

**A Word from Mr. Powers**

With the snow still on the ground, Ithaca High is well into second semester with spring sports just around the corner. Planning for upcoming months is in full swing, as are the beginnings of what next year will bring.

The **Dignity for All Students Act** (DASA) amends Education Law to put in place procedures for the creation of school environments free of discrimination and harassment. The law went into effect July 1, 2012. Many initiatives are underway to fully implement the new procedures. The DASA Committee at Ithaca High School meets monthly and comprises the following members: Danielle Murphy, Samantha Little, Lyn Reitenbach and Liz Cohen. Members of the Committee have attended numerous trainings in order to better educate the rest of the school community. BOCES educator Amanda Verba, along with her team, provided DASA training to our hallway assistants in January. This team is available to connect with individual educators, classrooms and departments. Ms. Verba will update the initiatives she has taken to date at the PTSA meeting on Monday, February 25 as part of our program on safety.

The Ithaca City School District takes the safety, both emotional and physical, of our students very seriously. To date, the high school has completed its fire drills for the year, its inclement weather and early release drill, and has activated and conducted a post incident review of its safety plan with regard to suspicious packages. In the coming months, the high school will be conducting its lockdown drills, and will be partnering with the school district to support its efforts in improving the safety infrastructure at all district schools.

At the district level the website redesign continues with the focus on a more user-friendly interface. A committee convened and is working with a professional organization to maximize our communication effort to students, families and educators. At IHS more and more families are using the parent portal for up-to-date information on student learning. In addition, Mr. Mellander continues to update the IHS Activities Blog and website with club and event information.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff and the entire IHS Community.

Mr. Powers

IHS's first ever **Social Justice Week**, arranged by the office of Student Activities and several IHS clubs. The event will take place from **March 18 – 22** and feature outside speakers from the Dorothy Cotton Institute, Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation, Cornell Cooperative Extension, LACS, and more. In addition, several IHS students from ELL classes who have experienced human rights violations first-hand will present their stories in video form, IHS faculty members will tell amazing stories, and several IHS clubs will organize presentations and panels throughout the week. Students of all levels will discuss social justice issues in Social Studies classes.

On Friday, March 22, students and staff will encourage each other to **wear GREEN** to show support for someone in their community or the world who has been affected by the issues discussed over the course of the week (or in other ways not specifically covered).

The goals of **Social Justice Week** are:

- To **expose** all IHS students to social justice/human rights issues in the community and throughout the world
- To **give** all students the opportunity to make a difference by joining a club, donating time to a cause, or getting involved in a local event
- To **unite** socially-conscious clubs, and IHS as a whole, for a common cause

Make sure to check the IHS Student Activities website

at <http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/legacy/highschool/activities/index.html> and the new Student Activities blog at <http://ihsstudentactivities.edublogs.org> for information and club news!

**Student Activities**

**Student2Student**

We are IHS Students/Trained Peer-Listeners who:

- Lend an ear through peer-listening
- Give a voice through advocacy
- Change the school culture and climate
- Stand up to bullying

*By students. For students.*

**Peer listeners are available during all lunch periods on Mondays and Tuesdays in the HUB (D13).**

Follow: @S2S\_607

Like: facebook.com/S2S.ihs

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Student2Student.ihs@gmail.com

*"Sleep for Academic and Athletic Success: Everything you need to know about sleep, but are too tired to ask!"*

Come join us for an evening with Professor James Maas of Cornell University and Rebecca Robbins, Cornell doctoral candidate.

