

# INDIAN TRAIL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Home of the Trailblazers*

## **February 2024 Newsletter**



## **Contact us at:**

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Frankfort, IL 60423

815/469-6993

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[www.summithill.org](http://www.summithill.org)

## **Message from the Principal:**

### **Important Dates in February:**

Feb. 2 - Winter Carnival  
Feb. 2 - 100<sup>th</sup> day of School  
Feb. 5 - SCO Meeting  
Feb. 5 - 4<sup>th</sup> gr. CogAT begins  
Feb. 6 - Club and Yearbook  
Candid photos  
Feb. 14 - Happy Valentine's Day  
Feb. 15 - SCO Treat Day  
Feb. 16 - Early Dismissal @ 12:10  
p.m. / P.M. Teacher In-Service  
Feb. 16 - SHEF Family Bingo  
Night  
Feb. 19 - No School/ Presidents'  
Day  
Feb. 20 - School Store Fundraiser  
Kick Off  
Feb. 21 - School Board Meeting  
Feb. 28 - Last day of 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Trimester  
Feb. 28 & 29 - Hearing & Vision  
Screenings



Dear Trailblazer Parents,

Thank you to all our volunteers for taking time out of your day to support our Trailblazers at the Winter Carnival! We appreciate you!

### **CogAT Assessment**

As many of our 4<sup>th</sup> grade families are aware, we are administering the CogAT to the 4th graders this week. CogAT stands for Cognitive Abilities Test and it measures the ability to reason. The questions show how well students use their reasoning skills to solve problems they have not been directly taught.

CogAT will provide a Standard Age Score (SAS) derived from nine subtests that assess cognitive abilities the following areas: 1. Verbal Battery - verbal analogies, sentence completion and verbal classification. 2. Quantitative Battery - number analogies, number puzzles and number series. 3. Nonverbal Battery - figure matrices, paper folding and figure classification.

### **5Essentials Survey**

Thank you to everyone who has taken the survey, thus far. If you have not taken the survey, please do so at your earliest convenience. This research-based survey is designed to generate a detailed picture of the important elements of school effectiveness and is reported on the Illinois State Report Card. Please check your email for the link.

Thank you,  
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: 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grades 11:45 a.m.-12:25 p.m.****3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> 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

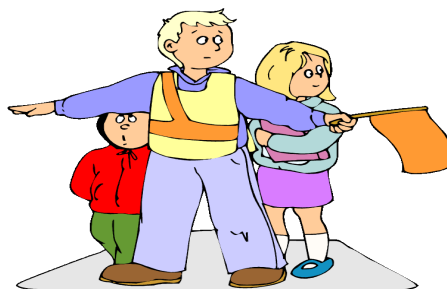


## **What can we do together to PREVENT bullying behavior?**

- 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.

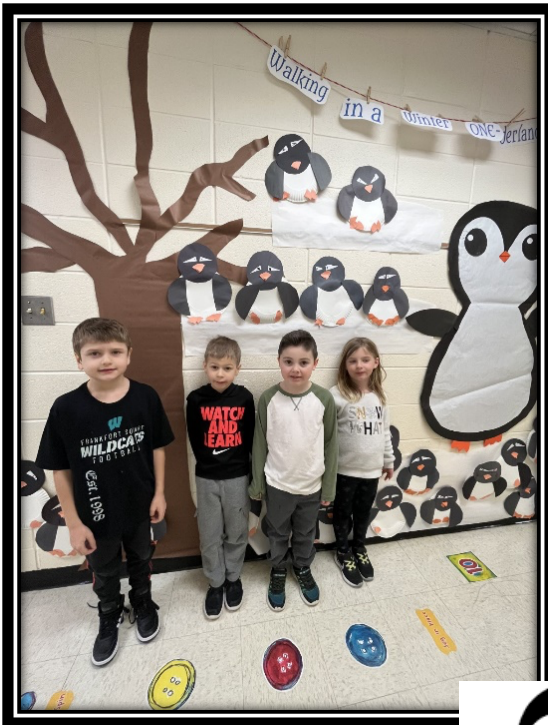
Pets are only allowed on the sidewalk closest to Frankfort Square Road.

