

Iles School News

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



Iles School

Calendar of Events

May 3rd

Iles Vocal Music Program

6:30-8:30pm

May 4th

Chess Tournament

6:00-9:00pm

May 7-11th

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 7th

Middle School Fine Arts Program

6:30-7:30pm

May 9th

3rd Grade Music Program

12:45-1:45pm

May 11th

Middle School Dance

3-5pm

May 15th

Spring Band Concert

6:30-7:30pm

May 16th

Iles Fun Fest

(May 17th Rain Date)

May 21st

Middle School Science Fair

2-3pm

May 21st

PTO Meeting 6-7pm

May 22-24th

Early Dismissal

2:00pm

May 23rd

5th Grade PYP Exhibition

4-5:30pm

May 25th

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Awards Assembly

8:45-10:00am

Dismissal

10:00am



Celebrating Our Journey Together at Iles

Mrs. Susan Rhodes

Iles School Principal

As I write my last principal article for the Iles School monthly newsletter, it is a time for both reflection and celebration. I am so proud of the growth and accomplishments that Iles School has achieved as a result of all of us working together. Iles School is an example of what can be done when you gather caring adults and

children together in one community to focus on doing what is right for one another. I want to thank you all for allowing me to be a part of Iles School.

I have been most fortunate in my 34 years in education to always be surrounded by caring individuals who wanted to do what was best for children. Through the years I have learned about the many different unique characteristics that children possess and continue to learn how to best meet those individual needs. Children are like snowflakes; every child is unique and beautiful in their own way. We need to differentiate our instructional practices to meet their needs. To be able to work with educators, staff members and parents who recognize this necessity has been the most rewarding chapter of my career.

As I reflect back to the nineties when we had hours and hours of discussions with parents, teachers, administrators, and policy makers about the need to have a separate school for gifted children and I think about Iles School now, I am most grateful to be a part of this journey. The formation of lasting friendships, the meaningful learning that has taken place, and the success stories of Iles students making a difference is what we have all dreamed.

Within the twelve years that Iles School has existed, it is now

celebrating the promotion of their first eighth grade class this year along with becoming authorized as an International Baccalaureate world school for its Primary Years Programme. Six schools in Illinois currently have this designation. Iles School is one of 40 schools in Illinois that has been designated each year as a *School of Excellence* by the Illinois State Board of Education since the inception of the award eight years ago. It is exciting to think about the progress that Iles School will make in the next twelve years. In the year 2024 what will we be celebrating? Inquiring minds want to know!

May IB Eye

Sandy Bauer, PYP Coordinator

As we finish our first year as an Authorized International Baccalaureate school, we are excited to report that our students have learned a great deal about their six trans-disciplinary themes, exhibited the Learner Profile and become quite comfortable with Inquiry. For me as the PYP Coordinator, I am constantly in awe of the dedication and intelligence of the amazing teachers with whom I work. They work together to plan such interesting opportunities around the six themes for their students and definitely go "above and beyond." I look forward to working with the students and the teachers at Iles again next year.

On Wednesday, May 23 the fifth graders will share the results of their culminating study in the PYP, called Exhibition. The Exhibition is a requirement for all students in their final year of the PYP and will demonstrate that they have learned and can perform the basic tenets of the PYP. All fifth grade students have divided themselves into small groups to inquire about issues ranging from world hunger to childhood diseases to animal abuse to childhood obesity. The students' mentors have been Iles School teachers and staff. These mentors have advised yet encouraged independence in their mentees to research, to set up and conduct interviews, and to create a method to share their knowledge.

Although most classrooms will be disassembled because school will close in two days, the focus in those rooms will be the work of the students. You may see iMovies, skits, displays, newspapers, and many more. Please make every effort to come to Iles School on Wednesday, May 23 from 4:00 - 5:30 to visit our first ever Exhibition.

Nurse's Notes

Val Rogers, CSN

Dental exams for current 2nd and 6th grade students are due by May 15th. If you have not already submitted your child's dental form, please send it to school as soon as possible. If you need assistance, call me at 525-3226.

Physicals and immunization records for students entering 6th and 9th grade in the fall may be turned in to me at any time before May 25th for inclusion in your child's health folder. Please complete the parent section of the physical before sending it to school.

Outdoor Safety

Warm weather is here and children love to be outside! Help keep your child safe. Sandals and flip-flops at school can be a hazard for children running on the playground, so please encourage your child to wear tennis shoes when playing outdoors. Remind them about bicycle safety, including wearing appropriate protective equipment. Children should ALWAYS wear a helmet when riding their bike. Knee and elbow pads should be worn when using a skateboard or roller blades.

