



Pleasant Grove student Alex Lucas, 11, painted his face and wore a Colts jersey to show his support for the team. Students at the school wrote letters to players, and teachers decorated classrooms. DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS

County classrooms go Colts crazy

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School colors have temporarily been abandoned. The hues, steeped in tradition, that have separated rival institutions in Johnson County have now faded into one common shade: blue.

As the Super Bowl approaches, teachers and administrators have capitalized on the excitement.

Lesson plans are being planned around football. And school morale is getting a boost with pep rallies, tailgating parties and spirit days.

At Westwood Elementary School in Greenwood, fifth-graders created choreographed song or rap videos that harken back to the 1985 Chicago Bears' "Super Bowl Shuffle."

Students used spelling words to create the songs that parodied commercial jingles or pop tunes. One group even did a rendition of "12 days of Christmas." Part of it went like this:

Five Super Bowl rings
Four wide receivers
Three terrific tackles
Two minute warnings
And a magnificent silver trophy

"The kids are so excited to get to do something that is very different and relevant and authentic," teacher Teresa Gross said.

Students were given football cards so they could use the statistics to learn about the concepts of mean, median, mode and range.

The likenesses of Colts players are pasted along the fourth-grade hallway at Pleasant Grove Elementary School in the Center Grove district. Groups of students created life-size paper cutouts of players.

Teachers in the school went all out to decorate their rooms.

Fifth-grade teacher Debbie Shaw asked students to each bring in an article of clothing to hang from the ceiling. Shirts, hats, jerseys and pajama pants now dangle from the tiles.

Blue and white streamers cover the front door of fifth-grade teacher Mitch Salyers' classroom.

The staff and faculty of the school have also planned a tailgating party for today.

At Clark-Pleasant Middle School, teachers and staff also plan a lunch tailgating party in the gym with chips, dips and other football food.

Today will be a blue dress-up day and will be a chance for faculty to get excited about the game and for students to see their teachers in a new and fun way, Principal Sandra Wooten said.

Kindergarten students at Franklin's Creekside Elementary School have been competing for who could complete the most over-the-weekend homework assignments with a giant football scoreboard between their classrooms. They celebrated months of football-related lessons with a Super Bowl party last week.

At Sugar Grove Elementary School, student government leaders helped plan dress-

up activities for each of the days leading up to the Super Bowl.

Days were set aside for wearing jerseys, goofy socks and shoes, backward and inside-out clothing, anything to do with the number 41 (in honor of Super Bowl XLI) and blue Friday. The school will conduct a pep rally for the Colts this afternoon.

At Edinburgh's East Side Elementary School, teachers are planning lessons on the Internet for Monday, the day after the Super Bowl. The lessons will involve comparisons between Indianapolis and Chicago, Principal Deborah Yates said. The activities will get students searching for things such as differences in the populations, climate and geography.

Indian Creek Elementary School second-grade students have been looking at pictures of Colts games and then writing stories.

A teacher's assistant from the second grade wrote a rap about the Colts, and her class will perform it today in front of the school at lunch, Principal Keith Grant said.

Second-graders also have been playing a Colts version of the game "Deal or No Deal." Today, they'll make goal posts out of marshmallows, he said.

At Greenwood's Northeast Elementary School, students in Dawn Phelps' essential skills class have been learning about the Super Bowl. They tie-dyed T-shirts, made banners and tailgate food. Her students have learned about how football is played, and she incorporated words from the game into reading lessons.



Left: Conner Andersen, 9, looks at the "No. 1" hand he made in Nichole Montfort's fourth-grade class.



Right: Lexi Davis, 10, painted her face in support of the team.

HEY JOHNSON COUNTY,

How will you spend your Sundays now that the football season is over?

We invite you to spend them with us at Greenwood Christian Church.

And if you're not a true blue fan, don't worry, you're still welcome.

Because at Greenwood Christian, we believe in forgiveness.

Congratulations on a great season!



Join us for service this weekend!
Saturday: 6 p.m.
Sunday: 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m.

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2045 Averitt Road,
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