



IHS Word

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

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Important Dates:

October 8 (Thurs.) 6:30 p.m.

IHS Open House for all parents & guardians

October 9 (Fri.)

No school for students; Superintendent's
Conference Day

October 12 (Mon.)

No school – Columbus Day

October 14 (Wed.)

PSAT – Juniors

November 11 (Wed.)

No school – Veterans Day

November 25-27 (Wed.-Fri.)

No school – Thanksgiving Recess

From the Principal

The 2009-2010 school year is off to a great start. The students and staff are back and the school has that educational hum once again. The work that the Link Crew Leaders did with the Class of 2013 is noticeable and many of the 9th graders mentioned how helpful the day was. I want to express my thanks to the Link crew leaders, Ms. Cogan and Ms. Metzler, for all their efforts to provide a wonderful transition day for the Class of 2013 and for all the efforts I know they will be putting forth throughout the rest of the year.

The construction activities in and around Kulp are going strong and it is apparent the school community has adjusted well to the new traffic patterns. I appreciate everyone's patience as we transition to this new drop off and pick up pattern. Just a reminder that if you are picking up your child during the school day for an appointment that the modular by the "C" student parking lot is where Attendance is located and you may pick up from there during the school day. If you are picking up your child from 3:10 pm on, it would be best to do so from Lake Street due to the busses arriving. One notable item to mention is that I have seen some parents dropping students off in the morning for Zero Period by the sidewalk on Cayuga Street near the construction. While waiting to turn into the "J" lot a car was stopped to drop off a student and another vehicle sped over the bridge and had to brake hard to keep from hitting the car that was stopped. I am not sure that the driver of the vehicle dropping off the student even knew that this happened. Please use our designated drop off locations to ensure the safety of not only our students but our families as well.

Our 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 turf and in the gym that I have been to so far this year. Our student athletes are the best in the area and many of the teams are undefeated so far including our Varsity football team. Please come out and show your support for all of our team's homecoming games. Let's go Lil' Red!

I know that many parents are concerned about H1N1 and if their child becomes ill getting the work that was missed. Currently we are temporarily suspending the procedure that states you need to wait 3 days prior to requesting homework. If your child is out please feel free to contact Student Services (274-2157) for homework requests. Many teachers are also posting work and notes on their Blackboard sites which are accessible from the IHS website.

October is fast approaching and with it there are a number of important events to put on your calendar. The IHS Open House is October 8th starting at 6:30 in the gymnasium. The faculty really enjoy this evening and value the time spent with families developing relationships and working collaboratively with parents to support their students to achieve their dreams. Families with Juniors should put October 14th on the calendar for the PSAT. A \$15.00 registration fee (check or Money order payable to Ithaca High School) is due by October 8th. The PSAT exam is important as it sets up many scholarship opportunities. Tompkins-Cortland Community College is hosting a College Information Day where over 120 colleges and universities will be present on October 20th from 11:30 - 1:45pm and again from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. There is a Central New York Health Careers Expo on Thursday, October 15th from 8:30 - 2:00pm at the Ben Light Gymnasium, Ithaca College.

Lastly, I want to express my thanks to the overwhelming number of parents, students, staff, and community members that have taken the time to welcome me. Please know that when people ask me "Why Ithaca?" I enjoy responding "because of the community and all their support for education." Please continue to stop in and be involved with the school and our student's education. This involvement is what makes our community and its schools so strong.

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

PTSA News

From the PTSA President

As President of the IHS Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), I'd like to welcome you all to a new year at Ithaca High School. If you're a returning family, you already know that the IHS WORD gives a comprehensive look at what's going on at IHS. If you are new to the IHS community, then I encourage you to look closely through this issue for key dates, current events and new initiatives. Thanks to Jennifer Groff, Maria Costanzo, Rachael Shapiro, and Michelle Goman for their efforts in producing and distributing this issue.

Communication is one key objective of the PTSA, and the WORD is just one of many efforts in this area. We also produce a Directory of students and staff (with thanks to Brynne Sigg), as well as a Parent/Guardian Guide with useful information on how things work at IHS (thanks to Deb Nero).

