

IC The Creek

Indian Creek Local School District Newsletter

November 2023



Indian Creek educators continued training in the “Leader in Me” initiative to bolster student achievement and leadership among students. Trainings were held for elementary teachers and administrators at Indian Creek Middle School on Nov. 1, at left, while middle and high school teachers and leaders met at Indian Creek High School for their session. The district began rolling out the program this summer and will continue over the next four years.

Creek Continues “Leader in Me” Training

The Indian Creek Local School District is continuing its track to build student success through the implementation of the “Leader in Me” initiative.

More than 100 educators gathered at Indian Creek High School in Wintersville and Indian Creek Middle School in Mingo Junction on Nov. 1 for professional development training with consultants from FranklinCovey Education to learn about the challenges of academics, culture and leadership. The Utah-based program is being implemented over the next four years at Indian Creek’s schools and involves students and teachers in a bid to create a high-trust environment in schools, build student achievement and improve learning. The practices are based on educator Stephen Covey’s book, “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People,” and range from being proactive and setting goals to embracing teamwork and taking care of one’s physical, mental and emotional well-being. Since its inception, “Leader in Me” has been utilized in 5,000 U.S. schools and in 50 countries and results have indicated

increases in science test scores and positive behaviors to decreases in discipline referrals.

Columbus-based consultants Dave Baker facilitated a session for more than 50 district leaders and high school and middle school teachers at ICMS while Charles Fonbuena helmed the program for an estimated 60 elementary educators in Mingo. Officials said the lessons were the same but their enactment in the schools varied because of the grade levels.

Both ICMS and ICMS have involved students in grades 6-12 in their gatherings and fifth-graders will be added later while only teachers and administrators are involved at the elementary schools with those pupils to join in the future. More meetings are slated throughout the year and the groups, which are known as Light-house teams, look at ways to utilize practices and enable students to be college-, career-, community- and life-ready. The groups have been creating mission statements to help students succeed in school and in life.

Baker said students who feel like they have a voice are seven times more likely to be academically motivated, plus officials have seen an increase in youth engagement. He noted that schools can empower student voice by providing “more meaningful opportunities for students to participate, innovate and lead.” Additionally, the group reviewed direct lessons to use in class.

“This training is introducing five effective practices within the initiative,” Baker said, adding there were 18 in total that would be addressed over the next few years. “My goal is for teachers to walk away with some ideas to do in class to elevate the students’ voice.”

He has conducted professional trainings with teachers and administrators and workshops with staff while Fonbuena spent his first day at ICMS that Wednesday with the elementary leaders and faculty. More sessions are being set for the remainder of the

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School Designs Praised for Safety, Ingenuity

The designs of Indian Creek schools have earned praise, both for safety and ingenuity.

During the Oct. 19 school board session at Hills Elementary, officials lauded staff and administrators for preventing a possible security issue at Cross Creek Elementary and said the schematic of the building also proved effective in the situation.

Indian Creek Education Association President Karen Lloyd said secretaries, teachers and administrators responded quickly when a potential intruder attempted to enter the building on Oct. 6. The facility was quickly locked down and law enforcement arrived within minutes to take the man into custody. Lloyd said everyone used their ongoing training and reacted correctly while the new building also enabled them to stay safe. Like the other district schools, CCE is outfitted with a separate vestibule and locks to prevent access to the rest of the building.

"The teachers are very appreciative and stunned with the activities that happened at Cross Creek Elementary," Lloyd added. "I have to commend the teachers. They did exactly what they were supposed to do. I wanted to let you know that we felt really supported. Thanks to you and our community, the building played a huge part and it worked flawlessly."

She noted that a planned evacuation drill was set for next Friday as further preparation and also thanked everyone for passing levies to approve the construction of CCE and Indian Creek High School and renovations at Hills.

Board President Bob Smith concurred and said preparation was key.

"Kudos to everybody involved. You don't think it could happen here and it worked like clockwork."

Superintendent Dr. T.C. Chappellear added that law enforcement response was also quick and also praised the construct of the school.

"The design of the building did what it was supposed to do and it kept the threat out," he continued. "Hopefully that's the last test to our security."

Dr. Chappellear also thanked the secretaries, saying they did a good

job and are on the frontlines.

In related matters, Assistant Superintendent John Belt announced that the designs of CCE and ICHS also gained recognition with an award and the cover of a national publication.

"Cross Creek Elementary and the high school received design awards and the high school captured the cover of *Learning By Design*, a national magazine," Belt said.

