

INDIAN TRAIL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Home of the Trailblazers

December 2023 Newsletter



Contact us at:

20912 S. Frankfort Square Road
Frankfort, IL 60423

815/469-6993

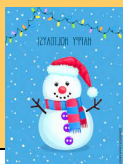
FAX: 815/806-8352

www.summithill.org

Message from the Principal:

Important Dates in December:

12/1 – Report Card Day
12/4 – PBIS Store (all week)
12/4 – SCO meeting
12/4 – NWEA begins
12/13 – Winter Music Program
12/14 – SHJH Band Tour
12/14 – Hearing & Vision Rescreens
12/15 – Fourth grade Field Trip
12/18 – PBIS Spirit Week
12/19 – SCO Holiday Shop
12/20 – SCO Holiday Shop
12/22 – Student half day – dismissal @ 12:10 p.m.
12/25-1/5 – Winter Break
1/8 – School Resumes



Dear Trailblazer Parents and Guardians,

I hope as this season is upon us that you find some well-deserved time with family and friends sharing in the excitement of the season. Currently, our students are doing well academically and maintaining their focus. However, with winter break just around the corner, the excitement and anticipation associated with the seasonal activities can tend to distract students and diminish their academic focus. Please help your children maintain their focus and encourage them to give a 100%. We appreciate the support!

Winter Program

Our program is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13. We will hold two performances: 10:00AM for those with last names beginning with the letters A-L and 1:30PM for those with last names beginning with the letters M-Z. Please adhere to the time that fits your child's last name. I ask that you show respect to all grade levels and stay for all performances. The program will last about 45 minutes. Please see flyer below.

MAP Testing

Our winter benchmark testing will begin the week of December 4. Please encourage your child to do their very best on the assessment. This test measures your child's academic progress 3 times during the school year. It helps teachers know where students are in their learning. The test is not graded; the data helps the teacher determine and ensure students are getting what they need to succeed. If you would like to know how your child has done on the test prior to the official sheet going home, please reach out to the classroom teacher.

E-Learning Days

Please keep handy the E-Learning Plan for Emergency Days that was sent by the district. We will follow that plan in the event students cannot physically be at school. You will also need to monitor the teacher's Schoology page for additional information regarding the schedule and necessary Zoom links.

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: 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

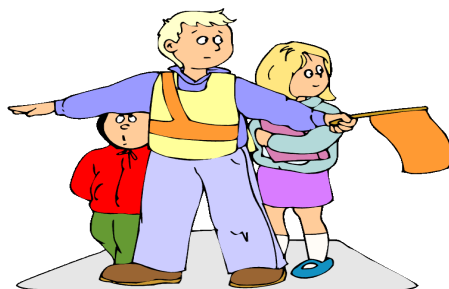


What can we do together to PREVENT bullying behavior?

- 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.

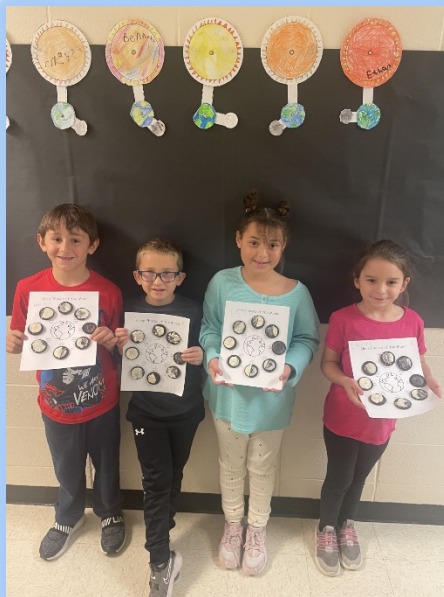
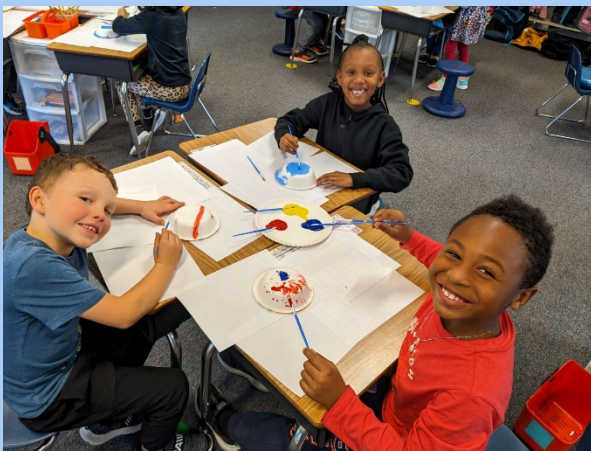
Thank you for your understanding. I look forward to an outstanding year with you and your child!



