



## BOXHOLDER December 2017 Newsletter

# Panther Press

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### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Our first blood drive was another success! We appreciate the efforts of the student council, LEO Club, staff, students and community members. We have been very fortunate in past years to meet our goals for units and also obtaining the highest possible monies for scholarship for our graduating seniors. Our next blood drives are scheduled for Wed, March 14th and Wed, May 9th from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM at IGHS so please mark your calendars! Iowa-Grant and the American Red Cross appreciates your support of this worthwhile cause.

**Spare Only 15 minutes and Save  
One Life! Come Join Us!**



### FRIENDLY REMINDER!

The Iowa-Grant School District offers a healthy breakfast at each school daily for our students and staff!

Cost:

\$1.50 for Early Childhood  
and 4K-Grade 4;  
\$1.60 for Grades 5-12;  
\$.30 for students  
who qualify for reduced meals;  
Free to students who  
qualify for free meals;  
\$2.30 for Adults



Dear District Residents:

As 2017 draws to a close, I would like to take this space to reflect upon the changes seen over the year in this district and across the state.

Our supportive residents had approved a referendum in April of 2016 to allow the district to exceed revenue limits so that we could remain in operation and continue to provide programs for our students and maintain the school facilities. Because of this additional money, the high school received a new roof over the summer. We were able to add a slope to the flat roof sections, increase the insulation value, and add a supporting structure inside as needed. The bathroom remodeling project replaced the 1960 yellow and turquoise restrooms with new plumbing, lighting, wall and floor finishes within the same footprint. The next maintenance projects that need to be addressed are resurfacing the IGEMS roof, resurfacing the driveway and parking lot on the south and east sides of the high school, and improving drainage on the east side of the high school. That side receives the most foot traffic during events and activities and can be quite icy in the winter months due to poor sloping and drainage.

We are thankful for our sports boosters and for the many community and school-based groups and organizations that help to provide needed equipment and experiences for our students. The parent-teacher organization helped to support student field trips, special programs, and, in tandem with the elementary teachers, worked to replace some of our playground equipment. These pieces were installed in October and were an instant hit with our younger students. The Iowa-Grant Education Foundation supported scholarships for our graduating seniors, and they provided funding for field trips, and speakers. The Music Parents put in many hours with the pasty sales to support the upcoming music trip to St. Louis. We truly do have great community support for our school district.

The increase in population at the IGEMS building has now reached the middle school level. The last small class will be

freshman in 2018-19. At that point, the high school will have reached the low point in student population. Beginning with the 2019-20 school year, the numbers at the high school will increase on an annual basis. This will help our organizations and extra-curricular activities regain numbers as well. This fall we saw our sports teams do well with both volleyball and football teams involved in post-season play. It was great having a student participate in the State Cross Country meet. I hope that many of you were able to witness our student actors' performance of Clockwork, the high school drama presentation this year. Winter sports have started and soon it will be Christmas break. Several holiday concerts are being planned by the bands and the choirs. We had a great fall weather-wise and are hoping for cooperative weather throughout the winter months.

The strategic plan continues to be a guiding document for the district, and the annual update was presented to the school board in July. It included district and building goals and strategies for improving Community Involvement, Technology, Financial Stability, Facilities Management, Student Achievement, and School Environment. These plans are visited regularly by the school and district leadership teams. Each summer the board is given an update of progress and of what has been achieved during the school year. We are never static and are always working for improvement in many areas.

