

INDIAN TRAIL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Home of the Trailblazers

January 2024 Newsletter



Contact us at:

20912 S. Frankfort Square Road
Frankfort, IL 60423

815/469-6993

FAX: 815/806-8352

www.summithill.org

Message from the Principal:

Important Dates in January:

Jan. 1-7 – Winter Break

Jan. 8 – School Resumes

Jan. 8 – SCO mtg.

Jan. 11 – SHEF/Domino's
Pizza Day

Jan. 12 – PBIS Assembly

Jan. 12 – SCO Treat Day

Jan. 15 – No School / MLK
Day

Jan. 17 – Board Meeting

Jan. 17 – ACCESS for ELL
testing window opens

Jan. 18 – SHEF/Domino's
Pizza Day

Jan. 19 – SCO Mother/Son
Night

Jan. 26 - SCO Hot Lunch Day

Jan. 29 - PBIS Store (all week)



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I wish all of you a happy and healthy 2024. I hope your holiday was extremely relaxing, filled with wonderful memories, and you had time to reflect on the previous year and the wonderful things that are ahead. I am looking forward to 2024 and all the excitement it will bring.

Arrival and Dismissal

There will be a couple new staff members outside for arrival and dismissal. Please have your child's name on the passenger side of your car. It will take the new staff time to familiarize themselves with your car. As a reminder, staff are outside beginning at 8:45. There is no supervision or student entry prior to that time. Students should remain in the car until a staff member exits the building. If your child walks to school, please advise them on the time to leave the house, so they are not standing outside for longer than needed. If your child is late to school, they must be accompanied and signed in by an adult at the main entrance.

Please follow all arrival and dismissal procedures for everyone's safety, as well as to ensure an efficient and effective process is maintained. Student names should be visible the entire time in the circle. With changing staff on some days, not all staff have the cars memorized.

Emergency Days

Please pay attention to the district website or sign up for district text messages to alert you of school closings due to inclement weather. If a closing were to occur, your child would access the teacher's Schoology page for the Zoom link, schedule for the day, and activities.

If you should have any questions or concerns about anything, please do not hesitate to contact me. I appreciate your continued support.

Mrs. Wright

General Information:**School Office Hours: 8:35 a.m. – 3:50 p.m.****Student Attendance Hours: 9:00 – 3:30 p.m.****Student Recess/Lunch Times: 1st/2nd grades 11:45 a.m.-12:25 p.m.****3rd/4th grades 12:35 p.m.-1:15 p.m.****Absent Notification**

- Please report your child's absence by 9:10 AM the day of the absence.
- Homework requests need to be called in by 11:30 AM for same day pick-up.
- Any school work due to vacation absence will be given once the child returns.

Lunch Procedure

- Please remember to send a lunch with your child daily. Be sure the lunch is labeled with the child's name.
- Your child will need to bring a spoon and/or fork, as utensils are not provided.
- If a lunch is forgotten, parents may drop off a lunch on the cart in the vestibule outside the office by 11:40. Please have the child's name and teacher's name clearly labeled.
- Children will go outside for recess daily. As the weather begins to change, please be sure to send your child with a sweatshirt or light jacket to get them through the fall months.

School Support

- Box Tops for Education, Capri Sun pouches, pop tabs, old plastic gift cards, old cell phones, eye glasses, plastic bags, empty scotch tape and Elmer's empty glue bottles are collected to benefit our school. Please send them to school in a bag with your child's name and teacher's name
- Any new school supply donations, new books, new toys, etc. for our PBIS store are welcome and appreciated all year long.

Communication

- Please maintain regular communication with our teachers.
- Follow chain of command if you are experiencing any concern or issues relating to your child.

Volunteer

- The district has the Raptor Visitor Management System in place at all schools. Every visitor will be instantly screened. You will be screened each time you visit the building to volunteer.
- You will need to show a State ID or Driver's License every time you volunteer.

Indian Trail is a Bully Free Zone

We at Indian Trail EXPECT RESPECT in all areas of the school. We work hard to ensure a safe, nurturing, and positive climate for all students and staff. It is imperative that you help us maintain an environment that is conducive to learning and free from bullying behaviors.

TYPES OF BULLYING

Verbal Bullying-usually consists of teasing, mocking, spreading rumors, lying about others. Bullying comments may focus on outer appearance. But to be bullying it must occur more than one time.