First Grade News

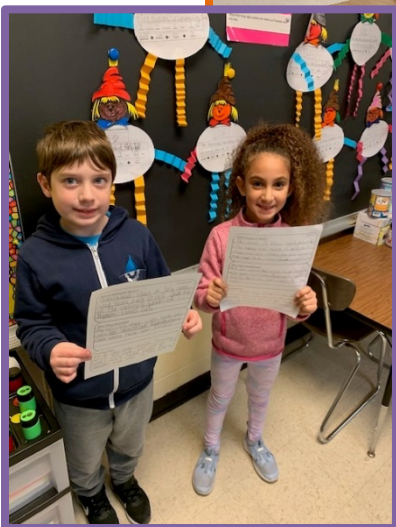
First grade students spent time learning about the moon in technology while interacting with a "mission to the moon" lesson with Mr. Schneider. They learned all about the different moon phases. Students told us that the crescent moon sometimes looks like a watermelon slice, macaroni, banana, and a croissant! Very clever ideas! They learned about tools like binoculars and telescopes to help us view and explore the nighttime sky. After learning about the moon cycle, they received moon logs to use for observation of the moon each night.

In the classroom, students made a moon model craft that represents the way the moon orbits the Earth all while orbiting around the sun. One of our favorite moon activities was creating their own moon cycles with Oreo cookies in class. They enjoyed snacking on them, too! While learning about planets, students got creative and painted their very own planet and gave their planets a unique name. We have had a blast learning about the moon and beyond so far!



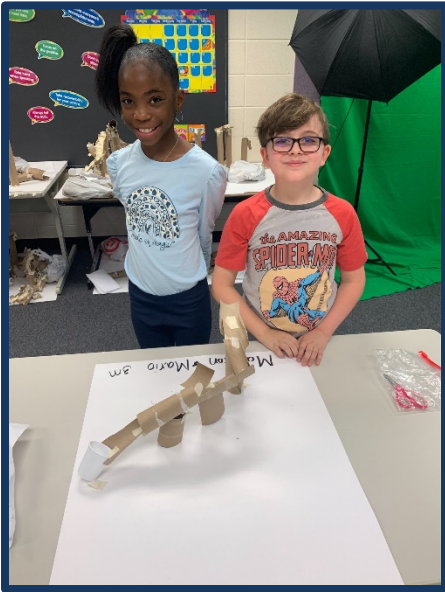
Second Grade News

Second Graders are storming the weather channel with forecasts of all kinds! After researching different types of weather with the help of our tablets, students chose one type of storm such as a hurricane, blizzard, thunderstorm, and tornado and collected information about that storm using Pebble Go. After that, students used a weather forecast template helping them organize their facts and details. Finally, using green screen technology, students delivered live weather forecasts right amid their storms! Through wind and rain these future meteorologists gave the best and bravest performances. Ratings from our weather channels are soaring! Tune in to keep up or catch up with the latest updates and information on storms coming your way!



Third Grade News

Students in third grade STEM have been busy making marble tracks with the toilet and paper towel tubes they had collected. Working with a partner, they constructed the tracks with turns and drops for a marble to roll through smoothly. This project fostered cooperation, and perseverance. Nice job boys and girls!

