

# The Hawk

November  
2012

Innovation Academy Charter School

Happy November Everyone,

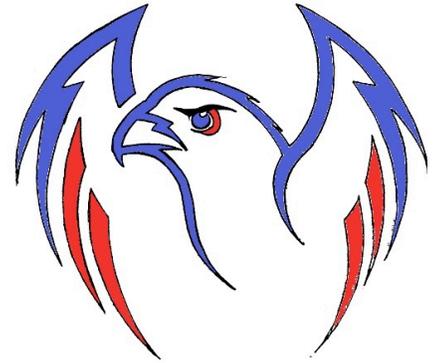
Here's to calmer weather this month! While Sandy threw us all for a loop this past week, we were excited to return to school for our annual Homebase/ Advisory Breakfast. It was a great way to begin the week and it could not have been possible without the support of IACS families. Special thanks to Homebase Liaisons who helped coordinate the food, drinks, and supplies.

November is a time of transitions on many fronts here at IACS: the middle school will enter Quarter 2 on the academic calendar, athletic teams are transitioning seasons, our performing arts program will present their fall production of "The Wiz", and Seniors are preparing college applications. All of these events have important dates/timelines to consider, so please take some time to read about events occurring in both schools.

We often associate the month of November with Thanksgiving. While this holiday seems far way (a relief for those who have long "to do lists"), we would be remiss if we didn't express our thanks to the amazing community of staff, students, and families at Innovation Academy. Your commitment and enthusiasm keeps us learning and growing.

Sincerely,

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



## All School Reminders

- 11/7 Early Release 12:25pm
- 11/8 Athletics Awards Banquet 6:30-9:00pm (All Fall Athletes)
- 11/12 No School- Veterans Day
- 11/13 Student vs. Staff race 3:45pm
- 11/13 IACA Meeting 6:30-8:30pm
- 11/14 Early Release 12:25pm, IACA Roller Skating Social 1:00-3:00pm
- 11/15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> The Wiz Performance 7-9:00pm
- 11/17 The Wiz Performance 2:00-4:00pm
- 11/21 Early Release 12:25pm
- 11/22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> Thanksgiving Break
- 11/28 Full Day Wednesday

## Emergency School Closing and Delays:



School closings or delays due to poor weather conditions will be announced as soon as possible. All emergency closings will be announced via local radio and television stations. We are listed as Innovation Academy Charter School and most easily found on WCVB, Channel 5 and [www.thebostonchannel.com](http://www.thebostonchannel.com)

In the event that IACS closes for a reason other than weather, not in relation to Tyngsboro Public Schools, we will inform people via the Alert Now call system and whenever possible by posting information on our website [www.innovationcharter.org](http://www.innovationcharter.org)

## Safety Update:

Since the beginning of school, our school has had two very successful fire drills, as judged by the Tyngsboro Fire Department who time and observe the drills. In the next few weeks our school will also conduct a brief "lockdown" protocol. Like fire drills, these procedures take place during the school day and last approximately 10 minutes. Should you have any question regarding our school safety procedures, please contact either Melissa Kapeckas or Greg Orpen.

## Curriculum Spotlight

By 8th grader Chelsea Costa

It is a difficult challenge to be able to sum up the amazing three days that the 7 /8 team spent at the Sargent Center into one brief article, but what follows is my best attempt. When I arrived at the Sargent Center, I was not sure what would lie ahead. The counselors were very welcoming and the cabins were homey and inviting despite my fears that they would be out of a "Friday the 13th" movie. After a quick fire drill, I packed up my day pack and headed outside to play an amazing game of Alaskan Baseball. Then we all headed inside to a separate presentation room known as "The Beginning". This set the tone for the days ahead. Larry Chambers, the Director of Sargent Center, shared Sargent's philosophy of the 4 C's: Care + Commitment + Cooperation + Communication= Awesome Adventures. Larry called these the 4C's. If you demonstrated one of the 4 C's, you would receive what is called a 4C bead which is a necklace with a single bead on it. You were then supposed to pass it on to someone else who demonstrates one of the 4C's. This was a cool idea that helped us recognize some positive qualities in one another. The 4C's reminded me of our own for outcomes of effective communication, self direction, community membership, and problem-solving.

