
First Issue

Fall 2010



IHS Word 2010

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

Submit news to:
ihw_news@yahoo.com

Editor: Jennifer Groff

Printing: BOCES



Welcome to IHS Word.

New in 2010-11:

Word goes electronic!

In our efforts to make the Word more timely and available, we are transitioning from paper to electronic delivery. This issue is being distributed as a paper copy throughout the school and community. After this, the Word will be available electronically through our PTSA listserv, and the IHS and IHS PTSA websites. You may request a paper copy by filling out the form in this issue, and we will mail it to you.

See last page for form!

Get important IHS and PTSA news by email: sign up for the IHSPTSA listserv (usually one email per week)!

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

To join the discussion listserv, send an email to:
IHSPTSA-discuss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Visit IHS and PTSA on the web:

Ithaca High School: <http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/highschool>

PTSA:

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

From the Principal

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year. Words alone cannot express how happy I am to see students in the building again. I.H.S. really is not a school without the students and the energy that they bring to the building.

On the first day of classes it was great to see how energetic the students were and how impressed everyone was with the new facilities and how Kulp is finishing up construction. The students really enjoyed being in their new classroom spaces inside A building and looking at all the wonderful enhancements that have been made to the auditorium and the buildings. There was a great deal of enthusiasm for the year and the performances that will be forthcoming. Wynton Marsalis and The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra will be performing for the students on October 1st. The Air Force jazz band will be performing for the students in November. Of course we all look forward to the performances that our students will be providing throughout the year.

The landscaping around the new facility is starting to look great and the grass is starting to sprout. I look forward to spring when it will be in bloom and looking wonderful. It's important to know that the circle where parents formerly dropped off students on the Cayuga street side of campus is no longer there. **Student drop off will remain on Lake Street and it is very important that if you are dropping off your students in the morning or picking them up in the afternoon, you do so from Lake Street.** Because of the upcoming construction on the fitness center that will begin in approximately one month, we have a new traffic pattern in the main parking lot. This new traffic pattern also includes an adjusted bus lane and a reduction of about 58 parking spots. If you are picking up your students in the afternoon, please do not pick them up from the front parking lot as it can get congested due to the construction.

This year we also have the pleasure of welcoming back several students in the secondary transition program which was formerly housed at BOCES. It's been a pleasure meeting and having lunch with the students. It's going to be a great year having all our students back in their home school.

Another noted change is that the Attendance Office has been moved to the Main Office. Students will need to sign in at the Attendance Office if they are

arriving late in the morning. Students will also need to sign out from Attendance if they are leaving early for a doctor's appointment, etc. It is extremely important that students have both forms of permission for leaving school early such as a parent note which the attendance office will confirm, and the school's permission identified by the student receiving an early dismissal pass. Parents do not need to come into the building to sign their student out as long as a note was turned into attendance previously.

The Attendance Office is also tracking and creating referrals for class skips such as when a student does not go to the class that they were assigned but is present in school. One of the new attendance initiatives this year is a level system that includes loss of privileges. Loss of privileges is a consequence for students who skip too many classes. The student's privileges such as eating lunch with his/her peers, driving to school, or having a free period in his/her schedule are removed for a few weeks at a time.

A major change that will affect all our students at Ithaca High School this year is the change in our grading practices. The first change is in response to a State regulation on reporting grades, which requires us to change from our traditional A through F grading scale to a zero through 100 grading scale. The minimum passing grade for a 0 to 100 grading scale is 65 just as it is on a Regents exam. Ithaca High School will still calculate GPAs in the same manner as we have previously. At the start of the school year we as a group of instructional leaders also discussed how to calculate course grades and unanimously decided to change how a course grade is calculated at IHS. Course grades will be calculated based upon 20% of the course grade being a final assessment/exam and the remaining 80% being the average of the marking periods. Previously, final assessments/exams counted as 25% of a course. This new calculation will not weight a final assessment more than ten weeks worth of work.

IHS Grading System

Report cards are issued four times yearly at approximately 10-week intervals. In addition, progress reports are issued five weeks after the start of school and every 10 weeks thereafter. Grades are computed as a numeric grade interpreted as follows: (grade point equivalents in a 4.0 system, as used in GPA and grade average calculations). The final exam is counted as 20% of the grade for the course. The average of the quarterly grades comprises the other 80% of the final grade.

