

INDIAN TRAIL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Home of the Trailblazers

March 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 March:

March 7 - SCO Activity Night

March 8 - Report Card Day

March 11 - SCO (zoom) Mtg.

March 15 - SCO Treat Day

March 19 - 3rd gr. Field Trip

March 20 - Board Meeting

March 21 - SCO Hot Lunch Day

March 21 - Spring Choir Concert

March 22 - Spring Picture Day

March 25-April 1 - Spring Break

April 2 - School Resumes



Dear Trailblazer Parents and Guardians,

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. To participate in the survey, please visit: <http://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/>.

IAR Assessment

The Third and Fourth Grade students will soon be taking the IAR Assessment in English language arts and math. Students will be actively exploring the many different tools that will be available to complete the test items, as well as taking practice tests. We need your help and support during the testing window of April 4th – April 16th. The students will be taking a total of 5 assessments (3 Math and 2 ELA). The testing time for each assessment ranges from 60 to 90 minutes. If needed, the students will be given a short break during the assessment. To make the testing go smoothly, we are asking that you help assist by doing the following:

- Ensuring your child is getting a good night sleep
- Make sure your child eats a healthy well-balanced breakfast
- Encourage them to attend school each day and arrive on time
- Wish your child good luck each day and remind them to listen carefully to instructions
- Remind your child the test is important and to do their very best
- Explain to your child the importance of using their time wisely
- Encourage your child to stay focused on the test even if others have finished

If you have any questions about the assessment, please do not hesitate to reach out to the classroom teacher or me.

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

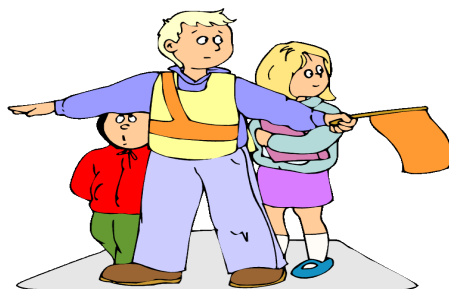


What can we do together to PREVENT bullying behavior?

- 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.

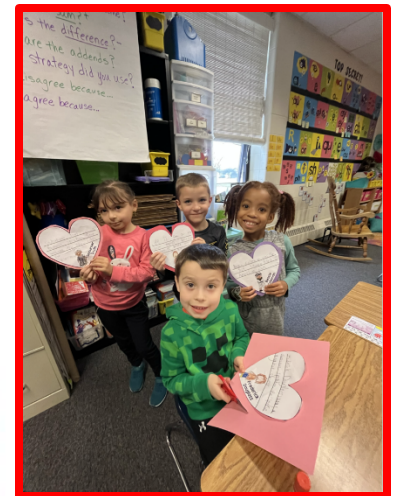
Thank you for your understanding. I look forward to an outstanding year with you and your child!



First Grade News

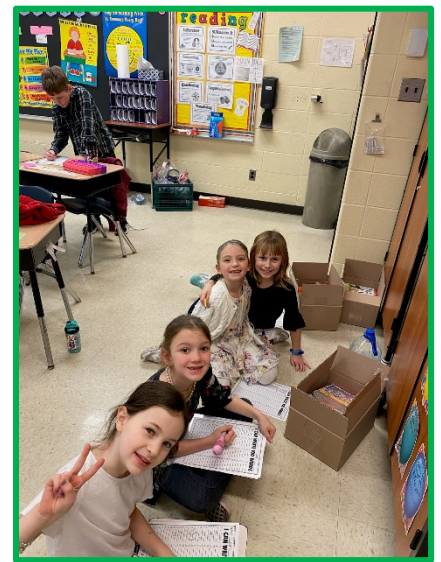
First-graders have been busy researching famous African Americans who have made a profound impact on society to celebrate Black History Month. Students worked diligently on PebbleGo to conduct their research. After researching, each student created a short summary regarding their famous person. They wrote their summaries and colored pictures of their famous people on hearts, which we have posted in the hallway to create a beautiful display for all to see. In addition to verbally sharing each other's summaries, the display in the hallway is a wonderful way to showcase their hard work and spread knowledge and awareness for each individual studied. Students were proud of their hard work!

