



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

**September 18**  
No School -  
Teacher In Service

**September 21**  
Windy City Players  
9:00 a.m.

**September 23 - 25**  
PTO Book Fair

**September 24**  
PTO Family Night  
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**October 6**  
PTO Meeting  
Library 5:30

**October 7**  
Miles of Smiles Dental  
Clinic

**October 12**  
No School  
Columbus Day

### Happy New Year Iles Students and Parents!

by Susan Rhodes,  
Iles School Principal

The 2009-2010 school year brings several changes at Iles School. The math curriculum has been enhanced. The District has provided each classroom with a LCD projector and a set of speakers. Iles School was very fortunate to have the support of so many parents and friends in the purchase of TV raffle tickets. The money raised enabled the school to purchase six lap top computers that can now easily be used with the projectors and speakers on a cart in the classroom. The six lucky classrooms receiving new computers are Mrs. Myers and Mrs. Allen in first grade, Mrs. Korza in third grade, Mrs. Thompson in fourth grade and Ms. Shotwell and Mrs. Smith in fifth grade. Iles School is using the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the Everyday Math program. This new edition has many technology components added to the series. In a few weeks, students will receive a password and with Internet access they will be able to log in and access math resources, instruction and games. Our goal is to be able to get a new laptop computer in every classroom so that the new technology can be utilized efficiently. Mrs. Languellier, Mr. Marcy, and Mrs. Taylor received laptop computers for their classrooms this year through a fine arts grant secured by the District.

Another big change to the curriculum at Iles School includes Chinese instruction. Iles School welcomes Mr. Damon McParland who is teaching Chinese to students in grades one through five, three times a week for twenty-minute sessions. Mr. McParland is also providing instruction to the sixth grade students for five 30

minutes sessions each week. When Mr. McParland isn't busy teaching Chinese in the classrooms, he is assisting the second grade students and teachers with computers and Mr. Morgan's third grade classroom. The new computers, LCD projectors and speakers will also be incorporated by Mr. McParland in his Chinese lessons.

With the addition of a sixth grade classroom, a third fifth grade section, and the return of Mrs. Jodi Standley from a family leave of absence, there has been changes in teaching assignments. Mrs. Jodi Standley and Mrs. Carol Myers join Mrs. Ginelle Allen and Mr. Jason Curry in teaching first grade. Mrs. Linda Sharpe is now teaching second grade with Mrs. Barb Reynolds and Mrs. Beth Sharp. The third grade team is the same as last year with Mrs. Carolyn Korza, Mr. David Morgan, and Mrs. Donna Shepherd. Mrs. Kenyatta Revelle is now teaching fourth grade with Mrs. Sandy Bauer and Mrs. Barb Thompson. We welcome Mrs. Tina Freeman back to Iles School as the fifth grade teacher for our third section teaching with Ms. Shotwell and Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Freeman did her student teaching in the fall of 2009 with Ms. Shotwell. Mrs. Christine Owens is teaching the sixth grade section. Mrs. Languellier is teaching the sixth grade music twice a week and Mrs. Landgrebe has the sixth grade students every day for P.E. Mr. Marcy is continuing to provide the students with art instruction once a week.

The teachers at Iles School are busy working on their International Baccalaureate Units of Inquiry. This summer the teachers developed two more units at each grade level. During inservice days this year, the teachers will develop the remaining three unit planners in order to have six units completed at each grade level.

Several teachers will be traveling to Kansas City, MO at the end of September for the required Level One Primary Years Programme workshop. Mr. Dave Morgan traveled to Austin, Texas in July this summer to attend the PYP Level I workshop and is sharing more good ideas and resources with us. In addition to IB reading, the teachers have been given the book *The Outliers: Stories of Success* to discuss throughout the year at faculty meetings. I think that many Iles parents may also enjoy reading this book! We are all looking forward to another successful and fun year at Iles School.

## Chinese News

by Mr. Damon McParand

# 你好吗

Ni hao ma!

My name is Damon McParand, and I am the Chinese Instructor here at Iles. Foreign language instruction is required for the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program in order to help promote an appreciation and understanding of other cultures which is at the heart of IB instruction. Your child can tell you that my Chinese name is Mai Laoshi (ask them how to pronounce it—they'll be happy to tell you!) All first through fifth graders have Chinese instruction three times a week for twenty minutes each time. The sixth graders have class every day for half an hour each time. Repetition is a key ingredient to success in foreign language. A bibliography of research compiled by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language indicates that foreign language instruction starting in elementary school helps to improve a student's overall score on standardized tests.

