

# Issaquah High PTSA

*"Soaring to New Heights"*

October 2010 e-News

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**Co-Presidents' Letter/Upcoming Meeting Date**

## **Community is Key**

The school year is off to a great start! While we marvel each day at our amazing new campus, teachers, and students, we are gratified to see great traditions still remain. Among our most important traditions here at IHS is a strong sense of community, and the Issaquah High PTSA is working hard to keep that connection, even with all the growth and change.

An obvious way to get connected is to get involved with the PTSA. Make sure you've joined, and make a point to attend our monthly meetings. They provide a great opportunity to get to know other parents and to hear directly

from our principal, Paula Phelps, about what's happening at school. Our next meeting is **Friday, October 15 in the Main Office Conference Room. Coffee time starts at 9am, and the meeting starts at 9:30, sharp.** We hope to see you there.

Another way to connect is to support our students and teachers through giving, both in terms of resources and time. PTSA can only fulfill its commitments to the IHS community with your help. If you haven't yet donated to [Pass the Hat](#) or signed up to [volunteer](#), please do!

We know some of you just can't join us during the day for meetings or to volunteer. That's why we are scheduling several informal, no-host evening and weekend gatherings in the coming months with the hopes you'll stop by to meet us, ask questions, and share your ideas. From meeting at the Back of Bella Deli to joining together for the Salmon Run, we're looking for ways to increase your options to get involved. Keep an eye on this monthly newsletter and our other e-mails for future events.

Most importantly, please stay in touch! We are eager to hear your suggestions and comments. Contact us anytime. We're here for you. After all, that's what a community like ours is all about!

[Karin Allen and Lisa Gaan, Co-Presidents](#)

## Membership

Thank you for joining Issaquah High PTSA – we are currently at 998 members. This is 54% of our goal - our goal is 100% or 1850 members – one membership for each student. How can you help achieve this goal?

- If you are signed up as an individual but there is another adult in your household, you can add them as a member for \$9. Just mail a check for \$9 with a note indicating the new member's name to IH PTSA, P.O. Box 2541, Issaquah, WA 98027.
- If you are already signed up as a family, encourage IHS Supporters such as grandma and grandpa, alumni, or whoever enjoys IHS sports, concerts or activities to sign up for only \$10 at the Issaquah High PTSA [Registration webpage](#), and sign-up today!

For more information on membership, please contact [Karen Knitter, VP of Membership](#).

## Fundraising

### [Pass the Hat](#)

Each year, Issaquah High teachers ask the PTSA for funding that helps them provide the best in educational resources for our students. *Rather than running multiple fundraisers, **PTSA depends on Pass the Hat dollars to provide funding for teacher and program requests.***

The PTSA funds direct academic support through program grants. In the last two years, Pass the Hat dollars helped fund the specialized curriculum required for AP Biology, *IT* Magazine – Issaquah High’s own monthly journalistic publication, and the histology slides and wood samples needed for Advanced Biology. Your donations bought the Kurweil 300 system, a text-to-speech program, to help improve reading abilities and comprehension for delayed readers. The money generated by Pass the Hat paid for PTSA sponsored programs like the Mock Crash and Think Again, opportunities designed to keep your students safe and away from the effects of alcohol and drugs. These are only a few of the dozens of projects funded by Pass the Hat dollars.

*NONE OF THESE PROGRAMS WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF ISSAQUAH HIGH FAMILIES.*

Please consider making a generous donation to Pass the Hat. With your support, PTSA can continue to help our teachers help our students!

## SAT/ACT Readiness Program

### ***SAT Prep Classes***

It's not too late to join the Fall SAT Prep Classes that began the week of September 20, 2010.

Math is offered on Mondays (2:45 - 4:45 pm early session and 5:00 - 7:00 pm late session) and Verbal on Thursdays (2:45 - 4:45 pm early session and 5:00 - 7:00 pm late session).

The classes go through the end of October so there is plenty of opportunity

to brush up on SAT skills.

The math classes are taught by Ms. Crain; Ms. Dean and Ms. Jarvinen teach the verbal class. Even starting late, I don't believe that you will find more economical SAT Prep classes offered anywhere else and these are conveniently offered right here at school. Cost is \$85 for math, \$100 for verbal and \$160 for both classes. The textbook is the Collegeboard SAT prep book. The next opportunity to take these classes offered at Issaquah HS will be Winter 2011. You can register [online](#) now for either the fall classes in progress or the winter classes.

### ***Time to Sign-up For the Mock SAT and Mock ACT Exams:***

The PTSA offers a Mock SAT and a Mock ACT exam. 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 SAT Exam: Saturday, February 5, 2011; 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Mock ACT Exam: Saturday, January 29, 2011; 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

A feedback session where students receive their scores and information from Kaplan Testing will be held for both tests on Thursday, Feb. 10th; 7:00-8:00 P.M. Cost is \$25/exam. Register [online](#).