Our first-graders have all recently had opportunities to serve as the Kindness Crew for the school. They were thrilled to have the opportunity to spread kindness and share that with everyone in our school. Their enthusiasm for spreading kindness is truly inspiring, and it's amazing to see their dedication to making a positive impact on their school community. It is heartwarming to see how students continue to work hard to spread kindness wherever they go!

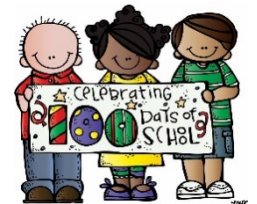


Second Grade News

Don't let the pictures fool you, these are second graders at Indian Trail! The second graders celebrated being 100 days smarter on the 100th Day of School by dressing up as if they were 100 years old. They also had fun playing games, winning tickets, and earning prizes at the Winter Carnival. Time sure flies when you are having fun!

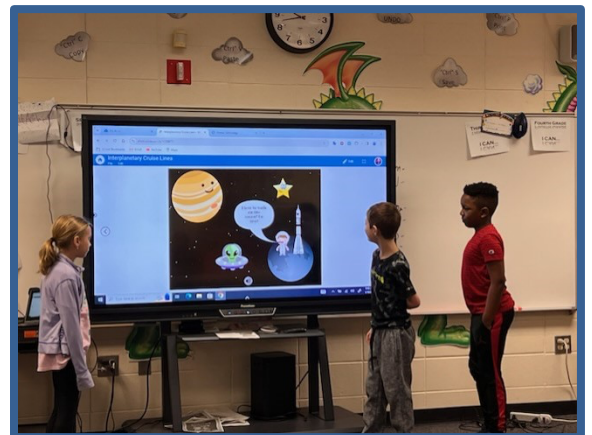
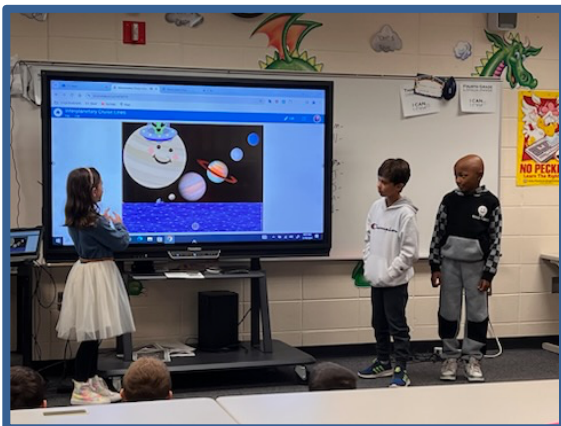
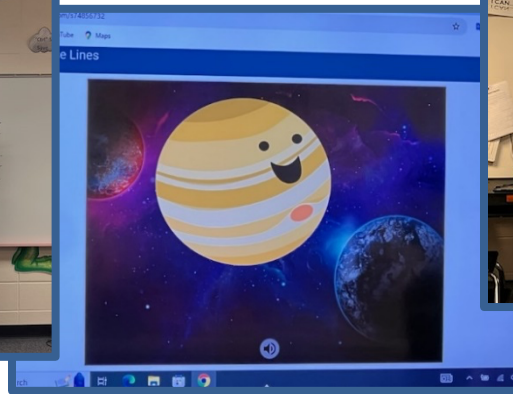
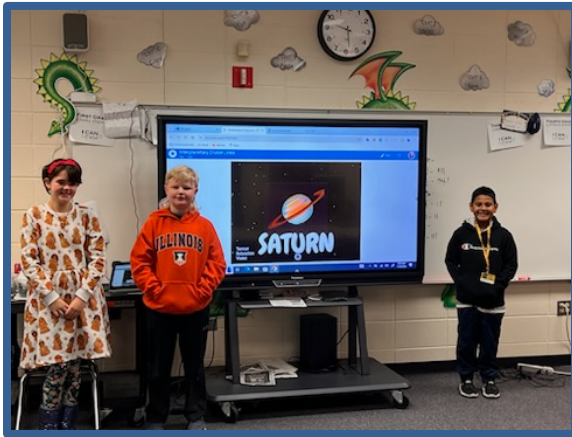


