

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

**April 8**

**11:30 Dismissal**

PTO Skating Party  
Skateland South 6-8PM

**April 9**

Spring Pictures

**April 10**

Grades 1-3  
Vocal Music Program has been cancelled; will be rescheduled at a later date

**April 17**

Pizza Hut Fundraiser Day

**April 18**

Iles Writing Conference

**April 25, 29, May 1**

Kindergarten Open House

**April 30**

**11:30 Dismissal.**

**May 6**

Second Grade  
World Asthma Day

## Message from Mrs. Susan Rhodes Iles School Principal

### Iles Staff and Parents Visit International Baccalaureate School in Indianapolis



The Iles staff along with Mr. Damon MacParland and Ms. Nzinga West and other community members left the parking lot of 1900 West Monroe at 5:30AM Monday, March 3. The bus arrived at The Center for Inquiry at Benjamin Harrison School #2 in Indianapolis at 10:30 AM. Each visitor received a packet of information and an overview of the program by Beth Young, the Primary Years Programme Coordinator. Visitors had an opportunity to visit classrooms prior to eating lunch with CFI faculty members. After lunch, visitors observed more classrooms and then had a final group meeting to provide time to have additional questions answered.

The CFI school is a multi-age school for students in grades K-8. The school received its authorization for the Primary Years Programme from the International Baccalaureate Organization a

year ago. This month they will have their evaluation visit to determine authorization as a Middle



Years Programme. The CFI school is about the same size as Iles School with 60% of its students eligible for free/reduced lunches. At this time, there are no schools in Illinois with PYP authorization. A couple of elementary schools in the Chicago area have started the process.

The IB programme requires that six units of inquiry be implemented at each grade level throughout the year. Visitors were able to view the units that were implemented at each grade level. All students at CFI receive Spanish instruction.

The Iles staff has spent time discussing the visit and sorting out what is required by IB and what is a practice of CFI. As an example, IB does not require schools to be multi-age. That is a local decision. As the IB programme is reviewed, there is the commitment that Iles School would remain a gifted magnet school for District 186 with admission criteria. One major difference for Iles School the way it is now and how it would look three years from

now is that foreign language would be included in the curriculum. The aim of all IB programs is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. In this direction, IB learners strive to be: Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open –minded, Caring, Risk-takers, Balanced, and Reflective.

**MEETING CHANGE**

The PTO has changed the date of the April PTO meeting to Tuesday, April 15 at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held in the Iles gym. This meeting will provide you with an opportunity to learn more about the IB programme and to ask questions. For additional information on the International Baccalaureate Programme, visit the website: <http://www.ibo.org/>.

**Iles IStudent Support News**

by Mrs. Sherry Frachey

We continue to work on our Lion's Quest Service Learning Project, The O Ambassador Program. I find that the joy of giving empowers students to grow in empathy and compassion, and helps us gain perspective about our many blessings. During



March and April, we continue our Pennies From Heaven Drive, along with an ongoing canned food drive for the local food pantries. We also partnered with Mr. Marcy to create "May Baskets" for seniors in our area. Our "Iles O Ambassador Kick Off Week" video is even featured on the Oprah Winfrey You Tube Channel! It is featured under responses to "The Big Give".

Trevor Romain and Tony Haynes will be visiting to speak at The Iles Writer's Conference this year, which ties into our desire to become more awake and aware global citizens. "Become the Change You Want to See" on April 18, 2008 will be an exciting day for Iles!

In May, we will "Celebrate You and Me". Be sure to watch for the last issue of "Together Times".

I also continue to work one on one with students needing some extra support. Please feel free to call if your child needs extra help. Happy April!

**Dental Exam Reminder**

by Valerie Rogers RN School Nurse



All children in kindergarten, second and sixth grade are required by Illinois Law to have a dental exam by May 15, 2008. The exam must be completed by a licensed dentist within 18 months of the May 15th deadline. Most dentists have copies of the "Proof of School Dental Examination

Form" or they can access it through the IDPH website. A written statement from your dentist's office stating that your child has an appointment within 60 days after May 15<sup>th</sup> will be accepted. The appointment must be kept and the student must present proof of a completed exam at the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year. Waivers are available if obtaining a dental exam causes an undue burden or if you lack access to a dentist. Please contact me for assistance if you are unable to have the exam or to obtain a waiver form.

**Memorial Medical Center Community Health Corner**

**Cut Mowing Injuries**

Flowers are blooming, birds are nesting and the grass is getting greener. Yes, it's time to get the lawnmower out again! But did you know that your mower is one of the most dangerous tools you own?



"When the weather warms up we begin to see people with injuries from lawn mowers in the emergency department," said Jennifer Boyer, RN, Director of Emergency Medical Services at Memorial Medical Center. "Some injuries can be quite serious, such as deep cuts, loss of fingers or toes, broken bones, burns and eye injuries. Almost all of these injuries are preventable."

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), each

year lawn mowers injure 68,000 people, including 9,000 children. Before you begin mowing chores for the season, take a moment to review some basic safety tips.



- Keep your kids indoors while you mow! Children may be injured by an object thrown by a mower blade or be run over by a mower if they get too close.
- Mower blades can hurl an object at 200 miles per hour. Before you mow, walk through the yard and pick up sticks, toys, rocks, wire and other objects that may become projectiles. Turn the motor off if you cross gravel or a paved area.
- Use a mower with a handle control that stops the motor when you release the handle. Never leave a running mower unattended.
- Dress safely. Always wear sturdy shoes (not sandals or sneakers). Wear protective gear to cover your eyes and ears.
- Fill the gas tank outdoors, not in a garage or shed, while the mower is cool and the motor is turned off. Never fill a hot mower, as gasoline vapors might ignite.
- If you are working on your mower, disconnect the spark



plug to prevent the mower from accidentally starting when you turn the blade by hand.

- When mowing a slope, always walk behind push mowers and go across the slope to prevent the mower from rolling back on you. Riding mowers should go up and down the slope to prevent the mower from tipping over.
- Never let a child ride on the lap of an adult on a riding mower. Every year children are seriously injured in falls from riding mowers.
- According to the AAP, children should be at least 12 years old before operating a push mower and 16 before driving a riding mower.
- If it is hot, drink plenty of nonalcoholic liquids and take breaks to cool off.



For more information, go online to <http://www.aap.org/family/tipplawn.htm> or <http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil/articles/a-m/lawnmower.htm>.

**PTO Events and News**

Dear Iles Parents:  
The Iles School PTO Meeting for the month of April will occur on April 15 in the Iles School Library at 6:30pm. Please mark your calendars!



This will be an important meeting for the semester. We will elect PTO Officers and discuss the proposal to make Iles an International Baccalaureate school with a Primary Years Program and a Middle Years Program. Note that the IB curriculum does not interfere with Iles being a program for gifted students.

We need volunteers for PTO Officer positions! We have one candidate for President so far, but we would welcome nominations (including self-nominations) for all Officer Positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Please let me know by replying via email if you have nominations or would like to volunteer for one of these roles. If you have questions about the responsibilities, please let me know. I have descriptions of the positions from the newly revised PTO Bylaws.

Best,  
Karen Moranski  
APRIL PTO Meeting Date Change!!!!

**Singing News Changes**

The Grades 1-3 Vocal Music Program, originally scheduled for April 10th at 7:00 PM has been cancelled due to Mrs. Taylor's illness. The program will be rescheduled as soon as possible.