

THE PAW PRINT POST

September Issue

Journalism Elective

Red Tide Affecting the Ridge

By: Madison Adkins

In Florida, the Red Tide is affecting the ecosystems by dropping dead fish along the coast because of algal blooms. This is affecting fish, manatees, dolphins, sea turtles, and whale sharks, but most of all, marine ecosystems.

The Red Tide is a real thing happening in Florida. There are multiple effects like the bad smell and orange red water. This is mildly dangerous to humans because the toxins in the water can go airborne and be dangerous for the respiratory system. The Red Tide is also occurring in Hawaii, Texas, Rhode Island, Dubai, and Massachusetts.

This is being caused by a rapid growth of algae called *Karneia Brevis*. When KB gathers in a large group, it can cause a harmful algae bloom, which can be seen from space. The bloom can remove oxygen and release a toxin. Since Florida has warm oceans, low salt, calm seas, and high nutrition levels, it happens frequently. There are multiple animals that have died because of the Red Tide including 100 manatees, thousands of fish, 300 sea turtles, and a dozen dolphins. According to Carlton.edu, Red Tide makes shellfish harmful to eat.

Ms. Blews, a sixth-grade science teacher, thinks that we can help the Red Tide, but not prevent it. According to National Geographic, the cause and the end is unclear. Technological advancements have helped scientists using satellite images to track the KB blooms. Ms. Blews also said that she thinks that humans have had some contributions to the Red Tide, but some things were not us.

Ultimately, the Red Tide is affecting Florida by killing marine life, hurting humans' respiratory systems, and damaging the marine ecosystem.



Photo Credit: Ben Depp

Dead fish floating in the water, they are dead because of algal blooms.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/1- Yearbooks go on sale!
- 10/2- Girls Playoff Soccer game; CHOC Meeting
- 10/3- NJHS Meeting
- 10/6- NJHS Park Clean Up
- 10/8- GSA Meeting
- 10/9- STEM, CHOC Meeting, SAC Meeting 4:15pm
- 10/10- Picture Retakes, Book Club Meeting
- Active Parenting of Teens 6:30pm
- 10/11- Chess Club and Step Team meeting
- 10/13- NJHS Park Clean Up
- 10/16- PTO Meeting 6pm
- 10/17- Active Parenting of Teens 6:30pm
- 10/18- Early Release & Jaguar Jog Pep Rally
- 10/19- No school for students
- 10/22- GSA Club Meeting
- 10/23- STEM, CHOC Meetings
- 10/23- Jaguar Jog collection starts
- 10/24- Book Club Meeting
- 10/25- STEP and Chess Meeting
- 10/26- Human Relations Club 4-5pm
- 10/27- Hispanic Festival
- 10/29- GSA Meeting
- 10/30- DJ at lunch, CHOC Meeting
- 10/31- Halloween- NO COSTUMES ALLOWED!

Sixth Grade Welcome Dance

By: Valerie Roa

The students had a blast at the 6th grade dance on September 21. The first dance of the year turned out to be as expected, making the sixth graders feel welcome and part of the IRMS family. Only 35 tickets were left, with 365 total tickets sold! They enjoyed the great music thanks to DJ Angelo and Valentine from motive8. To finish up the students ate pizza and went home with a wonderful experience. Thanks to PTO, NJHS, and the school board we enjoy fun activities like this one all year round.



Sixth graders have fun at their first dance.

ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Ian Murray- Principal
Ms. Irene Ortiz - 8th Grade Assistant Principal
Mrs. Karen Birke - 7th Grade Assistant Principal
Mr. David Greenfield - 6th Grade Assistant Principal

Beyond the Ridge



Photo Credit: Leo Correap
The National Museum Of Brazil up in flames



Photo Credit: GMA News Online
A forest in Brazil burning in fire.