The schools received Outstanding Project Awards in the 2023 Learning By Design Awards of Excellence and ICHS's article highlighted the flexible English and Language Arts (ELA) spaces that speak to all levels of education. The architectural team of SoL Harris/Day obtained the magazine recognition as well as a LEED Silver Award for the high school and CCE for leadership in energy and environmental design this summer.

According to the magazine's website, it publishes three times a year—in April, June and October—and is the premier source for education design and innovation excellence. It recognizes the nation's preeminent architectural firms by publishing outstanding pre-K to 12 and college/university projects. Belt said other recipients included the University of Tennessee, a community college in North Carolina and a school in Minnesota.

"It's pretty neat that we're getting national recognition and captured the cover of a national publication," he said. "A superintendent in West Virginia has already reached out to us because [his district] is in the building process and he wants to tour our schools. I think the community's appreciative to our design team and the wonderful facilities' design."

"We really appreciate the design work of SoL Harris/Day," Dr. Chappellear added. "They collaborated with our community and came up with some great ideas to meet the needs of our students, staff and community. These buildings have that 'wow' factor when people visit for the first time. We couldn't be happier with the way our partnership with SoL Harris/Day worked out."

Meanwhile, plaques will be added at Cross Creek and ICHS commemorating the recognition.

Leader

year with others eyed for the remainder of the program.

"Leader in Me' works to achieve highly effective student and adult leaders, a high-trust culture in schools and achieving academic results," Baker commented. "[Indian Creek educators] seem highly engaged and are offering great feedback. The point is to be able to put ideas into practice tomorrow."

Fonbuena took another approach and discussed how to implement practices with the younger grade levels. His program viewed how a good educator, like a chef, needs to have a good foundation and choose "quality ingredients"

for success. He also noted points of leadership such as positional and utility power, which are respectively based on fear or fairness and create immediate results, and principle-centered power, which is based on honor but results are not immediate yet last a long time.

"Teachers can model leadership to students and eventually the students will lead their own lives," he said. "This is about application to the kids but the lessons are the same [as the upper grades]."

At ICHS, where more than two-dozen

teachers and students were involved, Principal Louie Retton said he has already seen some good results.

"It's been going really well. We started implementing it this summer with students and adults on Lighthouse teams and will continue at a steady pace throughout the year," said Retton. "This is something we're going to be doing to build leadership and more student and school success. I think we're off to a great start at ICHS."

ICMS Principal Dr. Holly Minch-Hick has had 24 teachers and students participate from the beginning and the youth are taking on more leadership roles as ambassadors, assisting as greeters during events and sharing positive messages with other classes.

"Last year, we had three kids do a lesson on self-esteem and develop a better concept of ourselves. After one of our 'Leader in Me' sessions, they decided to do it again and bring in seventh-graders. The kids read a book, 'Don't Feed the Monster on Tuesday,' and explained about not focusing on negative thoughts [that feed the monster and impact self-esteem]. They went into the fifth-grade classes and taught that lesson. We were talking about ideas to share with kids and let

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them have a voice because kids listen to their peers, and we're also looking to use it with our [Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports] to make sure kids are recognized for doing the right things. We're having kids define the leadership through the ICMS characteristics of 'Integrity, Cooperation, Motivation and Self-control' and each grade will pick one and do a video demonstrating those characteristics to the other kids."

Cross Creek and Hills Elementary Principals Dan Hartman and Makenzie Household-er said the program was still in its preliminary stages within their schools but they see many advantages with its implementation.

"It's in its infancy and we're building teams," said Hartman. "We're understanding the seven habits a little more in-depth and how to apply them."

"This is our second day of the 'Seven Habits of Highly Effective People' and today is about how teachers are going to implement this during the school year. It's been going great and I think our staff is really excited about it and coming up with wonderful ideas," said Superintendent Dr. T.C. Chappellear. "They see it as a way to help students become successful."

Bosley Shares Social Media Warnings at ICHS

Students got the message when it comes to what they post online as the Jefferson County Juvenile Task Force concluded its program on social media warnings at Indian Creek High School.

Freshmen through seniors gathered in the school auditorium on Oct. 11 where speaker Catherine Bosley gave her final lecture in the series, which was sponsored by the task force. Bosley, a former Ohio television news anchor, spoke on "Forever and For All to See," sharing how vital it is to maintain control of your reputation and image amid the rapid spread of information across the internet universe.

Bosley has been educating young people about posting images and comments that could dash their dreams, plus she advises them how to block out bullies and preserve their self-worth. She began her interactive lecture by asking students about their dreams for the future, with some responding that they hoped to become a teacher, artist or police officer.

She then recalled how she found her calling as a broadcast journalist and was sitting on top of the world until a momentary lapse in judgment came back to haunt her online.

