



## Reading is Rewarding

The Illini Bluffs Elementary School Library is constantly updating its inventory of books, in hopes to bring in the latest, award-winning books to young readers of the library. The library also works to keep classic stories alive and available.

The IBES Library has four computers, which students can use to take AR tests. The computers are also used for writing assigned papers, such as a biography on a person of interest—a recent assignment in the school.

The library tries their very best to keep up with the reading interests of the students of the elementary school. Every book fair the IBES Library hosts students are encouraged to share

books they would like to see in the library. Mrs. Mohn, the librarian, will then use the list when purchasing books to be incorporated into our library.

The IBES Library aims to be a place where students can read in a quiet and comfortable environment, even if it is only for twenty minutes.

An additional note from Mrs. Mohn for the parents and students: “We just had our book fair that coincides with Love of Reading; it was a success and we were able to buy over \$900 in new books for the elementary library. We will celebrate Dr. Seuss’s birthday with Dr. Seuss bookmarks for all students and read several of his books to

Bright Futures, kindergartners and 1st graders. April is poetry month so we’ll read some poetry to students, and, in the past, we have had contests for students to try their hand at writing original poems. We usually have one more book fair toward the end of the school year, which is a buy-one-get-one-free, if we can get it scheduled around the students’ testing.”

—Laenie Swardenski



## IBFT After Prom

Most high school students look forward to prom night all year. On this magical night girls wear their fanciest attire, boys show off their suave sense of style, and everyone dances the night away. But it’s what follows prom that can turn the night from amazing to tragic.

This year, the Illini Bluffs Federation of Teachers, Local #3810 in conjunction with the Senior Class of 2015 and District #327’s Substance Abuse Prevention Program are sponsoring an After Prom program with the hope of keeping teens safe following prom. The program will follow the dance and will be held at Illini Bluffs High School. There will be various activities for students to participate in to keep their fun-filled night going, and many great surprises in store for those who attend After Prom. It will be a night that students will remember for the rest of their lives.

While the main purpose of the program is to help keep the students safe and out of trouble on prom night, it is also to show our appreciation for what After Prom co-coordinators, Eric Bell and Erin Coulter, call an “outstanding group of kids.”

“The Junior and Senior classes are a hardworking, fun group,” says Mrs. Coulter, “and if we can provide them with a safe place to celebrate together one last time before graduation, we are happy to do it.”

This event is completely free for Seniors and all students who attend the Illini Bluffs Prom. We are excited to be hosting this event and we hope that it continues for years to come.

—Alexa Hoadley

## Science Fair



This year the Illini Bluffs Middle School Science Department hosted a Science Fair for the first time. This serves to introduce the students to the Scientific Method and encourage them to pursue ideas and concepts that interest them in the field of science.

This gave the students an opportunity to participate in a competitive academic competi-

tion for the first time, allowing them to discover the excitement that science can give someone.

Many awards were given out last Thursday such as Best of Show, Most Scientific, Most Artistic, and The People’s Choice. An awards ceremony was held after the fair to honor the winners and they were announced again Friday morning

to the entire school.

To view the winners go to [ibpublications.weebly.com/science-fair-winners](http://ibpublications.weebly.com/science-fair-winners).

All in all the 2015 Science Fair was a great success with many exemplary experiments shown. We look forward to seeing this event grow.

—Jeston Rademaker

## Bragging Rights

Clear your calendars for Wednesday, March 11th as the senior basketball players and faculty lace up to throw down in the 14th Annual Bragging Rights Game! The youthful, energetic seniors will challenge the aging, yet wise faculty.

You're probably wondering, *Will this even be a competition for the skillful seniors? Of course it will be! Do you really think the teachers don't have some tricks up their old sleeves?*

If you still aren't convinced that you should attend, there is more than just the game itself! There is a 3 Point Shootout at 6:30 pm among players, and the fans have the opportunity to win prizes with raffles and contests such as the Rainbow Shot! Who

will be crowned King of the Court? Who will earn Bragging Rights? Find out on March 11th!

—Lucas Sondgeroth

## Third Grade Reads Biographies



Last week Illini Bluffs Third Graders learned about one of America's most famous athletes: Gertrude Ederle, the first woman to swim across the English Channel. After reading a biography on the swimmer, the students then practiced their vocabulary and reading comprehension skills they gained from reading. After completing these activities, students had to read a second biography of their choice and afterwards compose a journal entry.