Brazil Ablaze

By Hannah Keller and Marvin Mercelus

Since January, Brazilian wild fires have been breaking out, causing damage, and affecting Brazilians. This is a result of Brazilians trying to clear more areas for farming and livestock by setting fires in a controlled area. The fires often get out of control. Brazilian fires have been happening for years, but this month there was an a greater outbreak of the amount of fires and the damage they've done has dramatically increased. One of the most affected areas was the Museu Nacional. The fire devastated the museum and most of the artifacts were probably destroyed or damaged from the fire. According to “The Guardian,” up to 90 percent of the main building’s items were affected. Employees lost their jobs because the place is now permanently closed. People are trying to save items from the inferno and sort them. The next day tons of researchers tried to salvage as many relics, artifacts, bones, and almost anything that was ancient. Fires in Brazil have become more and more common due to need for more food to accommodate the growing population. People plant food to have something to eat, but people would need space to do this, so they would burn vegetation to clear that space, and the fire would grow and become a wildfire. Another reason why could be climate change. Due to greenhouse gases on the rise, the world is significantly hotter resulting in fires caused by mother nature. One problem could be agriculture itself because it could provide more fuel, or it could be set on fire due to heat, which causes it to be dry and catch on fire more easily. The fires in Brazil could be prevented in many ways like people being more efficient with their fields and trying to squeeze in as many crops as possible. Another way is to decrease the usage of greenhouse gases to a minimum. The most obvious solution is for Brazilians to stop burning areas that look like there are no humans that live there, it could even mess up economies due to a random fire that destroyed almost an entire area.

What's Trending?

It All Ended With a Big Bang

By Ciara Matthews

Warner Brothers recently decided to end the TV series “The Big Bang Theory” (TBBT) because actor Jim Parsons, who plays Sheldon Cooper, was ready to say goodbye. Also, even though TBBT was very popular, shows get more expensive each season. And, TBBT happens to be one of the most expensive comedies to produce on CBS. The twelfth season, which will air in 2019, will be the last season.

Many people find it hard to believe that Parsons would want to leave “The Big Bang Theory” considering each actor makes around \$1million per episode. However, on August 23rd, Parsons posted a picture on Instagram of him and his castmates and a long caption in which he said, "I feel very fortunate that we have another 23 episodes to shoot this season because I am hopeful that with each and every one, my level of REALLY accepting this fact will sink in."

When asked how he felt about TBBT ending, sixth grader, Sebastion Diaz said, "I like that show so that will be sad." Lots of people including the other actors are also upset that this popular comedy series is coming to an end. Kaley Cuoco, who plays Penny, also posted on Instagram about the show ending. She wrote, "No matter when it was going to end, my heart would have always been broken in two." The other actors also posted on social media, saying things such as: "I fear it's going to be very hard to not cry..."



6th grader
Sebastian Diaz

6th grader
Abraham
Bouzaglo



Keke Challenge Goes Viral

By Ella Dever

When Drake launched his new song “In My Feelings” it was a big hit! The first Keke challenge, or “Shiggy Challenge” began around the middle of June. The video is 30 seconds long, but those 30 seconds became viral around early August. People all around the world are doing this dance, from India to the United states. Famous people such as Will Smith, and a boy band member, J-Hope, did the challenge which led others to do it too.

On July 19, 2018, Fabrizio Pinton and his friend posted a Keke challenge fail. His Twitter @FabrizioPinton from the Woodlands, Texas wrote under the video “#inmyfeelingschallenge fail” along with two laughing emojis. The video is of him jumping out of his car and as he started dancing his friend drove off videoing him running after the car. He ends up hitting his face on a road sign while his friend is hysterically laughing, This is just one of the funny fails that came from this viral video.

“I did it once, my dad made me walk all the way home after I jumped out of the car.” said Abraham Bouzaglou, who is a sixth grader at our school. Even though it is a huge hit, and many people have done it, it is very unsafe. Even the police are speaking out about it. The guardian news interviewed them, and they say there are “oblivious dancers crashing into poles, tripping on potholes, or falling out of cars.” People are scared that it has gone too far as one woman gets her purse stolen.

Sport-acular Jags

“Champions aren’t made in gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them – a desire, a dream, a vision. They have the skill, and the will. But they must be stronger than the skill.” - Muhammad Ali.

By: Chiara Cremonti, Hunter Ring, Jaden Little



Paola Almodovar, an Indian Ridge soccer player has been playing for 7 years and it is her favorite sport. From her perspective, her team performs well and she thinks that she will win the championship.



It’s October, and it’s that time of year again where the Indian Ridge Middle School’s Cheerleading, Soccer, Basketball, and Golf teams are competing against other teams in Broward County. Indian Ridge is doing quite well with wins in soccer, golf and more.



Coach Lendinara, is the athletic director and controls what happens with each and every sport. She said, “I like working with the kids which is why I do sports.