Bosley and her spouse had traveled to Key West, Fla., to celebrate their first anniversary and her overcoming a severe lung ailment when she temporarily lowered her inhibitions, but she quickly regretted it and never believed it would come to light.

On Christmas morning in 2003, she received an answering machine message that upended her life. The message informed her that inappropriate photos and videos were online and had gone viral, which ultimately cost her job, impacted friendships and led her into a downward spiral. She was contacted for interviews by "Good Morning America," "Oprah" and "Inside Edition" to

explain her actions and faced constant shaming and cyber-bullying.

She would work for years to legally remove the images from the web and restored her reputation, then received another job in Cleveland.

"Not only was I able to survive, I was able to rise above and get my life back. I realized how much that thing is a part of me, how much I learned from it and how much I didn't want it to happen," she continued.

Her experience inspired her to help others by warning them of online dangers. Bosley said the top three ways to handle haters are to ignore them and take away their power; block online bullies and report threats to adults and authorities; and remind yourself that bullies lash out because have their own struggles. She also said it was important to rely on the "F" Factor of faith, family and friends to help them through the difficult times.

She added that what people post can be seen by potential employers and colleges, which could halt someone's dreams. Among some examples were a woman who posted a photo of herself with alcohol and lost her teaching position and a college football player with an eye on the NFL who made a racially charged comment online. Bosley said the key was to listen to your inner voice and refrain from posting images or words that may be damaging and to share "happy, healthy selfies."

"We're all going to make mistakes because we are human. There is little room for



Catherine Bosley

'What was I thinking?' before pictures become attached to you forever and for all to see. It can be pictures, texts, a 'like' and an email," she commented. "We have one thing to protect our online imaging, that little voice that tells you not to do it. It's a life-saving voice. Everything you put out there is a reflection of not only what you do but your family, your school and your workplace."

She also urged teens to not bully or shame others and said privacy was only a myth on the internet, while photos and texts shared in confidence could also wind up in other hands. Bosley said while 62 percent of teens and tweens are reportedly bullied, only a quarter of that age group are actually perpetrators. She further warned about the consequences of sexting, saying it is illegal when someone takes, shares and receives inappropriate images of a youth under the age of 18, even if they are of themselves. Culprits could face time in juvenile detention or jail because it is child pornography. Additionally, adult websites can access and post photos and videos and even track unidentified images back to the original poster.

Another current practice known as sextortion occurs when people threaten to post photos unless they receive money. Bosley said Ohio teens were being victimized and stressed the importance of telling someone, adding the county task force was there to help and protect them. She concluded by sharing her P.A.C.T. strategy for rising above: People (tell someone), Abandon (social media and negative people), Connect (with professionals for help) and This (too shall pass).

Finally, she urged teens to not correspond with strangers or sext and to be aware that consent was needed before images or video could be posted.

ICMS Hosting Winter Wonderland Holiday Show

There will be gift ideas galore during the second-annual Winter Wonderland Holiday Craft/Vendor Show at Indian Creek Middle School on Nov. 11.

Dozens of crafters and other vendors will be selling their wares in the gym from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the building, which is located at 2379 Wilson Ave. in Mingo Junction. Local resident Jenna Patton is organizing the event for the second year and said there with something for everyone.

"There are around 35 vendors with a lot of hand-crafted items, candles, bath and beauty items, T-shirts, wreaths, baked goods and home décor, a little bit of everything," Patton added, saying other offerings will be available for kids who attend while adults do their shopping.

Proceeds from the show will go back to the school for its food and hygiene pantry and clothes closet, including warm coverings such as winter jackets, hats socks, shoes/boots and gloves. Patton began the event last year as a way to help the school since she

also has children in the district.

"We have a lot of children that need a lot of extra love and support, and anything to bring people into the school to see the wonderful facility and support the children in the meantime is great."

ICMS Principal Dr. Holly Minch-Hick praised Patton for her idea and support of the school.

"Jenna Patton is a wonderful example of a parent demonstrating leadership and getting involved to make a difference in the school," Dr. Minch-Hick said. "The money she's helped raise has helped the school with student food and hygiene pantries and even Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) rewards."

More spaces are available for vendors and anyone interested can go online to the Google link at <https://forms.gle/ZVbyLDjR2wsW7NaGA> to apply. For more information, contact Patton at (740) 317-8366 or email vendorsintheville@hotmail.com.

Playground Dedicated at Hills Elementary

A former teacher is leaving a lasting legacy for the students and school she loved at Hills Elementary with new playground equipment for play and education.