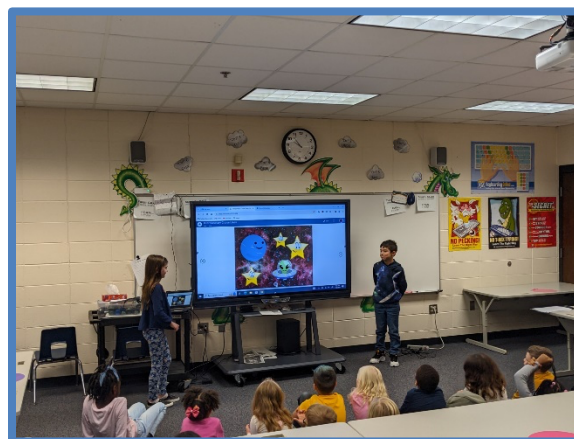
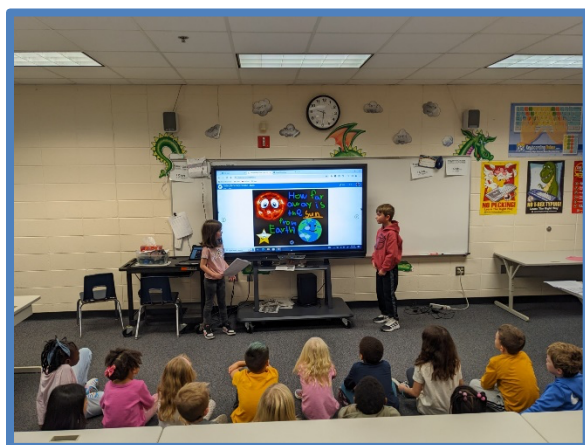
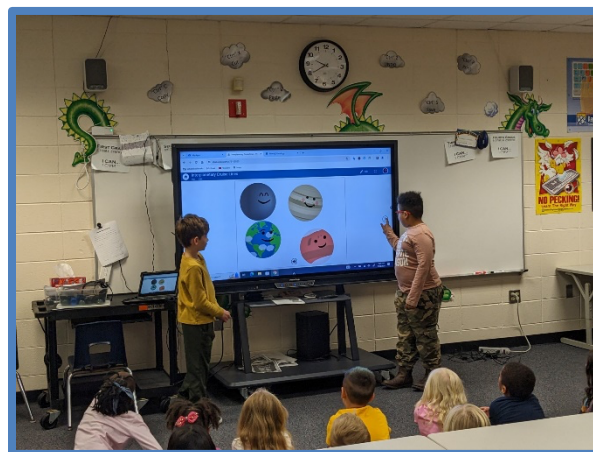
**100
DAYS OF
SCHOOL!**



Third Grade News

All 3rd grade classes completed an Interplanetary space travel project in Technology class as an extension to our ELA Wonder's anchor text called Earth and Its Neighbors. Each student group was given a planet to research in order to create a promotional travel guide. Using their research from Pebble Go students designed their presentation using Wixie. Students were able to use the "TALKIE" magic sticker feature where their planet came to life sharing unique facts. Their job was to convince potential clients to board their ship and be whisked away to their planet. Students in first grade were invited to watch the presentation and vote for their favorite planet!! Overall, Jupiter received the most votes as the planet everyone would like to visit.