Numerical Grade compared to GPA

97-100	4.33		77-79	2.33
93-96	4.00		73-76	2.00
90-92	3.67		70-72	1.67
87-89	3.33		68-69	1.33
83-86	3.00		65-67	1.00
80-82	2.67		Below 65	0.00

In July Ithaca High School started its credit recovery program called Plato. Plato is an online computer-based program which helps students move through the curriculum at an individualized pace. This program allowed 12 students to graduate at the August 23rd graduation ceremony where over 100 people including school personnel, board of education members, guests, and family members celebrated the accomplishments of these students. The Plato credit recovery program will be continuing throughout this school year.

This year brings a new administrative team to Ithaca High School. I want to welcome back Dr. Claudette James as an Associate Principal and welcome Jarett Powers and Samantha Little as our newest Associate Principals. Mr. Ed Redmond continues in his role as Athletic Director and Associate Principal for the high school.

IHS AP Alpha breakdown

Dr. Claudette James: P-Z
Ms. Samantha Little: H-O
Mr. Jarett Powers: A-G

Our Student Services office has seen several new additions to the team. IHS welcomes Richard Bernstein and Susan Austern to the team. Michelle Snipes transferred to Boynton and Danielle Murphy has transferred to Dewitt; they will be missed. I not only want to again welcome Rich and Susan, but also thank them for jumping in head first into a very busy time in the high school. Samantha Little has taken a position as one of the Associate Principals at the high school, we are currently interviewing for her replacement.

IHS Student Services Alpha breakdown

Susan Austern: SL-Z
Richard Bernstein: O-SL
Kas Bilyk: A-CI
Nan Brown: LB-N
Leann Donnelly: College & Careers;
SIFE students
Sharon Gublo: GRB-LA
Maria Torres: CJ-GRA

We also want to welcome Mr. Karl Mellander as Student Activities Director this year. Mr. Mellander is a respected math teacher in the high school and will continue teaching two classes this year. He has served on many of our community groups and has been an advisor of several of our school clubs. Mr. Mellander's experience, enthusiasm and energy will be an asset for the students, families and community groups at IHS.

Our fall sports teams are off to a great start and I look forward to seeing everyone at events on the turf as well as the courts throughout the fall. Homecoming is also quickly approaching and will be here soon. Our homecoming football game will occur on October 1. Good luck to all our teams!

2010-11 is going to be a great year and I am looking forward to congratulating the class of 2011 on June 23 at graduation. As always, feel free to contact me anytime. My door is always open. Stop in if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Don Mills
Principal
274-2143

Save the Date:

Kulp Auditorium and Building A
Open House

November 7, 2010, Sunday, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Come and take a tour of this wonderful renovated facility!

PTSA News

From the PTSA President

Welcome one and all to another year at Ithaca High School!

The IHS Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), is pleased to present another issue of the WORD, which we hope will give you a comprehensive look at what's going on at IHS. I encourage you to look closely through this issue for departmental news and new initiatives—things you may never hear about from your teenagers. Please see our article on page 1 explaining some exciting changes with the WORD.

The PTSA works to enhance communication between the school and families, and the WORD is just one way we do this. You should have already received your GUIDE for families (thanks to Brynne Sigg and Terry Marcus). Next month, we will be handing out a Directory of students and staff, so look for that.

We maintain two electronic list serves: one for announcements and one for discussion and questions (thanks to Donna Fleming and Jim Morris Knower). To join the announcement list serv, email IHSPTSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. To join the discussion list serv, email IHSPTSA-discuss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. In addition we maintain a website at http://ihsptsa.clarityconnect.com/IHS_PTSA/Welcome.html that has convenient links to IHS resources and up-to-date announcements.

We organize a number of programs throughout the year to give you an opportunity to listen to and ask questions of high school staff and administration, about some of the innovative and vital programs at the high school. We encourage you to make time in your busy schedules for those. We try to schedule the programs for the 3rd Monday of every month (although speaker schedules sometimes compel us to change dates, so look on the list serv and website for details).

