

The Hawk

September
2013

Innovation Academy Charter School

Dear Families:

After an incredibly busy summer, we're excited to have launched Year 18 as a Massachusetts public charter school. These first weeks have given our community an opportunity to re-connect with familiar faces as well as make new connections. We hope you'll find this year's monthly newsletter, *The Hawk*, a helpful way to help keep you informed and connected.

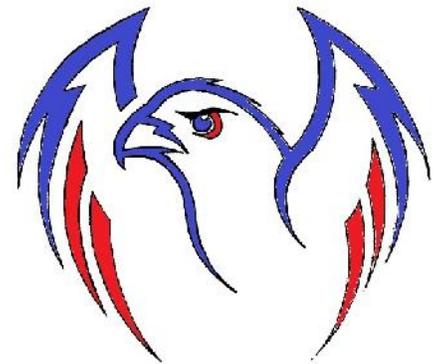
ILP Conferences

This September and October all IACS students and families will participate in Individual Learning Plan (ILP) conferences. Primarily led by students, these conferences allow students to share goals they have set for themselves this year. During the meeting family member(s) listen to these goals and offer ways in which they can help support the student over the course of the year. At the high school level, these conferences are held with the student's advisor. At the middle school level, they are held with the student's homebase teacher or a member of their teaching team. Families will be contacted to schedule these conferences by the teacher/advisor. Meanwhile students will continue planning for their conferences during the school day.

Back to School Nights

IACS will be holding our annual "Back to School Night" on Thursday, September 19th (HS) and Thursday, September 26th (MS). These events are an opportunity for families to connect names to faces among our teaching staff, as well as learn about some of the curricular themes of the upcoming year.

Sincerely,
Melissa Kapeckas, MS Principal
Greg Orpen, HS Principal



All School Reminders

- 9/18 Early Release 12:25 PM
- 9/19 Substitute Teacher Training 8:15 AM
- 9/23-27 Scholastic Book Fair
- 9/24 IACA Meeting 7:00-8:30 PM
- 9/25 Early Release 12:25 PM
- 9/30 IACS Board of Trustees Meeting 6:30-8:30 PM
- 10/2 Early Release 12:25 PM
- 10/4 Picture Day

IACS Lunch News

Ordering lunches has never been easier!

IACS has partnered with a **new** vendor for online ordering. Orderlunches.com provides a secure, fast, and easy-to-use online ordering system that allows parents to view our lunch menu, order, prepay and manage student lunches on the web.

Registration is easy!

Go to - [IACS Webpage](#) > MS or HS > Food & Lunch > Order Here
Click on "Register"
School Password is: *iacs1*

Lunch Volunteers Needed!

Are you looking for a way to fulfill your volunteering hours? IACS Lunch Program could use your help. It's a great way to see how the lunch program works, sample the food & meet the fabulous IACS students. Email karen.drake@innovationcharter.org if you have any questions about the lunch program

Innovation Academy Charter School
Middle and High School Performing Arts Program Proudly Presents

GREASE: School Version

November 14, 15, 16 at 7:00 PM

November 16 at 2:00 PM

Book, Music and Lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey
Produced with special arrangement by Samuel French, Inc.
Tickets \$12 - Keep an eye on the next Hawk for ticket order information!

Changes to the Pick-up Procedures

With the addition of Landberg Hall and some shifts in parking availability, we have determined some changes to our dismissal procedures are necessary in order to ensure safety and increase efficiency. Students in grades 5-8 will be picked up on the middle school side of the building (closest to Landberg Hall). High school students will continue to be picked up on the high school side. For families or carpools that combine middle school and high school students, please be clear to with your children whether you will be picking up on the middle school or high school side to avoid confusion.

Dear IACS Community,

Over the summer, the Head of School Search Committee has been reviewing candidate dossiers and conducting preliminary interviews. Over forty candidates submitted dossiers for consideration during the May - July posting. Educator's Collaborative, our search consultants, reviewed all of the resumes before submitting fourteen highly qualified candidates for our Search Committee's review. During the third week of August, the Search Committee read packets from all fourteen candidates and chose eight people to interview via Skype. From the eight we chose to meet via Skype, we selected four semi-finalists to visit the IACS campus this month. Each candidate will visit campus for one day for a tour and a more extensive interview with many members of the IACS community. The Search Committee hopes to announce our next Head of School by the middle of October.

Best wishes to all students, staff and families for the start of a new school year.

Linda Willis, Chair, Head of School Search Committee

Middle School Updates

Curriculum Spotlight:

Often, at this time of year, families ask for our suggestions on ways that they can support their students with homework and organization, especially families of our youngest students who are navigating the transition from elementary to middle school. We have compiled some tips in this month's curriculum spotlight.

