

Paw Prints

Summer Edition

Administration:

Mr. Ian Murray

Mrs. Irene Gonzalez

Ms. Karen Birke

Mr. David Malca

Band Concert

By Samantha Almonte, Darasan Bisham, Amiyah Blandon, Kyra Vaccato

The Band Concert was on May 24th at 7.00 p.m. at Western High School. The theme was Outer Space. The band students were extremely excited about this concert, and they hope to do it again next year.

Photo Credit: Kyra Vaccato



The students performing during the band concert at Western High School on May 24th.

At the Outer Space themed concert there were two different bands playing: beginning and concert band Mr. Sawyer made sure to pick music for the two bands that are out of this world. The beginning band, which is 6th through 8th grade played three selections. The three selections were “Distant Journey” by Paul Lavender, “Teachers from Outer Space” by Mike Hannickel, and “Fire’s Edge” by Ralph Ford. The Concert Band, which is 7th through 8th grade, played “Alien Invasion” by David Gorham, “Rings of Saturn” by Jay Chadaway, “Teleportation's”, and performance of “Star Wars (Main Title)” by John Williams. The first concert was about how to be a band musician, how to work the instruments and to show that the beginning band students learned how to do basic skills with their instruments. The second concert was about showing off the level of skill the students have gained over this year, such

as showing that they can read music, make rhythms, and play challenging notes. Benjamin Votamako plays the B flat clarinet and said about the concert beforehand, “no, I am not [nervous] I am confident.”

The students worked exceptionally hard for this concert. Practicing during their class period, at home, and before school. The students played instruments such as clarinet, tuba, flute, oboe, saxophone, euphonium, and trombone.

Mr. Sawyer, the band teacher, said that this was the school's first official band concert. At the event, Western High School students also performed. Each different band played a few songs. During the beginning band performance, some students acted as aliens and did a short-acting scene. They used all different kinds of instruments to portray that we were actually seeing animals in outer space. While you were listening and watching you really felt out of this world. At Western High School, during the performance, they had pizza, snacks, and drinks available for purchase. After Indian Ridge finished performing, they found seats and watched many Western High school students play in a band do solos and show off their many talents. Towards the end of the concert Western High School’s band was playing and the concert band of Indian Ridge Middle school joined them as a surprise. Mr. Sawyer and the band constructors at Western High School worked very hard to pull off this concert.

Photo Credit: Kyra Vaccato



The band concert was beautiful and certainly one to remember! We appreciate everyone that participated!

Band Banquet

By Samantha Almonte, Darasan Bisham, Amiyah Blandon, Alyx Lattanzio, Kyra Vaccato

Photo Credit: Alyx Lattanzio

The band banquet has arrived! The students of this year's band team received well-deserved awards for their hard work. Mr. Sawyer, the band teacher, says, "The band banquet is an exciting event that will show the students that their hard work has paid off. I would like to recognize the exceptional students that have exceeded expectations." The awards went to three students that had the most improvement this year. The awards were given to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders at Indian Ridge Middle School, who showed the most improvement this year, the most improvement overall, the three most outstanding, the best section award, the director award, the solo ensemble award. A total of 36 band students received awards this year.

The banquet was in the Indian Ridge Middle School auditorium after school. One student, Alexys Collenberger, expressed that at the banquet she was excited for "the dancing" and that she got the "solo and assemble award". She is a dedicated band student and thinks that band is an incredibly supportive environment and that she plans to continue it in the future. For the banquet, the students had to dress up. The students that won got a small certificate for their arduous work and dedication to the band class. The students had so much fun at the banquet and are happy to be able to participate in this year's band classes.



Mr. Sawyer, the band teacher, nominated the students to receive the awards they achieved.



Alexys Collenberger won two awards at the banquet on the 19th of May in the school auditorium.

The band banquet proved to the students that their hard work has paid off. After a tough year, Mr. Sawyer got to honor his students by showing them that anything is possible. The awards prove to the students that their place in the band team this year really does mean something. Mr. Sawyer goes on to explain how proud he is of his students. "They really have come far in their talent, and I can see every time they learn something new, or every time they perfect something, their passion for band increases. I love watching them smile and become joyful when they learn new things."

The band students should be proud of everything they have achieved this year. They have come a long way, as some of them have just started this year and are receiving awards for their success. Mr. Sawyer believes that his students have talent that they can use in their future, and he hopes that it will be used in their futures, as it would be a shame to let talent like theirs go away.

