

# Iddings shares passion for reading, books with Washington students

BY JOHN HAUER

For the Daily Call  
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PIQUA — Washington Intermediate School library aide Misty Iddings has always loved books and reading. "Now, I get to develop that passion in fourth-, fifth, and sixth-graders," she said. "I find out what interests a student, and then, match books and stories to that student."

Iddings, a Piqua native, graduated from Piqua High School in 1992. She was in French Club, was a cheerleader, and sang in the choir and Show Choir. She performed in the school musicals including 'Hello Dolly.'

Following high school, she attended Edison Community College taking classes in Human Services. She married in 1994 and became a

stay at home mom after their two children were born. When the kids reached school age, Iddings started volunteering at their schools. "I helped at Nicklin School and tutored at Springcreek," she said. "I got in-

class act



involved in many things. I coached Y basketball and Little League baseball and softball and even advised cheerleader squads."

In 2004, she was asked to fill in as the building secretary at Washington. The following year, she was hired as a full time building aide at Washington. Iddings did this for two years;

then, she was hired to be the library aide in 2007.

"I enjoy working with this age group," she said. "They are still impressionable, and I can help them see things outside of their own small world." Iddings likes to get students excited about reading and books. "When I was young I got the passion when I started reading about things that interested me," she said. "I try to find those interests in my students, so they can find their own passion."

Besides the library, Iddings tutors struggling sixth-graders and assists in the classroom when a teacher needs an extra pair of hands. She organized the annual Healthy Habits Day at Washington. "In the spring, we have guest



MIKE ULLERY/STAFF PHOTO

Washington Intermediate School librarian Misty Iddings checks books that have been returned to her desk.

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speakers come in to talk about foods, exercise, and staying healthy," she said.

Right to Read Week is another spring project. "We play Library Jeopardy and classes compete against each other," Iddings said. "It's a big deal because the winning class gets an ice cream party."

Iddings is hoping to resurrect a Diversity Day where people from different ethnic, social, economic, and religious backgrounds come in to give presentations.

Iddings engineered a grant from McDonalds and has organized a Heroes of Ohio project for the school. "We will study and do assignments about 28 famous Ohioans such as Neil Armstrong, the Wright Brothers, Tecumseh, and U.S. Grant," she said. "The highlight will be a visit from author Rick Sowash who wrote the book — Heroes of Ohio." Mr. Sowash will present the living timeline at Washington at 9 a.m. March 14. The public is invited to hear this special presentation.

Iddings is excited about moving to a new building in three years. "I think I have the smallest library in the district," she said. "More room and updated technology will be a welcomed change for our students."

Outside the library, Iddings' hobbies include sewing, swimming, and of course, reading. Her talent for sewing has resulted in her sewing for Piqua High school musicals and for the summer Music Warehouse productions. "I really enjoy helping with the musicals," she said. "This summer I'm the costume coordinator for Music Warehouse," she said. "We are performing Sister Act, 9 to 5, Rock of Ages, Memphis, and other exciting productions."

At home, she and her husband Troy who is an electrician for Cargill of Sidney have been married 18 years. They have a son and a daughter. Sierra is a junior at PHS, and Troy is in the 8th grade at the junior high.