

T-BIRD TIMES

A Publication of the Iola-
Scandinavia School District

Winter 2024

Looks Like Winter T-Birds Have Fun with Holiday Activities

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District Update

Iola-Scandinavia School District takes a step toward enhanced Safety, Security and Maintenance needs with \$2.3 million Spring Capital Referendum Question

In an effort to prioritize the safety of its students and staff, the Iola-Scandinavia School District has recently embarked on a major endeavor. With the unanimous approval of the Board of Education, the district has initiated a \$2.3 million capital referendum to enhance safety and security across the district buildings as well as updating school maintenance needs. This comprehensive plan aims to build a stronger foundation for a safer, comfortable, stable learning environment.

Community engagement and support for the referendum

The success of any referendum relies heavily on community engagement and support. The Iola-Scandinavia School District has actively sought to involve the community in the decision-making process regarding the \$2.3 million referendum with a community survey that was initiated this fall.

Through this survey the district has received overwhelming support from parents, teachers, and community members who recognize the importance of investing in the safety, security and maintenance of their schools. The community understands that a safe learning environment is essential for students to excel academically and emotionally. The results of this survey can be found on the district website.

The need for enhanced safety and security in schools

In recent years, schools across the country have experienced unfortunate incidents that highlight the need for enhanced safety and security measures. Acts of violence and unauthorized access to school premises have raised concerns among

parents and educators alike. It is crucial for schools to stay ahead of potential threats and take proactive measures to ensure the safety of their students and staff.

The Iola-Scandinavia School District, like many others, believes that prevention is key. By investing in safe and secure entrances they aim to deter potential threats and provide a safer environment for everyone on campus. The presence of surveillance cameras, crisis planning, and safety training are already in place. Securing our entrances and providing updated interior doors will not only enhance security measure that we have in place, but will also provide a sense of reassurance to students, teachers, and parents.

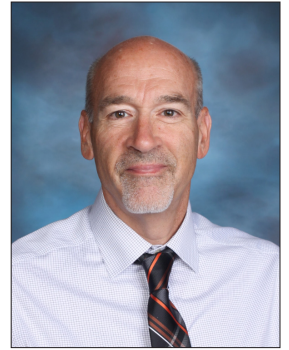
The need for maintenance projects

Alongside the safety and security enhancements, the capital referendum will also address much-needed maintenance projects within the school district. Over time, wear and tear can take a toll on the infrastructure of school buildings, affecting the learning environment and overall functionality. By allocating part of the funds towards maintenance projects, the district ensures that the school facilities are well-maintained and conducive to learning.

Maintenance projects will include repairing roofs, updating heating systems, and replacing inefficient windows and doors. These improvements not only contribute to the safety and functionality of the buildings but also enhance the overall educational experience for students and teachers.

Key features of the safety, security and maintenance upgrades

The safety, security, and maintenance upgrade projects proposed by the \$2.3 million capital



referendum are designed to create a safe and efficient environment. The key features of these upgrades include:

1. A safe and secure remodel of the main entrance of the middle/high school.
2. New Boilers at the Middle/High School and HVAC control system: The current boilers are original to the building in 1979.
3. Replace exterior windows at the Elementary School. Many of the windows are single pane and are original to the building.
4. Replace interior doors. Many doors have large windows that are not shatter proof.
5. Repair and replace roofs on sections of various district buildings

Addressing concerns and misconceptions about the referendum

As with any major undertaking, concerns and misconceptions may arise regarding the \$2.3 million referendum. It is important to address these concerns to ensure transparency and understanding within the community.

One common concern is the cost of the referendum and its potential impact on property taxes. While it is true that the referendum will require funding, the school district has estimated that the tax impact on a \$100,000 property to be an additional \$25 per year. Additionally, the long-term benefits of enhanced safety and security, as well as improved school facilities, outweigh the initial investment.

