

IVEC February 2026 Newsletter

Principal's message

We have so many wonderful things to celebrate at Indian Valley! Just as the first half of the school year seemed to fly by, we want everyone to take time to enjoy the upcoming months. Since February celebrates Valentine's Day, we want to again share our appreciation for our students, families, guardians, and the community that makes IVEC such a wonderful place to be!

-Mr. Portzline and Mr. Zook-



Morning Drop-Off Routine

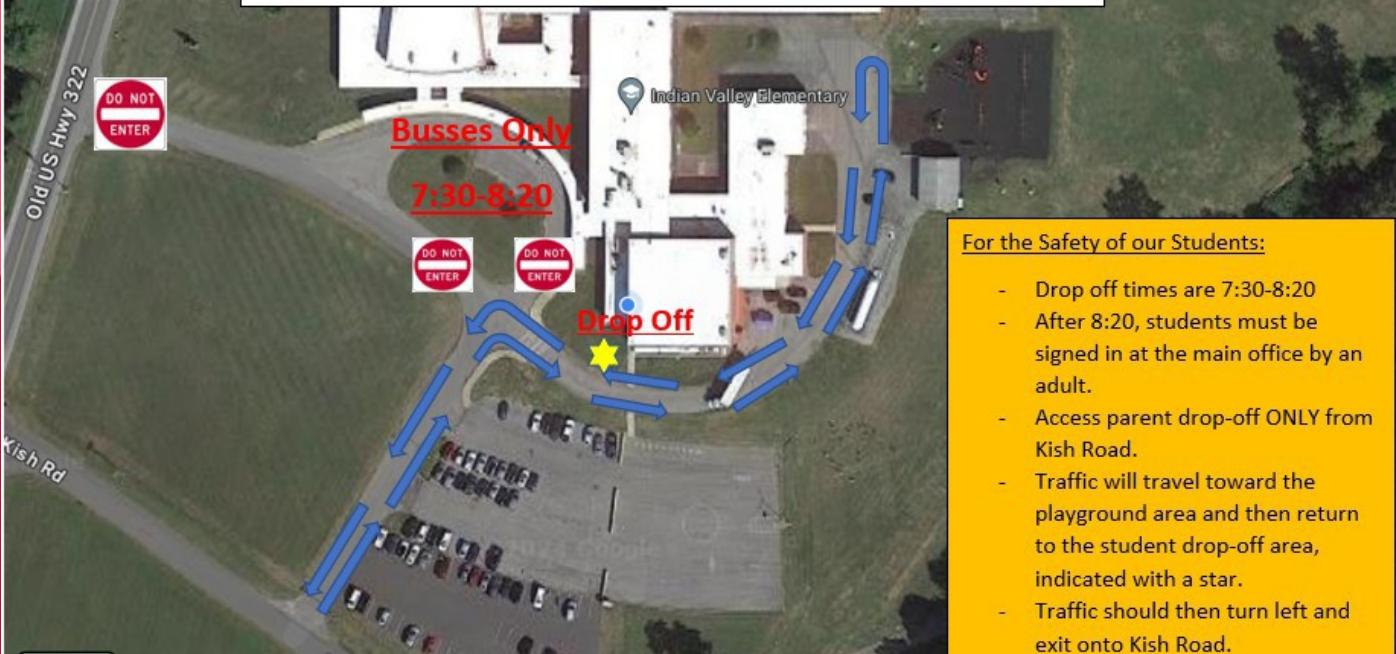
Attention Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

We have noticed a significant increase in parents using the staff parking lot for morning student drop-off. The designated student drop-off area was created to ensure the safety of students, parents, and staff at Indian Valley Elementary Center.

When parents park in the staff parking lot to let students out, it creates congestion and unsafe conditions for those walking to the building. This has made it increasingly difficult and dangerous for students, parents, and staff to navigate the area safely as cars moving through the lot have difficulty seeing students, parents, and staff walking between the cars.

