

THE PAW PRINT POST

November Issue

Journalism Elective

Harvest Drive

By: Logan Wealcatch and Sydney Long

From November 6 to November 17 Indian Ridge had its annual Harvest Drive. Our students and staff brought in non-expired canned items, toiletries, and food to be donated to local families in need. The school held eleven donation days including Double Points Day, Peanut Butter and Jelly Day, and a Specialty Items Raffle Day.

This non-profit event was run by our school's National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) and Ms. Nortmann. Ms. Nortmann says, "One hundred to one hundred fifty families who go to our school benefit from the Harvest Drive. Thousands of families benefit from the drive and about one hundred eighty schools from the county last year participated in the Harvest Drive. Our school usually donates one thousand to fifteen hundred items each year. Then our items are taken to Western High School where the families pick up the items they need."

Kids at school would come in the mornings between 8:45 and 9:25 and donated their items in the cafeteria. Hannah Schneiderman, a sixth grader says, "I donated 10 things and I donated paper towels and other stuff like that. Also, to me the Harvest Drive means to give to people the things they don't have."

Matthew Einbinder, eighth grader, says, "To me and the other students in NJHS, the Harvest Drive is just giving back to the people in need. This all makes me feel nice inside."

The classes that contributed the greatest number of donations were Mrs. Vazquez, in sixth grade with 667 items, Mrs. Bromante seventh grade, with 165 items, Mrs. Fields in eighth grade with 812 items, and Ms. Didier, in a mixed grade class with 319 items.

All the students here at Indian Ridge feel great about what they are doing for our community, and we hope that everyone had a very Happy Thanksgiving.



Beyond the Ridge

2017: The Year of Natural Disasters

By Daniel Coulson and Madison Feller

January 18th - Earthquake strikes Italy

August 17th - Hurricane Harvey

September 9th- Hurricane Irma

November 14th- South Korea Earthquakes

In 2017 it seems there are so many natural disasters. Could this be due to global warming or another issue? And what can we do to fix it? In the U.S. alone there has been over fifteen climate and weather disasters that has cost over one hundred billion dollars not including everything that happened outside the United States like the Italian earthquakes or the Iran/Iraq earthquake which adds to the alarming high cost of repairs this year.

All of these events have people questioning why 2017 is the year of natural disasters. Most people point to the most obvious reason- global warming. This makes the most sense since the heat this year has been at an all-time high. With the heat so high it gives hurricanes the perfect chance to form. Katharine Hayhoe, an atmospheric scientist, tweeted, "Climate change exacerbates the naturally-occurring risks we already face today." This means that with all of this heat and moisture the chance of a hurricane forming is very high. Earthquakes are caused by tectonic plate shifts, while hurricanes are storms that build up in warm, tropical waters. With the waters getting warmer, it seems reasonable that most people are pointing towards global warming. Some are noting how the atmospheric pressure is changing during all of the hurricanes, affecting the frequency of earthquakes.



Photo courtesy of American Museum of Natural History. Learn more by watching "Nature's Fury: The Science of Natural Disasters" on YouTube.

An increase in the destructive potential per storm would be substantially larger in percentage terms than the 2-11% increase in the average intensity of the current storms. There will also be an occurrence of higher rainfall within 100 km of the storm center which will cause a change in the hurricane patterns.

With a change of air temperature also coming, there will be a significant amount of water vapor in the air which results locally in an increased flooding and drought problem. With all of these factors it seems that there is nothing we can do to slow it down, but if we change how we live, and become more conscious of how we treat our Earth, it will still have a positive impact on our future.

What's Trending...

Home For the “Holidaze”

By Madelyn Streisfeld

Days before Halloween even occurred this year, stores such as Michael's, Bath & Body Works, Target, and Walmart began putting up trees and lights all over the store. This way shoppers who enjoy getting into the holiday spirit a little bit early could have the chance to get in on sales and the joy of winter. Although, if these stores are putting out their decorations before October 31st, almost two months away from the winter holidays, what happens to all the autumn decorations that keep people in the fall spirit throughout Thanksgiving? The minute the wreaths, trees, chanukiahs, and kinaras sweep through the isles, the pumpkins, cornucopias, and cinnamon-scented candles are shoved into the clearance section.