Before Indian Ridge, Grace was a cheerleader since she was 4 years old, and has been cheering for 7 years. “ I love cheer, and I have a good relationship with my team, and cheerleading is my favorite sport.”

Grace Baxter, base on the cheerleading team

Sport-acular Jags

Get to know Indian Ridge Middle School Sports Players

By: Chiara Cremonti, Hunter Ring, Jaden, Little

Romie Penton, Girl's Soccer Player

Romie Penton, a forward/defense, commented that the girls' soccer team are all very good friends and cooperate very well with each other and have mostly known each other before playing on the IRMS team. "We all cooperate very well because we all play club soccer, and we're all good friends." She also has been playing soccer for 5 years previously and loves soccer more than any sport.

Daniel Gurtov, Coach of the Girl's Soccer team

Mr. Gurtov has been coaching girl's soccer at Indian Ridge for 17 years. He is the first girls' soccer coach at Indian Ridge ever. He first got the idea from some girls in his classes to create a *girls'* soccer team. The girl's soccer all love to have some laughs and have lots of fun, and don't like to lose. From Coach Gurtov's perspective he thinks that "We have a very talented team, but we have a lot of young players."

Lauren Bowlby, golf team player

Lauren ~~started~~ playing playing golf when her dad took her out to golf courses and taught her how to play and she continued playing and she continued playing and improving her skill and has been playing as a righty for 3 years, but has recently started playing lefty the past 3 years. "On a scale of 1-10 I like golf as a 9 or 10."



Indian Ridge is off to a great start!

Indian Ridge is off to a great start for the 2018-2019 school year, and we're all very optimistic that Indian Ridge has outstanding sport teams. We still have a long way to go to go until the championships, but we are in it to win it! Let's all cheer on all our teams at IRMS.

The Jaguar Den

Written By: Jordan Miller, Vania Guadarrama, Isabella Bueno, and Malik Suleiman

Perimeter Gates Locked

Since the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, the school perimeter gates, allowing cars to enter the school, have been locked during the school day. Before 8:00 a.m., one gate is closed, while security is guarding the open gate. From 9:30-4:00, both gates to the school are locked and a security member monitors the gates. When a parent wants to pick up their child or a staff member needs to leave for any reason, they need to call the office. The office radios security, who asks for an ID and if they pass the requirements, they open the gates for them. Leo Nesmith, the Director of Broward's District Administrative Services, said this new policy is to "prevent inappropriate access to school grounds during the school day."

While the county recognizes this new enforcement has its flaws, "the District continues to closely monitor its implementation at all schools to ensure we provide safe and secure learning environments for all BCPS communities" (Leo Nesmith). This key safety protocol takes time and requires a lot of work. Although it is time consuming, people are satisfied with this change because of the increased security. Many parents, such as Mayli Curran, the mother of two kids that attend Broward County schools, says the second gate being locked consumes much of her time because it is more difficult to drop both of her children at their schools. Mrs. Curran added, "Even though it takes more time, I am 100% in full support of any change that will increase security [in schools]." Parents are not the only ones who have to cope with this new safety practice. Teachers must, too. Ms. Escobar feels it is a more secure way to run the school. On the other hand, teachers who do leave often, must deal with the process. Everyone is affected differently, but the district's main concern is to ensure child and employee safety in the school environment to prevent future tragedies.

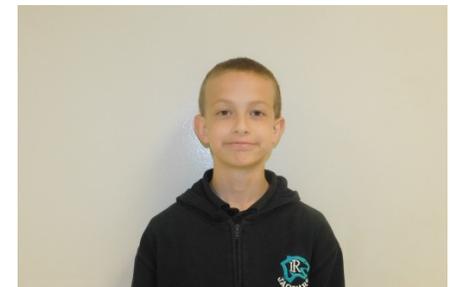
New Tryout Requirements

This year, everyone who wishes to try out for a sports team must take a middle school physical exam from their doctor. The physical requires the clinic to stamp the form and qualify it, if the kid is eligible to play sports. Once a student takes the exam, he/she will need to bring in the forms signed by the student, their parent, and doctor. A kid who does not return the form before tryouts, will have serious consequences and may not be allowed to play the sport. This new mandatory policy is greatly emphasized by coaches. Many coaches say this policy is complicated and hard to manage. They must trust the kids to bring back the papers before the deadline. While it is time-consuming, this policy was reinforced for the athlete's safety.