Organization:

- With student, peruse student's planner nightly to be certain student is recording homework assignments. If assignments are not written down, work with your student to identify ways to get the information. Suggest making a call to a classmate or, for 5/6 students, visit the school website together to view the homework Google doc to record the missing assignments. As deemed appropriate, begin to provide less support requiring your student to do this task independently.
- Use the x2 grade book on a set schedule each week to be sure student is keeping up with assignments. Please note that passwords be mailed home in mid-September.
- Visit the Google calendar on the course pages of the school website on a set schedule to help your student record rubric due dates, test dates and revision deadlines in the student planner.
- For 5/6 students, on your calendar make note of the late work deadlines and check x2 beginning 1-2 weeks before each deadline to list any assignments that are missing. For 7/8 students, the late work deadline is 14 calendar days after the due date. Please consult teacher grading policies for more specific information about the late work policy.

Time management:

- Together, look at the student's weekly activities and determine if enough time is available weekly to meet homework needs. Discuss possible solutions and make decisions as needed.
- Determine a daily schedule that sets aside time for homework completion. Consider your students most productive time of the day.
- Help your student craft a plan/schedule to get missed or late work completed and turned in to the appropriate teachers.

Work environment:

- Provide a quiet spot that is free of clutter and distractions, well stocked with school supplies and a writing surface.
- Let your student know that there is someone available to provide support as needed. Encourage your child to try more than one approach to an issue on their own first when faced with an obstacle. Tell them to be ready to explain to you what they've tried when coming to you for help.

Content support:

- Ask your student to do their thinking aloud so that you can get a sense of their approach.
- Provide prompting questions to stimulate their thinking.
- With your student, visit the course page on the website to look for additional resources that may be provided by the teacher (i.e. link to helpful websites, math textbook web-based support).
- Ask your student to set up the math problem and attempting as much of the solution as he/she is able to can be helpful for the teacher to identify the challenge or pitfall?
- Writing down notes, questions, circling or underlining parts of the problem at the spot where they are getting stuck in the problem will give the teacher a base from which to start to give assistance.
- Most importantly communicate with the teacher via email (or voicemail, written note) if your student is really struggling with the material after spending some time trying to help. The more specific the information you can provide, the better.

Things to Remember:

Got Books?: Scholastic Book Fair is coming to the IACS library the week of 9/23-9/27. Middle school students will have a time assigned that they can visit the book fair with their homebase. They can also make purchases throughout the week during lunch and recess. Thanks for your help to support the fair.

Volunteer Opportunities for 2013-2014 School Year : We are arranging volunteers to help take away some of the administrative tasks that teachers need to complete, in order to give more time to focus on teaching and learning. We are looking for parents that will make a regular (weekly or biweekly) commitment to help with making photocopies for classes. Please contact Sandy Turner at sturner@innovationcharter.org if you can make a regular commitment to volunteer this year.

ILP conferences are coming...9/18, 10/2, and 10/23. During your child's scheduled ILP conference, students lead a conference with their family to set goals for the year ahead, which they then track in their portfolio. Conferences are held with your child's homebase teacher, a member of their teaching team, or an administrator.

Thursday, 9/26 6-8 pm Middle School Back to School Night: Come meet your child's teachers and follow a modified version of your child's day to hear more about the curriculum. If you are a parent/guardian of a fifth or sixth grader, you may want to come at 5 pm for a Question and Answer session about the upcoming Plimoth Plantation overnight field trip.

The 5/6 overnight trip to the **Plimoth Plantation** approaches on October 15-16 for the Effective Communication Team (Homebases Bell, Rowling, Keller, & Mandela) and October 17-18 for the Community Membership Team (Homebases Gandhi, Salk, Barton, & Edelman). There will be a Question and Answer session for families on Thursday, September 26th at 5:00 pm (before Back to School Night).

Extracurriculars:

Band is a fun, teamwork-oriented extracurricular activity that meets Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 3 - 4:30. Students can learn flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, or drums. No prior musical experience necessary - all ability levels are welcome! Email Jess Destramp at jdestramp@innovationcharter.org for more information.

The **IACS Hawkmoths** are our Middle School garden club, where we work to conserve habitat for butterflies, dig in the dirt, build, weed, plant flowers and trees and make friends! We meet on Wednesdays, either from 12:30-2:30pm on Early Release days or 3:00-4:00pm on Full days. Join us to learn about plants and bugs and have a great time out in nature. To sign up, please fill out the permission slip at <https://tinyurl.com/hawkmoths2013> You can direct any questions you have to Natalie Kelsey, the parent volunteer, at nmzkelsey@gmail.com.