—Julie Hemp

## Spanish Class Travels to Costa Rica

Last week in the Spanish 2 classes, students completed a vocabulary project about traveling to Costa Rica. They included when they went, where they stayed, what they did, what they bought, and how much things would cost in colones, which is the Costa Rican currency.

The Spanish 1 classes completed a small project as well, using their vocabulary about school items. They drew and labeled the materials needed for the classes that they are using in their projects. In addition to the drawings, they wrote sentences about what they would need for the classes and how they felt in each class.

—Maddie Gruber

## Anything Goes Recap

### A Battle for Bragging Rights

This year's anything goes was a complete success! The trash talking was kept to a minimum and the friendly competition was at an all time high. Student Council kicked off the festivities with an intense dance battle in which the seniors came out on top. For Kiss the Hedgehog, Seniors collected the most money and both Mr. Bell and Mrs. Coulter were awarded a kiss from Taylor Duncan's hedgehog. The losing Freshmen suffered a pie to the face of their sponsor, Ms. Caldwell.

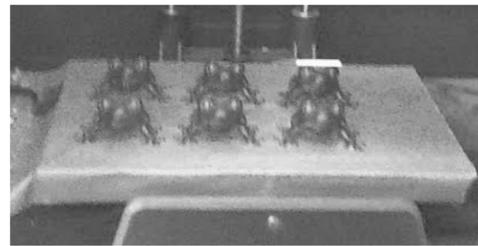
There were many complica-

tions throughout the games as well. During scooter races, the Sophomores were halted when one of the participants landed on the scooter and broke it. Some collisions and tripping was suffered during the relay races but no serious injuries occurred.

Juniors and Seniors were neck and neck for the majority of the games, but eventually the Seniors once again came out victorious. The Sophomores and Freshmen held their own and played hard. In the end, the line up was Seniors as the champions followed by Juniors, then Sophomores, and finally Freshmen.

—Emma Overton

## No Longer 2D

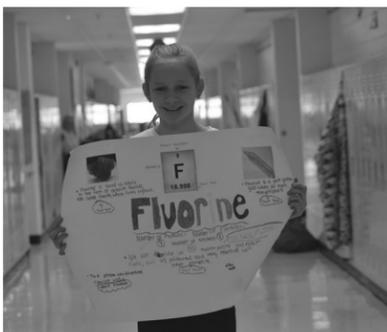


Mr. Schroen was previously asked what he finds will be one of his most important lessons he will teach this week, "My drafting students will be assigned an Auxiliary view, which is very difficult to execute. Students will have a hard time visualizing the actual object they will

be drawing. This year I have an actual 3D model that I designed and produced on our 3D printer, so they will actually be able to see what they are expected to draw. I hope this will help them be less resistant to the concept."

—Abbi Schafer

## It's Elemental, My Dear Watson



Most students dread science class when the periodic table lesson rolls around, but at I.B.E.S the kids were absolutely ecstatic!

Mr. Graham's Fifth Grade Science students are currently finishing up a periodic table project. They each had to make a poster about their assigned element, and then later presented them to their fellow classmates.

"They have seemed to really enjoy learning about all of the different elements and their properties," says Mr. Graham.

Pictured above are some of the creative projects of a few students showcasing Fluorine and Magnesium.

—Veronica Lee

## Speak Up

Throughout the past week, Ms. Gresham has had her Sophomore English classes practicing oral communication. To practice this, she has had them presenting persuasive, argumentative speeches in front of the class.

The students will be expected to address not only their own arguments, but also the opposing side in order to strengthen their opinions. By doing this, Ms. Gresham aims to teach the students how to maintain an effective argument.

Most of the kids have trouble getting used to speaking in front of their peers. This is why Ms. Gresham eases her students into speaking in front of a group of

people. They start off with a short, fun speech and work their way up to longer, more serious ones.

Ms. Gresham emphasizes that her students take the speeches serious as public speaking is a very important skill in life.

She would also like parents to know that she has been given the opportunity to take a 3 day trip to Maryland as part of the National Board Certification Network to aid other teachers with in-class teaching skills. She knows that this training will aid teachers and ultimately benefit our students as well.

—Jake Worms