We interviewed Coach Lendinara, the athletic director, to see what her opinion was. Coach Lendinara said, "I think it's absolutely necessary so that we keep our students safe and they are cleared by a doctor to be physically active in sports." She feels it is important to require these papers for student safety. On the other hand, we asked student Bryce Weisblat, a seventh grader who tried out for the basketball team, on his opinion on the form requirements. He said, "I didn't feel it was necessary to sign this big form." He feels this way because students who are required to get physicals must pay a fee to the clinic doing the checkup. Parents could have to pay the clinic \$30 for the 20-minute session. Clearly, these forms may require more time and a small fee. If you are looking forward to tryout, remember to have your papers ready.



This is a car entering the gates after being let in by the security guard.



Bryce Weisblat, 7th grader who tried out for basketball.

Jaguar on the Spot

Written By: Jordan Miller, Vania Guadarrama, Isabella Bueno, and Malik Suleiman

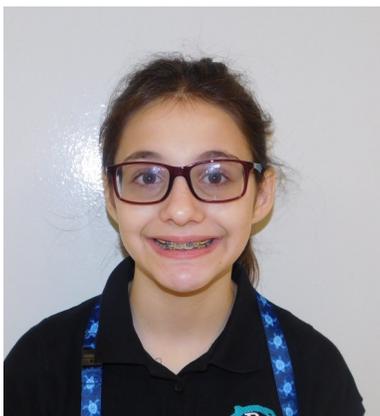
The Bells Have Changed

One thing everyone at Indian Ridge needs to deal with this year: The new bell schedule. This year, the new principal, Mr. Murray, came up with a brand-new schedule. Before the change, some classes were longer than others. Now, 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th period have been shortened while 3rd and 4th period have been lengthened. For 7th and 8th graders, there is no bell between transferring from 3rd to 4th period. When this change was first established, students were confused about the big change. Students have been reacting differently to these changes. Some students think that the new class times have been improved and beneficial, while others believe the new schedule is still flawed and unnecessary.

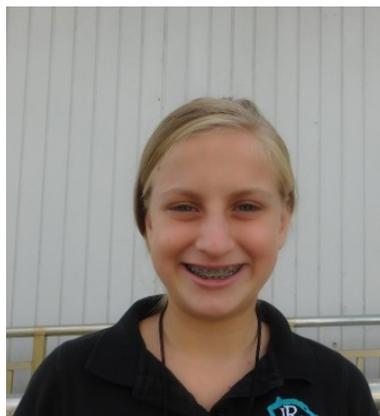
Mr. Murray's intent to change the schedule was to "make sure all students have enough time to get from class to class." He wants students to benefit from this new change and have more time in lunch. Many kids have their own opinions on the change. We interviewed one kid from each grade level to see what they thought about the change. Stella Seamon, a sixth grader, likes the new schedule because she gets more time between classes since her classes are far. This is relatable to kids who have classes that may be on the other side of campus. Brooke Rothschild, a seventh grader, does not like the new schedule because it has been shortening her classes, so there is less time to learn from each subject. Alexa Kinsey, an eighth grader, agrees with Brooke. She thinks it is confusing and effects at what time she gets to class. She also thinks this schedule should be improved because some classes are still longer than others. Some people may have their electives longer than their enrichment class. Undoubtedly, students have different opinions about the new procedure.



Mr. Murray is the principal of Indian Ridge.



Stella Seamon a 6th grader. "I think we should [have more time between classes] because my classes are [far]."



Brooke Rothschild a 7th grader. "It has been shortening a bunch of classes, so less time to learn."



Alexa Kinsey an 8th grader. "Teachers lose class time ... some classes are longer than others."

Pawesome Clubs

Student Council

By Kai Navarro

There are a variety of clubs here at Indian Ridge they range from meme to GSA, but one of the most interesting clubs here at IRMS would be Student Council. Student Council is a club run by Dr. Watson an eighth-grade social studies teacher. Student Council is great for a variety of reasons, you can make new friends with the same interests as you, plus you also get to help the community. Student council is a club by which you plan different events at the school such as beach clean ups and charity! One person by the name of Ian Pomareda said, “if you want your voice to be heard then join student council because it's fun and it helps you make friends but most importantly your voice will be heard, and you can express yourself and make a difference” As well as another student whose name is Valerie Pares stated “It is a great way to make new friends and make the community a better place where everyone is taken into consideration” that same student said that student council will most definitely benefit them and others in the long run. So, it is obvious that these students are very passionate about student council and you should probably think about joining Student Council and helping our great school to become greater!