Emotional/Social Bullying- uses peer pressure and manipulation to isolate the target and to hurt their feelings. The victim usually feels that they have no friends, no one to talk to, and no way to escape.

Physical Bullying- Consists of pushing, tripping, hitting, or acting like you are going to push, trip or hit another.

Cyber Bullying – Includes written or electronic communication directed to another to cause fear, emotional, or psychological harm.

WHAT IS BULLYING?

Any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- Placing a student in reasonable fear of his/her personal property or
- Causing substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health or
- Substantially interfering with the student's academic performance or
- Substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in services, activities, or privileges provided by a school

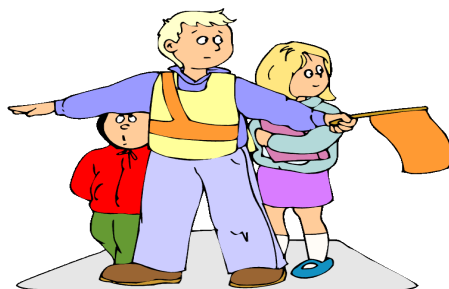


What can we do together to PREVENT bullying behavior?

- Create clearly defined expectations
- Teach social skills and tolerance early
- Foster positive relationships and environments
- Empower students to support and respect each other
- Set the right examples for students to follow
- Consistent and informed communication between home and school

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

- Student Drop-off time is 8:45-8:59 (no staff supervision prior to 8:45)
- Students may not play on recess equipment before school without a parent/guardian present to supervise
- From 8:45-8:59, students enter the school using doors 15 and 11
- Students arriving after the 9:00 tardy bell **MUST** enter the school through the main entrance with an adult
- First Graders exit door 15
- Second Graders exit door 11
- Third Graders exit door 11
- Fourth Graders with their siblings exit door 10 and are picked up in the back parking lot
- Post your child's first and last name on the passenger side of the car
- Always remain in your car while in the circle drive
- Form two lines until you come to the first turn
- You will begin to merge in one at a time (unless staff are there to direct)
- Pull forward as far as you can
- Cell phone use while driving is prohibited in school zones (this includes the school lot)
- If you walk, please stand on the sidewalk closest to the school sign and wait for your child
- Congregating by school exit doors is not allowed
- Follow all directions by the staff
- Be respectful to all Trailblazer students and staff





Indian Trail Student Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Student Drop-off at Indian Trail will be from 8:45-8:59. There is no guaranteed supervision for children arriving before 8:45, so please do not drop children off earlier than 8:45.

We are continuing with our previous practice for arrival and dismissal. Please know the process will take longer in the beginning, but we will work to streamline as the year progresses. Please refrain from planning appointments or meetings around the time of arrival and dismissal. I would not want you to be late for those appointments, as I cannot predict how long it will take for some students to enter and exit the building.

From 8:45-8:59, students will enter the school utilizing doors 15 and 11.

Students arriving after the 9:00 tardy bell MUST enter the school through the main entrance with an adult (by the flagpole). All other doors are closed and locked at 9:00 for security purposes.

Parents will drop off their children in the “circle drive” located on the north side of the building. You must remain in your vehicle at all times while in the circle drive. Your child will remain in your vehicle until 8:45 when staff members exit the building to allow students to enter. You will form two lines until you come to the first turn. There will be a staff member there to merge you into one line. After the merge, PARENTS ARE TO PULL AS FAR FORWARD AS POSSIBLE between the cones to drop off their children. Please pay attention to the staff directing you. Students may exit the vehicle as soon as the sidewalk begins even if they are not right at the school door. The longer you wait to let them out, the later they will be for class. When parents cooperate with staff, we do not have drop-off safety concerns and traffic flow moves seamlessly.

Please post your child’s first and last name in the passenger side of the window for both arrival and dismissal. If your child is a new student to the school, please post “New Student” on the sheet, as well. This will allow us to group your child(ren) with other new students and escort them to class.

At dismissal, you will follow the same procedure as arrival. Your children will remain in the building and will be called to exit the building based on your position in the circle drive. A staff member will exit the building around 3:15 to start calling in the order of names from your window sign. Please have your signs posted clearly on the passenger side and leave them in place until your child enters the vehicle.

