



Iowa Valley Tiger Tracks

Education: A Community Partnership

www.iowa-valley.k12.ia.us

Save Our SAVE Funds

The Iowa Legislature created the SAVE (Secure an Advanced Vision for Education) Fund in 2008 to replace SILO (Local Option Sales Tax Act). These two funding programs were similar in nature, but SILO was based on county tax receipts, causing major inequities between rural and urban school districts. SAVE tried to balance these inequities as people tended to shop in more urban areas, creating more revenue for larger school districts. Supporting data showed that \$54 million more was received in urban areas compared to rural districts.

SAVE funds can help school districts with equipment and facility needs. It can also assist with the purchase of technology equipment, infrastructure, and updating other equipment needs. Districts can also borrow against future SAVE dollars. This is how the new gym was funded. Another use of SAVE funds is to provide property tax relief. However, due to low SSA (Supplemental State Aid) percentages, districts have not been fortunate to be able to do this as often as they would like to due to rising costs for capital needs. It has, however, provided indirect property tax relief by not levying at

higher rates to make “ends meet” or update facility/equipment needs.

We are hoping that community members will be strong advocates to extend SAVE funds as it is set to expire in 2029. With a reliable and stable funding stream from SAVE, we will continue to be able to update roofs, classrooms, gyms, technology needs, pianos, security systems, etc. Not extending SAVE for another twenty years, will have a negative impact on all of Iowa’s school facilities and programs for students. Let’s advocate with our legislators for the repeal of the 2029 sunset and extend SAVE funds for another 20 years.

School Board Work Session

The school board has been busy over the past few months reviewing IASB (Iowa Association of School Boards) standards, setting physical plant and academic support goals, and reviewing trend data for best allocation of financial resources for programs. The school board has worked diligently in creating an action plan to guide its work. The following is a list of the IASB Standards:

1. Operate as a visionary governance team in partnership with the superin-

tendent.

2. Provide effective leadership for quality instruction and high, equitable student learning.
3. Foster a culture that enables excellence and innovation.
4. Lead through sound policy, ensuring transparent, ethical, legal operations.
5. Sustain and enhance district resources through planning and fiduciary oversight.
6. Advocate for public education and the needs of Iowa students.

We will share our action plan later this year, understanding that this will always be a fluid document. Education is not stagnant; it is progressive, student-centered, ever-changing, relevant, fiscally responsible, flexible, and efficient. Welcome to the world of continuous learning!

Mrs. Donita Joens,
Superintendent



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Special points of interest:

- Mar. 1 Elementary Picture Day
- Mar. 4 FFA District Convention
- Mar. 7 Preschool Registration 530-630 pm
- Mar. 8 1 pm Early Dismissal
- Mar. 9 JH Play 630 pm
- Mar. 10 End 3rd Quarter
- Mar. 11 Speech Individual Contest
- Mar. 13 NHS Banquet 6 pm
- Mar. 14 Spring Concert 630 pm
- Mar. 16 Family Reading Night 530-730 pm
- Mar. 16 FCS Etiquette Meal
- Mar. 22 Elementary Parent-Teacher Conf. 4-8 pm
- Mar. 23 Elementary Parent-Teacher Conf. 4-8 pm
- Mar. 24 No School

Jr.-Sr High News

Welcome to the spring of 2017!

This is my favorite time of the year! Why because “things” start to change all around us and new growth starts. Seasonal birds return to their favorite summer hang outs, whether it is the barn swallow that tries to make its nest once again under your back porch deck or in your storage shed, or the robin who tries to build its nest once again on the top of your pergola amongst the thriving grapes or trellis. At the same time, it always seems like Iowa brings with it many long months of cold and boredom. I am not much of a winter “fan,” but there are people who really look forward to the winter months, I do enjoy skiing but the cold can stay away.

We have recently completed our Iowa Assessments at the high school and are awaiting the results, we hope, before the end of this month. We end our 3rd quarter on March 10th so our seniors only have one more quarter to go. If they are reading this graduation ceremony is set for Sunday, May 21, at 2:30 p.m. and Senior Class night will be Monday night, May 15, at 6 p.m. in the high school auditorium! Maybe it’s just me but it always seems like the days just fly by this time of the year! So before you know it, we will be honoring our class of 2017!

The spring also brings with it student schedules for next year. We always try to have schedules for next year completed by the time students leave for the sum-