We maintain two electronic listservs: one for announcements and one for discussion and questions (thanks to Donna Fleming and Marek Przewdziecki for keeping these going). To join the announcement listserv, email IHSPTSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. To join the discussion listserv, email IHSPTSA-discuss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. In addition, we maintain a website at http://ihsptsa.clarityconnect.com/IHS_PTSA/Welcome.html that has conveniently listed links to IHS resources and up-to-date announcements.

Another objective is the support of faculty and staff. We host a variety of events for our teachers and staff, including monthly munches, an open house breakfast 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 support student awards and tutoring programs at IHS and are working to form an equity sub-committee within the PTSA. 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.

Our children are our most important resource. They are our future. What we give now to support the education of this community, we will reap for generations to come. Each of us has his/her own talents and resources. Please join us and share your gifts as we work to help strengthen and enrich our entire community.

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



Support The PTSA Directory!

Once again, the PTSA is preparing the Ithaca High School Directory. In order to cover the cost of printing 2,300 copies, we make advertising space available to local businesses and organizations. The directory is distributed free of charge to the families and staff of the school. Used daily by students, staff and families, the directory is considered an indispensable aid to organization and communication in the Ithaca High School community. If you are part of a business or know someone who is, please consider supporting the IHS Directory by taking out an ad or selling ad space. Contact Brynne Sigg for more information at jsigg1@twcny.rr.com

Join IHS PTSA!

Get involved and join now during PTA Membership Month!

Complete the membership form found elsewhere in this newsletter 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.

Join the PTA Council

The PTA Council (PTA C), the umbrella organization for all of the ICSD PTAs, needs volunteers. PTA C representatives are the link between the district/administration and the PTAs, and they are critically important in providing district communication to their respective school community and also bringing back information, concerns, and ideas to PTA Council. We also provide PTAs a useful platform to share ideas / solutions to common problems each PTA unit may face. PTA representatives meet monthly with the Superintendent, as well as with the BOE liaison and our teacher union representative. Not only do we hear about the issues effecting the district, we have a chance to question and to shape the conversation.

We want parent involvement yet we understand the pressures of daily life. This year we plan fewer and shorter meetings. We meet the second Tuesday of the month; and though we have scheduled the BOE room (ICSD administration building) from 9-11 a.m., we will try to fit our agendas between 9:15 - 10:30 am. Please consider attending an ICSD BOE/Administration/PTA Council reception at 5:30 PM on October 22nd, after which we will hold a short meeting.

From Carol Warshawsky, PTA Council President
cw104@earthlink.net

Yearbook News

The Annual staff is currently working on the senior section of the 2009-2010 yearbook and has chosen Stegall's/Herff-Jones Photography as our official yearbook photographer. Stegall's/Herff-Jones will be taking senior portraits during P.E. classes on Tuesday, October 20th and Wednesday, October 21st. Students should remember to bring any clothes or props they would like included in their photos to school on their photo day. We urge you to have your student photographed by Stegall's/Herff-Jones for the following reasons:

- 1) Stegall's/Herff-Jones provides us with much-needed support in the form of services, photographic supplies and financial aid, all of which help us keep the cost of the yearbook down;
- 2) The basic sitting will cost you nothing;
- 3) Stegall's/Herff-Jones understands our yearbook requirements and will automatically deliver your prints to our school;
- 4) Stegall's/Herff-Jones provides consistency and uniformity for the senior section, which eliminates extra publishing charges;
- 5) **QUALITY & VALUE!** Stegall's/Herff-Jones's photo quality is outstanding. If you have any questions, please call 1-800-836-9628.

If you choose to have your portrait taken by another company, please see the photo specifications below.

Please make sure these guidelines are followed so that your portrait may be included in the yearbook.

Senior Photo Specifications

- *All pictures must be submitted by November 6, 2009.
- *All pictures must be submitted on a CD as a digital image.
- *All pictures must be in RGB format.
- *All picture files must be named with the student's last name and first initial - e.g., smithj.jpg.
- *All pictures must be saved in .jpg format.
- *All pictures must be submitted at a 300 dpi or greater resolution.
- *Head size of portrait: 1 1/8 inches from top of head to bottom of chin, centered in photo.
- *Dimensions for yearbook photos are 9x11 picas or @ 1.5 x 1.833 inches.
- *Photos should be submitted to: Ithaca High School, Attn: Yearbook Advisor, 1401 N. Cayuga St., Ithaca, NY 14850.