If your child walks to school or brings their bike, they must not arrive prior to 8:40. They can lock up their bike and line up on the yellow line prior to entry. Parents are not allowed to congregate by any door. You may watch your child from a safe distance. If by door 11 (near bike rack), parents must stand by the baseball field. If by door 15, parents must stand on the sidewalk furthest from the door. Please note, parking lots will be closed off and you are not allowed to park on school property during arrival and dismissal.

Parents are not allowed to stop along Frankfort Square Road to drop off or pick up their children. The curbs are clearly painted yellow, and signage indicates “No Parking.” The Will County Sheriff’s Deputies informed the school they intend to be regularly present and issue tickets to violators. Most important, it is essential that vehicles do not park or stop curbside in this zone since it restricts driver and pedestrian visibility.

Please also be aware that Frankfort Square Road by the school and the school parking lots are cell phone free. This is state law. The deputies can issue tickets to drivers using cell phones in school zones. We do take down license plates of those not following the state law. This is to protect the students and staff.

Parents are not to use the driveway or parking lot on the south side of building (at Inverary Rd). This is for staff parking and buses only.

Children that walk to school will only cross the street at the Frankfort Square Rd/Acorn Ridge intersection accompanied by the crossing guard. Students are not to cross the street at Hickory Creek/Frankfort Square Rd intersection (in front of the school) without a parent or guardian escorting them.

Please refrain from walking along the sidewalk along the circle drive during our arrival and dismissal process. I need this area clear for students and staff to safely distance from one another, as well as prevent any unsafe conditions.

I understand that your little ones might like to run around while they are waiting, please do not allow them to run through the landscaping or play by the school sign.

Pets are only allowed on the sidewalk closest to Frankfort Square Road.

Thank you for your understanding. I look forward to an outstanding year with you and your child!

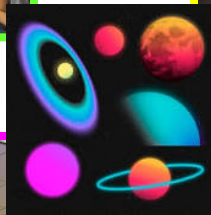


First Grade News

The first-grade students concluded their Patterns in the Sky unit with an unforgettable space day filled with special guests and exciting activities. Upon entering their transformed classrooms, they were greeted by an outer space-themed environment complete with black lights, neon decor, balloons, and planets orbiting around. The day was packed with fun space-themed activities that captivated the students.

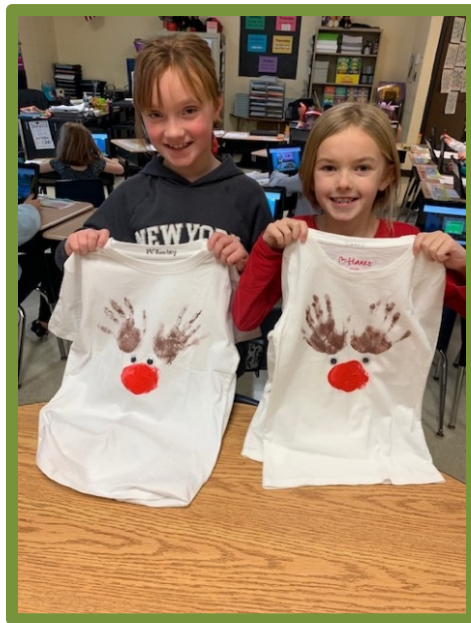
Dr. McDermott, a special guest, arrived with a delightful read-aloud session and provided prizes for each student. The students were also treated to a surprise visit from Miss Dana, a former NASA program integration engineer and flight controller for environmental control and life support systems. Miss Dana shared fascinating stories and a wealth of knowledge, aiming to inspire future engineers or astronauts.

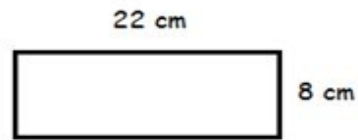
The entire experience was a blast, and it's clear that the students thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from this engaging unit.



Second Grade News

Second graders in Mrs. Rios, Mrs. Aleo, Mrs. Discher, and Mrs. Pfeiffer's class are getting into the holiday spirit. Each student created their own reindeer shirt. The students used their own hands in creating the reindeer. They also worked on holiday crafts to share with their families. The students also did an amazing job with their winter program.

