
Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Dear Parents:

One thing you might not know about me is that I bleed “Cubbie blue.” I am an avid Cubs fan having grown up in a Chicago suburb. Thursday is opening day and although I don’t recognize most of the names on the roster (because they dumped their stars a couple of years ago), I will be pulling for them once again. And if things don’t go so well, the people in my corner are used to saying, “Maybe next year!”

It is good to see birds once again and daffodils springing up. I am reminded that the school year is fast coming to a close – only 42 days left! It is chocked full of events, too. Here are a few:



-  **Today, March 28:** Third Quarter Progress Reports will be sent home in your child’s Tuesday folder.
-  **Next week, April 3-6** is an important testing week for our students. The K5, 1, and 2 grade classes will take the third and final round of Map Growth. It’s always exciting to see individual and class progress. The third through sixth graders will take the ILEARN practice tests on April 5-6. Please help your child to be to school on time and having eaten a non-sugary breakfast.
-  **Tuesday, April 4** is our monthly Mileage Club Challenge titled “Keep on Pedaling.” The token for walking/running 4.5 miles is a biker.
-  **April 7:** There is **no school** in observance of Good Friday.
-  **April 17-28:** This two-week block is carved out for ILEARN tests. These assessments involve all third through sixth graders. Attendance is critical during this time for these students.
-  **May 5:** Field Day
-  **May 12:** Kindergarten graduation
-  **May 19:** Our annual musical, Annie, Jr.

Please be in prayer for our Indiana State Legislature as they make many decisions in the spring that affect us. It would be good to contact your state senator and let him/her know how you feel about School Choice and how it has helped your family. They are discussing raising income limits

even more and also perhaps eliminating the necessity of a pathway. Here is an excerpt from the Indiana Non-Public Education Association newsletter that explains the different bills being discussed.

HB 1001, the budget bill includes MANY other things but INPEA is primarily focusing on K-12 funding, including choice expansions. The current House budget includes doing away with the Choice Scholarship eligibility tracks and increasing financial eligibility to 400% of FRL on both the Choice Scholarship and the Tax Credit Scholarship programs. **HB 1001** passed out of the House 66-29 on third reading and now it heads to the Senate where the real challenges begin!

HB 1591 is a "various education matters" bill, which means it has everything but the kitchen sink in it. Some things of interest to non-public schools include fixing the voucher fees language and fixing the five year old birthdate for voucher eligibility to parallel public schools' early admit birthdate. It also proposes allowing SGO dollars to be used for Pre-K tuition and it finally allows non-public school leaders to participate in the State Principals' Institute. This bill passed the full House unanimously. Now onto the Senate.

HB 1002 sets up a Career Tech Ed ESA program, including the funding of intermediaries to assist schools in placing students in CTE opportunities. This bill heads to the Senate.

HB 1382 establishes a grant fund for supporting robotics programs and competitions. The bill passed out of the House 91-0. This bill heads to the Senate.

HB 1590 requires IDOE to publish a list of high quality curricular materials for both the Science of Reading and STEM.

HB 1608 prohibits public schools from teaching about human sexuality in grades K-3. Non-public schools were amended out of that but an amendment was added that has stipulations about what names and pronouns can be used without parent permission. Currently, state accredited non-public schools would be included in that part of the bill. There is inconsistency in the bill as to the applicability of state accredited non-public schools. The bill passed out of the House on third reading 65-29. This was/is a very contentious bill. It now heads to the Senate.

SB 35 requires that a financial literacy course be taught and be a graduation requirement. A similar bill was heard in the House and takes a much more flexible approach.

SB 72 requires that IDOE conduct a study with all public schools and state accredited schools about if they are teaching cursive writing.

SB 305, the ESA expansion bill, is being held by the Senate Appropriation Committee Chair. It is assumed that it will be discussed in the final budget.

Let's hear it for baseball, America's favorite past time!

Mrs. Newton