Retired kindergarten teacher Sue Hammack joined her husband, Bill, as well as family, fellow educators and the Indian Creek Local Board of Education for a dedication Oct. 19 at the Mingo Junction campus. The Hammack family made a \$50,000 contribution for the project, which has added fun, educational equipment for kids to thrive and incorporates elements with a nod to the school's Native American theme. Among the features are a music station with a xylophone and drums, miniature teepees, a canoe, a writing and painting station, several outside learning spaces including one with chalkboards and a presentation stage, sand tables, a water station, a large Connect Four-style game, basketball court and a modern jungle gym plus swings and a rock wall. A sign also hangs at the site as a show of appreciation.

Superintendent Dr. T.C. Chappelle presented a plaque to Hammack and read a letter thanking her for the incredible offering.

"Your gift is not just a financial boost; it is a gesture of faith and support that means the world to us," he said. "As a former teacher at Hills Elementary School, your donation holds special significance. Your dedication to our school community has been evident throughout your tenure here, and now your commitment continues to shine brightly. Your generosity demonstrates the profound impact that a teacher can have, extending far beyond the classroom."

He continued that the donation will have a profound and lasting impact on the students and entire school community by allowing the district to create a "vibrant, safe and stimulating environment for our children to learn, play and grow." Dr. Chappelle noted that the facility will foster physical activity, social interaction and overall well-being.

"The pieces are for play but they have an educational component," he later said. "Sue Hammack was a longtime, well-respected



The Indian Creek Local Board of Education unveiled the new playground at Hills Elementary which was created thanks to a generous donation by retired schoolteacher Sue Hammack and her husband, Bill. The board presented the Hammacks with a letter and plaque of appreciation during the event and pictured are, from left, Superintendent Dr. T.C. Chappelle, board President Bob Smith, Sue Hammack, Bill Hammack, board Vice President Kim Mark, board members Dr. Ted Starkey and Daniel Bove and Assistant Superintendent John Belt.

teacher and wanted to give back to the school she loved."

Assistant Superintendent John Belt said the project was completed following renovations at the school and gives students a permanent place to enjoy.

"The district is extremely grateful for their generosity," Belt said of the Hammacks. "They were able to turn it into something fun, and it also has learning elements embedded into it. We put it off until the end of the Hills project, and because of the project the kids had to have recess at the track. They are enjoying this now."

Hills Principal Makenzie Householder said it has proven to be a hit with her estimated 370 PreK-4 students.

"They absolutely love it. It gets their energy out and their imaginations flourish," Householder commented. "You can see the kids who love theater and the kids that love

music. There's something for everyone out here. The learning areas are being utilized and I definitely appreciate this donation."

Hammack was delighted to provide a gift to her workplace of 30 years and has not been no stranger to the site since departing in 2020.

"I just wanted to give back to the community, and one way was to give to the school," she said. "This is a beautiful playground and our community has valued and supported Indian Creek with new buildings. It's only fair that I give back to the school."

She still gets a chance to interact with children each week as a volunteer mentor through Share Time and Read Together (S.T.A.R.T.) and said the school holds a special place in her heart.

"Hills is a great building and I love it," Hammack concluded. "I always have and I always will."

CCE to "Roll out the Red Carpet for Literacy Night" on Nov. 15

Indian Creek Local Schools will spotlight learning with fun-filled festivities on Nov. 15.

Officials will "Roll out the Red Carpet for Literacy Night" at Cross Creek Elementary from 5-7 p.m. Dean of Students Alecia Cockrill said movie-themed activities and treats are slated for grades PreK-6 students and their families at the building on Bantam Ridge Road in Winterville. Participants must RSVP by Nov. 9.

"We do this every year as a district. Cross Creek hosts one a year and Hills Elementary hosts one a year," said Cockrill, who serves as literacy assistant at CCE and is the event organizer. She added that Indian Creek Middle School fifth- and sixth-graders are also involved.

"There are many staff and our PTO members helping to make sure this is a successful event, and we have around 175-200 stu-

dents attend with their families," she added. "The literacy nights provide an evening full of free activities that families can engage in with their children and teachers."

Participants will get the full Hollywood effect by walking the red carpet while "paparazzi" will be on hand. They will also have a photo opportunity with movie props and watch book trailers with popcorn treats, make letter and word games to take home, take part in readers' theaters and make puppets and storyboards to retell stories, play in popcorn sensory bins to solve math problems, eat concession snacks while creating a new candy bar wrapper for a chance to win a prize and craft their very own star for CCE's "Hollywood Walk of Fame."

If they complete all the activities, they will turn their ticket in for a chance to win a large movie-themed raffle basket and also have the opportunity to earn a coin for the book vending machine.