Turn to page 4 for more details about this PTSA-Sponsored Event which takes place on **Monday, March 11, at 8 PM in Kulp Auditorium.**

**Important dates**

March 15: School in Session/Snow Make-Up Day

March 29 - April 5: Spring Recess

May 24\* & 27: School Recess

June 11 - 20: Regents Exams

June 20: Last Day for Students

June 21: Last Day for Staff

*\*If a second snow days occur school will be held on May 24.*

## Music Notes

The Ithaca High School Music Department recently had 30 students participate in the New York State School Music Association's Zone 3 Area All-State Festival. Selection is based on scores from last spring's solo festival. IHS was very well represented in the Band, Choirs, and Orchestra. In the Symphonic Band, IHS had the highest number of selected students of the fifty-one participating schools. Bravo!

Congratulations to senior trombonist, Jeremy Poe, for being selected to participate in the 2013 National Association for Music Education All-Eastern Festival. Jeremy will travel to Hartford, CT in April to perform along with other elite musicians from along the eastern seaboard. Congratulations on this tremendous honor, Jeremy!

Join us for an evening of chamber music and jazz on Wednesday, March 13 at 7:30 PM. in Kulp Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public. Music of Bach, Copland, Ewazen, Ellington, and more!

### Upcoming events:

- Friday and Saturday, March 8 & 9: Orchestra Cabaret Nights
- Friday-Sunday, April 19-21: Ithaca High School Spring Musical
- Saturday, May 4: Ithaca High School Jazz Concert
- Friday and Saturday, May 10+11: NYSSMA solo festival
- Wednesday, May 15: Ithaca High School Spring Band Concert
- Friday-Sunday, May 17-19: Music Department travels to Washington, D.C.
- Wednesday, May 22: Ithaca High School Spring Choir Concert
- Wednesday, May 29: Ithaca High School Spring Orchestra Concert

## Physics Department

Each year, the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) and the American Institute of Physics (AIP) sponsor a competition for high school students to represent the United States at the annual International Physics Olympiad Competition. The mission of the U. S. Physics Team Program is to promote and demonstrate academic excellence through preparation for and participation in the International Physics Olympiad.

Just over 400 students nationally score high enough on the preliminary exam to be considered semi-finalists for the team.

**Jensen Lo**, currently a junior at Ithaca High School who's taking AP Physics C this year, is among this very special group of students. It is a great testament to his effort and determination. Congratulations, Jensen!

**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.**

## Library

We are happily ticking along at the Library: from online class

registration to a visit from best-selling author Deirdre Martin to Code Red after school daily, we are hopping! Mr. Joaquin Lira has joined us, after Mrs. Saulsbury's retirement, and we are happy to have him back at the High School. Ms Susanna Van Sant, Librarian at TC3, joined us to show English 102 the TC3 database and Library offerings. Ms Bell told stories for Civil War Day (February 12).

Students submitted requests for new magazines, to start next fall. We have been able to order just about all the titles: a wrestling magazine, a vegetarian cooking magazine, and some pop culture titles. Of COURSE we're not getting the requested *Playboy*...ha ha, good try.

Events coming up:

> Jane Austen Opening in March, honoring *Pride and Prejudice*, which is 200 years old.

> Our annual judged Poetry Slam comes up **April 9** (family welcome: 3:45-5 in the Library), with prizes and snacks for all.

> Author and illustrator Barry Deutsch, who has written *Hereville: How Mirka Got her Sword* and *Hereville: How Mirka Met a Meteorite*, both graphic novels, will visit in May. We're excited — he has done a great job for us before of showing how he works, develops ideas, and uses technology for drawing.

> Remember we offer Reference service after school this year: many students have been able to leap ahead on their research papers, with Librarian help!

> New titles of interest: Alice Munro's stories, Barbara Kingsolver's new novel *Flight Behavior*, graphic series *The Walking Dead*, Augusten Burroughs' *This is How*, and the continuation of a fantastic series, *Sapphique*, by Catherine Fisher. Check our online catalog (IHS Library—Catalog) to see lots more.