After Larry introduced us to our new counselors and read off our groups, we spent a little time with them getting to know each other. Then we were off to lunch, which was amazing. What a relief, considering all the camp food stereotypes! When lunch was finished, we learned an interesting way to clean up. There were three buckets: one for trash, one for compost, and one for Ort. Ort is food that we put on our plates but didn't eat. Then after the meal the staff weighed the Ort to see how much food we wasted. Fortunately the number decreased as we became more aware of what we were able to eat. After a days worth of exercise and fun team building activities, we were wiped out. So we turned in with the anticipation of the next days' fun activities and most of all the high ropes course!

When we woke up the next morning, we were excited for the day to unfold. After breakfast, some groups went to the high ropes in the morning and the other half went after lunch. The high ropes course was absolutely amazing! There were many different courses that suited everyone's skill level. I knew I wasn't going to be satisfied until I did the hardest course, but that's just me. Some students that were afraid of heights chose a different path that pushed them out of their comfort zone. I learned that you need to meet your own goals, not someone else's. All the courses ended with an invigorating zip line ride down to the bottom. At the risk of sounding cliché, it felt like soaring through the sky like a majestic bird. In a way, the IACS hawks took flight this year at the Sargent Center and I am happy to say I could be apart of the amazing experience.

## Athletics:

- ❖ **Winter Sports Season** is almost here! All paperwork, practice schedules, and start dates are posted online and can be found on the athletics section of the schools website: <http://www.innovationcharter.org/current-students-and-families/athletics> . **Deadline for middle school winter sports paperwork is 11/9/12.** Please email [iacsathletics@innovationcharter.org](mailto:iacsathletics@innovationcharter.org) with any questions.
- ❖ As the Fall season wraps up, please be sure to turn in your **uniforms**. Middle School students should turn them in on **Tuesday October 30th** or **Thursday, November 1st** during lunch in the cafeteria.
- ❖ All Fall sport athletes are required to attend with a parent/guardian the **Fall Sports banquet** on Thursday, November 8 from 6:30-9pm at The St. Louis School, located at 77 Boisvert Street Lowell, MA 01850. Please contact your coach for more details or if you are unable to attend.

## Things to Remember

### Attention Students of 8th graders....

On Monday, November 5th, from 6 pm to 8 pm, our high school will be hosting an information session for families interested in attending our high school. Our expected audience will consist of families from our middle school as well as "outside" community members looking to join the IACS program. The format of the event will allow guests to hear first hand from students, faculty, and parents of our high school community.

If you are a family of a current 8th grader or know someone interested in our high school, please consider this event as a great opportunity to learn about the impressive work we've been doing for the past 5 years. This event will also be repeated on Saturday, Jan 19th from 10 am- 12 pm.

**For students considering high school programs other than IACS**, you will need to contact schools regarding admissions requirements and application deadlines. Open House sessions and application deadlines can be quite early for some of the vocational/technical high schools. Any requests for IACS student records needed to support an application should be made to the Assistant Principal, Charlene La Roche, at least two weeks in advance of the deadline. If a teacher recommendation is requested, we ask that you provide notice of three weeks.



**November 6th is Election Day!** Throughout the fall, we have made connections to the election throughout the curriculum and shared the importance of voting with students. Please consider taking your student to the polls with you as you cast your vote!

**5/6 grade Students are learning away from school.** On 11/15, all students from the Community Membership will be on a field trip and on 11/16; all students from the Effective Communication will be away from school. Students in science during Quarter 2 will visit the Essex Shipbuilding Museum to learn more about simple machines in action. Students in Social Studies during Quarter 2 will visit Minuteman State Park as they learn about the Revolutionary War. Both trips involve some time walking outdoors so please be certain students are dressed appropriately and arrive at the start of the school day in order to catch the field trip bus. Students should plan to bring a bagged lunch to the field trip.

**The end of quarter has been shifted to Tuesday, November 6th** with the recent school closing. Quarter 1 Assessments will be distributed to students on Friday, November 16th. Please keep the assessment itself and return the signed envelope to indicate the assessment was received and for reuse in future quarters.