Mr. Sawyer has done an amazing job showing what he, his students, and their team can accomplish, as a whole.

Photo Credit: Darasan Bisham



The 8th Grade Dance

By Hayden Anton, Lylah Fine, Matthew Wheeler, and Keven Cabrera

The 2021-2022 8th grade dance took place on Saturday, May 21, from 6:30 PM to 10 PM. This year's theme was The Red Carpet. The theme offered a red carpet for students as they entered. They had the option to get some pictures taken by the paparazzi. Everyone was wearing nice and fancy clothes. At the dance there was lots of fun and popular music being played including the "Macarena". There also were dance circles and even a dance off on stage where four boys and three girls got picked to dance, and the best one was selected by the crowd. One of the things that there was at the dance is a unique 360 camera where students could pose and pick fun signs to hold up while a ring-light would revolve around them. When walking in students also had the option of getting some glow-in-the-dark party favorites, such as glasses and long glow sticks. During the dance Mariana De La Fuentee stated, "Its going better than expected and, yes it did meet my expectations in so many ways."



Photo By Matthew Wheeler
Three friends are using the 360 ring-light camera to take a cool video of themselves.



Photo by Keven Cabrera
Friends walking down the red carpet as they enter.

Food and Drinks

There was lots of food, desserts and drinks provided at the dance. For the main meals, there were sliders, chicken nuggets from Chick-fil-A, mini hot dogs, mozzarella sticks, and spring rolls. The sauces that were included came from Chick-fil-A. Drinks included water, lemonade, and Hawaiian Punch. There was a snack stand that offered twizzlers and popcorn. There were two chocolate cakes and two vanilla cakes, along with a lot of cookies and cream sandwiches. There was also a cotton candy stand where students could watch their cotton candy get made.



Photo By Matthew Wheeler
Cookies and cream sandwiches and other desserts given at the 8th grade dance.

The Red Carpet of “Quotes”

Do you think the dance was a good way to end your last year in Middle School and why?



“It was a pretty good way to end the year because it brought everyone together and I really thought it would be a let-down but it turned out really fun and I was happy with it.” --Isabella Kourus

“I do think the 8th grade dance is a good way to end because we got to share our last memories together as Middle Schoolers.” -Bridgette Barney



Bustin a Jackpot at Dave & Busters

By Addison Brawner, Akshay Bhardwaj, Kaylie Gonzalez Enrique Leyva, and Morgan O'Steen

As summer break gets closer, so do end of the year field trips! The 7th and 8th grade students of Indian Ridge Middle were geared up and ready!

On May 19th, the 7th graders will be attended a field trip to Dave & Buster's. They were given a game card for unlimited Blue Games. Blue games mean that they won't get any tickets from winning, but it will still be the same amount of fun. Dave & Buster's is a combination of a restaurant and a video game arcade. There are many games from different generations such as Pac-Man, which was invented in early 1980, and Skee-ball, which was invented in late 1908. The 7th graders had many opinions about the trip. Kimberly Tengeres wanted to go on the trip because her friends were also going.



Many students had a blast on the rollercoaster ride.

Photo Creds: Kaylie Gonzalez.



Nigel Burnett and Akshay Bhardwaj had fun on the trip.
Photo Creds: Kaylie Gonzalez.

Layla Rojas wanted to hang out with her friends, but the food was a big part for her as well. Many students including Julia Savin were dissatisfied with the location of the trip. She said, "I think that we should have gone to Disney," but she does agree that the trip is worth the price. After the trip, the students had a lot to say. Noah Randall said that, "Dave & Buster's was a really good trip with better food than I thought. The games were a blast to play with my friends, and I would definitely go again." Gabriella Torres said that her favorite part of the trip was the roller-coaster ride and the photo booth. Overall, the trip was a success!

Field Trips are “Universal”ly Fun

By Addison Brawner, Akshay Bhardwaj Kaylie Gonzalez Enrique Leyva, and Morgan O’Steen



Photo Credit: Orlando Informer
The Universal gates come as a sign of joy to many.

On the other hand, the 8th graders of IRMS will be attending their field trip on May 18th. They will be on a long bus ride to get to Universal. Some of the rides there include Hagrid’s Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure, Jurassic World’s VelociCoaster, The Incredible Hulk, and Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey. The 8th graders had many opinions on the trip. Grace Drummond planned to spend her day going on rides and hanging out with her friends. The ride she wanted to go on the most was “Definitely the Hulk.” John Harper has been to Universal three times and thinks it was worth the cost of the trip. He was most looking forward to the many different rides that Universal has to offer.

