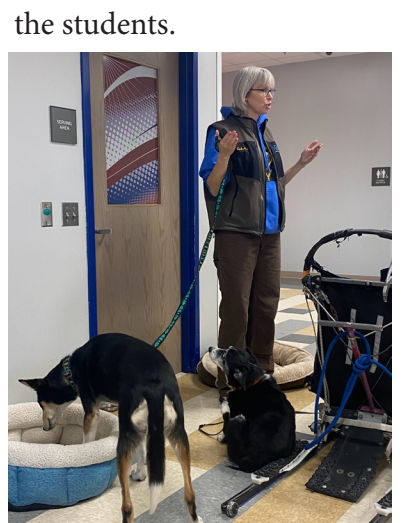
one musher and 12 to 16 huskies. In the Iditarod, the mushers are required to work alone.

The breeds of dogs that participate in the race are mainly Alaskan Huskies, but they don't look your typical husky. Instead they are mix of Siberian Huskies and Alaskan Malamutes. However they can be bred with two other breeds, Greyhounds and German Shorthairs, for speed.

Since sled dogs burn so

many calories, they need large pieces of meat, typically frozen high energy cuts. Sled dogs have adjusted to the cold since they live outside in dog houses. They also have very thick coats to keep them warm.

ICES students were able to learn firsthand from former musher, Karen Land. She visited the school and brought in a husky and a sled so that the students could see it in person. This was a once in a lifetime experience for



Karen Land talks to students about her Iditarod mushing experiences.

We're doing cool things on Instagram — come hang out with us!



After Hard Work and Practice, ICES Students Take to the Stage

By: GRACIE WERDEN
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

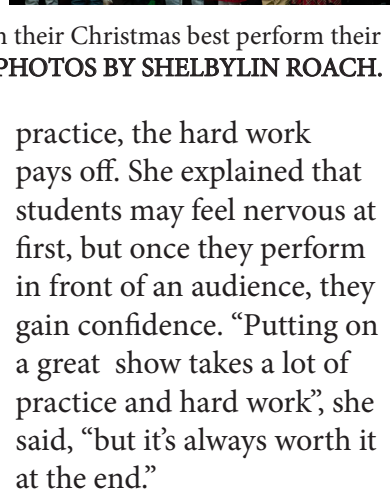
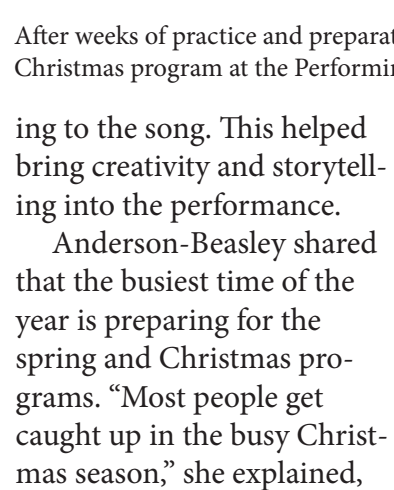
Every year, Indian Creek Elementary students have the opportunity to prepare for and perform two concerts. The first graders put on a spring performance in April, and the second graders put on a performance in December during the last week before Christmas break.

Mrs. Anderson-Beasley, the school's music teacher, has been teaching at Indian Creek since 2006, making this her 20th year helping students prepare for these performances. She works with students year-round to ensure they are confident and ready when the performance time comes.

This year, first graders performed a piece called "Not Your Typical Dragon," a fun song about a dragon that doesn't breathe fire.

According to Anderson-Beasley, the students memorize all their parts and perform with confidence.

This year, Anderson-Beasley incorporated a children's book into the spring program, assigning each class a part of the story correspond



After weeks of practice and preparation, ICES second graders dressed as reindeer, elves, Santa and Mrs. Claus, or in their Christmas best perform their Christmas program at the Performing Arts Center in front of a packed house. ALL PHOTOS BY SHELBYLIN ROACH.

ing to the song. This helped bring creativity and storytelling into the performance.

Anderson-Beasley shared that the busiest time of the year is preparing for the spring and Christmas programs. "Most people get caught up in the busy Christmas season," she explained,

"but it's important to remember the true meaning of Christmas and keep hope and love in your heart."

Preparing for performances takes time and dedication. Students practice for about 40 minutes each week, meeting several times before the big performance. As the

performance approaches, the entire grade comes together to rehearse in the Performing Arts Center at the high school.

Students are also encouraged to practice at home, with videos to make them feel more prepared. Although the process requires a lot of

practice, the hard work pays off. She explained that students may feel nervous at first, but once they perform in front of an audience, they gain confidence. "Putting on a great show takes a lot of practice and hard work," she said, "but it's always worth it at the end."

First and Second Graders Enjoy Swimming and Skating Units in PE

By: ARIANNA MITCHELL
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

Indian Creek first and second graders do a swimming unit in gym. Each class gets three days to swim. There are students from Indian Creek High School who get a chance to come help when the elementary kids are swimming.

