

# The Hawk

September  
2012

Innovation Academy Charter School

Dear Families:

The 2012-2013 school year is off to a terrific start. It has been fun to welcome new students and families and reconnect with those returning. September brings several opportunities to connect in support of your child's learning:

#### 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.

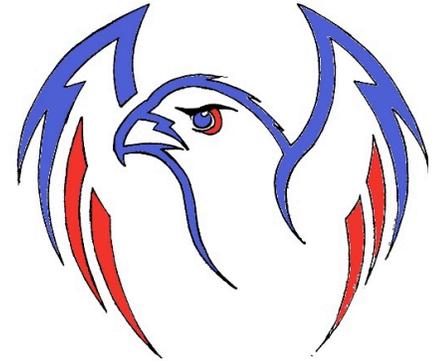
#### Back to School Nights

IACS will be holding our annual "Back to School Night" on Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup> (HS) and Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> (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.

#### Community List Emails

New to our school? Please sign up for weekly email updates on the "Current Students and Families" section of our website.

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



#### All School Reminders

- 9/10 IACA Meeting 6:30-8:30pm
- 9/11 Substitute Teacher Training 8:15-9:15am
- 9/12 Early Release 12:25pm
- 9/14 Substitute Teacher Training 8:15-9:15am
- 9/17 Board of Trustees Meeting 6:30-7:30pm
- 9/19 Early Release 12:25pm;
- 9/19 Student Services Info Session: 6-7 pm
- 9/20 IACA Meeting 6:30-8:30pm
- 9/24-9/28 Book Fair
- 9/26 Early Release 12:25pm
- 10/3 Early Release 12:25pm

#### **The IACS Lunch Program:**

The lunch program relies on parent/guardian volunteers. Volunteering for the lunch program is a great way to build community membership, fulfill volunteering hours, sample the nutritious lunch & meet the fabulous IACS staff and students. Contact [karen.drake@innovationcharter.org](mailto:karen.drake@innovationcharter.org) if you would like to find out more.

#### **Drive Slow:**

On behalf of the Tyngsboro Police Department, we're asking the entire IACS community to drive carefully. You may be noticing an increased presence of the TPD on your way to/from school.

#### **Morning Drop-off:**

A reminder that morning drop-off runs from 7:40 am - 7:55 am in order to ensure students are adequately supervised and on time for their first class.

**Student Services Information Session** - Wednesday September 19th from 6 pm - 7 pm in Room 235. This will be an informal information and question and answer session with Student Services Staff to learn more about the special education program at Innovation Academy. Teachers from the High School and Middle School, as well as the Director of Student Services will be present. Families new to IACS are encouraged to attend and should feel free to come with any questions they have about classes, homework, schedules, accommodations, or any other topics.

# Middle School Updates

## Learning Spotlight:

The IACS staff is a dynamic group of life-long learners! This month's learning spotlight centers on some of the learning that happened this summer for the IACS middle school faculty. Here are some of their replies to the question, "What did you learn this summer?"

