

Bear News
Index Elementary School
360-793-1330
February 2021



We are the Index Bears!
Together We Are Inspiring
Life-Long Learners

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

February 2021

Good Morning!

We have jumped into February and discovered Pauxatawney Phil saw his shadow! That would tell us that we can look forward to six more weeks of winter (Good news for skiers, challenging news for non-winter car drivers ☺).



Index School 2020-2021

Creative Expression

in

Art and Beyond

Important School Dates

2/2/21	Groundhog Day
2/12/21	No School – Mid Winter Break
2/15/21	No School – President's Day

This week we have moved into our “in-person” learning for students in Kindergarten through Grade 3. We are excited to have many of our students back in the building in a hybrid model! The older students are continuing with remote learning. Our younger grades work at school for half of the day and at home the other portion of the day. This is done to help us maintain healthy social distancing. Many of our younger students are driven to school by parents or guardians. The number of students riding on the bus is lower. This allows us to safely transport students to and from school. It is so nice to see student's smiling faces coming back into the school. We are anticipating the next phase when we can safely bring the remaining students back. We will follow the county and state guidelines and

work to bring them back when it is safe to do so.

This pandemic has been a huge stressor on all of us. I am sure that each of you are equally ready to be done with this challenging time. I am trying to learn from the difficulties and apply these experiences to our school learning process. Some valuable lessons have been gleaned from this time:

- 1) *We have become stronger in our technology skills and are able to apply these skills to student and staff learning*
- 2) *We are working on building stronger communication skills and better listening skills.*
- 3) *We are Finding ways to incrementally strengthen the way we can serve others.*

We also completed a six-week book study (as a staff) around social and emotional learning. This time of discussion was very helpful. If you are interested in reading some good books on this topic here are the titles: *"Fostering Resilient Learners" and Relationship, Responsibility and Regulation- Trauma-Invested Practices for Fostering Resilient Learners"*

by Kristin Souers and Pete Hall.

Winter Break takes place the middle of this month: February 12-15. We have early dismissal on the 11th and only morning K-3 will come to the school in person. Enjoy your Valentines Day and we trust you will find ways to enjoy time with your family!

Brad Jernberg - Superintendent

Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in US. History. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.

The Black History Month 2021 theme, "Black Family" Representation, Identity and Diversity" explores the African diaspora, and the spread of Black families across the United States.



The practice of vaccination in America has fascinating roots.

An enslaved person by the name of Onesimus, brought to the Massachusetts colony, told church minister Cotton Mather about the way inoculations were practiced in Africa for centuries to prevent people from getting sick. Mather took this information to Dr. Zabdiel Boylston when smallpox became a severe issue in Boston in 1721. Boylston inoculated 240 people, despite a large opposition to the practice.

Black men had a strong presence in the Wild West

You'd be hard-pressed to find much diversity in old-time Western films; however, according to Smithsonian Magazine, one in four cowboys was black. In fact, it's believed that the fictional character of the Lone Ranger was based on a Bass Reeves. Reeves was born into slavery but he fled westward during the Civil War. In time, Reeves became a Deputy U.S. Marshal.

Black Inventors who made daily life easier

Garrett Morgan – With only an elementary school education, Morgan came up with several inventions including an improved sewing machine and the gas mask. One of his most influential inventions was the improved traffic light. Without his innovation, drivers would be directed by a two-light system.

As a motorist, he witnessed a severe car accident at an intersection. In response, he decided to expand on the current traffic light by adding a "yield" component, warning oncoming drivers of an impending stop.

Alexander Miles – Before automatic doors, people had to manually shut both the shaft and elevator doors before riding. Forgetting to do so led to multiple accidents as people fell down elevator shafts. When the daughter of Miles almost fatally fell down a shaft, he took it upon himself to develop a solution. In 1887, he took out a patent for a mechanism that automatically opens and closes elevator shaft doors and his designs are largely reflected in elevators used today.

Frederick McKinley Jones – If your refrigerator has any produce from your local grocery store, then you can credit

Frederick Jones. Jones took out more than 60 patents in his lifetime, including a patent for the roof-mounted cooling system that's used to refrigerate goods on trucks during extended transportation in the mid-1930s. He received a patent for his invention in 1940, and co-founded the U.S. Thermo Control Company later known as Thermo King. This company was critical during World War II, helping to preserve blood, food and supplies during the war.

