



Springfield Public School District 186 

Iles School News

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



Calendar of Events

December 4

Sixth Grade Field Trip
9:00 a.m. - 5:30 a.m.
Jr. Girl Scout Meeting
3:00 p.m.

December 9

IMSA
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

December 10

Sixth Grade Band
White Oaks Mall
10:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

December 15

Winter Music Program
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
IMSA
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

December 16

Swinging Singers
Christmas Tour
9:15 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

December 18

Swinging Singers
performance Iles Gym
12:45 p.m.
Early Dismissal
2:00 p.m.

December 21 - Jan. 4

No School
Winter Break

January 5, 2010

School Resumes
Back to class

Thank You/Gifts for our Children By Mrs. Susan Rhodes, Principal

I want to thank everyone for all of the contributions of time and money to assist in making the *Iles Celebrates* event a great success. It truly takes everyone working together to be able to hold this event. This is an opportunity to model for our children what can be accomplished when people collectively donate their time and talents to reach a common goal.

I believe that the *Iles Celebrates* event is able to achieve several goals. There is a tremendous amount of work that goes into this event and it takes the involvement of a lot of people that has the benefit of people getting to know one another and to build important relationships with one another. This event allows us to get to know each other better by learning about each other's heritage, their food, and art. Our country is built upon the strengths of people from all over the world and I believe that *Iles Celebrates* provides our children with a model to learn more about others in a setting of fun and celebration. *Iles Celebrates* provides an event in which families of all ages can enjoy. It provides a time for former Iles families to reunite with other Iles families and Iles staff. And yes, *Iles Celebrates* does raise a good deal of money to enrich the educational experiences of our children. The

money raised at *Iles Celebrates* provides money for field trips, equipment, materials and books for our classrooms and the library.

Iles School continues to be a fabulous place to learn because of the support of parents and the dedicated staff. We are stretching ourselves as we work towards becoming an authorized *International Baccalaureate* school. This is a challenging process as we work at developing curriculum that is truly inquiry based. Staff members model for our students that learning is a life long process. We are experiencing some moments of discomfort in not knowing all of the answers and in taking risks. There are times when what we planned does not necessarily yield the results of what we had hoped and yes, this is part of the learning process that we want to model for our children.

True learning does involve failure and it is OK to fail—even in a school for gifted children. We need to remember to allow opportunities for ourselves and for our children to “struggle” because that is how we develop confidence in ourselves. We may not feel “comfortable” during the process but the end result makes us stronger. During this season of giving, perhaps one of the most important gifts you can give to your children is the opportunity to “struggle.” Every time you smooth the path for your child or make things easier, you



may be giving your child the message that he/she is not capable of accomplishing the task on their own. Caring adults interact with your children who understand the importance of developing independence and responsibility. You can give the gift that doesn't take batteries or becomes out of style. You can let your child know, "Yes, you can do this on your own."

Iles Student Support News
by Mrs. Sherry Frachey, Student Support

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

Iles School donated \$881.72 to The United Way Campaign. Students donated \$175. 72! Terrific! And thanks to everyone who helped with the Contact Ministries Canned Food Drive, Kids Care Club and O Ambassador Red Cross/ Meals on Wheels Project. The best way to teach empathy is to be of service to others! We continue these lessons as we make holiday cards for our troops overseas.



Our African Drums are in! On December 4, 2009, Diana De Weese from Earth Beat will visit Iles to do a "brown bag lunch" drumming demonstration in the library. Students in our Tuesday and Friday Empowerment Lunch Bunches are invited. A representative from each class will be chosen by classroom teachers to attend also. Thanks for Diana's generosity! Larry Niehaus, a retired District 186 band teacher has agreed to teach our



budding drummers each Tuesday and Friday. We will discuss anger management and stress reduction while we eat, and spend recess doing s drumming circle. Sixth Grade Girls Group meets every Thursday during the 2nd Quarter. Vocabulary and lesson information are on my web site.

Be sure to check in at my Iles site for video footage of our various projects and more info!

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

Happy December!