- Ms. McCaffrey, 5/6 Student Services teacher, learned about growing fruit in her garden and while she has mastered the art of knowing when a cantaloupe is ripe, she is still learning when to pick a watermelon.
- Mrs. Grove, 5/6 Math teacher, learned how to bait a hook for fishing so her children could catch sunfish and perch.
- Mr. Leedberg, 7/8 Math teacher, learned that climbing Mt. Monadnock is a challenging yet very rewarding experience!
- Ms. Krakauer, 5/6 Social Studies teacher, learned how to speak a little Mandarin Chinese and navigate the subway system in Beijing.
- Ms. Scarsdale, 7/8 English/Language Arts teacher, learned that re-reading old classics ("The Jungle," "Lord of the Flies," and "Catcher in the Rye") is relaxing, enjoying, and invigorating!
- Ms. Mac, 5-7 Art teacher, learned while camping in Yosemite, that bears have 7 times greater sense of smell than a bloodhound!
- Ms. Lianos, 5/6 Social Studies teacher, learned all about the Alamo and learned more about the JFK assassination site. She also learned what it feels like to be in 111 degree heat!
- Ms. Patterson, 5/6 Science teacher, learned that it is the journey, not the destination, that matters most, but it doesn't hurt when the destination includes a beautiful mountain view.
- Ms. McCarthy, 7/8 Student Services teacher learned that spending a day at Bedford Springs Park is very relaxing and as better put by her 10 year old son, "like paradise!"
- Señora Hawthorne, MS Spanish teacher, learned that IACS drama and glee campers are such fantastic, talented, self-directed community members that they can put on AMAZING performances in just one week!
- Peggy Stephens-North, 7/8 Student Services inclusion aide, learned to distinguish the art of training a puppy from the evil of spoiling a puppy.
- Mrs Kalpas, 5/6 Math teacher has learned how to make kefir and uses it in smoothies. The kefir grains are a symbiotic relationship of yeast and bacteria.
- Mr. O'Donnell, Math Enrichment teacher, learned how to be a parent and all the fun and excitement that goes with it.
- Mr. Willoughby, 7/8 Social Studies teacher, learned that researching a historical figure (Cleopatra) is difficult when the primary sources were created by her detractors and political enemies, but that a dedicated scholar (Stacy Schiff) can overcome those obstacles. Also, in reading this account, he learned that, just like in math, it helps to show your work.
- Mrs. LaRoche, Assistant Principal, learned that her understanding of angles and force is valuable when trying to putt a golf ball into a hole that's on a very uneven surface!
- While at the Bug Zoo in Victoria, BC, Mrs. Quinlan learned that walking stick insects have the ability to regenerate lost limbs. She also confirmed that she is not a lover of insects but will pretend to like them for the sake of her children who are very intrigued.
- Ms. Shaby, MS Art teacher, learned that you can get Pasteis de Nata (Portuguese egg tart pastries) on nearly every corner of every town and city she visited in Portugal this summer.
- Marge Maurukas, 5/6 Health teacher, learned how to install a clothesline, cement and all, in her yard. She also learned that is very relaxing to hang your clothes outside.
- Profe Ashley Uyaguari, MS Spanish teacher, rediscovered Ecuador through the eyes of her 3-year-old son Aiden. She learned how exciting aviões, fincas, chanchos, vacas, cascadas, ríos, tíos, abuelitos, and primos can be.
- Señora Schmalz, 6<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish teacher, learned that the call of the Howler Monkey carries for over 2 kilometers and is a very effective alarm clock when the monkey is right outside of your window!
- Mrs. Muhigi, 5/6 Student Services teacher, learned the duties of an assistant soccer coach, including the part about hugging the girls and drying their tears when they get hurt!
- Mrs. Bisso, ELL coordinator, learned that one walks an average of 5.5 miles per day while exploring Disney World. Mrs. Bisso also learned that if one wedges herself securely enough in her seat on the Tower of Terror, she can defy the force of gravity and not fly up out of her seat!
- Mr. Edwards, 7/8 Science teacher, learned that running mountain races are a challenging and humbling experience.

## Things to Remember:

- ❖ Substitute Training: Interested in Substitute Teaching at IACS this year? Please attend the training on Tuesday, 9/11 or Friday, 9/14 at 8:15 am in the auditorium. If you are interested but unable to attend, please email Melissa Kapeckas, MS Principal at [mkapeckas@innovationcharter.org](mailto:mkapeckas@innovationcharter.org)
- ❖ Thursday, 9/27 6-7:45 pm Middle School Back to School Night: Come meet your child's teachers and hear about the year ahead
- ❖ ILP conferences are coming...9/19, 10/3, and 10/17. 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.
- ❖ The 7/8 overnight trip to the Sargent Center approaches on October 22-24 for the Self-Direction Team (Homebases Russell, O'Connor, Gates, & Brinker) and October 24-26 for the Problem-Solving Team (Homebases Copernicus, Winfrey, 7Parks/Pasteur, 8 Parks/Pasteur). There will be a final Question and Answer session for families on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm (before Back to School Night).