Please note: The Mock SAT offered by the PTSA is different than the PSAT that is offered by The College Board and taken by Sophomores and Juniors at IHS in October. For questions, contact [Tina Weber](#).

### **Reflections Art Program**

The Reflections Art Program is a National PTA program. Students have the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition in any of six areas: dance choreography, film/video, literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts (which include art forms such as drawing, painting, print making, and collage.)

The theme for the 2010-2011 school year is ***"Together We Can"***

Entries submitted to our local PTSA are judged with some selected pieces going on to District and National levels. The deadline for entries is November 8th. Please pick up an entry form and rules in the office.

Any questions, please contact [Kathleen Schneider, Reflections Chair](#).

Complete details about the Reflections Program, each category, and entry form can be found at the [Washington State PTA web site](#).

## News for Seniors

**Senior Celebration** is an all night party the night of graduation, June 2011. 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 2011 to celebrate together. Sign up now! Grad Night tickets (\$160) will be on a first come, first served basis – order yours ASAP! \$80 down payment secures your spot – balance due 1/31/11. Register online at the [IH PTSA Senior Celebration webpage](#). If you are unable to purchase a ticket, scholarships may be available.

**Please support our Class of 2011 Scholarship Fund** by buying Sally Foster gift-wrap, gifts and candy! Please share this information with friends and family: shop online at [www.sallyfoster.com](http://www.sallyfoster.com). Be sure to enter our group number 932129 and 40% of your purchase price will be credited to the Issaquah High School Class of 2011!

## Parent Education

### **KEEPING KIDS SAFE IN A DIGITAL WORLD “You don’t know what you don’t know”**

For those interested, there is a series of presentations being offered locally at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, 3030 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue WA 425-822-7907. These seminars are being offered free of charge to anyone in the community (donations will be accepted):

**October 10, 4:00-5:30 pm**

**Internet Safety:** learn about cyber bullying, social networking sites, the reality of teens as targets, and internet safety tips.

Presenter: Stefanie Thomas, Victim Advocate, Seattle Police Department – Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

**October 17, 4:00-5:30 pm**

**Parenting In The Digital World: Keeping Your Kids Safe:** What guidance should you give your children around their use of digital media? How do you talk to them in a way that doesn't lead to power struggles? Presenter: Kathy Slattengren, M.Ed., an internationally recognized parenting educator and founder of Priceless Parenting.

**October 24, 4:00-5:30 pm**

**Wisdom From Experience, What Works and What Doesn't:** A panel discussion with parents and kids who have been through challenging experiences in the digital world. Learn from them, ask questions and share your stories.

Facilitators: Kathy Slattengren, founder of Priceless Parenting and Heather Erickson, counselor at Newport High School

For more information about other Parent Ed Seminars, go to:

<http://www.issaquahptsa.org/parented/>

**Seeking your input:** We are in the process of putting together our Parent Education plan to serve Issaquah High. If you have ideas of topics you would like to see covered, please email [Andrea Gordon, Parent Education Chair](#).

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***A message from the Sammamish Plateau Parent Networking Group....***

Every family has its problems....some are worse than others, and yet no family is completely problem-free. But do you ever wonder if you are the only family dealing with a particularly challenging teen? Do you wonder if the problems you are facing with your child are affecting the rest of your family? Are problems between you and your spouse having an impact on your kids? Do you ever feel that yours is the only family going through these difficulties? Would you like to know that there are others who are facing similar issues with whom you could identify? Better yet, would you like to explore solutions and find a way to create a healthy and whole family?

The Sammamish Plateau Parent Networking Group is all about helping parents find and implement solutions and strategies for equipping their kids to become successful and responsible adults in a sometimes scary and challenging world that is vastly different from the one we grew up in... We

are about creating whole and healthy kids and families, so please join us!  
**The free meetings will be held at the Sahalee Fire Station on 228th Ave. NE, across from the Deerfield Sports Field:**  
**Monday, October 18, at both 11:30 am - 1:30 pm and 7:00 - 9:00 pm**  
**Monday, November 15, at both 11:30 am - 1:30 pm and 7:00 - 9:00 pm**  
**Monday, December 13, at both 11:30 am - 1:30 pm and 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

For more information contact Cherry O'Neill at 206-550-3809 or at dwo-mci@msn.com.

## Special Services

**The Issaquah Special Needs Group** will meet the second Tuesday of the month in October, November, January, February, March, April and May. **The first meeting will be Tuesday October 12, 7:00 pm in the Clark Elementary Library.**

A list of potential topics for this school year include:

- Special Needs Trust
- Autism and ADHD in the Issaquah School District
- Nutrition
- Advocacy
- Panel Discussion with parents of adult special needs children – “If I Knew Then What I Know Now”

To suggest other topics of discussion, ask questions, or be included on an email list, Contact Roseann Popa at order2popa@comcast.net. More information can be found under “Parent Ed” on the [Issaquah PTSA Council web site](#).