The voting process and timeline for the referendum

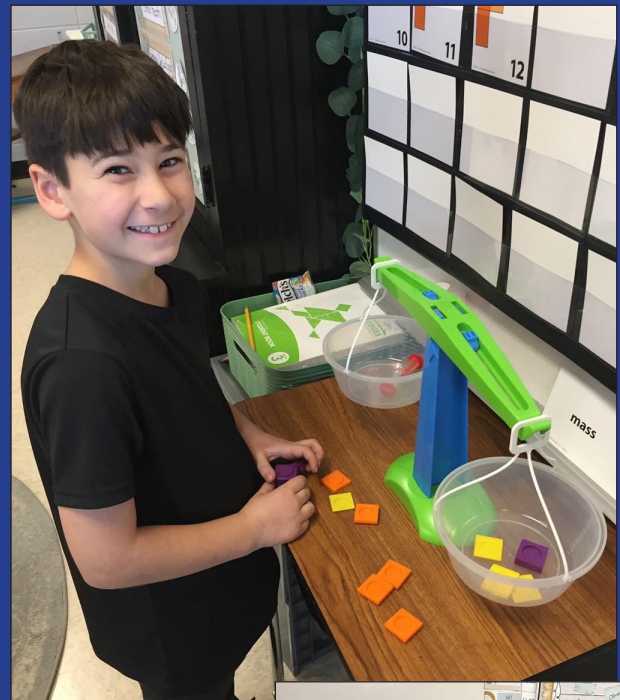
The voting process for the \$2.3 million referendum will follow the established protocols for school district referendums. The community will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed referendum on April 2, 2024

The school district will provide ample information to the community regarding the voting process, including the timeline for the referendum and the entire scope of the project. This will

ensure that all eligible voters are aware of the projects and have the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process.

As we approach April, the school district will continue to engage with the community, address concerns, and provide information to ensure transparency and understanding. The successful implementation of the \$2.3 million referendum will pave the way for a brighter and safer future for the Iola-Scandinavia School District.

Chris Nelson
District Administrator
Iola-Scandinavia School District



**Our
Thunderbirds
were
weighing in
on the Total
Mass of their
learning
environment!**



High School Update

On December 6, Governor Evers signed into law a bill that requires all high schools to create a Financial Literacy class for their students and add it to the list of required classes for graduation. This law makes Wisconsin the 24th state to add such a requirement for a stand-alone course.

Adding this course ensures that all students graduating from Wisconsin schools will be prepared to make smart financial and budgeting decisions.

I am happy to report that graduates of Iola-Scandinavia have already been receiving this information for years. Stacy Bestul, our Family and Consumer Science teacher who has taught here for 25 years, reported "That class has been taught here since before I started." Consumer Economics, as the class is currently called, is a required course for all Juniors. Next year, the course name will be changed to Personal Finance to better reflect the content covered and align with the new law.

In recent weeks, our students in grades 8-11 made their wish lists of classes they would like to take next year. The usual English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and PE are required. However, there are several other classes that are also required for graduation from I-S High School.

One such class is Career Exploration; a requirement for Sophomores. In this class our students identify their goals, aptitudes, and interests to help them make informed decisions about potential careers. They are taught employability skills and how to find information regarding training, careers, and jobs searches.

Another class is Family Living, a required course for Seniors which teaches students how to build and maintain healthy interpersonal relationships among family members and other members of society. In this course they discuss dating, marriage, parenthood, and the function of the family unit.

Finally, of the required 24 credits, at least 1.5

credits (3 semester classes) must be taken in the area of technical education. Students are asked to choose from over 26 classes in the areas of Business Education, Family Consumer Science, Technology Education, or Foreign Language.



Not only are students able to choose classes that are taught in our brick and mortar building but I-S High School students have a variety of course delivery options as well. Virtual classes are offered in conjunction with Rural Virtual Academy.

Early College and Start College Now programs offer students the opportunity to take classes on Wisconsin university and technical college campuses. Workplace Experiences and Youth Apprenticeship allow students to learn on the job under the supervision of a skilled mentor.

Lastly, distance learning through the ERVING consortium makes it possible for students to stay in our building and take a class with a teacher in a different school district via Google Meet.

There is so much more happening in our school than just reading, writing, and arithmetic. We are providing a foundation for our students to build upon. A foundation that includes not only academic skills but skills for lifelong positive relationships, employability, and career goals.

If you have any questions about the courses we offer, Caitlin Young, our school counselor or I would be happy to talk to you. Please be sure to ask your student what classes they hope to take next year.