Middle School chorus Any student in grades 5-8 is invited to join in our **middle school chorus!** We're seeking all types of singers looking to join a fun group after school! Sign-up is easy; just contact Sarah Mitchell at smitchell@innovationcharter.org.

High School Updates

Learning Spotlight:

Greetings High School Families,

We're excited to be rolling out a new year with a lot of "newness" in our evolving and expanded high school. First and foremost we'd like to welcome new teachers to our staff:

- **Ofelin Tortorelli** has joined our Spanish department. Ofelin taught Spanish at Andover High School, and English as a foreign language at different schools and institutes in her hometown, Lima - Peru.
- **Caitlin Sullivan** is excited to be joining the IACS team as a 9th grade American Studies Teacher. She is coming from two years of humanities experience in St. Petersburg, FL and Cambridge, MA.
- **Kara Kamikawa** joins the IACS team, teaching Integrated Math 110/120 and Statistics. Prior to IACS, she taught high school math for three years in Northern California and South Texas.
- **Katie Schofield** is thrilled to be joining the English department at IACS. Previously, she taught English and humanities at charter schools in Boston and Devens, and at the Steppingstone Academy.
- **Mike Dudley** joins the IACS Science team teaching 9th grade engineering. He has taught math and science for the last eight years, most recently at North Central Charter.
- **Ashley Young** joins the Science department teaching 10th grade biology. She has taught biology, anatomy and physiology at Bangor High School and previously at the University of Maine Orono.
- **Debi Rogers** is joining the IACS team as the High School Counselor. She has extensive experience working with children & families in a variety of settings including residential treatment, community-based mental health, and intensive foster care.

We are also welcoming three new aides to our student services team: **Anny Din, Dolly Nyamwaba** and **Ellynmarie Theep**.

We are so lucky to have their ideas and energy join a returning staff of amazing teachers.

High School administration has also made some transitions with the expansion and growth of the high school enrollment. Specifically, **Clare Ringwall** is assuming the role of High School Dean of Faculty, and **Tina Lindberg** is assuming the role of High School Dean of Students. There is also much newness to the curricular program. Our staff spent months designing new elective courses normally reserved for older students. All told there are over 25 new course titles to choose. Examples include: Me & The World (English), Racism, Apartheid & Nonviolence (history), Prehistory to Romanticism (Music) and Earth Science (science) to name a few. Students and faculty have been excited and engaged by these updates and we hope you see the results of that enthusiasm at home.

Things to Note:

- ❖ High School Back to School Night: Thursday, September 16th 6-8pm
- ❖ Picture Day: October 4th - Keep an eye out for picture order forms. They will be coming home in the next couple weeks. Those who need student ID's, this will be your chance to order one!
- ❖ Juniors interested in ordering class rings: Oct. 8th 1:30pm in the auditorium
- ❖ Seniors cap and gown measurements: Oct. 8th 1:30pm in the auditorium
- ❖ 1st HS Dance: Friday, October 18th 7-10pm. Stay tuned for more details.
- ❖ All parent chaperones must be CORI'd prior to chaperoning a field trip or visiting a classroom. CORI's can be located on the school website and must be submitted to the main office in person.
- ❖ Internship contracts are going home today (9/13). Contracts due back: 9/18. Mandatory Internship Meeting Thursday, 9/26 12:30-1:00pm in the auditorium.
- ❖ X2 account login and password information has been given out to students. Please ask your child to share the account info with you so that you may check your child's progress, assignments, attendance and conduct records. You may also email your child's advisor for login and password information. If an account becomes disabled please email the main office at mainoffice@innovationcharter.org.



College Corner

- ❖ 10th and 11th graders: PSAT registration and payments are due by Thursday, September 26th.
- ❖ 40+ college admissions reps are visiting IACS this fall. 11th and 12th graders should be signing up to attend these presentations with their advisor.
- ❖ Seniors should all be signing up to have their fall college meeting with Mr. Barr by the end of September.
- ❖ ACT registration deadline for the October 26th exam is due by Friday, September 27th.
- ❖ SAT registration deadline for the November 2nd exam is due by Thursday, October 3rd.
- ❖ All students taking the SAT/ACT are required to have an ID in order to be allowed to sit for the exam.

Please contact Mr. Danny Barr at
dbarr@innovationcharter.org with questions.
978-649-0432 ext 4141



Innovation Academy Community Association
iaca.weebly.com

Next IACA Meeting
Tuesday, September 24th
7-8:30pm in the Caf 

The Innovation Academy Community Association
IACA
Needs you!



Welcome new and returning families to Innovation Academy Community! The IACA is Innovation Academy's Community Association. The IACA consists of IACS parents, guardians, students, school staff and administration. The group meets once a month. We will be meeting this month on Tuesday, September 24th from 7-8:30pm in the cafeteria.