Ian Pomareda



Valerie Pares

C.H.O.C. By Samantha DeCapua



Mrs. Weintraub

Another interesting club here at IRMS is Children Helping Other Children or CHOC. CHOC is a club about helping others, specifically about helping other kids in need. The club is run by Mrs. Weintraub, a sixth-grade social study’s teacher. The club was started by Mrs. Weintraub daughter Morgan and her two friends. In C.H.O.C they do a variety of things for example last the club took out some kids from foster care and took them to a local escape room and out to dinner. On another occasion they went to the Miami Children’s Hospital to create a mini Build A Bear for children . The thing about this is that the pay is so low that a person would never advance or retire, in fact they would barely be able to support themselves. The school would have three rooms, one dedicated to learning one of the most common languages, English.

Wild Electives

Amazing New Electives at IRMS

By Hadley Turner

We have a few new electives here at IRMS, such as Pre-Law, and Financing. Financing teaches great life skills, such as how to manage money and stocks. Pre-law, while only for eighth graders, has some great skills to offer, like public speaking and how to express your opinions.

Mrs. Hillis is our pre-law teacher here at IRMS, and while she only came to our school last year, her students already love her. Eighth graders Sophia Devia and Nelson Bernal, who both love the class, want to become lawyers themselves. For Sophia, she's always loved law and feels like she has more of a voice now, with the help of social media. She wants to become a civil lawyer and work divorce cases, while Nelson thinks it would be fun to work in criminal law as a prosecutor. They have two very different career choices, but one thing they can agree on is that you should definitely join Pre-Law, and had a few tips if you do, Nelson said, "If you work hard, you'll have lots of fun." Sophia expressed her love for the class by saying, "It's very beneficial to your future."

Mr. Gurtov teaches both Financing and Social Studies. While his financing student have mixed views on the class, and whether or not they would have chosen this class I given the choice, the one thing they can agree on is that they will use the information that they learned in this class for the rest of their lives. When asked, Ella Shyster and Yusuf Faruqui said they both love financing and agree that their favorite part of the class so far is stocks. However, not everyone shares their positive views on this class. For Tristin Figueroa, he doesn't like the class. He says he, "wouldn't have chosen it on his own." Though they all have different opinions on the elective, they'll use what they learned in the years to come.



Nelson Bernal



Sophia Devies

Speak Up!

This year at Indian Ridge, a speech class is available for 6th graders. Run by Ms. Shabsels, it is an academic elective with the primary purpose of introducing students to communications, public speaking & presentations skills. It also teaches basic argumentation techniques, while offering continuing literacy support in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening, and critical thinking.

According to Tristan Figuera, a student in Ms. Shabsels's second period, "It's a great class if you have public speaking problems." Tristan also mentions that the class is much easier than he thought. Lily Scheets, another student in Ms. Shabsels class, says that she "likes speaking" and because of the class she "speaks better in front of people."

Up For Debate

New v.s. Old lunch schedule

By Hannah Brant and Ella Glassman

On September 4, 2018, a schedule change has risen in our school that has affected our lunch schedule. Students have been arguing throughout the year that the new changes have affected them in a positive and negative way. For instance, according to Anabella Perez, a 6th grade student, she says she likes the new change because it provides more class time, and it prevents interference between her classes. On the other hand, she thinks that she doesn't get enough time to eat and get food during her lunch period. This leaves her feeling hungry during classes because she has the very last lunch.

Currently the new schedule has

been a hit for some, and for others it's the complete opposite. A survey was taken in about five classes of different grades and more than 50% of the classes like last year's lunch than this year. On contrast when students were interviewed most of the students said that they enjoy the new schedule. For example, Luis Valle, Mrs. Golembeski's second hour student, stated that he likes this year lunch schedule because it gives kids a break from their given work load. This argument will float all around our school this whole 2018-19 school year.

The majority of the students in our school really enjoy the new schedule change, but if you still don't believe it just take Sydney

Longs statement as proof. She says that she like the new change even though she wishes that she could sit with her friends. According to many students the new change was made to ensure our safety and that we have enough time to eat and relax. In my opinion, this was a great way to help switch up our school.



