

The Indian Hollow Primary News

November 2021

Indian Hollow Primary School

<http://www.commack.k12.ny.us/ih>

631 - 858 - 3590



Dear Indian Hollow Families,

The beginning of the 2021-2022 school year has been very rewarding and exciting at Indian Hollow. Thanks to a joint effort between Indian Hollow and the Friends of Louise Sansone, we have a Buddy Bench on the playground. For those of you unfamiliar with the Buddy Bench concept, it is a special bench where students can sit if they are feeling bored or lonely. Other students (*Bucket Fillers*) can go to the bench and ask them if they would like to play or talk. The bench is red and reads Buddy Bench and is located between the playground equipment and the black top. This is our fifth year with the bench and it has become a great resource for students.

Goals of the Buddy Bench

- Encourage more interaction amongst peers.
- Promote social awareness and expressing empathy for others.
- Strengthening relationship skills by forming positive relationships, and working in teams.

November and December are times when the days seem to become shorter and shorter because we all have so much to do. We are busy getting from place to place to buy the many things that make the upcoming holidays special for our families. With this in mind, try to take a step back and enjoy this time with your family during the holiday season. Take this time to pass along the many customs and events that you enjoy to your children. The best memories are those passed along for generations.

Sincerely,
Brian Simpson
Principal

Handbook

The Indian Hollow Handbook was distributed to all kindergarten and new families at Open House. Please keep it as a handy reference, as it covers "everything you need to know" about Indian Hollow Primary School. If you did not receive one, please contact your child's teacher.

School Based Management Team

Our team meets monthly to set educational goals and plan innovative activities to meet these goals. Members of our Site Based Management Team are:

Mrs. Goodman, Parent
Mrs. Fox, Teacher
Mrs. Frankenberger, Teacher
Mrs. Fiorillo, Parent

Mrs. Powers, CTA Representative
Mr. Simpson, Administrator
Mrs. Cinelli, Parent
Mrs. Lisa Tacca

Please communicate your thoughts and ideas to members of the Team. You may use the form at the end of the IH Primary News or drop off a note to the Site Based Management Team at the Main Office, and it will be forwarded to the Team. A copy of the SBMT agenda and decisions are available on the Indian Hollow website.

Homework

Homework is an integral part of a student's education. Parents should consult with teachers if there are any questions about homework. If your child is absent and is able to do assignments at home, please notify the Main Office by 11:00 a.m. so that assignments may be gathered. This work may be picked up at the Reception Desk at the end of the school day, or sent home with another child. Students should read, or be read to, for a minimum of 15 minutes each day.

Extra Help

In order to support the very best in primary education and meet the goals of our curriculum, once a week each teacher will be available for a small group extra help session. Each session will be for 30 minutes before school. Teachers will notify parents of their specific day and time. All students arriving for a morning extra help session must be signed in by an adult.

Requests for extra help may be initiated by either the teacher or the parent. You will be informed at least one day in advance should the teacher feel your child would benefit from an extra help session. If you notice that your child is experiencing difficulty in mastering a skill or concept, you may notify the teacher to schedule an extra help session. The teacher will review your concern and schedule an extra help session if appropriate.

It is our hope that these extra help sessions will reinforce our already excellent program and provide our children with the individual attention needed to achieve academic success.

Letters! Flyers! Notices!

Keeping the community aware of the many activities at Indian Hollow is important to us. In order to stay current with the many happenings at Indian Hollow, please check *Backpack News* on the Commack District's website so that you are aware of the latest Indian Hollow events and information. Also, please be certain that we have your most current contact information at Indian Hollow and in *Infinite Campus*.

Desjardins Collection

Several years ago, a special collection of library books and videos was created honoring an Indian Hollow teacher, Mrs. Mary Ann Desjardins. The collection contains children's books which deal with sensitive subjects, such as death, divorce and illness. You are encouraged to contact your child's classroom teacher or Dr. Taylor, our psychologist, should you wish to borrow any of these titles. A complete listing can be found at: <http://www.commack.k12.ny.us/ih/Grade/desjardins.htm>

Transportation

Daily bus transportation is arranged through the Commack Transportation Office. Transportation concerns should be addressed directly to Ms. Amanda Klvana, Director of Transportation, at (631) 912-2020.

Children are permitted to take assigned buses and get off at assigned stops only. Any exception to this routine must be for emergency purposes only and a written request must be submitted, and then approved by the principal.

Communication

Teachers will do their best to respond promptly to all parental inquiries and requests. Please, however, do not rely on e-mail for messages that are time sensitive or of an emergency nature. These messages should be relayed through the main office in order to be certain that they are received by the teacher in a timely fashion. Additionally, e-mail may not be used for instances that require a signature, e.g. field trip permission forms, absence notes, etc.

Early Dismissal

As specified by the New York State Commissioner of Education, on Wednesday, November 24, 2021, the Commack School District will conduct a test of our *Emergency Go Home Procedures*. Students will be dismissed 15 minutes earlier than usual on this day. Please make appropriate arrangements for the early dismissal of your child.