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



# First Grade News

During math class, the first grade students enjoyed creating a fraction penguin craft. They explored concepts of wholes, halves, and quarters while crafting an adorable penguin. For instance, they cut a circle into quarters to form the penguin's beak, and the penguin's body was represented by a whole circle. Crafting while learning is always an added layer of fun!



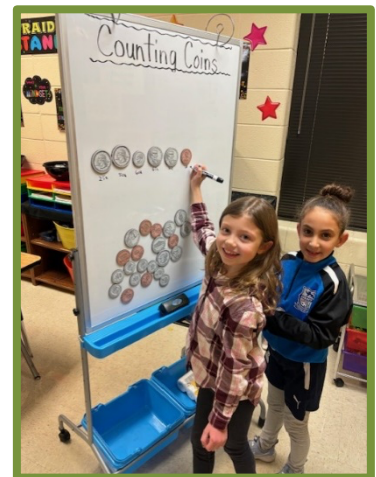
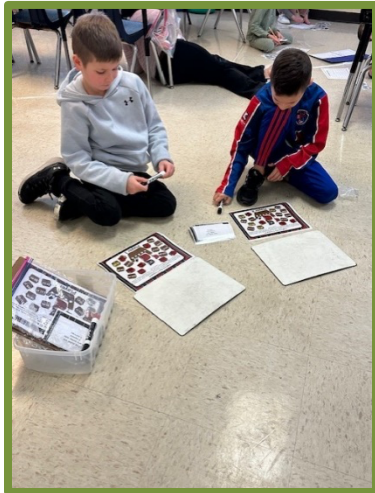
# Second Grade News

Money, Money, Money!

Well, they say money makes the world go around....it SURE is going around second grade!

Students are learning all about counting coins and dollar bills. They have many opportunities to fine-tune their skills with specialty centers, using real coins as they add or subtract, coins games and, of course, our textbook as well. Whether they are learning as a whole group, with partners, small groups, or even independently, there is no cash shortage around here!

A special thank you to our parents who have embraced homework activities as well. We thank you for your enthusiasm and support.



# Third Grade News

## Third Grade Had a “Hair Raising” Experience

Third Grade had an awesome time learning about Electric and Magnetic Forces in Science recently. The students learned about Static Electricity through a variety of experiments. They investigated with balloons and other objects to see how objects build up electric charges. The students were able to investigate Magnets as well. They saw what magnets were attracted to or repelled from. They were able to see which poles were attracted to each other and which poles repel each other. It was a fun and electrifying chapter!

### Third Grade Electricity and Magnet Jokes

What did the wire say to the other wire? That’s shocking!

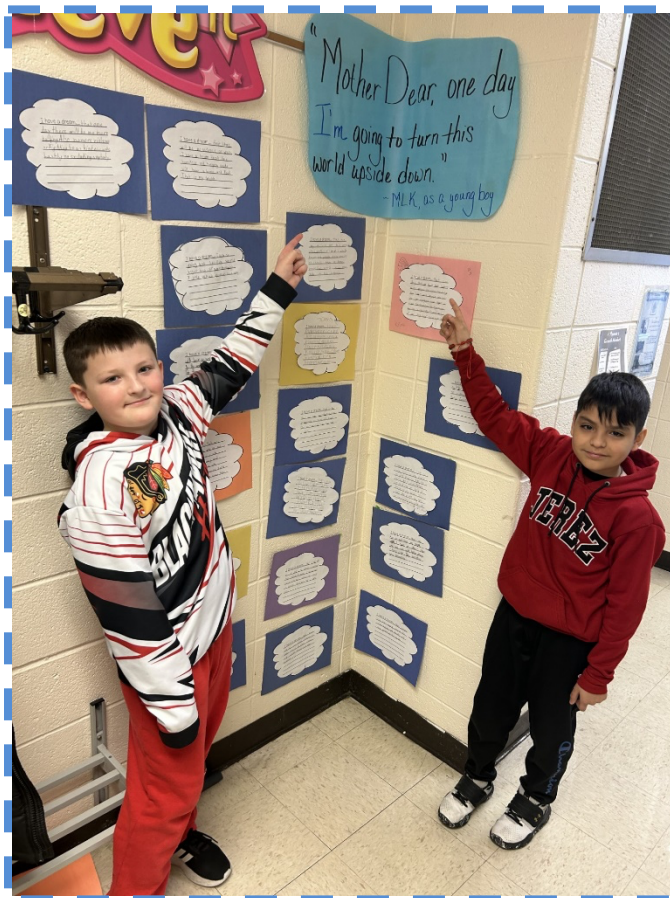
What did the battery say to the light bulb? Lighten up!

