

## Student Activities

Here in the office of Student Activities we are hard at work making IHS a place where students feel part of a wonderful community. I'm thrilled to report that we now have over 70 clubs and activities of which students can be a part! Students can get information about these clubs online by using the links below, and then by talking to the advisor. Or just show up on a meeting day! The most up-to-date list of extracurricular activities is found on the Student Activities bulletin board outside H-111 (where J and H meet, near H-Courtyard), or on the Student Activities web site. Several of these activities are also open to middle school students; see the EDGE catalog link below for a list of these options. Information on upcoming events can be found by visiting the IHS Student Activities blog (link below). Recent events (this is just a taste!):

Congratulations to the **Red Cross Club** for running a successful Blood Drive on November 30! IHS students were lined up to give blood all day!

**SWIS** held a successful and well attended 5 K road race to benefit breast cancer research.

**Speech and Debate Club** traveled to a forensics competition in Laurens, NY and did very well. Details to follow on the Student Activities blog.

Many new extracurricular activities have started this year, from **Love Knows No Bounds** to **Morning Strings**. All groups are open to any student!

The fall drama production (The Jury) was a big success; congrats to Lorraine Tino and the whole cast and crew!

IHS has started a Media Production program in which students will learn to use camera equipment, edit film, produce documentaries, and manage sound and lighting, as well as use photography to produce presentations or films.

Congratulations to the IHS **Brain Team**! The Ithaca A and Ithaca B teams took first and second place, respectively, at the Brain Busters Fall Tournament here at IHS. The team did a fabulous job organizing the tournament, then went out and won it.

Great job, IHS! For more information:

IHS Student Activities web site: [www.icsd.k12.ny.us/legacy/highschool/activities/index.html](http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/legacy/highschool/activities/index.html)

IHS Student Activities blog: <http://ihsstudentactivities.edublogs.org/>

EDGE program (all extracurricular activities): [www.icsd.k12.ny.us/3dmedia/NewICSD/EDGE/](http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/3dmedia/NewICSD/EDGE/)

Questions? Email Karl Mellander, Student Activities Director, at [kmelland@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:kmelland@icsd.k12.ny.us); or Fe Nunn, ICSD Edge Coordinator, at [anunn@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:anunn@icsd.k12.ny.us).

**Seniors turn to page 4 for important information.**

The Physical Education Department at IHS is off to a running start this year, utilizing their brand new, state of the art facilities! Students are in full swing of units in the Strength & Conditioning Room, the New Gymnasium, and the Multi-Purpose Gym. Students are enjoying new activities such as Rock Climbing, iDance, and Speedminton!

Physical Education  
Department

Here are some other great opportunities for physical activity for all of our students, offered before and after school at IHS:

- Work out hours in the Strength & Conditioning Room are from 3:45 – 4:45 PM everyday after school. Students may make up classes for Physical Education on Tuesdays after school.
- Wednesdays after school, The EDGE Program has Rock Climbing Club, 3:45 – 4:45 PM in the Multi-Purpose Gym.
- Mondays, before school at 8 AM, the Archery Club meets in the New Gymnasium.
- Fall, Winter, & Spring Sports. Let's Go Lil' Red Athletics!

The Physical Education staff includes: Mr. Joshua Chase (Department Chair), Mrs. Jane Bryant, Mr. Jeff DuMont, Ms. Jodi Maddren, Mr. Brian Stone, Mr. Eric Parker, and Ms. Jennifer Murphy. The Physical Education staff also enjoyed meeting parents and families of our students at the IHS Open House in October! What a great turn out! Students and their parents will soon be able to access information about our physical education courses, including assignments, through our new Blackboard web site.