The teacher, Ms. Miller, has the kids do a front and

back float, and it can be assisted or unassisted. She has them do flutter kick and "froggy kick", safe entry and exit of the water, front and back glide, assisted or unassisted. They go underwater, blow bubbles, and learn breath control. At the end of class, she lets the kids jump in the pool one at a time and swim back to the wall.

Miller also does a roller



ICES students enjoy three days of swim time with ICHS students.

skating unit, where kindergarten, first, and second graders get a chance to learn how to skate. There are some high school students who get to come over to the elementary school to help out with them when they are skating.

After planning the unit and ordering and receiving the skates, Miller teaches students how to stand up, stop, and roll on their skates.

The students have to stay on the red mat in the middle of the gym until they prove they can skate off of the mat with a volunteer and then on their own. The students must also wear wrist guards.

On the fourth skating day, each class gets a disco party with lights, music, and glow sticks. In the excitement, they learn so balance and confidence, overcoming fears.

From Chimpanzees to Canoes, ICES Students Had Fun on Field Trips

By: SAVANNAH BERTRAM
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

This year ICES students enjoyed fun field trips.

The first graders took two trips - one to Apple Works and one to the zoo.

First grade teacher Mrs. Stewart said, "Both trips were great. The Apple Works trip is always fun because it gives us a chance to visit and

support a local business." The students really enjoyed the wagon ride through the orchard and the petting zoo.

The zoo is a long-time tradition. The first graders have gone to the zoo every year since Stewart started teaching nearly 30 years ago. The dolphin show was a really big hit with the kids. They visited the chimpanzees, kids giving

them high fives through the enclosure glass. Stewart said, "I love taking kids to the zoo, especially kids who haven't had a chance to visit there before going on our school field trip. It is very exciting for kids to get to see some of the animals for the first time."

The second graders went to Camp Allendale for a fun-filled day of canoeing/

kayaking, fishing, hay rides, and fun games all around the campground.

Students and parent chaperones had a blast. Students were able to build confidence by rowing a canoe on an open lake. They learned about nature by baiting their own hook for fishing. Students took in the beautiful scenery that Camp Allen-

dale had to offer by taking a hayride around the camp. Students and teachers enjoyed a picnic lunch around the grounds and played games like gaga ball, tetherball, basketball and carpet ball. Second grade teacher, Angie Burkett, said, "Our field trip was messy, but we all had so much fun and we can't wait to go back next year."

Exercise for Education Fundraiser Raises \$8,000 for ICES Students and Staff

By: GAGE PROSE
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

Exercise for Education is a fall fundraiser to raise money for Indian Creek Elementary School. The event is a

non-traditional fundraiser that has been a important part of ICES for many years.

The event helps fund student activities and staff needs. According to Indian

Creek Elementary P.E teacher Ms. Miller, "It helps pay for incentives for students, helps pay for field trips, and classroom supplies and needs."

All grades participate in

the event according to Miller. "Each grade level attended together. Altogether, over 400 students throughout the day. We go out to the high school track and do a short warm-

up/stretch, and then they walk for 30 minutes, followed by popsicles."

This event in total has raised \$8000 this year for the ICES staff and students.

Indian Creek Intermediate School Third Graders Go Batty for Caves

By: EDIT GUNNARSSON
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

This school year, Mrs. Rainwater's third graders learned about caves and minerals. The kids got to create different projects of what they learned about the ecosystem of caves, bats, and cave art. These projects were then put up in the main hallway, which was decorated like a cave.

In October, they went on a field trip to Blue Spring Caverns. It is located in Lawrence County, Indiana, about



ICES third grade students explored a cave at Blue Springs Caverns and then mined for rocks and minerals. They wrapped up their unit with a visit from a bat rehabilitator, who brought in real bats for the students to see.



one hour and 20 minutes away from Indian Creek. According to their website, it's a natural wonder. They offer different tours to the public,

with one of them being an hour-long boat tour to explore and experience the majestic underground. The passages in the underground

tour are illuminated by the pocket of light that follows the tour boat through the darkness. At the caverns they got to go on this boat tour,

then each of the kids got a bag of sand they could mine for rocks and minerals.

Rainwater also applied for and won a grant from the Education Foundation. They used the grant to bring a bat rehabilitator to the school. She talked about the bats and even brought in real ones for the kids to take a closer look at in person. "The kids absolutely loved seeing the bats in person and had so many questions", said Rainwater. It proved to be the perfect addition to an exciting unit.

ICIS Third Graders Host Second Graders for Annual Wax Museum

By: CASSIDY COOK
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

This April, the Indian Creek Intermediate School third grade classes held their annual Wax Museum.

Each third-grader had about two weeks to conduct research and build a report before dressing up as the chosen person to read what was learned to teachers and second-grade students alike.

