

# Issaquah High PTSA e-news

## March 2012

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### Upcoming Meeting Date

Please join us for our monthly board and general meetings on March 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. We will also hear from the guidance counselors about the upcoming summer and 2012-13 registration process.

### IHS Auction and Fashion Show

Fashion Fans--Do you all have your March 9<sup>th</sup> Fashion Show/Auction tickets for yourselves, your girlfriends, your moms, your daughters of all ages, and other family members? It's going to be so much fun, and proceeds benefit

ASB, PTSA, and Senior Class! You'll be kicking yourself if you miss this event! Purchase your tickets online. Tickets will also be for sale at the door~ \$10, 20, and \$40 VIP seats with swag bags!

### Superintendent Coffee and Conversation

On Monday, March 5 at 5:30 p.m. at IHS, Superintendent Steve Rasmussen invites all community members to join him for a cup of coffee and informal conversation about the state of the Issaquah School District and education in general.

### Senior Celebration

Attention parents of Senior Celebrants: If you have not done so already, please visit the IH PTSA Senior Celebration webpage to download and mail in a permission form. Only students who are fully paid and with a completed form on file will be permitted to sign up for a bus.

### Senior Baccalaureate

Mark your calendars for the Class of 2012 Baccalaureate, scheduled for Saturday, June 9 at 11:00 am. This inspiring celebration is open to all seniors, their families and friends. Historically, Baccalaureate was a worship service celebrating and giving thanks for the graduates' dedication to learning and wisdom. Today, we enjoy a celebration open to all, full of music, prose and artistic performances by our seniors. This spring, your seniors will have a chance to audition to perform at Baccalaureate – music, dance and readings that will inspire their classmates and families. Start thinking about how you can encourage your senior to participate. We would love a wide variety of students and talent to make the service rich with meaning.

### Issaquah Special Needs Group meeting

When: March 13, 2012 (Tuesday) from 7 pm -9pm

Topic: Autism

Speaker: Natalie Brodeur, ISD autism specialist

Place: Clark Elementary Library

Cost: free

For more information, please contact Sandi Lum, IH PTSA Special Services Liaison.

### IHS Special Olympics

The IHS Special Olympics basketball team lost at regionals and so we will not be going on to state finals this year. We thank IHS, IH PTSA, and the IH community for their support and enthusiasm this season! The home game on 2/6 was unreal! IHS Special Olympics track and field team will start

training mid- March. For more information, please contact Sandi Lum, IH PTSA Special Services Liaison.

### Bond Information

Have you ever wondered how school bonds work exactly? Sometimes when our school district comes to us asking for a bond, we are confused by the process. We have a lot of questions about where the money is going to go, and what exactly our kids get out of us choosing to “Vote yes for schools.”

A bond is kind of like a mortgage which is paid back over time. When we vote “yes” on a bond what happens is that our schools are given money from property owners using a mathematical formula in order to pay for building related costs for schools in our district. The money goes to updating buildings which are in disrepair, modernizing buildings for energy efficiency, putting in turf sports fields and tracks which need little maintenance and don’t need replacement for over a decade. This can save a school district millions. Bonds keep money in the classroom. Without bonds, these building related costs have to be completed anyway. For instance, if a school’s roof is caving in, or heating system breaks, the cost has to be taken from somewhere, which is classroom funding—including teachers.

Bonds are put forth by school districts, although school districts are not allowed to campaign for the bonds (that’s why the grassroots, non-profit Volunteers for Issaquah Schools organization exists).

Currently, the Issaquah School District is putting a bond before voters on **April 17, 2012**. This bond will rebuild some schools, provide critical maintenance and repairs, update many buildings for energy efficiency, and more. This includes replacing portables and increasing safety for children through building design.

*What does a bond mean for property owners?*

For the current bond in place taxpayers pay more than the proposed **8 year bond** on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The April 17<sup>th</sup> bond for school building and updates will essentially lower property taxes for a \$500,000 home by about \$200.00. The retiring bond cost a property owner \$4.85 per \$1,000 of *assessed* property value. The new bond will cost a property owner \$4.05 per \$1,000.

*What happens if the bond does not pass?*

Bonds are expensive for organizations to put forward. It usually runs about \$100,000 just for the school district to get King County Elections to put the

bond on the ballot. If the bond fails, it will be run again. Bonds require a super-majority of voters which is 60%+1.

If you would like more information on the Issaquah School district click [here](#) for information about the bond. Click [here](#) to register to vote.

### [Issaquah Schools Foundation \(ISF\)](#)

#### **Community Conversations: Part Deux**

Save the evening of **Thursday, April 5** for the next film in the ISF/IEA/PTSA/ISD sponsored **Community Conversations** series—American Teacher. The documentary tells the story of the challenges facing teachers every day from the perspective of teachers, administrators and policy wonks. The FREE screening is followed by a moderated panel discussion. Reservations are not required but seating is limited. We hope to see you there.



#### **American Teacher**

**Thursday, April 5 at Issaquah High School**  
**Doors open at 6:00. Film begins at 6:30.**

#### **The Countdown Continues**

March 1 marks 70 days to the **Nourish Every Mind** Benefit Luncheon. If you want to become part of the team that ensures the event's success, please join us as a Table Captain. Cathia Geller, our intrepid Table Captain Chair, can tell you everything you need to know about Table Captain duties and our March 22 Table Captain Kick-Off.



## **Is Your Car Properly Attired?**

New ISF decals were mailed with year-end tax letters. Is your car sporting the latest fashion?

## **Donor Dollars at Work**

What happens when a student attends school hungry and/or lacking supplies? Her ability to concentrate and learn is compromised. Donors are helping the Foundation solve this problem via a newly formed Basic Needs Committee. The Committee is working to ensure all students have access to the necessities that make learning possible, namely food and medical care. Current committee projects include providing Friday lunches for Tiger Mountain High School students, conducting a needs assessment at the four Title I elementary schools and exploring the feasibility of local dentists providing free dental care. We are grateful for the support of our donors who make possible this and other critical investments in our students and schools.

## **Alumni Outreach**

We're still looking for ISD grads who are passionate about education for our Alumni Committee. Contact Jay Kipp for more information.

## Dates of Interest

March 5	Superintendent Coffee and Conversation—IHS
March 9	IH PTSA Meeting--IHS Main Office
9:00 am	Coffee and Conversation
9:30 am	Meeting Begins
March 9	IHS Auction and Fashion Show
6:00 pm	Silent Auction begins
7:30 pm	Live Auction and Fashion Show begins
March 13-15	HSPE testing