

In this Issue:

Week of the Young Child
Celebration,
Earth Day,
Meet Our Staff,
and More...



WEEK OF THE YOUNG
CHILD
APRIL 10-APRIL 16



IJHS SPRING PLAY,
The Lion King, Jr.
APRIL 15 & 16



CLASS OF 2012 REUNION
APRIL 21
INDEPENDENCE JR. JIGH

PALOS HEIGHTS 128 eNEWS

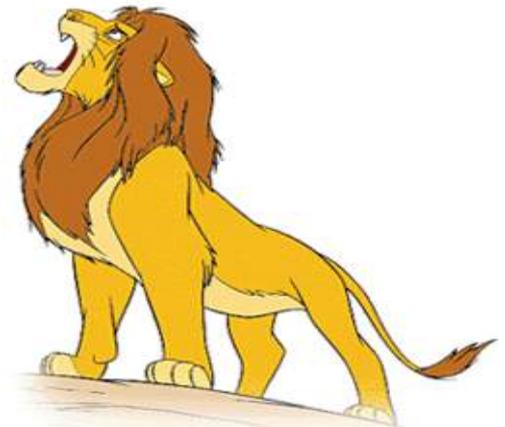
School start and end times for 2016-2017

Indian Hill -	9:00 - 3:00
Chippewa -	8:35 - 3:05
Navajo -	8:15 - 2:45
Independence	8:10 - 2:58



Spring Play Preview for Chippewa Students

The cast from the IJHS Spring Play, "The Lion King, Jr." previewed the big show to the Chippewa students during lunch time.



More -- "The Lion King, Jr." Preview...

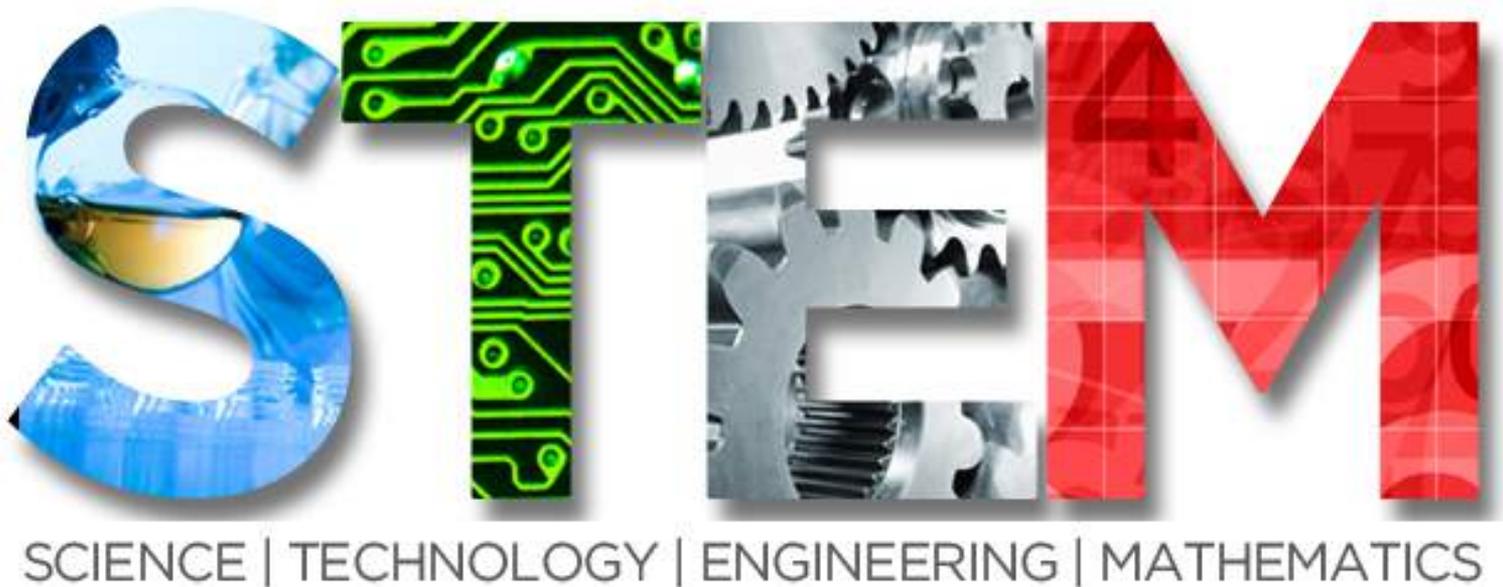


New Jr. High Schedule

Exciting things are happening at IJHS!

This week the board of education approved a new junior high schedule that includes the hiring of an additional math teacher. This will allow us to almost double the number of math minutes our junior high students receive currently. Additionally, the board approved the hiring of a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) teacher as one of the ENCORE classes in addition to music and art. We are excited to be offering these opportunities to our students in order to best prepare them for their future.