Some classes had students research topics related to a specific classroom unit, while others had students pursue individual interests.

Third grade teacher, Mrs. Rainwater stated, "Our class, in particular, did an entire unit on explorers, starting with early European explorers, moving onto the Lewis and Clark expedition, and finishing with more modern/

space explorers."

This activity is one of the favorite moments of the year for students, with second graders particularly enjoying the athletes and musicians exhibits most.

Further into April, the students of ICIS gradually begin learning about other cultures. This was to kickstart May's annual International Festival, in which both parents and

students come to school and are given a passport upon arrival. Each passport will be stamped while traveling to each of the seven continents (classrooms) as the groups get to learn about the culture through student reports and try different dishes.

Rainwater's students were allowed to choose an animal from the class's continent and conduct research on said

animal. Most students chose an animal based on the ones encountered during the class field trip to Wilstem Animal Park. Students got to feed animals such as ostriches, giraffes, llamas, and mountain goats, and even pet a snake, a sloth, and an armadillo. This was the launch of the international cultures unit and the journey to the International Festival in May.

Literacy Achievement Leads to Celebration at the Indiana State House

By: HANK SEITZINGER
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

On April 8, the ICIS third grade class had a once-in-a-lifetime celebration for their grade-wide achievement. After taking the IREAD assessment, they learned that they finished with a grade-wide pass rate of 95.4%.

Dr. Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education explained, "This achievement is incredible because our 95.4% pass rate was the highest pass rate for any district in Johnson

and Morgan County." This showcased all the hard work the students and teachers put into this assessment and sets an example for future third graders.

Mrs. Rollings, principal at ICIS, said, "This achievement is a "third grade" celebration, but it is really a celebration for the elementary school as well, who prepare the students for third grade."

The IREAD assessment is a state-wide standardized



Indiana Department of Education Literacy Achievement Award Winner

critical for students, because the state is recommending retention in third grade for all students who do not pass the test (without a Good Cause Exemption)."

The students passing with an average of 95.4% shows the proficiency throughout the grade is not only a celebration for the students, but also for the teachers who have taught them in the past.

The celebration itself was held at the Indiana State House on April 8 consisting

of all the schools in the state that also passed with a rate of 95% or higher. The celebration encourages younger students to want to work hard and maybe one day have the same experience. It also shows the teachers that what they are doing is working. Celebrations like this are vital to keep students engaged and wanting to continue to work hard. There's no doubt it took focus from the students as well as the hard work from the teachers.

ICES Fifth Grader Taryn Eubank Has Historic Run on ICMS Track Team

By: KAILC RUBLE
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER



ICES has many stand-out students. Fifth grader Taryn Eubank is one of them. She competed with the ICMS cross country team, earning fourth on the all-time record board. Eubank led her team to a fifth place finish at state, earning individual all-state honors, and is now headed to the state track meet this weekend.

Throughout this season, Eubank dominated her races. She is a member of the record-breaking 4x800 relay team who is seeded third going into the state track meet this weekend.

Eubank is also running the 1600 after qualifying at regionals last weekend with an astounding time of 5:21, which is second in the

country right now for a fifth grader.

Coach Mrs. Smith said, "Taryn had a stellar first season of middle school cross country and track. She is an amazing teammate, is so coachable, and works hard every practice. When I describe her to people, I tell them that she is not just a runner; she is a racer. In

the running world, there's a difference. She's strategic and smart when she races, and she works hard to put herself in a position to have a strong finish. I love coaching her and am so very proud of her incredible success this year."

Taryn has three years left of middle school running and she will continue to make her mark on IC.

Competitions Had Multiple Purposes: Skill Practice, Fun, and Memory Making

By: ADRIANA WEST
CREEK CURRENT OPINION EDITOR

This year ICIS had fun competitions to help motivate students. In their Super Bowl of Knowledge, the kids competed in groups to test

their abilities in IXL skills, Accelerated Reader points, and math facts. Each grade class was a separate team that competed for the Super Bowl trophy. The top three in their respective categories all got

a Super Bowl ring, while the class with the most in the top three got a trophy for their class and epic bragging rights.

This spring, the students held a March Madness read-

ing competition. The third-grade paired classes were split into groups as they tried to read and earn as many AR points as possible. The points were updated every day to keep the competition fierce.

The winning teams got a pizza party, treats, and slushies.

Students learned and practiced different skills while learning healthy competitiveness while having a great time making memories.

Indian Creek Middle School Students Answer the Question: “How Would You Change the World?”

By: ALI PERRY
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

Wheeler Mission is a Christian social services organization that provides emergency shelter, addiction recovery, and residential programs for individuals experiencing homelessness, poverty, and need in Central and South-Central Indiana.

A group of seventh grade students at ICMS who are in a college and career prep class recently studied kids who have changed the world. Their teacher, Mrs. Komorek, gave them the task of coming

up with their own plan for how they would change the world.