While this may be beneficial to those who like to do their winter shopping on the earlier side, it shortens the time others have to enjoy the fall season. Of six stores visited, (Target, Walmart, Sephora, Michael's, Bath & Body Works, and Dollar Tree) all six already had their seasonal sections filled with winter holiday-themed items and decorations weeks before Thanksgiving. Autumn gets cut down to a few short weeks based on when the items go on sale. So, the big question is: should stores start selling winter holiday decor and other items before Halloween starts? Or should they continue to sell their fall decorations until after the Halloween and Thanksgiving season?



Gimme the Gadgets!

By: Catherine Otero



30% off! Buy one get one free! \$5 off next purchase! These are all great deals you can get at stores on Black Friday all around the world. You could get all the coolest gadgets such as: the Gopro, The Nintendo Switch, or a drone! Black Friday came to be for a ton of reasons, here are just a few: It marks the first day after the last major holiday before Christmas, It marks the unofficial beginning of the Christmas shopping season, and many employers give their employees the day off as part of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend! This special “holiday” originated in 1961, when it was originally named “Big Friday”. So what are you waiting for? Go participate in the craziest shopping holiday of the year!

Paw - some Players

You Just Got Served!

By: Cristian Carrillo and Ethan Horwitz

Earlier in November, students at Indian Ridge Middle School tried out for the volleyball team so they can represent our school and hopefully bring home the gold. With a new team comes new challenges, strengths, weaknesses, and ambitions. If this year's team hopes to compete against other schools, then they are going to have work hard and dedicate themselves to their sport and practice regularly.

The coach of the volleyball team, Mrs. Lendinara, stated that she, "would like to build on the fundamentals and improve team play." In other words, she would like to reinstate the basic skills utilized in volleyball and help build teamwork in order to improve the team as a whole. The Boys Volleyball team consists of one sixth-grader, seven seventh-graders, and seven eighth-graders. The first game of the season is December 18th.

The team practices four times a week, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 7:30-9:15. Their games will be after school once the season starts. When building a team, Mrs. Lendinara says that she looks for, "good students, hard-workers, and students who think of the team before themselves." For more information on the IRMS Volleyball Program, you can contact Coach Lendinara in the Gym.



3-Pointers and Hole-in-ones

By: Chloe Bruce, Madison Green, Camila Rosales



The girls' basketball team has been doing very well this month, winning the majority of the games they play, both at home and away. They have won seven of their nine total games. The team has played against Glades Middle, Falcon Cove, Pioneer, Pines Middle, Walter C. Young Middle, Franklin Academy F, Silver Trail, and Franklin Academy A. The Lady Jags are also in first place in the district as of now.

The coach of the girls' basketball team, Mr. Conrad, was interviewed about how they have been doing so far in the season. In the interview he was asked what his hopes were for the rest of the season. "I hope that we can keep winning," he said. "We are in first place and I hope that we can finish out the last two games and make it to the playoffs." When it comes to the teams' weaknesses? "We're pretty young this year, I have a lot of sixth graders, and they are inexperienced, but every game they play they are a little more experienced, and will get stronger in the future,". He was also asked what he thought his team's strengths were. His response was, "They get along really well, and they like to have fun."

The golf season has recently come to a close, with a record of 2 and 1. Seventh grader, Emma Archer, a member of the IRMS Golf team, said that she practices on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with her team, and she practices whenever she gets time outside of school. When asked if she plans on joining the golf team next year she said, "Yes, because I have friends on the team and its really fun,". While the team didn't win the championship this year, they still gave it their best effort and will continue to practice and give it their best shot again next year. FORE!



