

The Hawk

February
2013

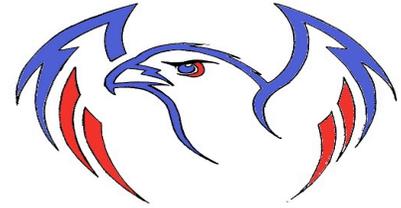
Innovation Academy Charter School

Dear IACS Families:

We are happy to announce that construction will be starting soon on our new classroom building. The fifth and sixth grade will move to the new classroom building at the start of the 2013-2014 school year. This will open up space in the existing building for the expanding high school program. Renovations in our current building will begin this summer, including expansion of our existing cafeteria. We hope you join in our excitement to see these great new spaces to support learning taking shape.

This progress will come with some short-term growing pains, which will be felt starting immediately upon returning from the February Break (Monday, 2/25) and lasting through to the end of the school year. To facilitate a smooth construction process, we will enclose a substantial area, which will include a portion of our middle school parking lots. Please look for a mailing later this month that includes more detailed information about new drop off and pick up procedures, including a map. Given the strain on parking and lot space that we will face, it will be important to consolidate wherever possible. If you are not carpooling already, please seek out opportunities. Please contact the main office if you need a copy of the carpool list. Thank you in advance for your flexibility this spring through this temporary disruption.

Best,
Melissa Kapeckas, Middle School Principal
Greg Orpen, High School Principal



All School Reminders

2/4: IACS Board Meeting 6:30-8:30pm
2/6: Early Release 12:25pm
2/8: IACA Defy Winter Social 6:30-8:30pm
2/12 IACA Meeting 6:30-8:30pm
2/13: Early Release 12:25pm
2/13: IACA Roller Kingdom 1-3pm
2/18 -2/22: February Break
2/27: Early Release 12:25pm-ILP
Conferences (MS & HS)
2/27 IACA Movie Event 1-3pm
2/27: Music Department Fundraising
Department

It's that time of year again!

Admissions at IACS are done by a lottery system and our first lottery for the 2013-14 school year will be held on March 1st at 4pm. Openings are limited by so please get your application in for siblings by the application deadline for our first lottery, which is February 28th at noon. All applications received after the deadline will be entered into our next lottery which will be held in June. Applications can be found on our website under the admissions tab.
www.innovationcharter.org

Teens for Jeans Drive:

Did you know that when they were interviewed, the number one thing homeless kids asked for from shelters was a pair of jeans?

My name is Cam Jacobs and I am a sophomore at IACS. In conjunction with dosomething.org, a non profit organization, and their "Teens for Jeans" program, I am trying to get as many lightly used jeans as possible and then get them donated to homeless shelters in or around our community. **Between now and February 8th, there will be a Jeans for Teens receptacle in the hallway connecting the middle school and high school.** So, if your students have any lightly used, clean jeans that you/they would like to donate to a great cause (they can be any brand or size) please make sure and tell them to bring their jeans into school and put them in the Teens for Jeans container by February 8th. On the afternoon of the 8th, I will be taking the jeans to Aeropostale, which is the official donation site. Aeropostale is offering a 25% off coupon for every pair of jeans donated, so I will pick those up when I deliver the jeans. If your student has donated jeans and would like a coupon, please tell them to come see me the following week and I will give them one.

For your information, the primary causes of homelessness for teens are: family conflict or severe economic hardship. One out of every three people living on the streets is under 18 and 1.6 to 1.7 million people under 18 will experience homelessness every year. Please step up and help a homeless kid get a pair of jeans you no longer need. For more information on Teens for Jeans, visit www.dosomething.org Thank you!

Middle School Updates

Learning Spotlight:

By Gayle Nutile Pimm

Throughout the first semester, the eighth grade health curriculum has centered on bullying, harassment, stereotypes and prejudice. Eighth graders have participated in thoughtful discussions regarding the impact of bullying on whole school communities, not just the people directly involved, and ways that anyone can be part of the solution. We have highlighted the important role that bystanders play in ending bullying and the incredible power they have to make a positive difference. The differences and similarities between cyber bullying and face to face bullying were also explored. We learned collectively that bystanders are less likely to get involved in cyber bullying and recognized how that creates more of a problem in ending it. Throughout our discussions, most eighth graders expressed that cyber bullying is more prevalent a problem at IACS than face to face bullying; something for all of us to keep in mind, families and staff included.