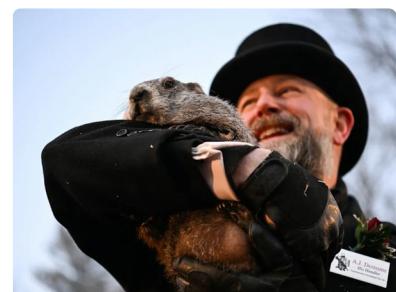
To help ensure everyone's safety, we ask that parents follow the designated student drop-off procedure (shown below) and drop them off at the sidewalk along the side of the school. If you have received administrative permission to walk your child to the school, please park in the overflow lot nearest the medical center to help maintain safe traffic flow in high-traffic areas.

Morning Student Drop-Off



Winter Weather Reminder

It's official—the winter weather is going to continue for a while longer. Punxsutawney Phil has predicted six more weeks of winter, so please continue to ensure students are dressing warmly. Students will go outside for recess when the temperature is above 30 degrees. Please make sure your student(s) come to school wearing coats and weather-appropriate clothing. Thank you for your help and cooperation.



Extreme Science

Our Home & School Association sponsored the Extreme Science Assembly here at IV after students met their fundraising goal! The Extreme Science Assembly is hosted by David Hagerman who has performed on [America's Got Talent \(AGT\)](#). Hagerman's assembly is designed around visual demonstrations, captivating students' imaginations, and entertaining them with humor. Our students really enjoyed the experience.

DAVID HAGERMAN IS NOW EMMY NOMINATED!



Exciting demonstrations are the most memorable!



NASA 2024



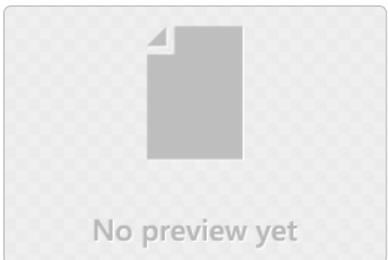
Vortex cannons fly overhead and into faces!



Science in the Classroom

Trout In The Classroom

It's that time of year! Fourth grade students in Mr. Yearick's class are raising trout. Mr. Yearick works with the PA Fish and Boat Commission to provide this opportunity for his class and others to enjoy. This hands-on experiment helps students to learn about and understand ecosystems. This activity becomes one of the most memorable experiences of the year. Mr. Yearick works with students to set up the aquarium making sure that everything is just right. They check the temperature, alkalinity, and other chemical levels. Then, students continue to test the water throughout the process. After the eggs arrive, students get to watch the life-cycle of the trout happen right before their eyes. These trout will be released locally in the spring.



5 Valentine's Day Math Activities to Engage and Challenge

To celebrate February and the upcoming Valentine's Day festivities, I've created five Valentine's Day math activities that are sure to engage your students and get them thinking critically about math. Have you ever felt so constrained by your curriculum calendar you feel you can't take time out to celebrate the holidays?

