

Nov./Dec. 2010



The IUS Newsletter



Email: IncirlikEHS.Principal@eu.dodea.edu
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Incirlik Unit School



Parents,

DoDEA has a provision that allows the early withdrawal of students due to military necessity. Students must provide a verification of their sponsor's departure via official PCS orders in order to receive consideration for full academic credit. This provision was never intended to apply to or be extended for, the convenience of family travel, visits or other discretionary reasons.

MS/HS students can be accelerated to finish their first semester of work to get credit for withdrawal not earlier than December 16. Students must be in school all day on December 15, 2010. For the second semester, MS/HS students can be accelerated to finish their second semester of work to get credit for withdrawal not earlier than May 19, 2011. Students must be in school all day on May 18, 2011.

For ES students, students must be in school through May 19, 2011, in order to be promoted to the next grade level. Withdrawal prior to that date means that students will get a "withdrawal grade" instead of a final grade that would promote them to the next grade level.

If you have questions, please get in touch!

Terry

TERRY A. GREENE Ph.D.
Principal
Incirlik Unit School

Nov. 25-26:
Thanksgiving Holiday, No School.

Nov. 29-Dec.01:
LinguaFest2010, Germany.

Dec. 3-4: Ankara @ Incirlik, Girls and Boys Basketball/Wrestling/Cheerleading.

Dec. 10-11: Incirlik @ Ankara, Girls and Boys Basketball/Wrestling only.

Dec. 13: Holiday Concert, TBA.

Dec. 16: Early Withdrawal date for credit.

Dec. 20-Jan. 02:
Winter break. No school.

Jan. 03: Instruction Resumes.

IUS Continuous School Improvement in Action

Hispanic Month—R. Z.



Mrs. Z.'s class celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month on October 15 with a visit from K. A.'s parents.



K. and her parents shared the national dress of Honduras with Mrs. Z.'s second grade class. Mrs. A. read *Clifford El Perro Bombero* in Spanish and danced with K.

Halloween

Mrs. Z.'s class also participated in many different activities for Halloween. Halloween mobiles were made and parents came in to carve a pumpkin with the students. They sang *Witch's Brew* for the parents.



IUS Continuous School Improvement in Action

Sure Start Celebrates November with the letter P— Dr. L. S.

Pets, Pigs, and Pancakes will be our theme for part of November. The Pigs and Pancakes theme is based on The Story of Little Babaji, and several different versions of *The Three Little Pigs*. Little Babaji eats a lot of pancakes, so we will see if anyone can come close to his record! (We make very small pancakes so we can count how many we eat.) Of course pancake starts with the letter P, so we study Pigs and Pets, too! Dramatic play will have a Pet Store and Vet Clinic (move over PetSmart!) The children will make puppets, act out the story of *The Three Little Pigs*, make a map of the three pigs' neighborhood, build houses of sticks, straw, and blocks (our version of bricks).



We will do movement activities related to foods that begin with p, and of course we will eat some of those foods too! Poems, chants, and rhymes include: “Pizza and Pop,” “Pat a cake,” “Peter Piper,” “Five Crispy Pancakes,” the “Pancake song,” and “Peter Peter, Pumpkin Eater.” We will also be doing activities related to the letter P. Some of these will be standard activities for each letter as we move through the alphabet with the letter that naturally goes with our theme. There is pink and purple play dough that smells good and GAK in pink and purple in the sensory table. A range of art activities related to pigs and the words that begin with p will be offered. We will be eating pizza, pretzels, popcorn, peaches, pigs in a blanket, pudding, peanut butter, and of course pancakes!

Around the middle of the month we will study restaurants and have a pizza parlor in the dramatic play center (with a drive through in blocks!) There are aprons, chef hats, and pretend pizza ingredients with real pizza boxes. The children will take orders, make the pizza, and take turns being the customers. We will visit the Bowling Center and learn how pizza is made in a restaurant and make pizza at school. We read stories about *Pizza Party*, and *The Little Red Hen Makes Pizza*.

We will meet the red hen again in January. As with our other themes, we will focus on letters that are part of the theme, in this case, Rr. Similar activities will be done with each letter.