We explored how labeling and grouping students (i.e. the smart kids, the jocks) can lead to stereotypes and prejudice and can ultimately add to bullying and violence. Families are encouraged to ask your 8th grade students about the film clip called "the blue-eyed vs. brown eyed students". This clip was filmed in 1970 and shows how a third grade teacher went to great lengths to illustrate to her students how labeling people can indeed lead to stereotypes, prejudice and hurtful discrimination. It was amazing to watch our students' reaction to this clip. It has been great working with the 8th graders. I learn so much from them! I applaud their openness and willingness to discuss these issues. As 8th grade health comes to an end, students will be bringing home their Health folders which are chock full of information, and completed work. I encourage you to look through their work and to continue these discussions at home. This week I will begin working with the 7th graders. The topics discussed in 7th grade health will be the same as those mentioned above. The next Health Class Curriculum spotlight will focus on the Drugs, Tobacco and Alcohol unit.

Things to Remember:

Quality Night for Grades 5 and 7 has been rescheduled to Tuesday, 3/12 from 5:45- 7:00 PM. Attendance is mandatory for all 5th and 7th graders as a promotion requirement as students get important practice in formal presentation as well as feedback, leading up to their 6th and 8th grade jury presentation. Please mark your calendars.

Spring ILPs are on the way! Stay tuned for more information about signing up for a conference to look back with your child at their learning goals. Conferences will take place on early releases February 27th, March 27th, and April 5th (middle school only). One of our school's accountability goals is to achieve 90% or higher participation at ILP conferences from families. ILP conferences are an important way that students reflect upon their learning and set goals with feedback from their family and teachers.

Sixth and eighth grade students will soon begin preparing for their spring gateway jury presentation. During this time, sixth and eighth graders present their portfolios to a team of assessors in a jury presentation. Sixth grade juries participate in a 20 minute jury presentation. Eighth graders participate in a 30 minute jury presentation. The team of assessors is typically made up of two adults including a middle school administrator or curriculum coordinator and an outside community member (an IACS parent or otherwise). A younger peer also attends to learn about the process and provide additional support. Students share pieces of work and provide evidence of why they believe they are ready to be promoted to the next grade. Following the jury presentation, students receive feedback from the assessing administrator, including a final jury grade. Successful completion of a jury presentation is a promotion requirement for sixth and eighth graders. Students will receive their assigned dates/times for juries next week. Note that some juries will be scheduled directly after school. Please mark your calendars and make arrangements for transportation for your child. A copy of the jury packet will also be included in with Quarter 2 assessment documents. **We will need many community members to volunteer as a member of a jury panel.** If you can give an hour or more during the school day this spring, please contact Paula Girouard at girouardpaula@comcast.net or stop by the main office. Please also spread the word to grandparents, prospective families, or other community members as this is also a wonderful way to learn more about our middle school program.

More things to remember:

Grade 7 & 8 Social Studies Students Field Trip

On Friday, February 8, Social Studies students from home bases O'Connor, Brinker, Parks and Winfrey will be going to the Higgins Armory Museum and the Worcester Art Museum. Please send in \$20 in cash or a check made out to IACS and the permission slip by February 1, 2013. We do need chaperones! If you do not already have a CORI form on file, please complete one as soon as possible. **Buses must leave at 8 am, so students must be at school on time in order to go.** We will take attendance on the bus. Students will need to bring a bag lunch and snack for the trip. They will not need to bring any money on the field trip.

Middle School Information Session for prospective families; please help us spread the word. If you have a neighbor or friend that is interested in IACS, we are hosting an information session in advance of the March lottery about the middle school for prospective families on Wednesday, 2/13 from 6 - 8 PM.

Lost and Found will be on display in the library. All unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity on February 15th, at the start of February vacation.