This is Anabella Perez, a 6th grader.

Photo Credit: Ella Glassman



This is Luis Valle, a 7th grader from Mrs. Golembiowski's second period.

Photo Credit: Ella Glassman



This is Sydney Long, an 8th grader.

Photo Credit: Ella Glassman

Jaguar Judges

After Care: Pro or Con?

By Ella Glassman

In my opinion, adding an aftercare to our school was a fantastic idea! Currently our school has added an after-school program which allows students to join clubs. When students join more clubs, our school can raise more money for programs, sports, events, and more. The after-care program is also a great way for kids to reach out and make new friends. Indian Ridge middle schoolers can also become more involved with our school in a way they can't during class.

Joining a club has shown students can become leaders with strong traits and grow to be more intelligent. Clubs that students can partake in are sports teams, Children Helping Other Children (C.H.O.C), Student Council, Chess, NJHS, First Priority, book club, Dungeons and club, and more. A school club gives kids social skills that they need later in life like public speaking, meeting and talking to new people, responsibility, time management, etc. Clubs are also an easy way to keep students entertained after school.

Making new friends can boost a child's confidence. The after-school program is an easy way to do that. A new friend gives a child someone to talk to when they need someone, someone to hang out with after school, and just feel better about coming to school. Making new friends have shown that a kid's stress level will decrease. Studies have shown that self-confidence and self-worth will increase.

By Hannah Brant

From my perspective, I think that the new after-care service is a Pro. This program will higher the chance of students making friends. Not only will the students make friends but they will develop social skills necessary for later on in life. Students in this program also get the chance to join clubs which benefits the school and the students and teachers running the clubs.

This program was made to conveniently help parents with watching their children while they work to make money for their family. While the child's parent is at working the student can participate in clubs such a Student Council, Human Relations club, CHOC, and many more. Indian Ridge middle students also can participate in sports such as basketball, soccer, cross-country, and lots more. When students participate in these activities they develop strong traits and skills that will improve their creative mind set. Studies have shown that students that participate in clubs are more productive in their school work and daily life.

The new after care program has shown get benefits to kids such as a sense of belonging and confidence, safety and supervision, provide academic support, and many more. And from the great things I have heard about this program I think it will flourish and keep on going for many years to come.

By Gabriel Pacheco

In my opinion the new after care is a big help to our school because in case parents cannot pick up student they can leave the child in the after care and students have time to do homework in after care. Students can be occupied by talking to their friends. The after care will be a great help to parents who are running late to pick up their child in school and students can have fun too. If students have a project due they can have time in the after care program. Students can have fun in the program by talking to their friends or do their homework.

Dear Jaguars...

Jaguars Attack On Advice

By Vanessa Flores, Giselle Bouzaglou, Rylie Gilland, Gabriel Maya

Everyone has problems. Weather they are small or big dose not matter because it can still affect your everyday life. It can be hard to deal with these problems especially if you do not know how. The Paw Print Post has created an advice column so the students at Indian Ridge can know and learn ways to help cope with their problems. For the month of September, we are focusing on ways to deal with anxiety and stress.

Mrs. Golembiowski, the peer counseling teacher, has suggestions to help others cope with anxiety and stress. She has techniques like square breathing and counting fingers. The peer counselors are also here to help. Most students go to them to vent to people who have been through what they are going through. Some words of advice Mrs. G tells students is to “go easy on yourself.” People want to be perfect from day one, but you need time to adjust and better yourself. Mrs. Golembiowski says, “Ask for help, people can be a lot nicer than you think.” Mrs. G and her team of peer counselors are always here to help.



Mrs. Golembiowski is the peer counseling teacher.



Mrs. Rasado is the 8th grade guidance counselor.

Mrs. Rosado is currently the 8th grade guidance counselor. She says that the most common problems brought to her are problems with communication. Mrs. Rosado provides students, of all grades, a safe place where they can have a calm one on one discussion. She helps build students communication skills efficiently when two people are in an argument. She believes people should use “I” statements”, so others don’t feel attacked. Ways students can help themselves deal with certain problems like anxiety or stress is by finding their happy place. These is so they can recognize the fact that they have one. Knowing you have a happy place can make you feel more secure. Ms. Rosado says, “The only thing guaranteed in life is change, so everything you’re going through will not always be that way.”