A huge thank you to everyone who worked on this endeavor.



Students master the standards instead of accumulating points.

Kristine Nannini
YoungTeacherLove

Independence Junior High School is hosting a parent informational night for all parents on Tuesday, April 26 at 6:00 PM in the IJHS Gym. The purpose of the evening will be focused on helping to educate parents on the practices of standards-based reporting, its history here in Palos Heights School District 128, and its transition to the junior high school for the 2016-2017 school year.

The Hamburger Rubric

1	2	3	4
<p>Student needs reteaching and extra support to understand what is required to meet the standard.</p> 	<p>Student has added some "meat" to his/her understanding of the concept and/or performance. With some revision, this work can meet standard.</p> 	<p>Student has demonstrated proficiency. He/she understands the concept and has met performance requirements. This work meets the standard.</p> 	<p>Student demonstrates understanding and performance beyond proficiency and has exceeded the standard.</p> 
Getting Started	Work In Progress	Standard Work	Deluxe Work



High Quality Early Childhood Education results in....

- Improved academic achievement with higher reading and math scores
- Former Preschool for All students maintained academic gains in grades 4 through 8 and performed well on standardized tests
- At risk students who attended state PreK programs performed average or above average in K-3 core subjects
- At least \$7.00 savings for every \$1.00 spent
- Increased High School Graduation rate
- Greater likelihood of attending a 4 year college
- Higher cognitive scores
- Decreased rate of teen pregnancy
- Decreased referrals for special education
- Decreased involvement in criminal justice system
- Higher wages later in life

Research shows the economic benefits of early childhood education. Tax dollars spent on early childhood development provide extraordinary returns compared with investments in the public or private sectors. Not only is the potential return as high as 16% per year but the broader economy also benefits because individuals who participate in high quality programs have greater skills than they otherwise would and they contribute productively to their local economies. (James Heckman, Nobel Laureate in Economics, U of C; and A.J. Rolnick, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis)

CALL FOR BALANCED FUNDING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

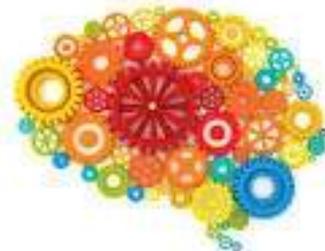
Governor Bruce Rauner
 (217) 782-0244
 (312) 814-2121

Tony Smith, Ph.D.
 State Superintendent of Education
 (217) 782-4321
 (312) 814-2220

Senator Bill Cunningham
 (773) 445-8128
 (217) 782-5145

Representative Monique Davis
 (773) 445-9700
 (217) 782-0010

Representative Kelly Burke
 (708) 425-0571
 (217) 782-0515



**700 neural connections
 formed every second during
 the earliest years of life***

Week of the Young Child

Mayoral proclamation



Celebrations at Indian Hill



Jr. High Students Write...

What impact did the death of Abraham Lincoln have on the United States?
Students look at primary sources to gather evidence to write an argumentative paper in English/Language Arts.



IJHS CLASS OF 2012 REUNION

**Independence Junior High School
Class of 2012**

Is invited to

**A Gathering of Friends
Enjoying Open Gym, Food, & Music**

**Thursday, April 21, 2016
6:30 to 8:30p.m.**

**at
Independence Junior High School**

**To reminisce about the "Good Old Days"
at Independence Junior High School**

**Sponsored by
The Board of Education and
the Administration of Palos Heights School District 128**

R.S.V.P. to Mrs. Walta at (708) 448-0737 by Wednesday, April 20

Bring memorabilia of elementary school activities for all to see.


on behalf of the Board & District Administration

CHIPPEWA 3rd GRADE RUNNING CLUB



The third grade running club started on April 11. Fifty third grade students are enjoying the great outdoors and learning the how to stretch and run up to 2 miles!

Independence Junior High made the 2015 Annual Report for National Breast Cancer Foundation!!!

Thank you to sponsor Jessica Gabriel for her work and the work of our entire IJHS school community for their five year commitment to such an important cause!

