



IHS Word

January – February 2010

IHS Word is the Ithaca High School Newsletter, published four times a year and jointly funded by the PTSA and IHS. It serves all IHS parents, caregivers and staff.

Submit news to:
ihs_news@yahoo.com

Next deadline is Feb. 19.

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Maria Costanzo

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Important Dates:

January 25 Superintendent's Conference Day
(no classes)

January 26 - 29 Regents Exams (no classes for IHS)

February 1 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Community Forum at the Holiday Inn

February 15-17 School Recess

March 19 Superintendent's Conference Day (no classes)

Visit us on the web:
Ithaca High School: <http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/highschool>

PTSA: http://ihsptsa.clarityconnect.com/IHS_PTSA/Welcome.html

Get important IHS and PTSA news by email: sign up for the list servs!

Send an email to: IHSPTSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To join the discussion list serv, email:

IHSPTSA-discuss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

From the Principal

2010 is upon us and the second semester is close at hand. I can't believe how fast the year is going. I continue to be impressed with the students, faculty, parents and the community as a whole. The new year continues to show great progress on Kulp. The block walls are up and the brick exterior is quickly being finished. The performances that the Band, Choir and Orchestra held at Bailey Hall were outstanding and the students should all be commended. IHS has also had many other great performances this past season where the fall teams did exceptionally well, including the Girls' Cross Country team who went to the state meet; the Boys' Soccer team, the Section IV champions; the Girls' Swim team, who won their 20th consecutive section IV championship; the Girls' Tennis team, who were also the Section IV champions; and let's not forget the Football team who had a great season on the turf. Our Winter Sports teams are off to a great start as well and I encourage everyone to come out and support our teams. I have enjoyed the games out on the ice and in the gym that I have been to so far this season. Our student athletes are the best in the area. Please come out and show your support for all of our teams. Let's go Lil' Red!

One "resolution" that is occurring now at the school is the work that is being done on student scheduling. Our goal is to have the bulk of student scheduling occur during this school year so students and teachers will know what classes they have by the end of June. For students, this means they will know what classes they have, but they will not know the teacher or what period until after summer school has finished because of the impact summer school completion has on the overall schedule.

To reach this goal, students started the course selection process this month. First, students had a presentation from a counselor during their English or Social Studies class to introduce the Program of Studies and get an initial idea of their course requests. The students will then meet with their counselors individually during January and February to go over these requests to arrive at the student's final course requests. The final requests are extremely important, as the data from all the students final requests will be used to determine

where classes will occur to create a master schedule with the least amount of student conflicts.

This past year saw 872 students change their course selections at the start of the school year. With this number of changes, it makes it very difficult to have all the students' scheduling needs met. By having this process occur during the school year, students who have a conflict in their course requests during the scheduling process can be called to Student Services and an informed decision can be made prior to the start of the 2010-2011 school year. This year's Program of Studies is available as a hard copy as well as online within the Student Services page of the High School website. Please review the Program of Studies and course selections with your child. If you have any questions, please contact your child's school counselor for assistance. I ask that the selections that you make are the courses you agree to take next year.

January exams are coming up quickly and will occur from Tuesday the 26th through Friday the 29th. Please remember to report early for exams, especially Regents Exams. The ELA exam occurs January 26th and 27th for juniors. This is an important exam that is a requirement for graduation. Please be sure to have your child get a good night's rest and to have a good breakfast prior to this or any exam.

Other events include the Winter Formal on January 16th and the first of six Student Enrichment times starting on January 13th. There is a separate article regarding these Student Enrichment Times in this issue that I encourage you to read. Also, scholarship and award applications are starting to come to the College and Careers Center and Seniors should be sure to check in periodically for these opportunities. (p.

As always, please feel free to stop in or contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. Thanks for all your support and here's to early spring.

From Donald F. Mills, DMills@icsd.k12.ny.us

PTSA News

From the PTSA President

How is it already January? In looking back on the year so far, I am proud of what the collective PTSA volunteers have accomplished and contributed to our school. We continue to work in many different ways to: foster communication between the school and families; provide support for teachers and staff; and advocate for the success of all students.

Communication continues to be a large focus of our efforts. Thanks to Jennifer Groff, Maria Costanzo, Michelle Goman, and Rachael Shapiro, you are now reading the second issue of the WORD, packed full of information about what's going on at IHS. Brynne Sigg worked very diligently to bring you this year's Directory (distributed in November). And while it came out later than we would have liked, the gallant efforts of Eleanor Frankel, Nora Shang and Terry Marcus got the IHS Guide out. (If you did not receive either of these documents, please email Sue Merkel at smerkel@twcny.rr.com).

Enrollment on the PTSA list serv continues to increase, thanks to Donna Fleming who writes the weekly news, and Marek Przezdziecki who monitors the list serv. If you haven't yet checked out the IHS PTSA website, go to http://ihsptsa.clarityconnect.com/IHS_PTSA/Welcome.html where you can get the latest announcements and sign up for the list serv. Announcements can also be found on the public sign board, which Michelle Delaney keeps current.

We've had some incredibly informative programs so far this year, starting with an introduction to Principal Don Mills and the Department Leaders in September, followed by a presentation from the IHS Department of Student Services leader Samantha Little and career and college counselor Leann Donnelly in November. By all accounts, our Open House was a huge success, thanks to the tremendous organizational skills of Pat Musa, with help from Danyel Logevall and Madeline Estill, as well as dozens of other behind-the-scene volunteers.

On January 11th, we joined with the Boynton PTA as they presented a program by Cornell Professors Sahara Byrne and Tarleton Gillespie, who spoke on "Youth and Technology," including topics such as Facebook and other social networking sites, chat rooms, and cell phone texting. Also joining them was Jeff Hancock, who has specific expertise on the psychology of social network use. Then in February, we hope to have Dr. Valerie Reyna (CU College Human Ecology) present her research on risky behavior in adolescents.

We continue to show our appreciation for all the hard-working and caring teachers and staff at IHS through Monthly Munches for all staff, coordinated by Penny Romantic, and through an Appreciation Brunch that followed the Open house, organized by Maureen Russel.

Some new initiatives include developing a small grants program for teacher and staff (Marybeth Tarzian), helping to staff the Student Enrichment Times with Ithaca Youth Bureau and forming an Equity sub-committee at IHS.