If your portrait is taken by Stegall's/Herff-Jones, it will automatically be submitted to the Annual. If you choose to have your portrait taken by another photographer, it is your responsibility to submit your photo by mail, or by leaving it in the Annual mailbox in the Main Office.

From: Jean Amodeo
jamodeo@icsd.k12.ny.us

Sports Boosters Volunteers Needed!

The Ithaca Little Red Sports Boosters mission is to support IHS athletics at the modified through varsity levels by providing financial aid, by advocating for sports programs and by helping coaches be proficient and successful. We are proud to be here to support our dedicated and hard working coaches and athletes and thank all of you who help us in that effort! To do this we need volunteers in the following areas: Concessions, Membership, Sports Guide, Team Sport Reps. As the ICSD Budgets are tightened, the Boosters will be needed more and more to help offset shortfalls to athletics. Any assistance would be appreciated! Please contact me at 277-7359 or email at spt7279@aol.com .

From Steve Thayer
sportsboosterprez@yahoo.com

Arts Booster Mini-Grant Deadline: October 15

FABG has teacher mini-grants available for dance, drama, music and arts support or projects. The 2009-2010 deadlines are October 15, 2009 and Feb 1, 2010. Teachers and principals are eligible to apply and applications are available by calling 277-4631 or emailing president@fabgithaca.org

Little Red Gear for Sale

As we kick off the start of another school year, the Ithaca Little Red Sports Boosters have several items for sale so you can show your school spirit! These items are great for students, parents, community members.....they don't indicate a specific sport so everyone can show their support for Ithaca Athletics when they make a purchase.

Sweatshirts, T-shirts, shorts, tank tops, baseball caps, winter hats, coffee mugs, stickers for cars or other uses, and fleece blankets will be available at the Concession Stand at various football and soccer games, and during Open House in October in the high school cafeteria. In the near future, watch for details for placing your order online!!

Look for new and unique novelty gifts as we get closer to the winter holidays! Share this information with your friends.....these items are for everyone, not just those who play sports!

Any questions, email us at littleredgear@gmail.com.

From Steve Thayer
sportsboosterprez@yahoo.com

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). IPEI is a community-based, not-for-profit organization that works to develop supportive community and private sector relationships with the Ithaca City School District.

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.

Ongoing FABG initiatives include printing of all the performance booklets for concerts and drama productions in the middle and high schools; fundraising; Play It Again, Ithaca, the collection of used musical instruments and monies to purchase new instruments for use in the schools; and various advocacy efforts in support of arts in the schools.

FABG is open to all K-12 staff, parents, students and community members. Join the group in working on goals –

access and equity issues, mini-grants to teachers, instrument recycling, and district-level coordination. Join the listserv to hear about our meetings and other arts announcements. Subscribe by emailing FineArtsBoosters-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. For more information about advertising in the performance booklets, contact fabg_advertising@yahoo.com. To explore more about the boosters, visit www.fabgithaca.org.

FABG will hold its first general meeting of the 2009-10 school year on November 3, Thursday, from 6:15-8:00 p.m. in the Boynton Middle School cafeteria. Interested parents and community members are invited to attend. A pizza dinner will be provided. The boosters serve all the elementary, middle and high schools in the Ithaca District.

The November 3rd meeting agenda will include discussion with Sofia Villenas, Associate Professor of Education and Latino/a Studies and Program Leader, Learning, Teaching and Social Policy about the arts. In addition the agenda will include a review of booster goals and current arts challenges, updates on arts-related construction, and information from our district art and music liaisons. Call 277-4631 if you need childcare during the meeting.

From Martha Frommelt,
president@fabgithaca.org

English Department News

The English Department is happy to announce two new and exciting community collaborations this year.

The Ithaca Community Orchestra is sponsoring a poetry/song writing contest for IHS students in grades 9-12 to write a 3-30 line poem and will commission a composer to set the winning lines to music for full orchestra and vocalist to be performed at their May 2010 concert. The deadline for entries is October 25. Contest rules can be seen on posters outside the English office in G-109; students also can ask their English teachers for full details.