therouttymathteacher.com

The Great Grow Along Experiment

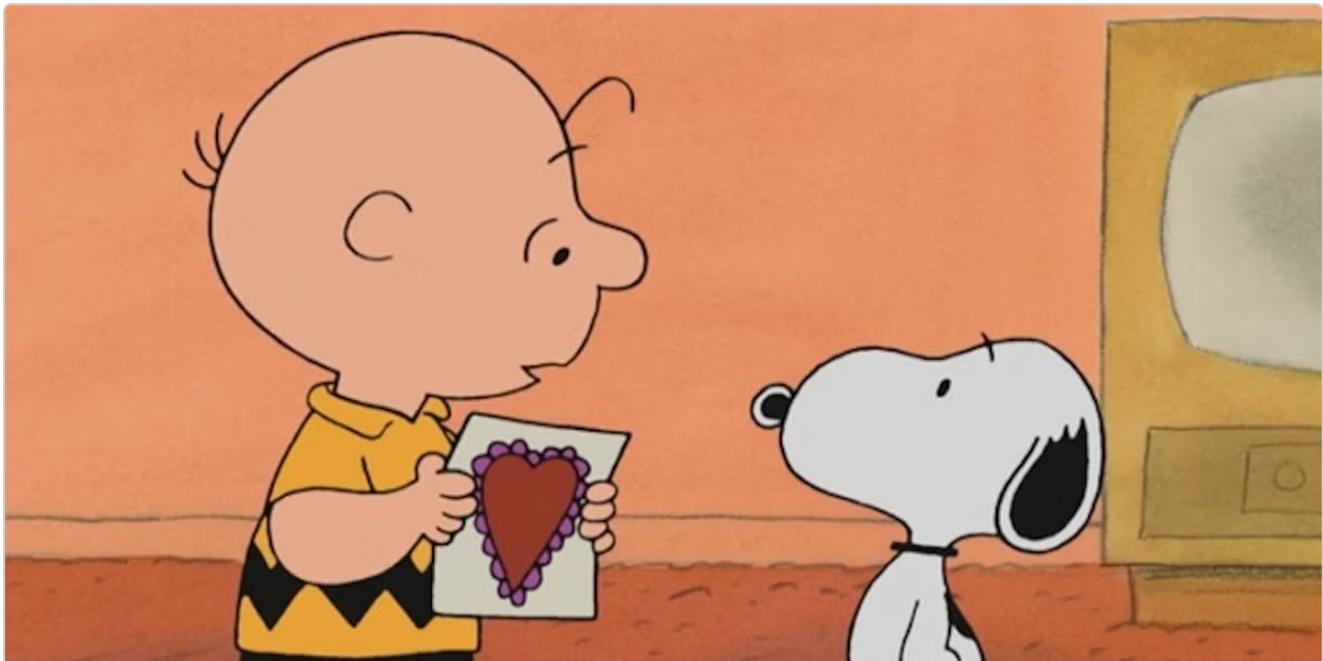
Mr. Yearick and Mr. Parson both participate in an experiment with Pennsylvania Society for Biomedical Research to adopt rats as classroom pets. (Actually, this is a science experiment.) This helps to learn how to conduct laboratory experiments. Students learn about the scientific method, how to collect data, and how to analyze results. The biggest take-away from this experiment is that the students get to do it hands-on and not just on paper. Each classroom has two rats. One will be fed sugar water with its food while the other gets milk with its food. By collecting data on these rats for a few weeks, the students learn about the importance of proper nutrition. This is always a class favorite.



💕 Fun Valentine's Day Crafts & Activities 💕

Make Amazing Cards!

These are some seriously creative, fun cards -- and tutorials to go along with them. Get crafty!



Watch These Cute and Funny Kids' Movies on Valentine's Day With Your Family

Valentine's Day gets a lot of attention from adults--but it's so easy for kids to get in on the fun, too. What's not to love about eating yummy candy, making fun crafts, and getting lots of sweet cards? The holiday is meant for all ages to celebrate!

thepioneerwoman.com

Nurse Eagle has been the school nurse at IVEC for the past 13 years. For 13 years she worked at IV with a caring heart and a positive attitude each and every day. Her genuine love for helping students and her great personality made a lasting impact on everyone who walked into her nurses office and throughout our building. She was not only a great nurse, but also a true team player who supported students and staff with compassion and professionalism.

We wish her all the best in her next chapter and are thankful for her time with us here at IVEC.



Welcome Our New School Nurse - Kate Connolly

We are excited to welcome Kate Connolly as our new school nurse. Kate is a caring and skilled nurse, and we are happy to have her supporting the health and well-being of our students and staff here at Indian Valley Elementary. We look forward to her being part of our team and getting to know her.

Reminders from the Nurse's Office

A healthy school environment requires the cooperation and effort of us all working together. During this time of year we tend to see a higher incidence of strep throat, respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses. Mrs. Eckley, our School Nurse, would like to remind everyone that they can help to protect themselves and their families from many of these airborne illnesses by following the Habits for Good Health recommended by the Center for Disease Control.

