

Allisonville PTO Press



May 2013

Pomeranke's Place

Grandparents doing their best

Part 4 in a 4 part series on doing your best



We see grandparents every day here at Allisonville. Whether volunteering in classrooms, delivering lunches, or driving to & from school, grandparents are such an integral part of our students' lives. Some grandparents have taken on the essential role of sharing or even taking on day to day parenting duties. We celebrate that our students have such positive adults who care so much about them.

My grandparents provided so many wonderful experiences and memories. My grandmother was quite the character. I'll write about her next year, as it might take a couple of columns! My grandfather was a foreman at a grain elevator. He spoke fluent German sang in church with a booming voice, and had just an 8th grade education. He had 6 children, five who became teachers & college professors, and my mom, who became a nurse. He believed in education, and was a big powerful man. He taught me to love mustard, took me to my first Kansas Royals game, took me golfing, and even drove me for college visits. A master politician, he was the Mayor of Emma, Missouri, and used his charm and savvy to improve the city's sewer system, water and roads. Emma was the smallest town in Missouri to have a swimming pool and golf course. I remember thinking how cool it was that I could simply write 'Mayor, Emma Missouri', and Grandpa would get my letter. He would always remind me to do my best, something I still take to heart. After I started teaching, he had a stroke, and my grandparents moved in with my parents so my mother could take care of him. My younger brother helped as well, an experience that contributed to my brother becoming a Physical Therapist. My grandparents provided so many wonderful experiences and memories, helping shape me into who I am today. One of the reasons my family moved to Indianapolis was to be close to my mother and father in-law. I wanted to give my children the same type of opportunity as I had to get to know their grandparents. I know we have grandparents here at Allisonville who will have a similar effect on our students, teaching them to always do their best. Our VIP Day is one of my favorite days here at school, as we have the honor of celebrating such wonderful people.

I have been so fortunate to have adults encourage me to do my best. Every day I share this with the students here at Allisonville. Do grandparents make a difference? They sure do!

As always, thanks for all of your support and all you do for us here at Allisonville. Enjoy your *short* summer!





- **~Words from Mrs. Weiger~**
- *Mrs. Weiger, our IB Coordinator*

Words from Mrs. Weiger in the media center...

It's hard to believe that this school year is almost over. We've had a great year! Our school wide reading program has been extremely successful. Please continue to encourage your children to read for at least 20 minutes everyday throughout the summer!

Our recent Scholastic Book Fair was our best ever! We exceeded our goal. Thanks to all the volunteers who came in to help.

I really want to THANK YOU for supporting our school and supporting your children with great books to read.

All library books are due back in the media center by May 13, 2013. We will continue to have classes in the media center right up until the last day of school, but we need to get books turned in so that we can do inventory. Speaking of inventory... we'll be asking for volunteers to help. ☺

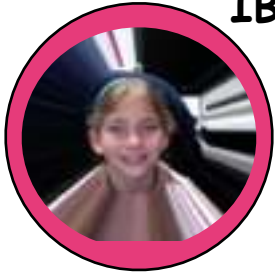
Parent Council Update
by Shelley Clark

TOP STATE EDUCATION EXEC to Share & LISTEN with Washington Township Parents ~ Mark Your Calendars
Glenda Ritz, Indiana's Superintendent of Public Instruction, will be our special guest on Wednesday, May 15 from 7-9pm at the H. Dean Evans Community and Education Center. All are welcome to attend, as we are looking forward to welcoming Mrs. Ritz back to the township! Mrs. Ritz will share her vision for the future of Indiana schools, and how that vision will impact Washington Township moving forward. This will be a wonderful opportunity to hear an update on education issues from Indiana's top public education official! Parents are encouraged to submit questions in advance for this special meeting via parentcouncilemail@yahoo.com.

Please consider joining Parent Council for next year! Look for Parent Council on your PTO's "Count on Me" forms. It's a 2-hour per month evening commitment (at most) and is a great volunteer opportunity for parents who are unable to commit time during the school day. MSDWT Parent Council is a group of parent advocates of MSDWT students who represent our diverse community in Indianapolis and believe that quality public education is an investment in the future. Members of the MSDWT Parent Council voluntarily give of their time to actively influence, with a collective voice, the direction of the District and support positive learning experiences that result in students who are productive contributors throughout their lives. Parent Council informs and empowers parents at the district level and also works to elect School Board Members that we feel, as parents, will move our school district forward.