Alder Torres went on the trip to have fun with his friends. He enjoyed the trip and liked the rides. This field trip was Chase Harvey’s first time going to Universal, and he was very satisfied with the destination. His favorite part of the trip was getting soaked on the water rides. Taylor Crosto, who had also never been to Universal before, said that her favorite part was the long bus ride with her friends and going on the rides. Amara Flukers decided to go on the trip to hang out with her friends and get out of school. She agreed with Chase that the best part was getting wet on the rides. All in all, the 8th graders definitely had a blast!



Photo Credit: Park Prodigy
Many 8th graders enjoyed themselves at Universal.

FFEA @ Fox Trail Elementary



By Anna Acosta, Kelley Wyatt, Isabella Pardo, & Sophia Sierra

Fox Trail Friends!

Florida Future Educators of America (FFEA) is a club that helps teachers and staff here at IRMS. FFEA is all about education, which is why the club started walking to Fox Trail Elementary from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. FFEA walks to Fox Trail and reads books to the kindergartners and first graders in the aftercare program. While at the school, FFEA provides fun activities for the children to do that are related to the book that was read to them. The first day of the event was on May 11th. FFEA members read Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak, The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein, and A Bad Case of Stripes by David Shannon. Rolando Tomasini, the vice president of FFEA shared that he enjoyed reading to the 1st graders because it was fulfilling. He also said, "I felt happy knowing that they had fun. It was a great memory."

Photo credit Ms. Didier



Avery Cuba enjoys reading A Bad Case of Stripes to the 1st graders of Fox Trail Elementary School.

Photo credit Ms. Didier



Kindergartners loved reading There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly with Kelley Wyatt.

The second day the event took place was May 18th. Students at Fox Trail Elementary read There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly by Lucille Colandro. Students also performed an activity involving sequential order, where they had to unscramble the order of which the old lady swallowed the animals. The second book that the students read was Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae. The children did an activity where they played musical chairs. Avery Cuba said that she thinks that this impacted the students lives by taking a break from normal schoolwork. She also states, "What made this experience special was seeing the smiles on their faces. It made my day." FFEA is looking forward to reading to the Fox Trail friends again! They plan to do it once a month next school year.

Inductions Are Around the Corner!

By Anna Acosta, Kelley Wyatt, Isabella Pardo, & Sophia Sierra

Congratulations to the 2023 NJHS inductees! 86 students have been selected to the Indian Ridge chapter of NJHS. National Junior Honors Society is a program that values citizenship, leadership, and character by doing community service hours. Each student was carefully selected based on their character, academic achievements, and experiences. These 7th grade students will be inducted on June 6, 2022. Congratulations to the following students:

Anna Acosta-Hernandez
Sanya Ahmed
Gavin Andreu
Hayden Anton
Camilla Back
Monjolaoluwa Balogun
Akshay Bhardwaj
Amiyah Blandon
Nigel Burnett
Ross Burwick
Keven Cabrera
Logan Clay
Sophia Cumberbatch
Jack Dash
Rose David- Adelee
Nicholas Demarco
Adrianna Do
Kennedy Elstein
Sophia Espinosa
Mayra Lopez Felipe
Lylah Fine
Benjamin Friendlander
Stella Geraci
Brooke Glassman
Brent Glickman
Julian Gomez
Stephanie Gonzales
Delilah Gordon

Courtney Haase
Jadyn Harrison
Jurnee Harrison
Lila Hewitt
Jackson Hoopes
Mishary Hossain
Noah Itzchaki
Amber Lam
Gianna Lay
Cezar Lazar
Kayla Le
Enrique Leyva
Lucy Livengood
Natalia Lopez Villegas
Justin Lubar
Guiliana Maggadino
Lucas Martinez
Finnley McCalister
Nicholas Milnthorpe
Dean Neveloff
Morgan O'Steen
Isabella Pardo
Jonah Pertnoy
Kaian Radwan
Noah Randall
Sarah Randall
Victoria De Leon Regil
Samantha Reisler

