

# Iles School News

1700 South 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Springfield, IL 62703 • 217-525-3226 • Mrs. Susan Rhodes, Principal



## Calendar of Events

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Parent / Teacher Conferences

12:00pm-7:15pm

NO SCHOOL

**February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

School Improvement Day

NO SCHOOL

**February 13<sup>th</sup>**

Lincoln's Birthday - NO SCHOOL

**February 14<sup>th</sup>**

Valentine Classroom Parties

2-3pm

**March 5<sup>th</sup>**

Pulaski Day - NO SCHOOL

**March 6-9<sup>th</sup>**

PTO Book Fair

**March 6-16**

ISAT testing

**March 8<sup>th</sup>**

Iles Family Night

**March 9<sup>th</sup>**

End of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter - Early Dismissal

2pm



## Making Good Investments

By Susan Rhodes, Iles Principal

Time, money, and words spoken are all investments that we can choose to make with our family, friends, and associates. We are all busy, and we need to think about how we are able to invest these resources to get the best return.

One of our goals for students at Iles School is to encourage our children to become independent, life long learners. One opportunity that is provided at Iles School to “show case” students responsible for their learning is through the student-led conferences that are being held this Thursday, February 2. It is so important to our children for every Iles parent to invest their time in attending this conference. Students take these conferences very seriously. This student-led conference provides the parent and child with an uninterrupted segment of time for the child to discuss his/her learning achievements and goals. Children know that their parents are busy. Children also are able to figure out that when their parents take the time out of their busy schedule to attend this

conference, that their parents do indeed value the child's learning. Actions truly speak louder than words.

As we interact with our children, family, friends, and associates, we need to be mindful to choose words that are encouraging and respectful. A line from Dr. Phil comes to my mind, “Is it more important to be right, or is it more important to save the relationship?” Words that are negative in nature remain in our memories for a long time, weaken our relationships, and slow the growth process. Relationships and progress are strengthened with genuine expressions of gratitude and encouragement.

We live in a very exciting time with technology providing more and more learning opportunities. In order to prepare our children for the world in the next decade, we need the appropriate learning tools now. We can't afford to wait. This is our children's time to learn. We need to come together to figure out how we can get sets of 25 iPads for every grade level. Right now we have one iPad for every classroom and a set of 16 iPads to be signed out to classrooms. We need 150 iPads (\$75,000—about \$175 per

student) to put into our children's hands to use applications to foster student inquiry on a daily basis in our classrooms. We need money. We need you to be creative and tell our story to others who may be in a position to invest in our children. Children also know that learning is important when they see adults invest their money in their learning. This year Iles School received \$2,800 from the District to spend on technology. The Iles Celebrates "Fund a Need" allowed us to purchase 12 iPads. Iles School receives \$48.05 per child from the District for the entire year to spend on all supplies that includes items such as paper, books, pencils, band-aids, Internet and magazine subscriptions, markers, printer ink cartridges and copy machine toner. We have to get more money elsewhere for the technology that we need. It is imperative that you take action to support your child's learning and invest in them now.

We are proud to be able to say that Iles School is an authorized world school. The depth of our pride is demonstrated through the resources we commit.

## February IB Eye

By Sandy Bauer, IB-PYP Coordinator

## Happy February!

This 2010-2011 school year is steadily moving ahead! Students are working on their 4th trans-disciplinary units, as illustrated by the many posters and projects in the classroom and the hallways. When you're in the building take a look at the various grade levels and ask the students how their work fits into their IB units! At our walkthrough this week in which we were looking for evidence of inquiry, it was very satisfying to listen to the children explain what they are doing and why!

Last week, a principal from a small school in Peoria visited Iles School to learn more about IB-PYP. Besides being impressed at the Primary Years Programme, she was pretty overwhelmed by our students and the work they were producing. She loved the atmosphere of the school, the high quality of student work and the many instructional aids that surrounded the walls of the rooms.

The IB Eye can also be accessed on my link to the Iles homepage. But, in case you weren't able to read the January IB Eye, I do want to highlight the two major action projects during December. First, the second graders

collected almost 1700 cans of food from Iles students as their action project after studying celebrations!! Second, a HUGE box of holiday cards was delivered to Governor Quinn's office for the injured troops at Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany. Given the fact that open-minded was our focus attribute for December, while caring was our focus attribute for September, the students certainly demonstrated these attributes of the IB Learner Profile.

What a great school!

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Thank You!

Thanks to everyone for making our first ever Chinese New Year such a success! We couldn't have picked a better year to start than the Year of the Dragon. The kids did a great job singing their songs. I would like to thank all of the teachers and parents who helped to volunteer, whether it were serving food or helping an activity room or helping ahead of time with setting up. Your help was much appreciated and helped to contribute to the whole evening. The students did a great job both

in class getting prepared ahead of time and with their performances.

*Mr. McParland*

## Student Support News for February

### THINKING, DOING AND FEELING HABITS

#### 2nd-5th graders

We are inquiring about these concepts. We are learning skills to help us change the repetitive thoughts, feelings and actions that block us from feeling happy, being kind and learning at school. These strategies help us when we are having a bad day, feeling sad about something that happened, or just feeling cranky. Ask your child what personal power is!

