

Bear News
Index Elementary School
360-793-1330
December 2020



We are the Index Bears!

**Together We Are Inspiring
Life-Long Learners**

Superintendent's Corner

December, 2020

Greetings!

I am sharing a board decision regarding "In-Person" learning at Index School District. Our school board met this week at our normally scheduled time. There was a great deal of discussion around our desire to have students back in the classroom as soon as possible. This was balanced with the need to keep everyone safe during this pandemic time. With the significant increase of positive COVID-19 tests in our county, the board determined that we need to wait until after the Thanksgiving and Winter breaks to review our plan for returning

Index School 2020-2021

Creative Expression

in

Art and Beyond

Important School Dates

12/2 - 12/4	Conferences
12/21 - 12/31	Winter Break
12/31	New Year's Eve

students to "in-person" learning. The decision was largely based on the Snohomish County Health Department's recommendation to not advance further "in-person" learning while the COVID counts are rising so quickly. This was a difficult decision, and I am sure it will make things challenging for everyone. We need to error on the side of keeping our students, staff, and the greater Index community safe from exposure as we navigate these uncharted waters. Thanks for your patience and support of your students and the school. We will continue to stay in close touch with each of you to ensure that we are doing the very best for your family and your children.



Stevens Pass Academic Excellence Program

Stevens Pass is pleased to offer the Academic Excellence Program (AEP) season passes to eligible students. The purpose of this program is to incentivize students to achieve in school while providing an opportunity to participate in winter recreation.

In a short time, we will be taking our winter break. What a great time to reflect on the year and plan for new beginnings and prepare for a fresh start in 2021.

This time around family can be exciting AND it can also be challenging. When things are busy or just crazy... Sometimes I say things I shouldn't say. Sometimes I react and lash out at friends and family.

As we take time to celebrate this season and when we are spending time with others.... We should take time to **THINK** about our words and actions...

T= Is it True?

H=Is it Helpful?

I = Is it inspiring?

N=Is it necessary?

K=Is it Kind?

Let's make sure our words and actions are an encouragement to others.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Brad Jernberg
Superintendent for Index SD

Parents can call or come to Steven's Pass any day from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm to get a pass.

The flyer with additional information is attached to the back of this packet. If you have any questions, please contact Connie Fehrenbach, (AEP Coordinator) at 360-793-1330.



Fun, Offbeat, December Theme Days and Holidays



- 12/1 Eat a Red Apple Day
- 12/2 National Fritters Day
- 12/3 Nat'l Roof over Your Head Day
- 12/4 Santa's List Day
Wear Brown Shoes Day
- 12/5 Bathrub Party Day
- 12/6 St. Nicholas day
MittenTree Day
Put on your own Shoes Day
- 12/7 Letter Writing Day
Nat'l Cotton Candy Day
- 12/8 Nat'l Brownie Day
Take it in the Ear Day
- 12/9 Christmas Card Day
National Pastry Day
- 12/11 Nat'l Noodle Ring Day
- 12/12 Nat'l Ding-a-Ling Day
- 12/13 Ice Cream Day
- 12/14 Int'l Monkey Day
- 12/15 Nat'l Lemon Cupcake Day
- 12/16 Nat'l Chocolate Covered Anything
Day
- 12/17 Nat'l Maple Syrup Day
- 12/18 Bake Cookies Day
Nat'l Roast Suckling Pig Day
- 12/19 Look for an Evergreen day
Oatmeal Muffin Day
- 12/20 Go Caroling Day
- 12/21 Crossword Puzzle Day
Humbug Day
Look on the Bright Side Day
Nat'l Flashlight Day
- 12/22 Nat'l Date Nut Bread Day
- 12/24 Nat'l Chocolate Day
Nat'l Egg Nog Day
- 12/25 Christmas Day
- 12/27 Make Cut Out Snowflakes Day
- 12/30 Bacon Day
- 12/31 Make up Your Mind Day

Sno-Isle Library Schedule

These events are online. Please go to sno-isle.bibliocommons.com under events to access current as well as past Storytime sessions. Please check for availability.

***Unless otherwise stated, a link to join the following events via Zoom will be sent to registered participants the day of the event. If you don't see the email an hour before the event, check your spam folder. You can access Zoom in your computer's browser, or download the app for free on an Apple or Android device. You do not need to have your own Zoom account in order to participate.*

Stay-At-Home Family Storytime with Miss Heather – Facebook Live

Dec. 2, 2020 – 7:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Dec 9, 2020 “
Dec 16, 2020 “

Join Miss Heather from the Mill Creek Library. Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and creative activities together as a family to prepare for the wonder of reading.