Quarter 2 Assessments will go home with students on Friday, February 8th. Please return the empty, signed envelope for reuse during Quarter 3.

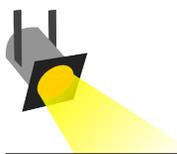
Congratulations are in order!

Eighth grader Spencer Royston won a GOLD KEY award for his writing in the Boston Globe Scholastic Art and Writing Contest. Eighth grader Edith Collins was awarded a SILVER KEY award. Alexandra Dunn received an Honorable Mention for her artwork. Well-done!

The Yearbook Committee would like to announce the three winners of the Cover Competition: Edith Collins, Terry Donnelly and Caitlin Pichette. "Growth" will be on the front cover, "The Outcomes" will be on the back cover and the last one will be used for a Special Dedication Page on the inside. These three students will receive complimentary yearbooks. There were two runners-up who will have their artwork used inside the yearbook somewhere: *Alyssa Stryker and Emily Lyons*. Congratulations to the winners! There was a lot of excellent artwork submitted.

Athletics: With less than a month left of our winter season, our athletes are having fun and would love to see your support at some upcoming games! Check out the Athletics Calendar or the Athletics Home Page for game times and locations. The Spring season is fast approaching! Students were sent home with registration packets for Spring sports last week. A copy of the forms & a complete listing of Spring sports can be found on the Athletics Home Page. All registrations must be completed prior to season start. <https://sites.google.com/a/innovationcharter.org/iacssite/current-students-and-families/athletics>

High School Updates



Learning Spotlight:

The new semester in the high school means new English classes for students. Second semester brought all new courses, with options covering a broad range of time periods, subjects and interest, from 21st century literature to Shakespeare, gender and literature to poets of the Merrimack valley, and from real world writing to poetry.

9th and 10th graders have kicked off their study of Shakespeare by diving into Hamlet. Students have started to get inside the text by getting up on their feet and acting in class, by watching film adaptations, and of course by reading.

Parent Volunteers Wanted to Help With Prom:

Looking for parents to come and help out with prom. We will be needing help with decorations, themes, prices, venue ideas etc.

In particular, we are starting to look at locations and it would be nice to have some parents come with us to tour places and help negotiate prices. Parents interested in helping out or touring locations can contact Ms. Morocco.

Smorocco@innovationcharter.org Thank you.



College Corner

- ❖ 11th Grade College Questionnaires are Due by 2/8 (parent and student questionnaires can be emailed or put in my mailbox)
- ❖ FAFSA should be completed by ALL 12th grade families in January.
- ❖ Revolution SAT Prep Final Payment is due by Monday, 2/11 (\$250 check made payable to IACS)
- ❖ 11th Grade Family College Meetings begin on 2/4 Please email Mr. Barr at Dbarr@innovationcharter.org for any questions.

Athletics:

With less than a month left of our winter season, our athletes are having fun and would love to see your support at some upcoming games! Check out the Athletics Calendar or the Athletics Home Page for game times and locations.

The Spring season is fast approaching! Please go to the Athletics Home Page to connect to FamilyID to register for Spring sports. All registrations must be completed prior to season start and through FamilyID. A list of current Spring sports are also available on the website and at FamilyID.

<https://sites.google.com/a/innovationcharter.org/iacssite/current-students-and-families/athletics>

Go Hawks!

Graduation: Help Support our Class of 2013!

Our 3rd graduating class will be upon us before we know it! Graduation this year will be Saturday, June 15th, 2013.

Our class of 2013 needs your support!

We are looking for volunteers willing to help with a fun and safe Post Grad Night. Our Seniors would love to be able to safely celebrate their recent accomplishments, the night of graduation. This would be a parent sponsored event.

Anyone interested in organizing or helping out with this event please contact parent, Ann Cottle at: amc.bac@verizon.net

Yearbook:

High School Parents and Students:

Get your pictures in the yearbook! The Yearbook Staff invites students and parents to submit photos for the yearbook. If you've got great photos of school and community events or you and your friends just having fun, we'd like to see them. Our photographers can't be everywhere. Help us get as many photos as possible to create a terrific book everyone will want to have. Here is how you can submit photos online:

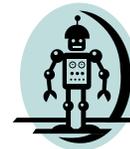
- Go to: <https://images.schoolannualonline.com/login>
- If it does not automatically log you into the site, **enter username: 400145270 and password: hawk13**
- Browse to select the photo(s) you wish to upload.
- Enter information about the photo and provide contact information in case the staff needs additional information.
- Click "Save Details".