Berkeley Harding, a student whose project was voted on originally, planned to go on a field trip to serve a warm meal to the homeless, but due to the inability to find a place that the whole class could come, they settled for volunteering at their sorting facility.

Harding said, “I just like helping people. I like how we picked the best clothes out for the homeless people, so that they were valuable and



worthy of the brand-new items. It makes me want to volunteer more and different volunteer opportunities. I thought it was cool how the discarded clothing and fabric were recycled and used to make money for the mission.”

Ellen Burgler, the Volunteer Engagement Manager at Wheeler Mission, claims,

“Someone wanted to change homelessness... And propose that they get involved by bringing donations and serving at Wheeler mission. What an amazing plan. These kids came in today with donations and happy hearts, ready to serve. I am so impressed and proud that these seventh graders see that they are capable of plugging in and making a change. They are obviously already a group of world changers!”

Lucas Scott created a school fundraiser that resulted in collecting over 400 items to bring with them on their day of volunteering. Allie Long, another student volunteer, said, “I like knowing what they did with all the clothes that are donated and learning about all the different ways that they help the homeless, for example, the women and children.” There are many items the homeless are in need of, and some of those items that stick out from their list are: shampoo, body wash, razors, socks, underwear, clothes, and other toiletries.

has been working well this year and has had the students make small businesses to help them learn, such as their dog treat business. The students go around the school to the teachers and offer them dog treats to buy.

With her first year down and under her belt, Pendleton is excited to continue to grow the THRIVE program and see its progression in the next school year.

Several other schools have a similar class, just with a different name. According to Pendleton, she started the THRIVE program as a way to help promote her students to do and work towards different things each day. Pendleton hopes that naming the essential skills program THRIVE will create an inclusive program for all of her students. This program

ing Habits, Readiness, Independence, and Vocational Education.”

Pendleton continued talking about how the class promotes all of these things and expressed how the goal of the program is “to help students reach their goals in independence, education, and employment. The THRIVE program allows students with varying abilities to reach goals that are catered

to their needs.”

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Indian Creek Students THRIVE in New Essential Skills Program

By: HALEIGH BAIRD
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

Throughout Indian Creek’s history, the school has been consistently known for their superiority over other schools in this area: their essential skills program. This year the program has gotten a change, but a change for good.

Last year, the beloved essential skills teacher Mrs. Hogue announced that she

would be retiring at the end of the school year. When school started back up, Indian Creek was introduced to the new essential skills teacher, Miss Pendleton.

With the introduction of a new teacher came the change of the essential skills program, a new way called THRIVE. Pendleton explained the meaning of the THRIVE acronym, saying, “THRIVE stands for Teach-

guide containing materials for students to review. Indian Creek Middle School began meeting for an hour after school every Thursday. The team’s teacher, Mrs. Hale, stated that after they had thoroughly gone through all of the material, they started taking practice tests, where she took note of where they

excelled and where they struggled.

When asked what the most challenging aspect of practice was, one of the team members said it was the vast amount of material they had to learn in a short time. Another stated that resolving answer disagreements within the 20-second time limit was

the hardest part.

During the Academic Super Bowl, schools are split into groups based on the population of their school. Indian Creek is in class two. The middle school took the top position for class two.

Hale said that she is extremely proud of her team for all of their effort.

ICMS Students Compete and Win Top Honors in Academic Super Bowl

By: KAYCEE TOWELL
CREEK CURRENT FEATURE EDITOR

Each year, every middle school academic team competes in the Academic Super Bowl. This competition allows students to show what they’ve learned in subjects such as science, English, math, and social studies. They stay after school once

a week for months, studying and preparing for their competition.

This year, the ICMS science academic team is proud to say they are state placers.

Schools are given a theme for the Academic Super Bowl. This year’s theme was The American Revolution. Each team is given a study

NJHS Powder Puff Game Raises Over \$1,400 for Breast Cancer Awareness

By: GREYSON GREENE
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

The National Junior Honor Society recently hosted a Powder Puff football fundraiser that raised over \$1,400 for breast cancer awareness while bringing students and the community together for a fun event.

The idea for the game started when eighth grade student Amaryah Pfaehler mentioned wanting to host a Powder Puff game during her speech while running for an NJHS officer position. After the officers were elected, they agreed to organize the event and spent about two weeks planning it. The biggest challenge was getting enough students to sign up because

many were unsure if they could participate.

Another issue came when the group realized they still needed officials for the games. Luckily, Mr. Elmore and members of the high school football team stepped in to help referee.

A big focus of the organizers was to make the game as entertaining as possible for the crowd. One of the most memorable moments happened during the championship game when the 8th graders gave the ball to kindergarten student Titus Patterson, who ran down the sideline for a touchdown.

Before the final game, NJHS officers also gave a speech honoring people af-

ected by breast cancer. They asked anyone who had battled breast cancer or knew someone affected by it to stand.