The Jaguar Den

Addressing the Bullying Situation

A bullying assembly dedicated to teach the different traits and how to deal with a bullying situation. This assembly took place in the media center during a two-day time period. Mrs. Rosado and Mrs. Golembiowski teamed up to have the bullying assembly as an event to teach the students everything they will need to know about bullying prevention. The assembly was intended to gather together and train peer counselors with the hope that one day they would be able to help in any way possible to stop bullying before it occurs. In this gathering students learned the different types of bullies, bystanders, STAC strategies, and so much more. “Bullying is something that is unwanted and has to occur more than once,” said by Ms. Golembiowski. Overall, they learned multiple traits of bullies, many useful strategies to prevent bullying, and a better understanding of the of many types of bullying.

Goodbye to the Role Model Who Cared

The Big Brothers and Big Sisters program is an academic program that allows children a chance at a successful future. For many years the program had been mentoring children. About 25-30 students are matched with a caring adult role model that will help them navigate through many obstacles to reach their true potential. Mr Muniz was honored for his contribution as a mentor for many kids. After his six long years helping the program, he retired as an amazing assistant principal and outstanding mentor.

The role models help kids achieve high standards, they are trained to help them on their path to success. Jennifer Martinez, a student from the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program says that it helped her a lot with school and helped her get bigger opportunities in life. She also said that before entering the program, she was struggling to keep her grades up. Big Brothers and Big Sisters gave her confidence and opened a path for a great future. It gives lots of kids opportunities toward high school and college. Through this program children develop the confidence and relationships to guide kids.



Jaguar on the Spot

The Debate on Science Fair

The science fair has been a great debate for many years. Many students in multiple schools have been required to participate in this activity. Here at Indian ridge, any student is given the option to be entered in the Science Fair. Some teachers, however, are making it a grade for students, forcing them to be a part of this stressful activity. So, the debate still continues on whether the science fair should be mandatory for our school.



We interviewed Tehya Howard, an 8th grader who has participated in the science fair and did think it was helpful and learned a lot from the experience. She gives the approval to participate in science fair.

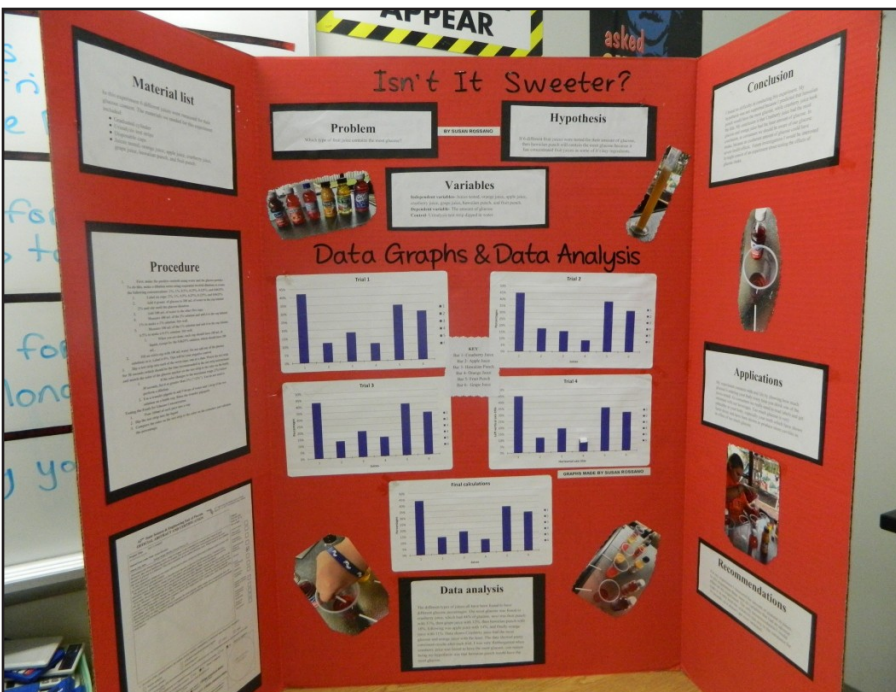
Question: How has the science fair helped you?