George Crum - A chef and restaurateur is said to have unintentionally created the potato chip in 1853. They were made in response to a customer who sent back their fried potatoes after complaining they were too thick. The crisps were an instant hit and are now arguably one of the world's favorite snacks.

Granville Woods – Woods most notable invention was the induction of the telegraph system, which allowed traveling trains to communicate with one another while also allowing dispatchers to locate them, and the first electricity powered railway.

Mark Dean – Dean earned a doctorate at Stanford University, is a co-inventor of IBM's original personal computer and the PC color monitor, literally changing how we all interact with the internet. And the technology that enables printers, keyboards, and mice to communicate with your computer? That's him, too.

Lonnie Johnson - This engineer developed the mega water gun in his free time while working at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. And once the toy, dubbed the Super Soaker, hit shelves in 1990, its popularity skyrocketed.

8 Surprising Things You Didn't Know About Groundhog Day



1. **The Germans started the whole Groundhog Day thing.**

Yes, the see-his-shadow-or-not concept stems from Germany and the holiday, Candlemas. Early European Christians believed that if the sun came out on Candlemas, (also February 2) winter would last for another six weeks.

2. **The groundhog really can predict the end of winter.**

Just not with his shadow. Because groundhogs hibernate every winter, the fact that he'd bother to leave his hideaway is a natural sign of spring to come! The furry critter is also easy to find – groundhogs live in the majority of central and eastern U.S., plaguing gardeners everywhere.

3. **Punxsutawney Phil is just a nickname.**

Punxsutawney Phil has a ridiculously long official name. His full moniker is "Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators and Weather Prophet Extraordinary." Yikes!

4. **The original Groundhog Day involved eating groundhogs.**

After sightseers celebrated Punxsutawney Phil's weather prediction in 1886, they all headed over to Gobbler's Knob to dine on a feast made up of various groundhog dishes and the equally-delicious-sounding groundhog punch. Gross.

5. **Punxsutawney Phil isn't the only weather predictor.**

A few states use their own groundhogs to celebrate the holiday rather than relying on Phil. Other weather oracles include General Beau Lee of Atlanta, Georgia, Sir Walter Wally from Raleigh, North Carolina, and Birmingham Bill from Birmingham, Alabama.

6. **"Groundhog Day" the movie put Punxsutawney Phil on the map.**

After the release of the 1993 film starring Bill Murray, attendance to the big event in Punxsutawney exploded, drawing crowds of up to 30,000 people.

7. **Flipping a coin is more accurate than Phil.**

The National Climatic Data Center compared U.S. national temperatures from 1988 to 2012 to determine the accuracy of Phil's predictions, and he's only been proven correct 39% of the time – significantly worse than chance.

8. **Punxsutawney Phil may know the secret to everlasting life.**

Loyal fans swear that there is only one Phil and that he's been making weather predictions since 1886. But since groundhogs only live up to six years, we're not so sure about that one.

Animal Facts - did you know.....

The first official Groundhog Day celebration took place on February 2, 1887, in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. It was the brainchild of a local newspaper editor who sold a group of businessmen and groundhog hunters -known collectively as the Penxsutawney Groundhog Club- on the idea.

The men trekked to a site called Gobbler's Knob, where the inaugural groundhog became the bearer of bad news when he saw his shadow.

Nowadays, the yearly festivities of Punxsutawney are presided over by a band of local dignitaries known as the Inner Circle. Its members wear top hats and conduct the official proceedings in the Pennsylvania Dutch dialect. (They supposedly speak to the groundhog in "Groundhogese.")



Groundhogs, also called woodchucks, are large rodents. They are also one of the 14 species of marmot, or ground squirrels. In fact, they are the largest members of the squirrel family.

From head to rump, groundhogs are 17.75 to 24 inches long. They weigh around 13 lbs which is about twice the average weight of a newborn human baby.