*"Physical activity is critical to the development and maintenance of good health. The goal of physical education is to develop physically educated individuals who have the knowledge, skills and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activity."*

(Moving into the Future: National Standards for Physical Education)

### Important dates

December 24 - January 1: Winter Recess    January 21: Martin Luther King Day    February 15, 18, 19: School Recess

March 15\*: No School    March 29\* - April 5: Spring Recess

*\*If one snow day occurs school will be held 3/15. If two snow days occur school will be held on 3/29.*

## IHS Choir

On Saturday, November 10 the IHS Choir participated in the annual Ithaca College Choral Composition Festival. The choir attended a series of rehearsals, workshops, and performances which culminated in the choir's premiere performance of *Rabbit Skunk*, written by Brian W. Holmes of San Jose, California. The text was written by Jennifer Brissman as part of a fifth grade Poetry In Our Schools Project. The choir joined forces with the other high school and IC groups at the end of the evening for a joint performance of *Choose Something Like A Star*, written by Randell Thompson based on the poem by Robert Frost.

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to participate in this year's Sr. High All – County Chorus Festival which will take place on Friday and Saturday, January 18 and 19 at South Seneca High School. Matt Avery, April Carroll, Savannah Charif, Austin Cody, Noah Elman, Hannah Findling, Tyler Hallock, Wednesday Mitchell, Emma Roach, Sarah Skrovan, Michael Stern, Tommy Strawderman and Josie Waisbrot.

Congratulations also to the following choir members who were selected to participate in the New York State School Music Association Sr. High Area All – State Music Festival at Ithaca College on Friday and Saturday, February 1 and 2. Matt Avery, Savannah Charif, Austin Cody, Noah Elman, Julie Erickson, Emily Scarpulla, Emily Sharp – O'Connor and Tommy Strawderman.

In collaboration with Shawn Goodman and other high school faculty and staff, Rebecca Gergely has received a teacher grant from IPEI for the following project: "High School

Classroom Book Flood." The project is based on the book: *Readicide: How Schools Are Killing Reading and What You Can Do About It*, by Kelly Gallagher. Research suggests that increased exposure to varied high-interest books drives interest and achievement in reading. The collection of books, or "flood," will directly support a new English elective, Readers' Workshop, as well as any students who visit the classroom. Partnerships with Buffalo Street Books and community leaders will engage students and adults in conversations about books that have impacted their lives.

Thanks to a grant from the Fine Arts Booster Group, seventh and eighth period freshmen humanities classes visited the Johnson Art Museum to study African artifacts in conjunction with their reading of Chinua Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart*, set in turn-of-the-century Nigeria. Museum educator Carol Hockett facilitated four small groups that rotated among the visual storage unit, a film about the making of ritual Dogon masks, a featured exhibit, and interactive iPad activities. This wonderful opportunity enhanced students' appreciation for their studies of African nations in general and of Achebe's novel in particular.

This fall, Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition students continued the drama-in-production component of their class by attending productions of *La Bohème* at Binghamton Tri-Cities Opera, and *Legally Blonde* and *Translations* at Ithaca College. Teachers and students look forward to seeing the final plays of their theatre series, *An Enemy of the People* at Ithaca College and *Crooked* at The Kitchen Theatre, this spring.

In addition to directing IHS's production of *The Jury* this October, Ms. Lorraine Tino also oversaw the Fall Theatre Festival during the first week in December. Two student-directed one-act plays were performed in the Black Box Theatre to many appreciative audience members. Congratulations to all involved!

## English Department

## Library

--We had a National Novel Writing Month group every day (except

Friday) after school in the Library for November. The goal: 50,000 words in thirty days!

NANOWRIMO rules! We will continue NaNoWriMo activities in the future; students do it as a mass project in 7th grade at Dewitt, so it will be a nice follow through. There is script-writing in February and Nano Camp in June and August.

--After school editing and proofreading help is available every day (except Friday) after school with Ms Bell—several students have taken advantage of this.

--We have a new browsing collection gathered: Books into Film. It's a large group and great quick stop for picking a book; there truly is something for everyone. We've had fun with it, and added some old chestnuts such as *Mutiny on the Bounty* and *The Exorcist*.

--Another new collection: Multicultural books for Ms DeCicco's Multiculturalism and Film course. We added several titles, including *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, by Fadiman, *Confucius Lives Next Door*, by Reid, and in fiction, *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, by Ford.

AND: the wonderful PTSA has granted me \$200 toward Kindles for the library. We will be able to bring books to students in even more forms, and we especially like the fact that Kindles will read the text to you. Thank you, PTSA!

"Books are the carriers of civilization. Without books, history is silent, literature dumb, science crippled, thought and speculation at a standstill."