In addition, the publication Positive News is offering four volunteer intern positions of three to four hours-a-week in journalism. The first semester journalism class is collaborating with this international publication to understand the benefits of an alternative view of news reporting.

There are still open seats in the electives of Journalism, Creative Writing, Expository Writing (a class targeted for those preparing for the SAT), and Introduction to Philosophy. Ask a school counselor if one might fit your student's schedule.

In faculty news, Ross Creagan has returned from his semester sabbatical overflowing with rich resources for Humanities 9 for culturally-affirming topics with

connections between literature and the history of Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, India, China, Japan, and Cambodia. His sabbatical overview and lesson plans will soon be on Blackboard for both teacher and community viewing and use.

Lauren McKown, a recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities stipend, spent five summer weeks studying the connections between Celtic literature and history on the Isle of Man and in Northern Ireland and Scotland. She plans to broaden her 10th grade students' understanding by using relevant texts of the period in addition to Beowulf.

Twelfth grade teacher Rebecca Gergely recently has been selected as a fellow in the Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) program, a U.S. teacher reciprocal exchange which is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. State Department. She will be hosted for two weeks by a teacher in Colombia, where she will observe, co-teach, share best practices and participate in cultural activities.

The department as a whole, with the move of the ESL staff to the AIS Department and the return of all the teachers on leave, including Kim Swartz to grade 9, has gone from 26 full and part-time positions to 17 full-time positions.

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

National Honor Society

The Ithaca High chapter of the National Honor Society had its first meeting on Tuesday, September 21st. The group is advised by Moira Lang of the English Department and Jodi Maddren of the Physical Education Department. As of this writing, we are organizing the selection officers, and an induction ceremony is planned for October 14.

The Ithaca High Chapter of National Honor Society is open to seniors who have strong academic records and have demonstrated exemplary character, leadership and a commitment to service. Interested Juniors submitted applications last June. Faculty input was part of the selection process. Members are expected to maintain high standards of scholarship, character and service.

From Moira Lang
mlang2@icsd.k12.ny.us

Science Department News

Please welcome to our department this 09-10 school year, Margaret Adams who teaches Environmental Science and Honors Chemistry. Margaret is a long-term substitute for Victoria Benson who is on a leave of absence. Also new to the high school, but not new to the district is Peter Rosen. Peter is teaching Honors Chemistry and Conceptual Physics.

Social Studies News

The Social Studies Department is pleased to welcome three new members this year.

Vicki Gornall just moved to Ithaca from Texas where she taught geography for eleven years. Vicki has a B.A. in Geography from the University of Texas and a Master's Degree from Texas State. Ms. Gornall will be teaching AP Geography and American History this year.

Joe Hopkins is joining us from Boynton Middle School. Joe was born in Brooklyn, New York, but grew up in Ithaca. He is a graduate of Ithaca High School and has degrees from Ithaca College and Cortland State. Mr. Hopkins will be teaching Economics and Business Law.

Joe Schill was born and raised in Jordan, NY. He received a BS in Marketing from SUNY Oswego, a MA in History from George Mason University and an MAT in Social Studies Education from Binghamton University. He taught at the Cascadilla School in Ithaca for three years and at Falls Church High School (Virginia) for five years. He is currently teaching Participation in Government and Global History and Geography II.

The Social Studies Department began the year by passing out student handbooks to all students and by providing an overview of the students' rights and responsibilities. As in the past, the handbook contains a planner and a

calendar. If any student still needs a copy, he/she should see a Social Studies teacher.

On September 17, the Social Studies Department celebrated Constitution Day. Constitution Day commemorates the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787. Teachers engaged in a variety of activities for the day, concluding with a showing of President Obama's speech welcoming students back to school.

From Jarrett Powers
jpowers@icsd.k12.ny.us

Library Lines

Welcome to the Ithaca High School Library! We have been bustling and bristling with new books, orientations, and a demand for books for Sustained Silent Reading on Fridays. What's old is new again!