At the Open House, I asked each one of you to think about how you could share a small bit of your time, talents and energy to Ithaca High School, to enhance the experiences of all our children. That is happening all around us, in ways mentioned here, but also so many others. Let's all of us, parents, guardians, community members, continue to work to make Ithaca High the best we can, for every child. If not you, who?

Please help the PTSA with these volunteer opportunities:

* Student Enrichment Times: guides and helpers needed from 8:00 -9:45 am on Feb. 10th, March 10th, March 24th, April 24th, and May 12th. If you can help, contact Sue Merkel (smerkel@twcny.rr.com)

* Monthly Munches: Food donations needed for monthly coffee break for staff. Contact Penny Romantic (promantic@cityofithaca.org)

* Equity Committee. We are in the process of forming an Equity Committee for the PTSA. We are looking for people with ideas and energy. Contact Sue Merkel (smerkel@twcny.rr.com) if you are interested.

* PTSA Programs. Help us plan our monthly programs. If there's one special topic for which you want to set up a program, let us know.

* Class events: each year, students plan a number of class events, from dances to parties to meetings. If you can help, contact Emily Hess (ehess@icsd.k12.ny.us)

* Screening/interviewing committee for staff applicants. If you can join a hiring committee during the work day, please contact Andrea Kabcenell (AKabcenell@IHI.org)

Sue Merkel, smerkel@twcny.rr.com
IHS PTSA president



School Closing E-mail List

Did you know that you can subscribe to an e-mail list that will keep you updated on school closings and cancellations? Instructions on how to subscribe to this list and many other lists of interest to parents may be found at:

<http://www.ohr.cornell.edu/workLife/maillingLists/maillingLists.html>

Join IHS PTSA!

It's not too late!

Complete the membership form at the IHS PTSA website (see above) and send it to the school office. Your membership supports these activities at Ithaca High School:

* IHS / PTSA Guide for Families

* IHS Student Directory
* Newsletter
* Open House
* Staff Appreciation Luncheon
* Scholarships
* Parent programs
As advocates for our children we need all our voices. Please join us to help make Ithaca High School the best it can be.

In addition to supporting local activities, your membership gives you the following benefits:

* Online parenting resources & other materials on issues related to children's education, health, & well-being
* E-newsletters on parenting & legislative issues
* Special offers & discounts from corporate supporters of PTA (see www.pta.org/benefits for details)
* Leadership training opportunities, in person & online
* Discounted rates for PTA conventions & on subscriptions

to Our Children magazine, the official magazine of PTA
 * The Member-to-Member Network, connecting PTA members to members of Congress when help is needed on issues important to children, families, and schools.

NOTE: Every PTSA member is entitled to a membership card with the PTSA website user

name & password on the back. Getting cards to all members can be difficult. Please e-mail me if you'd like the user name & password e-mailed to you or if you'd like me to make arrangements to get the card to you. Tax-deductible donations of \$10 or more will receive an acknowledgement for tax purposes and the card will be enclosed.

For more information, please call or e-mail me.

From Sandy Studin, IHS PTSA Membership Chair,
 studins@twcny.rr.com or
 257-8909.

http://ihsptsa.clarityconnect.com/IHS_PTSA/Welcome.html

News from PTA Council

Tuesday, January 19 the BOE will have their first **Budget Workshop** of the season. 2010-11 will clearly be a tough year. At this initial meeting the Board will most likely give the administration some direction in crafting the budget. Brad Grainger pointed out that an increase in state aid is unlikely, keeping even with this year would be a best case scenario. Over 60% of our revenue comes from property taxes thus to go to the public with an acceptable tax levy will entail serious cuts in our budget-- not the type gotten through energy savings, transportation changes, etc. Since 75% of our expenses come from instructional costs, the budget cuts will be painful and most likely will include the consideration of class size, number of sections offered in the high school, etc. Stay informed, but importantly remember that PTA is an advocacy group: we are all in this together and must consider the whole community of students, not just our own.

Monday, February 1 Community Forum: Unleashing the Power of Community: Continuing the Dialogue on Racism, Tolerance, Collaboration, and Commitment 6:30-8:30 at the Holiday Inn, Downtown Ithaca. Learn about on-going efforts to promote equity, diversity, and tolerance! Hear what is needed to continue this work and how you can get involved! Community leaders will be there, please come and speak up. Be inspired to create a community that is truly committed to equity and anti-racism! Get Involved!

Tuesday, February 9 PTA Council meeting 9:15 - 11:00AM in the Board Room. We will discuss the budget and TBA: learn about some community programs that are making a difference for our students.

PTA C and ICSD Forum on Response to Intervention with an emphasis on RtI at the secondary school level and open to the community at large. **Location TBA, Date is either 2/10 or 2/11**— specifics will be announced on the PTA list serv.

More Budget Workshop information will be sent out as it becomes available.
 Thank you all for your involvement!

Carol Warshawsky
 Ithaca PTA Council President
 2009-2010

Student Enrichment Times at IHS

Beginning in January, students will have opportunities to explore and experience a range of topics beyond the typical classroom during Student Enrichment Times (SET).

The Ithaca Youth Bureau, with the help of the IHS PTSA, is working hard to find a variety of community members to share their passions, careers, and hobbies in a workshop forum with IHS students. The SET sessions will focus on such topics as the arts, preparation for life after high school, science and technology, sports and athletic training, jobs and careers, conservation and the environment, recreation activities, independent living skills, diversity and social justice, life safety skills, and health and beauty.

Workshop topics are based on the results of a survey given to students asking about their interests.

The SET sessions will be offered for 45 minutes, six times from January to May 2010. On those days, the class schedule will be shortened to allow for a 45-minute SET period. The first SET session will be held on January 13th, followed by sessions on February 10th, March 10th & 24th, April 21st, and May 12th.

The success of these SET sessions rests not only on the presenters, IHS and the Youth Bureau, but also with parents, guardians and students. Attendance and participation in the SET sessions will be mandatory and attendance will be taken; therefore it is critical that families encourage their students' involvement in the program.

Additionally, parents are encouraged to participate as volunteers on the days of each SET session.