As advocates for our children's education, we also support the faculty and staff in their efforts. We have a mini-grants program for teachers to provide academic support for students in need. And this year, we hope to launch a book drive in support of the high school library, whose budget was depleted

this year. We host a variety of events, including First Day brunch, monthly munches and an appreciation lunch. We are always looking for help with organizing, implementing and supplying these events.

Last, but most importantly, we are dedicated to promoting and supporting the best educational experience for all children. We look forward to working with Principal Mills and his staff, as well as other groups and leaders in the Ithaca community, to achieve our common goals of excellence for all children, whatever it takes.

Our children are our future. What we give of our time, energy and effort to support the education of this community, we will reap for generations to come. I encourage you to take a few hours each quarter to find ways to share your own talents and resources with the high school community. Not just for your children, but in support of all children, so that they all may become lifelong learners.

" Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." John Dewey

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

PTSA Mini-grants for Teachers

Once again, the IHS PTSA has budgeted funds for a mini-grants program in support of academic programs and activities of the IHS faculty and staff. Up to \$200 will be awarded per request. Priority will be given to requests that: support learning for academically disadvantaged students, benefit the greatest number of students, and cannot be funded by department budget or other resources. All faculty or staff can apply.

The first round of applications ended September 30th. We will hold one round of funding in September, and another in January.

For more information, email Sue Merkel at smerkel@twcny.rr.com.

From Fine Arts Booster Group (FABG)

Wynton Marsalis Visits Ithaca High School

On Friday, October 1, 2010, jazz musician Wynton Marsalis and his Lincoln Center Orchestra will perform a concert, "Jazz for Young People" for Ithaca City School District students in the renovated Kulp Auditorium at Ithaca High School. The concert, presented to middle and high school students, will focus on the history and importance of jazz.

Cornell University is sponsoring this concert and two clinics for the Cornell Jazz Ensemble and Ithaca High School Jazz Band. The concert and clinics are made possible by a Cornell gift from the Presidential Councillors Robert '53 and Helen '55 Appel.

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra has been in residence at Lincoln Center since 1988. With 15 soloists and ensemble players, the group promotes education in the arts and development of young audiences.

Ithaca City School District programming assistance for this partnership is provided by Ithaca High School Principal Don Mills, Band teacher Nicki Zawel, District Music Liaison Michael Allen and the Fine Arts Booster Group, an affiliate of the Ithaca Public Education Initiative. For more information about the benefit jazz concert at Cornell, visit <http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/Aug10/MarsalisBenefit.html>.

The Fine Arts Booster Group (FABG) supports all the arts for all the kids. FABG strives to foster appreciation for the arts, advocate for the arts, and improve learning opportunities for all. FABG is an affiliate of IPEI, 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, visit www.ipei.org or www.fabgithaca.org.

From The *Tattler*

The *Tattler* -- All the news that's fit to tattle!

The *Tattler* is the student newspaper at the high school. Founded in 1892, it is one of the oldest student newspapers in the nation, with distribution in both IHS and in the community. Traditionally, our publications are funded by money from the district and selling ad space. However, as we did not receive startup money from the school this year, it has been financially difficult for us to print the paper. So, any support is greatly appreciated!

If you are interested in either placing an ad in the paper or buying a subscription to have the paper delivered right to your doorstep, please email Jade Fang at editor@ihstattler.com.

Also, new writers and photographers are always welcomed! Anyone interested in learning more about being a part of the *Tattler* should, again, contact Jade at editor@ihstattler.com or Ms. Lynn in room E25.

ICSD Transition Program

The ICSD Transition Program will again be supporting students earning credit through Community Internships. While we are focused on students with either Individual Educational Plans or 504 Plans, any student may be eligible to participate in an internship.

The Transition Program will again offer the College Success Seminar for the spring semester. This is a one semester college preparatory class that offers dual credit with TC3. While the course is geared toward 11th and 12th grade students planning to attend TC3, it is appropriate for any student planning to attend a two year college. Any student is welcome to participate.

Please contact Jim Scarpulla, ICSD Transition Facilitator, at 274-2106 or jscarpul@icsd.k12.ny.us if you have any questions about the Transition Program offerings.

