

Iles School News



Iles School

Calendar of Events

April 27th

Old State Capitol Rehearsal

May 1st

5th Grade Old State Capitol Re-

enactment

May 9th

Iles Vocal Music Program

6:30pm – 8:30pm



Message to our Parents

We would like to sincerely thank all of our families who have generously donated paper to our classrooms and office. It has been an overwhelming show of support for our school. We sincerely appreciate all you do to support us as we work together to achieve outstanding results.



Learning Both Cognitive and Emotional Needs of Gifted Children

*Mrs. Susan Rhodes
Iles School Principal*

It has been both a great sense of joy and frustration in working to meet the needs of gifted children. I experience great joy in seeing the student work displayed in the hallway, listening to lunchroom conversations and observing the imaginary play at recess. This provides me with evidence that Iles School is a very good place for gifted children. Parents and teachers of Iles School also understand meeting the unique needs of the children at our school. I see children thriving at Iles that were known to be frustrated in their previous environments. It is a frustration to me that the vast majority of people outside of Iles School lack the same understandings that we possess. Another frustration is for educators and policy makers to understand both the cognitive needs of gifted and the emotional needs of gifted children. The two are intertwined.

As principal it has been difficult to have to be accountable to those who govern regular education and to those who understand gifted education. We live in an age of accountability as defined by test scores and production. In order to educate others of the need for Iles School, it is important that we

continue to grow our own personal knowledge of gifted education and to share our stories. One source of information that I recommend that you visit is the website **SENG-Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted at www.sengifted.org**. I have copied a short excerpt that was written by Annemarie Roeper addressing the emotional needs of the gifted child that provides a glimpse of being a gifted child and meeting the demands of school.

Giftedness to me is a great deal of heart and soul. Yet, most of the work, research, and approaches to reaching the gifted child is on a cognitive basis. We try to understand the gifted with our brain, with reason. The whole approach to education, beginning with parents, has moved to a cognitive basis. By excluding the emotions, we miss the essence of giftedness. If we want to be supportive of the gifted, we must support the Self. Self actualization means emotional growth. This must not be construed to mean that they don't need the educational opportunities for growth. They need them desperately, but not necessary in the way we want them to learn. They are driven emotionally to make sense of the world or to express themselves in it. For this reason, gifted children love science and math and information in their chosen area of interest. Their goal is to master the world by understanding. Mastery for them means safety. That is why

cognitive growth is a must for the gifted. They want to incorporate the world by understanding it, by exploring it. They are passionate learners for emotional reasons. But their desire is not always directed towards skilled or academic learning but towards concept learning of their own choosing. Therefore, our expectations contradict the inner need of the gifted. They often feel too tightly structured and controlled. There are those who have trouble spelling. That may be all the school knows about them. But their inner stories and fantasies could paint the world in brilliant colors and express more excitement and knowledge than you could ever find in the teacher controlled classroom. Most of this richness is hidden behind our linear approach to education. It would be so exhilarating if all that inner creativity and emotionality that exists in our children could burst into the world and become visible. Instead, we concentrate on taming it and bend the child to our linear world. And the Self fights back.

It isn't easy being different but it certainly has its rewards. Iles School is a different school because we address the needs of children that are different from the mainstream. The differences have not always been understood and we will need to work together to try to gain more understanding. As I review my thirty-four years as an educator, I grew and learned the most during the years that I have been at Iles School. It has been a blessing to be surrounded by staff, parents, and students who are

engaged in the learning process. Iles School is a very special place and it is a necessary environment to meet the needs of exceptional children. I am very confident that Iles School will continue to grow with Mrs. Kenyatta Revelle serving as the principal for the 2012-2013 school year. She understands the needs of gifted children and will need the support of parents and staff to ensure its continued growth.

April IB Eye

By Sandy Bauer, IB-PYP Coordinator



We are delighted that Mrs. Kenyatta Revelle has been selected as our new Iles School principal to replace Mrs. Susan Rhodes for many reasons, but primarily because she believes and will work towards the continuation of the PYP- International Baccalaureate program. Susan Rhodes' vision, support and creativity to investigate and guide the faculty through the authorization process for the past five years have been amazing...and we certainly wanted a new principal who thought the same way. We all look forward to a continued development and refining of our PYP.

On Monday, April 9 at our teacher in-service, we learned more about inquiry and critical thinking from Sandra Parks, a national leader in

gifted education. At this second Sandra Parks in-service we began to develop strategies to infuse more critical thinking into our planners and, thus, to deepen the curriculum further. In future team meetings we will continue to focus upon critical thinking as a means for helping our students become well-educated world-class citizens and excellent thinkers!

Student Support News for April

By Sherry Frachey, Student Support

Thanks for all you do to support this program and encourage high integrity of character in our children! Do you know, the best selling author, Daniel Pink asserts that the new I.Q. is E.Q.?? Emotional intelligence is quickly making headlines, with business leaders reporting that emotional intelligence is THE top important trait they look for when hiring an employee. This means that teaching our children to negotiate, compromise, read "social cues", and work collaboratively is more important to their success than ever.

With warm weather upon us, tempers may flare and outside play can get too rough. Please remind your children what you expect from them on the playground, on the bus, and in transition times. In Student Support we define integrity of character as "who you are when no one is looking." In our study of thinking habits, we have identified our negative thinking and we have challenge statements.

Students are already reporting in class about how this helps them reframe difficult situations.

One student reported, "I got my grades, and I need to work on improving my behavior. My parents were talking to me, and I was rolling my eyes and thinking bad things. I realized it was The Spoiler whispering to me. I used my challenge statements and I am working on things. I am changing small things each day and feel a lot happier."

Now that's what I call learning!!

This is just one of the many stories we have discussed in Student Support classes. As with all learning, it is a life long process, one that leads us to success and happiness.

I am so grateful to teach at Iles, and appreciative of the excellence of the staff, students and families.

Mrs. Frachey



Chess Club News

By Dave Morgan

Congratulations to all the chess club members who participated in the recent Kiwanis Tournament held at Trinity Lutheran School. Iles students did very well that evening! Edmund Fornoff earned a 1st place trophy in the middle-school division.

Jason Gao also earned a 1st place trophy in the 3-5 grade division and Trent Minder celebrated a 3rd place trophy.

Happily, there were nearly 50 students packing the library each Monday afternoon after school this year while chess club was meeting. There were numerous beginners learning the ropes and of course many excellent advanced players as well.

There will be an Iles School-wide tournament held on Friday, May 4th. All Iles students in 3rd grade and above can enter. The cost per player is \$3.00 and that will include pizza. The tournament starts at 5:30 and each entrant will have three matches. This is going to be great!

Lego League News

By Dave Morgan

The application for joining an Iles Lego League team is now online on the Iles Webpage under the Lego League link. Students wishing to apply need to complete a project related to next season's theme of Senior Solutions and turn it in before the deadline of 4 pm on April 30th. Please feel free to contact Mary Beth Burke, Kyle Blais or Dave Morgan if you have any questions about the application process.



Chinese News

By Damon McParland

The students have been doing a great job in class. For the students in third grade and above, we will be trying to do a final project incorporating both calligraphy and art. Idioms are a big part of Chinese culture. We will try to find some idioms that the students will learn the characters for and then do artwork to go with them. Many times art and calligraphy go hand in hand together. In second grade, the students will in the next few weeks start working on making shadow puppets and then using them to perform a skit in Chinese. The first graders will be learning the Chinese for family members.