--Barbara Tuchman, *Author's League Bulletin*, 1979

Yours in the Library,  
Nan Bell

## Math Department

The math department would like to make sure students and their families are aware of math team and math help.

For those who think math is fun, the Math Team is a club that is always looking for new members. It meets on Tuesdays after school in Mr. Deppe's room, H211.

For those who would like help with math, we have after school tutoring available on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday in H112. Students can just show up; they don't need to sign up ahead. There is some before school help available in H112 as well. Also, as usual, there is walk-in homework help available during every lunch period. The list of lunchtime homework help rooms, which are staffed by math teachers, are posted around the school."

**The PLAN exam**, which is the practice ACT exam, will be administered to all 10th grade students on Friday, January 25 starting at 12:00 noon in the high school cafeteria. Students are asked to bring #2 pencils and a calculator to the exam. Students are tested in Reading, Math, Writing and Science and there is an optional Career Assessment. Students can sign up to take the PLAN exam in the College and Career Center.

**AP Exams:** All students who are enrolled in an AP course must take the AP exam in May. The cost of each exam is \$89.00. Bills will be sent out in January. Please be prompt in paying the bill, as there is a deadline to order exams. Fee waivers are available. Please contact the College and Career Office at 274-2218 if you have any questions.

To be eligible to receive accommodations, students must provide complete documentation to College Board by February 22, 2013. If you have any questions regarding accommodations, please contact Margie Shaw at 274-2167.

**Financial Aid information:** If you missed Financial Aid Night at Ithaca High School, which was held on December 5, the presenter, Barbie Bargher will be repeating the presentation on Wednesday, January 9 at 6:30 in the Tompkins County Public Library.

Since 2006, selected IHS students have participated in an equity initiative called AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. AVID is a nationwide program designed to help students achieve their academic potential and prepare for success in college. AVID focuses on students in the academic middle, who tend to be the least served. In addition, AVID targets students who may lack a college-going tradition in their family and students from backgrounds that are under-represented at four-year colleges. Their success is critical to closing the achievement gap.

## AVID

Participants enroll in the credit-bearing AVID elective class. IHS now has AVID classes in grades 9 - 12. The AVID curriculum emphasizes academic success strategies, college planning, reading and writing to learn, as well as inquiry and collaboration. AVID 12 students also complete requirements for TC3's College Success Seminar and have the option to earn college credits for the class.

So far this year, AVID students have also had unique opportunities to learn from community members, who have visited our classes as guest speakers. The following people have presented to AVID students this year, and we look forward to welcoming more community members into our AVID classes to share their expertise and inspiring stories.

- Jarett Powers, IHS Principal
- Karl Mellander, EDGE Program
- Paula Younger, Deputy County Administrator
- Cornell Students from National Minority Students for Hospitality
- Alice Green, Cornell Retiree, former Director of the EARS Program at Cornell
- Ray Kim, Arts and Sciences Admissions

During their high school experience, AVID students also participate in college visits and other field trips that enable them to build team work and leadership skills. This fall, the AVID 10 class performed a half-day of service work at the Cayuga Nature Center. In exchange, the students participated in team challenge activities and a chance to try the high ropes course. The AVID 11 and 12 students recently enjoyed a tour and admissions presentations at Ithaca College.

## Link Crew

Link Crew has been very busy supporting the freshmen since the start of the school year. In November, we hosted a wild event called *Froyo in the Foyer*. Yogurt Land gave us a good deal on frozen yogurt and toppings, so we had an old fashioned ice cream social with a new twist and in 7 minutes, we had served 200 people! It was VERY chaotic, but everyone was safe and everyone got a belly full of froyo, so they were happy! Afterwards, students were invited to go to the multipurpose room to play *Dance, Dance Revolution* and to use the climbing wall. This is the kind of thing that Link Crew is so good at – creating fun events for freshmen and providing social and academic support.

We had our annual Food Drive in December, collecting donations for ICSD families and others in the community who need our help. Coming in January, we're hosting *Cocoa and Cram*: our after school study session for freshmen where teachers and Link Leaders are on hand to help 9th graders study for midterms, other tests, complete projects and get organized for second semester.