We need your help! To share ideas for presentations, or to volunteer to help with sign-in and logistics on the SET days, contact Lisa Droege at ldroege@cityofithaca.org or Suki Tabor at sukit@cityofithaca.org.

Our children have much to gain from these experiences, and your support will help to make it successful!

From: Donald Mills and Sue Merkel

Help wanted for IHS Sports Guide!

Anyone interested in graphic design, layout, photography, or publications, or in just doing something for our student-athletes that will acknowledge their efforts on the fields, the ice, the pools, and the gymnasiums? The Ithaca High School Athletic Booster Club is looking for parents to help out with the Sports Guide, our Sports Publication that is printed and distributed locally during Fall, Winter, and Spring seasons.

If interested or if you have any questions at all, please contact Shawn Meyer via email at: smm236@cornell.edu or call 279-4720 (cell).

ICSD News

Superintendent Pastel to Retire

The Ithaca City School District (ICSD) announces the upcoming retirement of Dr. Judith Pastel, Superintendent of Schools, effective December 31, 2010. Dr. Pastel is retiring to spend more time with family and her seven grandchildren. She is fast approaching forty years in education and wants to pursue other passions and projects that have always been on the "some day" list.

Dr. Pastel will have completed fourteen and one half years as ICSD's superintendent upon retirement. Dr. Pastel is the first female superintendent in the history of ICSD. She was also the first female superintendent in her prior district (Huntington School District).

Over the past 135 years of ICSD history, only three superintendents have served longer than Dr. Pastel: Luther C. Foster, 1875-1895; Dr. Frank Boynton, 1900-1930 and Dr. Claude Kulp, 1931 -1951. Dr. Pastel's tenure from 1996 through 2010 is not only uncommon in Ithaca but throughout New York State, where the average tenure is five years. Regarding this accomplishment, Dr. Pastel commented, "I always stayed focused on the children. I am most proud of tackling difficult issues during my tenure and not 'playing it safe.'"

"Why announce my retirement plans a year in advance? I really care about the children and want what will be most beneficial for them. I believe it will take a full year to find the very best individual to lead ICSD. The single most important decision any Board makes is the hiring of its superintendent," remarked Dr. Pastel.

Rob Ainslie, President of the ICSD Board of Education remarked, "On behalf of the Board, I would truly like to thank Dr. Pastel for her dedication and long service to the children of the Ithaca City School District. Most recently her leadership in the development, passage, and implementation of the 2007 Facilities Bond Referendum has been and continues to be inspiring. The impact that the building renovations and additions will have on the District cannot be over stated. Forty years of need has been met for many decades worth of benefits for all the students of the ICSD. A fitting tribute to Dr. Pastel and her contribution to this District."

"I decided to join the Ithaca City School District as an Assistant Superintendent because equity was a focus and decisions were made with students in mind," commented Dr. Lesli C. Myers. "Under Dr. Pastel's leadership, the district has developed an Equity Report Card and provided avenues for student leadership and development. What I appreciate most about Dr. Pastel is her development of me as a leader. She has given me the freedom to work on varied projects and launch initiatives that I believe have made an impact on students and their families.

Dr. Pastel successfully spearheaded three bond referenda totaling \$108 million over her tenure. "The learning environment for our children is very important for their academic success and their health and safety. The exciting thing about the most recent bond referendum is not only the learning enhancements but the energy efficiencies and green aspects. The district will realize energy savings and attain grants to offset some expenses in the process. It's a great win-win for the children and the taxpayers."

The children in the district have always been Dr. Pastel's passion. She has nurtured and grown the pre-kindergarten program over the years to include as many three and four year olds as possible, including expanding services into area child care providers' programs. She is very proud of the support she has given to the Family Reading Partnership and its impact on the literacy development of children. Constance Evelyn, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction stated, "It has been a distinct opportunity to have served as an Executive Team Member under the direction of Dr. Judith Pastel. I have been very encouraged by her consistent focus of placing children at the center of her decision making. She leaves a remarkable legacy and takes with her a history of promoting excellence in the Ithaca City School District."

From the nurse:

Mandated BMI Reporting to State Education Department
2009-2010 School Year

As part of a required school health examination, a student is weighed and his/her height is measured. These numbers are used to figure out the student's body mass index or 'BMI'. The BMI helps the doctor or nurse know if the student's weight is in a healthy range or is too high or too low. Recent changes to the New York State Education Law require that BMI and weight status group be included as part of the student's school health examination.

The Ithaca City School District is required to submit information to New York State Department of Health about our students' weight status groups. Only summary information is sent. No names and no information about individual students are sent. However, you may choose to have your child's information excluded from this survey report. The information sent to the New York State Department of Health will help health officials develop programs that make it easier for children to be healthier.

If you do not wish to have your child's weight status group information included as part of the Health Department's survey this year, please print and sign your name below and return this form to the school nurse at your child's school.

Please do not include my child's weight status information in the 2009-2010 School Survey.

Print Child's Name

Date

Print Parent's Name

Parent's Signature

IPEI News

Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI)

IPEI is a community based not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that develops supportive community and private sector relationships with the Ithaca City School District. For more information, see www.ipei.org.

IPEI Fall Grant Cycle totals \$61,000 for ICSD Programs

Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI) President Terry Byrnes announced that during the fall semester 60 grants totaling more than \$61,000 were awarded to enhance teaching and learning in the Ithaca City School District (ICSD)'s twelve schools. The grant programs include Teacher Grants, Red and Gold Opportunities Grants, Community Collaboration Grants, and Fine Arts Booster Group Mini-Grants.

Byrnes noted that "these awards represent an increase in the total number of awards made and dollars invested in the education of our community's children. Equally important," she continued, "it is a testimony to the value Ithacans place on education and their generosity in supporting it through our various fund raising activities, including the annual IPEI Adult Spelling Bee and our annual campaign."

The Teacher Grant program, including the Charles E.

Treman Jr. Endowment Fund grants, is a competitive program that requires teachers to submit proposals for classroom projects that link with specific grade level New York State learning standards and enhance the District's curricular standards. In keeping with IPEI's mission of "connecting school and community," they must also include a community partner and must not exceed \$1,500. Twenty-seven proposals were funded this fall totaling more than \$35,000.

