

Issaquah High PTSA e-news

December 2011

In this issue....

Upcoming Meeting Date

Student Directory

Membership

Volunteers

Bond Information

Legislation

Fundraising

Issaquah Schools Foundation

Senior Celebration

SAT/ACT Preparedness

Finding Kind

Dates of Interest

Upcoming Meeting Date

Please join us for our monthly board and general meetings on December 9th. We'll start at 9:00 with coffee and treats, and then begin the meeting at 9:30 sharp. As always, ASB Advisor and Teacher Representative Tim Baynes and Principal Paula Phelps will be there to answer your questions. You'll find the meeting agenda and minutes from previous meetings here.

Student Directory

Members-- keep an eye out for those awesome student directories that we have mailed. Why awesome? First, every student, parent, teacher and staff member is in there--- and you can't find that on-line! On top of that, we pulled out lots of handy information from the elusive IHS Student Handbook, like the District calendar, the attendance policy, the daily schedules, the IHS fight song (we have one?) and much more. You'll definitely want to keep it handy. If you joined PTSA this year and did not receive your directory, or if you have not yet joined but would like to do so in order to get a directory, please contact Anne Watanabe, VP of Membership. Thanks to Debbie Shiozaki and Anne Watanabe for all their efforts in producing and getting the directory out for PTSA!

In addition to student information and parent handbook information in the directory, we have also added company advertisements thanks to Grand Ridge parent, Dan Wilson. If you would like to have an ad in the directory next year, please contact the IH PTSA Co-Presidents for information.

Membership

Congratulations! IH PTSA is celebrating an all-time school record of 1,371 parent and teacher members! For any PTSA works out there, that translates into a highly respectable rate of over 75% (members-to-students). IHS benefits just from having a high number of PTSA members, so THANK YOU for joining and please know that you are having a positive impact on your student, your school and education in general. And please tell your friends to sign up too.

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.

Bond Information

Last month we gave you some stats and percentages about the upcoming Issaquah School District construction bond. This month we are giving you some more important numbers:

- About 40%—given the history of elections in the Issaquah School District, this is the percent of registered voters that are likely to vote in this special election on April 17, 2012. Broken down, that number includes only 5,374 parents.
- 60%+1—the percentage of YES votes needed to pass this bond. Per state law, this is a supermajority.

- About 13,434—the actual number of YES votes needed to actually pass the bond, based on past voter turnout. This is out of a total of 55,000 registered voters.
- About \$100,000—how much it costs the school district to run an issue on the ballot. The school district must pay King County for this special election, and if the bond does not pass on April 17, 2012 the ISD must spend another \$100,000 to have the issue put on another ballot. These dollars come from the same fund that supports classroom operations. For more information about the bond package click here. To register to vote go to: www.kingcounty.gov/elections/registration.

Legislation

On November 28, the legislature convened a special session. The State PTA will ask members to carefully review the consequences of each cut and to vet all revenue options. Rep. Ross Hunter, chairman of House Ways and Means and one of the original Basic Education Funding Task Force members, has an idea about stabilizing levies and growing a tax base for basic education (read about it here). Other legislators may also step forward with proposals. We want to hear them. We believe in making every child's potential a reality. Protecting and investing in children is the moral thing to do and it just makes sense. They depend on us, and our future depends on them. When you click on TAKE ACTION you can easily send an email to your state representatives and senators. We have a million students in our state and so far have only 1000 people have sent messages to our legislators using this link!

Fundraising

Families continue to join IH PTSA and donate to our Pass-the-Hat fundraiser, and we're grateful for these donations and the programs and materials they will support throughout the school year.

The holidays are almost here! Shop Innisbrook for a wide variety of quality holiday gift wrap, chocolates and gifts - 80% of which is manufactured in the USA. Best yet, forty percent of your purchase goes to help support 2012 IHS Senior class events. Thank you for your support!

Issaquah Schools Foundation (ISF)

All in for Kids Campaign Wrap-Up

Thank you PTSA parents! You gave the Issaquah Schools Foundation and our students the best possible holiday gift—a successful ***All in for Kids*** Annual Fund Campaign. You clicked, mailed and answered our calls to the tune of \$325,000. Because of your generosity, our students will continue to benefit

from investments that elevate the BASIC education funded by the state to the COMPREHENSIVE, 21st century education they deserve and the global marketplace demands. You have secured support for programs that reach students of all ages and abilities including, VOICE Mentoring, Academic Enrichment Grants, Free After-School Homework Labs, PSAT Testing, National Board Certification scholarships, Financial Literacy and so much more. **All in for Kids** donations will also help fund the District's upcoming Elementary Literacy Curriculum adoption—a \$1 million plus purchase that can only be completed with community assistance.

The **All in for Kids** Annual Fund was directed by two remarkable parents—Co-Chairs Camille Vaska (I.H.S, I.M.S) and Karen Stevens (Briarwood Elementary). They dedicated countless hours to this marathon campaign. Assisting them was an equally extraordinary group; Lida Buckner (Grand Ridge & PCMS), Beth Donahoe, (Briarwood, Maywood), Karen Donovan (Apollo, Liberty), Gretchen Dowling (PCMS, I.H.S) Bob Harrison (Apollo, Maywood), Vicki Hoffman (I.H.S, Briarwood), Ingrid Jarvis (Sunny Hills, Pine Lake), Neva Luke (Retired ISD teacher) , Alison Meryweather (IMS, I.H.S.), Lisa Phillips (Liberty), and Leigh Stokes (Skyline). Kudos to all!