Please let us know if your student needs anything from Link Crew. If your child is struggling with any subject, please contact us and we can find a Link Crew Leader to help!

Thanks so much!!

Judy Cogan ([jcogan@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:jcogan@icsd.k12.ny.us)) and Kelly Metzler ([kmetzler@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:kmetzler@icsd.k12.ny.us))

***IHS Word is the Ithaca High School newsletter, jointly funded by the PTSA and IHS. It serves all IHS stakeholders and is mailed with student report cards each quarter.***

### School Tool Parent Portal

Would you like to know how your child is doing in school? Use the **School Tool Parent Portal** at the ICSD website. This tool allows parents/guardians secure access to attendance and discipline records, grades, schedules etc. You only need to enroll each child once while they are in the ICSD. To request an account you must print the form, fill it out and send it to your child's school. Forms can be found at [www.icsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us) look under the **CAREGIVER** menu then choose Parent Portal/School Tool. You should receive an email when an account has been created for you. If you have any questions, please contact [schooltoolhelp@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:schooltoolhelp@icsd.k12.ny.us)

### Yearbook

The Annual Club is still selling senior ads and pre-ordered yearbooks. Senior ads are due by Friday, 12/21/12, and pre-ordered yearbooks are on sale until Monday, 1/21/13. All information regarding ads and yearbook sales was mailed home and can also be found

at: <http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/legacy/highschool/english/yearbook.htm>

### Important Information for Seniors!!!

**Seniors: Cap and Gown orders** are coming up fast! Here's how the process works:

Jostens will be in H-Courtyard to take cap and gown orders during lunch periods on Monday, January 14th. This is by far the easiest way to order your cap and gown. Information from Jostens will be mailed home and also given out in one of each student's classes sometime in late December or early January. Seniors who miss this day will be responsible for ordering from Jostens independently.

If a senior receives free and reduced lunch and would like to apply for a free cap and gown that's been passed down from last year's graduation ceremony, (s)he can come to B-3 or B-10 in Activities to fill out a simple application. The deadline to be guaranteed a free cap and gown is December 21.

If not all donated gowns are given out by December 21, the remainder will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis to any senior starting January 2.

**Scholarship yearbooks** are also available to seniors who receive free/reduced lunch. Students need to apply by Dec. 21. Applications are available in B-3 or B-10 (Activities). Students who qualify will pay \$25 for the book, which is normally \$57. Seniors only!

### PTSA Council

The IHS PTSA Council reminds parents that the ICSD School Board encourages community members to attend District Committee meetings. Meetings are held as follows:

- HR Committee - 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5 PM
- Curriculum Committee - 4th Tuesday of each month (with exceptions) at 4:30 PM
- Policy Committee - 2nd Thursday of each month at 5 PM
- Finance/Facilities Committees - Mondays preceding second Board meeting of each month (with exceptions) at 6 PM

Please visit the ICSD web site to confirm specific meeting dates.

### Ski Club Dear Parents/Guardians

If you are interested in skiing or snowboarding this year, or maybe you want to buy passes for the family? The IHS Ski Club is still offering discounted Greek Peak ski and board packages for lift tickets, season passes, and rentals. The ski club bus is filling up quickly. Furthermore, if you have any questions or you want to make sure a seat is reserved please contact Mr. Noyes at [tnoyes@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:tnoyes@icsd.k12.ny.us).

Registration for all pass options can be done at <https://register.communitypass.net/greekpeak>

The bus fee will need to be paid separately. Transportation and med forms can be picked up from Mr. Noyes in G116.

Thanks, Todd Noyes, IHS Ski Club

**For up-to-date information concerning IHS**, sign up for the PTSA listserv by sending an (empty) email to [IHSPTSA-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:IHSPTSA-subscribe@yahoo.com).  
**To share information with or ask questions of other IHS families**, join our discussion listserv by sending an (empty) email to [IHSPTSA-discuss-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:IHSPTSA-discuss-subscribe@yahoo.com).  
**IHS PTSA Website:** <http://www.ihsptsa.info/wordpress/>; **ICSD Website:** [icsd.k12.ny.us](http://icsd.k12.ny.us)