

# Issaquah High PTSA e-news

## November 2011

In this issue....

Upcoming Meeting Date

Reflections

Bond Information

Legislation

Fundraising

Issaquah Schools Foundation

Senior Celebration

SAT/ACT Preparedness

Volunteers

National PTA Resources

Dates of Interest

### **Upcoming Meeting Date**

Please join us for our monthly board and general meetings on November 18th. We'll start at 9:00 with coffee and treats, and then begin the meeting at 9:30 sharp.

In the meantime, we encourage you to learn more about Issaquah High PTSA by visiting our website at [www.issaquahhighptsa.org](http://www.issaquahhighptsa.org). You'll find a

treasure trove of information! And, if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact us at [president@issaquahhighptsa.org](mailto:president@issaquahhighptsa.org).

## Reflections

**Please turn in your entries to the office on the morning of November 7th.** Any questions, please contact Wendy Logan and Kathleen Schneider, Reflections Chairs. Complete details about the Reflections Program, each category and entry form can be found at the Washington State PTA Reflections webpage.

## Bond Information



### Passing the Issaquah School District Bond What Does It Take?

The Issaquah School District (ISD) bond package will be on the ballot April 17, 2012. Passing this bond is all about numbers: 70% and 50%.

70% is the number of ISD residents that **do not** have students in K-12. That means only 30% of the district residents have a personal stake in passing this bond. The 70% needs to be educated and informed on why passing the bond will benefit all ISD residents.

50% of ISD parents are currently registered to vote. There are roughly 25,000 parents in the Issaquah School District, so this leaves only 12,500 that can vote on Election Day. The other 12,500 need to register to vote as soon as possible.

How can you ensure that this bond passes? Endorse the bond. Donate money to the campaign. Sign up to help with the campaign when asked. Talk to your friends and neighbors about the benefits of passing the bond, and make sure they are all registered to vote. For more information about the bond package go to [www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/bond](http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/bond). To register to vote go to: [www.kingcounty.gov/elections/registration](http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections/registration). For more information on VIS (Volunteers for Issaquah Schools – the campaign committee), to donate to the campaign, and to volunteer to help go to: [www.visvote.org](http://www.visvote.org).

## **Legislation**

Every two years, Washington State PTA chooses a legislative priority platform. We continue to support all of our legislative principles as well as National PTA's public policy agenda, but we focus on the priorities. In year two of this cycle (like this year) we consider adding priorities as "also supported" and we consider amendments. The following is our updated platform for this next legislative session.

Washington State PTA's 2011-12 legislative platform

1. Following up on reforms of 2009 and 2010 (Basic education finance/HB 2261 and education reform/SB 6696)
2. Math and science instruction
3. Literacy screening and instruction
4. Reduction in force/layoff policies
5. Fund education first in the state budget process
6. New, research-based model for teacher compensation that emphasizes rewarding teacher effectiveness in improving student learning.

Also supported (listed alphabetically):

- Achievement gaps and educational opportunities\*
- Charter schools\*
- Early learning\*
- Highly capable\*
- Improve food quality in breakfast and lunch programs
- Juvenile justice\*
- Make physical education/health a core subject
- School-zone signage\*

\*Adopted at 2011 legislative assembly

For detailed information about the 2011-12 legislative platform, please click [here](#).

## **Fundraising**

Exciting news – The fantastic parents of Issaquah High responded generously to our fall "pass the hat" campaign, and we can't thank you enough! The state budget and school building resources will be tight again, so it's very meaningful to have funding available now for grant requests. Your donations will make a visible difference at our school this year.

Issaquah High PTSA is a 501(c)(3) organization, and donations (including \$25 membership fee) are tax deductible.

And good news on Corporate Matching: Carol Jongejan is our Matching Gifts chair, and she's ready to go. If your employer participates in corporate matching, please note our Tax ID# 91-1268016 so you can maximize your gift to IH PTSA programs and grants. Contact Carol at [corporate\\_matching@issaquahhighptsa.org](mailto:corporate_matching@issaquahhighptsa.org) with any questions.

Already these parents have submitted their requests for corporate matching: Lisa and Scott Clawson, Susan Gellatly, Jakob Hansen, Partha

Sarathi Kundu, Emily Freet, and Margo Lindberg. Many thanks to them and their companies, Microsoft, Boeing and Bank of America. We look forward to notifying you when your matching gifts are received by PTSA.

### **Innisbrook**

The holidays are quickly approaching! Shop Innisbrook for your holiday gift wrap, chocolates and gifts - 80% of which is manufactured in the USA.

Forty percent of your purchase helps support the 2012 IHS Senior class events. Click on [Innisbrook](#) to shop. Thank you for your support!

### **Issaquah Schools Foundation (ISF)**



#### **All in for Kids Campaign Update**

Calling nights (& a morning) for the **All in for Kids Campaign Annual Fund Campaign** are drawing near. More than 300 high school students will take to the phones on **November 16, 17 & 19** to seek donations from District families. You can help lighten their load by visiting [www.isfdn.org](http://www.isfdn.org) to make your donation by **Friday, November 4**. Your name will be removed the calling list and added to the **All in for Kids** Thank You ad in the Issaquah Press.

To those who have already given—Thank You! If you haven't made your donation yet, now is the time. Give what you can with the knowledge that your gift will make a difference to every student in every classroom, every school.