Storytime will stream on the Mill Creek Library Facebook page and be available for later viewing:
<https://www.facebook.com/MCRLibrary/>





Reading with Rover
(Part of Reading with Rover)

(Registration opens: Nov 26th @ 12:00 am)

Dec. 3, 2020 - 4:00 PM - 4:15 PM
Dec 10, 2020 - 4:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Children build reading skills and confidence by reading aloud to a certified therapy dog in a live video chat. For elementary students ages 6-12, with an adult. **

(Part of Reading with Rover)

Dec 3, 2020 - 4:15 PM - 4:30 PM
Dec 10, 2020 - 4:15 PM - 4:30 PM

(Part of Reading with Rover)

Dec 3, 2020 - 4:45 PM - 5:00 PM
Dec 10, 2020 - 4:45 PM - 5:00 PM

Stay-At-Home Family Storytime with Ms. Esme - Facebook - Live

Dec. 11, 2020 - 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Dec 18, 2020 - 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Join Ms. Esme from the Monroe Library. Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and creative activities together as a family to prepare for the wonder of reading.

Storytime will stream on the Monroe Library Facebook page and be available for later viewing.

Stay-At-Home Family Storytime with Miss Tamra - Facebook Live

Dec 4, 2020 - 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Dec 18, 2020 - 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Join Miss Tamra from the Darrington Library. Enjoy stories songs, rhymes and creative activities together as a family to prepare for the wonder of reading.

Storytime will stream on the Darrington Library Facebook page and be available for later viewing.

<https://www.facebook.com/darrington.snoisle/>



Online Family Trivia - Movies!

Dec 11, 2020 - 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Go it solo or grab a family member (or a few!) to test your trivia skills, right from the comfort of your own home. Join us for an online family trivia, all about Movies!

Family trivia is designed with young people in mind – we suggest a youth participant on each team.

A link to join trivia via Zoom will be sent to registered participants the morning of the event.

If you are playing with team members who are sharing your screen/device, only one team member need register. If team members are located in different households, at least one member of each household should register for trivia. **

Stay-At-Home Family Storytime with Edmonds Library and Edmonds Center for the Arts-Zoom – register for link

Dec. 12 , 2020 – 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join Kat from the Edmonds Library and special guest, Katie from Edmonds Center for the Arts, as they bring stories to life for families to enjoy together.

Katie Newbaum is the Education & Outreach Coordinator at Edmonds Center for the Arts (ECA) – she helps choose all of the shows and activities meant for kids and families! If you've ever gone on a field trip to see a performance at ECA, or come on a Saturday with your family, you may have seen Katie there. Along with her team Katie likes to decide what kind of musicians, dancers, and actors will be on the big stage entertaining all of the kiddos in the area because she loves bringing the magic of the arts to everyone! **

Online Family Trivia – Winter Wonders

Dec. 18, 2020 – 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Go it solo or grab a family member (or a few!) to test your trivia skills, right from the comfort of your own home. Join us for family online trivia fun where we will explore Winter Wonders.

Family trivia is designed with young people in mind – we suggest a youth participant on each team.

A link to join trivia via Zoom will be sent to registered participants the morning of the event

If you are playing with team members who are sharing your screen/device, only one team member need register. If team members are located in different households, a least one member of each household should register for trivia. **

Planetary Geology with Pacific Science Center

Dec. 22, 2020 – 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Visit the Virtual Planetarium with Pacific Science Center! Take a wild ride to explore the planets and moons that make up Earth's neighborhood, the solar system. Explore these unique landscapes, and see deep craters, magma filled volcanoes, giant seas of methane, and icy oceans. For kids in grades K-8. **



Night Sky tonight with Pacific Science Center

Dec. 28, 2020 – 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Visit the Virtual Planetarium with Pacific Science Center! Become a true backyard astronomer. Learn how living on a giant spinning ball changes what can be seen each night, discover how to find constellations, and even how the sky can be used to find directions! For kids in grades K-8. **

Radical Reactions with Pacific Science Center

Dec. 29, 2020 – 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Go on a virtual field trip to Pacific Science Center! Observe the explosive ways chemicals unite and react to this high energy show! Discover the signs of chemical reactions through experimentation and learn how this creates the world around us. For kids in grades K-8. **

Animal Facts - did you know.....

You know Dasher and Dancer and Comet and Vixen, but do you know that reindeer grow beards in the winter time? Read on to learn some fascinating facts about reindeer, just in time for the holidays.

Rangifer tarandus is the scientific name for the animal we most commonly call reindeer. They are in the same family as deer, and there are more than a dozen sub-species.

In the wild, some reindeers travel more than 3000 miles in a single year.

In North America, reindeer are also known as caribou, although the current “taxonomic jury” is out on that all species of reindeer are caribou. Most people use the terms interchangeably.

Reindeer like it cold! They are native to Arctic and subarctic regions as well as tundra and boreal (read: snow, snow, snow!) to northern Europe, Siberia and North America.

The indigenous people of Finland, the Saami, have more than 400 words for the food, tools and other products taken from reindeer. Their word for reindeer, raingo, may be where the common name is derived.

