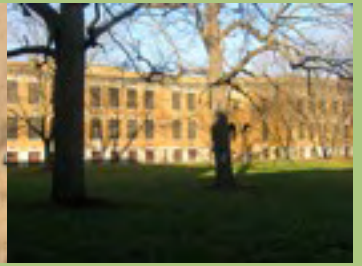


Superintendent Newsletter



October 1, 2008

Superintendent Newsletter is back!

The ISD Community has been asking about this newsletter and would like to see it return. This newsletter will be bimonthly, published in December, February, April, June, August and October. It will reflect news from each division.



Biennium Budget (new budget for School Year 2009-2010 & 2010-2011)

The Administration Team is working closely with the State Budget Agency (SBA) on the proposal of our new budget. We anticipate increases in the cost of salaries of employees, all utilities, services and resources that our school uses to meet the needs of our ISD and mainstreaming students' to access the state curriculum. We together are studying the trend of general operations cost and evaluating how we can better use our resources to keep the cost minimal to our tax payers and yet provide services to meet the needs of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) students. The history of the ISD budget will be shown on the next page by a elaborated graph. We would like to hear your feedback on this view of where we are with the budget. We will share with SBA and Indiana State Legislators (House of Representatives and Senators) and you can share directly, too.

Parents' Corner

Expectations are powerful influences in your child's life. Children tend to learn as little or as much as their parents expect. Parents who set and communicate high expectations to all their children obtain greater academic performance from these children than do parents who set low expectations. Almost all 80% learning environment occurs between child's birth to 8 years old and only 20% from ages 8 to 17. Benjamin S. Bloom stated that when the school and home environments are



mutually reinforcing, learning is likely to be greatest. Thus the nature of the learning environment is most critical during the periods of most rapid change in learning—the early years of school. Your expectations of your children will greatly influence their achievement in his/her class and ultimately their lives.

ISD BUDGET



The ISD Budget for the last 8 years

The Administration Team is working closely with the State Budget Agency (SBA) on the proposal of our new budget. We decided to review the history of the ISD budget. It really helped us understand the terms of purchase power and inflation's impact on our budget. The blue dot represents the budget allocated for ISD that is decided by the legislators. The red dot represents our actual spending for our ISD students. The yellow dot represents the inflation rate. In FY 00, ISD was given \$17 million to run the school and they actually spent a little under that amount that was given. In FY08, we were given \$18.8 million to run the school but we ended up spending \$19.1 million which is more than allocated. Why? The salaries and utilities cost increased more than legislators expected two years ago. Why is the yellow dots important? It shows the cost of actual object at that time of year. For example, average car cost in FY00 would be \$17,700 and in FY08 it would cost \$22,400. An example of what happened in FY07 & FY08 is the increase of electricity utilities that cost more than \$15,000 per month. This could translate in to cutting the services to students. That is what inflation could do to budgets that are "frozen".



Cafeteria Updates

Many of you might have noticed the changes in the cafeterias. On

the recommendation of the Nutrition Committee, we have started a 'No Seconds' policy for breakfast and lunch. What this means is the students may not receive second helpings from the hot food serving line. This change does not impact the dinner meal.

This does not mean that students are leaving the cafeteria hungry. Serving sizes have been increased. Students

may have as much fruit, milk, juice, peanut butter/jelly sandwiches and salads as they like. A second salad bar has been added in Brown Cafeteria that offers additional salad options such as coleslaw, fresh fruit, fruit salad, pasta salad, cucumber salads and jello. We plan to add a sandwich bar in the near future. The cafeteria supervisors will be meeting with selected students to receive input from the student's for the sandwich bar and any additional changes to the cafeteria.

Benefits already realized from the change include, more alert students and less food waste. We look forward to continuing the improvements and strive to meet the student's needs.



TV Studio Updates!

If there is any evolution on the campus, it would be technology which rapidly changes in months, than years. Powerful Globecaster software which manage television studio are no longer needed since today's computers are so powerful. We paid Globecaster on an annual basis and saw this as unnecessary spending and allocated the purchase of a new computer that will run three platforms: Windows XP, VISTA, and OSX/Final Cut Pro software. This will bring our TV Studio up to challenging our students in expanding their creativity.



Security Gate

Parents and teachers has been talking with the Administration Team on securing the campus by having the gate kept closed all day long and to have staff check in with their ID card to enter the campus. At first, we were concerned about the time factor should there be a long line. Surprisingly, the system is moving smoothly. It seems to be a successful endeavor and the ISD continues to receive a lot of positive comments.



Monon Trail project

One of many dreams that our students have is the Monon Trail project where information about the school and students' art work will be displayed. Research shows that most people that access the Monon Trail have no knowledge of our beautiful 80 acres campus. Thus, this project was created in hopes to educate and display who we are and why we are here. Indianapolis Art community is providing us a lot of support to make this dream a reality. More updates will be unveiled in the next newsletter.