Jacob Reiter
Alexis Revis
Isabella Rodriguez
Raymond Rodriguez
Brody Rubenstein
Justin Rush
Julia Savin
Atilla Secim
Hannah Secu-Godiciu
Sophia Sierra
Jonathan Soloman
Kendra Spitaleri
Penelope Stiles
Xavier Suarez
Mitzy Tavera
Kylie Tirado
Rolando Tomasini
Francesca Trincanello
Hunter Van Der Steeg
Dinhquoc Vunguyen
Erin Wagenheim
Evan Wagenheim
Emilia Watson
Matthew Wheeler
Kelley Wyatt
Landon Young

SPEECH COMPETITION

By: Julia Savin and Rolando Tomasini. Editing by: Julia Savin

On May 7th, the speech students at Indian Ridge Middle School attended the Broward County Speech and Debate Championships. Speech students spent the year practicing their pieces for this competition. Countless hours of practice went into perfecting them. All the effort they put in paid off, because out of the 18 students who participated, 7 placed as the best in their respective categories in the county. The competition was an overwhelming success, and even the students who didn't place did well with their pieces. Speech students did well in all their categories and can't wait to join Debate class next year.

By: Julia Savin



Photo Credit: Rolando Tomasini



Photo Credit: Sanya Ahmed

By: Rolando Tomasini

Sanya Ahmed won first place in the Broward County Speech and Debate Champs. She competed in Informative. “[I felt] excited to share the topic to the rooms, especially the new judges,” S+ Ahmed remarked. Ahmed’s speech on artificial sweeteners explained how artificial sweeteners are more damaging than normal sweeteners. She added, “I liked educating people on my topic (‘The True Meaning of Artificial Sweeteners’).” Another speech student who also attended the tournament, Jurnee Harrison, said, “Sanya is a phenomenal, amazing, person and speaker.” The speech class is happy to have her with them.

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Photo Credit: Rolando Tomasini

By: Rolando Tomasini

Julia Savin won 1st place in Prose at the May Broward County Championships at Glades Middle School in Miramar. She did her speech on the book *Matilda* by Roald Dahl. Savin stated, “I think the tournament was a great way to gain experience and broaden my horizons competing against other speech students. In one of my previous tournaments, my shoe fell off and hit a projector. I’m glad that didn’t happen this time, and I specifically wore my boots so that it wouldn’t happen.” Savin’s judges commented that she did a great job with her speech. Out of the seven times that she presented her speech, she only got one 2nd place, and the rest were 1st place.

Mrs. Kannal

By: Julia Savin

Speech is an incredibly difficult class to teach, but no one does it better than Mrs. Kannal. She has taught speech for nine years and led the Indian Ridge Speech Team to victory at this year's county championships. About the competition, Mrs. Kannal said, "The tournament was a success, a lot of kids placed well. I am very pleased with awards, plus just as impressed with the kids who didn't win [awards] but stayed to cheer the team on anyway, because that's a true team." The Jaguars won many awards at championships, with two first places, two second places, and a third place, as well as many other awards. Mrs. Kannal is very proud of everyone who participated and says that the speech team is a "very strong team of 7th graders," and that, "the team will 100% do well in high school." Great job with championships, and good luck with future tournaments, Jaguars!

Types of Speech

*Prose - A type of speech in which speakers can interpret books.

*OO or Original Oratory - A type of speech where speaker can create a their own speech.

*Inf or Informative - A type of speech where a speaker can create a speech to inform the audience on a topic.

Runner-Ups



By: Rolando Tomasini

Even Wagenheim placed 2nd place in Prose in Broward Champs in Glades Middle. In his qualifier rooms, he got first, first, first, and third. He also said that he shouted nervously in one of his rooms, which he believes cost him a couple of points. Evan's piece is on a story in "Refugee," about a Jewish boy and his family in Nazi Germany trying to escape the country. The piece ends with Joseph getting caught by a Nazi youth as a cliffhanger.

Photo Credit: Julia Savin



By: Julia Savin

Finnley McAllister placed 3d in Original Oratory in Broward Champs. He presented his speech on procrastination and shared his experience with it. McAllister had a challenging time staying on task with his schoolwork while doing online school and wanted to share his solutions to it. He was inspired not only by his personal journey with time management but also by his friends in speech who motivated him to push himself- and not procrastinate on writing his speech.

Photo Credit: Julia Savin



By: Julia Savin

Natalia won 2nd place in Championships for her Informative piece about finding extra-terrestrial life. Natalia has always been interested in space and aliens. She stated, "I've always liked the idea that we aren't alone. Because it is such a big universe, it would be a waste of space."