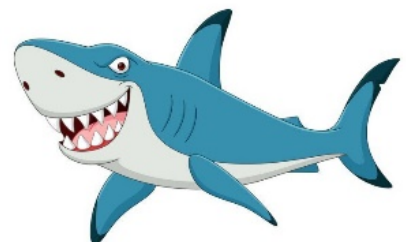
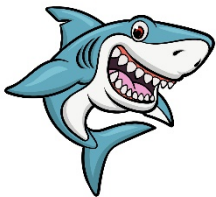
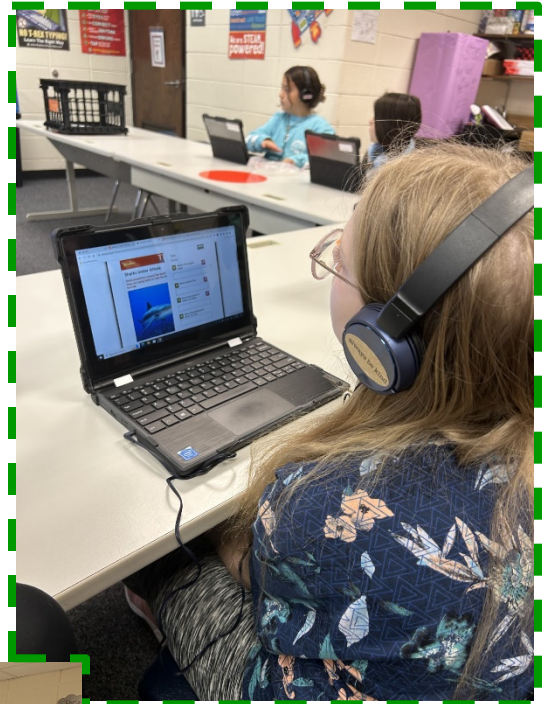
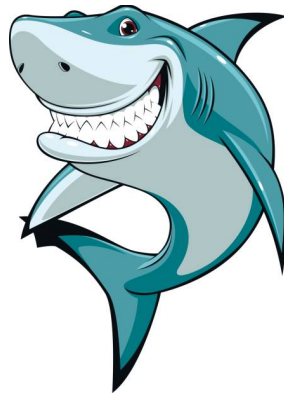
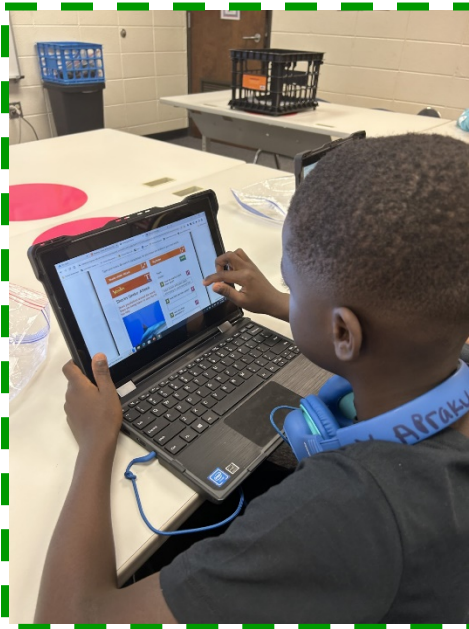




Wandersen crew builds marble race tracks

Fourth Grade News

In Technology, the fourth-grade students at Indian Trail have been working on a multi-step guided research project on Sharks using the Reading Wonders website. Under the guidance of Mr. Schneider, the students have the task of creating a research paper and final presentation using PowerPoint, Wixie, creating a diorama, or making a video. The students have been going through the process of completing an informative performance task each week. The first week of the project was to Analyze the Task to come up with a research plan on the topic of Sharks. Next, the students were to Evaluate the Sources by choosing which available sources will be used to complete the task. Next, to Take Notes based off the sources each student selected. The next two steps are to Organize their Notes to Create an Outline, to write a first draft and to work with a classmate to edit and revise for a final submission. Lastly, each student will plan and design their final presentation and publish their writing.



Indian Trail PE News

In Physical Education Class at Indian Trail School, we started our holiday games with various games centered around the holiday. We started off with a game called Ghost Busters where each student had their own ghost that they had to protect and prevent from getting knocked over. We then transitioned over to our memory game of Pumpkin Patch. Students had to work together in teams to be the first group to find their group picture hidden in the pumpkin patch.

