

April 2019

**Special points of interest:**

- Apr. 2 Speech/Drama Banquet
- Apr. 4 Elementary Science Fair
- Apr. 8 G Track
- Apr. 9 B Track
- Apr. 10 Jr.-Sr. High Parent Teacher Conf.
- Apr. 10 9th Grade Transition
- Apr. 11 Foundation Potato Supper
- Apr. 11 Elementary Spring Concert
- Apr. 15 Pre-kindergarten Parent Orientation
- Apr. 16 Kindergarten Round Up
- Apr. 19 No School
- Apr. 22 NHS Banquet
- Apr. 25 FFA Banquet
- Apr. 27 Prom

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# Iowa Valley Tiger Tracks

[www.iowa-valley.k12.ia.us](http://www.iowa-valley.k12.ia.us)

Education: A Community Partnership



by Donita Joens, Iowa Valley CSD Superintendent

**Survey for School Improvement**

One of the most efficient methods of obtaining feedback for an organization is through a survey. The Iowa Department of Education encourages school districts to continuously improve by seeking input from its stakeholders. As a result, the Iowa Valley Community School District will begin this process over the next couple of weeks with an online survey. This survey will be user-friendly and ask questions of you to help our district improve and to uphold its mission statement of “providing a safe, comfortable, clean, and caring environment where community and staff work together to provide an education that will maximize each individual’s potential, instill a sense of self-worth, and prepare them for lifelong learning.”

To gain input from various stakeholders, we will be sending a survey to students and staff members. Parents, community members, and alumni will take the survey found on our school district’s website at [www.iowa-valley.k12.ia.us](http://www.iowa-valley.k12.ia.us) during the month of April. Areas to be surveyed will be the following: Student Growth, School Climate, Curriculum, Facilities, Finances, and Community Support/Involvement. Everyone’s opinions are greatly appreciated and important in moving forward in a positive direction.

One of the changes we made this year was the addition of student school board representatives at our board meetings. Seeking their input has brought a fresh perspective to the table. We greatly appreciate their contributions and hope these leadership experiences will help them throughout their life.



# Iowa Valley Tiger Tracks

## Generous Community Support

### **Marengo Kiwanis Donates \$500 for Elementary School Supplies**



The Iowa Valley Community School District recently received a \$500 donation from Kiwanis. This generous gift was given so elementary teachers could use these funds for classroom supplies and activities. Pictured are front row (L-R): Bill Danskin and Jan Hinrichs and back row (L-R): Alex Momany, Matt Swift, and Amy Jacobson, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher.

### **Iowa County EMS Donates Emergency Supplies and Stop the Bleed Training**



Iowa Valley and English Valleys CSDs recently participated in Stop the Bleed training as a result of Iowa County EMS writing and receiving a grant. Iowa Valley teachers learned best methods of stopping potential fatalities, due to blood loss, at their in-service on January 2 while the English Valleys teachers participated on January 14. Mike McElmeel, from Iowa EMS, was the instructor for this valuable in-service training. Not only was training provided but 20 Stop the Bleed packets for each district were given. Adam Rabe, shown above, made this grant possible as a result of his work as BS/Paramedic Director for Iowa County EMS and is holding one of the Stop the Bleed packets which contains first aid supplies and tourniquets. Thank you, Iowa County EMS, for these kits and training to keep our district a little safer.

### Big G Partners with Atlantic Bottling Company to Donate \$1,150



Atlantic Bottling Company combined efforts with Big G to help raise funds for the Iowa Valley Community School District. \$1,150 was raised in this joint venture to assist students of the IVCS. Picture above are (L-R): Greg Johnson (Atlantic Bottling Co. regional director), Garth Grafft (owner of Big G), Martin Wieck (teacher and Booster Club president), Donita Joens (IVCS Superintendent), and Brent Yakish (Atlantic Bottling Co. representative).

## Social Studies

During social studies this year, we are continuing our study on world regions and cultures. We have covered topics such as culture, the five themes of geography, population, government types, and various topics in economics. Every quarter, we have looked into a specific country a little deeper. While learning about the country, we look at its geography, history, and culture. Technology is also a huge part of social studies. Students use their chromebooks to access our Google Classroom, different websites, and complete assignments on Google Docs. At the end of the year, students will be hosting a world culture fair. Students are put into groups to study one specific country and become an expert on the country. Our tentative date for the culture fair is Wednesday, May 22nd in the afternoon at the elementary school. Everyone is welcome to come see all their hard work!

By Connie Howar and Courtney Weaks

## 19th Annual Family Science Fair

As the weather is turning warmer and the calendar approaches April, it's time again for the Iowa Valley Elementary annual Family Science Fair! This year's Family Science Fair is Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 6-7pm. The science fair was started many years ago by 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Deb Hinrichs. The annual science fair encourages students and their families in grades 1-6 to work together on a project to present at the science fair. The science fair is not a contest, but an opportunity for students to share their projects with others. Each year, the number of displays fill the multi-purpose room in the elementary. Past displays have included live animals, volcanoes, a hovercraft that attendees could ride on, a working trebuchet, oobleck that you could walk on, and a device that could solve a Rubik Cube. The public is encouraged to attend and see all the wonderful displays at this year's Family Science Fair!

By Tony Shade

# Peer Reviews:

## Teachers learning from other teachers

How do teachers learn and grow in their field? As we have looked at Iowa Valley's professional learning this year, you have seen that teachers go to conferences and workshops, they collaborate in grade level and vertical teams, they read journal articles and take classes. But one of the most eye-opening learning experiences is the peer review.

Once every three years, a teacher is to be observed and evaluated by their building principal, but in the other years when they are not evaluated, they are to be observed by one of their peers. This process has been looked at a little more carefully this year by our model teachers. When teachers plan for a peer review, it is not to evaluate their colleagues, but to reflect and learn within their own teacher practices. Teachers meet with their peer partner before the observation to plan out what the learning goal will be or what they will be focusing on, then they go into the classroom and observe, and then after the observation, they sit down again and share out what was happening.

This is a reflective practice that helps teachers see other strategies and ways of teaching. When teachers observe other teachers they allow themselves to see what might work for their own teaching. We ask the teachers to reflect on their own teaching practices and take something away to try in their own classrooms.

It is not always easy to step away from their content area or students in their own classrooms, but stepping out into the rest of the building and seeing what's working for others is one more way teachers grow and learn in their educational profession.

# Model Teacher of the Month

Mrs. Ashton Linnell is our highlighted model teacher for the month of April.

As a high school business instructor, elementary and middle school TAG teacher, yearbook sponsor, PBIS Coach/Lead Teacher, and district website coordinator, Mrs. Linnell has a very creative way of dealing with schedules and teaching strategies.

Even though she shares her time at both buildings at Iowa Valley and works with the school webpage in the virtual world, she still finds time to make connections with all students at the elementary and junior-senior high.

As I peeked in during one of her TAG classes, I found that Mrs. Linnell has an outgoing and bottomless well of energy as she prepares her elementary TAG students for the Soaring High competition. Believe me, there is a lot of energy in that room when the students are preparing for the event. They take it very seriously, which shows the dedication and integrity that Mrs. Linnell has instilled in her students.

Thanks for your creative talents and energy, Mrs. Linnell, as the Model Teacher of the Month!



Mrs. Linnell works with fourth grade students as they prepare for Soaring High competition.

Submitted by Patty Miles, (Iowa Valley K-12 Instructional Coach)