These round creatures look like little bears when they stand up on their hind legs. Groundhogs also have sharp claws that they use to dig impressive burrows in the ground. During the warm months, a groundhog's incisors grow about a sixteenth of an inch each week to keep up with their frenzied eating schedule.

Groundhogs are found only in North America, from Canada down to the southern United States. They like woodland areas that bump up against more open areas. They dig burrows that can be 6 feet deep, and 20 feet wide. These underground homes can also have two to a dozen entrances. Typically, they have a burrow in the woods for the winter and a burrow in grassy areas for the warmer months. Groundhogs keep their burrows tidy by changing out the nesting found inside from time to time.

Groundhogs are solitary creatures, and they spend their summers and falls stuffing themselves and taking naps in the sun. They can eat about a pound of food per sitting.

A groundhog typically sticks close to home. They usually don't wander farther than 50 to 150 feet from their den during the daytime.

These rodents are herbivores, which means they eat vegetation. A groundhog's diet can include fruit, plants, tree bark and grasses. They are known for damaging crops and gardens and many consider them pests.

Fun, Offbeat, February Theme Days and Holidays



Feb 2	Day of the Crêpe	Feb 11	Make a Friend Day
Feb 2	Play Your Ukulele Day	Feb 11	Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day
Feb 3	Carrot Cake Day	Feb 12	Darwin Day
Feb 4	Thank Your Mailman Day	Feb 13	World Radio Day
Feb 4	Create a Vacuum Day	Feb 14	Ferris Wheel Day
Feb 4	Stuffed Mushroom Day	Feb 14	Library Lovers Day
Feb 5	Work Naked Day	Feb 15	Gumdrop Day
Feb 5	Natl Weatherperson's Day	Feb 16	Do a Grouch a Favor Day
Feb 5	Chocolate Fondue Day	Feb 17	Random Act of Kindness Day
Feb 6	Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast ay	Feb 18	Battery Day
Feb 6	Lame Duck Day	Feb 19	Chocolate Mint Day
Feb 7	e-Day	Feb 22	Single Tasking Day
Feb 7	Send a Card to a Friend Day	Feb 22	Be Humble Day
Feb 8	Laugh and Get Rich Day	Feb 23	Intl Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day
Feb 8	Clean Out Your Computer Day	Feb 24	Tortilla Chip Day
Feb 9	Toothache Day	Feb 26	Pistachio Day
Feb 9	Bagel and Lox Day	Feb 26	Tell a Fairy Tale Day
Feb 10	Umbrella Day	Feb 27	International Polar Bear Day
		Feb 27	No Brainer Day
		Feb 27	World Sword Swallowers Day
		Feb 28	Public Sleeping Day

Color Changing Carnation Flowers

Where does the water really go when a plant is watered?

With this experiment, you can discover for yourself how essential the functions of stems are to plant growth. As the colored water is absorbed, you will be able to see how it moves into the flower and will be amazed when the petals of a white carnation change color.

EXPERIMENT



1

Part A

Before placing any of the flowers in water, have an adult trim about 4" (10 cm) off of each stem. Use a knife and cut at an angle. Keep all the flower stems in plain water for now. (Many gardeners and florists even cut stems under water so no air bubbles can get in to break the tube of water and cause wilting. It's important that the stem tubes always be filled with water. If air gets into the tube, water may not be able to move up the stem to the flower.)

Part B

Have an adult use a sharp knife to slit the stems of three of the flowers straight down the middle. Keep them in the plain water for now.



2

Fill five of the cups with different colors of water. Fill the other two with uncolored water.



3

Part A

This step is often called "Split Ends." Place each half of a stem into a cup of different colored water. For example, position the red and blue cups next to each other and put a stem half into each color. Use a color with one of the cups of uncolored water, too. Make a few predictions: Which color will be soaked up? Will the colors mix to make a new color in the petals or will the color in the flower be divided in half?

Part B

Place the last white carnation into the remaining cup of uncolored water. This one is your control flower. Let all the flowers sit and soak for several days. As you wait to see the results, make some more predictions: How will the carnation in the plain water compare to the carnations in the colored water? Which color will be soaked up first? How long will it take? Which color will create the darkest shade in a flower? Which color will create the lightest shade in a flower? Which color might not be absorbed?