As we finished up with our holiday games, we then moved into our basketball unit. In this unit, students are taught the fundamental basketball skills of dribbling, passing, and shooting the basketball. This will help students improve upon balance, stamina, and hand-eye coordination that will be continuously developed throughout the school year.





Indian Trail's 10th Annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest!

The Indian Trail "Make a Difference" Service Club, along with the parents and students of Indian Trail, had their TENTH Pumpkin Decorating Contest/Food Drive. Students in grades 1-4 decorated and brought in pumpkins to help decorate the media center. The catch?!? Everyone that entered the contest brought in food to benefit Frankfort Food Pantry.

The contest had about 150 entries. The Make a Difference Club Service Club members, as well as the teachers, and Principal Dana Wright voted on the most creative and artistic pumpkins.

The students and their families were very generous with their donations and the school collected about 8 boxes of food to help the needy at Thanksgiving.

A special thanks to the winners for showing such creativity!

First grade winners: Bennet Lavelle and L.D.

Second grade winners: Ella Schwartz and Kyle Robinson

Third grade winners: Carter Campanile and Makenzie Shulman

Fourth grade winners: Kendall Savary and Spencer Williams

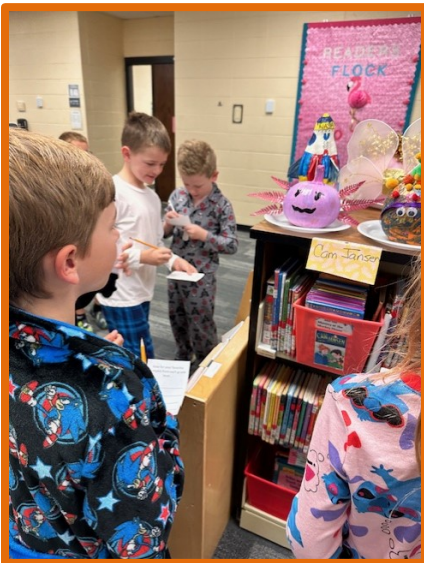
2023 Winners!



Pumpkin Entries-spooky, scary, and cute!



Service Club Members Voting on the winning pumpkins!



All proceeds of food donated to the Frankfort Food Pantry



Thank You for Contributing!

PBIS NEWS

A PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) school is an approach to behavior management and support that focuses on creating a positive and inclusive school environment. PBIS is based on the idea that teaching and reinforcing positive behaviors is more effective than solely relying on punishment for negative behaviors.

As a PBIS school, we've kicked off the year in some fun ways. Students began by learning expectations in various parts of the building like the playground, the cafeteria, and the hallways. Students who are caught being responsible, respectful, and safe are rewarded with PBIS tickets. Tickets can be used at the PBIS store monthly as a positive reward for their outstanding behavior.

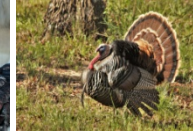
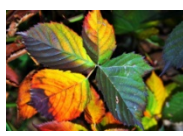
The school also enjoyed Ned's Mindset Mission assembly where students learned how to Never give up, Encourage others, and always Do your best. Our yo-yo sales after the show were so successful, we exceeded the cost of the show! This allowed us to purchase some yo-yos for the PBIS store. The yo-yos will be added to our monthly raffle drawing in the PBIS store.

In November, we enjoyed an amazing performance presented by our 4th grade choir students. The entire school was captivated by the music our choir students showcased under the direction of Mr. Lewis. We are incredibly proud of our choir! The concert ended with a special surprise, as everyone in the audience raised coloring pages or letters that said, " Your performance was outstanding!!!"

Families can support PBIS by encouraging their students to be respectful, responsible, and safe. Families may also donate items to our PBIS store. Donations of new small toys, wrapped McDonalds toys, and other age-appropriate novelty items are always appreciated.







Nature Club

Nature Club members have had a wonderful start to the year by making a list of all of the things THEY wanted to learn about.