Photo Credit: Julia Savin

By: Mishary Hossain

The final tournament of Speech and Debate was hosted at Glades Middle during May 7th. 7th and 8th graders participated in a variety of categories all across the county. Today we discuss Indian Ridge's 8th grade Champions.

Landyn Spellberg and Lusianna Huertas

Landyn Spellburg placed first in the entire county for extemporaneous speaking.

"I loved attending the tournament. It was so nice to see and meet other debaters and have fun with the Indian Ridge debate students. We all had such a good time!" exclaims Landyn. For this tournament, Landyn Spellberg decided to bring Extemp to the finals.

Extemp is a very risky category where students are given 30 minutes of research to pledge a response to a specific question. Landyn chose the category because he has competed in Extemp before and felt very comfortable in that category.

Landyn was able to do very well with a positive record in Extemp throughout the school year. He was in the speech class in 7th grade and took debate as an 8th grader. He learned a lot between the two classes and gained many valuable public speaking skills that he will use in his career.

Although Landyn came out victorious, it didn't come without a struggle. Many competitors from all around the county were competing for the same spot as him. "I learned a lot from this debate; however, one thing sticks out. I figured out that you must be prepared in debate, in order to be successful. I was very prepared for this tournament, and I think it helped make my speeches stronger," says Landyn.

Landyn believes that Speech Debate is a great choice for 7th and 8th graders, with many opportunities to learn new things. "Ms. Munoz is the best teacher, and she will be one of the best coaches you will have! The program is so beneficial, and you will be so happy that you took the courses."



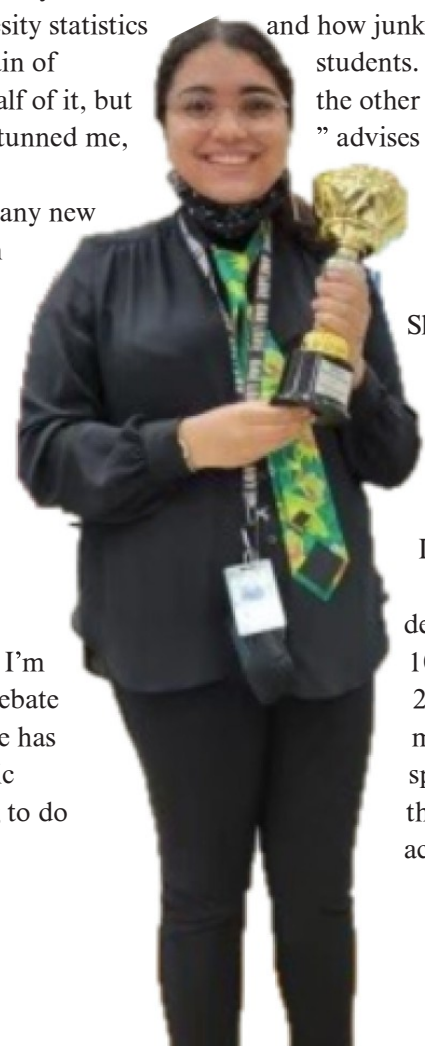
Lucy placed 4th in the entire county for Extemporaneous.

"I love participating in the debate tournaments because there was lot of interesting people to talk with. It was also nice to come up with different jokes in the prep room for my speeches," claims Lusianna.

Like Landon, Lucy presented Extemp in the finals. She managed to do very well in this very competitive category, beating several other opponents. She chose extemporaneous speaking because it was the most laid-back form of speech. This was her first year in speech and debate. She was recommended by Mr. Hasse to join debate and she took the opportunity.

Lucy learned many things whilst listening to great speeches about current events "During the tournament, I learned about food security issues. I got a question about promoting healthy foods to students. I learned so many American obesity statistics and how junk food affects the brain of students. I wasn't shocked for half of it, but the other part of my research stunned me," advises Lusianna.

She had many new experiences in the latest Debate competition. She definitely recommends Speech and Debate to other upcoming middle schoolers. "I've had an amazing experience in this \year and I'm going to do Debate 100% school. Debate has made me better at public speaking this for and I'm going to do the rest of my academic career!"



Debatable!

By Sanya Ahmed

May 7, 2022 - 8th graders Rigoberto "RJ" Garcia and Stephan Lungescu placed 4th overall in Broward County in the category Public Forum.