Attention 8th - 12 graders!

Attend the PATH OF SUCCESS seminar!
Guaranteed to Motivate, Inform, Affirm and Inspire!

Saturday, October 2, 2010
10am - 4pm
Ithaca High School, York Auditorium
~ Lunch Provided! ~

Alfred Watts is a Cornell graduate, attorney and dynamic speaker who created the nationally acclaimed "Path of Success" academic and leadership seminar. He teaches students the skills to achieve success by inspiring them to maintain integrity, set high goals and live on the level of their desire.

* No cost seminar * Door prizes given * Educators & mentors welcome!

To register, please contact Samantha Hillson or Karen Yearwood at 256-0780 or villageatithaca609@gmail.com

It takes a whole village to raise, educate, affirm and inspire a child.

www.VillageAtIthaca.org

Path of Success, Inc. is a non-profit organization that effectively equips students with the skills necessary to set high goals and achieve success in their relationships, academics and future careers.

For more information about Path of Success, please visit <http://www.pathofsuccess.org/>

Eating Disorders Support Program

A Parent Partner Program (PPP) will take place 6 – 9 p.m. on October 5 and October 12, 2010. The PPP is for family and friends of those affected by eating disorders as well as for professionals wanting an introduction to eating disorders.

This 6-hour support and education program is oriented to the needs of carers. Registration is through the Mental Health Association in Tompkins County at 273- 9250. The program will be held both nights at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca.

Math News

We are all excited with the start of another school year. The department extends its welcome to all new students and their families. I would like to welcome back all of the Math department teachers. We also hired a new computer lab TA, Daniel Leon-Molina; he will be assisting in the computer lab (H212). I would also like to welcome back Diane Odeh, who is the Math department secretary.

The beginning of the year is a good time to review basic policies, and to answer some common questions.

Does my child need a graphing calculator? Most students will need these for their courses and they are now required on all state exams in mathematics. Students may purchase their own calculator (TI-83 or TI-84), or they may sign one out for the year from the department secretary. Teachers have sign out forms available.

Where can my child get help? Most teachers are available before or after school. We also have a

"homework help room" staffed by math teachers during all lunch periods. A flyer with locations is posted in every room. Any student can drop by during their lunch period to get help with math. We also have a list of private tutors; students can pick this up from the math office in H215. Finally, a student, or parent, can request a math lab, which is a scheduled period when students can receive help and receive a class credit towards graduation.

Can/should my student take honors? All students have access to the honors program. Any student who has good performance in their previous math classes and is motivated to do so should give honors a try. There is a list of criteria for remaining in an honors course, and all honors students must fulfill these requirements.

How often will my child have homework? Almost every math class has homework on a daily basis. If you're hearing something different, please give us a call (274-2191).

We wish all our students a great year!

ACE (Access to College Education)

Those students who are in ACE should have received the ACE schedule for the fall by now. If you haven't, you can contact me and I can get your student one. You can also go on-line to <http://cortland.edu> and look up the fall schedule and more information about ACE.

Highlights of the Fall Schedule:

Freshman are visiting Ithaca College on November 2nd.

Sophomores (up to 7 students) interested in Hospitality are going to the Statler Hotel School.

Juniors are going to a class at TC3 on October 29th.

Sophomores - Seniors can attend the Dollars and Sense Program.

In the evening of October 26th, President Skorton will be the keynote speaker at the Fall Institute at Ithaca High School.

If your students isn't in ACE and you would like them in ACE please contact me at 274-2220 or mmaubous@icsd.k12.ny.us or have the student drop by to D16A.

Marie Mauboussin
ACE liaison

Science Department

Please welcome three new teachers to the Science Department:

Leslie Zolnik, a long-term substitute. Leslie teaches Honors Biology and Regents Environmental Science. Kimberly Carroll, a long-term substitute. Kimberly teaches Honors Physics and Honors Biology. James Robertson, a long-term substitute. James teaches Honors and Regents Chemistry.

In addition to these new teachers, new to the position of Department Leader but not new to the high school is Carlan Gray.