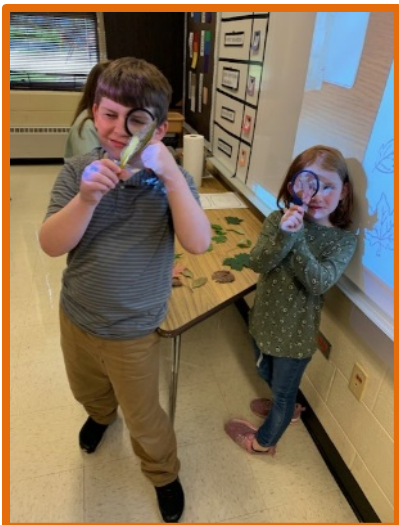
Initially, there were requests about plants and flowers, and what makes them grow? We researched that and learned all about the importance of the honeybee. They are one of the most important pollinators for flowers, fruits, and vegetables. Did you know that the world has lost more than HALF of its honeybees? We are learning how important it is for all of us to plant flowers that are rich in nectar.

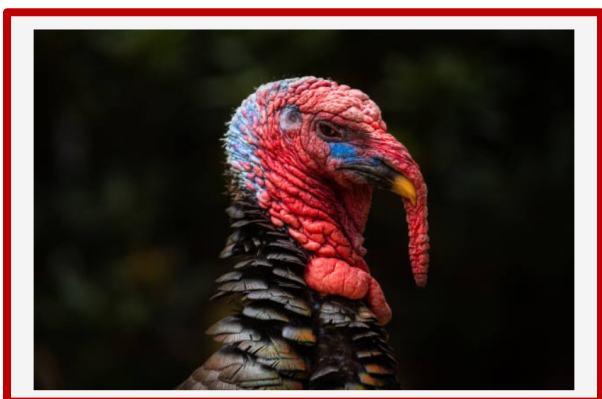
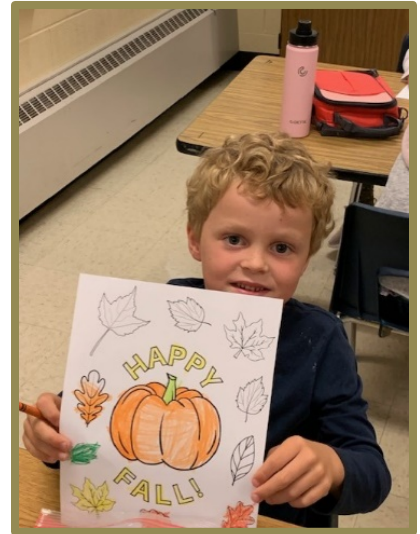
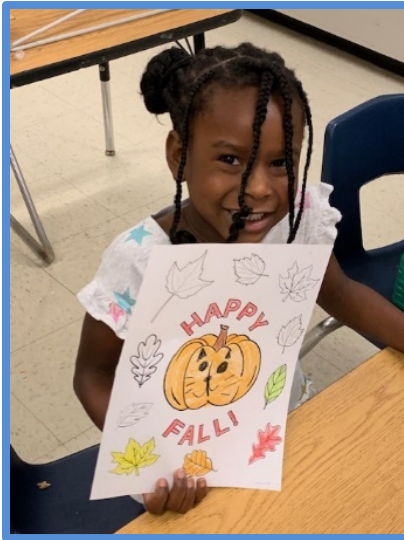
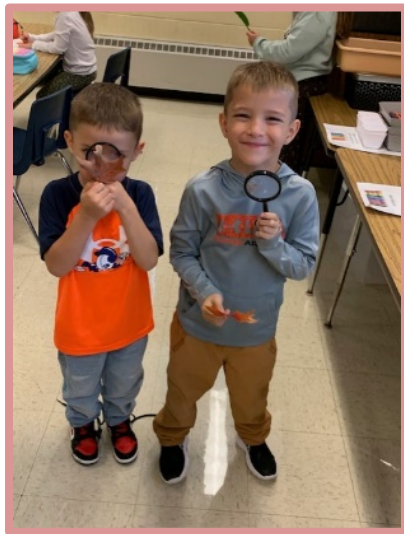
Then, there were requests for learning why leaves change colors and why do trees lose their leaves? This series of questions brought us to a discovery investigation where students brought in a variety of leaves and we studied the changes they were making with magnifying glasses. It was so much fun to see the colors change week to week, and to see the leaves and their veins UP CLOSE with the magnifying glasses.