Things continue to be challenging on the state and federal government front, however. While the state legislature supported public schools in the biennial budget by increasing the categorical state aid for schools they did not raise the revenue limit to account for inflationary increases and market demands which continue to disproportionately hurt rural districts. The addition of \$200/student in categorical aids will certainly help meet our financial obligations, but it does not provide long-term security for funding since categorical aids are allocated at the discretion of any current legislature. The distribution method does not account for a district's

equalized value but instead treats each student the same regardless of the land values or the poverty levels of an area of the state. Rural districts are becoming unsustainable except through successful local referenda. In 2016 there were 111 referenda to exceed the revenue limits. In 2017 there were 75. That two-year span represents 40% of all the school districts in the state. Of those referenda questions presented to voters, about 70% were approved. There is clearly a desire by residents to support their local schools by voting to raise their own taxes. The federal education budget has not yet been approved. The Department of Education is proposing diverting funds to begin or benefit programs that would support private schools and choice schools. We have already seen a preliminary reduction to Wisconsin of federal funds which should directly benefit schools in higher poverty areas. Iowa-Grant saw a reduction of \$24,000 in federal funding.

The Forward Exam was given for the second time last spring. This is the third different state test in the past four years. The results have just been released with the caveat that the scores reflect a snapshot in time based upon one administration of the currently required test. The Iowa-Grant School District earned three stars on the state report card for the 2016-17 school year as issued from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Based on the star rating, Iowa-Grant School District meets expectations for educating students.

School and district report cards are issued based on four priority areas: student achievement in English language arts and mathematics, student growth, closing gaps between student populations, and measures of readiness for graduation and postsecondary success. As with all small schools, small fluctuations in class numbers and the make-up of those classes can make a big percentage difference in the report. Large schools do not experience these kinds of annual shifts because of the larger number of students needed to create a percentage change. While school and district report cards provide information to the community, they do not represent a full picture of the work happening at

a school or even a reliable measure of individual student achievement. The 16-17 data showed some wide swings in achievement levels from one year to the next across the state.

The 2015-16 report cards underwent major changes that were part of Wisconsin Act 55, the 2015-17 state budget. Those changes included variable weighting to address the impacts of poverty on student achievement, and a new model for measuring student growth based on value-added methodology developed by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Because report cards rely on multiple years of data, the 2016-17 report cards are based on one year of the Badger exam and two years of the Forward exam for grades three through eight. The high school students are measured on the ACT suite of tests and the Forward Exam Social Studies test. Using data from different assessments in calculations, along with other legislated calculation changes, makes comparisons of school and district performance ratings inaccurate and inadvisable.

The data used for the report card indicates that math in the elementary-middle school needs strengthening. We already started this process with an updated version of the classroom materials and additional teacher training in the use of the materials. The data also showed some classes scoring below grade level expectations in reading. The needs of these students who did not score in the proficient range are addressed through Title I support, special education programming, classroom teacher intervention, guided study halls, and help at home. Growth measures on the report card show that the rate of learning for our low income students is on the right trajectory. That tells us that we are making a positive difference in improving these students' skills in reading and math, though it may be a slower process than we would like. A greater disparity in the rate of progress exists with the students who have been identified as needing an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). While the district takes these scores seriously, they must be balanced against the everyday progress and achievement that is witnessed and measured locally.

The balance to all of these changes at the state and federal levels is the common sense leadership of the locally elected board and the dedicated teachers and staff in our school district along with our supportive parents and communities.

Linda Erickson, Superintendent

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Another year is already almost half over and we have had a great start of the year. The first quarter is already behind us and Christmas is fast approaching. We have many things going on at school so please make sure to check the school's calendar, website and Facebook page and become involved with the many things that the district has to offer.

Parents/guardians, please make sure you are continually checking your child's attendance, grades and schedule on PowerSchool. If you forgot how to access this important information, please contact Mrs. Brennum in the high school office. It is my goal for each student to reach their full potential and with everyone working together that goal will be reached. Requiring good student attendance, insisting on punctuality, supporting teacher expectations and monitoring class work are significant ways parents help to ensure student success. Great communication is a necessity, so please contact your child's teachers or myself if you have any questions.

Mr. Johannesen took three students to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 24th. The students that attended this spectacular event were Kylie Cutts, Cora Fritz and Tom Maughan. All involved had a great time!