*"Just the knowledge that a good book is awaiting one at the end of a long day makes that day happier."*

Kathleen Norris, *Hands Full of Living* (1931)

Yours in the Library,  
Nan Bell

## Math Department

Here's what's happening in math these days: Pre-algebra has started linear graphs and Algebra is working on quadratic equations, one of the core topics of the course. Geometry is learning about transformations and coordinate geometry, and Algebra 2/Trig is doing "a whole lotta trig" including solving trig identities. Business Math is on net income and AP Statistics is on statistical inference and confidence intervals. Calculus AB is working on integrals of trig functions and Calculus BC is working on infinite series. Advanced Algebra students have been studying logarithms and those in Fractals have been finding fractional dimensions. Programming has started interrelated classes and AP Computer Science has just finished work on sorting and searching. In the three levels of Precalculus, students have been studying analytic trig, limits and derivatives, and matrices. As you see – a LOT of math is going on!

In February, more than 200 students participated in the American Math Competition (AMC). We just got the results from that event and are pleased to announce that 7 students qualified for the next level, the American Invitational Math Exam (AIME): Dekang Meng, Rex Lei, Jensen Lo, Daniel Halpern, Alexander Babiak, Ofer Grossman and Irit Huq-Kuruville.

The AMC is divided into two levels. The school winner for the AMC 10 was Gayathri Ganesan and the winner for the AMC 12 was Dekang Meng. We're proud of the winners – and of all the students who chose to challenge themselves by participating in this difficult competition.

Last but not least, the math department would like to welcome a new teacher, Gauri Kolhatkar. She is teaching both levels of Geometry, in addition to helping students in the AIS math lab.

February 11 marks the start of the sixth and last week during which more than sixty dedicated students and mentors have worked in Ithaca High School's Technology Department on one huge project: creating a 120-pound robot. This group is, of course, Ithaca High School's FIRST Robotics Team 639, Code Red Robotics. Members have worked Monday through Friday from 5 - 9 PM and on Saturdays from 9 AM - 5 PM since Saturday, January 5; a total of 168 hours. Some members work using computers, others with machines, and still others with wires, but all are working towards the final product: a fully-functional robot.

## Code Red Robotics

Code Red is just one FIRST Robotics Team out of thousands worldwide that all compete in the same challenge. FIRST is an umbrella organization that stands for "*For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology*". Each year in the beginning of January, FIRST announces a new game challenge for which teams must create a robot. The game revolves around some sort of game piece; in the past they've used basketballs, inflatable tubes, soccer balls, and more. This year, the game is called "Ultimate Ascent", and requires teams to find a way to score Frisbees into targets of varying heights. The higher the goal, the more points it is worth. Teams can also score additional points by climbing up the frame of a ten-foot tall square pyramid. The pyramid has rungs at 30, 60, and 90 inches above the ground; each rung climbed gains the team more points. All of this must be accomplished in the six-week build season.

Each team has a different way of approaching the challenge. For the past two years, Code Red has been hosted by Cornell University's Duffield Hall for Kickoff, the announcement of the year's challenge. Once the game is announced, team members break up into small groups to brainstorm ideas for a strategy they find most effective and feasible. The first week of the build season is spent brainstorming and refining designs, narrowing down ideas, and prototyping the best ones. By the end of week one, team members have decided which design to use, and jump into making working drawings and fabricating parts.

The team is broken up into several sub-teams; including Computer Aided Design, Machining, and Electronics. A part is designed on the computer, printed as a working drawing complete with measurements and instructions for fabrication, and given to a machinist to manufacture. These parts slowly start to come together, and by the end of the fourth week, something resembling a robot sits in the machine shop. The electronics board and pneumatics get mounted, and the drivers begin practicing for competition.

The team's first competition will be the Finger Lakes Regional, held at the Rochester Institute Technology from February 28 - March 2. Their next competition will be in Cleveland, Ohio from March 28 - 30. Over 40 teams attend each competition, creating a vibrant atmosphere full of excitement and energy. Teams compete in alliances of three in qualifying matches to get ranked, and then compete in tournament-style elimination matches. Rather than create an environment full of animosity towards opponents, teams help each other out and share experiences, all in the spirit of *Gracious Professionalism*. Both competitions are open to the public, and live-streaming can be found at [usfirst.org](http://usfirst.org).