The first habit we are tackling is DOING. In the interest of I.B. and international mindedness, (and our CATCH commitment) we have joined "Megan's 30 Day Fitness Challenge". Megan Castran is a celebrity friend of mine from Australia, and we have been "vlog pals". We send her vids of our progress and questions about her country, and she replies with videos. I post these on my school web page. The students are enjoying this exchange and we are the talk of the town in Melbourne! The students have pledged to

exercise everyday, eat healthy foods and spend less time on computer games from 1-26-12 to 2-26-12.

#### 1st GRADE

We are learning about having a good character and working together. The topics we are covering are: tattling, teasing, being a good sport, following directions, compromising and negotiating. Ask about our theme song, "Down in the Dumpster"!

#### **PERSONAL SAFETY**

Thanks to Annette Kramer from the Child Advocacy Center for her wonderful, developmentally appropriate presentations about personal safety. She will be presenting to parents during the next PTO meeting. With the Penn State scandal, it is becoming more obvious that this issue needs to be addressed to prevent broken hearts and lives. Please plan to attend. Contact Iles parent Christina Race for details.

#### **FAIR TRADE STORE**

Thank you to everyone for supporting our Fair Trade Store! This year, we are helping to build a school in Kenya, and providing scholarships for girls. Because of our enthusiastic involvement, we have been invited to participate in a "Skype" session with special speakers from Free the Children in Canada! Please be sure to visit:

<http://www.springfield.k12.il.us/teachers/frachey/?p=21132&b=12>

(my school news web page) for details and photos of some of our products. Our progress will be tracked on a poster outside Room 4.

Thanks for all you do to make Iles such an amazing place to learn!

*Mrs. Frachey*



### **Iles Chess Club**

by Damon McParland and Dave Morgan

Iles Chess Club will be starting Monday, February 20th and will be meeting from 3 to 4:15. Dates for club meetings are as follows: February 20, February 27, March 12, March 19 and March 26. The Chess club is open to all Iles students in grades 3 and above. All skill levels are welcome! In order to participate students must have a signed permission slip turned in before the first meeting. Permission slips are available from either Mr. McParland or Mr. Morgan. While the club is open to beginners we are focusing on learning and playing competitively. Students are asked to bring a healthy snack to eat at the beginning of each meeting.



## Iles Yearbook Committee

Our yearbook plays an important role in helping us to all feel connected, and is something students and families treasure for a lifetime. For some parents, it may not be possible to purchase the yearbook. If you are able to donate toward or sponsor additional yearbook copies for students who may not otherwise receive one, we greatly appreciate your generosity. Contact Christine Owens for more information.

### From your PTO:

Dear Iles Parents,

We would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to our Chinese New Year's Chairperson, Damon McParland who designed great dragon t-shirts and planned an exciting night of dancing, food and great family fun. 2012 is the year of the Dragon, which means it's going to be a magical year at Iles School. It's hard to believe that it's already February and the school year is more than half

over. The planning for Valentine classroom parties is underway. If you can volunteer or help with food, let your teachers know. We have a Pizza Hut night scheduled for Thursday, February 16th from 5-8 and Scrip orders are due Thursday, February 9th. Our next PTO meeting is scheduled for March 29th at 6:00 in the library. It will be an important meeting. We will be voting on by-law changes, surplus money in the budget and nominations for next year's PTO Board. Surplus money request forms are on the PTO website. They need to be completed and returned to Iles by March 15th to be considered at the PTO meeting. If you would like to run for a PTO board position, please e-mail any of the following board members by March 22.

Michael Little:

[mlittle2300@gmail.com](mailto:mlittle2300@gmail.com)

Christina Race:

[chrisrace@gmail.com](mailto:chrisrace@gmail.com)

Anglican Salazar:

[ansaga.vi@gmail.com](mailto:ansaga.vi@gmail.com),

Amy Ballinger-Cole:

[ballinger-cole@consolidated.net](mailto:ballinger-cole@consolidated.net),

Debbie Parker:

[debbieparker63@gmail.com](mailto:debbieparker63@gmail.com)

We need your help! Research shows that student achievement is directly linked to parent involvement. So, we are asking for your help with playground, popcorn Fridays, book fair, field

trips and in the classroom. We welcome parents, grandparents, family friends and relatives to take part. There is truly something for everyone to do.

The PTO is grateful to all our wonderful Iles Families! It takes an entire school community to make a difference! We look forward to working with all of you.

*The PTO*

**Dear Parents,**

**We wanted to remind you again of the correction to the school magnet. Following is the notice we posted on the Iles School website a few months ago:**

**Incorrect February 2012 Dates on Iles Magnet/Handbook**  
Dates for "No School" and Parent Conferences are listed incorrectly on both the Iles School Magnet and the Student Handbooks that were distributed in August. Corrected dates are as follows:

**February 1** – School IS in session

**February 2**–NO SCHOOL– Parent/Teacher Conferences

**February 3**–NO SCHOOL– School Improvement Teacher Workshop

**February 10** – School IS in session

**February 13** – NO SCHOOL– Lincoln's Birthday

**February 20** – School IS in session