The library's telephone is 274-2186, if you have questions for us; our databases are available at home as in previous years, and we have our terrific staff of Armin Heurich, Nan Bell, Lori Backus, Lynne Saulsbury, and Michele Barr. At this writing, we are in need of a fourth clerk; we can't stay open until 5 p.m. until we get one. If you know anyone with an interest, please call Human Relations at the Board Building.

We are looking forward to our Open Mic Poetry Slam on December 10, 2009. Parents, friends, alums are all welcome

to join the audience; we always have a great time! Also, we always urge you, if you have some school supply money left over, buy your students a flash drive (USB drive, thumb drive, etc.). A flash drive of one gigabyte is much larger than their network saving space, but if your student is prone to losing things, make sure you have a routine for carrying the flash drive around (tiny, easily lost).

"The highest result of education is tolerance."
--Helen Keller, Optimism (1903)

From Nan Bell, Head Librarian,
IHS Library
nbell@icsd.k12.ny.us

Gift to I.H.S. from the Class of 1969

The I.H.S. Class of '69, in honor of its 40th Reunion, donated \$200 worth of perennials to the G Building Courtyard Garden. The class is also refurbishing the garden bench at the top of the rock garden outside of K Building. The Class of '69 donated the bench at their 20th Reunion, in memory of class members who had passed away. The refurbishment was done by '69 classmates Jack McGory, Jeff True and D. Bogliano.

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. We'd also like to introduce three new teachers in the department: Ray Cole from LACS, who will be teaching Algebra 1 and Pre-calculus, and will be working in our math lab; Caline Khavarani from California, who will be teaching Algebra 1 and AVID; and Dan McGrath from Dewitt, who will be teaching Pre-algebra and applied algebra, and also working in our math lab.

I would also like to introduce myself, Todd Noyes; I will be the new department leader this year. This is my fourth year teaching at Ithaca High School. I look forward to working with parents and students, helping them achieve a successful year.

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. Students who are in Algebra 1 may self-select for honors after the first five weeks. Teachers will be sending home information.

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!

From Todd Noyes
tnoyes@icsd.k12.ny.us

World Languages

Latin

It has been exciting to return to school and see so many new faces in Latin classes, as well as to reunite with many students continuing their studies. All three Latin classes--the two Latin 1 classes, and the combined 'multi-level' class period when Latin 2, Latin 3 and AP Latin meet--are made up of students from all four grade levels. It's an interesting experience to have everyone from freshmen to seniors all mixed together and working on their acquaintance with this ancient language and culture.

This summer I attended the Advanced Placement program's annual convention in San Antonio, and heard from the chief reader for the Latin AP exams, as well as a number of other people who are teaching the curriculum. It was interesting to meet with other Latin teachers from around the country.

I also worked with some fellow New York State Latin teachers in Albany this summer, preparing this year's Regents exam for the students in their third year of Latin. It was interesting to debate what features we think are important to include in this measure of a student's achievement in the language.

From Suzanne Nussbaum

In other World Language news:

Teachers met over the summer to complete content maps for the 7th and 10th grade classes.

Claudia Miettunen and Don Mills went to Washington in early August for an orientation for our Chinese visiting teacher this year, Sun Liang. Sun arrived on August 15 and has taken every opportunity available to support the learning of Chinese in our district. She is working closely with Claudia in her Chinese Language and Culture class. As the year goes on she will be working with a larger set of teachers and students in multiple buildings to help our students learn more through this cultural exchange.

A group of Spanish students is busy planning their trip to Spain in the spring. We'll have more to share as the year goes by. A group of IHS students traveled to Germany this summer for a wonderful three-week exchange. We're proud of students and teachers alike for their hard work taking advantage of such wonderful opportunities.

Ms. Bowman has received the authorization to offer both her 4th and 5th level French classes for dual college credit. We're eager to support all our students by giving them the opportunity to earn credit whether through the AP College Board sequence or the approved course credit with TC3.

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

The Access to College Education (ACE) Program is Still Taking Applications!

ACE provides resources and services to help capable students with potential challenges to pursue a college education. Developed in 1989, ACE is an innovative partnership between about a dozen school districts and Cornell University, Ithaca College, SUNY College at Cortland and Tompkins Community College.