The fundraiser gave students a chance to have fun while also supporting an important cause.



Members of NJHS traveled to “The Pink Ribbon” Connection in Indy to deliver the funds from the powderpuff game. From left to right: Gavin Stout, Crosby Donahue, Anna Zimmerman, Amaryah Pfaehler, Quinn Waltz, Lydia Elmore, Jaelynn Skinner, Katelyn Lowery

ICMS Student Scientists Shine as Idea Turns into a Comeback Fair

By: CLAIRE SMITH
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

This year, the science fair made an exciting comeback at ICMS thanks to the hard work of students, teachers, and the community. What started as one student’s idea quickly turned into a school-wide event that highlighted creativity, curiosity, and a love for science. Nearly 30 students participated, spending months working on projects.

The idea to bring back the science fair came from 8th grader Gavin Stout. After sharing the idea with teacher Mrs. Hale, the project quickly gained support from Hale, Mr. Mathena, and several student volunteers who helped make it happen. Students put in a lot of effort, mostly outside of school hours, to complete their



Indian Creek Middle School students stand in front of their science fair projects that showcase both their creativity and their hard work.

projects. Ms. Holmes said she was amazed by the quality of the work and proud to watch students grow throughout the process. Because the fair was completely voluntary, it showed how passionate students were about science and learning.

The fair featured a wide variety of impressive projects. The top winners included: 1st Place: Jacob Foudray (8th grade) “Real or AI” 2nd Place: Bristol Bullock (6th grade) “Toads: Cricket

vs. Mealworm” 3rd Place: Lydia McCarthy and JoJo Smith (7th grade) “What Drinks Rot Teeth the Most”

A special Math Award was also given to Harry Smithey (7th grade) for his project “Don’t Crack Under Pressure,” which stood out for its strong use of math concepts.

Many people helped make the event successful. Mrs. Davis supported the planning process, while Holmes created important documents to help students stay organized

and on schedule. The science fair also had help from guest judges, including Dr. Nick Soltis, A former university professor Holmes, and Mr. Mead. Mrs. Debbie Abel served as a judge as well and generously donated Amazon gift cards for the winners.

One challenge the organizers faced was that the regional science fair happened during the school’s spring break. Because of the scheduling conflict, this year’s winners were unable to

move on to regionals. Even with that setback, the excitement surrounding the event was clear.

Hale shared that one student even built a wind turbine model with her engineer father, showing family support and shared interests in STEM.

The return of the ICMS science fair showed just how much students and staff value science and hands-on learning. The event became a celebration of curiosity, hard work, and future scientists.

ICMS Guest Speaker Tells of Father’s Journey from Forest to Freedom

By: CHLOE MCGUINNESS
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

Eighth grade teacher Mrs. Kenzig spent a few days giving background information on the Holocaust, as the background information is essential to understanding the story of those who lived through it. This worked into having her students read *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *The Wave*.

After teaching this unit, Kenzig wondered, “I know there aren’t many survivors, but could I get someone who could tell a personal story about someone who survived the Holocaust?”



Kenzig reached out to the CANDLES museum in Terre Haute. Laurie Freeman, whose father, Jack Bronicki survived the Holocaust, came to talk to Indian Creek Middle School’s eighth grade

students on February 20.

Her mission was to keep her father’s story going. In 1939 Jack Bronicki escaped the Holocaust. He was born in 1926, and was the youngest of four boys. During the

Holocaust, Bronicki went into hiding in the forests of Poland. He joined a resistance group, known as Bielski Partisans. When Bronicki was just thirteen, Russians and Germans invaded his town, and Bronicki fled to the woods. This brave little boy stayed in the forest for a year and a half, hiding from the Nazis. Every sound could have meant death. Bronicki survived by himself, lonely, terrified and fighting constant hunger and mental anguish. A random frightening exchange with a Russian partisan led him to the Bielski camp, deep in the

woods where he met up with his brother and mother, and they survived until the end of the war under protection of the group.

When they returned to their village, their home was gone.

Freeman told the students that once Bronicki woke up from sleeping in the woods and was only arm’s length from a Nazi. If the soldier just looked down, he would have seen him and killed him.

Freeman’s telling of her father’s story made a powerful impact on the ICMS eighth graders.

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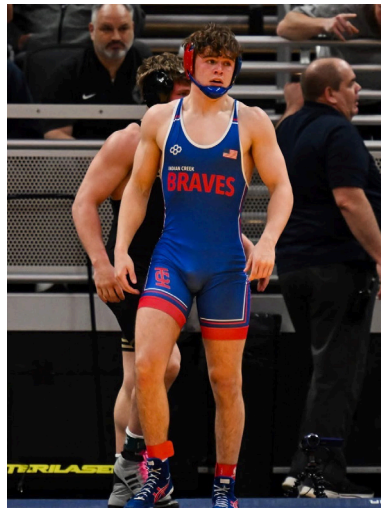
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Indian Creek High School: Where Champions are Made

By: MASON WOODKE
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

This year at Indian Creek High School, there were many big accomplishments in athletics.

