

Irwin PTO Newsletter

Thank you for supporting our Bookfair!

Sliming the Principal was a big hit with the kids!

Principal's News

Our school year continues to be going very well! Our discipline referrals and absences are down from previous years and our students are working hard! I want to thank our PTO for the outstanding job they are doing to support our Irwin students and staff!

We had a great presentation on October 28 by a production called FMA Live! It was interactive and the students really enjoyed the show. This was such a great program on Newton's Laws!

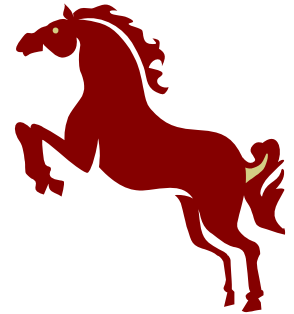
Please join us for our Curriculum night on Thurs-

day November 5. We will start with a PTO sponsored spaghetti dinner at 5:30 and then have numerous displays and activities for parents to experience. We are looking forward to a great night.

If you have not signed up for GradeSpeed, please either check our website or contact Mrs. Irene Shirley at 907-0206 to get signed up! This is a great way to see how your child is doing in school.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to the continuation of an outstanding year at Irwin!

Dr. Tim Howle



Irwin IS Curriculum & Technology Night

This Thursday! November 5 ~ 5:30 – 8:00 pm

Join the Irwin Staff as we explore the many opportunities our students have in our school!

The Irwin PTO will sponsor a spaghetti dinner provided by Il Brothers Pizza. \$3/person for PTO members includes spaghetti, side salad, a breadstick and a drink. (\$4/person for non-PTO members.) Reservations and advance payment will be required.

Curriculum Stations

Reading/vocabulary strategies, Problem solving strategies, Science lab, Science fair information

Technology Stations

SMART Board Demonstrations, ELMO Demonstrations, PE technology, Music technology,

Art technology, Web Based Applications, Grade Speed

Curricular Support Stations

School Improvement Plan Information, Gifted Education, English as a Second Language, READ 180 Program

Student Support Stations

Anti-bullying Programs, Special Education Programs, Speech Services, Occupational Therapy Services, Physical Therapy Services, Hearing Impaired Services

Student Support Stations

Exceptional Family Member Services, Armed Services YMCA, Child and Youth Services, School Liaison Services, SOAR



Enjoy a delicious Spaghetti Dinner on November 5!

Includes spaghetti, salad, breadstick & a drink! Provided by Il Brothers Pizza.

\$3 for PTO members
\$4 non-members

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New Offer from Box Tops for Education

Get Ready for the Holidays!

Total number of Box
Tops submitted so
far this school year:

10,193!

That's over \$1,000
raised for Irwin!

WINNERS:

1st –Crawford - 833

2nd–Smith-Groves- 514

3rd—Weibl- 352

Buy any 20 participating* General Mills Box Tops for Education products in one shopping trip using your MVP Card to receive 170 Bonus Box Tops (certificate received via checkout coupon; \$17 value) Offer valid more than once throughout the month of November! 11/1/09-11/30/09

*Participating products: Betty Crocker® Hamburger Helper®, Hamburger Helper® Microwave Singles®, Chicken Helper®, Tuna Helper®, Green Giant® Boil-in-a-Bag, Immunity Boost Vegetables, Niblets® Corn-on-the-Cob, SIMPLY STEAM® Seasoned Vegetables, Vegetables in Special Sauces, Complete Skillet Meal, Valley Fresh Steamers

If you already shop online, this is the perfect way to save cash for yourself and earn cash for your school at the same time!



School Improvement Team is out:

CONTINUOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT IS IN!

The School Improvement Team's (SIT) name has been changed to Continuous School Improvement (CSI). This change is one of many that are scheduled to take place over the next year. These changes support the Community Strategic Plan for the Department of Defense Education Activity.

