

Springfield Public School District 186



Iles School News

1700 South Fifteenth Street, Springfield, IL 62703
217-525-3226 Mrs. Susan Rhodes, Principal
<http://www.springfield.k12.il.us/schools/iles/>



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2-12

ISAT Testing

March 3-5

PTO Spring Book Fair

March 4

Personal Best Art Show
Starter Strings 3:00 p.m.

March 8

Chess Club 3:00 p.m.

March 9

PTO Meeting 5:30 p.m.

March 11

Starter Strings 3:00 p.m.

March 12

**Early Dismissal
2:00 p.m. - End of 3rd qtr**

March 13

Band-St. Patrick's Day
Parade 11:00 a.m.

March 15

Chess Club 3:00 p.m.

March 18

Starter Strings 3:00 p.m.
PTO - Pizza Hut Night

March 22

Chess Club 3:00 p.m.

March 23

PTO - Roller Skating
Skateland South,
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

March 25

Starter Strings 3:00 p.m.

March 26

Early Dismissal 2:00 p.m.

**March 29 - April 2
Spring Break!**

Celebrating Excellence

by Mrs. Susan Rhodes,
Principal

Iles School joins 44 other schools in Illinois that have earned the Illinois State Board Academic Excellence Award annually since its inception six years ago. 3,910 schools in Illinois administered the 2009 state tests.

Of the schools that received the award for this year, 72% enroll fewer than 15% low-income students. The enrollment of low-income students at Iles School is 30%. 26% of the Academic Excellence Award winning schools this year are downstate schools.

I received this letter last week from the Illinois State Board of Education:

February 2010

*Susan Rhodes, Principal
Iles Elem School
Springfield SD 186
1700 S 15th St
Springfield, IL 62703*

*Re: Academic Excellence Award –
2009 Illinois Honor Roll*

Dear Principal:

Congratulations! Your school has earned an Academic Excellence Award! The Illinois state Board of Education commends you and your faculty on all the good work required

to sustain academic excellence in your school.

Across the state, 438 schools earned the Academic Excellence Award for 2009. Many of these schools receive national recognition for their long-time exemplary performance.

To earn an Academic Excellence Award, a school must meet the following criteria:

- *In PK-8 Schools, 90 percent of students must have met or exceeded state standards in both reading and mathematics for at least three consecutive years;*
- *In high schools, 80 percent of students must have met or exceeded state standards in both reading and mathematics for at least three consecutive years; and*
- *Schools must have made Adequate Yearly Progress in 2008 and 2009, which includes:*
 - *at least 70 percent meeting and exceeding standards in both reading and mathematics;*
 - *95 percent participation rate in state assessments for all students in each subgroup;*
 - *attendance rate of at least 90 percent for elementary and middle schools and a graduation rate of at least 78 percent for high schools.*

Enclosed you will find a certificate commemorating this award. At <http://www.ilhonorroll.niu.edu> you can learn more about the Illinois

Honor Roll, which includes three categories of awards – Spotlight Schools, Academic Improvement and Academic Excellence. At this website, you will find a page devoted to your school and a customized logo for your use. Also, you will find the criteria for the awards and a full list of award winners.

We encourage you to celebrate your success and share your good news with students, parents and all community partners. Again, I extend my congratulations and very best wishes for continuing success.

Sincerely,

*Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education*

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Walter Milton Jr., Superintendent Springfield SD 186

As the students in grades 3-6 work hard on the 2010 ISAT tests, we ask parents to provide their support in seeing that students come to school on time, with a full night's sleep and a healthy breakfast. Mrs. Landgrebe is sponsoring the "ISAT Half" each morning



to enable students to get a good dose of exercise to support the achievement of great test scores. We know that by working together, we are able to **celebrate excellence** at Iles School!

ILES SCHOOL--JOURNEY BEYOND YOUR HORIZON

Student Support News
by Mrs. Sherry Frachey

School Wide

We had a terrific assembly from Stephen and Leah from Free the Children. They were so impressed with our school and the depth of compassion and international mindedness of our children. I was so proud of Iles students! We continue our Fair Trade Store, which reinforces our lessons on sustainable development.