First of all, senior Libby Dowty crossed the finish line with a 17:10 to become a two-time IHSAA state champion in cross country. Dowty is committed to the University of Louisville and also earned the Indiana Gatorade Player of the Year in cross country, which is only given out to one female in Indiana for cross country, and Dowty has received that honor twice.



Dowty was not only a state champion in cross country but also a state champion in wrestling with another Indian Creek student, Ella Neibert. Neibert, a sophomore, won her second IHSAA girls wrestling state championship at 105 pounds with a pin in the final match under the lights. She finished her season with an undefeated record of 30-0.

Dowty followed right after her with another pin in the state championship at 110 pounds and finished her senior season with an overall record of 12-1.

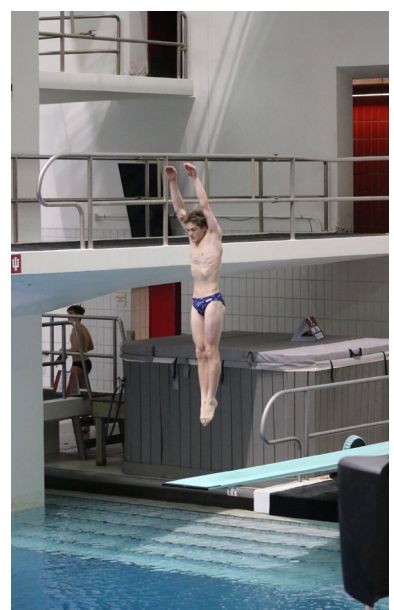
ICHS also had success in



boys' wrestling, with senior Oliver Hallett winning semi-state and placing sixth in the IHSAA State Tournament, ending his senior season with a record of 33-4.

Another sport Indian Creek High School excelled in was diving. The Braves' dive team had two state placers, including sophomore Grayson Taylor placing 14th, and sophomore Cecilia Hale, placing 26th.

The Indian Creek High School dance team has been outstanding in the last few years. The dancing Braves took home a state championship this year in Scholastic



Hip Hop, being the third year in a row that they have brought home the trophy. The Braves also earned runner-up in the Jazz category.

"These accomplishments mean a great deal not only to me as Athletic Director, but to our entire school community. When students like Libby, Oliver, Ella, Grayson, Cecilia, and our dance team achieve at such a high level, they represent everything we hope athletics and activities can teach. Commitment, discipline, leadership, and resilience are what we strive for here at Indian Creek. Their success is a reflection of



countless hours of hard work, support from coaches and families, and a dedication to excellence both in and out of competition," Braves athletic director Derek Perry stated.



Indian Creek is a State Leader In WBL and Student-Run Businesses

By: ELISE GIGER
CREEK CURRENT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ICHS is a state leader in Work-based learning and student led businesses. Work-based learning is an educational or professional program that provides real-world, hands-on experience, allowing learners to apply academic and technical skills directly in a workplace or simulated environment.

Indian Creek High School currently has two student-run businesses: the Creek Design Lab, sponsored by Mrs. Stevens and Creek Cattle Company, sponsored by Mr. Dunn.

According to WBL coordinator, Mrs. Woodworth, "Students handle day-to-day

operations and are the face of the company. Teachers support the students and help them navigate new situations. Elliana Cole and Blake Legan run Creek Cattle Company this year, and Shayna Stevens and Addison Woehlecke run Creek Design Lab. This model is unique because it allows students to experience running a business, and Indian Creek has been recognized by Aspire and Workforce Indiana for our effort for these initiatives."

Creek Cattle was created in 2018 and has produced over 10,000 lbs of beef. More than 25,000 meals from their beef have been served in NHJ cafeterias. Creek Cattle has raised more than 30 animals

since their inception.

Indian Creek agriculture teacher Mr. Dunn said, "This school year we raised and processed the most animals we have so far. We raised and processed a total of 12 beef animals. Creek Cattle Company has been steadily working to provide unique opportunities to our students and our community. This year we hosted a Purdue Extension Calving Academy in February and the elementary school for Animal Day this past Friday. We are looking forward to hiring two students to work at Creek Cattle Company this summer."

Creek Cattle is a important business because it's where Indian Creek gets

most of its beef for burgers. The company is great because students can learn about cattle and take care of them.

This year work-based learning got redesigned to align more with the new diploma types that will take effect for the class of 2029 and further. Woodworth shared, "There will be different levels of diplomas with "Seals" and students can achieve additional seals by participating in work based learning and working 150 hours. There are different levels that students can earn based on exceed those 150 hours. This year, in redesigning the program, I built the framework that will allow us to track students hours while giving them

authentic experiences. I was intentional with the curriculum design for the course so that it was manageable and applicable for all students."