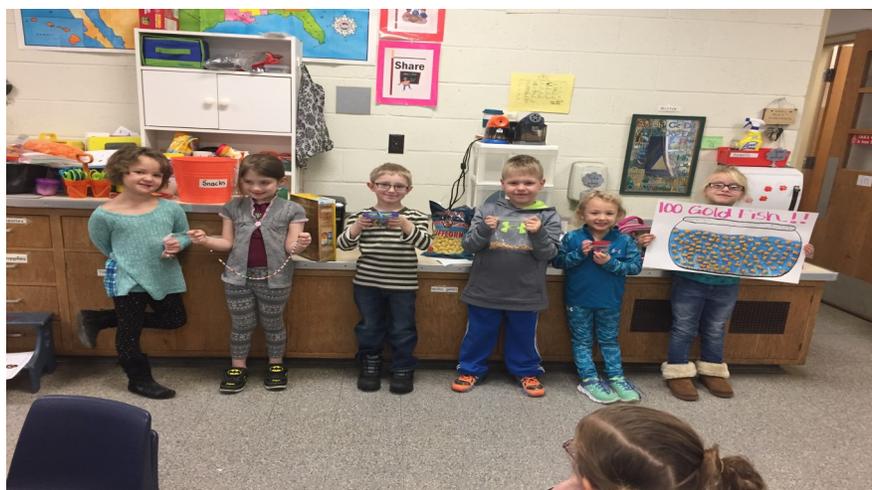
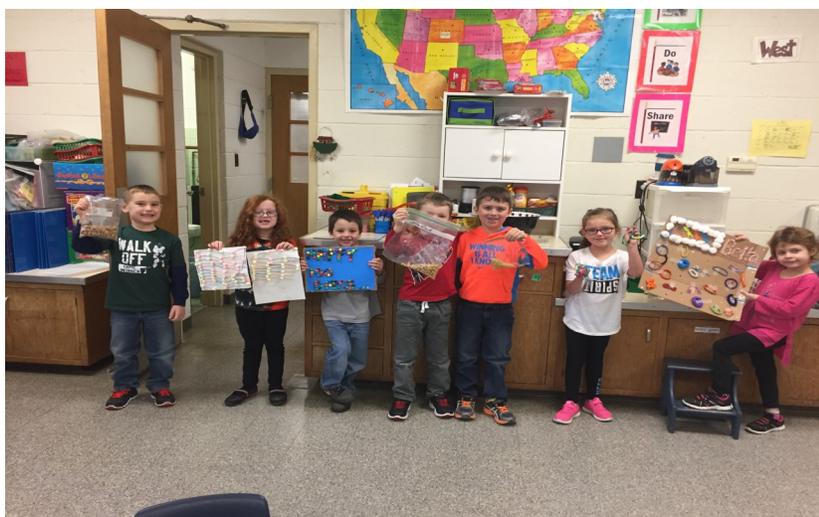
mer, but parents are always encouraged to be invested in their student’s schedule and what career field they are interested in. Current 8th grade parents, we will be contacting you about meeting with next year’s freshmen students and making plans for their 4 years in high school; this meeting will be held during our parent/teachers meeting on Wednesday, April 19, starting at 5:30 p.m. More details will be coming this next month. Enjoy this time of the year and I will talk to you next month!

Mr. Shawn Kreman, Jr.-Sr. High Principal

Kindergarten Celebration

Kindergarten celebrated the 100th day of school on January 26. Each year, we tie math skills into this special day. We count out 100 snacks to share in Friendship Trail Mix. We took 100 steps down the hall to see how far 100 steps goes! We write our numbers to 100. We made a 100 collection at home with our families. We imagine what we would buy with \$100 or what 100 things we would want to eat. We can’t believe we have been in school for 100 days!

Mrs. Pam Meier, Kindergarten Teacher



Love to Read



Love to Read has been an annual event for Iowa Valley Elementary students. A goal for our students is to become lifelong readers. In the past, students have participated in a variety of events to

achieve this goal. We will kick off Love to Read on Thursday, March 2nd, by having green eggs and ham for lunch and cupcakes from the ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. The students will celebrate reading throughout the months of February and March with special events, contests, and assemblies.

HAWKEYE
*Speakers
Bureau*

There will be a Family Reading Night on Thursday, March 16th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at

the elementary school. To go along with the theme "Reading Takes You Out Of This World," we have an exciting speaker joining us. This year we are proud to have George Hospodarsky, an Associate Research Scientist at the University of Iowa in the Physics and Astronomy Department. He has been at the U of I for over 25 years building radio and plasma wave instruments for NASA

spacecraft and studying the results. Currently, he is involved with the NASA Cassini mission orbiting Saturn, the Juno mission orbiting Jupiter, and the Van Allen Probes mission investigating Earth's Van Allen radiation belts. Along with our speaker, families will be rotating to different stations around the school. Centers will include exploring in a "Star Lab", building a space shuttle glider, creating a sticker constellation, decorating and eating a galaxy sugar cookie, playing Space BINGO, and of course visiting the book fair in the library.

Mrs. Kaley McElvain, Elementary
Title I Reading Teacher

Healthy Indicators: Mind, Body and Soul

Iowa schools and Area Education Agencies (AEAs) have a new “in” phrase in education: Differentiated Accountability (DA). This model is built to support compliance with state and federal laws as well as build capacity in five conceptual areas essential to continuous improvement in education: Assessment and Data-Based Decision-Making, Universal Instruction, Intervention System, Leadership, and Infrastructure. In the center of all five of these areas is Healthy Indicators.

“Healthy Indicators” are the things we measure to help us determine whether a particular conceptual area may need more investigation. For each conceptual area we would like to have at least one healthy indicator and not more than three. Healthy Indicators are like screening tools in that they can give us some information, but we need to dig deeper to understand what is really happening within any area.

As I work with these conceptual areas and meet with teachers and administrators, I have come to the visualization that “healthy indicators” are not just present in the data-driven areas of day-to-day mindfulness of education and testing. They can also be used in making sure our students and teachers are healthy in mind, body and soul.

We look at wellness of our staff and students when choosing the right foods to eat, or getting enough exercise and sleep before a big testing day. We collaborate with other teachers to find ways to help students who may need an extra boost of motivation or extra time spent with a teacher to understand a lesson they can’t quite grasp. It’s also making sure teachers have time to rest and recuperate so they can give their best to all of their students.

As a teacher, and now instructional coach, I see the change in education in the news, but I also see the day-to-day activities in the schools and classrooms. It is stressful. Come into any classroom, on any given day, at any given level (preschool through grade 12) and see the busyness of educating our youth.

Change is not easy and any educator that has been around for a few years knows that change is a constant in education. We just have to be mindful of why we are here and keep those “healthy indicators” in check as we strive to do the best we can under all circumstances, knowing what our end goal is – educating our children and making them successful in all they are doing or will do in the future.

Patty Miles PreK-12 Instructional Coach