Mr. Zwick and Mr. Larsen lead our students in this year's play, Clock Work. The cast included: Rebecca Gorsline, Samantha McLeer, Isabelle Harwick, Hannah Lindner, Lauren Harmening, Nic Pennekamp, Josh Greaves, Allyson Cullen, Lucas Oyen, Sage Soman, Elly Lindner, Grace Vivian, Lillian Drew and Sawyer Dobson. Please

congratulate Mr. Zwick, Mr. Larsen and the entire cast and crew for their hard work and performance.

The spring season wrapped up October 27th for the football team bowing out of the playoffs in Level 2 of the WIAA tournament. The football team, under the direction of Coach Gary Allen, had a very successful season and worked hard all year. Coach Marla Simon and the volleyball team made it to the Regional semi-finals of the WIAA tournament before being defeated by Southwestern. The team worked very hard and accomplished a lot. Coach Winkler and the cross country team did a wonderful job this year and worked very hard all year. Please congratulate Nicholas Connolly for making to state in Cross Country as a freshman. He did a wonderful job this year and finished 87th out of 151 participants at State. I would also like to congratulate the Iowa-Grant cheerleaders and Coach Harwick for the wonderful job this year. The girls did a great job in cheering on our teams, preparing signs and posters and being good role models for the crowd. Please take the time to approach the coaching staff and our young men and women who participated this year in football, volleyball, cross country and cheerleading and congratulate them on their seasons. Our coaches and student/athletes have accomplished a lot this year and often times their hard work goes unnoticed. I would also like to thank Mrs. Gile and the high school band for playing pep band for the home games. The band's performance was outstanding and I always enjoy listening to them during home events. Finally, I would like to thank the student section, parents and fans that attended our events this year. We had wonderful support for our student athletes during the fall and I hope that this continues. Thank you to everyone. Other schools have noticed the positive atmosphere that we have at Iowa-Grant and have called and written to compliment us. It is my hope that we continue this great behavior and atmosphere into the winter and spring seasons.

Winter sports have already started so please check the school website and the school's Facebook page for events.

A special thank you goes out to the Iowa-Grant Booster Club who are always supporting our school district and all those who support the Iowa-Grant School District. Without great people and organizations like we have in our district, many of the things we offer and do would not be possible.

As hunting season is upon us, it is crucial that parents remind their student hunters to remove all ammunition and weapons from vehicles that will be on school grounds. School district policy 443.6 states, "No one shall possess a weapon on school property, on a school bus or at any school-sponsored activity." For policy purposes, a weapon is defined as "any object that by its design and/or use can cause bodily injury or property damage." It further states, "students and employees violating this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with established procedures and shall be referred to law enforcement officials for prosecution." Please make sure that your student has cleared vehicles, bags and pockets of any prohibited items.

I would like to briefly talk about attendance. Attendance is a priority to ensure student success. The more class time a student misses the more difficult it is for the student to keep up with the content in class. Not only is attendance a must for success, it is state law that students must be in school. State law allows parents/guardians to excuse their children from school in writing and in advance for a total of ten days during the entire school year. Please attempt to schedule appointments during times school is not in session. I do understand it is impossible to schedule everything outside of the school day, but the fewer days missed the less likely that your child will fall behind academically. After a parent/student has used up the ten allowed days, only doctor excuses will be accepted. School sponsored events do not count towards the ten days allowed.

It has been a great start of the year. Please continue to be part of your child's education and stress the importance of respect, communication, integrity, attendance, and working beyond capabilities and expectations.

Every day we have Encore/Resource built into the schedule. This time was created to give students the ability to access teachers 20 minutes three days a week. I hope everyone has a great holiday break and a wonderful year.

My office door is always open and please feel free to contact me at any time. Go Panthers!