Woodworth would also like to thank the NHJ assistant superintendent. "Mrs. Andrea Perry, our Assistant Superintendent, has been instrumental in helping to secure funding through donations and grants to make these businesses a reality. Without her support, combined with community investment, we would not be a leader in student-run businesses."

Indian Creek truly is a state leader in both work-based learning and in student-run businesses.

IC Senior Shayna Stevens Wins Work-Based Learner of the Year

By: ISAAC SMITH
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

The Work-Based Learner of the Year is recognition as the top high school student who successfully combined academics with real-world, hands-on career experience, such as an internship, youth apprenticeship, or job shadowing. The award is a huge honor, and it is no question that winner Shayna Stevens showcases an incredible work ethic, balancing many things while being a student at Indian Creek High School.

Mrs. Woodworth shared her thoughts about the winner and what she means to ICHS. "Shayna earned this award because of her commitment to and leadership of Creek Design Lab. Shayna has been involved with Creek Manufacturing/Creek Design Lab since its inception her sophomore year."

Woodworth described



Stevens' hard work in all areas of her life. "Shayna recently prepared an operations manual for the student-run business so that her legacy will continue on

through the growth of the program. Mrs. Stevens is the teacher advisor to the Creek Design Lab and she empowers her students to take the lead. It's amazing that Shayna

Meet Indian Creek High School's First Indiana College Core Students

By: JENNA ROETHEMEIER
CREEK CURRENT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Indiana College Core (ICC) is a program that gives students the opportunity to earn 30 college credits and have a full year of college under their belts before they graduate high school. Credits are guaranteed to transfer between all Indiana public colleges and universities.

ICC is a new program to Indian Creek High School as



Brooke Ulerick
it just started being offered to students last year. There were two students who completed the ICC for the class of 2025. The students were Paisley Giger and Brooke Ulerick.

Having the dedication to complete a full year of college while still in high school is a great trait that both Giger and Ulerick had.

Another benefit of the ICC program is that it is totally free. With that being said, by completing the ICC program, Giger and Ulerick did their first year of college for free. As most people know, college prices are very expensive so a free year of



Paisley Giger
college is a great opportunity for students. Indian Creek is very

proud to offer this program to students and very proud of Giger and Ulerick for being the first students to complete the ICC program with Indian Creek.

The ICC program is overall a great opportunity for students wanting to pursue college.

Giger and Ulerick will carry a special place in the IC community as very courageous trailblazing students.

Indian Creek's Construction Trades Program Teaches Valuable Skills

By: LEVI DICKENS
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

This school year at ICHS has been a year of many changes and additions. Among these changes is the Construction Trades Program led by Mr. McFann.

This is a two-year long program that introduces students to the construction trades, mainly residential construction. Students who complete the program have the ability to opt into the program's partner, the Car-

penters Union, to become a second year apprentice. Along with that, students learn all sorts of valuable skills for the trade, such as how to operate machinery like saws, impacts, and drills.

"I feel the first year has went well," McFann said. "We had a total of 35 students join the program. 25 of those will continue next year with the program. We also have a new group of 24 students starting the program next year."

For their first year, the

students created a multitude of woodworking projects, such as display boards for 4-H, dog houses that were donated to the Brown County Humane Society, wooden Christmas trees, and cedar planter boxes. Their semester final builds were bird feeders and raised planter boxes.

Because it was the program's first year, some aspects of the program needed to be ironed out. "As a construction worker/builder myself, I often take some things for

granted as far as what students know and don't know," Mr. McFann said, "Some students came in with zero experience in construction, so there was a large learning curve for them."

The next school year, the program will be improved with a change in their workroom, switching to the middle school industrial arts classroom with more space and room to work in.

Overall, the Construction Trades Program has been

a success in its first year, teaching valuable skills and important knowledge for students to use in the future.

The majority of the students who attended the program this school year will be there for the next, along with even more students who want to join.

For students who want to learn carpentry skills or who want to pursue a career in the trades, the Construction Trades Program is their new gateway.

Creek Current Journalism Class Makes a Big Splash its First Year at ICHS

By: WALKER OLIVER
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

This school year, ICHS created a new journalism class in which students learned how to write stories and how to promote different events and companies through social media.

Journalism teacher Mrs. Smith taught students different ways to inform and entertain the students at ICHS through newspaper stories and social media posts.

The class posted entertaining, informative, and promotional videos to Creek

Current on Instagram.

Creek Current reporter Hank Seitzinger said, "I enjoy making different videos in class because it is a fun experience, and I get to learn about new things."

A few journalism students took a field trip to Jostens

yearbook conference. At this conference the students were able to learn about what it would take to create an amazing yearbook.

Students also met with an artist, who brought the yearbook cover to life.

Journalism students were

assigned certain pages of the yearbook so that the yearbook could be done efficiently and done well.

The journalism class went very well for its first year, and the class is ready for more students to add journalism to their next year's schedule.



