



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 Maruchek, 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.

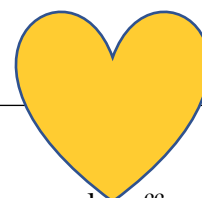
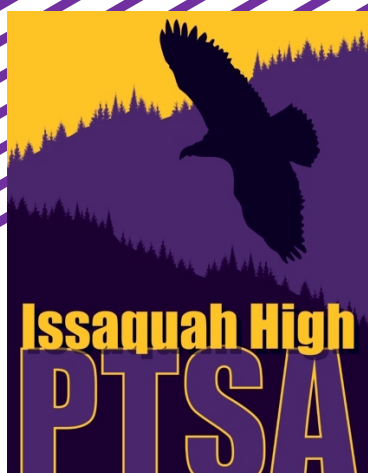
New this year, we created a Family and Community Engagement Committee, dedicated to creating a vision for engaging families from all communities, and focusing on ways to reach parents from many cultural communities. Initial efforts have included offering some of what we do in multiple languages, like 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

2018-19

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 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

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!

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

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 ihptscommunications@gmail.com.

Jim Adkins	Carri Christianson	Carmela Gellos	Diane Karl	Amy Morse	Leen Shah
Mary Adkins	Blyth Claeys	Carla Geraci	Brian Keller	Penny Moss	Stephanie Shipley
Noreen Alam	Emily Claeys	Paul Geraci	Carolyn Kennedy	Lisa Mostafa	Ron Smith
Kristen Allen-Bentser	Kellyn Claeys	Lee Getzwich	Nabeela Khan	Katie Myerson	Sara Smith
Steve Anderson	Susie Cohen	Leah Gibson	Marni Kilzi	Jan Newberry	Maria Magdalena Sosa
Jill Angell	Sheri Collins	Rod Gibson	Sun Young Kim	Elizabeth Nickerson	Mele Sosa
Rick Antezana	Neelu Cordova	Tessa Gibson	Karen Kline	Lynda Nielsen	Liz St. Andre
Tammy Antezana	Nina Cordova	Danielle Graham	Karla Knickerbocker	Cecily Novak	Clara Strassell
Rajasekhar Anumula	Jen Crew	Micheal Gribble	Darrell Ko	Gudrun Odendaal	Carol Stuckey
Katja Bakker	Jaime Crothers	Andreanne Gringas	Joanna Kowalska	Ray Oen	Stephanie Su
Madeleine Balgley	Wendy Cummins	Leslie Guajardo	Oliver Krueger	Casey Otley	Susan Sullivan
Shalini Bansai	Renuka D'Souza	Megan Haas	Pamela Krueger	Christy Otley	Girija Krishna Suryad
Sheila Barlow	Alyssa Darragh	Kristina Hard	Yogini Kulkarni	Hermann Pais	Janani Swaminathan
Jamie Beck	Shana Daum	Julie Hart	Shanatanu Kumar	Michelle Palm	Ann Taylor
Stephanie Beighle	Kathy DeCaprio	Laura Hassel	Farha Lattu	Heekyoung Park	Diane Torres
Penelope Benis	Mary Denkenberger	Stephanie Hauge	Hope Lee	Bhavna Patel	Jennifer Tucker
Chad Bentsen	Gayathri Devi Dhanakott	Laura Head	Mei Lee	Jennifer Paxton	Sai Venkata
Jane Berry	Yu Ding	Erika Heesacker	Shannon Lee	Vidya Persaud	Kim Wilkinson
Jordan Bevill	Eleanor Djang	Laura Heffernan	Jamie Limon Leycegu	Dawn Peschek	Gayna Williams
Greg Bishop	Michael Djang	Mary Heffernan	Linda Lin	Sally Porter	Joyce Willbrandt
Lisa Bishop	Amy Dukes	Melissa Hein	Cynthia Lydum	Laurie Powazek	Lina Wirtz
Angela Bizzari	Wellington Duraes	Patty Helgesen	Janelle Lynch	Trisha Prout	Steffeny Wood
Yvette Blauvelt	Elaine Eckert	Amy Higgins	Leslie Macinnes	Sandra Puliezi	Joanne Wrightson
Heather Bratton	Dana Eller	Joel Higgins	Ami Maron	Satnam Purewal	Valerie Yanni
Kristin Brennock	Michelle Enebo	Kendra Hoffman	Elizabeth Martinez	Wendy Redding	Caroline Yi
Jennifer Briody	Beata Esterhuizen	Lisa Hollingsworth	Wendy Maruchek	Sue Richards	Ellen Yoon
Lida Buckner	Eugene Evans	Barb Howe	Lisa McGowen	Dallas Roper-Serumgard	Kirstin Young
Kelly Burch	Victoria Evans	Delaney Huesgen	Elizabeth McIntyre	Joslyn Rucker	Missy Young
Diane Burdette	Rebecca Fay	Su-whai Hsieh	Donna McLeod	Terri Sanders	Hannah Yukish
Amy Cancelosi	Sarah Fletcher	Susan Huffaker	Carrie McMillin	Joanne Sato	Kina Yukish
Sara Carmichael	Teresa Fornia	Julie Irwin	Laura Melgard	Erin Saviello	Jill Zehnpfennig
Torin Carmichael	Curt Fuehr	Nathalie Isensee	Jaime Messmer	Maria Schaefer	Amber Zielinski
Gina Caulton	Heidi Fuhs	Gina Jackson	Nicole Miller	Julie Schaller	Debbie Zimmerman
Swarna Chilakala	Jasper Fuhs	Ellen Jarvinen	Patti Miller	Laura Schmidt	Brian Zue
Sylvia Chin	Suzi Fullmer	Salima Jiwa	Stephanie Mittman	Sandy Schmidt	
Anna Chinn	Nicole Garcia	Phil Johns	Karissa Mobilia	Dallas Serumgard	
Alisa Chow	Marisa Garcia-Struck	Tracie Jones	Gloriana Morine	Michele Severt	