IMAGINE PEACE Me to We Wishing Tree

If you haven't seen the video, it is posted on my school web page. We created our own funky little display, but Jeff Garland, an award winning local artist, will work with us to create an interactive art piece for Iles called "The IMAGINE PEACE ME to We Wishing Tree". Our goal is to create a tree from expanded metal that can change with the seasons. Mr. Garland is an Iles graduate, and the head of the Art Department at Illinois College in Jacksonville.



Projects for Haiti

Students are planning a noon time talent show and sock hop to benefit Haiti. There are so many ideas and we are trying to whittle them down to be



manageable! We don't want to discourage the students' ideas, but we also realize we already have a lot going on at school. There are many ideas at freethechildren.com about how students can involve the wider community.

Classroom Presentations

We continue our lessons about the steps of making decisions, the difference between positive and negative decisions, setting goals, and thinking, feeling and doing habits.



Our Lion's Quest Together Times will be coming home near the end of the month, and there are several activities you may want to do with your child.

Small Educational Support Groups

We continue with our Empowerment Lunch Bunches on Mondays and Fridays, Girl's Groups and O Ambassadors on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and Iles News Crew on Thursdays. Thanks to all of those students for their continued commitment!



The Seventh Annual Iles Writer's Conference, April 9, 2010

We have a unique opportunity this year to possibly publish a book authored by Iles students. 5th and 6th grade students attended a leadership "Think We" workshop in February, and are developing some ideas and action plans for helping kids all over the

world. In celebration of this work, The Trevor Romain Company has agreed to publish a book of student writing generated at the conference. The student leadership team is developing a concept for a book that Trevor will illustrate. This process will include every student at Iles. Each student will have an opportunity to participate in the writing, editing, revising and publishing process. How exciting for our students! Please stay tuned for more information!



Thank you so much for allowing me to learn with your children everyday!
Happy Spring



Chinese News at Iles
by Mr. Damon McParand,
Chinese Instructor

Ni hao ma!!!



We hope you had a wonderful Chinese New Year! It is now the Year of the Laohu. (Ask your child what a laohu is.) The students just finished their tests in the last week of February on family member terms. Ask them how to say mother or father in Chinese. We will next start learning some more characters, this time numbers. This should go rather quickly since the students already can already say the numbers in Chinese. It will just be a matter of learning the characters now that go with them. If you have a chance, check out the Lion Dance video and pictures which I have posted on my website from our New Year celebrations at

school. The students did a great job performing the dance in class. If you've been at school recently, I'm sure you've seen the beautiful New Year scrolls the sixth grade students made in art class with Mr. Marcy. They did a wonderful job with their calligraphy! The Lion Dance costumes were purchased with the help of a Foundation grant. There are still other items from that grant that we will be using that year. It's wonderful how Springfield Foundation supports learning in the classroom. Zai-jian!!!



PTO Events
by Tracey Wobig,
PTO President

March has arrived and with it comes the PTO Book Fair and the hope of Spring!



Here,s what,s coming up on the PTO calendar:
Thursday, March 4 - Book Fair
Family Night
Tuesday, March 9 - PTO meeting, 5:30
Thursday, March 18 - Pizza Hut Fundraiser
Tuesday, March 23 - Roller Skating, 6-8 PM

A little further out...
Tuesday, April 6 - PTO Meeting, 5:30
Friday, April 9 - Iles Writer,s Conference
Monday, April 26 - Teacher & Staff Appreciation Luncheon

May 3-7 - Teacher Appreciation Week
Wednesday, May 26 - Fun Fest

Don,t forget to check the PTO web site regularly for current news and updates.
(springfield.k12.il.us/schools/iles/PTO).

WANTED: Popcorn poppers! If you have one or more Friday mornings available, please sign up to help pop popcorn. 25 volunteers signing up one time each will finish out the year! Contact Jodie Tidball with questions.



As always, contact Tracey Wobig with any questions or to volunteer.

Litchfield Summer Gifted Academy - Students Grades 4 through 6

Plans for the 2010 Litchfield Summer Gifted Academy are now underway, and I am hoping many of your gifted students will participate this year. Students who are interested in attending may contact Marchelle Kassebaum at 217-556-3365 or go to www.litchfieldpanther.org/lsga.

Late Pick ups:

If you are unable to pick up your student by 3:00 p.m., you must make other arrangements. For your child's safety, student's **cannot** be left unattended in the office.