Chris Gotto, Principal/Athletic Dir

## FROM THE DESK OF NURSE SHARON FRIEDERICK

### Meningitis Vaccine – HS Students

Meningitis is a serious infection of the covering of the brain and the spinal cord. This infection can be treated with antibiotics, however, many people who get this disease die and many are affected for life. This vaccine is highly recommended for adolescents 11-18 years of age. This vaccine is important for people at highest risk, mainly college freshmen living in dormitories. Many colleges and vocational schools require or strongly encourage this vaccine.

Two doses are recommended: the first dose at age 11 or 12 and then a booster dose at age 16. If the first dose is given after the 16th birthday, a booster is not needed.

This vaccine is available at your doctor's office for those with medical insurance. It is available at the Iowa County Health Department for those who are uninsured or who have BadgerCare. To make an appointment to the vaccine there, please call 930-9870. It is also available at the Grant County Health Department, Lancaster, 8:00-4:30, Monday-Friday, no appointment needed.

### FIRST QUARTER HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to our 2017 First Quarter Honor Roll students for all your hard work!

### Distinguished Honors Freshmen

Nicholas Connolly	Ryan Esser
Luke Fillback	Isaac Hill
Hazel Klosterman	Elly Lindner
Lauren Linscheid	Hannah Maughan
Lucas Oyen	Taylor Runde
Sage Soman	Brena Straka
Brie Straka	

### Sophomores

Carter Christianson	Sawyer Dobson
Olivia Liddicoat	Sydney Lundell
Colin Steffl	Gabriel Vivian

### Juniors

Alexis Busse	Haylee Casper
Herolyn Klosterman	
Dakota Kohlenberg	Parker Velte
Samantha Richards	Hunter Silvers

### Seniors

Paul Connolly	Easton Dobson
Rebecca Gorsline	Andrew Johnson
Hannah Lindner	Brady Peat
Callie Rickard	Carley Rider
William Spurley	

### High Honors Freshman

Avery Barrett	Tatum Kite
Mya McCarthy	Trianna Trace

### Sophomores

Faylea Cartwright	Isabelle Harwick
Samantha McLeer	Kenzie Oakes
Jay Schaefer	Joanna Spurley

### Juniors

Sarah Buckhaus	Sawyer Gough
Carter Grim	Madelyn Hunt
Thomas Maughan	Alexis Miura
Ethan Rundell	Grayson Stivarius
Alec Zimmer	

### Seniors

Garret Bingham	Matthew Hill
Clayton Kite	Bailey Lindner
Timothy Stoney	

### Honors Freshmen

Lillian Drew	Marissa Hahn
Grace Kite	Brett Lee
Colin Merwin	Andrew Winders

### Sophomores

Isaac Albaugh	Allison Bickford
Thomas Fowell	Keagan Pilling
Lane Shemak	Matthew Winders
Michael Winders	

### Juniors

Hope Grimm	Lauren Harmening
Ashton Miura	Trinity Spurley
Kylie Washburn	

### Seniors

Max Eisele	Clint Havlik
Kaleb Liddicoat	Shae McIntyre
Kathryn Olson	Rose Webster

# IGEMS News

Dear Panthers,

We have some exciting changes this fall at IGEMS. Our terrific teachers and assistants have been concentrating on improving instructional strategies in math and reading, so our Panthers are challenged every day. We are seeing great progress in our classrooms and we are so proud of our students for their hard work. Thank you to all our families for supporting our teachers and encouraging their children to always do their best. We are helping students set goals and working hard to achieve them. How can you help? Keep telling your kids they are terrific and you are so proud of their successes at school. Help them to be responsible and organized at home and at school. Be positive and trust that great things are always happening at IGEMS!

**MATH LAB:** Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade math students have an additional math class this year called Math Lab. While students still have a regular math class each day, our Panthers have a new opportunity to receive math instruction and homework help every other day in Math Lab. This extra time is great for students because they can work with the teacher on homework, get extra practice on past skills, or try new challenges in math. We hope this extra focus on math skills will help our young mathematicians soar!