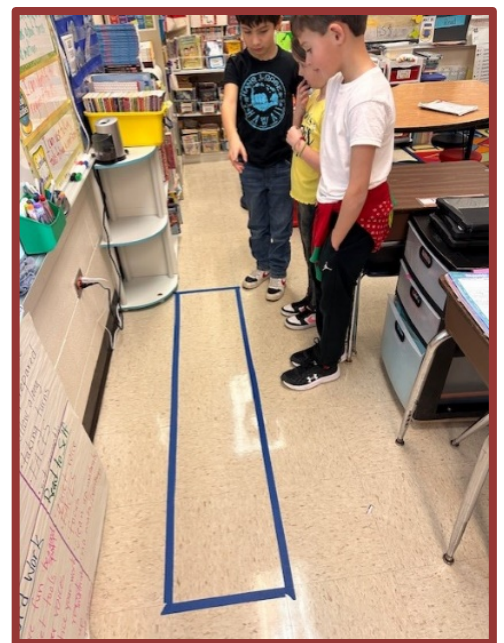
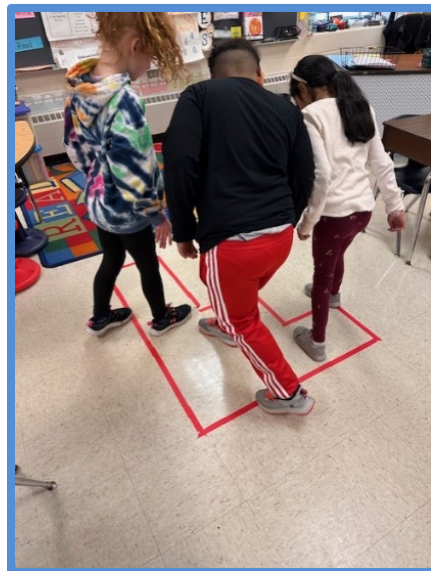
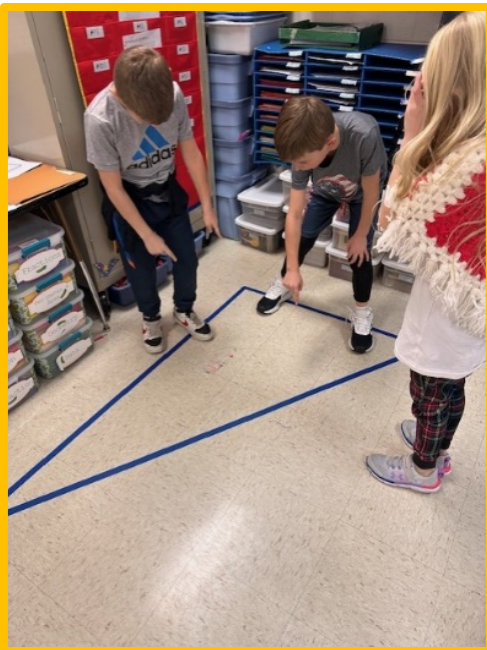


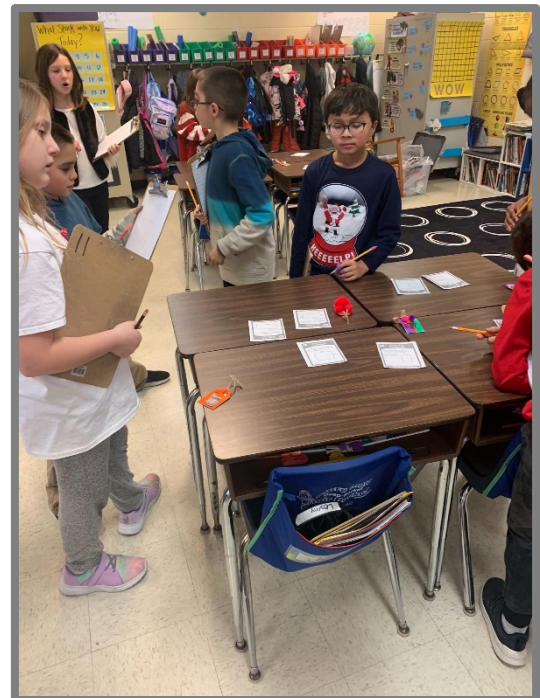
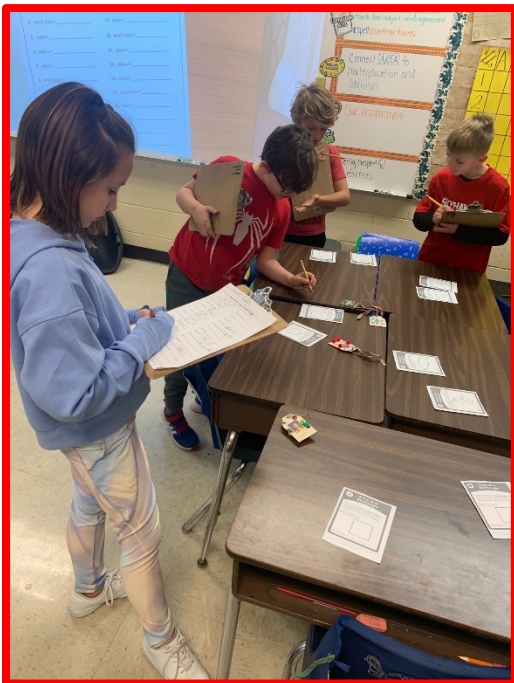


