

The Gifted Tribune

Mrs. Sarah Skelton- Gifted Coordinator

Students Corner

This section is designed for students to share with you their exciting news and projects.

Making an Impact

Recently the elementary gifted class took a field trip to the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. The students designed and crafted two different drift buoys that are now on Lake Erie. This was made possible through a partnership with Penn State Behrend and TREC.

News Update

The middle-high school students have initiated a new school newspaper titled "To the Point." The following students are involved in this activity: Sarah Wygant, Julia Lombard, Kaylee Shafer, and Leo Niccolussi. Our first newsletter will hit stands in early December. We are very anxious to share this with the school and community!



Staying Busy at TREC

The Iroquois School District Elementary Gifted students have been working hard at TREC. In October, they spent the day designing and building two drift buoys which were launched onto Lake Erie. The students will continue to track their drift buoys over the next several months and discuss the weather patterns. This was a wonderful educational, hands-on experience that encouraged problem solving, team work, and cooperative learning.

About the Program

Dear Parents,

Many exciting things have been happening here at Iroquois





Important Dates:

- December 5: Elementary Gifted Field Trip to TREC (Tom Ridge Environmental Center)
- December 2 : Gifted Steering Committee meeting at Iroquois Elementary School at 6:00 PM
- December 11: High School Field Trip to TREC (Tom Ridge Environmental Center)
- December 11: Serving Gifted Students- Online discussion for gifted parents- register at <http://bit.ly/GiftedDec11>
- December 16 or 18: Weather Balloon launch at Iroquois Elementary School with the MHS students

We will continue to update students, parents, and the community on upcoming events.

For more information and program updates please visit our gifted website:

<http://classjump.com/s/skelton/>

School District. As the school year continues and we look forward to the upcoming holidays, we are also happy to share that we are currently looking to create a six year strategic plan for our gifted program. This is very important in moving forward and making gains both in and outside of the classroom. We are asking for your support and feedback. It will be vital that we have parent participation throughout this process as you can provide the most valuable input regarding your child and their education. We will invite and encourage your attendance at the meetings as we develop this six year strategic plan. More information will follow regarding our meetings. Thank you in advance for your support and assistance as we continue to enhance our gifted and enrichment programs here at Iroquois School District.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sarah Skelton

Penn State Behrend: Engineering Day

On November 6, the middle-high school gifted students took a trip to Penn State Behrend for Engineering Day. The students heard a presentation from the director of the program, Mrs. Melanie Ford. She provided great insights into the engineering department and all the wonderful programs Behrend has to offer. In addition, she answered the student's questions and helped facilitate the activities throughout the day. The students also received a tour of the Engineering School and participated in several hands-on activities. The activities were geared toward engineering such as, designing and building a ski lift, and working with electrical circuits. It was an overall great educational experience that all students seemed to really enjoy.



All the gifted students at Iroquois Elementary School were invited to write for our monthly newsletters; we are happy that Madalyn and Marisa took full advantage. We look forward to hearing from them each month with classroom and community updates!

Madalyn's Corner:

I'm Madalyn Wagner. I'm nine years old and in third grade at Iroquois Elementary School. This summer I wrote a book. The book is about three monkeys, a mom, brother and a sister. The brother buys a present for his sister and she loved it. In March I entered a contest and won a free nook and a \$25.00 gift card to Barnes and Noble. I spent the gift card on a case for my nook. I won first place! I was so surprised to win. The ceremony was May 7, 2014. Each winner got to read their book to the audience.

You can enter it if you're in kindergarten through third grade. It's pretty fun! All you have to do is make a diagram of what you want to write about. Then you write, illustrate, and turn in your story to the WQLN building. Then you wait for them to send you a letter. Each grade has a first, second, or third place winner. If you get a note, you've been selected as a winner. It will specify on the note what place you've won. If you think you have a creative story, you should enter the contest. It is a lot of fun! If you're interested go to WQLN writing contest web page. www.WQLNwritingcontest.com

By: Madalyn Wagner, 3rd grader at Iroquois Elementary School

Marisa's Message:

Title: Mission 7 of SSEP

The 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders from the Iroquois School District have been working on an experiment involving Mirco Gravity since September 2014. The purpose of this project was to see which team of students could think of the best object to put in a test tube and send up to space. The team with the best idea gets tested by the astronauts themselves. The teachers and staff from Iroquois High School and Iroquois Elementary School, along with some GE employees will be judging the contest. All 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders were split up into teams. The Iroquois School District is one of only twenty-five districts from across the nation to participate in this challenge. Iroquois is the only team from Pennsylvania.

I met up with Collin Armstrong, a 7th grader from Iroquois High School to get a report on the project.

Collin thought that the project was a great idea and a lot of fun, although, he did not think that his team had enough time to complete the project. He said he spent most of his time

coming up with creative ideas. Collin stated that it was a great learning experience for all the students.

On November 14th the students with the top five experiments and their family members gathered at GE from 5:00 to 7:00 to present their projects. The projects were about growing crystals, chemo-therapy, orientation, growing bean seeds, and growing skin cells. All the teams did very well and worked very hard. The three selected teams to move on were chemo-therapy, orientation, and growing bean seeds. The top three projects will be reviewed by the NASA head board in Washington D.C and a winner will be chosen mid December. The project that is selected will be flown to the international space station and completed by the astronauts. Good luck to all the finalists!

The final three student group experiments and their team members:

1. CALYPSO BEAN GERMINATION with AUXIN & CYTKININS- Alyssa Krochalis- 5th, Haydn Gray- 7th, Grace Major and Kaylee Shafer- 8th
2. CHEMOTHERAPY TREATMENTS AFFECTS STAGE 2 CHRONIC LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKEMIA- Andrew Mankoski- 5th, Chloe Lewis- 6th, Mackenzie Moore and Isabelle Wilson- 7th, and Cierra Liggett- 8th
3. Statocyst system: HOW THE VESTIBULAR SYSTEM WOULD PROVIDE ORIENTATION & BALANCE TO LIVING ORGANISMS- Brandon Brieger- 5th, Jadon Spring- 5th, Tamara Burton- 6th, Aalighya Bowersox- 7th, and Morgan Schnars- 8th

Overall, all the students seemed to really enjoy themselves. It was a great opportunity that encouraged cooperative learning among several grade levels. Iroquois School District hopes to participate in this same event next year.

By: Marisa Schnars, 4th grader at Iroquois Elementary School