During October, the CSI team finalized the fall Vocabulary and Problem Solving assessments. These assessments will be utilized as support data for our school's improvement goals. Administration took place on October 8th for the Vocabulary Assessment and October 27th for the Problem Solving Assessment.

November 5th, from 5:30 to 8:00 is Irwin's Curriculum and Technology night. There will be food, fun, and information to share with our families so please try to attend!

Darla Williamitis



Pasta Fundraiser

Thank you to all students who sold pasta for the recent fundraiser. We had 211 students sell pasta and 84 students earned a gift card from AAFES.

Top four winners: 1st place--Justyn Brown (McConaha)
2nd place--Alyssa Fortier (Williams) 3rd place--Kayana Kane (McConaha) 4th place--Alyson Gaylord (Kelley)

All prizes will be awarded at the awards ceremony mid November. Any questions, please contact Marie Grimmett at 910-303-1412 marie_grimmett@yahoo.com



Irwin School Store

Open Mondays during Lunch

Pre-ordered Science Project Boards can be picked up on or around Nov. 15th. Thanks!

YEARBOOKS

Get a chance to win a FREE YEARBOOK!

All students who preorder their yearbook no later than November 5 will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a free yearbook! You can purchase your yearbook online at www.yearbookordercenter.com or by calling 1-866-287-3096. Online and phone orders must be paid in full. (\$25) Or, you may fill out the form below with a \$5 deposit or \$25 in full. Any questions may be directed to Kerri Keane at 910-797-8324.



No extra copies will be ordered. All Pre-orders due by December 1, 2009. Remaining balance is due by March 1, 2010.

Yearbook Order Form

Student Name

Teacher

Grade

Phone

Payment Options: *(circle one)* \$5 Deposit or \$25

Total

Check #

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Art Club

Irwin's art club will be meeting on November 3 & 17 at 3 pm. There will be no art club on November 10th, and 24th due to school holidays. This month we will be working on our plaster masks of students' faces and then on our clay impressions taken from these masks! Notice that our club members have proudly begun wearing their (self-made) tie-dye shirts with art club emblems every **TUESDAY** that the club meets!!

Mrs. Flores & Mrs. Quiroz

Introducing...Study Island

Our school now has access to a great resource for preparing our kids for the state standardized tests. We have purchased a building license for a web-based program called Study Island. If you have Internet access, your child can access Study Island from home as well as school to prepare for the state assessments. We are excited about the potential benefits this program can bring to our students, and we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity by using Study Island. Please feel free to contact Study Island at 800-419-3191 or SUD-Dort@studisland.com if you have any questions.

Using Study Island from Home Since the Study Island state assessment program is completely web-based, students can access it from any computer with an Internet connection and a standard web browser. Results from student study sessions are recorded and made available to the teachers. This includes results from sessions completed at home.

Follow the instructions below to use the program:

1. Go to www.studyisland.com.
2. Enter your username and password at the upper-left side of the screen, and click "Login". Students will receive a username and password from their teacher at school.



Ed Tech News

Grade Speed

Parents, please take advantage of this powerful tool. When signing up for your Grade Speed account, in the very first window, on the top line, you must change the District to "USA", (the default is Europe) or you will be unable to find North Carolina and Irwin under the next drop down menus. Progress reports will be sent home using the Grade Speed account associated emails. The link for Grade Speed is <https://dodea.gradespeed.net/gs/>

Initial Account creation: Parent, change District, then bottom left- Sign up for Account.

3. Click on the section tab (math, reading, etc).
4. If this is the first time you are using the program, click the word "Pretest" to begin the pretest for the section. **You must complete 10 pretest questions to unlock the rest of the content in the subject.** If there is no pretest option, or if you have already taken the pretest, feel free to move on to the other content topics.
5. Once you have completed the "Pretest," you may work through the remainder of the topics in any order you like. You must **"pass"** all topics before taking the "post Test".
6. To **pass a** topic, you must satisfy the group's passing requirements which are based a minimum number of questions answered (usually 10) and a minimum percentage correct (around 70%). A blue ribbon icon" is displayed next to all passed topics.
7. Once you have passed all the topics in the section, you have to pass the "post Test" for the section before it is complete. Ignore this step if the section has no "post Test".
8. When you pass all topics in all sections, you have completed the program and will be well prepared to take the state test.