One of the most stressful things about school is grades. Keeping good grades can be extremely hard. NJHS is a tutoring program that helps kids improve in the classes they are struggling in. Mrs. Nortmann oversees this program. NJHS is every Wednesday morning from 8:40 to 9:10 in room 194. The NJHS members are eighth graders who help tutor one-on-one.



Mrs. Nortmann oversees NJHS

Fuzzy Feelings

What Goes Around....

By; Vanessa Flores, Giselle Bouzagliou, Rylie Gilland, Gabriel

Children Helping Other Children (CHOC) is a program at Indian Ridge sponsored by Mrs. Weintraub. This program dedicates time and effort into raising money and awareness for those in need. CHOC is trying to teach the importance of community and giving back. CHOC is local and global. The members put on parties at hospitals for those with terminal illnesses. They also go to room to room, dressed as Disney characters to bring a smile to the kid's faces. They host events such as Build-A-Bear. The members of CHOC also go on field trips with the patients to bring a sense of normality back into their lives.



Mrs. Weintraub is in charge of CHOC.

Currently, CHOC members are raising money to build a school in Nigeria, Africa to orphans who lost their parents to terrorist attacks. They will get the privilege to name the school once it is finished. They interact with the children of Nigeria through Skype calls. The members design books and read them to the children as entertainment and to help with their English. In Nigeria, there are no low-grade level schools. Therefore, it is hard to get proper education and a good future. This program will help expand the children's opportunities.

The reason for creating a national CHOC club was to help those in need. Eighteen years ago, a girl was diagnosed with cancer. One day, Santa came in and talked with the children. It lifted the mood and turned the depressed atmosphere into joy. The girl grew up, and at fourteen, she started CHOC to help those in need. The child is Mrs. Weintraub's daughter. Mrs. Weintraub says, "It's not because it was 'Santa' that lifted the mood, but it was because there was someone out there who cared."

The events coming up are the change drive, and the All-Around American Coupon Book. The change drive is called Change-for-Change. It goes through fifth period, starting Monday, October 1st. The class who raises the most money will get a pizza and doughnut party. The All-Around American Coupon Book has already started. It costs \$25 for a coupon book. All the money is going to fundraisers. Most charities use a percentage on what is donated for overhead. According to Mrs. Weintraub, "100% of what is donated goes right back to the children who need it." The best thing about CHOC is that the kids do everything. It's truly Children Helping Other Children.

Cubs of Character

By Dani Larios

Cooperation was the character trait for the welcoming month of September! Cooperation is the process of working together! Dr. Watson said some ways to show cooperation were by “helping our students, giving them an opportunity to work together, and creating diverse clubs and organizations.” It's important to cooperate with your teachers as well, so you can allow for a better learning an environment.

6th Grade Cubs of Character:

Jack Gyton, Samantha Levy, Manuel Calles, Lily-May Cadet, Hailey Anderson, Jordana Osber, Daylin Berry, Sophia Cadavid, Stephanie Marks, Deria Phipps, Lily Grogan, Sebastian Norman, Blake Shields

7th Grade Cubs of Character:

Abe Walder, Brooke Aufenanger, Caitlyn Balbach, Irlanda Velasquez, Kai Tabon, Madison Adkins, Mya Rush, Priscilla Ortiz, Rylee Gilland, Trisania Myers, Vania Guadarrama, Sidney Anten, Audrey, Heilig, Thomas Stelljas, Michael Pugliese, Dominic Valladaves

8th Grade Cubs of Character:

Aaron Blair, Alycia Nicasio, April Vetter, Kole Oester, David Tosado, Hailey Robinowitz, Bria McGahee, Brennan Dickson, Mileishka Lopez Torres, Nicole Acosta, Maya Yenor, Ian Pomarede, Daniel Carvajal, Juan Sebastian Graados, Hannah De Sousa, Lita Hansley



Daniel Dodds, 6th Grader said “helping my friends out” is an act of cooperation!



Sasha Dumitrescu 7th grader, says he “threw someone’s lunch away” as an act of cooperation!



Arianna Diaz, 8th Grader

Staff "Spot"light

By: Sharon Hopengarten and Dalila Blanco-Oriolo

The security staff at IRMS has had a busy start to the school year. Many new safety features have been added, and district mandates regarding single point entry and gate closures have added pressure to both students and staff.