Accompanied by Principal Skobel, Mrs. Stevens, and Mrs. Woodworth, Shayna Stevens accepts her award.

By: MIKAYLA REDENBAUGH
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

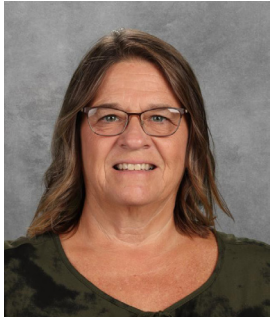
The Indian Creek School cooperation is saying farewell to four faculty members who have been a part of the family for many years. The Creek Current journalism team would like to recognize them and give them one last farewell as the school year comes to an end.

Lesley Blakely has been the school psychologist at the elementary school for 35 years and in education for a total of 45 years. She said she is going to miss many of the teachers and staff. After retirement she plans “to spend time traveling and volunteering at the Johnson County animal shelter.”

Essential Skills teacher Phil Arnold had been at Indian Creek his whole career which consists of 33 years. He went to IC as a student from grade 1-12. When

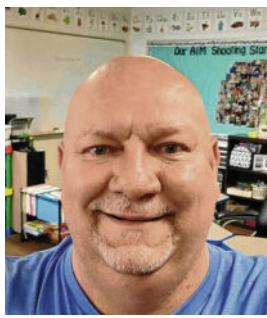
Closing One Chapter, Beginning Another

FOR FOUR INDIAN CREEK RETIREES



Leah Haase

asked what he will miss the most about Indian Creek he said, “I will miss working with students, talking with my colleagues, and taking field trips with my class.” He looks forward to spending



Phil Arnold

time with his family, enjoying beach time, and doing advocacy work for people with disabilities.

Sharon Hogue was a special education teacher at IC for 25 years and has been in



Lesley Blakely

education for 45 years. She said, “After retirement I look forward to spending time with my family, especially my grandkids.”

Leah Hasse was the counseling and athletic secretary



Sharon Hogue

for ICCHS for 40 years. Hasse passed the torch to Hannah Hamilton, who describes Hasse as, “someone who held a wealth of knowledge, was easy to talk to, and truly cared about the students and her co-workers.”

“Following in the footsteps of someone who dedicated 40 years to growing this role and becoming such an integral part of the office definitely weighs heavily on my shoulders at times. There is no replacing Mrs. Haase or the knowledge and experience that she had. However, I am incredibly grateful for everyone’s patience, encouragement, and support as I work to do the best job I can and continue the level of care and dedication that she provided for so many years.”

Creek Current thanks these four for all they have done for this cooperation and wishes them all the best.

NHJ Corporation Wins Top Honor for Imagination Library Donations

By: JOSH SEACAT
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

The imagination library began in 1995 in Sevierville, Tennessee, where country music icon and philanthropist Dolly Parton grew up. She wanted to help children succeed in school and have better opportunities in life. Over the years, the program has expanded to many communities around the world and has mailed millions of books to children. Dolly Parton’s kindness and dedication have helped young kids start and



The trophy comes back home to IC for second straight year.

get into reading.

Dolly Parton created the Imagination Library to help children fall in love with reading. The program mails free books to kids every month from the time they are born until they start kindergarten. Families all across the country have joined the program because it gives children the chance to build their own home libraries. Many parents say their children become more excited about reading and learning after receiving books.



Mrs. Perry, who is a huge champion for early literacy and the Imagination Library, poses with “Dolly” after accepting the winning trophy.

Indian Creek has participated in Dolly Parton’s library for a decade now, donate all the money raised to the non-profit organization.

NHJ has won the award for the most donations for two consecutive years. Assistant superintendent Andrea Perry attended the celebratory banquet and accepted the award on behalf of the corporation. The money Indian Creek raised helps kids across the globe to get books and learn how to read from a young age.

Corporation Staff Enjoys Annual Wellness Fair Complete with Goodies

By: JAYKOB GUMERSON
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

Earlier this month the Indian Creek Wellness Committee hosted the Indian



Assistant Superintendent Andrea Perry visits with representatives from Mutual Bank.

Creek Wellness Fair for the Indian Creek corporation staff. The Wellness Committee is a ten-person team who comes up with all the ideas for health, nutritional, and social wellness within the district.

In the main gym there were 30 local businesses with their own stations set up. This was a great way for vendors to promote their



ICHS secretary Christina Zobel gets information from a rep from Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

businesses and for the staff to learn about what’s available

in the local area.

This event took place during teacher appreciation week and the businesses even took part in supporting the teachers at Indian Creek by gifting them with goodies like classroom supplies, hand lotion, and product samples.

At the very end there was a raffle with prizes for all the staff to potentially win along with Kona Ice snowcones as

an extra treat.



Josh Quattrocchi, a representative from American Fidelity, shares some freebies with a group of ICCHS teachers.

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