Third Grade Area

Our Third Grade students have been having a lot of fun exploring the world of area! We are learning how to count squares of a shape, how to multiply length times width, and how to figure out the area of complex shapes.

We practiced with area squares, had fun with some task cards, and measured some shapes on the floor.





Student complete AREA problems around the classroom!

Fourth Grade News

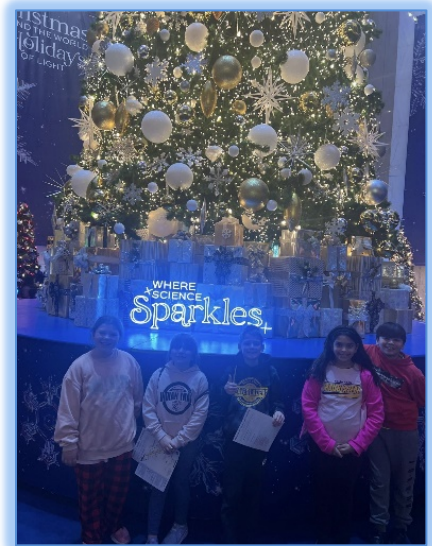
Fourth Grade Students were able to go to the Museum of Science and Industry in Downtown Chicago. Along with their chaperone, students had the opportunity to explore various exhibits within the museum! Students worked on completing a scavenger hunt with facts around the museum. One example was finding the United States of America tree. What is the tree topper for this tree? The tree topper is the Bald Eagle with the American Flag! Students had so much fun learning and discovering for the day!



Evan Hucksold
Kaiden Ballard
Joelle Schlee
Darla Drisko
Lily Tersey



Kyla Pastirik
Blakely Olson
Ashlynn Cline
Finley Laird
Eli Quiros

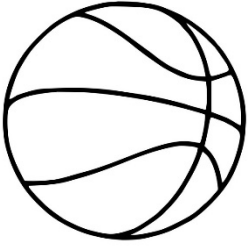


Gracie Coulter
Alayna Bartusiewicz
Conor Flaherty
Carrie Mayorga
Isaac Covarrubias

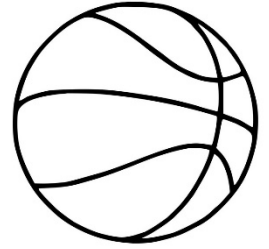


Brooklyn Ackmann
Muhammad Zayed
Cameron Riley Ford
Chandler Jarrell
Kinsley Lavelle
Brynn Cook

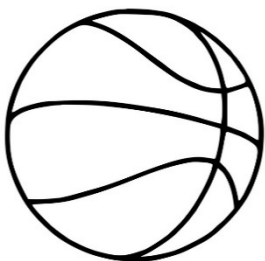




Indian Trail PE New



In Physical Education Class at Indian Trail School, we continued to develop our basketball skills with a variety of different types of games the students could choose from. All these games worked on the main three skills we taught for our basketball unit which are dribbling, passing to a partner, and shooting the basketball. Basketball has many different benefits that improve balance and coordination, building endurance and developing concentration, which can transfer over to many different sports.

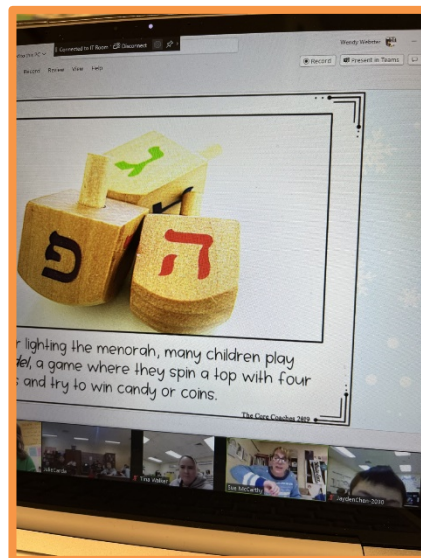


Mrs. Pfeiffer's and Mrs. Aleo's class playing fun interactive basketball games.