**ELECTIVES:** Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders have new elective classes this year. Each class is just six weeks so students are able to explore more opportunities. These classes are designed for students to explore areas that might interest them. We offer **World Drumming** (rhythms and music from around the world), **Bigger, Faster, Stronger** (weight lifting and agility training), **ATV & Snowmobile Training** (DNR certified for young operators), **All About Strategy** (chess strategies to outwit your opponent), **Foods** (food preparation and exploration), **World of Google** (creative writing, surveys, and student-interest projects), **Robotics** (build and create robots for sports and battles), **Love to Paint** (creative projects with endless possibilities), **Introduction to Spanish** (8<sup>th</sup> grade opportunity to prepare for high school), and an elective **Study**

**Hall** for our music students who choose Band and Choir instead of a study hall throughout the day. We also offer this study hall to support students who are struggling with classes and need additional time and opportunity for homework help.

**MORNING CAR SERVICE:** We are so fortunate to have great volunteers and role models for our children! The Morning Car Service was a great success first quarter. If any family, business, or organization is interested in volunteering during the winter months, we could really use your support. Please call or email me and I will help you choose a week that best fits your schedule.

During the holiday seasons, please take a moment to thank the wonderful people at IGEMS that make our schools so special. Our assistants, secretaries, custodians, teachers, and food service friends are the strength of our school. We are so blessed to have such a fabulous staff! Please let them know they are appreciated throughout our communities.

Happy Holidays to All,  
Robyn Oberfoell  
Principal – Grades 2-8

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As I look toward the upcoming holidays as the Early Learning Principal, I have a familiar country song's lyrics by Billy Dean running through my mind, "Let them be little, 'cause they're only that way for awhile. Give them hope, give them praise, give them love every day." These words are a good reminder at anytime of the year, but one I feel is especially important during the holidays when it is easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season.

The last few days I've been watching the preschool and early childhood students rehearse for their upcoming Thanksgiving Program. The 4K Thanksgiving Program will have already taken place by the time this reaches you, and I'd like to thank the teachers and assistants who made it such a fun and festive occasion for our youngest students at IGEMS. The students work so

hard and are very proud to take the stage and perform for their family members.

In a similar fashion, our kindergarten students will be performing for their families in December:



"Run, run, as fast as you can!"

**Why: To see the kindergarten students  
What: Take the stage for their Holiday  
Music Program**

**When: Wednesday, December 6th at  
2:00 p.m.**

**Where: IGEMS Room 100**

**Invite your family members and bring  
your camera,  
as you'll want to share this special  
moment and  
capture the cuteness!**

Please enter through the main office, sign-in, and follow the signs to Room 100.

Hopefully, you'll be able to attend the other holiday performances at IGEMS in the next month as well. First grade students will perform with second and third graders on Wednesday, December 20th at 12:30 pm in the gym. On the same day, the 4th-6th grade students will perform at 2:00. These music programs are always top-notch and are sure to put you in the holiday spirit!

It's been so exciting to see the students enjoying the new playground equipment, which was installed recently. A huge thank you is extended to the IGEMS families and to the local community members who made the new playground possible. It took many years of hard work to turn that dream into a reality. You've made many children very happy in doing so! The classroom teachers have reminded families in their school-to-home communication to make sure students have warm winter clothing for playing outside during recess and to have those items labeled with the child's name. I

encourage you to stop by the “Lost and Found” when you’re in the building, as it’s amazing how many mittens, sweatshirts, boots, coats, and hats have been misplaced and are waiting to be reunited with their rightful owner.

On a final note, thank you for your partnership in educating your child. Your attendance at our recent Parent/Teacher Conferences was appreciated. Your taking time to read newsletters and other information sent home by your child’s teacher on a regular basis is appreciated. Your support for the Parent/Teacher Club is appreciated. Your kind and generous donations to help those in need in our community is appreciated. Your taking time to read a book to your child, or to help them study for a test, or to just ask about his or her day is appreciated. You are your child’s first and most important teacher, and we are honored to work with you!