What did the magnet say to the paper clip? I’m attracted to you.



# Fourth Grade News

During the month of January, we focused on a Civil Rights biography in our Wonders series. The fourth-grade classes read about a man named Westley Law who lived at the same time as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He was a part of the NAACP and worked to help African Americans registered to vote. The classes had many discussions about civil rights and the fight it took to live how we do now in 2024. We still discussed Dr. King's dream and what our dream will be for the future of our world. All of our students have big dreams for our world and "one day {they} will turn the world upside down!"



Noah Drozd and Fernando Diaz



# Indian Trail PE News



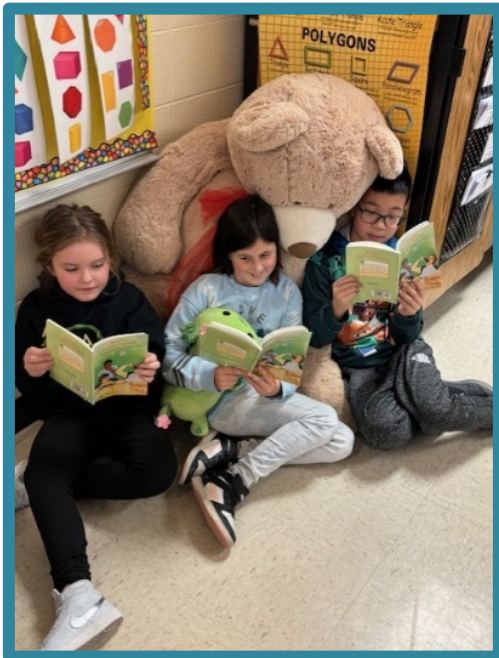
In Physical Education class at Indian Trail School, the students came back from holiday break playing cooperative team games. Students had to work together as a team to score points by knocking over pins, throwing softie balls in the basketball hoops, and using different types of equipment to make inside hula hoops and crates. These games can be used to enhance students' abilities and skills while working with their classmates in a competitive learning environment.



Mrs. Please and Mrs. Jurasits's class  
playing make it take it.

# After School Bookworms News

Bookworms meet on Wednesdays after school and get busy reading right away! "In the Dinosaur's Paw" was an adventure novel with a mysterious twist on a school field trip. Next, we read, "Beetles, Lightly Toasted" – yes! You really CAN eat beetles! YUM! Or so one of the characters in the book thought...We said, "YUK! – No Way!" We have also read short stories where we have to guess what the title is, we began creating bookmarks for future use, and are looking forward to some reading games and activities in the weeks to come. And then another novel...We love reading!



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

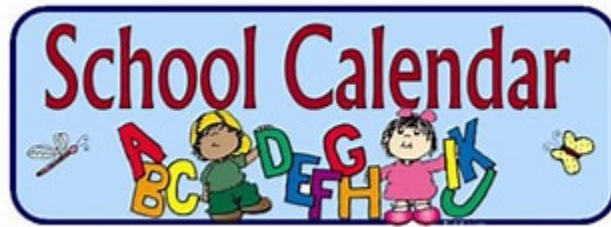
- May 24: Fourth Grade Party/Awards\*
- May 29: Field Day\*

Email [ITSCO161@gmail.com](mailto: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