Participation in FIRST and regional competitions is made possible from support from Ithaca High School, the ICSD, and the community including JCPenney, Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI), Autodesk, BAE Systems, BorgWarner Morse TEC, CBORD, Kionix, Goodrich ISR, Incodema, Cornell School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Holt Brothers Real Estate, Vector Magnetics, and VFW Post 961.

To learn more about Code Red Robotics, please visit [www.team639.org](http://www.team639.org) or email [ikrywe@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:ikrywe@icsd.k12.ny.us).

## PTSA-Sponsored Events & Information

Ithaca High School, Boynton, DeWitt and LACS are excited to present a joint PTA program on **Monday, March 11, at 8 PM in Kulp Auditorium**. The program will feature Professor James Maas of Cornell University and Rebecca Robbins, Cornell doctoral candidate, who will speak to us on the topic of:

***"Sleep for Academic and Athletic Success: Everything you need to know about sleep, but are too tired to ask!"***

Professor Maas is a leading authority on sleep and performance, Cornell professor, award-winning filmmaker, author of several books, and popular speaker for various groups.

Professor Maas has taught more than 65,000 students in his 48 years on the Cornell University faculty, in his popular Psychology 101 course. He is a well-known speaker who has spoken to companies such as IBM, Apple, Google, JP Morgan, and Pepsi, as well as to the NBA, NFL and NHL sports teams, various medical associations, and numerous colleges, universities, and high schools.

Professor Maas is also an award-winning filmmaker who has produced nine TV specials for PBS and has appeared on TV shows such as Good Morning America, CNN, Oprah, and ABC's 20/20. He has written several books about sleep, including: NY Times best seller "Power Sleep!" and "Sleep for Success!" co-authored with Rebecca Robbins. His brand new book, "Sleep to Win!" co-authored with Haley Davis, is intended to help athletes improve their performance literally overnight, and will be available at the presentation on March 11.

All are welcome at the program - middle and high school students, parents, teachers, staff and administrators, as well as community members. More details to follow soon.

**On Monday Feb 25**, we heard from Principal Jarett Powers, Amanda Verba, and Samantha Little about school safety and bullying and DASA. If you missed it, more information can be found on the front page of the IHS website: <http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/highschool/>. Watch Amanda Verba's Video on DASA!

**PTSA Council:** The PTAC met on February 12, 2013. It has agreed to sponsor a team for the IPEI Spelling Bee. In response to PTAC rep requests for clarification on math curriculum pathways in light of changes to math options, Mr. Trumble will seek input from his staff to put together an updated flowchart. Regarding the recent weather "early release", the District is working on a paradigm shift from what has been done in past years to what makes sense for any given situation at hand. In this case, it made sense to release the older children early, while keeping the younger children in school for the second bus run. This is explained in more detail in the current issue of the ICSD Insider.

***Staff Appreciation Luncheon Coming Up in May. Watch the listserv for date and how you can help.***

### Adjust your Calendars!!

An adjustment to the Ithaca City School District (ICSD) academic calendar was approved by the Board of Education at the Board of

Education Meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 2013. There was an ELA Scoring Day scheduled for Friday, April 26, 2013. However, the ELA Scoring Day has been rescheduled for Monday, April 29, 2013. Due to this calendar adjustment, all ICSD students will be expected to attend school on Friday, April 26, 2013. ICSD students in grades three through eight will not have school on Monday April 29, 2013. The updated ICSD academic calendar can be found on the ICSD website at <http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/>.

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)

### School Tool Parent Portal

**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.ihspsta.info/wordpress/>; **ICSD Website:** [icsd.k12.ny.us](http://icsd.k12.ny.us)