Reindeer beards? In the winter time reindeer grow their facial hair long enough to cover their mouths, which protects their muzzles when grazing in the snow.

Reindeer grow new antlers every year.

For almost all kinds of reindeer, both male and female reindeer have antlers. Females shed their antlers when they give birth in the spring.

The Finnish Forest Reindeer, arguably the reindeer of Santa Claus fame, are the largest reindeer species. They are over 7-1/2 feet long.

Finnish Forest Reindeer’s hooves have a special scoop that helps them forage through the snow for lichen and moss.

In warmer months, reindeer feast on grasses, mushrooms and plants. In the winter they feast mainly on moss and lichen. Reindeer have a strong sense of smell, which helps them sniff out food underneath layers of snow.

In many cultures, Reindeers are used to pull sleds and sleighs. There’s evidence of this dating back 7,000 years ago in Siberia!



How 10 Different Countries Celebrate Christmas

It's almost Christmas, and according to some people, it's "the most wonderful time of the year."

But, why is that? Because we cover our trees with spider webs or maybe because we eat caterpillars and KFC? Wait, no? Well, that's what tradition calls for in some countries....

The Czech Republic

You know how people hate being single on the holidays? Well, single Czech women are no different. On Christmas Eve, it's tradition for Czech women to put their backs to the house door and throw a shoe over their shoulders.

If the shoe lands with the heel towards the door, then she might as well cancel her Tinder account and buy up some more cats. But, if the front of the shoe points to the door, then she kisses her parents goodbye and gets to planning a wedding that will trump Kim K's!

Norway

Brooms and similar cleaning items are all hidden away, and men fire their guns into the night on Christmas Eve in Norway. According to ancient belief, this is primetime for witches and evil spirits to emerge.

Here you thought "The Nightmare Before Christmas" was just a figment of Tim Burton's imagination!

Australia

Christmas in Aussie land falls in the summer time. So, it makes sense that they have BBQs and —wait for it— kangaroos in their Christmas traditions.

Yup, Santa swaps his reindeer for "six white boomers" or kangaroos or even rides over on a surfboard. Nice one, mate!

Armenia

Some Armenians choose to fast the week before Christmas. Then, they break their fast with a light Christmas Eve meal called "khetum," which includes rice, fish, chickpeas, yogurt soup, dried nuts and grape jelly desserts.

So, if you want to avoid weight gain this holiday season, maybe consider heading to Armenia.

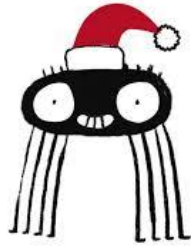
South Africa

Why have eggnog and pumpkin pie when you can celebrate Christmas by eating plump, fuzzy caterpillars, aka Emperor Moths? Don't worry, they're fried in oil, so you know it's good... right?

Ukraine

The Ukrainians use fake spider webs to cover their trees.

Why? According to legend, a poor widower had no money to decorate the family's tree. Some friendly spiders were grief-stricken when they saw the widow and her crying children, so at night, when everyone was asleep, they decorated the tree with silver and gold.



After that, the poor family became prosperous, lucky and never had a financial woe, ever again. Thus, a spider web-covered tree signifies prosperity and wealth for the next year.

This Christmas, I'm covering my tree, my house, my dogs and my brother in Halloween's fake spider webs!

Venezuela

On Christmas Eve, Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, closes down its streets so everyone and anyone can make their way to church. In roller blades. 'Nuff said.

Philippines

You won't find stockings hanging on chimneys in the Philippines. Rather, kids will polish their shoes and leave them by the window sills, so when the Three Kings walk by at night, they'll leave presents.

Japan

Maybe you thought Pikachu came to homes in Japan to drop off some sushi and saki bombs for a festive meal. Wrong!

Thanks (or no thanks) to a successful campaign run in the 70s, many Japanese people go to the one and only Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) to get their grub on.

Because what's better than a turkey or roast? Fried chicken, that's what!

Canada

There is an actual postal code used in Canada to send letters to the North Pole: H0H 0H0. Unfortunately, since there is no centralized address, thousand of volunteers help out the Canada Post to respond to the letters received, even in Braille. #FaithInHumanityRestored.

Please note: These are general talks for the countries' traditions and not every citizen necessarily participates.

Nevertheless, whether you indulge or not, everyone has traditions, and it's always fun to share in the festivities of the holiday season.

Cookie Tradition in America

Leaving cookies and milk for Santa – and perhaps a few carrots for his reindeer took off as an American holiday tradition in the 1930s, during the Great Depression. In that time of great economic hardship, many parents tried to teach their children that it was important to give to others and to show gratitude for the gifts they were lucky enough to receive on Christmas. Some 80 years later, many children still set out cookies and milk for Santa, whether out of the goodness of their hearts, or (in less wholesome cases) as a bribe to receive more gifts from the jolly bearded man in the red suit.