Jan Bue-Wells
High School/Middle School Principal

Elementary School Update

As we begin this busy time of year, we are committed to prioritizing education while including enjoyable traditional activities throughout the month. The commitment to academic excellence and fostering school spirit is an integral part of what sets Iola-Scandinavia Elementary apart.

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to attend the parent-teacher conferences. Your presence and engagement in your child's education mean a great deal to us. Your commitment to understanding and supporting their progress is invaluable. We appreciate your partnership in fostering a positive learning experience for your child.

Congratulations to the 5K-6th grade students and staff for the outstanding musical performances on December 11 and December 18. The smiles, energy and talent for both performances was amazing. Thank you to the community for your continued support of our students.

Please make sure your child is prepared for the cold and snow! All students go out for recess if it is zero degrees or warmer.

As the weather gets colder, please remember to send cold-weather clothing to school with your child every day. A warm jacket, mittens or gloves and a hat are necessary this time of year. For snowy or very cold days, you will want to make sure your child comes to school with his/her snow pants and boots. Students may bring roll ups sleds to school.

As the hustle and bustle of the holiday season comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on how lucky I am to be part of an amazing school community. I'm thankful for all our hard working staff and supportive families. I appreciate everyone working together to help all students be successful. I'm thankful for our hardworking students. I appreciate them coming to school every day prepared and eager to learn.

Our entire staff is truly amazing and goes above and beyond each and every day to help every child be successful. Lastly, I am thankful for our outstanding community and their efforts to support our school in and outside the classroom. I-S Elementary is a special school and a special place for students, staff and families. We're so fortunate to be a part of such an amazing community!



As we move forward, please take care of yourselves and your families. Your well-being is very important to us, and we appreciate you being a part of our Thunderbird Community.

Warm Regards,
Stacey Wester
Elementary School Principal



Let's give these Thunderbirds a big thank you in the comments for taking initiative to help Ms. Stake sort colored pencils during their free time in Art class!

Booster Club Update

Happy New Year! 2023 was a great year at Iola-Scandinavia, so let's make 2024 even better! January is already packed full of activities for our students and community members to participate in.

Basketball season is in full swing for our high school kids. Middle school boys basketball just finished up a terrific season and now it's the middle school girls turn to show everyone what they can do on the court. Before long. It'll be time to gear up for spring athletics!

In 2024, the Booster Club has big plans to continue their support of not only the athletes of Iola-Scandinavia, but the many extracurricular activities the district also offers. This year we have funds mapped out to support the transportation costs for the 2024 Spanish Club trip as well as sponsoring the 2024 musical production, Footloose. The Thunderbird Booster Club was also able to send a record number of kids to the DECA District Competition as well as pay their registration fees.

All of this comes after a busy 2022-23 school year. The Booster Club helped support the students who went on the Band and Choir trip to Nashville, purchased shirts for the high school Quiz Bowl team, assisted with costs for DECA events which included District and International competitions, and paid for lodging for students who attended the state FCCLA competition.

They also bought tools for the National Honor Society Community Service Day, sponsored the yearbook through advertising purchases, supported the ISHS softball team trip to Florida with transportation costs, and helped cover costs for the ISHS Post Prom and the musical. The list doesn't stop there either.

The Booster Club purchased a new scorer's table for



the high school gym, helped purchase a new basketball shooting machine for all students (elementary through high school), and sponsored a subscription to Hudl for the athletic teams. Over the course of the school year, the Booster Club paid out over 900 volunteer hours

for concession stand works at sporting events and at the Solo/Ensemble event hosted by Iola-Scandinavia.

The Thunderbird Booster Club is now asking for both individual and business members to join them in aiding the students of the Iola-Scandinavia School District in providing as many opportunities as possible.

Membership levels for individuals start with a contribution as little as \$10. Business memberships start at \$50. Members of the

Booster Club are listed by Membership Level in Thunderbird Athletic Programs throughout the year, on facebook, and on the Booster Club website. Business memberships also have the option to include a logo.

Along with financial support, there are many volunteer opportunities to help the students throughout the year. Please follow the instructions on the membership form and mail completed applications with a check to the address listed on the form. Thank you to all of our past Booster Club members for their continued support and to our new members for their future support. Go Thunderbirds!



Sportsmanship Summit

Ryan Kampert, McKenzie Bonikowske, Charlie Tappa, Maggie Williams and Mrs. Bestul spent Wednesday, December 13 at the WIAA Sportsmanship Summit.