PF [Public Forum] is a two-on-two debate category in which the two teams argue the rightness of a perspective. On each team there is a Speaker 1 and Speaker 2. Speaker 1 delivers a previously prepared speech in favor or against a motion. After listening to the opposing side's Speaker 1, Speaker 2 refutes the opponents perspective. On the Indian Ridge team, RJ is Speaker 1, while Stephan is Speaker 2. "I think it is a little harder [to be Speaker 2] because you have to know how to stay on your feet listening to the opponent's claims, and refute them in a timely manner," RJ says.

RJ and Stephan have previously done four tournaments together, winning 1st place in three out of the four. "We also won 4th place in all of Broward County, so it's pretty cool," RJ comments. Traditionally, after-school tournaments have two rounds, but in the finale, it is five rounds.

Each round is essentially one hour of speaking and arguing, so five back-to-back hours of just talking was a lot to handle, Stephan explains.



Photo Credit: Mrs. Kannal

"It was a bit strange, you would finish one round and still be collecting your thoughts, and have to go immediately to another round," RJ adds.

The topic for this competition was based off Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, which prohibits Japan from going to war. The resolution was that this Article should be amended to allow for Japanese Offensive Capabilities.

Both RJ and Stephan were in Speech and Debate elective in the 6th and 7th grade, but Debate did not initially appeal to them. They agreed that Ms. Munoz's 8th grade debate class reaped lots of benefits.

RJ claims Speech and Debate has taught him to elevate his speaking with gestures and made them able to comfortably talk to huge audiences. Stephan says that Public Forum makes you very mindful to other people's perspectives and that it is

eye-opening to learn about current world events. All the speakers at Champs tournament agreed that Speech and Debate makes you unafraid to stand up for what you believe in, and unafraid to voice your thoughts.

RJ and Stephan agree that when competing in Champs, it is helpful to prepare weeks in advance, instead of a couple days before. Stephan plans to continue his debating career, while RJ plans to pursue interests elsewhere.

Stephan Lungescu and Rigoberto Garcia stepping off stage with their trophies.

Puzzles and games

By: Angelina Mauro, Rose David-Adelee, Nikolai Williams, Arianna Vassell

What's Your Beach Name?

First Initial

A: Salty	L: Dirty	X: Foolish
B: Cool	M: Happy	Y: Brave
C: Sweet	N: Sad	Z: Alert
D: Lazy	O: Calm	
E: Crazy	P: Dizzy	
F: Golden	Q: Perfect	
G: Breezy	R: Healthy	
H: Fluffy	S: Funny	
I: Sweaty	T: Corny	
J: Tired	U: Excited	
K: Angry	V: Confused	
	W: Helpful	

Birth Date

Jan: Dock Fisher	Oct: Scuba Diver
Feb: Banana Monkey	Nov: Sun Bather
Mar: Speedy Swimmer	Dec: Mango Muncher
Apr: Fish Talker	
May: Castle Builder	
June: Flip-Flopper	
July: Shell Collector	
Aug: Crab Chaser	
Sep: Ocean Floater	

By: Nikolai Williams

~Would You Rather~

Beach OR Park
Summer OR Winter
Flip-Flops OR Crocs
Ocean OR Pool
Turtles OR Sharks

Watermelons OR Cantaloupes
Paddle Boards OR Canoes
Sea Shells OR Coral
Sand OR Snow
Cruise Ship OR Road Trip

By: Angelina Mauro

Puzzles and games

By: Angelina Mauro, Rose David-Adelee, Nikolai Williams, Arianna Vassell

Unscramble the Words!

1. hbaec = ?

2. miws = ?

3. dsna = ?

4. ntet = ?

5. lrvaet = ?

6. rseasheo = ?

7. tseuns = ?

8. esirnus = ?

9. gipngohsp = ?

10. enaos = ?

11. finrdes = ?

12. cinpci = ?

13. ateh = ?

14. mdhui = ?

15. ssneiuhn = ?

16. giexarnl = ?

17. olacr = ?

18. nfu = ?

BY: Arianna Vassell

Summer Wordle!

<https://mywordle.strivemath.com/?word=ovzqp>

Type or Copy and paste that link into your browser to play this issue's wordle.

Good luck!

BY: Rose David-Adelee

Summer's Just Around the Corner!

By: Tobias Aguilar and Gabriella Larson



Nicolas Tozzi (Top) will be keeping the same schedule from every year. Nicolas is athletic and goes to a soccer camp to improve his skills every year, then goes to Las Vegas to tour around.