More News

Indian Trail students in Ms. Walker's, Mrs. Carda's, Mrs. Webster's ELA classrooms have been discussing family and holiday traditions throughout the month of December. We have traveled on Zoom Airlines to 2 different countries so far to learn about other holidays and traditions celebrated around the world! We have had mystery tour guides to help us learn about each holiday celebration! We met Mrs. McCarthy in Israel, and she taught us about Hanukkah. Ms. Roy joined us in India to teach us about Diwali. Our future destinations include...Mexico, Palestine, and then back to the United States just in time for our Winter break! Our students have made suitcases, passports, and souvenirs that reflect each country's tradition. After each journey, we read through our travel guides to learn additional facts and write about our adventures.



Mrs. McCarthy joined us in our travels and was our tour guide in Israel when we learned about Hanukkah.



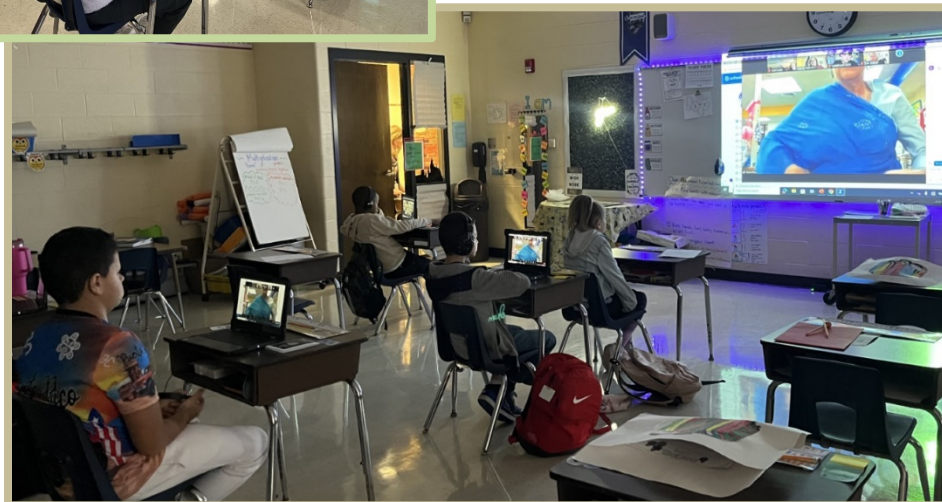
Learning to play Dreidel, a Hanukkah tradition.
They each received a chocolate coin called gelt.

Students pictured:

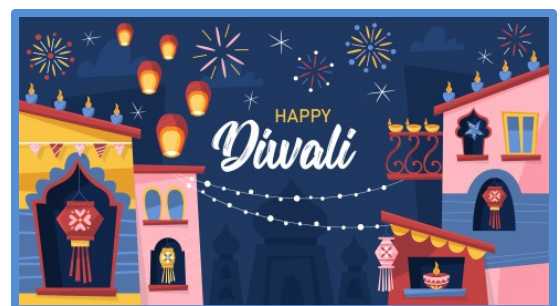
Jayden Chen, Zach Flood, Leo Delcore, and
Olivia Valdivia



Jayden Chen making rangoli, a
traditional decoration to welcome
family in India when celebrating Diwali.



Mrs. Carda's Class on their travels
to India with Ms. Roy to learn
about Diwali.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE CLUB NEWS

Indian Trail School held a toy drive for the Will County Toys for Tots program for a course of two weeks. The toy drive was headed by the Indian Trail "Make a Difference" Club. The children shared many games, puzzles, stuffed animals, dolls, action figures, and Play-Doh. Marines from the Joliet station came in to pick up the toys and took them to the warehouse where they are stored. The Will County Marines picked up over 100 toys to pass out this holiday season. Thank you to all that donated!