The WIAA, in cooperation with Rural Mutual Insurance Company, conducted the Summit Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the Holiday Inn & Convention Center in Stevens Point, Wis.

The purpose of the Summit is to assist membership schools with their citizenship and sportsmanship efforts for students, student-athletes, adult fans, advisors, parents and booster clubs; developing plans to improve or maintain good sportsmanship locally; and assisting schools identify and implement a respectful environment for education-based athletics.

The Summit will feature a morning keynote address, an afternoon workshop and three time slots for four different break-out sessions, which focus on the ideals of sportsmanship/citizenship.

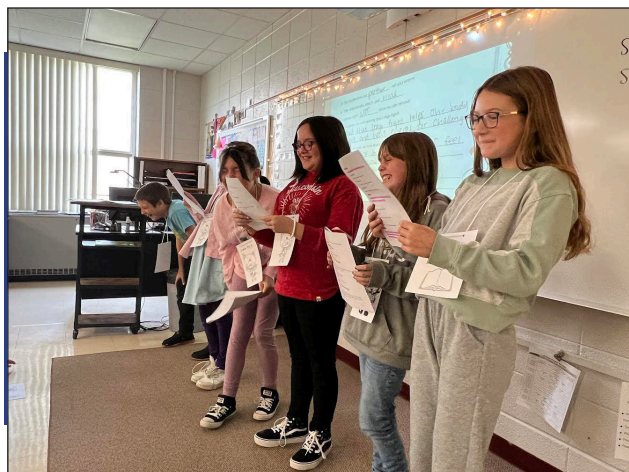
The keynote address will be presented by Craig Hillier, author of "Playing Beyond the Scoreboard." The afternoon workshop will be moderated by Brian Yerkey, principal at New London and member of the WIAA Sportsmanship Committee.

Participants will also attend three morning break-out sessions. The subjects for the four, 30-minute break-out presentations available during the three time slots are "Supporting and Instilling Exceptional Sportsmanship" by Bill Gosse, author of SCORE - A Guide to



Supporting and Instilling Exception Sportsmanship;" "Coach & Participant Roles in Sportsmanship" by Mark Horbinski of WON80 and former member of the WIAA Sportsmanship Committee; "Sportsmanship: The Official's Prospective" moderated by Dennis Kaczor, superintendent at Rosholt High School and member of the WIAA Sportsmanship Committee; "Super Fan Groups" by Waukesha West High School Athletic Director Kyle LeMieux and students; and "Sportsmanship Roundtable Discussions" moderated by Tyson Tlachac, athletic director at Racine St. Catherine's High School and Cody Schultz, athletic director at Wayland Academy High School.

Together, schools, parents, booster clubs and communities can establish standards and expectations regarding good sportsmanship. Sportsmanship and good citizenship are the responsibility of everyone.



Mrs. Larson's Thunderbird writers practiced their speaking skills to perform a Reader's Theatre!

DECA Update

It's been a fast start to the school year for the Iola-Scandinavia DECA chapter, and things are just getting started!

In late October, high school and middle school students collected more than 1,700 non-perishable items for the Iola Food Pantry as part of a recent community service project. The students collected food and hygiene items as part of Trick or Can, the signature community service activity sponsored by DECA, the school's business and marketing student organization. A total of 1,733 items was collected.

In all, 135 I-S students -- many dressed in Halloween costumes -- visited homes in the community asking for donations. Wisconsin DECA recently announced that I-S had the most Trick or Can participants of any school in the state!

In early November about 30 students and teachers attended the DECA Emerging Leaders Conference in Wisconsin

Dells. The T-Bird contingent networked and met new people from around the state, went through various leadership and creativity training exercises, and had fun at the Kalahari.

The first week of January will bring the annual District 2 Development Conference. At this competition nearly 50 DECA members will take tests on business and marketing concepts and act out their solutions to a variety of fictional business scenarios.



FCCLA Update

By Hailey Johnson

As winter approaches, we would like to inform all of you about what your local FCCLA organization is up to.

Students at Iola-Scandinavia are starting to get their competitive events ready for February. Avah Weinreis is one of these students. She is preparing an Event Management event where she is organizing and planning a color run where the proceeds will benefit the new dog park and the Waupaca County Humane Society. Watch for future details.