Answer: "Because I made a lot of mistakes and it helped me learn from my mistakes. I thought it was helpful because I got to learn something useful that I could use for the rest of my life."

Jocelyn Salpeter, a 7th grader who has never done the science fair before, seems interested in the science fair and would like to participate and experiment in her favorite category of science.

Question: What type of category would you choose and why?

Answer: "I would want to do space because I love learning about the solar system. The science fair sounds like an interesting activity that I may want to participate in later in life."



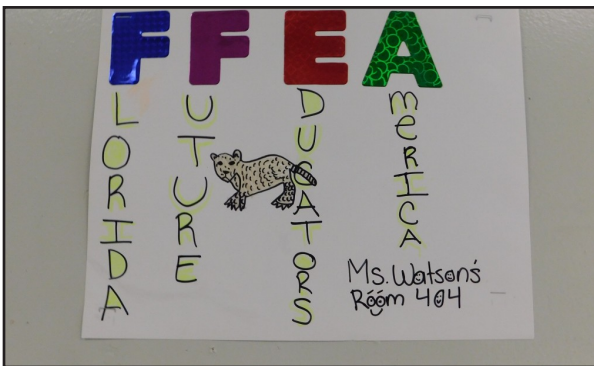
By: Andrew Morales, Cami Cala, Claire Cheatham and Jasmin Mathney

Pawsome Clubs



FFEA (Florida's Future Educators of America)

FFEA is one after school club that IRMS has to offer. Mrs. Watson took over this year from Mrs. Enders. Mrs. Watson said, "It's not easy, I am learning as I go but enjoying it." FFEA participates in activities such as raising money for the school and helping out teacher's and students. FFEA members have an Organization Station where fellow students can go to get their backpack organized and papers sorted out. Mrs. Watson states that students can gain "a deeper knowledge of what teachers do everyday. They can discover if they want to be in the education field or not, and meet new students that become friends."



Debate Club

In Debate Club this year Mrs. Kannal, who is also an 8th grade teacher, teaches the club this year. Not to get confused with debate the elective, in which Mrs. Manriquez teaches. Mrs. Kannal explains the difference between the two. "Debate club is for sixth graders while, debate the elective is for seventh grade and eighth graders." In debate students gain the ability to speak up and accept peoples point of views. Debate club prepares sixth grade students for the debate elective option.

Copy & pictures by Aysia Jarrett, Giana Mattis, Amber Kelly, and Eli Sieden

Electives That Make Us Go Wild!

Physical Education

Physical Education is one elective option that students have the ability to join. The sixth grade P.E. coach is Coach Rubin, the seventh grade coach is Coach Lendinara, and the eighth grade coach is Coach Dorian. In P.E. students learn multiple exercises throughout the year to become healthy and stay fit. P.E. gives students the opportunity to participate in sports such as soccer, football, volleyball, and dodgeball. Feedback on the elective has been nothing but great things from the kids.

Dance

Ms. Carey, teacher of the Dance elective, allows all students of all grades at Indian Ridge to shine in the spotlight. Students enjoy the beauty and dedication of dancing and performing on stage. She makes sure to showcase every student's capabilities in every performance held. Attending their rehearsals and watching their routines is a stunning and breathtaking experience. Many students enjoy having Mrs. Carey as a teacher and instructor.

Yoga

Yoga is another elective that students have the ability to partake in. Yoga shows the students the correct ways to stretch, relax, and meditate the mind. Throughout the year the kids become more and more flexible with the help of their teacher Ms. Dorian. Some skills they learn include handstands, headstands, and different yoga poses like the downward dog. Feedback from the students have been nothing but positive. Numerous students agree that the elective gives them the chance to relax from the stressful days of school. Overall they can also agree that the class is beneficial for students with difficult classes.



Up for Debate

Would you want to be involved in the military?



When we asked students this debatable question, 59% chose yes.

