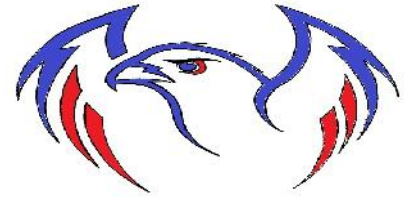


The Hawk



May
2013

Innovation Academy Charter School

Dear Families:

Thank you for your support during my recent administrator exchange in China. I appreciated the community following along with my blog posts at <http://www.innovationonearth.com> and coming back to insightful questions from students and staff. I am eager to share more of this amazing experience with you. Come join me on Monday, May 20th at 5 pm to learn more about teaching and learning at our partner school, No. 31 Handan Middle School. I will share photos, stories, and answer questions. We also look forward to hosting Vice Principal, Yaolin Pei, next fall.

On another note, thank you for your flexibility and patience as we have navigated tight quarters in our parking lot during our building project. We are excited for the new building to come online for the 2013-2014 school year. The new building will house 5/6 students and middle school specials. The expanding high school will move into sections of the current building vacating by the 5/6 teams. We are also looking forward to the expansion of our cafeteria to be completed over the summer.

May and June are busy months ahead. Stay tuned to the school calendar for exciting school events ahead!
Best,

Melissa Kapeckas,
Middle School Principal

All School Reminders

- 5/8 Early release 12:25PM
- 5/8 Parent Forum: "Understanding the Trends and Working together to Prevent Teen Substance Abuse" 6:30PM-8:30PM
- 5/13 IACA meeting 6:30PM
- 5/15 Early release 12:25PM
- 5/16 Innovation Spring 5k 6:30PM
- 5/22 Early release 12:25PM
- 5/27 No school
- 5/29 Early release 12:25PM

Mark your calendar- Barring any unforeseen cancellations, the last day of school is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19th 1:00pm dismissal. The first day of school for the 2013-2014 school year will be Tuesday, August 27th. The first week of school will be a 3 day week with no school on Friday, August 30th or Monday, September 2nd in observance of Labor Day. The complete 2013-2014 school calendar will be released in June.

Join us for Drama Camp & Glee Camp 2013

For students going into Grade 5 through 12 Drama Camp is 8:30-3:30, July 8 through July 12 with a public performance on Friday night!
Glee Camp is 8:30-3:30, July 15 through July 19 with a public musical, drama and dance production on Friday night!
Don't miss your opportunity to shine on the IACS stage!
Registration forms are in the front office lobby.

**Innovation Academy Charter School Performing Arts Program
Proudly Presents the Hilarious Comedies:**

**Check Please
&
Check Please, Take 2
By Jonathan Rand**

Saturday May 11 at 2:00PM and 7:00PM. Tickets: \$8 if purchased by April 30, \$12 in May. Ticket order forms are in the main office lobby. Want to put something in the play program? Advertisement order forms are available at the main office lobby and are due by April 30.

IACS Health and Wellness Advisory Council Invites you to a parent forum: **Teen Substance Abuse and Related Parenting Challenges**, on Wednesday, May 8th from 6:30-8:30PM at IACS. An opportunity to learn the facts, share ideas and ask questions. The speakers for the evening are Gayle Nutile-Pimm, Health and Wellness Coordinator, and Bill Loehfelm, an IACS parent with over 20 years of experience in substance abuse education and counseling. *What are the trends in drug and alcohol abuse among teens? How do I talk to my teen? What can I do if I am worried about my teen? How do I balance my teen's need for independence and my concerns about his or her safety? Together we can send a strong positive message to IACS students!*



1st Annual Innovation Spring 5 Kilometer Road Race and Fun Run

Thursday Evening May 16, 2013

Fun Run at 6:30PM - 5K at 7:00PM

5K Pre (before May 3rd) \$25, Post \$30, Fun Run \$10

Online registration will be accepted until May 15 at 5:00 PM at <http://www.lightboxreg.com/innovation-spring-5k>.

If you don't run please join us to cheer on our runners, and to enjoy an evening out with family and friends. Adding to the festivities, we'll have a DJ and the Augusta Market food truck "Chicken on the Road". It is sure to be a great time!

We need volunteers as well as sponsors. If you have a family business that might sponsor, or you're interested in volunteering, please contact Carol Passarelli at cupassarelli@comcast.net



Middle School Updates

Curriculum Spotlight:

This month's curriculum spotlight focuses on how one social media tool, Edmodo, is extending learning beyond the classroom at IACS. *What is Edmodo?* Edmodo is a secure social learning platform for teachers, students, and parents. It is commonly thought of as Facebook for schools. Its interface looks much like Facebook, but classes and assignments are monitored by teachers. Edmodo provides a safe way for students to connect and collaborate, share content and access homework, and extend their learning. What are some ways that Edmodo is being used in classes?