Along with competitive events, our FCCLA members are also looking for volunteers to sell 50/50 raffle tickets at basketball games as well as socks to pay for a child's education in Uganda. The socks come in many fun and colorful designs that would be perfect stocking stuffers for this holiday season. We will also be selling flowers during the Iola-Scandinavia High School musical, Footloose which takes place this upcoming February.

We would like to remind everyone that we have car wash cards for sale, if anyone is interested, please stop in Mrs. Bestul's room or contact one of your FCCLA leaders. We would also like to thank everyone who participated in fundraising so far this school year, we will let everyone know when the Rubi Red products have been delivered.

With the holidays right around the corner, our FCCLA chapter wanted to spread some cheer by volunteering



and serving our community.

Some of our winter volunteering activities coming up include bell ringing for the Salvation Army and decorating Christmas trees in the high school commons. The last few days before the holiday we are spreading cheer with our "10 Days of Giving" campaign.

A quick little reminder that on December 19, our organization will be hosting a Christmas party for our active and current FCCLA members. It will take place in Mrs. Bestul's room after school. There will be cookies to frost (and eat!), hot chocolate and Christmas movies.

If anyone has questions about this information please contact Mrs. Bestul or one of our FCCLA leaders for more details. We hope to see you at the next meeting!

Letters to Santa

Iola-Scandinavia first graders were busy this December writing letters to Santa Claus. Here's what was on their mind!



Dear Santa,
How are you? This Christmas I
want a grl doll and a Christmas
dres. I hop you are doing gud.
Love,
Addie

Dear Santa,
Do you hav a dog? I want for
Christmas a mr mad tal that can
go in the watr. Also, I ned new bel
botums that are gens.
Love,
Audrey

Dear Santa,
How many elves do you hav? I want
a tig ted. I want a squishmellow. I
want a hagumoles.
Love,
Jill

Dear Santa,
How do your reindeer fly? Wut do
the elves mack? Do you hav pet
pagwinse? Ples ken I have a dog?
Love,
Ruby

Dear Santa,
On Christmas Eve Night
I haf reindeer food for the
reindeer. How do the reindeer fly? I
wot a Iphon 15 and hoovr bord.
Love,
Parker

Dear Santa,
I have carrots for the reindeer. Can
you plase giv me a elve? Can you
plase giv me a phon? Plase can you
giv me a baby pig? Do you have
some dogs? Yes or no?
Do you want a present? I love you!
Love,
Aspen

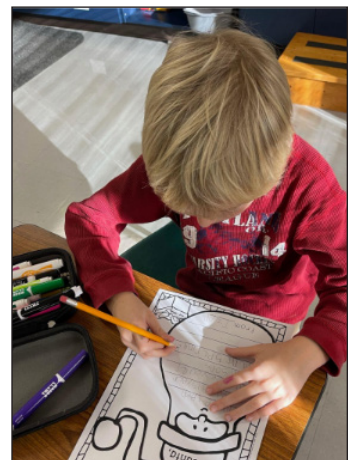
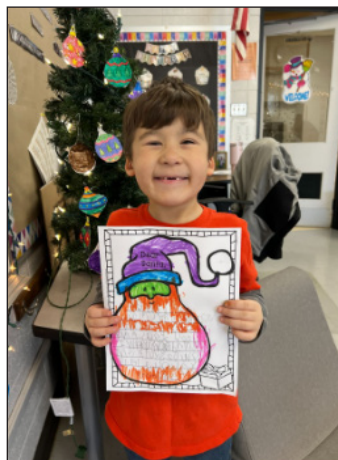
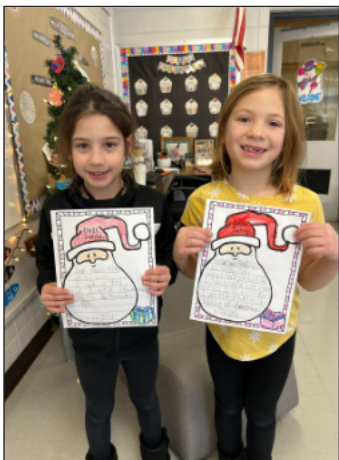
Dear Santa,
I will leav carrots for the reindeer. I
want a dinosaur toy.
Love,
Cooper