Through IACA's fundraising activities we are able to support book fairs, Destination Imagination, school socials and much more. Throughout the year we run various different fundraising events including raffles, Box Tops, Spirit Wear, dances and one big social event. In order to run these events and support these activities we need volunteers. IACA volunteers are the lifeblood of the organization. It is easy to volunteer, you just need to fill-out our on-line volunteer form: go to www.iaca.weebly.com, in the left column click on volunteer and then click on: [Volunteer Form](#). The form will take you less than 3 minutes to fill out. It will ask you basic contact information and what events you are interested in volunteering for. Filling out the form does not automatically obligate you to volunteer; during the school year, the head of the committee(s) that you signed up to help will contact you directly to further discuss specifically what help is needed and confirm your availability.

We hope that you can join us at our upcoming meetings. For more information about IACA, please go to our website at: www.iaca.weebly.com

Or
contact our IACA President Lori DiMattia:
iacapresident@gmail.com

Back to School Boxtops!! Send in your boxtops. There will be 2 collection boxes located in the cafeteria. The homebase with the most boxtops submitted through October 1st will win a prize. Make sure your bag of boxtops has your homebase name on it. Register at www.btfe.com to enter boxtop contests, find coupons, recipes and more. Attention Costco and Walmart shoppers: keep an eye out for special packaging that offers up to 8 boxtops per item. IACS loves boxtops!

Funding Factory Funding Factory helps earn money for school programs. IACA has partnered with Funding Factory, a recycling program to raise funds for student enrichment activities. We would like to reach out to you and/or your workplace to invite participation by registering for an easy, no obligation, and no deadline program. Ink and laser cartridges, laptops, Ipods, GPS units and cell phones can be dropped off at the Middle School Reception area in the Funding Factory drop-box to recycle or you can register at <http://www.fundingfactory.com> with IACA's non profit ID - 10133 as the organization you wish to support. If you have any questions about this program, please contact Nancy Therrien at ntherrien@verizon.net.



The Scholastic Book Fair is here!

IACS will host a Scholastic Book Fair from September 23 to September 27. We are looking for volunteers to staff the fair during the day as well as during the Middle School Back to School Night on Thursday, September 26. To volunteer, please contact Deb Lyons at deb@dandelyons.net. For more details about the fair, visit our book fair homepage at: <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/iacs>. From this page you can check fair hours, volunteer to help, preview books, and shop on-line! Also, this year at the fair Scholastic is offering a specially priced paperback edition of Diary of a Wimpy Kid 8: Hard Luck, scheduled to go on sale on November 5. You may reserve a copy in advance by filling out a pre-order form during the book fair. A schedule of when your student's homebase or advisory will be visiting the fair will be communicated to you soon.

Hope to see you at the fair!



Yankee Candle Fundraiser! By September 27th your child will have come home with the Yankee Candle catalog. Innovation Academy will receive 40% profit on all purchases from this catalog. The fundraiser will run from Friday, 9/27 to Friday, 10/11. Please turn your order forms into the main office by 10/11/2013. Sell to your friends, neighbors and relatives, but please DO NOT go door to door. Orders will tentatively arrive Monday, November 18th - just in time for the holidays! Payment must be made with the order. NO tax should be added and all checks should be made payable to IACA. Please have your student return their orders to the main office with their Homebase/Advisory group noted on the envelope. A \$25 dollar Game Stop gift card will be given to the high School and middle school student who places the largest single order. The profits obtained from this fundraiser will help fund many student and community events. Thank you, in advance, for your support with this very important fundraiser! Contact Valerie Clark with any questions, at vclark500@gmail.com

High School Advisory Liaison Parent Volunteers Needed: We are looking for several Liaison Parents for the High School. These volunteers will work with advisors at the different grade levels to help update parents about news and events and help coordinate advisory activities. Liaisons will contact families via email and can do this work from home - day or evening. If you are interested, please contact: Sheila Hingorani, HS Liaison Coordinator on behalf of the IACA at michael2sheila@hotmail.com

Homebase Liaison Parent Volunteers Needed: We are currently in the process of obtaining homebase liaisons for each homebase. A homebase liaison parent volunteer works with the teacher to communicate homebase events and activities to the homebase families. The liaison may also help with coordinating and scheduling homebase related events and meetings and recruiting volunteers for homebase projects. Liaisons contact families via email or phone and can do this work from home. Right now we are looking for parent liaisons for the following Homebases: Barton, Bell, Rowling, Mandela, Russell, Gates, and Pasteur. If your child is in one of these homebases, please consider volunteering. If you are interested, please contact Michelle Malachowski, Homebase Liaison Coordinator at malachowski@comcast.net.