IMPORTANT REMINDER—Pledges and matching gifts are included in the **All in for Kids** campaign total. If you pledged and/or indicated an employer match, please follow through. Respond to your pledge remit letter and fill out any required matching gift forms to ensure every one of the \$307,227 anticipated dollars can benefit our students.

Amazon.com + Holiday Shopping = More Money for Kids

Planning to stop by Amazon.com for your holiday shopping? Please remember to use the ISF website to get there. From now through December, Amazon.com will donate up to 15% of your total purchase price to the Foundation. Here's how to do it. Visit isfdn.org then click on the Amazon.com box on the top left of the page. You'll be directed to the Amazon site. Once there shop as usual. Amazon will automatically apply the donation to the Foundation. Better yet, add this link Shop Amazon for ISF to your bookmarks so you'll remember us all year long. Happy Shopping!

Searching for more great deals? Check out the Foundation's other business partners for your local shopping. There are great deals on yoga, copy and mail services, massage, storage, real estate and auto purchases. [Click Here for More Info](#)

Senior Celebration

Time is almost up to register your graduating senior for Senior Celebration. Act now if your son or daughter is not among the 170

students already registered!! All registrations and final payments are due no later than **January 12**. Don't let your senior miss out on the fun! Register now! Senior Celebration is an all night party following the graduation ceremony, June 2012. Sleep easy knowing that your Grad is safe, chaperoned, well fed and having a BLAST! This is an annual event sponsored by the IH PTSA that requires no date, no group and no special clothes! It is, however, the last chance for the Class of 2012 to celebrate together. Full or partial scholarships are available to those who would not otherwise be able to attend. Click here for more information.

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. We will also be grateful for donations to our scholarship fund and/or prizes for the event.

SAT/ACT Preparedness

Need to practice your test skills before the Spring SAT and ACT test taking season?

SAT Prep Classes

The PTSA offers classes to help your student prepare for taking the SAT. We offer both Verbal and Math classes both after school and in the evening. Math is on Mondays beginning February 6th (2:45–4:45PM for the early session and 5:00–7:00PM for the late session) and is taught by Ms. Crain. Verbal is on Thursdays beginning February 9th (same time ranges as listed above) and is taught by Ms. Dean and Ms. Jarvinen. There are 6 weeks of classes – skipping mid-winter break. Currently the early sessions of both classes are almost full, but there are at least 20 seats left for the later sessions. Students do not need to attend all days to benefit – each class is an opportunity to brush up on SAT test-taking skills. Even if your student has to miss a day or two, it is still a bargain – shop around and you will find that the best SAT prep deal is conveniently located right here at IHS! The cost for Math is \$85. The cost for Verbal is \$100. It is \$175 if you register for both classes. The textbook, *The Official SAT Study Guide – 2nd Edition* (from the College Board) is included in the cost for the class. **These are the last classes offered for this school year.** The next time we will offer these classes will be in the fall of 2012. Please go to the website for information and to register. Email Tina Weber if you have any questions.

Mock SAT and ACT Exams

We offer two Mock exams to prepare you for the spring testing season. The Mock ACT will be offered on Saturday, January 28th, (8:00am – 1:00pm) and the Mock SAT will be offered on Saturday, February 4th, (8:00am – 1:00pm). Cost is \$25/test. The tests are administered by Kaplan and are a great

opportunity to take a risk-free test before you take the real one. We will also offer take home exams for those students that can't make the test date. The score feedback session for both tests will be on Thursday, February 9th, at 7:00pm.

- Mock SAT – For those who took the PSAT in October and wonder what the difference is between the PSAT and the Mock SAT: the Mock SAT is a good practice for the real SAT because the mock test is the same length as the SAT and includes the writing section. The PSAT is a shorter exam and does not include the essay. It is often heard that the SAT is an endurance test and the mock SAT is the best way to practice for the real full-length exam. Check out the SAT question of the day at www.collegeboard.com.
- Mock ACT – Many students perform better on the ACT than on the SAT and it is worthwhile to give the ACT a try. The ACT test is different from the SAT and is said to measure better what students actually learn in school and it is also supposed to be less “tricky” than the SAT. If you want to get a sense of how you might do on the ACT, then take this risk-free mock exam and see for yourself. Check out sample problems at www.actstudent.org.

Take home exams – For those students that are not available on the mock exams dates we offer the take home option. You can take the test at your leisure and return it to Kaplan for grading. Sign-up online for the take home option. The test will be made available for pick-up in the counseling office after the mock exam date, and returned for grading.

Please go to the website for information and to register. Hard copies of the registration form will be available in January 2012 on the website and in the counselor's office. If you have questions, please email sat_act_exams@issaquahhighptsa.org.

Finding Kind

On February 1st, the documentary, *Finding Kind*, will be presented in the new IHS theater. This documentary film tells the stories of girls who have been bullied as well as those who have bullied others, as anyone can play both roles. Watch for further details in January. To find out more about the movie click [here](#).

Dates of Interest

December 9	IH PTSA Meeting--IHS Main Office
9:00 am	Coffee and Conversation
9:30 am	Meeting Begins
December 19-Jan 2	Winter Break—No school