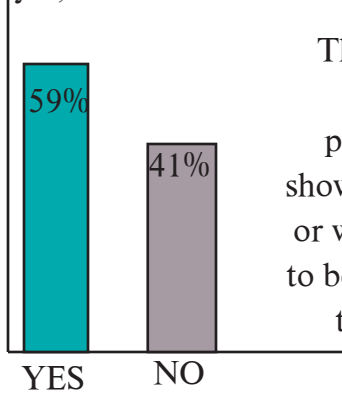
One reason was because they wanted to be able to protect our country. Cayla Ankney says she would like to be involved with the military because she would want to protect our country and our freedom.

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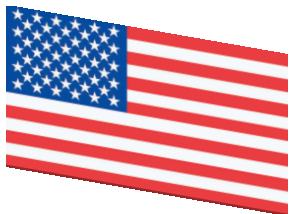
41% chose no. They feel that they don't want to be in the military because they don't want to risk their lives. Mia Przelomski doesn't want to be involved in the military because she has other career plans. She would much rather be a gymnast than a soldier.



We surveyed 79 students, and 46 chose yes, and 33 chose no.



The amount of students in percentage, to show if they would, or would not want to be involved with the military.



We interviewed a pair of twins about their mom and dad who have served in the Navy. Both parents are retired but their mother retired earlier when the boys were younger.

They have been to many places all around the world such as Japan for three years and California for one. We asked Ethan and Aaron Myles about what it was like to have their parents in the military. They both said it was hard moving around all the time. They also said it was hard for their mom because she had to hire someone to babysit them because she was unable to stay home with them at the time. Ethan had said that he never really saw his dad mainly because he was the one constantly getting drafted in the navy. Both parents have now retired from the military and now they can all be together.



Jaguar Judges

Is Thanksgiving celebrated for the right reasons?

Thanksgiving is celebrated for the right reasons. It's all about being thankful and being with your family. On Thanksgiving that's exactly what we are doing. Being with family, and enjoying this exciting holiday. Many families say what they are grateful for. Everyone gets together with family and friends, and enjoys the holiday together. Therefore, Thanksgiving is being celebrated for the right reasons.

By Jenna Sahkleh

Students are not learning enough about Thanksgiving. They just think that Thanksgiving is about being with their families, and eating food. The students do not understand that Thanksgiving is celebrated because of the Native Americans and colonists coming together. The schools should be partially blamed. No schools are forced to teach the students about Thanksgiving, and why we celebrate it. The schools should be forced to teach about Thanksgiving, so that the students are informed about our history.

By: Carly Heilig



Thanksgiving is celebrated for the right reason. Families and friends get together and have a big feast to celebrate this amazing holiday. Its all about giving thanks and appreciating what you have and that being with your family is all you need. Thanksgiving is about being thankful and many families go around saying what they are thankful for. Its also about being with your friends and family and having fun with them. This is why Thanksgiving is celebrated for the right reason.

By: Ariel Rivero

By: Ashley Castresana

Welcome to the Jungle

Indian Ridge's Biggest Fundraiser: The Jaguar Jog!

By: Emily Ryan, Elisha Peter, and Quinn Kustin

On Friday, November 3rd, the annual Jaguar Jog was held outside on the track as a fundraiser for our school. Many students from each grade enjoyed walking around the track and supporting our school. After the jog, there was a dance in the afternoon where they could hang out with their friends and have an amazing time.

Many students have given their opinions about how they felt about the Jaguar Jog. We talked to eighth grader, Keira McNichol, and she said, "This is special because it is my last year and I won't be able to participate ever again, so I am glad that I did." Sadly, this year is Mr. Muniz's last year at Indian Ridge. We interviewed him on what he thought about his last Jaguar Jog. "I'm actually very sad that this is my last Jaguar Jog," said Mr. Muniz. "I enjoyed every year with 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. I appreciate the parents who love doing great things for the school and I really think our parents are fantastic!" Lastly, we interviewed the president of the PTO, Kirsten Kustin about what made her want to start the Jaguar Jog. She replied saying, "We wanted to have one event where we can get all the kids, parents, and teachers together and not have lots of separate events asking for money. It was easier for us to get all of it in one batch and bring it back to the school."