Red and Gold Opportunities Grants are designed to help those working in the schools strengthen and enrich the school experience, and meet immediate needs not able to be funded in the current district budget. These awards are made throughout the year to teachers, parents, students, and staff, and are funded up to a maximum of \$500. To date, \$13,800 have been allocated to meet thirty-five requests.

Each year IPEI makes Community Collaboration Grants to organizations in the community that are working with the Ithaca District to fulfill its mission and that need a little extra financial help. So far this year four such grants have been made totaling \$8,400.

The Fine Arts Booster Group, which is an affiliate organization of IPEI, twice a year makes grants to celebrate and support the arts programs in the schools. This fall they made eleven awards totaling \$4,700.

The 11th annual IPEI Spelling Bee, held in November, raised more than \$10,000 for the IPEI Teacher Grant program, and was won by the South Hill Spellicans.

Art for All

The Life Skills Class at Ithaca High School is an Individual Education Plan (IEP)-based program for students with development disabilities. Students in this class focus on practical living skills, basic academics and transition to employment beyond high school. In 2008-2009, art teacher Helen Bigsby partnered with the Special Education Department to offer classes other than the core content to Life Skills students.

This partnership resulted in students exploring the art-making process. Students progressed from a perception that they could not draw or make art to recognizing their creative potential. Students uncovered their own artistic abilities and aesthetic decision making skills and found joy and pride in the results of their efforts.

Student projects included self portrait work, which was part of the annual Tompkins County Public Library exhibit in June 2009. In addition, the students made Japanese fish banners, designed and embellished personal portfolio covers, created colorful mandalas, and vibrant large scale pastel animals.

Arts Booster Mini-Grant Deadline: February 1, 2010

FABG has teacher mini-grants available for dance, drama, music and arts support or projects. The 2010 deadline is Feb 1, 2010. Teachers and principals are eligible to apply and applications are available by calling 277-4631 or emailing president@fabgithaca.org

FABG News

The Fine Arts Booster Group's mission is to support the fine and performing arts throughout the Ithaca City School district. The volunteer group is committed to supporting all the arts for all students in the district. FABG is an affiliate of the Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI).

Arts Mini-Grants Awarded to Teachers

The Ithaca Community Fine Arts Booster Group (FABG) has awarded \$4,750 in mini-grants to area Ithaca City District Schools. Funded projects include: digital camera purchases, artist visits to schools, field trips to performances and more. In addition, annual grants were made to the drama clubs at the middle and high schools.

Funds are raised through Fine Arts Booster Group performance booklet ad sales.

The boosters produce performance booklets for middle and high school concerts and plays throughout the school year, totaling over thirty events each year.

The next mini-grant deadline will be February 1, 2009, and applications are available by calling 277-4631 or emailing president@fabgithaca.org.

Town-Gown Works for the Arts

Ithaca High School students are going to college, and before they graduate. In a wonderful partnership with Ithaca College and Cornell University, Ithaca High School students will perform concerts and plays this year at Ithaca College's Ford Hall, Cornell University's Bailey Hall and Risley Theater. Due to the renovation of Building A, Ithaca High's Kulp Auditorium is not available during the 2009-2010 school year. Ithaca High Orchestra, Band, Choir and Drama needed alternate locations for their performances. In addition, Boynton Middle School sought other locations, as this middle school regularly used Kulp Auditorium.

George Myers, District Liaison for Music and Ithaca High Orchestra teacher, worked last year to find alternate locations. Ithaca College and Cornell offered their help. Mr. Myers explained, "Both Cornell and Ithaca College have been exceedingly generous, not only in offering us their beautiful performance spaces, but in meeting numerous times with

us to assure our needs for concerts are met. We are fortunate and grateful to be working with such cooperative partners during this transition year at ICSD." Students will experience the beautiful settings of Ford Hall and Bailey Hall and get a glimpse of the behind-the-scenes workings at these college campuses. Students can experience "going to college" by using the resources of these sites.

"We are so delighted to welcome ICSD performances to Cornell's Bailey Hall this year. The Bailey staff look forward to servicing our public school students with the same state-of-the-art equipment and resources used by world class artists -- it will be fun and inspiring for all involved." stated Kiko Nobusawa, Concert Manager of the Cornell Concert Series.

Concerts began in December and continue through June. Fifteen events will take place off site in 2009-2010, representing a generous gesture from the education partners on both hills. Check the district's fine and performing arts calendar at www.icsd.k12.ny.us and click on "calendars" or go to www.fabgithaca.org and see upcoming events.

The boosters invite everyone to celebrate and support the fine and performing arts in the Ithaca City School District. FABG's next general meeting will be in late February/early March. Watch for announcements.

From Martha Frommelt,
president@fabgithaca.org

English Department News

Regents Exam

The English Regents exam, given on the afternoons of January 26 and 27, is a graduation requirement. It is a two-day, six-hour exam, comprised of multiple choice questions and four essays. Every student who was a freshman either in the 2006-07 or 2007-08 academic years needs to have successfully completed this requirement or needs to plan to take the exam in January.

Seniors who transferred from out-of-state or out-of-country locations, also must successfully complete this exam if they are expecting to graduate in June. See Mrs. Kennedy in G-109 or call 274-2265 or email skennedy@icsd.k12.ny.us if you have any questions.

A Homework Help session on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. in G-106 helps to prepare students for this exam. Students also can take practice exams by googling "NYS ELA Regents" to find former exams on-line.

Thanks to Community Members

The English Department extends many heartfelt thanks to several in the Ithaca community who have continued to collaborate with us.

Cornell's Department of Communication has issued

individual iPhones to Mr. Byrne's 9th grade Humanities classes, who are participating in a healthy eating and homework study. For two weeks students must use the iPhone to email a photograph of their breakfast to researchers. In addition, Mr. Byrne sends reading and vocabulary assignments with nightly homework reminders to his students.

As well as the on-campus IHS phone and media use rules, students must follow an acceptable use policy. Upon accepting this agreement, they have all of the amenities of the iPhone, which include unlimited text, calling, and Internet access for the duration of the project.

Several speakers have been on campus. Bruce Estes, managing editor and general manager of the Ithaca Journal, and Jim Graney, publisher of several local papers including the Tompkins Weekly, have both donated time to the journalism class to share invaluable insights and tips with inspiring journalists.