Please note that children who have a fever or who need to take antibiotics for infections such as strep throat, conjunctivitis, ear infections, etc., should stay home until they have taken the medicine for at least 24 hours, their temperature is less than 100.0 F (without fever reducing medicine), and they feel better.

Medication Policy

If your child has not submitted the Over-the Counter Medication form to the Nurse's Office, your child will not receive medication at school. Forms are available in the nurse's office. As a reminder, students are NOT permitted to carry any medications on their person during school hours. This includes cough drops, medicated creams, eye drops, or anything else that is used for medicinal purposes. Any medication required to be taken at school MUST be transported to school by a parent/guardian or designated adult and accompanied by a physician's order. Parents and guardians

are required to sign medications into the nurse's office at drop-off. If your child requires an inhaler, a new physician order must be submitted to the school nurse EACH school year before your child can carry an inhaler on their person. Failure to do so is a violation of the MCSD Medication Policy.

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Parent Handbook for Elementary Schools

At Indian Valley Elementary Center, we strive to create a safe, respectful, and engaging learning environment for all students. To support this goal, we ask that families review the Parent Handbook for Elementary Schools, which outlines important policies, expectations, and guidelines. The handbook can be found at this [link](#). We encourage parents and guardians to read through the handbook with their student to ensure everyone is familiar with school rules, attendance policies, and behavior expectations. Please note that as policy updates occur, there may be changes to this handbook.

Mifflin County School Board Policies

If you have any questions or concerns regarding school policies and procedures, all adopted policies and procedures can be found [here](#).

Board Policy 105.1 Notification - Review of Instructional Materials

Mifflin County School District School Board Policy 105.1 requires annual notification to parents/guardians and students that parents/guardians and students have an opportunity to review instructional materials and have access to information about the curriculum, including academic standards to be achieved, instructional materials and assessment techniques. Requests to review instructional materials and access information about the curriculum, including academic standards to be achieved, instructional materials and assessment techniques should be made by submitting a written request to the building principal.

Board Policy 906 - Complaint Procedures

Indian Valley Elementary Center is committed to maintaining a positive and responsive school environment. If you have a concern or complaint about Board policy and procedures, programs, personnel, operations or facilities, concerns should be addressed directly with the teacher, staff member or administrator involved. Many issues can be resolved through open and respectful communication. More information on complaint procedures is provided in Policy 906 of the [MCSD Policy Manual](#).

2026-2027 Kindergarten Registration

The Mifflin County School District is conducting registration for children who will be eligible for enrollment in a kindergarten class for the 2026-2027 school year. A child must be 5 years of age on

or before September 1, 2026. There are no exceptions or provisions made for early entrance to kindergarten.

Further information about forms for Kindergarten Registration are included in the attachment below.

Information gathered from this form will enable the district to properly plan for its new enrollees and will provide an opportunity for school officials to communicate directly with parents and guardians concerning enrollment requirements.



[Spring-K-Registration-Flyer-for-2026-2027-1.pdf](#)

Download

237.4 KB



Ski Club

Attention Ski Club members!!

The February weather is still looking great for skiing!

- February 6th and 20th are the final scheduled Ski Club Trips



School Calendar

February 13 - Act 80 Day - **No School for Students**

February 16 - President's Day - **SCHOOL IS NOW IN SESSION (Snow Make-up Day)**

March 13 - Act 80 Day

March 16-20 Spring Book Fair

April 3 - Good Friday - **No school for Students**

April 6 - **SCHOOL IS NOW IN SESSION (Snow Make-up Day)**

April 20-24 - PSSA English Language Arts

April 27-May 1 - PSSA Math, Science, and Make-ups

May 4-7 Grandparents Day

May 25 - Memorial Day -**No School for Students**

May 26 - IVEC Field Day (Rain date May 27)

May 29 - **Last Day of School for Students (**Pending Weather)**



Travis H Zook

Beautiful class updates in a snap

