

June 2019

Welcome to our end of the year newsletter and Congratulations to the Class of 2019!

It has been an honor serving you as your Issaquah High PTSA, from the very beginning of the school year at our New to IHS Night through the wee hours of the morning at the Senior All-Night Grad Party.

As we share our Year in Review, we want to express our sincere gratitude to all of you who have made it possible for us to meet our mission this year. Without our engaged parent community, we couldn’t do all of the good works that we do. Please check out our complete end-of-year volunteer appreciation slides **here**.

*Pamela Krueger & Wendy Marucheck*, Co-Presidents, on behalf of Your PTSA

Our mission is to expand educational opportunities and enhance the learning and social environment at Issaquah High through programs, volunteers, advocacy, and financial support.

Over the course of the 2018-2019 school year, we relied on ***219 volunteers*** to carry out this mission --- a wealth of community resources in our wonderful IHS families.

New this year, we created a Family and Community Engagement Committee, dedicated to creating a vision for engaging families from all communities, and focusing on ways to reach parents from many cultural communities. Initial efforts have included offering some of what we do in multiple languages, like during our opening event, New to IHS Night, when we had tour guides who spoke each of the three primary languages other than English represented in our IHS population, Spanish, Korean, and Mandarin. And our “FACE” committee has brought together several parents interested in helping us connect people from their cultural communities - not only to what we do as a PTSA do but also to the larger picture of navigating life at IHS in general. Stay tuned!

Year in Review

**Just *How Does* PTSA Connect Families of Our High Schoolers?**

Let’s face it, our kids are growing up! In the high school environment, we have much less involvement than when they were younger. In addition to the work of the FACE committee, we also have a wonderful group of parents who serve as New Family Ambassadors, this year led by Rebecca Fay and Amber Zielinski. These families welcome in our new families transferring in from other districts, hosting several social events for parents throughout the year. A College & Career Center tour and Coffee with Principal Andrea McCormick were new events that parents especially enjoyed. We were also proud to have Rebecca and Amber recognized by our regional PTSA Council this year as Outstanding Advocates for our new families.



**We Love Our IHS Teachers and Staff!!!**

A big part of what we do to support our teachers and staff over the course of the year is to help keep them nourished – allowing them to focus on the important work they do. Through the coordinated efforts of long-time parent volunteers, Lida Buckner and Mary Denkenberger, we supply breakfasts at staffwide meetings almost every month and a full week of meals during Staff Appreciation Week in May. Many parents cook, bake and serve these foods, adding a dose of kindness and a pinch of gratitude into every bite of food served -- for all that our teachers and staff do to grow our students. We also reimburse them for up to $100 of supplies.

Each year, we receive award nominations from within the school community for Outstanding Educator. This year’s recipients were Barbara Irish (Choir teacher), Krista Jaffre (Vision teacher), Mary Ann Knecht (Language Arts teacher), and Andrew Shanafelt (Sales & Marketing teacher). Congratulations to these outstanding teachers and gratitude to all of our teachers and staff who are making a difference every day for our young adult learners!

Do You Know How Many Different Events & Programs IH PTSA Offers?

It kind of depends on how you count them, because of their varied scope, content, and tangibility. Let’s make this a little fun. This bingo grid contains our events and programs. Place an “X” in the box of each event or program you have attended or volunteered your time to make possible this school year and, if you achieve a vertical, horizontal, diagonal, or full bingo sheet, please submit it to [issaquahhighptsa@gmail.com](mailto:issaquahhighptsa@gmail.com) with your name. We’ll put your name in a drawing for a school spirit booster item of your choice sold at any IHS Booster Club event. Bonus points if you tell us how the event you attended and/or volunteered for had an impact on you – we just might share your thoughts on social media.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Emergency Backpacks or Power Packs | College Night hosted by the College & Career Center | New to IHS Night | Angel Program or Healthy Student Committee | Monthly Daytime General Membership Meeting |
| Senior All-Night Grad Party | Grants Committee or Senior Farewell | Senior Scholarship Committee or Senior Scholarship Award Presentation | Communications – the Many Ways we Reach for Our Families | Membership – Became a Member or Helped Membership Chair |
| Breaking Points by Parent Ed Committee & Parentwiser | Mock SAT / ACT Test Proctering | FREE | Midyear IH PTSA Financial Review or Budget Committee | Salmon Days Parking (joint program with IMS) |
| Picture Day or Textbook Checkout Day | October Evening General Membership Meeting | IHS PE 5k or ISF Honk and Wave | New Family Ambassador Social | College Planning 101 with Sally Fouché |
| Staff Breakfast or Senior Breakfast | Senior Exit Interviews hosted by the College & Career Center | Awards Committee or Awards Presentation | Community Service Honor Cord Distribution | Staff Appreciation Week |