After that, students wanted to learn about turkeys, and were they surprised to watch videos of what "wild, domestic" turkeys actually look like! We learned about the "domestic" turkey and were surprised with how different they look in color and size!

Ever wonder what that red object is that drapes over a turkey's beak is called? It's a SNOOD! And did you know that only male turkeys GOBBLE! Most of the time they gobble just to let females know they are near, but any loud noise can alert them and make them gobble, gobble, gobble...

Happy Thanksgiving from Nature Club! Enjoy our pictures!





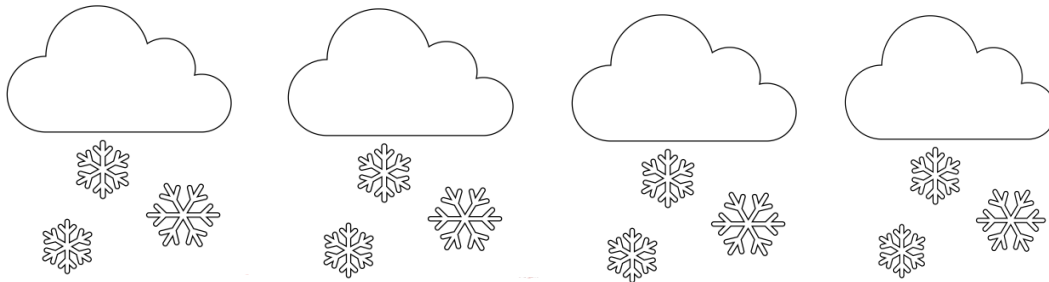
Winter Program 2023: All About Snow!

Indian Trail Elementary School

December 13, 2023

Morning Show: 10:00-10:45am

Afternoon Show: 1:30-2:15pm



Join us for a celebration of winter and snow this December. Winter is an exciting time filled with snow, cold, family, and exciting activities. What better way to celebrate the excitement for the beauty of snow, the excitement of a snow day, and the adventure of sledding and having snowball fights than through song?

We will have a morning and an afternoon show. Your attendance is based off of your student's last name. Please plan your attendance as outlined below.

Last names A-L: Morning Show (10:00am-10:45am)

Last names M-Z: Afternoon Show (1:30pm-2:15pm)



*If you have any questions,
please contact me at slewis@summithill.org*



Winter Program 2023: All About Snow!

Where?

*Indian Trail School
20912 S. Frankfort Square Road
Frankfort, IL 60423*

*Park in either parking lot and enter
the gym from doors 15 and 16.*

When?

Wednesday, December 13th

*last names A–J
10:00am–10:45am*

*last names M–Z
1:30pm–2:15pm*

Dress Code

*Whatever is festive for your wintertime celebration! Do you
celebrate Eid? Wear a sari or a kurta! Christmas? Wear a
festive sweater or dress! Hanukkah? Kwanzaa? Las Posadas?
Wear what you would wear to your celebrations!*

Livestream info

*Both performances will be livestreamed for those who are unable to
attend in person! [Click here](#) to be brought to the website. Feel free
to share this with friends and family who are able to watch
remotely!*

*We hope to see you there! The
students have been working very
hard on their music to share it with
you. They can't wait to finally have
an audience to sing for!*

Questions?

*Contact Mr. Lewis at
slewis@summithill.org*

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

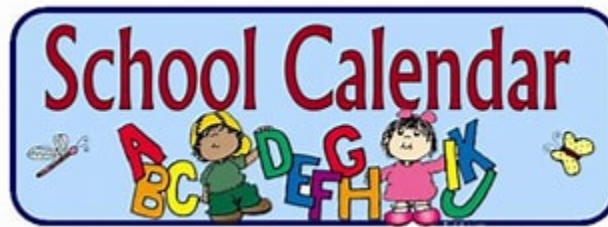
- May 24: Fourth Grade Party/Awards*
- May 29: Field Day*

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