IUS 4 - EVER

Gifted Corner—B. S., Gifted Resource Specialist

What does it mean to be gifted? Ask 50 people this question and you will likely receive 50 unique responses, many of them correct in their definition. So, what do you do when you cannot nail down one definition, one idea of how to define gifted? You embrace them all and understand that children are so unique, each demonstrating their abilities in different ways, that there are many avenues to brilliance and gifted abilities. We have the responsibility as educators to nurture this potential in each child and offer opportunities to meet children as they reach for the stars, by giving them fuel to go beyond. After all, these children are our future and we will all benefit from their talents.

While the definition of the word gifted can seem out of focus, there are some ideas that sharpen our view of this concept. While often gifted students are tested to identify their gifts, this is not a clear indicator of gifted ability; it is merely a signal that giftedness may exist. For this reason, parents, teachers and even the student can help give insight into a person's talents or gifts. Each piece of information brings the definition of gifted into focus for that individual. As a result, identification is not an easy or clear cut process; rather it requires many pieces to see the whole. The Gifted Review Committee is here to provide the service of pulling all these pieces together to find the best placement for each child referred to our gifted program. Our services are varied and aimed at providing each child a unique educational experience to help sharpen their talents and abilities. Services include resource room opportunities, inclusion strategies in the classroom allowing for differentiated instruction, as well as acceleration and extra-curricular opportunities.

Once a student is identified as being gifted in some way, the school will look for ways to help them realize their potential. Parents can also help in this manner by offering as many opportunities for exploratory learning as possible. Rather than focusing on the areas in which your child is excelling in school, focus on areas of interest. Get them excited about learning and exploring the world around them. It does not have to be academic in nature to provide a learning experience. Look for opportunities in our community for your child to learn something new or participate in a new sport or activity. Not only will this enable them to find what fits for them, but it will also allow them to experience a wide variety of activities that may lead them to something spectacular. Educator and philosopher John Dewey believed that a child could receive a complete education through the guided pursuit of his/her interests: "Accordingly," he said, "the constant and careful observation of interests is of the utmost importance." Link your child's interests to the classroom. Encourage them to find out more about what they enjoy doing day by day. What is the history of their sport? Who was the first to do it? How big do they think the baseball diamond is? How might one calculate that? Fan a spark of curiosity into a flame of brilliance.



IUS Continuous School Improvement in Action

So Many Choices, So Little Time!—A. T.

Everywhere you turn at the ES/MS Media Center there is something to see and read!

In November you can celebrate  **Native American History Month** with a great book! We have an entire section dedicated to the many different tribes and cultures of Native Americans throughout our history.

Then you can chill out in the “**Bird’s Nest**”  where you will find books about birds and their habitats. After you get your fill of wings and beaks, head on over to one of the holiday displays. You can learn some-

thing new about **Thanksgiving** or **Veteran’s Day** . Don’t miss your opportunity to share the title of a book you are “Thankful For.” Write about your favorite book on a feather and add it to our turkey. He has many feathers with book titles already and is growing every day!

 **December** in the library will showcase **Winter**  and holiday books. There are many holidays around the world celebrated in December, including the official start of winter. We will have our first “Golden Ticket” drawing and pizza party for middle school students- Good Luck!

Our featured animal for December is bears.  Come check out these fascinating animals and hibernate with a good book!

Culture Day Receives Visitor—L. R.

Former Peace Corps Volunteer and social studies teacher at Incirlik Unit School was invited to



speak to Ms. L. R.’s Spanish I class, in celebration of their first Culture Day. Mr. B.’s focus was to help these first year students understand the steps it takes to become proficient and fluent in a foreign language. He was eager to let them know how it is possible for anyone, regardless of their initial background and age, to seize the opportunity to learn a new language. He assured his audience that by so doing, their opportunities for fun, enjoyment in travel, and success in their future professions would increase many fold. The students

were happy to hear that their steps to achieve this goal would lead to many exciting possibilities.

IUS Continuous School Improvement in Action

ES Counselors' Corner—L. D.