The ACE partnership works to: identify capable students who may need encouragement and exposure to college; help students access higher education by providing educational programs to raise their levels of expectations and achievement; increase students' probability of success in college by developing appropriate attitudes, study skills and life skills; involve parents in their children's education; encourage collaboration among educators at all levels of education to support ACE goals.

The ACE program provides skill training as well as academic support for both students and their families. It is ACE's commitment to assist students while in high school and to expose them to many aspects of the college experience, including theater performances, presentations on topics such as career exploration and study abroad, special programs and conferences to encourage

future studies, and frequent interaction with college students. ACE activities usually occur in the evenings or on weekends. There are occasional field trips to college campuses.

Freshmen will visit Ithaca College on November 18th, while sophomores visit SUNY Cortland in the Spring. Sophomores also have the option of going on a couple of additional field trips during the school year. Activities include some summer study skills programs; regional institutes (on topics such as financial aid, college athletics, time management, college essays); dessert and drama (free tickets to plays at Cortland and Ithaca College); bowling (for 9th graders); and gallery talk and tour.

There will be a regional institute in Tully on October 27th and one in Lansing on October 31st. If your freshman is interested, have them stop in to see their guidance counselor or contact Marie Mauboussin (Rm D16A) at 274-2220 or mmaubous@icsd.k12.ny.us.

Did you know that 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!

Fine Arts News

Photography

By the time you read this, Photography students will have the basic understandings they need to start making art with cameras. The first part of the course is quite technical...learning what all those buttons, knobs and gadgets do on both film and digital cameras. But once that information is mastered, the fun begins. Students will be working on a series of extremely creative and challenging lessons this semester. I like to think of the assignments I give like problems to be solved. There are guidelines and parameters of course, as well as clear criteria to be met, but within that structure, students will have the freedom to express themselves, to exercise their creative voices and to develop their own aesthetic. Learning to make art, whether it is with a camera, a brush or with clay, is like learning a language. This language uses elements and principles such as line, value, texture, rhythm and shape rather than nouns, verbs, punctuation, etc... but it communicates just as clearly and meaningfully through images about the things we care about as English, Chinese or Arabic. In the spring, we will have our annual Photography Show, so stay tuned for upcoming information about that. It's a great opportunity to see what young people have to say about the world they live in.

If you have old film or digital cameras or other equipment

that you would like to donate to the program, please contact Judy Cogan. I am always looking to expand our inventory. I can be reached by email at monkeygirlz@yahoo.com or by phone at 257-1326. Donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your support! Also, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you have about the Photo program. If you are an accomplished photographer and would be willing to share your work and your experience with my students, I would love to hear from you!

From Judy Cogan
monkeygirlz@yahoo.com

Visual Art

Where do artists get their ideas? This is an essential question that our art students have begun to explore in these opening weeks of classes. The Process Book is the first concept that we introduce to all our art students; a visual thinking tool they will always have with them to document ideas, questions, drawings, reflections, critiques, brainstorming, and project criteria. The Drawing & Painting students are experimenting with mark making and abstract composition, using the elements of design as their subject matter. AP Art students are working on the challenge of the Post-It Project; 50 miniature works of art done on Post-It Notes in a 3-week period. The students will appreciate that time and quantity of production have a dynamic and inspiring impact on their artistic process. This

year, the Art Department has 2 Studio Art classes scheduled during zero period. We are always looking for ways to give all IHS students access to the arts. Our studios are open before school now for all art students to come and work, as well as an Open Studio scheduled on Wednesdays from 3:45-4:45. Art is smart at IHS!

From Carol Spence
cspence@icsd.k12.ny.us

Youth Employment Service (YES)

YES is a program of the Ithaca Youth Bureau that assists Teens with finding Jobs. A few of the places our Teens have worked this past year are the Sciencenter, GIAC, Cass Park, Wegmans, Shortstop and Cornell University. We also help Teens find odd jobs such as babysitting, cleaning, moving and yardwork. 14 and 15 year olds who are looking for work for the first time are especially encouraged to apply. You can pick up an application at the YES table during lunch on Tuesdays and Fridays at IHS or weekdays before 5pm at the Ithaca Youth Bureau. You can also reach us by calling 273-8364 and asking for YES!