IHS Fine Arts

After lots of summer review and revision, Studio Art has a whole new look and persona; it's Studio Art as a Visual Journal. Studio Art is designed to introduce students to the artistic process through the exploration and expression of a series of "Big Ideas." Each unit is a design problem with interdisciplinary character, where students engage in a process of constructing understanding through inquiry, experimentation and purposeful play. A visual journal will be the format and container for idea development and image making. Our students will be producing more and faster, with a focus on a series of solutions that incorporate layers of text, image and media. We're excited to teach with this new approach and will also be creating our own visual journals along with our students.

Our colleague Helen Bigsby retired at the end of last year and this year, Diane Booth will be leading a couple of our Studio classes. Diane will be a familiar face to many of our students as she has taught art throughout the District, and continues her primary assignment at Boynton Middle School. Jocelyn Lutter trained over the summer in preparation for teaching an AVID class, which supports students with their time management and study skills. Both she and Judy Cogan have a full assignment load this year and will be teaching 6 classes each. Our art teachers are the definition of creative energy and commitment.

The IHS and the larger Ithaca community will have the opportunity to experience a state of the art facility in our new performing arts space. This space is designed to inspire and maximize the learning experience for students, teachers and audiences alike. Music students will be amazed at the scale and light of their new Band, Orchestra and Choral rehearsal rooms. All the rooms are equipped with technology to enhance performance and assessment activities, including a computer lab that will be available to art and music students alike.

Drama students will be delighted to rehearse and perform in a new black box theatre and Kulp Auditorium and stage, a professional theatre environment that will also be in great demand by our community and visiting artists. The ARTS rule at IHS. Here's to a great year!

Photography

Photography classes are well underway. Students are mastering the basics of film photography with SLR cameras. They learned what all the parts and functions of the cameras are and have shot their first assignment: Abstraction. We are learning the ropes in the darkroom now and will be printing all our own images. We will also be learning digital photography and how to use Adobe Photoshop to manipulate and improve our images.

The department can always use donations of good, working, manual SLR cameras. If you would like to support the program by donating equipment, please contact Judy Cogan at monkeygirlz@yahoo.com or by phone at 257-1326.

HYLI (Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute)

HYLI is a state-wide program for Latin and Hispanic upper classmen to learn more about laws current at the State Legislature impacting Latin and Hispanic individuals. Two hundred students are picked to be part of this program. In the past, Ithaca High School has had one or two students represented. It is an amazing experience for students.

Applications for the Institute are expected to be coming out in early October. Last year, Ms. Torres, a school counselor, was on a panel and discussed the impact the program had on her; when she was in high school she was one of the first students to participate in the program.

If you would like to have more information, please contact Marie Mauboussin at 274-2220 or mmaubous@icsd.k12.ny.us or Maria Torres at 274-2157 or mtorres@icsd.k12.ny.us (Ms Torres reads and speaks Spanish fluently for people preferring to communicate in Spanish.)

Link Crew

Our freshman orientation day was wonderful this year. Students had a great time in the gym with a very active and engaging assembly. They got to meet their Link Leaders and did a series of small group activities with them that helped the kids all get to know each other. They had lunch, got their schedules and their locker combinations before heading off to meet all of their teachers. The day was very busy and lots of fun, thanks to the hard work and dedication of all of our Link Crew Leaders.

Leaders have committed to helping freshmen be successful all year long, not just on the first day of school. So, your freshman student should be hearing from his/her Link Leaders in school and out of school. Please let the Coordinators know if your freshman needs something from Link Crew. We can provide peer tutors and help with many issues. If our leaders can't help your students, we'll find someone who can! You can contact Judy Cogan by email at monkeygirlz@yahoo.com and Kelly Metzler at kmetzler@icsd.k12.ny.us.

Link Crew hosted its annual family picnic on Sep. 19 and we will be having social events just for freshmen every month throughout the year.

Library Lines

Hard times have come to Ithaca High School Library. We have one-third the book money we had last year. We lost our late-hours clerk in the budget last year, and do not have a workable late hours solution yet. One whole computer lab lacks chairs, and Principal Mills has no money to buy them.

I have talked to the PTSA about book donations (always welcome; in good condition and appropriate, please), and possibly a book fair (never been done at the High School before). Ideas welcome.