Happy Holidays,  
Jodi Bast  
4K-1st Grade Principal



IGEMS Families: Thank you for your continued support and effort to make your Scholastic Book fair a success! The kids are always excited and engaged in the fair. The ALL for BOOKS donations made it possible to buy \$343.43 worth of books for classroom libraries at IGEMS. Not only does your donation help Iowa-Grant, but Scholastic Book Fairs matches monetary donations up to \$1 million in books from The Scholastic Possible Fund, which distributes books to children in need through organizations such as Kids In Need Foundation, Reader to Reader, Inc., and the National Center for Families Learning. Now that is something we can be proud of! As you already know, reading has been proven to increase test scores and improve individual reading confidence. It is without a doubt that the success of this fair will continue to help our students throughout the year.



The fair would not be possible without the help of some very helpful, thoughtful and caring individuals. The volunteers that have come forward and donated their time to work at the fair this year and in years past have been nothing short of AMAZING. Thank you from the entire faculty and staff at IGEMS...we appreciate you! Save the Date!!! Buy One Get One FREE Book Fair---April 12-13, 2018

### MILLIONAIRE CLUB

The following middle school students have been busy reading this school year. They have all read over one million words! Studies show that students who read one million or more words in an academic year perform better in the classroom and on standardized tests. Keep on reading, Panthers!!



Pictured (L-R) Front: Bret C., Evie W., & Morgan W. Back row: Madelyn R., Gracie S., Hope C., & Hailey H.

A Great Big THANKS to our I-G communities for stepping up to support our Morning Car Service.	
Sept. 18-22	Livingston United Methodist Church
Sept. 24	Jennifer Volenec & Barb Mellor
Oct. 2-9	Community First Bank
Oct. 9-13	Gardiner Appraisal Service
Oct. 16-20	Livingston United Methodist Church
Oct. 23-27	Royal Bank
Oct. 30-Nov. 3	It Takes A Village - Montfort

## IOWA-GRANT MIDDLE SCHOOL 1ST QUARTER HONOR ROLL

### High Honors

- BINGHAM, DYLAN 8
- FIEDLER-FOSBINDER, CORTNEY 8
- HAWES, JACQUELINE 8
- LUNDELL, REID 8
- PILLING, MAKAYLA JO 8
- SCHMITZ, PAYTON 8
- STARKEY, TREYTON 8
- WOLFF, ELLA 8
- ALBAUGH, GRIFFIN 7
- CONNOLLY, HOPE 7
- KABAT, KENNEDY 7
- KEMNITZER, INDIGO 7
- LINDNER, CADEN 7
- LINDNER, IVY 7
- MUNSON, KENADIE 7
- PARADIS, JENNA 7
- ROGSTAD, MADELYN 7
- ROWE, AUDREY 7
- RUNDE, ASHLEY 7
- SCHAFFER, LAIGHTON 7
- SHEMAK, BEKKA 7
- THOMA-BLANKENBERG, ALEXIS 7
- VOLENEC, ELIZABETH 7
- WETTER, CAITLYN 7

### Honors

- BARR, ARIANNA 8
- BLUM, MARIAH 8
- CULLEN, EMMA 8
- DAILEY, BRYCE 8
- FOWELL, ABIGAIL 8
- KOHNENBERG, ZACHARY 8
- KUHLS, CADE 8
- LEITZINGER, MACKENZIE 8
- LENZ, GRACE 8
- PHILLIPS, TERIS 8
- RUNDELL, COLE 8
- RUNDELL, OWEN 8
- VIVIAN, SAVANNAH 8
- CORDTS, JALYSSA 7
- GARCIA, YESSICA 7
- GRINDEY, MATTHEW 7
- KEMPF, SAMUEL 7
- MILESTONE, SKYE 7
- PITTMAN, GARY 7
- SEARLS, JULIA 7
- SHORES, CAMERON 7
- WHITAKER, EVIE 7
- ZIMMER, ELLA 7