Maureen Russell again found time to give her very welcome lecture on Celts and Celtic culture to sophomores studying the Celts and the Anglo-Saxons. Her own roots in Ireland and Scotland always add a greater depth of authenticity to the talk.

During the Macbeth unit, Mr. Asklar's sophomores had a lecture/demonstration on the transformation of character through the performance of

Frank Towner, a professional clown.

Ann Weber, singer and song writer, spent several hours to help the eleven finalists in the IHS/Ithaca Community Orchestra song writing contest edit their pieces before their submission for the final judging. (The winner will be announced in the next issue.)

Brian Lilly, a former IHS grad and owner of Lilly Broadcasting, for many years now has donated several class sets of Twain titles, among them Pudd'nhead Wilson and The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County in English, Then in French.... He also helps to fund the juniors' trip to Twain sites in Elmira.

Second semester, Mrs. Tino (English/drama teacher) again will be teaching her popular Speech and Debate class as well as Creative Writing, while Mr. Anderson will be conducting his legendary Film Study elective. Have your student sign up while there is space available.

From Shirley Kennedy, English Department Chair
skennedy@icsd.k12.ny.us

IHS Announcements are on the web!

Go to the High School web site,
www.icsd.k12.ny.us/highschool/
and click on the "WIHS Announcements" button. Click on the calendar date you need!

IHS Musicians Shine at Area All- State Festivals

The following IHS Band, Choir and Orchestra Freshmen participated in the Jr. High (Grades 7 – 9) Area All-State Music Festival at Cortland Jr. / Sr. High School on November 6 and 7:

Band - Eleanor Bayles, Gwen Umbach, Katie Tashman, Naomi Raymond, Emily Long, Ian Thompson, Amita Datta, Joon Park, Jackie Cornell, Ofer Grossman, Jeremy Poe, Emily Ulmer, and Edan Bar.

Choir - Anne Brenna, Lena Kornreich, Matt Avery, Julie Erickson and St. John Faulkner.

Orchestra - Hannah Thompson, Peter Friend, Minori Hashimoto, Madeline Palmer and Sunita Christiansen.

The following upperclassmen have been selected to participate in the Sr. High Area All-State Music Festival at Ithaca College on February 5 and 6:

Band - Jessica Chamberlain, Kengo Onishi, Lucy Lagoze, Helen Hamilton, Gabe Nussbaum, Jo Yang, Julia Ridley, Dan Snedeker, Corey Eaton, Kim Howe, John Nord, Neil Washburn, Nicole Bayer and Anthony Jang.

Choir - Caroline Sendek, Mariel Farhi, Carson Jordan, Kasia Sendek, Emily Behrmann-Fowler, Sharon Anaghwilliam-An, Jacob Clay, Kevin

Hilgartner, Elias Spector-Zabusky, Aaran Buckwell-Pooley, Jeremy Pletter, Tony Ruta, and James Palmer.

Orchestra - Nicole Bayer, Jiyoung Won, Jason Setter, Jeff Setter, Laura Chamberlain, Yi Jiu Wang, Anying Li, Hannah De Jong, Lara Bertoia, Noah Wallace, Marza Wilks, Lorenzo McClellan, Kalila Booker - Cassano, Gregory Chu, Theo Pacun, Ruth Grigorov, and James Eaglesham.

It is an honor to have so many IHS Music Students representing our school at these prestigious events. Membership in these "All-Star" groups came about through many hours of hard work and dedication.

IHS Choir Had a Busy Fall

The Choir has been very busy since school began in September. From October 5 through 8, the Choir hosted the Sankt Annae Youth Choir from Copenhagen, Denmark. We found housing for all 140 of their singers and held a number of events while they were in town.

Our Danish guests followed our students through their daily class schedule including a joint workshop with both our day and after school Choirs in which we learned some of each other's songs. The Danes then went up to Cornell for dinner in Willard Straight Hall and a performance in Sage Chapel.

Our guests also had the opportunity to visit Taughannock Falls State Park

and they did some shopping on The Commons. A farewell dish to pass dinner was held in the Cafeteria which included another informal concert by the Sankt Annae group. We then said goodbye to our guests the following morning as they headed on to Toronto.

The IHS Choir also participated in the annual Ithaca College Choral Composition Festival on Saturday, November 14. The Choir spent the entire day at I.C. performing for and listening to other high school and I.C. Choirs. We also had the opportunity to work with our composer, Rick Bartlett of Atlanta, Georgia, whose piece "Breathe On Me, Day" was premiered by the Choir that evening. The concert ended with a performance of Anton Bruckner's "Ave Maria", presented by all of the high school and I.C. Choirs in attendance.

The Choir's Winter Concert was performed in Bailey Hall at Cornell University on Thursday, December 17. It was a thrill to perform in this outstanding venue while our Music Building continues its renovations.

From Art Loomis

Model Transition Program

The Model Transition Program in cooperation with the Special Education Department will be offering three opportunities for students to earn elective credit.

The first is Skills for Success. This course is designed to give students the necessary organization, time management, and study skills to be successful in high school. It will be offered second period for half of an elective credit for the Spring of 2010.

The second is College Success. This course is similar to Skills, but addresses those skills necessary for students to be successful in college. The course offers dual credit with TC3 and will be offered first period for the Spring of 2010.

The third option for elective credit is the Transition II Internship. The Internship option is currently for those students who have either a 504 Plan or an Individualized Educational Plan. The Model Transition Program Facilitator Office will assist students in finding Internships in the community. In general, Internships will not be paid opportunities, but in certain cases, a job can be used as an internship.

For more information, please contact Jim Scarpulla, MTP Facilitator, at jscarpul@icsd.k12.ny.us or 607-274-2106

Science Department News

To Science Students and Caregivers,

Student scheduling will begin soon with school counselors. We would like students and parents to sit and discuss the future science course options and indicate their choice by completing the form which came home the week of Dec 16th.

It is a goal of the high school this year that all students will know their schedule before they leave for summer vacation in June. To this end we strongly encourage families to become informed about your student's choices and to make a selection that represents a firm decision barring any unexpected events that may occur between now and next September.

We strongly encourage families to access the Program of Studies on line at the following link:
http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/highschool/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=28&Itemid=93
before making a choice.