6th grader Malik, says he's too lazy to do anything. Malik eagerly said that he would be sleeping all day, then playing on his Playstation 5 all day.

After a school year that went by in a blur, summer is just around the corner! Many people may have made a lot of new during the year. But all over Broward County students and teachers are getting ready to have a blast during the next two months of freedom. Whether it's going to the beach, traveling, visiting family, or just staying at home to relax, everyone has their way of enjoying a break from school and work. Here at Indian Ridge many of the students have been quite chatty about their plans for the summer.



In an interview with 7th grader Anna Acosta (Top) she has big summer plans in New York, starting with going to Time Square and ending with going to Broadway. What she is most looking forward to is going to the Harry Potter store that has actual props from the movie. Not only that but it also sells butterbeer [Butterbeer is a drink from the movie series.]

The store also sells custom wands that you can make yourself. Another thing she is looking forward to is shopping in Time Square. What she is mostly looking out for is buying to add to her 90s style of clothing collection, which includes clothes like baggy jeans, oversized sweatshirts and overalls. Her 90s style also include fun and colorful patterns like Hawaiian prints, zebra prints and shiny patterns as well. More of her big plans in New York include going to the new FRIENDS museum. The FRIENDS TV show series is one of her favorites and the museum has actual props from the set of the show. During her trip to New York, she will be spending time with her mom and her step-dad.



When Angel Coffey was asked what a picture perfect summer was, he said being surrounded by people he loves. Angel will be spending most of his days at the beach, or in California where he will also be spending hours at the beach having fun with his family.

What Are The New FSAs All About?

By: Kennedy Elstein and Arianna Combs

Testing Director's Perspective on FSA Testing

Ms. Cohen is the testing director at Indian Ridge. Her job is extremely important because she sorts and figures out all of the testing groups, she prepares the test tickets, and organizes all of the material that we see. "The FSAs are important to a certain extent," Ms. Cohen reasons. She thinks it can put a lot of unnecessary pressure on the students, however she also thinks it has some pros along with the FSA's cons. The standardized test can be used to determine where a student's learning stands, what they have trouble with, and the pace at which they learn. These are all helpful benefits for a student, and they will be shown more in the new form of testing (F.A.S.T). Although Ms. Cohen is a testing director, she has very minimal information about the new form of test. She was informed that the new tests will be a beginning, middle, and end of year test, instead of only tests at the end of the year. Ms. Cohen is in favor of the F.A.S.T testing over the of FSAs because then you are not comparing yourself and your scores to other students, which can make a student feel insecure about their scores. The F.A.S.T test can portray your growth and is better for students!



Mrs. Cohen is the queen of all FSA's, she is currently packaging everything up now that the tests are over. Although she is behind the scenes, her presence is appreciated front and center! Photo credit: Arianna Combs

Thumbs Up For Testing? What Do The Sixth and Seventh Graders Think?

Geraldine Malary is a seventh grader at Indian Ridge. She has a strong opinion on the new form of FSA testing next year. It was a shock for Geraldine that the FSAs were changing into a different test format. After she found out what the new tests were, she was not looking forward to it. "I am not satisfied with the FSAs changing because it will be more stressful preparing for a test every quarter and the work will just accumulate," Geraldine suggests. Overall, she thinks the current end of year testing method that we currently have is fine for her and she would rather have it this way. Caroline Schwartz is a sixth grader that is aware the FSA's are going to change next year. She is super excited to have a change in the FSA system. "It will be stress relieving to have the tests in smaller portions," explains Caroline. When comparing the FSA's with the upcoming F.A.S.T, she would prefer to switch it up and have the new system for next year. Although the new F.A.S.T is still a work in progress, some students are looking forward for the upcoming new methods that are in store.



Geraldine Malary is unhappy about the new test changes, she is content with the current tests and she is upset that they're changing. Photo Credit: Arianna Combs

When FSA's are around, this is how Darasan Bispham behave when trying to prepare. With the F.A.S.T students will be preparing for smaller portioned tests, with less worry! Photo credit: Arianna Combs



Breathe it in. Run it out.

By: Lily Shuman, Victoria De Leon Regil, Kendra Spitaleri and Kheira Marouf



Photo credits: Kheira Marouf
Spectators watch as the regionals for track begins and runners start their warm ups.