FUNDRAISERS

5-Year Fundraisers

Grace Christian Educational Association
4th Annual Janet Kucharski Memorial Volleyball Tournament
Wetervliet, Michigan

Lionel T. Ward
Be an Angel Breast Cancer Fundraiser
Burke, Virginia

WV Gymnastics Training Center, Inc.
Mountaineer Classic
Morgantown, West Virginia

Independence Jr. High School
Student Fundraiser
Palos Height, Illinois

Atchison Co. Community Jr./Sr. High School
Student Fundraiser
Effingham, Kansas

Top 5 Most Raised & Most Unique

 Mush for a Cure \$40,000	 Tranquil Movement Parcour Tournament
 American Golf Foundation \$26,618	 Josie James Dog Walking
 Gold's Gym SoCal Group \$20,788	 Marie Sorrendino Head Shave Part 2
 Pinot's Palette \$20,460	 Amanda Rothenbuhler Hookin' for Hope Powder Puff Truck Pull
 Texas Legends \$20,000	 Angie Chouefati Laugh in the Face of Breast Cancer

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrate

EARTH DAY

DAY APRIL 22





RECYCLING NEWS



Bottles and Cans

In 2004, 55 billion aluminum cans were landfilled, littered or incinerated, that's 9 billion more than were wasted in 2000. This is enough cans to fill the Empire State Building twenty times. It is also a quantity equivalent to the annual production of three to four major primary aluminum smelters.

Because so many of them are recycled, aluminum cans account for less than 1% of the total U.S. waste stream, even so, the energy required to replace the just the aluminum cans wasted in 2001 was equivalent to 16 million barrels of crude oil, enough to meet the electricity needs of all homes in Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, San Francisco and Seattle. During the time it takes you to read this sentence, 50,000 more 12-ounce aluminum cans are made. Let's recycle them. Although recycling is the most common method of plastic waste pollution prevention, less than one percent of all plastics products are recycled in the U.S. Americans throw away 25,000,000 plastic beverage bottles every hour!

RECYCLING NEWS - Part 2

Paper

Each ton (2000 pounds) of recycled paper can save: 3.5 cubic yards of landfill 17 thirty foot (pulp) trees 7,000 gallons of water 380 gallons of oil 4100 kwh of energy

And, at the same time eliminate 60 pounds of air pollutants
[Recycling](#) 1 ton of [paper](#) saves 17 mature trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 2 barrels of oil, and 4000 kilowatt hours of electricity. This is enough energy to power the average American home for 5 months.

The [process of recycling](#) paper instead of making it from new materials generates 74 percent less air pollution and uses 50 percent less water.

Manufacturing recycled paper uses 60 percent of the energy needed to make paper from new materials.

Over 73 percent of all newspapers are recovered for recycling. About 33 percent of this is used to make newsprint the rest is used to make paperboard, tissue, or insulation.

A little more than 48 percent of all office paper is recycled. This is used to make writing papers, paperboard, tissue, and insulation.

Enough [plastic](#) is produced in the United States each year to shrink wrap Texas.

In 1998 Americans used 2 billion pounds of HDPE to make plastic bottles for household products. That's the equivalent weight of 90,000 Honda civics.

Approximately 88 percent of the energy is saved when plastic is made from plastic rather than from the raw materials of gas and oil.

Enough [plastic bottles](#) are thrown away in the United States each year to circle the Earth four times.



Meet Our Staff...

Corey Breyne

1. The position I hold is Physical education teacher, and this is my 10th year teaching and 8th year at IJHS.
2. I grew up in Aurora, and I now live in Bolingbrook.
3. My favorite way to spend a Sunday afternoon is with my wife and son, watching football, racing mountain bikes, golfing, or many other outdoor activities.
4. If I weren't in this line of work, I would be a fireman/paramedic.
5. Growing up, my parents, teachers and coaches were important influences in my life.



**Corey Breyne,
PE Teacher,
Independence Jr. High School**

Sharon Herman



**Sharon Herman,
Director of
Teaching and Learning**

1. The position I hold is Director of Teaching and Learning, and this is my first year.
2. I grew up in south Chicago, Mount Greenwood and Beverly, and now live in Orland Park.
3. My favorite way to spend Sunday afternoon is cooking a big meal all afternoon while reading the newspapers.
4. If I weren't in this line of work, I might be in a medical field.
5. Growing up, my teachers were important influences in my life.

We have a Great Staff!

Meet Our Staff...

Pam Koutras

1. The position I hold is secretary at Navajo Heights School, and this is my ninth year. Prior to that, I was an aide in the district for about 6 years.
2. I grew up in Coon Rapids, MN and now live in Palos Heights.
3. My favorite way to spend Sunday afternoon is to be in my "room" watercolor painting, quilting, or machine embroidering.
4. If I weren't in this line of work I would be ...I don't know! I've been a secretary all my life and love it! Maybe a nightclub singer.
5. Growing up, my mom was an important influence in my life.



**Pam Koutras,
Secretary,
Navajo Heights School**

Lori Pierce

1. The position I hold is Pre-K teacher, and this is my 9th year.
2. I grew up in Alsip and now live in the same area.
3. My favorite way to spend a Sunday afternoon is with my family or shopping.
4. If I weren't in this line of work, I would be working in the medical field or at Disney.
5. Growing up, my Grandmothers were an important influence in my life.



**Lori Pierce,
Preschool Teacher,
Indian Hill School**

We have a Great Staff!