Math Games Galore

Our young mathematicians made amazing progress over the past 15 weeks in Math Games Galore. Each week, our students eagerly engaged in various activities designed to enhance their mathematical skills and foster a love for learning. Here's a glimpse into the exciting math our students explored:

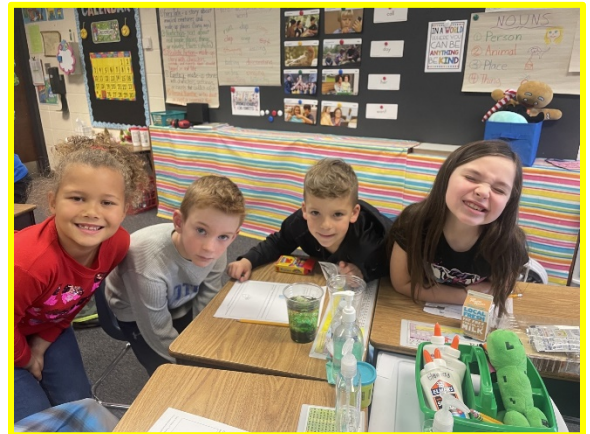
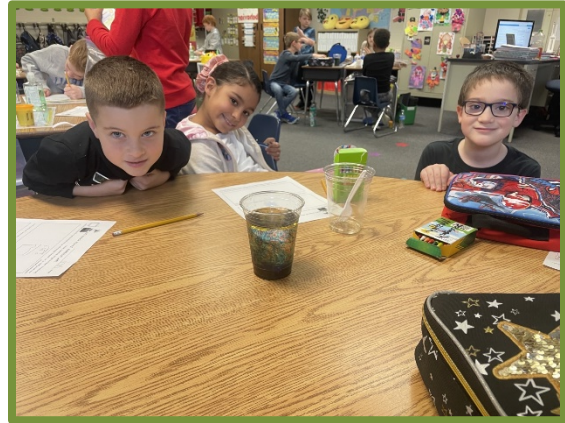
- **Weekly Warm-up Activity:** Our mathematicians kick-started each week by tackling a thought-provoking math puzzle from the renowned [Tang Math](#) website. We encourage you to explore this valuable resource with your child at home, as it offers a wide array of math games and puzzles to further enrich their learning.
- **Game-based Learning Adventures:** Following the warm-up activity, our students delved into immersive game-based learning experiences using everyday items such as dice, cards, coins, and paper. Through these engaging activities, our students explored subitizing, addition and subtraction, identifying and counting coins, probability, and comparing numbers, all while having a blast with their peers.

The students showed a great deal of enthusiasm for math throughout our time together. Thank you for continuing to foster their love of math at home. Math truly is all around us!



Fun with Science

My little scientists and I have had an AMAZING time together in our Fun with Science Club! Students collaborate to create hypotheses when given different scenarios. We test our hypotheses via our experiment and come to a consensus on a conclusion. Students depict both hypotheses and conclusions. After conducting our experiment, we enjoy fun science videos and continue scientific discussions during lunch. Our first and second grade science club members take home handouts detailing our experiments and are encouraged to share the experiments at home with family and friends. I am truly impressed by the capabilities of my Fun with Science students! They consistently show eagerness to expand their knowledge and broaden their horizons. Keep embracing your inner scientist in your everyday activities!

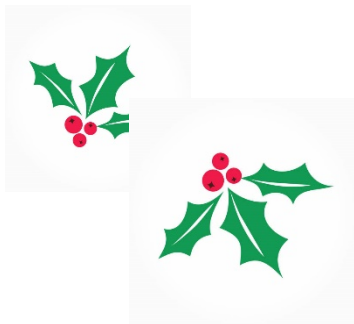


Indian Trail's Winter Beautification

Indian Trail "Decked" our Halls with some cool new decorations. The Indian Trail "Make a Difference" Service Club sponsored another Beautification Project for the front of our school; this time we turned it into Candy Cane Lane! Service club members collected donations of greenery, snowflakes, lights, and garland. A BIG thanks to those families, especially the Campanile Family, that donated to a great cause!

Indian Trail....

BEFORE!



Indian Trail....

AFTER!



Service Club Members decorate the front entranceway and vestibule of Indian Trail.



Indian Trail's

Make A Difference Club

Calendar of Events 2023-2024

Here is our list for the school year of all the charities that Indian Trail supports through our Make a Difference Club. Please feel free to pick & choose your favorite charities or donate to all! It's your choice!

We appreciate your support! More individual details to follow!

All year



Indian Trail Beautification

Indian Trail is asking for donations of seasonal items such as: mums, pansies, haybales, scarecrows, holiday greenery, and spring items to decorate the front of the school. We will be also be sponsoring a "Hats On" day to raise funds for our fall beautification.