As always we are delighted to see your students every day! We will do our very best to get them the materials and help they need. THAT has not changed: our service is still A+. Librarians Nan Bell and Armin Heurich, clerks Lynne Saulsbury, Lori Backus, and Michele Barr are in place.

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome." Anne Bradstreet

--Nan Bell, Library Head
Library phone: 274-2186

The IPEI Adult Spelling Bee
Sunday, November 14, 2:00 p.m. Ithaca High's Bliss Gymnasium
Organize a team ~ Find a sponsor
Join the audience ~ Have fun
Contact Barbara Holdsworth: barb@holdsworthlaw.com 280-2411
The Bee raises funds for the IPEI Teacher Grants Programs

English Department News

This year the English Department has a new and welcomed collaboration with Ithaca College. IC Senior Jacqueline Palochko, President of the Ithaca College Society of Professional Journalists and Opinion Editor of *The Ithacan*, is organizing a series of workshops for interested students.

The first one will focus on how to conduct an ad campaign and will be run by those who have successfully kept the college paper afloat in the Ithaca community. Any student may participate. Students are welcome to join any of the workshops as the topics change and are of interest to them. (Look for posters near the English office in G-109 for times and locations.)

The WISE classes of Alexis Lord and Rebecca Gergely are planning a trip to Cayuga Nature Center on October 15. They will be doing volunteer work and then participating in the team building exercises, including the High Ropes Course.

Rebecca Gergely's Regents 12 students are collaborating with Beth Milles, professor of theater at Cornell. They are reading Big Love, a modern adaptation of Aeschylus' The Suppliants, and attending the production at Cornell. In addition, Professor Milles and one of her students will speak to the classes.

Christopher Byrne's English/Media, a two-credit class for seniors and juniors, is gearing up to make documentaries. It meets 7th and 8th periods and counts as a year of English and Tech credit. There are some openings for students interested.

Across from G-109 is the Writing Contest bulletin board. Students who like to write should periodically check the opportunities. The Profiles of Courage contest has a \$10,000 prize this year. The deadline is January 8.

Do you know any alumni who are in the military? The department is collecting permission from alumni soldiers to put their pictures and contact information on a bulletin board in G-hallway. Let Mrs. Kennedy know how to contact them (skennedy@icsd.k12.ny.us).

English Homework Club is scheduled for Mondays and Thursdays from 3:45-4:45 in room G-106. Students should bring any English homework they need to complete. Teachers will be assigning students with late homework to attend this activity.

The news from Albany is that the new English Regents exam scheduled for January will be a one-day, three-hour exam instead of the two-day, six-hour exam. There will be one major essay, which is the standard critical lens, and two shorter paragraphs on literary subjects. The listening passage will have only multiple choice questions.

The department welcomes Lois Werner-Gallegos teaching Expository Writing and English Regents 12 as a year-long sub and congratulates Christopher Byrne and Lauren McKown on receiving tenure. All of the teachers in the English Department, who have had probationary positions, have now received tenure. Hurrah!

Shirley Kennedy
English Dept. Chair

Combined Class News

With the retirement of Maryterese Pasquale-Bowen, the Combined Class would like to officially welcome Emily Schwan to Ithaca High School. She has already jumped into teaching the global section with both feet! She comes to us highly recommended from the Guilderland School District, outside Albany.

The Combined Class is off and running -- almost literally! Students have already begun planning for the annual Greek Olympic Day, scheduled for October 6th. Students will research and organize activities based on Greek athletics, food, drama, and more.

In November, the Combined Class, along with Ms. McKown's Regents 10 class, is planning to work with community members from the Johnson Museum and Kroch Library for a field trip to Cornell to study the Middle Ages. Students will have the opportunity to see medieval art, get close to real medieval manuscripts, and look at some of the architecture that mirrors medieval styles.