Each week, I will post on my website the vocabulary for that week. Especially in the beginning, we will spend quite a bit of time reviewing correct pronunciation so the students have a good foundation. We will use pinyin

(a romanization of the Chinese characters) for the first few months and will gradually introduce Chinese characters over the course of the year. If you could go over the vocabulary words with your child at home, that would be a huge help. Have your child teach you the words so the whole family can speak Chinese! In addition to language instruction, I will also introduce aspects of Chinese culture as well. I am very excited about this opportunity and will do my best to ensure that it's a fun, meaningful experience for your child.

## Iles Student Support News

by Mrs. Sherry Frachey

Welcome back to school! I feel it is such an awesome privileged and responsibility to spend this valuable time with your children!

### Classroom News

All grades have been doing our annual orientations and surveys. During this time, the students write about any worries they may have, and can sign up for Student Support "Lunch Bunches".

### Lunch Bunch News

So far, I have student requests for divorce, grief, anger management, stress reduction, girls group (girl's issues like gossip, rumors, cliques and exclusion), and a boy's bunch (playground issues and alternatives to physical aggression). I will be staggering groups as needed, but if a student makes a commitment, it means they will come to Room 4 for lunch and lunch recess once a week for 6-8 weeks. Written parent permission is required for these activities, so notes will come home as groups are assembled.

### Iles News Crew

We will begin News Crew asap. I have had MANY questions about beginning! News Crew is open to all 5th and 6th graders who meet behavioral and academic goals for the week. A written letter of application

is required for new members, stating what job they are applying for and why they would be a valuable member of the Iles News Crew. They also need 2 letters of reference. Applications will be accepted until the end of September. This is designed to be an "early employment" type of experience. (and it's A LOT of fun!)

### O Ambassadors/ Kids Care

O Ambassadors built 4 classrooms and a library last year in East Asia with the funds from our Kick Off Week and Fair Trade Store. On the wall by Room 4, there are thank you letters and a certificate of achievement. We take some class time in the spring to learn about the different world regions, service learning and fair trade. O Ambassadors also opt to meet once a week for Lunch Bunch. Our efforts benefit a rural province in China.

We also do local service learning projects. Our first will be for the Red Cross. Sara and Grace Thompson are coordinating a craft project for the elderly and shut ins. This year, Noel Scott is interested in establishing an age appropriate service learning experience for 2nd graders during lunch recess. More details to come! THANK YOU, Sara and Noel for donating your time and talent to help our students learn the power of compassion!!

Please check the web site for current news at <http://www.springfield.k12.il.us/teachers/frachey/?b=12>

Happy Fall!

## Music News

by Mrs. Amy Taylor

### **Attention All 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students**

Swinging Singers is a performance group for grades 4, 5, and 6. Rehearsals will begin September 15, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in the music room at Iles. Rehearsals will be every Tuesday and Thursday after school. IMSA will be held on Wednesday so this will not interfere with IMSA.

Swinging Singers will conclude on December 17, 2009. We will NOT have Swinging Singers in the spring due to the musical. Students must have permission slips signed and returned by September 15, 2009. If you have lost your permission slip you can find one on my website under documents.

Thank You and I hope to see all of you there to make this a great year.

Dear Iles Parents,  
This year at Iles we are trying something new regarding classroom parties. We would like to ask for two party coordinators from each room and then four parents to assist and provide items for each of the three parties. Parents may assist at one, two or three parties.

Our goal is to still have great fun with healthier party snacks. Sign up sheets were in the classrooms at open house. If you were unable sign up but would like to help as either a coordinator or party assistant, please email Amy Taylor at [amytay@springfield.k12.il.us](mailto:amytay@springfield.k12.il.us) or phone her at Iles 525-3226. Mrs Taylor is a parent at Iles as well as the music teacher. Thank you very much for being willing to help teach our students we can have great party days while making healthier choices.

## Health News

by Valerie Rogers RN  
School Nurse

### Reminder

Students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and students new to Springfield schools need a current physical and immunizations on file in the school office. Complete health information must be received by October 15, 2009 or your child will be excluded from school. Students in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 6<sup>th</sup> grade need a dental exam. Call Iles at 525-3226 for questions or assistance.

### Health Update

Many people have questions regarding the H1N1 flu virus. The symptoms are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Many people also have reported diarrhea and vomiting.

In order to keep your children healthy, we would like you to help teach them ways to prevent the spread of infection. The Illinois Department of Public Health is recommending the following guidelines:

**COVER** - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. If you do not have a tissue available, cough into your elbow instead of your hand.

**Clean** - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.

**Contain** - If you are sick with a flu-like illness, stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone. (Your fever should be gone without the use of fever-reducing medicine.) Stay away from others as much as possible in order to decrease the spread of the infection.

Practicing these tips at home, avoiding close contact with sick people and keeping your hands away from your nose, mouth and eyes will also help decrease the spread of infection. Please call for any questions.