A brief overview of all science courses is included as well as a description of each science course and its prerequisites. Many AP and higher level science courses have prerequisites in math and science, so by consulting the program of studies students can plan the courses they should take now in order to be prepared for science options in their junior and senior years.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Linda Knewstub
Science Department Leader

Science Regents Exam Re-takes

Regents exams in Chemistry and Living Environment will be offered the last week in January at Ithaca High School. If your student needs to re-take a regents exam during that week please contact his or her school counselor as soon as possible. School counselors will then notify the science department.

Please note, the Earth Science Regents will not be administered until June 2010.

Questions can be directed to the Science office 274-2190.

Linda Knewstub
Science Department Leader

Student Services

College Planning Guide Online

Did you know that IHS Student Services offers a "College Planning Guide" for parents and students? It includes everything from a timetable of the application process to the role of the guidance department. You can download the guide at: http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/highschool/images/stories/studsrv/college_planning_guide.pdf

New Visions Program

Will your student be a senior next year? Consider New Visions!

Now is a good time for juniors to start thinking about a New Visions senior year. New Visions is a challenging, full-year alternative for seniors, offering academic classes and hands-on internships that are held off-site from the high school. New Visions is perfect for students interested in either the medical or life sciences.

New Visions teachers and students will be visiting IHS junior English classes soon to talk with interested students. Students should listen for reminders on the morning announcements.

* New Visions Health Sciences meets at Cayuga Medical Center. Working alongside health care professionals in the hospital and local medical practices, students receive first-hand experience in a wide

variety of health-related professions and see how their education is applied to real-life situations every day. Students rotate through virtually every department of the hospital, including surgery, emergency, pharmacology, physical therapy, maternity, intensive care, and many more. New Visions students receive more clinical experience in high school than most medical students get until their third year of med school!

* New Visions in Life Sciences is located at Cornell University. Students progress through internships in veterinary science, plant pathology, conservation, food science and more, taking advantage of resources at Cornell and in the greater community. Students conduct research, often in conjunction with University researchers, and have the opportunity to publish their work. Additionally, students may travel across the state to participate in leadership workshops and to compete in regional, state and national contests in their areas of interest.

Both New Visions programs provide an integrated, honors-level curriculum leading to four units toward graduation. The curriculum integrates English 12, Economics, Participation in Government, and advanced studies related to each program's focus. Students also have the opportunity to earn six or more college credits through New Visions coursework. While most of the day is spent off the high school campus, the New Visions daily program hours of 10 AM to 2 PM allow students time to take one or two

courses at the high school to round out their senior year schedule. New Visions classes are small (14 or fewer), enabling individual attention to each student's skills and unique interests.

To learn more:

* View our video at <http://www.tstcareertech.org/newvisions.html>

* Visit our web site at <http://newvisions.tst.googlepages.com/>

* Mark your calendar and plan to attend our Open Houses on March 9 & 10, 2010 (Tentative dates at press time; please check website above for full details, including time and locations.) Although only current juniors may apply for New Visions, interested freshmen and sophomores are also welcome to attend the Open Houses.

Please contact either New Visions teacher for directions to the Open Houses or for specific information about each program:

New Visions Health Sciences at Cayuga Medical Center
Teacher, Wendy Buchberg (wendysb@aol.com); phone 607-277-4503 (please call after 2 PM)

New Visions Life Sciences at Cornell University
Teacher, Michele Sutton (ms328@cornell.edu); phone 607-279-6869 (please call after 2 PM)

The Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (HYLI)

Two Ithaca High School Students were selected to participate in The Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (HYLI) this year: Johanna Demey Zambrano and Dayanna Del Rio, both seniors. Students are chosen from numerous high schools in the Syracuse area. HYLI is a state-wide program that brings together 200 Hispanic students within New York State for the Somos El Futuro Conference in Albany in April. Students will be examining state issues that impact Hispanics and members will meet state Legislation, state Hispanic Task Force and the state Department of Education for a mock assembly session. This will be the 23rd year of the conference; in the past four years, three students from IHS have been accepted to be delegate members.

Online College Courses

IHS juniors and seniors are eligible to register for TC3 online courses at a reduced tuition. These online college classes are taught by TC3 faculty and are offered during the Summer, Fall and Spring semesters. CollegeNow@TC3 makes these classes available to students from high schools that participate in their concurrent enrollment program, which includes IHS. The current reduced tuition rate is \$60 per credit hour for high school students, a significant savings on the \$135

per credit hour regular tuition rate.

Some high school students take these classes to get a head start on earning college credit, while others take courses that are accepted by their schools to meet current high school graduation requirements. Individual courses may have prerequisite requirements and, though students may access the course materials at any time day or night, these courses are not self-paced. Students are required to begin and end activities, discussion, and assignments, by specific dates.

See your guidance counselor for the course catalog, or go to the TC3 website at <http://www.tc3.edu/collegenow/> and click on "Online Courses." Spring Semester courses begin on January 21, 2010. Register by calling the CollegeNow@TC3 office: 844-8222 Ext. 4396.

From Karl F. Madeo
Director, CollegeNow@TC3
607-844-8222, Ext. 4413
madeok@tc3.edu

A Celebration of the Medieval World

The medieval world came to life in song, music, and dance in the HIS Library on November 13 thanks to a collaboration with the Einaudi Center for European Studies and the Southeast Asian Program at Cornell and the John Caren Grant of IPEI. Students were able to sample the arts of various regions throughout the day, beginning

with the "Tale of the Loathly Lady" taken from Chaucer and told by librarian/storyteller Nan Bell, followed the next period by African drumming with Jakeem Haltom. During third period students learned about the Indonesian gamelan. Nan continued her storytelling with an Indonesian tale accompanied by gamelan. Jayne Demakos introduced the students to Hildegard of Bingen as she sang several selections of her beautiful music. The Fourteen Strings, a newly formed ensemble for Filipino music, transported the students back to Asia. Toward the end of the day the focus turned to the Middle East where two different groups played Turkish and Middle Eastern music and learned Turkish dance.