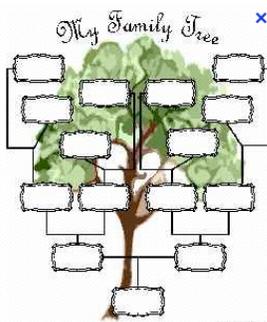
**November 21st marks our first Quality Night Prep Day** in advance of Quality Night. ☐ Quality Night takes place on Tuesday, 12/4 from 5:45-7 pm, and ☐ Quality Night is scheduled on Thursday, 12/6 from 5:45 - 7 pm. Students will be selecting one of their project pieces to present at Quality Night. During Quality Night prep, students will make any revisions, if necessary, prepare their presentation, and create a display. Students should come prepared with note cards, a trifold or poster board, and art supplies. In between Quality Night prep day and their scheduled Quality Night, students should practice their presentation at home and utilize feedback from adults at home in order to be prepared and polished for their formal presentation at Quality Night. Successful presentation at Quality Night is a promotion requirement.

# High School Updates



## Learning Spotlight:

Ancestry Investigation: In Ms. Olesen's 10<sup>th</sup> grade history class Becoming American: Immigration in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, the very first project required students to leap into the world of real life research. Students investigated their ancestors to find out, when possible, how their ancestors came to the United States. Students navigated large databases of historical records, including collections of passenger manifestos and census documents, and conducted interviews with family members to construct a history of their ancestors. Students reported on their research by choosing one ancestor to whom to write a letter. In the letter, they explained what they had discovered about their ancestor. Some students grappled with the many obstacles that come up in real world research, developing creative strategies to fill in the gaps in information that was available. Other students were able to unearth details their families did not know about their relatives. One of the highlights of the project was when Mr. Landberg shared with the class the results of his own ancestry research, which he conducted this summer.



## Athletics:

**Congratulations to the High School Girls Soccer team** for making it to the state tournament! We will be hosting the 2pm game this Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Come cheer the girls on!

- ❖ **Winter Sports Season** is almost here! All paperwork, practice schedules, and start dates are posted online and can be found on the athletics section of the schools website: <http://www.innovationcharter.org/current-students-and-families/athletics> **Deadline for high school winter paperwork is 11/19/12.** Please email [iacsathletcis@innovationcharter.org](mailto:iacsathletcis@innovationcharter.org) with any questions.
- ❖ All boys and girls interested in High School basketball:  
\*Mandatory Informational Meeting on **Friday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>-6-7pm in the cafeteria** for any **GIRLS** interested in playing **HS Basketball** for the 2012/2013 school year.  
\*Mandatory Informational Meeting on **Friday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>-3-4pm in room 153** for any **BOYS** interested in playing **HS Basketball** for the 2012/2013 school year..  
\*\*(If you are a XC athlete who has practice this day, you should notify your coach to let him know you will be attending this meeting. You are cleared to go late to practice).
- ❖ As **the** fall season wraps up, please be sure to turn in your **uniforms**. High School students should turn them in on **Tuesday, November 13th** during lunch in the cafeteria.
- ❖ All Fall sport athletes are required to attend with a parent/guardian the **Fall Sports banquet** on Thursday, November 8 from 630-9pm at The St. Louis School, located at 77 Boisvert Street Lowell, MA 01850. Please contact your coach for more details or if you are unable to attend.

## Performing Arts & other Important Dates to Remember:

- ❖ Winter Exhibition Night for all High School students is Wednesday December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. We hope all families and students can attend to see all the hard work students have been doing.
- ❖ 12/3 Progress Reports 1; Round 2 Mailed home
- ❖ The Innovation Academy Charter Middle and High Schools Performing Arts Program Proudly Presents the Tony Award-Winning Broadway Musical

### THE WIZ

Thursday, November 15 at 7:00pm

Friday, November 16 at 7:00pm

Saturday, November 17 at 2:00 and 7:00pm

Tickets are now on sale! Ticket order forms are available in the front office and online in the performing arts section at [www.innovationcharter.org](http://www.innovationcharter.org). Come join us for a joyous music and dance-filled romp through the magical Land of Oz! Do you know someone in the cast or crew of The Wiz and would like to send them a public message? Or do you have a business you would like to promote? Please consider helping the production by purchasing space in the program! Information and purchase forms are on the webpage and in the front office. Space starts at just \$10

- ❖ **AUDITIONS FOR THE IACS HIGH SCHOOL PRODUCTION OF LES MISERABLES**  
Tuesday, November 20, 3:00-5:00 in the auditorium  
No experience or preparation necessary! Just show up! Email with questions: [rhawthorne@innovationcharter.org](mailto:rhawthorne@innovationcharter.org)

Students in grades 9 through 12 are invited to join us for auditions for the winter musical, Les Miserables, On Tuesday, November 20, 3:00-5:00 in the auditorium! No preparation or experience is necessary! In order to audition you do need to fill out the audition agreement which was attached to the HAWK email blast today. Please have a parent or guardian sign it and bring it to auditions or to Ms. Dalton before auditions. If you do not have it signed and turned in, you will not be allowed to audition.