October

10th Annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest



Bring a can or box of food (or several!) to enter our Decorating Contest. All proceeds benefit the Frankfort Food Pantry.

November



Toys for Tots

Bring an unwrapped toy for a boy or a girl. All proceeds benefit the Toys for Tots Organization in conjunction with the United States Marine Corps.

December

Project Linus



Donate the warmth of a blanket, some fleece fabric, or money to the service club. The club will make tied fleece blankets. All proceeds benefit Local Area Children's Hospitals.



January

Mitten Tree



Bring in new or close to new hats, mittens, scarves to help children in need. All proceeds benefit local shelters.

February



Kid's Heart Challenge

Jump rope and raise money for the American Heart Association. Done in conjunction with the P.E. teachers.

March

St. Baldrick's/Julia's Legacy



Donate money to help Childhood Cancer. See our tech teacher, Mr. Schneider, shave his head!

April



Earth Day Activities

We will be focusing on ways to help our Planet Earth. We will have a garbage free lunch, do an Earth day clean-up, and brainstorm ways we can reduce, reuse, and recycle.

May

Walk-a-thon



Collect pledges for our laps around the school. All proceeds benefit The American Diabetes Association.

Don't forget that Indian Trail recycles as well. We collect old eyeglasses for the Lion's Club and pop-tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. THANKS!



Indian Trail School Community Organization (ITSCO) 2023-2024 Calendar of Events

August

- August 31: Curriculum Night Book Fair*

January

- January 12: Treat Day
- January 19: Mother/Son Night*
- January 26: Hot Lunch*

September

- September 21: Activity Night*
- September 25: Unfundraiser Kicks Off
- September 29: Treat Day

February

- February 2: Winter Carnival*
- February 14: Candy Grams
- February 15: Treat Day

October

- October 20: Treat Day
- October 20: Daddy/Daughter Dance*
- October 27: Hot Lunch*
- October 31: Fall Fest*

March

- March 7: Activity Night*
- March 15: Treat Day
- March 21: Hot Lunch*

November

- November 16: Treat Day
- November 30: Hot Lunch*
- November TBD: S&T Fundraiser

April

- April TBD: Scholastic Book Fair*
- April 19: Treat Day
- April 26: Hot Lunch*

December

- December 19-21: Holiday Shop*

May

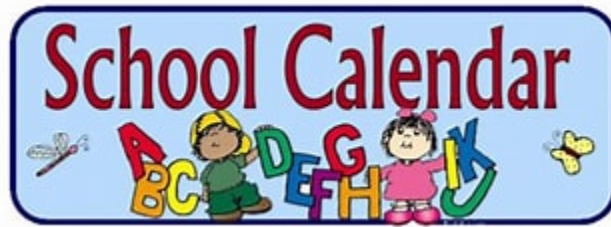
- May 24: Fourth Grade Party/Awards*
- May 29: Field Day*

Email ITSCO161@gmail.com with any questions.

* Parent volunteers will be needed for this event. Details on how to sign up to volunteer will be sent via email closer to the event date.

Event dates are subject to change.

Revised: 8/23/2023



Summit Hill District 161
2023-24 District Calendar

August 21 & 22.....	Teacher Institute Days
August 23.....	First Day of School
September 4.....	Labor Day - No School
October 6.....	1/2 Day School in AM/PM Teacher In-service
October 9	Columbus Day - No School
November 17	1/2 Day School in AM/PM Teacher In-service
November 20 & 21.....	Parent/Teacher Conference Day - No School
November 22-24.....	Thanksgiving Holiday - No School
December 22.....	1/2 Day School in AM/PM Teacher Inservice
December 25 – January 5.....	Holiday Break
January 8.....	Classes resume after Holiday Break
January 15.....	Martin Luther King's Birthday - No School
February 16.....	1/2 Day School in AM/PM Teacher In-service
February 19.....	President's Day - No School
March 4	Casimir Pulaski Day-No School
March 25 – April 1.....	Spring Break
April 2	Classes resume after Spring Break
April 24	1/2 Day School in AM/PM Teacher In-service
May 27	Memorial Day-No School
May 30	Last Day of School without snow days
May 31.....	Teacher Institute
June 7	Last Day if all snow days are used

Approved: February 15, 2023