In order to start working on our school safety team, all security personnel is put through training to make sure they know what to do in any dangerous circumstance. Mr. Williams has been working at Indian Ridge Middle School for two years already and spoke about how he trained. He said, "they had to put us through different situations." They did this so he and other future school security members would know how to respond if such situation were to occur. Mr. Williams decided to work here because his "background is law enforcement." He has been in this service industry for a long time, since 1998, but "decided to transfer from federal government to come back to the school board, to be closer to home, and live with my family."

Mr. Williams also addressed Code Reds. "The protocol would be for a code red: everybody's doors locked, and stay in the classroom." He also went on to say he would look in the hallways and makes sure everyone is in their classrooms.

Some of the newest safety features implemented at IRMS are wearing school IDs, always being in school uniform, and the gates being closed more frequently.

- * You now must get your ID checked before coming or leaving through the front gate
- * They have fewer gates open in the mornings and at dismissal
- * You must be wearing school ID's all day; you must have it on to get into school.
- * You must always be in school uniform.



Mr. Hinkins is a security guard at Indian Ridge Middle School!



Ms. Young she has been working here for a year and two months!



Mr. Williams has worked here at Indian Ridge Middle School for two and a half years already!

“Paw”se to Remember

Choose Peace Stop Violence

By: Carlos Mallett

Unfortunately, violence is a part of our daily life in all areas of our nation. Suicide, self-harm, physical injury, psychological harm, or even death are major issues, due to differences such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. According to choosepeacestopviolence.org, in the United States alone, over 50,000 deaths were due to violence, and up to millions of others suffering crucial injuries. If we are going to come together to cease such violence from our environment, we must know the factors that influence it. Seventh grade guidance counselor Ms. Donovan believes that it is the “differences” between us that give people the motive to be threatening towards others, and eighth grade guidance counselor Mrs. Rosado assumes “They react this way because of sadness and even being mad”. It’s the little things as well. For instance, a child was set on fire over a stolen bike; a teen was severely beaten over text messages; and a student was killed in a drive by just outside of school. These attacks were horrific, but this is only the tip of the mountain of what goes on throughout out the world.

If on the receiving end of this cruelty, speaking up is tremendously imperative. It is equally as imperative if you are witness of cruelty. There are multiple ways to take action against violence, including reporting incidents to authorities or a responsible adult, vocalizing your concerns, encouraging others, and/or simply treating others as you would like to be treated. These ideas will not cease violence completely, but it can be minimized, as sixth grade teacher Mrs. Hill insinuated. To illustrate, maybe students take a test to get into an advanced class, and one of the kids who didn’t pass become jealous. Possibilities are that he/she may bully students who did get into the advanced classes. These ways could be calling them names such as “dorks”, stealing an important necessity for one their classes, or anything that makes them feel as if their success meant nothing. People have many ways of showing their emotions. Violence is unfortunately one of the more common ones. Sadly, this violence can’t just be eliminated easily due to the little things, but we can most definitely try to decrease the amount of it to make our community a better place.

All in all, the edges of violence expands way beyond physical abuse or bullying. 50,000 dying in the United States per year alone is beyond unacceptable. That is averaged out to about 1,000 deaths per year in every state. These averages are preventable if us as citizens can set aside differences, use self control, and come together to create a peaceful environment. Undoubtedly, violence is a serious problem that can have lasting harmful effects on victims and their families, friends, and communities.

Photo Credit: Brianna Harrison



Mrs. Rosado, the eighth grade guidance counselor has very strong beliefs regarding violence. She makes it very clear it is people's emotions that trigger them to be violent.

HISPANIC HERITAGE FESTIVAL

DATE:

Saturday, October 27, 2018

TIME:

11am-3pm

LOCATION:

Indian Ridge Middle School
1355 S. Nob Hill Road
Davie, Florida 33324



- Student Talent Show with Latin Twist
 - Band Performance
- Salsabortropical Performing and
- Salsa Dance Class for Audience
 - Kona Ice &More

Visit with members from:

Hispanic Unity, Mujeres Latinas, Big Brothers Big Sisters,
Firewall Centers, Children Services Council.

Come and meet family members from other
countries and celebrate the things we have in common and the
things that unite us as one big Hispanic family.

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