Photo credits: Kheira Marouf
Coach Escobar is directing players as they get ready to run their 400 dash.

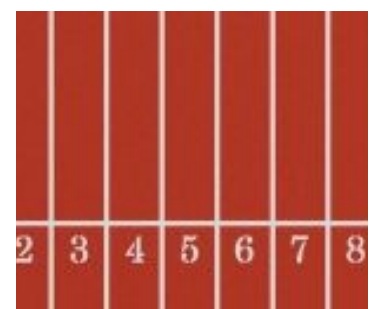


Photo credits: Kheira Marouf
The track team anticipates the score of their fellow team and get ready to run 800 meters.

As the Indian Ridge Middle School track season begins, track players are ready to head to regionals with several practices and meets. Thirty-seven track players practice every week to better their times and get ready for tournaments.

As the IRMS track team, made it to regionals Cameron Ruwe, 8th grader. He led Indian Ridge with a strong victory from the 400-meter dash. At regular meets, his best personal score was 58.8 seconds. He said that his motivation comes from his friends cheering him on to keep going. This support boosted his confidence throughout his run. Leila Reguero, competed in hurdles. In heat 1, Lane 6. She had a rocky start at the first meet in early May, because she was scared she was not going to make it, but she continued to put demanding work and effort into practice and finally gained confidence. All this painstaking work was worth it because it led her to number one at regionals. Through a stressful and successful season, five players qualified for championships: Cameron Ruwe with a 400 meter dash, Dashel Goodwin for 800 meters, Stefan Lungescu for 1,600 meters. Santiago Lara for 800 meters and the mile, and Tory Gardiner for 800 meter and the mile.

Indian Ridge Middle School has gone through many different generations of coaches and track runners, and they have always put a good reputation on this school. By showing explicit determination and a good attitude, the Indian Ridge track team has never let us down. We thank the Indian Ridge Middle School track team of 2022 and not only that but Coach Escobar, Coach Brosz, and Coach Lendinara for forming such an incredible group.



Sports Banquet



Photo credit: Kheira Marouf
Tory Gardener got two outstanding rewards in soccer and track.



Photo Credit; Kendra Spitaleri
A 360 view of the banquet while athletics were receiving rewards.



Photo Credit: Kendra Spitaleri
This is the Piper Battaglia's soccer stand!

The Sports Banquet took place on May 25th. It was set up for any athletes who joined any sports team at Indian Ridge Middle School to represent and to announce any scholar athletes. Tory Gardiner, Santiago Lara, Summer Rae- Gibbons were people who got an award for participating and always giving their best work at track practices and track meets. Tory Gardiner was inspired by her friends to join the track team, she worked really hard to make it to regionals and championships and her hard-work paid off. She felt good when she received the award because that is when she realized she had worked for this moment this whole season. Her best events that got her in this spot was the 1600 meters, which is also the mile and the 800 meters. Santiago Lara said “I just wanted to try out myself and see how good I was so I guess I inspired myself.” When he had received the award he felt good and thankful because he felt like he was being appreciated by the coach. His best events were the 1600 meters and the 4 by 4 relay but primarily the 1600 meters and said he will see if he will ever continue doing track. Piper Battaglia showed her molecular skills and won a MVP award for the Indian ridge soccer team. Piper explained that when she heard that she got the award a wave of shock hit her, she was ecstatic. So many emotions going through her head and she always had faith that she could be the greater player. excited. Piper’s motivation came from her soccer coach and how he always believed in her!



Ryan Stocker is this years Indian Ridge Scholar Athlete. Her incredible sportsman ship shined through her eighth grade year and the dedication and determination she presented. According to her coaches and her team Ryan deserved this award.

UPCOMING EVENTS

By: Samantha Almonte, Darasan Bispham, Amiyah Blandon, and Kyra Vaccato

May 31 - 6th Grade award ceremony

June 1st- 7th Grade award ceremony

June 2nd - 8th Grade award ceremony

June 6th- Whit Monday

(A special day of worship.)

June 8th- Miami Marlins MLB

June 9th - Last Day Of School

June 14th- Flag Day

(Adoption of the US flag.)

June 19th- Father's Day

June 19th- Juneteenth

(The emancipation of enslaved people in the US.)

June 21st- First Day of Summer



Paw Prints

Summer Edition

Administration:

Mr. Ian Murray

Mrs. Irene Gonzalez

Ms. Karen Birke

Mr. David Malca