Elementary Students attended an assembly that focused on working together to make our school a safe and caring place for all students to learn and grow. 4th and 5th grade classes performed songs, skits and poems, as well as displayed posters about peace in our school. All Kindergarten through 5th grade students signed the safe and caring school promise. Student leaders, in Kindergarten through 5th grade, were recognized as this month's Ambassadors of Peace.

These students were role models for caring and helpful behavior. They were nominated by staff members for helping peers, sacrificing for others in need, resisting peer pressure, assisting the teacher, helping others solve problems peacefully, and continuously following school rules, even when no one was watching. Ambassadors of Peace leaders will be recognized on a regular basis for their service as leaders in making IUS a safe and caring place for students. Congratulations to this month's award winners.

Dr. Greene congratulates kindergarten student, Z. B. on receiving the Ambassador of Peace Award"

MS/HS Counselors' Corner—D. C.

ISLI

The International Student Leadership Institute (ISLI) will be held in Germany the week of February 27 through March 4, 2011. ISLI brings together 75 DoDEA-Europe students with 75 students from 9 European countries for a week of intensive training in a variety of leadership skills, taught by former ISLI participants.

Students in grades 10-11, interested in being selected for the 30th International Student Leadership Institute, should pick up an application from Mr. C.. Two candidates will be selected by December 10th. APPLY NOW!



SAT and ACT

The next administration of the SAT at IUS will be January 22, 2011, with a registration deadline of December 1st. The cost is \$47. The last opportunity to take the SAT at IUS will be May 7, with a registration deadline of March 16th. It is recommended that juniors sign up for one of these and then take it again in the fall of their senior year. Contact Mr. C. for registration information.

The next administration of the ACT at IUS will be February 12, 2011, with a registration deadline of January 7th. The cost is \$33. ACT Plus Writing is NOT available for the February administration. The ACT is widely accepted by colleges that also accept the SAT. Other dates available for the ACT are April 9th and June 11th. Contact Mr. C. for registration information and fee waivers.

College Night

The IUS annual College Night was held on November 16th, in the IUS Information Center from 18:00-20:00. All MS/HS students with college plans, who were unable to attend and gain valuable information on colleges, admissions, finances, majors, military recruiting, SAT and ACT testing, please contact Mr. C. for more information on how to apply or register.

School Advisory Council— “SAC”

The next School Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting will be on Wednesday, December 15, at 3:00 in the HS media center. This group serves as an advisory group to the administration and it meets to discuss various aspects of your child’s educational program at Incirlik Unit School. All parents are invited to attend. Congratulations to the parent and teacher representatives for the 2010-2011 school year. Our new members are: D. B., T. K.-U., and R. F., parents; C. C., parent alternate; D. S., A. C., teachers; K. P., returning teacher.

IU S Boys Basketball Season— Off to a powerful start—Coach N. B.



Student athletes began to practice for the upcoming season on November 15, 2010. Coaches N. B. and C. M. are looking forward to a successful season. The season opener will occur on Thursday and Friday, December 2nd and 3rd when the Ankara team comes to Incirlik to compete. Please come to cheer for our mighty Hodjas!!

IUS Continuous School Improvement in Action

IUS Cross Country Team—Coach S. D.

The Incirlik Unit School 9th-12th Grade Cross Country Team began its training in September and there were 6 dedicated, hard-working young men, who worked to make a name for the Incirlik Unit School Cross Country program at The European Championships in Germany. The team participated in the Incirlik Half Marathon and the four man team of T. A., B. K.-U., K. D., and A. F. won the team competition, with a commanding lead featuring an outstanding sprint at the end by their anchor man A. F. R. and J. C. were also on a team that finished 5th place in the event.

The IUS Cross Country Team also participated in The Breast Cancer Awareness Run, where everyone on the team ran their personal best 3.1 mile time and finished in the front of over 200 runners. The team has also appreciated some of the best runners on base coming out on Tuesdays and helping push the team on their 3.1 mile cross country course that they have built this season. Friday was distance day for the team, running distances of up to 6 miles.