Tips for Preventing Insect Stings and Bites

- If confronted with a stinging insect, remain calm and quiet and slowly move away from it. Buzzing insects will sting if they feel threatened, so do not swat at them.
- Avoid wearing brightly colored and/or loose fitting clothing when outdoors. Bright colors attract insects and loose fitting clothing may allow insects to become trapped between the skin and the material.

- Avoid using scented soaps, perfumes, lotions or hair sprays, because these may attract insects.
- Be careful when cooking, eating or drinking sweet beverages such as soda or juice outdoors. Keep food and drinks covered until consuming them.
- Wear closed-toe shoes outdoors to avoid stings from stepping on an insect.
- Wear insect repellent and try to stay indoors at dawn and dusk, because this is when mosquitoes are most active.
- During hot weather, stay away from areas with standing water. These are great breeding places for mosquitoes. Remove standing water from birdbaths, buckets or other areas near your home.

Have a safe and happy summer!



Band News

By Dia Langellier

DONOR'S CHOOSE:

From now until May 8, 2012 (or until the \$500,000 is gone) Starbucks will match donations made to Donor's Choose projects when

you use the code: MORNINGJOE at checkout. Please donate now and/or spread the word among relatives and friends. Our projects are located at :

www.donorschoose.org/Langellier

Spring Concert:

It is Spring Concert Season! Middle School Students will be presenting their band concert on May 7, 2012 at 7 pm in the school gym. All are welcome to attend. The Elementary students will be presenting their band concert on May 15, 2012 at 6:30 pm also in the school gym. Please bring a dozen cookies to share after the concert. Let's celebrate our musical growth together.

Due to the paper shortage, we will not be printing a program for the concerts this spring. If you would like to have one, please feel free to print the PDF from my website and bring it to the concert with you. Thank you for your understanding.



Scholastic Bowl

By Christine Owens

The Scholastic Bowl team had a very successful season. The team consisted of 16 students in grades 6-8 from Iles. They played 8 regular season games and finished the season with 7 wins and 1 loss.

Tournament play was a new addition to the season this year. The team traveled to PORTA during Spring Break and received 3rd place. Many of the team members received individual awards for winning toss ups. Liam McParland was the overall top toss up earner for the tournament. Sam Wheelhouse and Sean Burke also earned individual awards at the PORTA tournament.

On April 21, the team received 1st place in the tournament hosted by the Springfield High School Scholastic Bowl team. Liam McParland led the academic athletes at the tournament in toss ups. The season ended on April 25 at the Regional tournament in Rivoton. The team received 2nd place in the Regional. Congratulations to the Scholastic Bowl team!!

Chinese News

By Damon McParland

The students are doing a great job in class. The older students (4th through 8th grade) are working on combining Chinese categories with traditional shanshui (landscape) paintings. They took famous idioms and did a picture based on that with special water color

pencils. The second grades are working on making shadow puppets and will present a skit in Chinese using them. The first graders are busy learning about their family member names in Chinese and will finish off the year with learning characters for numbers.

This spring, a Chinese Lantern Festival is coming to the St. Louis Botanical Gardens from May 26 through August 19, 2012. There will be a large number of lanterns and it is sure to be spectacular! Here's the address to the garden's website so you can check it out!

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/things-to-do/events/special-exhibitions/lantern-festival.aspx>



Tickets costs \$22 for adults (ages 13 & over) \$10 for children (ages 3—12). This exhibition will only run from 6:00pm to 10:00 pm. The price is only for evening admission and does not include day time viewing. The Botanical Garden has a wide variety of garden styles and has a wonderful Chinese Garden and a beautiful Japanese Garden.

Be sure to check this out! It would make a great way to add some Chinese Culture to your summer!

Cafeteria News

By Sue Jacobs

As we get closer to the end of the school year, please be aware of your child's lunch account balance.

Thank you!

From Your Iles PTO

Dear Iles Families:

What a year we have had! It is hard to believe that it is May and our school year will soon be over. While for some this will be a welcome respite, for others it will be a difficult good-bye as they leave our school and join another.

We have a lot to be proud of. Your incredible support contributed greatly to the educational experience of our children. As we end the year, we wish a fond farewell to our first class of 8th graders. We wish you much luck as you enter high school and we will miss you. To our amazing teachers and administrators, we thank you for all that you do to inspire our children. You continuously raise the bar and we appreciate the exceptional gift of learning that you offer our children. To our families, it has been a true pleasure and privilege to serve as a PTO board. Iles is a special school where wonderful things happen

every day. To the best principal, Susan Rhodes, we thank you for all that you have done for our school over the past nine years. Your vision has lead to our certification as an IB World School and a 1-8 gifted school. We wish you a happy and exciting retirement, we will miss you! To our new principal, Kenyatta Revelle we look forward to a bright future for Iles.

"A leader is someone who demonstrates what's possible."
-Mark Yarnell

Have a wonderful summer! We look forward to seeing you all in August.

Michael Little, PTO President