## College Corner

### Important Senior Deadlines:

**Universal Transcript Release Form Due by November 9th (ALL Seniors)**

**College Application Request Form and Naviance Updated For Colleges with November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline are Due Nov 1<sup>st</sup> and with December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline are Due Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>**

### Senior Test Dates

SAT – Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup>

ACT – Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup>

### Upcoming College Info Session at IACS

Emmanuel College 11/2 10:00 am

Framingham State College 11/5 2:30 pm

St. Joseph's College of Maine 11/8 8:30am

Holy Cross 11/8 1:00 pm

CSS/Financial Aid Profile Due for Nov 1<sup>st</sup> deadline applicants ASAP

Next IACA Meeting  
Nov 13, Tuesday  
6:30-8:30pm in the Café



## Innovation Academy Community Association

[iaca.weebly.com](http://iaca.weebly.com)

### Roller Skating Party Roller Kingdom, Tyngsboro, MA



Wed, Nov 14th, 2012, (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. Please visit [www.iaca.weebly.com](http://www.iaca.weebly.com) for flyer. Questions? Contact Valerie Clark at: [iacapresident@gmail.com](mailto:iacapresident@gmail.com)

### Innovation On-line School apparel Store:

Welcome to the Innovation Academy On-line Store. Buy your custom school apparel here! The store will be open for orders until Friday **11/16**. Orders will be distributed at school to the students after **December 7th**. Click here to start shopping: <http://www.redbrickclothing.com/rbcmall/stores/store/64>

there is a size chart link for each apparel item. If you are unsure of size, we have sizing samples in our showroom at 17 Dracut Road in Hudson, NH. We accept Visa, MasterCard or Discover. Any questions, please contact Keith Mayotte at Red Brick Clothing. 603-882-4100 or [KeithM@RedBrickClothing.com](mailto:KeithM@RedBrickClothing.com) \*\*\*If you are buying for Holiday Gifts and would rather your items NOT go home with your child, please email Mariclare Pollicelli at [mcpoll@msn.com](mailto:mcpoll@msn.com)



Got Books?? **IACS Library is accepting used book donations!** We will sort through and keep what we can use and put the rest into our brand new GOT BOOKS container. The container is a fundraiser for the Library and with it; we hope to raise enough to purchase more MP3 Players for audiobooks that students can check out from the Library. Any early elementary or books that you sense are not appropriate for either the Middle or High School section of our library, can be dropped directly into the bin which is located on the High School side, next to the school. The bin accepts used books, CDs, DVDs & records. Got Books pays us for these donations! **Please note that the librarian is not able to access the bin, so if your intention is to donate books to the school, please be sure to bring the books to the library.** If you have any questions, please contact Heather Landis at (978) 649-0432 ext.: 1208 or email: [hlandis@innovationcharter.org](mailto:hlandis@innovationcharter.org) Thank



Volunteers Needed! Become involved on a short-term basis, regular basis, for a one-time project or event! Please visit our website at <http://iaca.weebly.com/volunteer.html> click on **volunteer form** and let us know what you may be interested in volunteering for. Filling out the form doesn't automatically obligate you. When the event or program comes up the chairperson will contact you via email to confirm your interest and availability.



**And the Monster Boxtop Winner is.....**

**Homebase Gandhi** took the Middle School prize with a last minute entry of 690 boxtops to bring them to a total of 763!! Wow!!! Honorable mention goes to **Homebases Rowling** and **Mandela** who also had respectable showings. In the High School, **Advisory Hickey** took the lead immediately and although **Advisories Burtch** and **Onos** had a good showing, they just couldn't catch up. Congratulations to our Boxtop Contest Winners! Prizes will be awarded to the winning classes. Great job to everyone! With your help IACS collected over \$300 worth of boxtops in just 4 weeks!!! Your 10cents really does matter! Boxtop earnings are used to support school activities. Stay tuned for our next contest which will start in just a few weeks. In the meantime keep collecting!