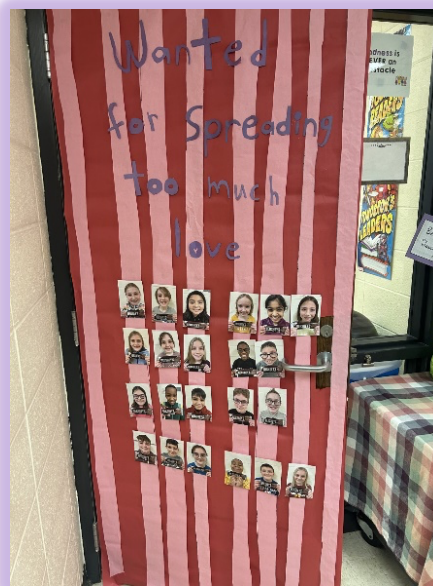




Mrs. Wandersen's Class

Fourth Grade News

All classes at Indian Trail participated in a PBIS door decorating contest during the month of February. Each fourth-grade classroom had their own unique theme. Mrs. Heenan's students made Friendship Cinquain poems. Each student interviewed another student in the class to gain more knowledge about that person. Their "Heart Full of Poems" door was decorated with lots of colorful poem hearts. Ms. Farrell's class put on a spin on their door with the title "Wanted for Spreading Too Much Love." Each student is pictured as a WANTED STUDENT holding a Hershey Chocolate Bar. Mrs. Darby and Mrs. Skrobanski's classes both took on the theme of "What They Love Most About Their Class." Each door was decorated with hearts of love with positive sentiments about what their students love about their class.



Indian Trail PE News

In Physical Education class at Indian Trail School, we started our Jump rope unit in conjunction with the Kids Heart Challenge. As we begin our jump rope unit, we instruct students on many different jump rope skills that improve agility, increase cardiovascular fitness, builds stronger bones and muscles, and improves balance and coordination. Jumping rope can be a fun way to improve overall well-being and burn calories at the same time.



Mrs. Pfeiffer's class practicing their jump rope skills.



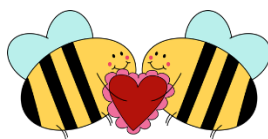
Mrs. Aleo's class practicing their jump rope skills.



News from Ms. Hand

Ms. Hand's EL students showed themselves some love this Valentine season when they designed their very own self-love mason jars to compete in the February Love door contest. Students used social-emotional learning skills (aka Second Step) to brainstorm what they loved about themselves. Next, students created their self-love mason jars. Students reflected on what they loved about themselves during this activity. This was a great reminder to always take care of yourself and love yourself because you are amazing. Here is a list of things that the students loved about themselves: funny, helpful, playful, smart, kind, hair, handsome, good daughter, wonderful, intelligent, great big brother, beautiful, good aunt, mindful, pretty, and strong.

Self-love is so sweet!



Sports/Health Club

As you can see from the pictures, the "Clubbers" are having lots of fun jumping around. In PE we are in our jump rope unit, so they get a little extra time practicing their jumping skills. They also get to use some specialty jumping equipment like hoop jumps, ball hops, and different variants of weighted ropes.





Mitten Drive

The Indian Trail Make a Difference Club asked for donations of mittens, hats, earmuffs, scarves, and gloves for our "Mitten Tree" in January and February. Our club collected several large boxes of hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves that benefitted local shelters. During winter, these donations will really keep children warm. Thanks to everyone that helped out!



"undecorating" the tree and boxing up the many hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves



Service Club members in front of our "Mitten Tree"



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

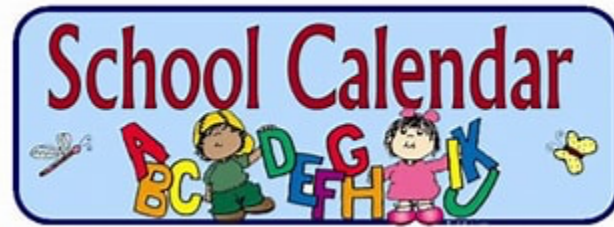
- May 24: Fourth Grade Party/Awards*
- May 29: Field Day*

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