**Sometimes the School Needs Just a Little Financial Support to Make a Big Difference**

Every year, our Grants Committee, this year masterfully led by Patti Miller, awards funds to meet needs the school is without current funding to cover. There are three grant cycles each year and funding is open to all teachers and staff via an application that describes our grant criteria. When we have to choose amongst grant applicants, we prioritize those projects that have impact on a larger number of students. This year, we funded the following projects:

Spanish Voices Online Reading Program $ 560

Floor Cushions for ASL Classes $ 368

Authors Live! Presentations & Creative Writing $1,525

Choir Piano for Music Instruction $1,500

Self-defense Focus Mitts for P.E. Classes $1,000

High Speed Dryer for Photography Class $2,210

French Magazine Subscription $ 580

Metal Storage Drawers for Woodshop Classes $1,200

**What’s Happening Behind the Scenes?**

Some of our volunteers work many hours behind the scenes, helping to improve your experiences with our PTSA in substantial ways. Our webmaster Carolyn Kennedy has done an amazing job making our site look professional and function in a user friendly way, as well as keeping it updated. Our volunteer coordinator Neelu Cordova has helped connect all of our event and program chairs to parent volunteers willing to pitch in. Our Treasurer Blyth Claeys and Assistant Treasurer Elizabeth McIntyre have tracked all of our income and expenses, keeping us alert to the many ways we can and do spend our membership and other income prudently. And our Communications Team helps get our message and information out there, every day. Hats off to Tracie Jones and Satnam Purewal!

**We Are So Proud of the Class of 2019: Some Highlights of this Year’s Class**

There is no way for us to capture all of the many ways that our IHS students shine – there are so many ways. We are highlighting here the ones that we know of because they are recipients of PTSA awards. **Isobel Grudin** was a National PTA Reflections winner and recipient of an Award of Excellence for her film production titled “One in Thirteen Million.” At the State PTA level, Mary (MeiRei) Chen won an Award of Excellence for “Underwater,” as did Max Karpman for “Our True Heroes.” And Stela Szaboova won an Award of Merit for “True Hero Shines in Bad Times.” These awards honor original works of art. Our very own **Leah Gibson** won our PTA Council Acorn Award reflecting her leadership in shepherding the Reflections Award process at our local and council level. This year’s senior scholarship winners were **Sophia Cuschieri, Drake Chong, Haley Dang, Sarah Hall, and Elodie Huston**, each of them demonstrating the unique way that their path in high school serves as a model for their peers. This year’s community service honor cord recipients, all 190 of them, representing 33% of the senior class, dedicated themselves to serving their community in a substantial way. The honor cord is a symbol of this commitment and we hope their experiences set them on a course to offer themselves to others throughout their life. And we are also very proud of **Aashika Vishwanath**, who won the State Men’s Essay Contest.

**What’s Next?**

No, it isn’t more snow. Well, maybe it is. But probably not in June. By the time you read this newsletter, you may be one of the many parents or family members watching your student walk down the aisle at graduation. As a PTSA, we are in awe of the road taken that makes it possible for each student who graduates to do so and believe it is grounded in a community of support that is comprised of many elements; friends, family, neighbors, teachers, administrators, staff. The Issaquah High PTSA is honored to have served some small role in this journey and stand beside all parents as you witness your child complete this life passage. We hope that the senior events we host: the senior breakfast community gathering, the senior farewell extravaganza of student engagement, and the exciting surprises of the parent-chaperoned all-night grad party are something that gives you and your students some time to pause and enjoy it all in the midst of this time of completion of the high school years. What’s next? We don’t know. But we’ll be here to support our IHS students, families, teachers, and staff every step of the way.

**2018-2019 Issaquah High Volunteers**

We are very grateful for all of our volunteers. Without you, we could not do all that we do. We close this newsletter with a tribute to each of you. We have made a concerted effort to include everyone who volunteered in this past school year. If we missed or misspelled your name, please write to our communications team at [ihptsacommunications@gmail.com](mailto:ihptsacommunications@gmail.com).

|  |
| --- |
| Leen Shah |
| Stephanie Shipley |
| Ron Smith |
| Sara Smith |
| Maria Magdalena Sosa |
| Mele Sosa |
| Liz St. Andre |
| Clara Strassell |
| Carol Stuckey |
| Stephanie Su |
| Susan Sullivan |
| Girija Krishna Suryadevara |
| Janani Swaminathan |
| Ann Taylor |
| Diane Torres |
| Jennifer Tucker |
| Sai Venkata |
| Kim Wilkinson |
| Gayna Williams |
| Joyce Willbrandt |
| Lina Wirtz |
| Steffeny Wood |
| Joanne Wrightson |
| Valerie Yanni |
| Caroline Yi |
| Ellen Yoon |
| Kirstin Young |
| Missy Young |
| Hannah Yukish |
| Kina Yukish |
| Jill Zehnpfennig |
| Amber Zielinski |
| Debbie Zimmerman |
| Brian Zue |

