

# Roachdale Elementary News



Roachdale Elementary  
J. Scott Spencer, Principal



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Dan McMurtry – Counselor

**"Every Child, Every Day, Whatever It Takes!"**

## Indiana among first states to identify problems caused by chronic absenteeism

As schools throughout the country struggle to find ways to improve American kids' education, there's one relatively simple solution that many overlook: make sure the children are in seats, on time, every school day.

Chronic absenteeism has only recently shown up on the education radar screen as an issue that affects children's academic performance.

Thanks to several organizations, Indiana is one of a handful of states that is paying attention to chronic absenteeism. The Indiana Partnerships Center and several partners – the Marion County Commission on Youth; Net Literacy; Attendance Works; and WFYI's American Graduate: Let's Make It Happen initiative – recently engaged the Center for Evaluation & Education Policy at Indiana University to study the effects of chronic absenteeism.

This study and similar ones in other cities and states show that chronically absent students – those who miss 18 days or more of the 180-day school year – suffer serious academic consequences:

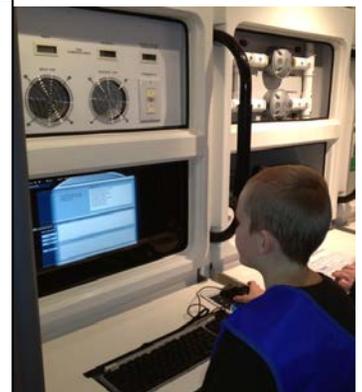
- Children who miss a lot of kindergarten experience problems throughout elementary school.
- By third grade, children who have been frequently absent score lower on standardized tests, such as ISTEP+, than their peers. Poor performance on tests continues in middle school for students who miss a lot of school.
- By sixth grade, students who are chronically absent are much more likely to drop out of school.
- Schools are more able to identify the ninth graders who are likely to drop out by looking at their attendance than their eighth-grade test scores.
- Only a quarter of chronically absent high school students in Indiana graduated.
- Adults who have dropped out of school are more likely to be unemployed or earn an income below the poverty level; be a teen parent; have a substance-abuse problem; or go to prison.

Brought to you by: *The Indiana Partnerships Center* For more information, visit [www.MissingSchoolMattersIN.org](http://www.MissingSchoolMattersIN.org).



### **"Houston...we have a problem!"**

Students in fifth grade got a taste of life at NASA on their recent field trip to the Challenger Center in Brownsburg. This in-depth and immersive space flight simulation tests communication and teamwork skills, as students problem solve aboard a mock space shuttle and in the mission control room.



**The Roachdale Elementary School Community is committed to the development and academic growth of all students to encourage life-long learning in our ever changing world.**

## Outdoor Classroom Project Being Planned for Roachdale Elementary

At the January 24<sup>th</sup> school board meeting, Mr. Spencer asked the board for permission to apply for a \$5,000 Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant. The board approved the request. If the grant is won, the money will be added to funds set aside from the PTO budget and the school's student activity fund for the creation of an outdoor learning classroom.

The plan for the outdoor space includes pouring a concrete pad, building a metal shelter house (like the one pictured to the right), and filling the space with picnic tables. Having the space on school property, in close proximity to the school, will increase the opportunity for students to take part in learning about nature and the environment. The space would also be used for outdoor reading and many other special events such as Native American Day, Pioneer Day, and Field Day to name a few. The planned location for the classroom is on the southeast side of the school building, inside the walking track.



## Upcoming Events

- Feb 1 Monthly Recognition Program 8:20 am
- Feb 1 Midterm Reports Sent Home
- Feb 4 PTO Meeting 6:30 pm
- Feb 6 Math Bowl Invitational – TZ 3:45 pm
- Feb 14 Valentine's Day Parties
- Feb 18 President's Day – NO SCHOOL
- Feb 21 School Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- Feb 22 Principal's Coffee 8:30 am
- Feb 22 PTO Family Fun Night 6:00-8:00 pm
- Feb 28 Career Day – grades 3-5 9:00 am

## Student Safety and School Security Update

In the wake of the most recent school shooting tragedy, a significant number of parents have communicated questions, concerns, and positive support regarding the school's efforts to keep kids safe. Immediately following the tragedy, the school took several small, but effective steps to review safety procedures and further secure the building from possible intruders.

Though schools should not share or make public the specific details of its safety plans, the plans do exist, routine drills are conducted, and additional training is completed as needed. One such type of training is done with staff members as a tabletop exercise. Teachers and assistants are given a scenario and asked a few brief questions to determine their preparedness for keeping students safe if such an event were to occur.

Each year, all NPCSC administrators attend the School Safety Specialists Academy. Following the academy and throughout the year, topics of school safety are discussed among the corporation's administrators and areas for improvement are constantly reviewed. The corporation takes the safety of every student very seriously. For more information, please contact Mr. Spencer at 765-522-1732.



## PE Classes Complete Bowling Unit

For the second year, students in all grades had the opportunity to participate in a bowling unit. Pictured here are third grade students enjoying a round of bowling.



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