For more information about Parent Council, or to get involved, please visit www.msdwtparentcouncil.org and join our group on Facebook: "MSD Washington Township Parent Council."





IB World Schools ~~~ PYP Exhibition ~~~ Allisonville

You are invited to attend Allisonville's PYP Exhibition Showcase/Celebration

on May 16, 2013 from 10:30 - 1:00.



Our Exhibition will take place in 3 areas. Fifth grade students will be presenting their research in the gym, media center, and computer lab. Please come by and view our student's presentations, as well as, celebrate with us!

What is Exhibition:

- A celebration showcasing your child's journey through their Primary Years Program (grades K-5) experience
- A student guided learning experience that promotes an

inquiry into a real world issue

- An opportunity to heighten your child's awareness of the actions they can take to contribute to the global society



Davin Jeurling's winning T-shirt design

The role of the family members:

- Discuss real life issues or problems with your child
- Understand that this is a multi-step project with specific deadlines that will need to be met
- Support your child as they learn and work together with other students
- Communicate effectively with teachers and your child
- Encourage your child to be an honest and ethical researcher
- Celebrate with your child by attending the Exhibition on May 16, 2013.

- Respect student ownership of the project



Central Idea:

Humans contribute to the health and survival of our planet.

Lines of Inquiry:

- Choices humans make impact health
- How to sustain our environment
- The effect of human actions on animals

Thank You Marsh "Fresh Ideas for Education" Supporters!

It's been another great year for our Marsh "Fresh Ideas for Education" program. Thanks to your support, through your Marsh loyalty card and your regular Marsh shopping, Allisonville earned nearly 140,000 points! The bulk of the points will be used to acquire more blue conference tables. These are the light-weight blue tables that you see at almost every school function. This program has been a great way for our school to earn free equipment and supplies that we otherwise wouldn't have.

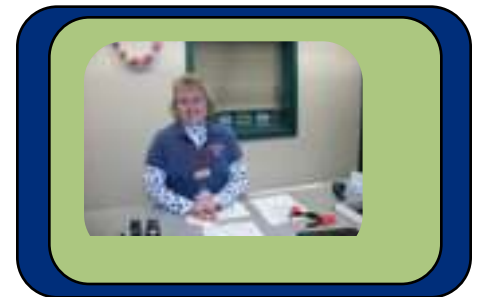


Thank you to each and every one of the 463 Marsh shoppers who supported us throughout the year. We wouldn't have all of our very useful blue conference tables without you!

From the PTO

From the office

From Mrs. Reeves



PTO/Dad's Club upcoming events include: Golf Outing and the Spring plant sale.

As always, thanks so much for your continued support and involvement in PTO. We couldn't do it without all of you!

On that note, next school year is quickly approaching. Don't forget to look for those 'Count on Me' forms in August. Volunteering, or even chairing a committee or taking on a leadership position are great ways to meet new people!

We will return the end of July for next school year. Don't forget to notify us of any address changes. If you are planning a summer move and want to stay at Allisonville, be sure to check school boundaries before you move. Limited Choice and out of district students have already applied and been selected for next year. Any mail returned in the summer will result in immediate withdraw' for the 2013-'14 school year.

We are still accepting payment for school fees for this year. Students receiving assistance still do owe supply fees, but do not pay textbook rental.

Once again, Please do not wait until the Ice Cream Social to come in to inform us of address changes or other pertinent information for next year.

A big thank you goes out to all of the parents who have helped us in the office this year, including Mary Beth Baker and Jennifer Stonebraker for copying the newsletter every month, **Kathy Sagarsee** for heading the fundraising committee, and all of you who bring in treats, volunteer, and brighten our day!

See you in August (or maybe July)!

*Parents...*now that the school year

is winding down, it's time to **pick up** your child's **medication** in the clinic. Please make sure it is picked up on or before

5/28. All medication left in the clinic after May 28th will be destroyed. No medication will be kept over the summer.

Have a great summer break, and we'll see you back here for the ice cream social August 4th.