Winter is Around the Corner

With winter approaching, it is important for parents to once again become familiar with the various schedules that could be implemented due to inclement weather conditions.

Early Dismissal - Early closing procedures will be put into effect when it appears to be the safest way to get children home. Children will go to the home indicated on the Early Dismissal Card you filled out earlier in the school year. If there are any changes to this card, please contact your child's teacher immediately. The decision for an early dismissal will be made by the Superintendent of Schools, usually by noon.

Delayed Opening - A delayed opening procedure will be put into effect when it appears that school can open safely 1 or 2 hours later than regular time. On a delayed opening day, our lunch program and dismissal will take place at the usual time.

School Closings - Attempts will be made to reach as many homes as possible via the District's automated calling system. However, in addition to tuning your radio to the stations listed on the Commack School Calendar, you may log on to www.commack.k12.ny.us for information regarding Commack School closings. Please do not phone the school or district switchboard on these occasions. To do so may congest vital phone lines on which outgoing calls must be placed.

Lunch

As a reminder, if your child wants school lunch, it is suggested that you order lunch in advance or at least by 9:00 p.m. the night before. The Department of Agriculture is extending, while funds are available, free lunch to all children through the coming school year.

Any questions or concerns about lunch can be addressed to food services at (631) 912-2172.

Student Arrival

School officially begins at 9:30 a.m. Our doors open to welcome students and supervision is provided beginning at 9:25 a.m.

If your child arrives to school after 9:35 a.m., please escort your child into the building and sign him/her in. Your child will then receive a late pass. New York State law requires that students bring a note stating the reason for their lateness.

Early Dismissal

If you are planning to pick your child up from school prior to dismissal time, it would be helpful if you would notify your child's teacher via a note in the morning. It is difficult to call children out of classrooms between 3:00-3:35 p.m., as students are completing projects and getting ready for dismissal. Calls into the classroom between 3:00-3:35 p.m. are extremely disruptive; therefore, unless it is an absolute emergency, students will be dismissed by their classroom teacher beginning at 3:25 p.m. (walkers). Additionally, according to the District's Attendance Policy, Early Departures are recorded in the same manner as late arrivals.

Parking

Just a reminder! The driveway must be kept clear for emergency vehicles during school events. We have been informed that vehicles blocking emergency access may be towed. Additionally, the handicapped parking spaces must remain accessible at all times for handicapped individuals. Please do not use these spots, even if it's "just for a minute."

Bus Safety

The importance of appropriate behavior on the school bus cannot be overemphasized. In every classroom, teachers discuss bus safety. Our first bus drill of the school year allowed us to review all safety rules with the students. Please review these important rules with your children:

- Board the bus in an orderly line
- Stay in your seat
- Speak in an appropriate tone
- Do not fight or "fool around"
- Use seat belts appropriately
- Keep arms and head inside windows
- Do not distract the bus driver with boisterous conduct
- Wait for an approaching bus to stop before walking toward it
- Children who regularly ride the bus will need written permission if they are not to take the bus home at dismissal
- Children should always have their bus pass with them

Upcoming Events

Oct. 29	Halloween Parade - 2:30 p.m.
Nov. 2	SCHOOL CLOSED - Election Day
Nov. 4	SBMT Mtg. - 8:30 a.m.
Nov. 4	PTA Mtg. - 10:00 a.m.
Nov. 7	Daylight Saving Time Ends
Nov. 8-19	Food Drive
Nov. 10	Bus Drill - 9:20 a.m.
Nov. 11	SCHOOL CLOSED - Veteran's Day
Nov. 18	BOE Mtg. - 8:00 p.m. Hubbs
Nov. 19	Spirit Day
Nov. 19	Postal Service (IHPS) Begins
Nov. 19	K-5 Ends 1 st Marking Period
Nov. 24	Emergency Management Drill Students Dismissed 15 min. early
Nov. 25-26	SCHOOL CLOSED - Thanksgiving
Nov. 29 - Dec. 1	Holiday Boutique
Nov. 29 - Dec. 10	Toy Drive
Dec. 2	Picture Retake Day
Dec. 2	HALF DAY - K-5 Parent/Teacher Conferences (Day & Evening)
Dec. 3	SCHOOL CLOSED - K-5 Parent/Teacher Conferences
Dec. 9	BOE Mtg. - 8:00 p.m. Hubbs
Dec. 10	School Store
Dec. 13	Grade 2 Students Visit Burr
Dec. 16	Grade 2 Cup Stacking Night 6:00-7:00pm
Dec. 17	Spirit Day
Dec. 24 - Dec 31	SCHOOL CLOSED - Winter Recess
Jan. 3	SCHOOL REOPENS

"A man never stands as tall as when he kneels to help a child."- Anonymous

Indian Hollow School Song

Dear Indian Hollow, we love you

Our hearts will ever be true.

We join our hands in friendship

Beneath the white and blue.

Within these halls of learning

Our glad young voices ring.

Eternal love and loyalty