November 2009

Counselors' Corner

Last month included some of the myths about bullying. Remember, bullying is repeated negative acts used to physically or emotionally hurt others.

This month includes tips for parents to help their children. These are part of this program developed by Trevor Romain in his book [Bullies are a Pain in the Brain](#):

PARENTS: Discuss the definition of bullying and ask your child to reflect upon their attitudes and behaviors. Remind your child that you care and want them to develop genuine friendships. If you are concerned contact your child's teacher or counselor and discuss your concerns.

When children need direction with anger management skills, arrange for school or local counseling. Life situations such as deployments, loss, divorce and other emotionally challenging situations can leave a child feeling angry. Depression may look like anger in some children. If you feel your child has anger management issues, seek professional advice.

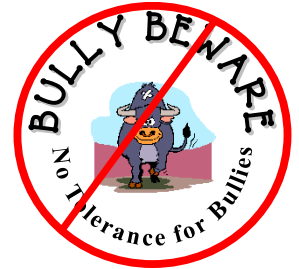
Be observant of your child's behavior, appearance, and mood. Children may be reluctant to tell a parent about bullying. Bullying most often occurs when children perceive adults are not watching. Parent observation may help identify and deter bullying situations.

The most important point is, if you are concerned, be proactive and seek assistance. Do not assume that it will "go away". Often children this age do not want parental or adult involvement and may be fearful that this will worsen the situation. Although children can handle some bullying situations independently, adult intervention may be required and be necessary for a positive resolution.

Diane Levy, 5th Grade Counselor
907-0860

Natalie daSilva
6th Grade Counselor 907-0891

Panya Bynum
Registrar 907-0835



Notes from the School Nurse

Dear Parents,

A limited number of HINI Flu Vaccine has been released. Please check with your clinic for availability if you would to have your family vaccinated.

Please continue to notify the school if your child has been diagnosed with the Seasonal Flu or HINI Flu.

Thank you for all the donations of uniform pants, jumpers, skirts, shorts and shirts we received. Please continue to send these items in, we are always in need.

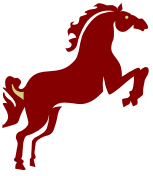
Please wash and return any clothing items that have been loaned to your child – we are down to 2 pairs of size 10 pants and 1 pair of size 16 shorts!

Please note that a doctor's excuse is needed if your child will miss more than one period of Physical Education.

If you have any questions, please give me a call: Nurse Roberta 907-0888

Roberta Harding, RN
Irwin Intermediate School
School Nurse





NOVEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 TECH NIGHT	6	7
8	9	10 Report Cards sent home	11 NO SCHOOL Veteran's Day	12	13 NO SCHOOL Conferences	14
15	16	17 Picture Make-up Day	18	19 Staff Appreciation	20	21
22	23	24	25 NO SCHOOL	26 THANKSGIVING BREAK	27	28
29	30					

Calling All Volunteers!! Help needed for Staff Appreciation

If you have wanted to help out, but weren't sure how, now is your chance! On November 19th Irwin will host a staff appreciation luncheon. The food is provided by some of the best cooks ever... YOU! The theme is chili and stews, along with cornbread and rolls. If you would like to help out by cooking up some yummy food, please have it at Irwin by 10:30 that morning. (Let us know if you can't bring it at that time, and we'll work with you!) Drop Teresa a quick line to let her know what you'll be bringing, or give her a call. The info is latham2007@hotmail.com, or 910-635-8081. Hey parents... THANKS for all your help!!