Several people deserve special recognition for all the work that they did to provide this rich experience for all of our students. Special thanks to Catherine Perkins of the Einaudi Center for European Studies who arranged for several of the groups, taught a group of students to dance and also organized a beautiful teaching tool in a library case display, and to Thamora Fishel, the outreach coordinator of the Southeast Asian Program who organized our Asian components. June Siany worked with students to learn the Turkish dances and Jane Maestro-Scherer conducted the Fourteen Strings. Nan Bell, Armin Heurich, Michel Barr, Lori Backus, and Lynn Saulsbury in the library worked diligently to prepare our performance space.

World Languages

Once again Ithaca High German students signed up for the January 12th administration of the annual test presented by the American Association of Teachers of German. Winners will be announced later in the year. Good luck to all!

The World Language Department is the recipient of an IPEI grant for a joint project with the Ithaca Visitor's Bureau: "Welcome to Ithaca." IHS students will prepare audio mini-tours of Ithaca in each of the spoken languages we teach. Eventually they will be accessible in podcast form on the Visitor's Bureau web site. In 2009-10 students in Janet Bowman's class will work on the first tours in French. We're happy to give our students a real-world challenge in which to showcase their language skills.

For Halloween, Language students in Chinese, French and International Clubs met jointly to carve pumpkins and to share traditions. A big favorite were the pumpkins carved by visiting Chinese teacher Sun Liang. Together they read "Happy Halloween" in Chinese. It was an event that will be remembered by all 30 or so students who attended.

The SMARTboard has arrived in World Languages! Installed recently in a room shared by Matt Holl and Janet Abowd, the SMARTboard is an interactive whiteboard that allows teachers and students to create and use lesson materials that interface directly

with a computer, allowing for incredibly engaging presentations. The SMARTboard can act as a touchscreen monitor for a computer, an amazingly detailed projector for video materials or for use with a visual document scanner, making it one of the most interactive multimedia tools to arrive in classrooms in quite some time.

Though teachers are still learning how to use all its features, the SMARTboard has already made the use of multimedia computer files much smoother in classes as well as making homework review more interesting and enjoyable for students. As it is still in its pilot phase, the SMARTboard has already caused quite a stir among students and teachers alike and plans are in the works to allow other teachers to rotate into the classroom and try out the new technology. As more teachers are exposed to the technology and become more comfortable with its features, we look forward to seeing its incredible potential realized for our students.

The Spancom 2 students enjoyed a visit to the Handwerker Gallery at Ithaca College to see the exhibit of Arpilleras from Chile. The Arpilleras are wall hangings which document the human suffering under the Pinochet regime. Professor Annette Levine graciously volunteered her time to be our docent. She did a wonderful job of explaining (all in Spanish) the history behind the Arpilleras and their importance in making the rest of the world aware of this situation. I

would like to thank Annette and museum director Cheryl Kramer for facilitating this experience for my students.

Ms. Sun continues to do a wonderful job of teaching Chinese at the high school, Northeast Elementary and Boynton Middle School. We will begin Chinese classes at Dewitt in January.

From Janet Abowd
jabowd@icsd.k12.ny.us

Code Red Robotics

Code Red Robotics kept true to the holiday spirit by humming whacky tunes and helping Camp Good Days raise funds at the Kazoo Festival on Sat., Dec. 5. Members from Code Red Robotics were able to persuade and encourage people walking by to aid the noble cause of Camp Good Days. This camp for those touched by cancer gained a substantial sum from the efforts of Code Red Robotics volunteers while the sound of the national anthem hummed by kazoo captured everyone's attention and support throughout the mall.

Camp Good Days and Special Times, Inc. is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for children, adults and families whose lives have been touched by cancer. Since the camp is free, the camp is very dependent upon generous donations and fund-raising events. The Kazoo Fest was started more than 60

years ago by Joe Benet outside the Toy Department of the Sibley's store on Main Street in downtown Rochester and has since become one of the major and most successful fundraising events to benefit the many programs and services provided by Camp Good Days.

Code Red Robotics is a robotics team composed of students from Ithaca High School, as well as engineers from local companies. The team participates in the annual FIRST Robotics Competition and aims to give back to the community and provide services for the betterment of the community. Code Red Robotics relies on the community for assistance and support and therefore wants to return the favor. A member from the team that went to the camp suggested being a part of the Kazoo Festival and the team greeted volunteering at the Kazoo Fest with great enthusiasm.

In conclusion, Camp Good Days benefited from every penny raised, Code Red robotics aided in the cause, and a free camp for cancer patients was kept running. The participating members spread across the mall and sincerely asked every passerby to help support kids with cancer and appreciated every donation.

For additional information contact: "Code Red Robotics" @ ikrywe@icsd.k12.ny.us or visit <http://team639.org/index.php>

Code Red Robotics is grateful to the following sponsors: Kionix, Inc., AccuFab, Inc,

Autodesk Inc, BAE Systems, BorgWarner Morse TEC, CBORD, Goodrich, Ithaco Space Systems, Incodema, IPEI (Ithaca Public Education Initiative), Innovative Metalworks, Ithaca High School, Loyal Order of the Moose - Ithaca, NY Lodge 666, Moosewood Restaurant, TransCOR Information Technologies.

From: Qasim Malik Khan, Code Red Robotics parental advisor

Senior Career & Tech Center Students Volunteer

TST BOCES Career & Tech Center teacher Ryan Walczak and his senior students in the Heavy Equipment program are putting their skills to use by volunteering to improve the Ithaca Dog Park. The 4.8 acre fenced park is located next to the marina at the Allen H. Treman State Marine. Working with John Guilford of the Ithaca Parks Department, the students embarked on a year-long project to improve the park, including installing more than 2,000 feet of walkways, adding more water hydrants, and improving drainage. IHS seniors Billy Breed and Shane Townley are participating in this project.

The students are using two different machines to accomplish the job. One is a John Deere backhoe that was purchased last year through a USDA grant for the Heavy Equipment program and the other is a Caterpillar skid steer

that was donated for the length of the job by Beck Equipment.

Mr. Walczak initiated this community service aspect into his classes so he could incorporate the use of both diesel mechanics and equipment operation. This has all been possible through the help of the Career & Tech principal Perry Dewey in helping secure the grant money and Director, Tony DiLucci for supporting Walczak's new curriculum. The project is a great service to the

Ithaca community and to their dogs. The students are getting a wonderful opportunity to gain valuable workplace experience while improving Ithaca's parks.