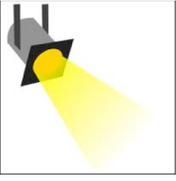
### Extracurriculars:

- The IACS Hawkmoths are looking forward to another growing season in our beautiful butterfly garden! Middle school students are welcome to join the garden club, where we work to conserve habitat for butterflies, dig in the dirt, build, weed, plant flowers and make friends. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 12:30-3:00pm. We can definitely use more parent volunteers this season, so parents who love to garden (or who have to stick around on Wednesdays anyway), please join in! You can contact **Natalie Kelsey** at [nmzkelsey@gmail.com](mailto:nmzkelsey@gmail.com) if you or your student (or both!) are interested in joining us for the fall.
- Band meets after school 3-4:30 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Whether or not you already know how to play a band instrument, you are welcome to join and learn! E-mail [jdestramp@innovationcharter.org](mailto:jdestramp@innovationcharter.org) to sign up or get more information.
- Any student in grades 5-8 is invited to join in our first ever middle school chorus! We're seeking all types of singers looking to join a fun group after school! Rehearsals will be: Mondays 3:00-4:30, Thursdays 3:00-4:30, and Fridays 3:00-4:30. Sign-up is easy; just email [smitchell@innovationcharter.org](mailto:smitchell@innovationcharter.org) with your student's name and grade.

## Athletics:

Middle School Boys and Girls Soccer, Volleyball and Cross Country has started! We have games this weekend and are looking forward to an exciting season. Please check out the schools website for a list of all games. <http://www.innovationcharter.org/current-students-and-families/athletics>

# 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 expanding) high school. First and foremost we'd like to welcome new teachers to our staff: Conor Weiss (Math), Lise Brody and Benjamin Gross (English), Elizabeth Olesen (History), Scott Barry (Art), and Dylan MacAlpine (Student Services). Our staff has been further bolstered with the addition of Clare Ringwall in the position of Director of High School Professional Development. We are so lucky to have their ideas and energy join a returning staff of amazing teachers.

There is also much newness to the curricular program. Our staff spent months last year designing new elective courses normally reserved for older students. All told there are over 50 different course titles to choose. Examples in include: Columbian Culture (Spanish), Activism and Reform (History), Cause and Consequence (English), Musical Responses to Violence and Turmoil (Music) and many more. Students and faculty have been excited and engaged by these updates and we hope you see the results of that enthusiasm at home.

## Athletics:

High School Boys and Girls Soccer and Cross Country are underway! We have games this weekend and are looking forward to an exciting season. Please check out the schools website for a list of all games.

<http://www.innovationcharter.org/current-students-and-families/athletics>.



## Important Events:

- ❖ 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

- ❖ September 8<sup>th</sup>: ACT Testing. Contact Jenny Warren at [jwarren@innovationcharter.org](mailto:jwarren@innovationcharter.org) for details
- ❖ September 22<sup>nd</sup> SAT Practice Test. Contact Jenny Warren at [jwarren@innovationcharter.org](mailto:jwarren@innovationcharter.org) for details
- ❖ September 24<sup>th</sup>: Back to School Night 6-7:30pm
- ❖ September 28<sup>th</sup>: Submittal date for High School Honors Declaration Semester 1



## College Corner

### Upcoming Test Dates at IACS

September 22<sup>nd</sup> - FREE SAT Practice test for 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders (please contact Ms. Warren for more information if you signed up for this test)

Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup> - PSAT for ALL 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders, see Ms. Warren or your advisor for more information (registration letters were mailed home last week)

### Senior Test Dates

ACT - Saturday September 8<sup>th</sup>

SAT - Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup>

### Upcoming College Info Session at IACS

9/10 New England College  
9/11 American International College  
9/13 Skidmore College  
9/18 Fitchburg State  
9/20 UMass Lowell  
9/20 Connecticut College  
9/21 Elms College  
9/25 Assumption College  
9/28 WPI



Innovation Academy Community Association  
iaca.weebly.com

Next IACA Meetings  
Monday, September 10th  
6:30-8:30pm in the Caf   
Thursday, September 20th  
6:30-8:30pm in the Caf 

The Innovation Academy Community Association  
**IACA**  
Needs you!