#### **Help for High School Job Seekers**

It is a notoriously difficult time for high school students to find a job. The **Youth Job Skills Fair** is designed to help. On Saturday, November 12, job seekers ages 16 to 24 will receive step-by information on everything from conducting a job search to keeping a job once you have it. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet with a local business leader in a career field of their choice for the inside story about how to meet their career goals.

The **Youth Job Skills Fair** is produced by the **Issaquah Family Network** and sponsored in part by the Issaquah Schools Foundation. Attendance is capped at 200. For more information and to register, go to Youth Job Skills Fair.

#### **Thanks Runners!**

Teams from across the District ran and walked in the October 2 **Issaquah Rotary Run** and pushed participation to 2,560—the highest ever. Congrats to Pacific Cascade Middle School for fielding the largest ISD team (51) and to Issaquah High School for raising \$375 over and above race fees. We couldn't be prouder of our Issaquah School District community. Look for information on the amount runners helped raise for ISF in future editions.

#### **Grants Gone Live**

Online applications for **Academic Enrichment Grants** go live on **November 1**. Teachers and staff may apply for projects that reflect creativity and innovation in education and/or support school needs not currently covered by building or district budgets. Grants are

awarded in two categories: **Classroom Enrichment** for projects that cost less than \$1,000 and **Kateri Brow Big Idea/Biggest Need** for projects in the \$1,000 - \$10,000 range. Helpful hints and detailed information on the grant process will be discussed at a **November 8 Grant Workshop**. Applications are due January 12. Click Here for more information.

### **Amazon for the Holidays**

If a stop on the Amazon site is on your holiday shopping list, please use the ISF site to take you there. Visit [www.isfdn.org](http://www.isfdn.org) and click on the Amazon logo in the top left corner. You'll be taken to the Amazon site. Once there, add the link to your bookmarks. Then shop as usual and with no further effort on your part, up to 8% of your total purchase will be donated to the Foundation. Happy shopping.

### **Great Local Deals**

Don't forget to visit the Foundation's Business Partner page to find great local deals that benefit you and our schools. Elements Massage is offering a special price on massages on **November 21 and 22** and donating 15% of proceeds to the Foundation. Visit <http://www.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org/supporters/partners.htm> to view specials from each of our Business Partners.

## **Senior Celebration**

**More than 116 seniors** have already registered for Senior Celebration!! If your student is not among them, please register now! Senior Celebration is an all night party following the graduation ceremony, June 2012. Know your Grad is safe, chaperoned, well fed and having a BLAST! This is an annual event sponsored by the IH PTSA and is the last chance for the Class of 2012 to celebrate together. Grad Night tickets will be on a first come, first served basis – order yours ASAP.

It takes many hands to create this amazing event, if you would like to volunteer for fundraising, publicity, registration or as a chaperone, please let us know at [senior\\_celebration@issaquahhighptsa.org](mailto:senior_celebration@issaquahhighptsa.org). We will also be grateful for donations to our scholarship fund and/or prizes for the event.

## **SAT/ACT Preparedness**

**Last Chance for a Great Deal on SAT Prep Classes!** Sign up now for the winter (February/March) session of the SAT prep classes. These are the last classes the PTSA will offer this school year - and the early sessions are filling up fast. Each class is an opportunity to brush up on SAT test-taking skills at a great price. If you shop around you will find that the best deal for SAT prep classes is conveniently located right here at IHS.

Math is offered on Mondays (2:45 - 4:45 PM for the early session and 5:00 - 7:00 PM for the late session) and is taught by Ms. Baxter (Crain) at a cost of \$85. Verbal is offered on Thursdays (same time ranges as math) and is taught by Ms. Dean and Ms. Jarvinen. Cost is \$100 (or \$175 for both math and verbal). The cost includes The Official SAT Study Guide - 2nd Edition which is published by The College Board. Please go online for more class

information and to register. Contact Tina Weber,  
sat\_classes@issaquahhighptsa.org, if you have any questions.

**Time to Sign-up for the Mock SAT and Mock ACT Exams.** The PTSA offers Mock SAT and a Mock ACT exams. These “mock” exams are an opportunity to take a practice exam and get score results without it counting. If your student cannot come on the exam day, a take-home option is available.

Mock ACT Exam      Saturday, January 28, 2012      8am to 1pm

Mock SAT Exam      Saturday, February 4, 2012      8am to 1pm

A feedback session where the student receives test scores and information about Kaplan Testing will be held for both tests on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, from 7-8pm. Cost is \$25/exam. Register online. Please note the Mock SAT offered by the PTSA is different from the PSAT that is offered by The College Board and taken by Sophomores and Juniors at IHS in October.

## **Volunteers**

Attention parents of sophomores and juniors! Please pay it forward—we need chaperones for our 2012 all-night Senior Celebration which follows graduation. To learn more please contact Senior Celebration co-chairs Teri Reineke and Wendy Romanow at senior\_celebration@issaquahhighptsa.org

## **National PTA Resources**

**Academic achievement** has always been paramount. But, in today’s changing economy the need for advanced skills and technical knowledge is growing. Showing our children that we value learning and education is important and will pay off in the long run as they mature. When parents are involved in their children's educations, student achievement improves. Student academic achievement starts with you helping your child succeed by providing a home that encourages learning and supports your child’s physical, mental, and emotional development. Use these parent resources to help your child achieve success in school.

## **Dates of Interest**

November 11      Veterans Day—No school

November 18      IH PTSA Meeting--IHS Main Office

9:00 am      Coffee and Conversation

9:30 am      Meeting Begins

November 24, 25      Thanksgiving Holiday—No school