Lauren McKown
Combined English Teacher

The Equity and Inclusion Leadership Council: Working for Equity and Excellence Throughout the District

The Ithaca Board of Education and the District have long had the equity goal of "eliminating race, class and disability as predictors of student success." In 2005, the District, realizing that it does, indeed, "take a village," and acknowledging the importance of community involvement in achieving the equity goal, included the creation of a joint community-district leadership council in its Equity Strategic Plan. The Equity and Inclusion Leadership Council (EILC) was formed in 2007 to engage the community in supporting the ICSD and the Board of Education in achieving the goal of closing the educational achievement gap. Acting as a liaison between the ICSD and community groups, the EILC mission is to help the district achieve its equity goals by "monitoring, assessing, and guiding district and community equity efforts, and by initiating proposals that reflect the needs, perspectives and insights of the community."

The EILC's members include parents, city and county administrators, teachers, directors of community programs that serve young people, representatives from the business and faith communities and representatives from both urban and rural communities. Collectively, they bring an important institutional memory of equity issues within the district and years of experience in youth development, supportive connections to families in our school community, expertise in equitable and inclusive practices, and a deep commitment to the success of all young people.

Over the past three years the EILC has focused on identifying and assessing District efforts to reduce the achievement gap, achieving a more equitable, inclusive, and transparent budget process, making specific budget recommendations in support of programs that support academic excellence for all children, and participation in the development of specific measures and plans for achieving the equity goal.

Current efforts include working for open community participation in superintendent search; advocating for adequate staff development; supporting the recruitment and retention of a diverse staff; and reforming the budget process. In addition, the EILC continues to work to increase public awareness of what equity means, why it is critical to excellence, and how the ICSD is progressing towards its equity

goals. For more information, see the EILC page on the ICSD Web site (Click on Equity Programs, then EILC).

Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI)

IPEI Teacher Grant applications are due Nov. 1. Up to \$1500 is awarded to each project selected. Projects must bring community resources into the classroom; as much as \$30,000 will be awarded for innovative ideas; competitive review process.

Application forms are online and available in every school and the ITA Office

Contact Sandy True: sandytrue@webtv.net, 257-4864

Red and Gold Grants

One-time grants (up to \$500) in four review cycles: October 22, December 2, March 3, May 5, for projects that strengthen and enrich the schools <http://www.ipei.org> 256-IPEI (4734)

Arts Booster Mini-grant Deadline: October 30

The Ithaca Community Fine Arts Booster Group (FABG), an affiliate of IPEI, has teacher mini-grants available for dance, drama, music and arts support or projects. The 2010-2011 deadline is October 30, 2010. Teachers and principals are eligible to apply and applications are available by calling 277-4631 or emailing president@fabgithaca.org.

The Fine Arts Boosters have awarded over \$60,000 in grants to district-wide activities. Funds for the teacher mini-grants are raised through ads placed in the middle and high school performance booklets.

Formed in 2001 as an affiliate of IPEI, the boosters believe the arts – music, visual art, drama and dance – are a central part of every child's education. The Fine Arts Boosters support all the arts for all the kids. FABG strives to foster appreciation for the arts, advocate for the arts, and improve learning opportunities for all. To reach these goals, the boosters fundraise, communicate, form partnerships and give grants.

Community Meets Challenge Match for the Arts

The Fine Arts Booster Group, an affiliate of IPEI, announced that the community has rallied to support arts extra-curricular and co-curricular activities by matching an anonymous challenge donor. With the incentive of \$10,000 in matching funds, over \$30,000 was raised to restore secondary school activities at Ithaca High School, Boynton and DeWitt Middle Schools, and Lehman Alternative Community School.

Students will now be able to participate in fall arts activities that are usually offered including pep band, before and after school choirs, jazz band, chamber orchestra and middle school musicals. The high school musicals are the only activities that still need additional funding. Since the high schools musicals take place in the spring, time remains for additional donations and fundraising events. Check www.fabgithaca.org for giving options to the Arts Alive Fund.

For more information about the booster group, contact Martha Frommelt at 277-4631, president@fabgithaca.org. If you want to stay informed about what is happening with the fine and performing arts in the Ithaca City School District (ICSD), consider joining the Ithaca Community Fine Arts Booster Group (FABG) listserv by emailing FineArtsBoosters-subscribe@yahoo.com.