It's that easy! Submit your photos today! The last day to submit photos is 03/01/2013.

Thank you, and enjoy the rest of the school year!

Sincerely,
Yearbook Adviser and the 2013 Yearbook Staff.

The Yearbook Staff will review all photos and determine final yearbook content. We cannot guarantee that all submissions can be used in the book.



Beach Party Ice Cream Social February 8th: *Bring the whole family* to the Beach Party Ice Cream Social on Friday, February 8th from 6:30-8:30PM at IACS. Join us as we defy winter and participate in this fun community event. For just \$3 each or \$10 per family, you and your family can have a delicious ice cream sundae and enjoy entertainment to include, indoor beach volleyball, a basketball shoot out, see the middle school & high school cheerleaders half time show, 50/50 raffle, a short drama performance, robotics display and much much more!

Pizza, water and bake sale goods will be available for purchase. Questions? Contact Heather Landis at domeafavorheather@hotmail.com or Annie Accettullo at candystp@yahoo.com Hope to see you there!



IACA Volunteers Needed

- We need a volunteer to host a Middle School information session on 1/13 from 6-8 PM. Contact Valerie Clark at iacapresident@gmail.com. IACA provides baked goods, water and information for hopeful attending families.
- If you are interested in helping with *the graduation night Last Bash* party please contact Tracy Leedberg at tracyleedberg@hotmail.com.
- If you would like to be on a jury for 6th or 8th graders please contact Paula Girouard at girouardpaula@comcast.net.



Roller Skating Party: Wednesday, February 13th, 2013, (Early Release Day) 1:00-3:00 @ Roller Kingdom - Tyngsboro Join your friends and family for a fun skating event! Admission is \$6.00. Skates are available for rental (\$3) or you can bring your own. For grades 5-12. We hope you will consider joining us for a fun filled afternoon! This event is staffed by the Roller Kingdom and is not chaperoned by IACA. Questions? Contact Joyce Roller at joyceroller@ymail.com or Bill Loehfelm at billloehfelm@comcast.net



Recycle and earn money for IACS

IACA now has an alternate drop off location for Funding Factory donations. Funding Factory will accept inkjet cartridges, toner cartridges, cell phones, iPods/MP3 players, laptops, digital cameras, and GPS devices. Turn your unwanted recyclable items into dollars for IACS! In addition to the middle school lobby, we have a new location to drop off items: Chelmsford Storage Solutions, 296 Littleton Road in Chelmsford. See Karen Lowry. Questions? Contact Nancy Therrien: ntherrien@verizon.net

Box Tops Have your parents ever said it is better to give than receive??? Well they were right! For the next few weeks we will choose a winner randomly from the collection box to receive a prize. Three individual winners will be chosen weekly at community meeting; one winner in grade 5/6, one in 7/8 and one in high school. The amount of boxtops received will have no effect on chances of winning. Entries must be placed in the boxtop collection box by Tuesday at 3PM to be entered in the weekly drawing. Remember every boxtop earns our school money! Your box top can make a difference! Please be sure to write your name and homebase on your entries. **Congratulations to our December & January winners: Manny Andrade, Christian Boyle, William Hilliker, Justin Ginett, Cameron Frazier, Sam Sturzo, Sydney Cheboryot.



Got Books?? **IACS Library is accepting used book donations.** Drop off your used books CDs, DVDs & records in the Got Books container located next to the high school, please note that the librarian is not able to access the bin, so if your intention is **to donate books directly to the school library, please be sure to bring those donations in to the library.** All proceeds benefit our library. Questions? Heather Landis at (978) 649-0432 ext:1208 landis@innovationcharter.org

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www.boxtops4education.com

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<http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/marketplace>