Swinging Singers
by Mrs. Amy Taylor Music Instructor

The Iles School Singing Singers has been working hard preparing for a wonderful winter program. They will be performing at several locations on December 16th. We will be performing at the Early Learning Center at 10:00 a.m., then at the mall in the food court at 12:00 noon, then back to Early Learning Center at 1:15. We will also be performing for the Iles School staff and students for our winter party on December 18 at 12:45 in the gym. We hope you can plan to come and hear our wonderful Swinging Singers perform a very enjoyable winter celebration.



Band News
by Mrs. Dia Langellier Band Instructor

All three of our bands are gearing up for the annual "Winter Concert" which will be held on Dec. 15th at 6:30 pm. Dress for the concert is the band t-shirt and

dark bottoms (Beginners are in gold shirts this year. If you didn't purchase the band t-shirt, please wear a gold shirt or a color that will blend it with that) for beginning and advanced band and the Black polo with khaki pants for the middle school band.

Practice Charts- ALL band students should be filling out a practice chart daily and showing it to me weekly. (6th grade only needs to turn it in once per quarter) Our history with doing this has not been good and this year is no different. In the past, I have used prize incentives to try to motivate students to fill these out and show them to me with little success. Now I am asking parents to step in and make sure that your child is filling these out and bringing them to school. PLEASE ask to see them on Sunday night, and sign them so that they are ready to be checked in with me on Monday or Tuesday at your child's first lesson of the week. THANK YOU!



PTO News
by Mrs. Tracey Wobig PTO President

If you need help getting in the mood for the holidays, consider attending "A Vintage Brass Christmas." This concert will be held on Saturday December 12 at 8 pm in the First Presbyterian Church. The Vintage Brass Band will perform turn of the century music and will feature soloist Mona Kreitner, soprano.



For more information, visit vintagebrassband.com.

As you are preparing for the holidays, PTO is preparing for next semester! Signup for Iles Intramural Basketball league is going on now through December 18th. Practices begin right after we return from Winter Break and the games begin in February. This is a teaching league, designed for students to learn the game, have fun and get some exercise. Sign up now to reserve your student's place on a team. We need lots of help with the league. Every parent is encouraged to help out in some way. Contact Mark Freetly with any questions or to sign up.

Also coming up in January is a fundraiser at Kick's, and the second of three PTO Roller Skating parties.

PTO Calendar

- January 12 - PTO Meeting at 5:30
- January 12, 13 - IM Basketball Practices begin
- January 14 - Kick,s fundraiser, 4-9 PM
- January 19, 20 - IM Basketball Practices
- January 21 - Pizza Hut fundraiser, 11 AM - 9 PM
- January 26, 27 - IM Basketball Practices
- January 28 - Roller Skating at Skateland South, 6-8 PM

Have a joyous holiday season!



Physical Education News

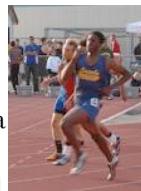
By Mrs. Sue Landgrebe
Physical Education Instructor



Cross country was a huge success at Iles. 37 runners participated in the City cross country meet on Nov. 7. Nate Cheung won the boys 1 mile. Bailey McGuire took second in the girls division. Many of our runners ran their "personal best" mile time. Thank you to Ethan Conley-Keck and Mae Noll for helping us train. Also, thank you to the many parents and teachers who helped with driving and timing and cheering!

Turkey Trot was our noon running event on 11/24. By tracking laps it was determined our students ran a total of 44 miles during that event. 20 students each ran a mile and Cole Davlin ran 3 miles!

Running Club takes a "new direction." All laps/miles completed will go toward the "Walk Across America" program using the Interstate 90 route which we will start in Boston, MA. This is part of the genH initiative to keep kids active. At Iles we will still track laps but we will graph them by grade to see which grade gets the most mileage.



A reminder: GYM SHOES MUST BE WORN FOR PE. Boots are not gym shoes.

They hamper mobility and agility. The slip-on slipper style of shoe is not a gym shoe. It does not provide the traction or foot support your child needs when running and making quick turns. PLEASE remind your child to wear their gym shoes!

Changes at Iles

We would like to welcome our new custodian Mr. Kevin Fishel! Mr. Fishel has been with the district for several years and is a great addition to our Iles family.



After 22 years at Iles, Mrs. Reany Webster retired from working in the cafeteria. She plans to spend more time with her family and friends. We will miss her and wish her well.