Our goal for the Jaguar Jog was to raise \$50,000, and WE REACHED IT! 983 kids participated in the Jaguar Jog. That's half of the whole school! There were many students who raised a lot of money. Successfully, the top 5 kids raised almost \$4,000 for our school! At least 476 students raised between fifty and one hundred dollars for our school and received prizes including a Menchie's gift card. We are so happy that our Jaguars reached our school's goal of \$50,000. We thank the PTO for everything they do for us!



"I am definitely going to participate in the Jaguar Jog next year because I like to hang out with my friends", said sixth grader Ella Glassman.



Jillian Jones (seventh grader) stated, "I participated in the Jaguar Jog because last year was so much fun and I wanted to do it again"



Outside of the Jungle Walls

Online Before Black Friday Sales

By: Kira Patel and Saioa Elesgarai

On Friday, November 24th, the day after Thanksgiving, people from around the world shop in local stores or online for big sales as a start of Holiday Shopping, called Black Friday.

Before Black Friday, shelves are stocked full for sales and big savings are posted around the mall.

However, some stores could not wait. Stores online started their sales early. For instance,

Amazon had new deals every week in the month of November up through the 24th. This included quick and free shipping, low prices, and great deals on all electronics. Best Buy had great sales from November 5th through 11th.

Also online, Target started their Black Friday sales from the 11th until 23rd of November.

Amazon items started going out of stock as soon as the sales started since people could not wait for Black Friday. Everything from handbags to electronics were out of stock before Black Friday even started. Online kitchen utensils and room decor were sold out a week before Black Friday.

Some online stores had even saved their sales until Black Friday and Cyber Monday. A handful of stores, online and local, started their sales on Thanksgiving Day.

During and After Black Friday

By: Kira Patel & Saioa Elesgarai

From November 24th through the 27th, people shop for holiday presents as a start to the season. After Black Friday, rows and rows of products have disappeared and the sales banners go into storage for next year.

During Black Friday, hordes of people enter the stores looking for great deals.

Long lines wrap around the shops waiting to purchase their items. When the store doors open, people shove through others trying to receive the best deals.

Aisles of stores are packed with people trying to get around the shop. Workers attend to the needs of shoppers all around.

Parking lots are jam-packed with cars from all over the place. Also, people who want to park and shop cannot even find a parking place.

The traffic of getting in and out of the mall is horrendous.

Black Friday is stressful every year because people are always shopping and it never calms down.

There are big lines wherever you go and no parking at the malls. Black Friday is a struggle to all.



Cubs of Character

Charles Hardy once said, "Citizenship is the chance to make a difference to the place where you belong." Citizenship is the character trait for November at Indian Ridge. Citizenship is knowing, understanding, and displaying a high regard for rules, laws, government, heritage and for those who have served and sacrificed for community and country. Being Jaguar of the Month is a great achievement. It means that you were demonstrating a specific character trait, your teacher noticed, and chose you. When you win Jaguar of the Month, you attend a celebration. Every time there is a different celebration. For example, one time all the kids who won went into the media center and were served refreshments such as chips and soda. Dylan Farrie, an eighth grader who won Jaguar of the Month says, "I am very honored to win this."



Chance Robinson

SIXTH GRADE

Elias Hernandez
Charlottle Turnin
Abby McFaul
Tyler Jenkins
Meki Ayash
Hannah Brant
Eduardo Mena
Roy Hernandez
Ramses Palma
Courtney Lesser
Chance Robinson
Elmeena Ridore
Bryan Garcia
Valentina Russo
Tam Ho
Regan Morrall
Stephen Roland
Anthony Pachero
Ava Bosket
Arlinda Malaj
Taylor Yellin
Iselena Martinez
Kaley Garzon