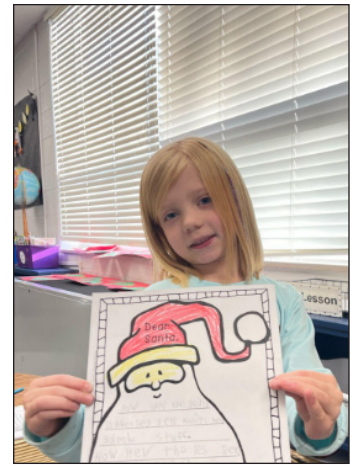
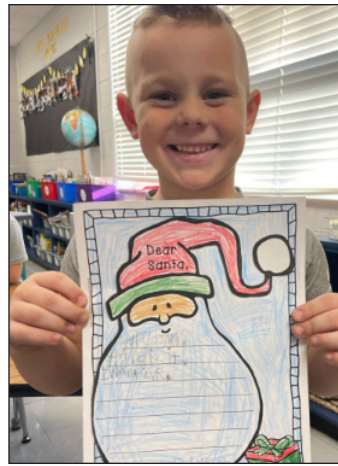
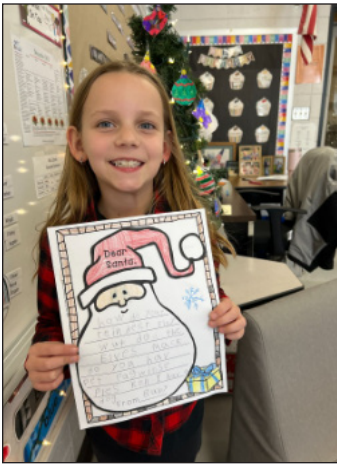
Dear Santa,
How many elves do you hav? I wat
a sqyishmellow. I love you Santa.
Love,
Chloe

Dear Santa,
How mane reindeer do you hav? I
would like a nintendo swich.
Love,
Brogan

Dear Santa,
Have your elves been good? I wat a
new stuffi dog and I wat claye.
Love,
Ollie

Dear Santa,
How are the elves? I luvu you. For a
presint I want a stufy santa squish-
mellow.
Love,
Nova





Dear Santa,
How do you bring presents? What
is your favorite food? Would you
bring me a toy snow plow truck?
Love,
Gabe

Dear Santa,
How do the reindeer fly? Bring me
Minecraft legos and a phone. I love
you Santa.
Love,
Wyatt

Dear Santa,
Hi I'm Finley. I want to see your
reindeer. I want to have a PS 5 and a
thousand doors please.
Love,
Finley

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I would
like a Minecraft lego set to build
with.
Love,
Colton

Dear Santa,
How many reindeer do you have? I
want a MeowMax toy.
Love,
Julian

Dear Santa,
Is it cold in the North Pole? How are
the elves? I want a kitten name baby
Brone
From Teresa

Dear Santa,
Are the elves helping you make the
presidents? Is it cold in the North Pole?
From Aly

Dear Santa,
Is it cold? How are the elves? I want a
kitten name baby.
From Allison

Dear Santa,
What are you doing? How cold is it?
I want a VR.
From Dawson

Dear Santa,
Is it cold in the North Pole? How are
the elves? I want a kitten.
From Sissyelia

Dear Santa,
How are you? I want an electric scooter.
From Finley

Dear Santa,
Have your elf been busy? I want a horse
and Gabby.
From Raelynn

Dear Santa,
Is it cold in the North Pole? I want
bath bombs and banana gum.
From Jett

Dear Santa,
How have you been? Are the elves been
making toys? I want school stuff.
How cold is it to?
From Skylar

Dear Santa,
Have your elves been good? Do
the elves have names? I would like
family/
From Jo

Dear Santa,
Is it sunny? How cold is it? I want
an American girl doll school. Merry
merry Christmas!
From Adelaide

Dear Santa,
Is it cold in the North Pole Santa? I
want bath bombs, mints, and a flag.
From James

Dear Santa,
Have I been good this year? I will
see you at Simpsons. I want spare
gear.
From Tzion



ISES artists celebrated the upcoming holidays with a fun sweater decorating activity! Impressive creativity shown by all ages!