From Mike Smith
msmith@cityofithaca.org

Link Crew News

Link Crew, the freshman transition program in its fourth year at Ithaca High School, got the year off to a rockin' start! Freshmen were welcomed into the gym on their special first day of school (Sep. 9) by 103 screaming upperclassmen who we call Link Leaders. These Link Leaders had already gone through 2 full days of very intensive and exciting leadership training during summer vacation to prepare them for their job of mentoring the 9th graders and working hard all year long to ensure their academic and social success at IHS. The Link Leaders helped facilitate the all-class assembly in the morning, then they took their "crew" of freshmen to separate classrooms around campus to go through a series of small group activities that were designed to help everyone get to know each other, to feel more comfortable at IHS and to begin to build a strong sense of a shared community here. Freshmen then had lunch and were given their locker combinations and their updated schedules. Their leaders helped them understand all of that before they had the opportunity to go through a Day 1 schedule and to meet their teachers briefly. When we said goodbye to each other out by the buses, we saw an awful lot of big smiles on the freshmen's faces. We think they felt pretty good about their first day of high school, and we're willing to bet it was a day they'll never forget!

Link Crew will continue to help the 9th graders all year long. Leaders will be planning and running a series of wonderful social events just for the freshmen...probably about once a month. They will also be going into freshman classes a couple of times during the year to teach lessons that will give students concrete strategies for success in high school.

In addition, Link Crew has a peer tutoring program that links upper classmen with freshmen who need help in any subject. All a 9th grader needs to do is ask their teacher, a Link Leader, or one of the Link Crew coordinators (Kelly Metzler or Judy Cogan) for help finding a Link Leader to tutor them. We can usually arrange this kind of helpful relationship in a matter of a day or two! Our leaders are here to help.

From Judy Cogan
monkeygirlz@yahoo.com

Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute

The Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (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. OCM BOCES contact local school districts to recruit juniors and seniors to form the Syracuse delegation. Students will be examining state issues that impact Hispanics and members will meet State Legislation and the State Hispanic Task Force and the

State Department of Education for a mock assembly session.

This is an amazing opportunity for a couple of Junior or Senior Hispanic youths. This will be the 23rd year of the conference. For three of the past four years, students from IHS have been accepted to be delegate members. The program is completely free, and students need to apply by mid-December. If they are accepted into the program, transportation will be provided to Onondaga Community College to attend training sessions on Fridays and Saturdays, in order to be eligible to participate in the Albany trip.

For more information, please contact Marie Mauboussin at 274-2220 or mmaubous@icsd.k12.ny.us

From Marie Mauboussin,
School Social Worker

Student Clubs and Activities

Many clubs are forming at IHS! For a list, see the web site: <http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/legacy/highschool/activities/clubs.html>

If you want to form a new club, see Emily Hess for information on how to do it!

The WISE Program

Ithaca High School seniors have an opportunity, through the WISE Program, to go beyond the school's campus to explore career options, academic directions and avocational interests. This year, 75 IHS seniors are planning to spend part of their last semester in high school working with local businesses, schools, agencies, crafts people and arts organizations. Students will design individual projects with the guidance and support of mentors they have chosen from the ICSD staff.

Most of our WISE students are enrolled in English 12 WISE. This year, with a near-record number of seniors involved, we have three sections of the course.

In the IHS WISE program, now in its 14th year, students have interned in artists' studios and community organizations; worked with Cornell researchers and local elementary school teachers and children; written novels and children's books; produced plays and films, and planned and executed community service projects benefiting organizations such as Better Housing of Tompkins County, the Philanjalo Orphanage in Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa, the ICSD Fine Arts Boosters and even the WISE program itself.

There are several ways that parents and families can get involved and support the program. This fall the teachers and students in the WISE program are looking to focus on two efforts - a

community service project and a fundraiser - that will build a foundation to support the students in their second semester project work.

Student community service efforts help students make connections with adults in the Ithaca area who can serve as project resources. We are currently looking for a suitable community project for this year's group.

We plan to organize a fundraiser this fall for the program.

We are also looking for parents and community members to join the WISE Task Force, a group of teachers, parents and community members who steer the program and assist students with community connections. During the second semester, the task force is called on to assist in evaluating student progress by reading journals and attending final presentations.