Madison Green

SEVENTH GRADE

Isabella Allen
Alexis Gardiner
Jordan Romano
Reyna Palmer
Elizabeth Ochoa
Tyrese Manning
Natasha Araujo
Madison Green
Lillyanna Woodward
Catherine Otero-Canton
Megan Vertulli
Mark Chechott
Stephanie Andrade
Aaron Blair
Kate Fraser
Josafeth Lopez Villegas
Kayla Do
Sienna Rapp
Andrea Grimaldi
Emily Cuervo
Lauren Shea
Ellie Schwartz



Dylan Farrie

EIGHTH GRADE

Alexis Lopez
Megan Torres-Richardson
Heather Peart
Christian Sanchez
Keirra Mcnichol
Nickashia Hayle
Amaya Roberson
Fernanda Agudelo
Jessica Leff
Pedro Criado
Dylan Farrie
Gunner McGahee
Leah Kessler
Noel Vigil
Isabella Reyes
Victoria Locricchio
Tamia Buchanan
Luis Gaitan
Tomas Nino
Cameron Johnston
Tyler Schecter

Staff “Spot” light

Mrs. Nortmann: Teacher of the Year

By Diya Mehta

Mrs. Nortmann is a 7th grade civics teacher who won Teacher of the Year for the 2016-2017 school year at Indian Ridge Middle School. She is a fantastic teacher who really cares about her students. In her classroom, students experience many different fun and unique activities, such as playing Kahoot to review for a test and Escape Rooms where you work with a group of students to solve clues and puzzles to escape the classroom.

Mrs. Nortmann said, “I was very honored- and just shocked. It was excellent to be recognized by my peers in such a great way!” Being Teacher of the Year is such an amazing achievement and Mrs. Nortmann definitely deserves it.

This year, Mrs. Nortmann is sponsoring the National Junior Honors Society, a club which gives back to the community. She was compelled to participate in NJHS because, “I love to help out and give back to the community and the kids have done a great job coming up with ideas and projects to do.”

The advice she gives to students who want to become teachers is to choose a subject area which appeals to them and that they are passionate about. Also she states that they should find a school and people that you enjoy working with. Everything should fit together.

Congratulations to Mrs. Nortmann for becoming teacher of the year and we wish you a great rest of the year!

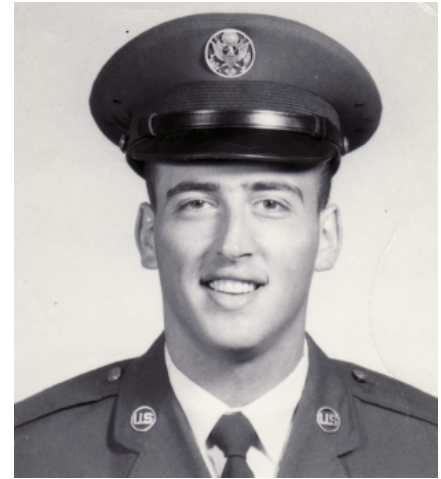


Paws-ing to Remember the Past

By: Camryn Kreitman and Camila De Leon Regil

Veteran's Day was celebrated on November 10th this year. It is a special day where we remember the most courageous and important people who made the ultimate sacrifice all for the liberties, peace, and rights we have in our country today. Veterans are individuals that put everything on the line for us. They could have served in the Air Force, Marines, Navy, Army, or the Coast Guard. They leave their families and everything they have behind and go out of their comfort zone to ensure that we can live in a country that's safe from harm and full of peace. People commemorate and remember the lives of our greatest heroes by attending marches, memorials, services, and community festivities. Veterans are truly amazing.

We are proud to say that we have two veterans here at Indian Ridge. Mr. Bacon and Mr. Harrell both served in the Air Force. Mr. Harrell serving from 1973 to 1975, and Mr. Bacon from from 1981-1984. They spent time in the military because they wanted to help our incredible country and continue their family military legacies. Mr. Harrell took on the supply services duty while in the Military. Mr. Harrell states that it was very challenging to be in the Air Force, and it taught him discipline and structure. If you see Mr. Bacon or Mr. Harrell around school, take a moment to thank them for their service.



Mr. Harrell in the Air Force



Mr. Bacon during his Air Force time.



“Home of the free because of the brave.”