|  |
| --- |
| Amy Morse |
| Penny Moss |
| Lisa Mostafa |
| Katie Myerson |
| Jan Newberry |
| Elizabeth Nickerson |
| Lynda Nielsen |
| Cecily Novak |
| Gudrun Odendaal |
| Ray Oen |
| Casey Otley |
| Christy Otley |
| Hermann Pais |
| Michelle Palm |
| Heekyoung Park |
| Bhavna Patel |
| Jennifer Paxton |
| Vidya Persaud |
| Dawn Peschek |
| Sally Porter |
| Laurie Powazek |
| Trisha Prout |
| Sandra Puliezi |
| Satnam Purewal |
| Wendy Redding |
| Sue Richards |
| Dallas Roper-Serumgard |
| Joslyn Rucker |
| Terri Sanders |
| Joanne Sato |
| Erin Saviello |
| Maria Schaefer |
| Julie Schaller |
| Laura Schmidt |
| Sandy Schmidt |
| Dallas Serumgard |
| Michele Severt |

|  |
| --- |
| Diane Karl |
| Brian Keller |
| Carolyn Kennedy |
| Nabeela Khan |
| Marni Kilzi |
| Sun Young Kim |
| Karen Kline |
| Karla Knickerbocker |
| Darrell Ko |
| Joanna Kowalska |
| Oliver Krueger |
| Pamela Krueger |
| Yogini Kulkarni |
| Shanatanu Kumar |
| Farha Lattu |
| Hope Lee |
| Mei Lee |
| Shannon Lee |
| Jamie Limon Leycegui |
| Linda Lin |
| Cynthia Lydum |
| Janelle Lynch |
| Leslie Macinnes |
| Ami Maron |
| Elizabeth Martinez |
| Wendy Marucheck |
| Lisa McGowen |
| Elizabeth McIntyre |
| Donna McLeod |
| Carrie McMillin |
| Laura Melgard |
| Jaime Messmer |
| Nicole Miller |
| Patti Miller |
| Stephanie Mittman |
| Karissa Mobilia |
| Gloriana Morine |

|  |
| --- |
| Carmela Gellos |
| Carla Geraci |
| Paul Geraci |
| Lee Getzwich |
| Leah Gibson |
| Rod Gibson |
| Tessa Gibson |
| Danielle Graham |
| Micheal Gribble |
| Andreanne Gringas |
| Leslie Guajardo |
| Megan Haas |
| Kristina Hard |
| Julie Hart |
| Laura Hassel |
| Stephanie Hauge |
| Laura Head |
| Erika Heesacker |
| Laura Heffernan |
| Mary Heffernan |
| Melissa Hein |
| Patty Helgesen |
| Amy Higgins |
| Joel Higgins |
| Kendra Hoffman |
| Lisa Hollingsworth |
| Barb Howe |
| Delaney Huesgen |
| Su-whai Hsieh |
| Susan Huffaker |
| Julie Irwin |
| Nathalie Isensee |
| Gina Jackson |
| Ellen Jarvinen |
| Salima Jiwa |
| Phil Johns |
| Tracie Jones |

|  |
| --- |
| Carri Christianson |
| Blyth Claeys |
| Emily Claeys |
| Kellyn Claeys |
| Susie Cohen |
| Sheri Collins |
| Neelu Cordova |
| Nina Cordova |
| Jen Crew |
| Jaime Crothers |
| Wendy Cummins |
| Renuka D'Souza |
| Alyssa Darragh |
| Shana Daum |
| Kathy DeCaprio |
| Mary Denkenberger |
| Gayathri Devi Dhanakotti |
| Yu Ding |
| Eleanor Djang |
| Michael Djang |
| Amy Dukes |
| Wellington Duraes |
| Elaine Eckert |
| Dana Eller |
| Michelle Enebo |
| Beata Esterhuizen |
| Eugene Evans |
| Victoria Evans |
| Rebecca Fay |
| Sarah Fletcher |
| Teresa Fornia |
| Curt Fuehr |
| Heidi Fuhs |
| Jasper Fuhs |
| Suzi Fullmer |
| Nicole Garcia |
| Marisa Garcia-Struck |

|  |
| --- |
| Jim Adkins |
| Mary Adkins |
| Noreen Alam |
| Kristen Allen-Bentsen |
| Steve Anderson |
| Jill Angell |
| Rick Antezana |
| Tammy Antezana |
| Rajasekhar Anumula |
| Katja Bakker |
| Madeleine Balgley |
| Shalini Bansai |
| Sheila Barlow |
| Jamie Beck |
| Stephanie Beighle |
| Penelope Benis |
| Chad Bentsen |
| Jane Berry |
| Jordan Bevill |
| Greg Bishop |
| Lisa Bishop |
| Angela Bizzari |
| Yvette Blauvelt |
| Heather Bratton |
| Kristin Brennock |
| Jennifer Briody |
| Lida Buckner |
| Kelly Burch |
| Diane Burdette |
| Amy Cancelosi |
| Sara Carmichael |
| Torin Carmichael |
| Gina Caulton |
| Swarna Chilakala |
| Sylvia Chin |
| Anna Chinn |
| Alisa Chow |