Students, parents, or other community members who have suggestions or offers of help for the community service project or the fundraiser or who would like to know more about the program of the task force can contact Moira Lang, program coordinator and English teacher, by phone at 274-2187 or by email at mlang2@icsd.k12.ny.us.

Submitted by Moira Lang
mlang2@icsd.k12.ny.us

IPEI News

IPEI'S 11th Annual Adult Spelling Bee is November 15!

Participating in the Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI) 11th Annual Adult Spelling Bee is a great way to improve your spelling and vocabulary skills and have fun at the same time! The Bee is scheduled for Sunday, November 15th at 2:00 p.m. at Ithaca High School's Bliss Gym. Your community and children are sure to be dazzled by your spelling and vocabulary abilities.

Form a team with two other adults (parents and other community members are welcome) and enter the Bee.

The Tompkins Trust Company is the 2009 event sponsor and will cover all Bee expenses. Each team must also have a sponsor. All Team Sponsorships directly support the Teacher Grants Programs. Last year 28 teachers received grants totaling \$24,700 for innovative classroom projects.

The fee for being a Team Sponsor is \$375.00 and can be paid wholly by a business or single donor or can be divided by the three Spelling Bee team members

For more information on the Bee, please visit IPEI at www.ipei.org. If you would like to enter a team, please email ipei@ipei.org or call Barbara Holdsworth at 280-2411.

AVID program

The AVID Program and Site Team is in its 4th year at Ithaca High School. We now have AVID elective classes in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade. Our first cohort of seniors will graduate this year and go onto college!! AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, prepares students around the country for four-year college eligibility. It has a proven track record in bringing out the best in students, particularly those underserved in four year colleges. Our district adopted the AVID program to help close the achievement gap.

Students who participate in AVID enroll in the AVID elective class, and we encourage them to take at least one Honors or Advanced Placement (AP) course. In the AVID class, students learn organizational and study skills and improve their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, AVID students get academic help from college students in tutorials. In addition, the AVID program involves guest speakers, activities and field trips to motivate and inform students about college and career options. Students begin their college research in 9th grade, continue to build on that research each year, and work on applications for financial aid as well as admission.

How does AVID work with families?

The elective teachers monitor AVID students' attendance and grades, to ensure they get the appropriate support and

"push" they need to succeed. The AVID teacher stays with the same group of students from 9th to 12th grade, so we hope to develop strong relationships with AVID students and their families. Our first family event this year was an Open House for new AVID 9th grade families this past August.

There are 4 AVID elective teachers as well as 10 other IHS teachers that make up our AVID Site Team. This interdisciplinary team works to spread AVID practices to all classrooms at I.H.S. so many more students reap the benefits.

New AVID 9 teacher

Caline Khavarani taught mathematics and AVID in Los Angeles for the past five years. Caline feels strongly about meeting the needs of each student to the best of her ability. She realizes that students come to school from different places, with different interests, and different views about school and college. Therefore, she strives to learn about the students and help them achieve their own personal goals. Caline loves teaching and is thrilled to be joining the IHS team.

AVID Students Selected for Youth Philanthropy Group

We are happy to brag about four of our AVID students, who were selected to work with the United Way's Youth Philanthropy group this year. These students will decide how to distribute \$25,000 among community groups.

Congratulations to Xavier Bourne, Nicole Rogers, Derrick Barrett and Brenda Imo!!!!
From Colleen Ledley
CLedley@icsd.k12.ny.us

IPEI Increases \$\$ for Teacher Grant Awards

The Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI) has increased its maximum award for the Teacher Grant Program for the 2009-2010 school year from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Teacher Grants are awarded on the basis of competitive proposals submitted by ICSD classroom teachers in the fall for innovative classroom projects they wish to implement in the spring semester. Criteria for proposals include the requirement to include a community partner (in keeping with IPEI's mission of connecting school and community) and connections with applicable NYS Learning Standards.

Teacher Grant applications are available in every school's main office, the district offices, and the Ithaca Teachers Association offices. Last year 28 district teachers had their projects funded with \$24,700 allocated. The application deadline is Monday, Nov. 2. For more information, visit www.ipei.org.

From Mary Grainger,
ipei@ipei.org



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