From Ryan Walczak
Heavy Equipment Teacher
TST BOCES Career & Tech Center

Play Field Hockey This Winter!

Ithaca High School girls are invited to scrimmage with IHS JV field hockey players indoors every Friday evening this winter. No experience is necessary, and there is no cost. You may decide to join the JV field hockey team. This winter we will play on Fridays from 5:30 to 7 pm at the BJM gym. We will play once a week this summer on the new turf field, and in the fall we will compete with other schools.

For more information or to sign up call 272-1796 or email fbaldwin@twcny.rr.com.

IHS Ski Club

Attention to all parents of skiers and snowboarders. If your child is already enrolled with the IHS Ski Club, we will be traveling to Greek Peak each Thursday starting on January 7th until February 11th. If your child is NOT enrolled in ski club this year and want to know how to get your child enrolled for the 2010-2011 season please contact Todd Noyes at tnoyes@icsd.k12.ny.us

Discounted rates will be available for next season (2010-2011) at the end of the 2009-2010 season. Act early so you don't have to worry about it next year.

Current members, don't forget to dress warmly when we head over to Greek!

From Todd Noyes

Link Crew News

December was a month of giving for Link Crew. We sponsored a food drive designed to collect non-perishable food for local families in need. Many students went to the downtown P&C to collect donations from shoppers. We also had a Giving Tree, where students could choose items written on leaves that local children need, purchase them and then our family liasons delivered them to the right people. Link Leaders and some freshmen signed up to ring the Salvation Army bell at the mall.

January 13, Link Crew hosted a freshman breakfast during

the first PLC/SET time. There was delicious and free food for all 9th graders! On January 20, we once again hosted Cocoa and Cram. This is an after school study session for freshmen. Teachers from every subject area helped the kids prepare for midterms, finals, complete projects, and get organized. Link Leaders were on hand to help out too, and there were snacks and hot cocoa to munch on while kids were doing their work.

On February 9 there will be an ice cream social in the cafeteria after school just for freshmen and their Link Leaders. This is another opportunity for your kids to have a great time and connect with older students.

So, mark your calendars and we'll see your kids at the wonderful Link Crew events!

From Judy Cogan
monkeygirlz@yahoo.com

Student Clubs and Activities

News From the Office of Student Activities

www.icsd.k12.ny.us/highschool/activities

Clubs

Is your student involved in an extracurricular activity at IHS? We want all of your children to have a meaningful connection with an adult at IHS. It may not happen with their subject teachers. It may happen with a teacher with whom they

share a common interest, and that's why extra-curricular activities are so important. If your student isn't involved in a club, I hope that you'll encourage him or her to find one that's interesting and join. We want students to find a place here where they feel like they belong.

Students can join most of these clubs at any point during the year, so there are no missed opportunities for this school year! More information about the clubs is available on the Student Activities website at: www.icsd.k12.ny.us/highschool/activities.

Seniors Graduation Update

During the budget cuts last year, the Graduation budget was reduced from \$20,000 to \$9,000. If we don't raise more money, the Class of 2010 Commencement ceremony will have to take place in the Ithaca High School Gymnasium and graduates will be limited to inviting three guests.

The first question you probably have is where does the money go?

\$3000 for diplomas and diploma covers
\$2500 for the sound system
\$2500 for overtime for coordinator, orchestra, choir, custodians, and security (not just for the event itself, but planning, rehearsing, and stage building)
\$400 for sign language interpreters
\$400 for decoration/additional chair rental

\$200 for program printing
from BOCES

Yes, that \$9,000 can just cover graduation, but that's only if you want three family members present. Raising an additional \$7,000 will put our class in a position to hold graduation at Cornell University's Bartels Hall, where it's been for the past several years. (The cost of \$7000 is to pay the workers who set up and work the Graduation ceremony- Cornell does not charge us a fee to use the space.) Unlike at the Ithaca High School Gymnasium, graduation at Cornell allows us to bring as many family members and friends as we want, and eliminate the need to choose between a sibling or grandparent.

Please help us raise enough money! Donate whatever you can- even \$5 makes a difference if enough people do it.

Mail donations to:
IHS Class of 2010
c/o Emily Hess
1401 N. Cayuga St
Ithaca, NY 14850

Senior Events in 2010

January- Winter Formal on
January 16th
February- Twister
Tournament on February 10th
March- Handball Tournament
on March 5th
April- Barbeque and Bonfire
on April 30th
May- Ice Cream Social on May
19th
June- Senior Week: Senior
Breakfast on June 1st, Black

Light Dance on June 2nd,
Casino Night on June 3rd,
Senior Trip on June 4th, Senior
Prom June 19th at Appel
Commons, Cornell University,
Graduation on June 24th
location TBD!

Caps and Gowns

Josten's was at IHS on
January 12th and 13th to take
cap and gown orders for
graduation. This year we are
going green! The gown color
will still be RED, but made out
of recycled and compostable
materials.

Winter Formal

Our only all school formal
dance, the Winter Formal was
held at Emerson Suites in
Phillips Hall at Ithaca College
on January 16th.
In reflecting on how best to
make the dance enjoyable and
safe for all, and because we
are a community dedicated to
teaching students to make
healthy decisions, we did
everything we could to prevent
underage drinking and drug
use before and after the
dance.

To help accomplish this goal,
we asked all students who
purchased dance tickets and
their parents/guardians to read
and sign a letter attesting to
their commitment to be sober
and provide safe substance
free environments before and
after the dance. This had to
be signed and turned in before
students were able to
purchase a ticket.

Are you getting the IHS PTSA news?

Sign up for the weekly
PTSA email newsletter:
Send an email to:
IHSPTSA-
subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Next Issue of Word: March/April 2010

Submission deadline:
February 19, 2010
Submit items to:
ihs_news@yahoo.com

We welcome news that
celebrates the IHS
community of students,
staff, and families!

Questions? Comments?
Contact:
Jennifer Groff
Jengroff40@yahoo.com



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Visit us on the web:
Ithaca High School: <http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/highschool>

PTSA: http://ihsptsa.clarityconnect.com/IHS_PTSA/Welcome.html

Get important IHS and PTSA news by email: sign up for the list servs!
Send an email to: IHSPTSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
To join the discussion listserv, email IHSPTSA-discuss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.