Changes in Indiana's Special Education Law, Article 7

In Indiana parents will notice differences in some components of the IEP including written notifications that will allow for more communication regarding the intentions of the case conference committee, less requirements for testing for eligibility, among other improvements. Outreach Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children is revising procedures in order to be of further assistance to all Deaf and hard of hearing children in Indiana, where ever they attend school. For ISD, when referrals are made for assistance from Assessment team and other Outreach staff, we will have the team most likely to be of assistance, respond with best way to proceed. Upon review of the data including information from the parent, our team may suggest one of the following proposed actions:

- Further evaluation in areas listed and specified in a proposed informed consent form, probably by the Multi-disciplinary evaluation team.
- Offer to observe the child in their classroom or other setting with recommendations and consultation with the TOR and other specialists
- Offer to attend the case conference committee meeting and make recommendations based on the available data
- Referral to other agencies with specific expertise addressing areas of concern
- Offer to provide in-service training and support to the teachers and staff working with the student
- Or any combination of above services

Our goal is to continue to provide services that will address the needs or find the resources that can meet the needs of all deaf and hard of hearing students in Indiana and to assist ISD teachers in meeting individual needs of all of our children

The other changes resulting from Article 7 are evident in the web based program administered by the Indiana Department of Education, now called ISTART 7. All ISD teachers and related services staff have been trained on the new program which is an improvement over the ICAN program used last year and incorporates new rules and forms to make sure we are in compliance with Article 7. We have had a rough start as the program became live the day the law went into effect, August 13, right in the middle of our busiest case conference and school schedule. The IDOE has been working to fix glitches and we now have better functioning of the system. Our frustrations are being shared with schools across Indiana and are the result of unfortunate timing with the start of school, not the fault of any agency or individuals. The new ISTART 7 will be greatly appreciated and as time goes on will make the case conference procedures much more streamlined and effective for everyone. We appreciate the patience and support of staff, parents and of the IDOE, Center for Exceptional Learners!

NEW PRINCIPAL



Greetings from Mary Glenn Rinne, Ed.D.

I would like to introduce myself as ISD's new Principal. I began my new position on July 8th and am really enjoying being a part of the ISD family again. So that you know a bit about me, I will share some of my background. I have taught elementary and middle school students at three schools for the deaf: Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, Indiana School for the Deaf and Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. I have held administrative positions at ISD (1984-1992) and at WPSD (1996-2000). I have been Supervising Teacher of Middle School at ISD and Principal and Interim Assistant Superintendent at WPSD.

I have had the privilege of learning from other educational experiences, as well. I taught full-time at the University of Pittsburgh in their master's degree program for preparing teachers of deaf and hard of hearing students. I served as a university supervisor for Ball State University and Butler University, supervising student teachers in the field. Also, I worked for the Indiana Department of Education as the Assistant Director for Teacher Education. In this role I served as the state liaison with all of Indiana's 42 teacher preparation programs and participated in program approval and state and national accreditation of these programs.

Perhaps my most gratifying personal experience has been to be the mother of 3 wonderful daughters and the grandmother of four granddaughters and one grandson. They have taught me...and continue to teach me...so much about life. The sum total of these experiences, I believe, has well prepared me for the position of Principal at ISD.

I have some very specific goals for myself this year. Besides learning "the ways of ISD," I intend to begin a curriculum mapping process that will look at our curriculum and how it aligns with the Indiana Academic Standards. I will be working with a committee to develop a curriculum for World Language: ASL to be implemented in our high school next year. I plan to work closely with ISD's Parent Advisory Council to develop a strong relationship between school and home.

The staff can now attest that my door is always open and I welcome comments about how we are doing and how we can get even better.

TRAINING

Greetings from Debbie Fetzer



Like many other families who visited and were pleased with the educational programs at the Indiana School for the Deaf, Debbie Fetzer and her husband, Chris moved to Indiana in September 1992 to enroll their son into the Nursery School program. Ms. Fetzer began her career at ISD as the Director of Student Development Center. Since August 1995, Ms. Fetzer was promoted and served in the position as the Director of Student Life which lasted for 13 years. Before the beginning of 2008-09 academic year, she transferred to a new position, Professional Development Coordinator. The

responsibilities of the Professional Development Coordinator are, but not limited to, plan, develop and provide training programs for all employees, to assess and evaluate system-wide staff leadership and development needs and set specific goals, to evaluate the effectiveness of implemented programs, and to oversee the maintenance of professional development records for Continuing Renewal Units. This position reports directly to the Superintendent. The Office of Professional Development is located in Alumni Hall, room 225.

Ms. Fetzer is now working on implementing the office of Professional Development. She is currently conducting needs assessment and research to generate prioritized projects for the office. More information will be shared in the next newsletter.



Since the ISD School Board approved the Language Policy on December 12, 2007. Ms. Fetzer and Mr. Krieger were selected to co-facilitate the Language Planning Training for all ISD Supervisors. The Administrative Team processed this training during the spring of 2008. Currently, all ISD Supervisors are going through the biweekly training that started on August 21st and will continue through December 4th. Due to a large group of supervisors, they are divided into two groups, Groups A and B. The purpose of the training is to provide the best learning environment and language access for our students by creating a consensus on the consistency in beliefs by all members of the ISD community. The management training outcomes are to synchronize management's views and understanding of the Language Policy, to develop a set of communication best practices (strategies), and to develop departments' language planning action plans.

George Stailey retires



George Stailey, our thirteenth superintendent, started his ISD career as a teacher in fifth grade in 1975. He has worked in many different capacities to help ISD

become a World Class School. He was essential in helping to continue providing Bilingual Deaf Education by working with different community leaders. He was instrumental in the work to bring the Dixon House to life for students who need transition from school to work. He truly will be missed and our students know that his heart is always in the right place. We wish him nothing but the very best retirement.



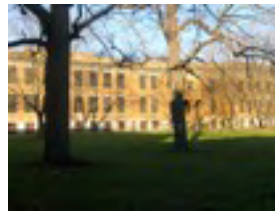
Did you know that?

Studebaker Company produced electric powered cars in South

Bend, Indiana in 1902. Imagine if all cars were still electric powered!

In 1903, state legislature pass a bill to move the

Indiana Deaf School to a new campus that is known as 1200 E. 42nd Street today.



Groundbreaking was in 1907 and it took four long years to complete. The campus finally was open in 1911 and

continues to serve over 3,000 students on this campus during its lifetime.

Dr. David Geeslin
CEO/Superintendent
Indiana School for the Deaf
1200 East 42nd Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205-2099