In Heidelberg, Germany at The European Championships, A. F. got 12th, K. D. got 16th, T. A. finished 21st, B. K.-U. came in 27th, and R. C. ran his personal best time to come in 28th in our district. The course was beautiful but REAL tough, the weather was great, and the kids ran pretty well, for our first year to bring Incirlik Cross Country back.



Next year, if we get off base for hill training and get in more competitions, we should be able to bring home a 2nd or 3rd place team trophy. Brussels American is unstoppable in cross country, but we have Rota and Alconbury in our sights for next year. 170 kids in a mosh pit at the start, kind of freaked my kids out with this being their first competition of the season. Most of our

competition had run 5 to 8 competitions. We traveled in style though, (looking sharp). The kids were so awesome and they made it the easiest sports trip ever.

At the Fall Sports Banquet, the team results were: MVP-Aaron Falcon, Coach's Award-K. D., and Most Improved-J. C.

Here is a video link of our fabulous boys:

<http://www.incirlik.af.mil/news/video/index.asp?cid=3&sid=16769>

IUS Continuous School Improvement in Action

Reporting out on Goal 1 & Goal 2

—L. R.—Communication Committee Chair

Goal 1: Written Communication Across the Curriculum

Teachers have been busily collecting samples of student writing, with the use of a flow chart and teacher feedback, to be discussed and evaluated during one of our teacher meetings. The purpose of this is to ensure that quality feedback is being shared with our students to help them improve on their organization while writing. Verbal teacher feedback is a research-based intervention that helps lead students' writing to higher levels of organization and skill. Student samples will be collected throughout the year and evaluated to ensure that this practice leads to their success in writing across the curriculum.

Goal 2: Critical Thinking Across the Curriculum

One of the interventions addressing critical thinking used for Goal 2, is being supported by the Frayer Model. We are providing you with some links for study, in case you may want to implement this model at home. It is a valuable tool to raise thinking skills that is researched-based and data driven. Students find this model easy, yet provocative, as a learning tool. You may also find it useful in your training of adults. Enjoy!

http://files.solution-tree.com/MRL/documents/Instructional_Strategies_Report_9_2_09.pdf

This link is Marzano's research on 22 instructional practices (the Frayer Model could be used in a number of these practices)

http://www.nysut.org/educatorsvoice_12344.htm

Using the Frayer Model in science (list of research and sources at the end of the article)

Further research information:

<http://explorer.cekli.com/articles/pdf/frayer-model-map>

<http://books.google.com/books?id=4NZ4327GaC4C&lpg=PT54&ots=h6DKPkhjSY&dq=background%20behind%20frayer%20model&pg=PT54#v=onepage&q&f=false>

<http://www.longwood.edu/staff/jonescd/projects/educ530/aboxley/graphicorg/fraym.htm>

<http://wvde.state.wv.us/strategybank/FrayerModel.html>

http://www.marzanoresearch.com/research/researched_strategies.aspx





Continuous School Improvement

DoDEA Mission: To provide an exemplary education that inspires and prepares all DoDEA students for success in a dynamic, global environment.

IUS Vision: To prepare students to become problem solvers and life long learners for an ever-changing world.

To Prepare Students - we are teaching, equipping, and providing multiple opportunities to be problem solvers and life long learners.

Problems Solvers - are independent decision makers who think critically and creatively.

Life Long Learners - have a passion for learning in and out of the classroom.

In an Ever Changing World - a society requiring its members to be more flexible and adaptable.

IUS Goals:

Goal 1: By June 2011, all students will increase performance targeted **Written Communication Skills** using instructional interventions implemented in all curricular areas as measured by the TN3 Language Arts subtest, PSAT Writing subtest and school-based assessments. The targeted skills are the organization of information for effective writing.

Goal 2: By June 2011, all students will increase performance on targeted **Critical Thinking Skills** using instructional interventions implemented in all curricular areas as measured by the TN3 Math subtests, PSAT Math subtest and school-based assessments. The targeted skills are the ability to extract and apply essential information in a variety of situations.

NCA Accreditation: Our accreditation took place May 4 - 6, 2010. We passed with five commendations, as well as being referred to as the “Model School for Continuous School Improvement” and a “Model School Turn Around.”

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