Welcome new parents and returning parents to Innovation Academy Community! The IACA is Innovation Academy's Community Association...similar to the PTO at other schools. The IACA consists of IACS parents, guardians, students, school staff and administration. The group meets once a month at the school at 6:30pm. **Our First meeting of the School year is next Monday Evening, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30pm in the Caf .** During the first half hour we will be having a reception for all new incoming parents to meet other members and the board and then we will be reviewing this year's event schedule.

We will also be having a second meeting this month on Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup> **from 6:30pm – 8:30pm in the Caf .** Through IACA's fundraising activities we are able to support, book fairs, Destination Imagination, school socials and much, 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 life-blood 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](http://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 on September 10<sup>th</sup>! For more information about IACA, please go to our website at: [www.iaca.weebly.com](http://www.iaca.weebly.com), or contact our IACA President Valerie Clark [iacapresident@gmail.com](mailto:iacapresident@gmail.com)



**The Scholastic Book Fair is here!** The book fair will take place September 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> during school and also during the Middle School back to school night. Check with your child to see when their class is scheduled to come. Stop in and check out the great collection of books we have this year! If you are unable to join them please be sure to send your Child to school with money on their scheduled day. Questions: Jamie Green  
[wilsongreen2000@yahoo.com](mailto:wilsongreen2000@yahoo.com)



Track Ribbon Cutting Ceremony & Relay Event  
Saturday, October 20, 2012, 12:30-3:00 PM

Please join us for the exciting Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Our New Track and Soccer Field & Our First Annual IACS Relay Fundraising Event! There will be food, prizes and entertainment... fun for the whole family! The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the New Track and Soccer Field will be taking place on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 12:30pm-3pm. During the Ceremony we are also having our **First IACS Fundraising Relay**. For the Relay Fundraising Event, Students will work in teams of 8-10 of their peers along with a parent chaperone. We are asking for each student team member to obtain pledges from family and friends for the laps that the team will walk/run within a two hour period. Our goal is to have each team member raise \$100 in pledges or \$1000 per team. The Team can also come up with other creative fundraising ideas (can and bottle drive, yard sale, etc...) to add to their team's fundraising total. **Presently we are looking for parent chaperones and student team members.** As a parent chaperone, you will be responsible for recruiting a team of 8-10 students, help the team select a name, make a team sign and collect the pledges from each team member. There will also be some great prizes for individual students and teams! **To become a Parent Chaperone, join a team or for more information on the relay event, please contact the Relay Committee Co-Chair Carol Passarelli at [cupassarelli@comcast.net](mailto:cupassarelli@comcast.net) or 978-663-3745.** This is the expansion initiative's major fundraising event for the year and we hope we can count on your support! Our goal is to have 30 teams raise \$1,000 and reach our overall goal of \$30,000! Please check our Expansion Initiative website for updates on the event at: [iacsexpansion.weebly.com](http://iacsexpansion.weebly.com). I Hope to see you there!

**IACA Meetings**  
Sept 20, Thursday  
Oct. 15, Monday  
Nov 13, Tuesday  
Dec - no meeting  
Jan 9, Wednesday  
Feb 12, Tuesday  
Mar 11, Monday  
Apr., 8, Monday  
May 13, Monday  
June 3, Monday

6:30 - 8:30 pm in Cafe  
Please join us - all are welcome!

**Back To School Nights!**

High School: September 24<sup>th</sup> 6-7:45pm  
Middle School: September 27<sup>th</sup> 6-7:45pm