The Fine Arts Booster Group's mission is to support the fine and performing arts throughout the ICSD. The all-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). IPEI is a community-based, not-for-profit organization that works to develop supportive community and private sector relationships with the ICSD.

Foster & Respite Homes Needed

Foster Homes or Respite Homes Needed! Tompkins County DSS announces a new initiative to make a positive difference in the lives of children. Become a respite parent--you could be qualified to provide short-term care for children in your home. If you relate well with teens, this may be an opportunity for you!

Informational meetings for qualified persons interested in caring for children and teens in their homes by providing respite, foster care, or adoption will be held each month at the Human Services Building, 320 West State St., Ithaca. The next Informational Meeting will be held on October 14th at Noon. Please come or call Judy Voorheis at 274-5266 for more information.

Sew Green

Sew Green is a not for profit community organization based in Ithaca, NY. A range of classes are starting this fall; the classroom is located at 112 North Cayuga Street, in downtown Ithaca. In most cases, everything you need for a class, including sewing machines, is supplied.

All of the classes are posted on the SewGreen website, <http://www.sew-green.org>.

Teen Club Returns

SewGreen's teen sewing and fashion design club will resume 6 to 9 pm, Friday, October 8 and meet most Fridays through mid-December. It's free. Any teen who has previously attended the club regularly, has been in our summer program, or who has taken at least one class with us is welcome to attend. Teens may create and work on their own projects and get help with challenges. Once a month, we will have an introductory session for newcomers. Autumn Newell will be the lead supervisor and mentor for the club. Contact Wendy at coord@sew-green.org to let us know you're interested!

Ithaca Public Education Initiative
Connecting School and Community
www.ipei.org

Welcome Back for 2010-11 School Year

IPEI Programs Specifically for You!

The IPEI Adult Spelling Bee

Sunday, November 14, 2:00 p.m. Ithaca High's Bliss Gymnasium

Organize a team ~ Find a sponsor

Join the audience ~ Have fun

Contact Barbara Holdsworth: barb@holdsworthlaw.com 280-2411

The Bee raises funds for the IPEI Teacher Grants Programs

Teacher Grants Applications Due Nov. 1

Up to \$1500 awarded to each project selected.

Projects must bring community resources into the classroom

As much as \$30,000 will be awarded for innovative ideas

Competitive review process

Application forms are online and available in every school and the ITA Office

Contact Sandy True: sandytrue@webtv.net, 257-4864

Red and Gold Grants

One-time grants (up to \$500) four review cycles:

October 22, December 2, March 3, May 5

For projects that strengthen and enrich the schools

<http://www.ipei.org> 256-IPEI (4734)

Fine Arts Booster Group Mini-Grants

Fall cycle deadline is October 30

Funds items such as collaborations, visiting artists, sound equipment,
and other items to support district arts activities.

<http://www.fabgithaca.org>

Ithaca High School announcements are available on the website:
http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/highschool/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=24&Itemid=66

IHS PTSA Leadership 2010-2011

President	Sue Merkel	smerkel@twcny.rr.com
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Secretary		
Past President	Donna Fleming	df39@cornell.edu
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Open House Coordinators	Danyel Logevall	logevall@gmail.com
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PTA Council liaison		
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*please email Jennifer Groff, jengroff40@yahoo.com, if you would like to help produce IHS Word!

IHS Word goes electronic!

In our efforts to make the WORD more timely and available, we are transitioning from paper to electronic delivery. This issue (the first of the year!) is being distributed as a paper copy throughout the school and community. After this, the WORD will be available electronically through our PTSA list serv, and the IHS and IHS PTSA websites. You may request a paper copy by filling out the form below, and we will mail it to you. (Next issue: end of the quarter)

Get important IHS and PTSA news by email: sign up for the IHSPTSA listserv (usually one news email per week)! Send an email to: IHSPTSA-subscribe@yahoogleroups.com

To join the discussion listserv, send an email to: IHSPTSA-discuss-subscribe@yahoogleroups.com

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

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

For mail delivery of WORD, fill out form below and send it to IHS Office, attention PTSA

Please send me a paper copy of IHS Word

Name:

Address:
Street

City, State, Zip

Student Name/ class year (if applicable)

Send in to IHS Office, to PTSA