DONATIONS HELP SUPPORT ART PERFORMANCES AND WORKSHOPS AT ALLISONVILLE. PLEASE TURN IN YOUR ENVELOPE WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION BY FRIDAY, 5/10.





Ms. Parrish & Jeffrey Regan

Zaria Vansoethem

A Student's View



How long have you taught at Allisonville and where else have you worked?

I have taught at Allisonville for 11 yrs. Prior to coming to AV, I taught 5th grade at Crooked Creek for 6 yrs. I have had a varied career with children that began in 1979. I have taught in Philadelphia, Orlando, and even in a one-room school in Haiti for a year! I am retiring at the end of this school year with many happy memories of a life filled with children.

Looking back on your career, talk a little about what has changed and what has remained the same.

I hear people say that children have changed over the years - I disagree. Children have remained the same, but the world around them has changed drastically. Yes, our students come to us affected by those changes, but they are still innately children who want to learn, need love, and are curious about the world around them. I could talk about the changes I've seen in

education in terms of politics, focus on testing & data, etc..., but why stress myself out 5 weeks before retirement!?

What advice would you give a new teacher?

Stay true to yourself and to the calling you've had to teaching. When you go into your classroom each morning, don't get bogged down with the mandates and "have-to's" of the system. You were called to open the world of learning to children - what a mystical, magical thing!

If you could have spent your career doing anything else, what would it have been?

Stand-up comedy. I've often said that teaching was similar because I have a captive audience each day and they don't even have to pay to see my routine.

If you could change one thing about education today..?

In a perfect world, politicians and those who have not darkened the door of a classroom for years would not be the ones making the most important decisions about education. Why not elevate those teachers in the trenches to a place of respect by listening to them and involving them in the process?

How will you be spending the summer?

I always spend a couple of weeks in Florida with some time spent visiting Mickey & friends and another week on the beach.

Future plans?

It will be hard for me to leave teaching. My health demands it, or I would not be retiring. I will volunteer a lot at Allisonville. I also plan on volunteering at a no-kill animal shelter here in the city. I will continue to travel - one of my greatest loves and perhaps write that novel that I never have to time to work on. You haven't seen the end of me yet!

Favorite memories from Allisonville?

My best memory is when my class and I built cardboard arcade games in Mr. Auslander's class!

Some advice for upcoming 5th graders?

Advice I would give would be to study hard for all of the tests you will have. Also, try to have some fun!

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Well...I want to be an author, writing Greek Mythology, because mythology is fascinating to read and write!

Talk about some things you are looking forward to in Middle School.

I look forward to all of the events, especially the sports & foreign language classes.



Zaria V.'s words of wisdom for incoming students

Hi! My name is Zaria. I am a 5th grader at Allisonville, and I have some advice for new students! If you are starting here, I can tell you one thing....if you like pizza, this is the school for you! We have pizza parties, as well as lots of after school activities- running club, bell choir, artistically talented, AYS and ASA, lots of field trips, & great and funny teachers. My favorite part of the day is recess, of course. We have to coolest playgrounds you could ever have. Allisonville is my favorite school!

GOODBYE 5TH GRADE!

WE'LL MISS YOU *all*.



May Events

5/1-5/8 ISTEP

5/3- 1st grade zoo trip

5/9- 5th grade field day, 8:45-1:50

5/10- Personal Best, 2-2:50

Kindergarten tours, 9:30-1:45

5/14- 3rd & 4th grades to ISO

5/16- 5th grade IB Exhibition, 10-11:30

5/17- District track and field event at NC 8:45-2

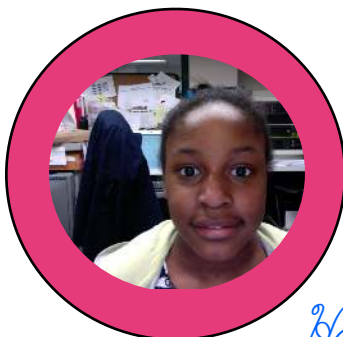
5/23- 5th grade graduation, 10-11:30

5/24- 4th grade field day

5/27- No school

5/28- LAST STUDENT DAY

8/4- Ice Cream Social/back to school event



*Have a fun
summer!*