## Issaquah Schools Foundation

### Did you see it?

**Calling for Kids** letters and remit forms should reach your mailbox early this month. Look for the smiling faces on the bright yellow envelope then open, read carefully and reply. Your response, received before October 25, will allow the Foundation to allocate more of your dollars to student-centered programs and less to administrative costs (including the care and feeding of our hungry student callers). “Our goal this year is to raise \$300,000,” says

campaign co-chair Deborah Parsons. "We would love to secure 75% of this amount before the calling begins. Many donors find it convenient to give online or to send in their remit form in advance rather than having to worry about missing our students' calls."

You can do your part to help the Foundation reach its goals by going to [www.isfdn.org](http://www.isfdn.org) to learn more about the **Calling for Kids** Annual Fund campaign and to make your donation today. **Remember...** the Foundation wants to recognize your school community's support. Be sure to fill in the name of your student(s)' schools on your printed or online donation form.

### **Welcome PTSA/ISF Representatives**

The Foundation is pleased to welcome the 2010-2011 class of PTSA/ISF Representatives. These dedicated volunteers spread the word about Foundation programs and activities throughout the school year. They are the enthusiastic ladies you'll find making presentations at PTSA meetings, hanging **Calling for Kids** posters in your school, encouraging teachers to apply for Academic Enrichment Grants and securing attendees for the annual **Nourish Every Mind** Luncheon. They are also your source for questions and information about the Foundation. Please join us in giving these dedicated ladies a round of applause. [Click here](#) to find the name of your PTSA/ISF Representative.

### **The Chemistry Curriculum is Here**

Donors, you did it. Thanks to your generous contributions, the Foundation was able to make a \$120,000 grant to the District. This year's chemistry students are using new books and cutting-edge equipment. Bravo to you!

## **ASB Report**

### **Homecoming 2010**

## *Wish Upon a Star...*

### **Friday, October 8**

Homecoming Kick-off Video

### **Monday, October 11**

Dress-up: Magic: capes, Harry Potter, top hats

Evening Event: Magic Performance and Acrobats? @ 7:00 pm at IHS

## **Tuesday, October 12**

Dress-up: Knights & Maidens: dresses, shields, crowns, aluminum foil  
Senior Class Meeting and Picture during 3<sup>rd</sup> period  
Evening Event: Adventure Knight & Ice Cream Social @ 7:00 pm at IHS

## **Wednesday, October 13**

Dress-up: When I Grow Up: What do you wish to be someday...  
Evening Event: Community Service Project @ 5:00 pm at IHS

## **Thursday, October 14**

Dress-up: Bright Stars: bright colors, neon, sparkly  
Evening Event: Lip Sync @ 7:00 pm at IHS

## **Friday, October 15**

Dress-up: Shining Purple and Gold  
Royalty Assembly  
Evening Event: Tailgate @ 5:00 pm and Game @ 7:00 pm

## **Saturday, October 16**

*Wish Upon a Star* Dance from 8:30 – 11:00 pm at the Issaquah High School Commons – Semi formal, no date necessary!

## **Your PTSA at Work**

Our heartfelt thanks to all the students and parents who took time out of their busy summers to work alongside staff in preparation for the new school year. Volunteers filled library shelves, organized science rooms, and assembled step stools--a great effort by all! If your student needs a letter acknowledging their volunteer hours, please e-mail [Lisa Gaan](#)

Also, big thanks to the volunteers who helped with Picture Day, forms collection, and textbook checkout. These great volunteers helped expedite the process of distributing textbooks and ID cards to all of our students.

Another valuable service, organized by PTSA's **Blythe Meigs** and **Tina Weber**, is SAT/ACT Testing Preparation classes (Fall session already underway) and the Mock SAT, of which the first of the school year was administered last month.

**Jody Mull** and **Betsy Cohen** will be the IH PTSA delegates to this year's Legislative Assembly, October 8-9. They will carry with them the results of a recent survey regarding legislative issues that our local PTSA members have

recently taken.

The Reflections Program, chaired by **Kathleen Schneider**, is gearing up, with entries due in early November. Other volunteers, organized by **Teanna Miller**, are pitching in to provide food items for monthly Staff Meetings. And the Senior Celebration committee, with **Ana Stern** at the helm, is already in the planning stages for the All-night Party the evening of graduation!

***Thanks so much to all of our wonderful committee chairs and volunteers!***

### **Dates of Interest**

October 8-9	Washington State PTA Legislative Assembly
October 15	IH PTSA Meeting
October 16	Homecoming Dance
October 19	PTA and the Law

*Complete calendar of events can be found at [issaquahhighptsa.org](http://issaquahhighptsa.org)*

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