"In Spanish we are using Edmodo so that students can interact in Spanish outside of the normal class period. Just like in the classroom, students need to interact without using any English. Everyone has joined a group based on his/her language level/experience (rather than his/her class). This grouping allows for differentiated assignments and students can work on the functions of the next language level. It's great that students are also able to interact with peers from other classes. Everyone is required to complete a weekly task through posting and commenting on other posts. Additionally, there are other optional enrichment assignments posted for students to practice various skills: listening, reading, writing and interpersonal communication skills." -Ashley Uyaguari, Spanish Curriculum Coordinator

"In science, we are using Edmodo for online discussions about current events related to curriculum. We are also extending student learning by posting additional learning materials (video, articles, pictures) about other science topics that students may be interested in exploring. Edmodo can be about assignments and grades online. However, with a little creativity Edmodo can become an engaging social learning environment where teachers can initiate interest, excitement, and promote life-long learning." Mike Edwards, % Science Teacher

"In Social Studies, we have used Edmodo in a variety of ways, including to collaborate on a real-world project. For example, for the Democracy in Action rubric, students worked as a team to design a change initiative for something they wanted the government to improve in America. They needed to work collaboratively to decide what issue to focus on, research the issue, figure out who to contact, and strategize how to deliver their message. For each step, students were required to create a post on Edmodo. Use of an online discussion board gave voice to some quieter students who were less likely to participate in class and students were able to get deeper into the discussion. By posting multiple times on Edmodo, students were able to get support along the way with peers offering comments and feedback online and teacher-led discussions each day to frame the next step." -Sara Krakauer, % Social Studies Teacher

Along with these learning opportunities, Edmodo provides an opportunity for teachers to connect with students and begin a dialogue in which students learn norms for online dialogue and appropriate use of social networking tools. If you'd like to follow along with the online learning, there is a unique parent code associated with each student which will link you to your child. You can retrieve the parent code from their child's account. The code will be visible on the right sidebar.

Please consider joining us for auditions for:

The Hit Broadway Musical, *Grease*

Student Edition performed with special permission by Samuel French, Inc.

Written by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey

Students currently in grades 8-11: Thursday, May 30, 3:00-4:00 & Friday, May 31, 3:00-4:00

You must attend both audition days! This has been cleared with coaches!

Students currently in grades 5-7: Friday, June 7 Let your homebase teachers know, go to first lunch, and then head to the auditorium for auditions during recess and SSR. In order to audition you will need a signed audition agreement. To get a copy: Grades 8-11 email kdalton@innovationcharter.org. Grades 5-7 email spereyra@innovationcharter.org.

No experience or preparation needed! Just come to the auditorium and prepare to have fun!

Lost and found will be on display in the library please stop by and see if anything is yours. All unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity on Wednesday, May 8.

Congratulations to Sara Krakauer. Sara has recently been selected to participate in a research study with Harvard University's Project Zero focused on global education. We are excited for the professional opportunity this presents to her and IACS!



IACS is grateful to be the recipient of the Exxon/Mobil Educational Alliance Grant

Innovation Academy Charter School is grateful to be the recipient of the Exxon/Mobil Educational Alliance grant, given through local Alltown convenience stores and New England Mobil retail gasoline distributors. The Exxon/Mobil's Educational Alliance Program, a nationwide initiative to enhance math and science learning at K-12 institutions, distributes educational grants for materials and programming such as learning tools, lab supplies and educational trips. "Mobil distributors and Alltown, our new convenience store brand, are proud to partner with the Educational Alliance to foster math and science education for children in the towns we serve," said Global's Executive Vice President Andrew Slifka. "By promoting math and science, these grants enrich students' lives, create future opportunities and strengthen the educational fabric within the schools themselves. These outcomes reflect the commitment of Global, Mobil and Alltown to maintain a positive, vital role in our communities." Since 2000, the Educational Alliance Program has awarded more than \$18 million to local schools through Exxon and Mobil retailers.



The 8th Grade Moving Up Assembly will be held in our school auditorium from 8:15-9:15 am on Tuesday, June 18th. Eighth grade students have a ceremony including a retrospective account of middle school written by students and recognition of students' completion of middle school. This will be followed by a continental breakfast for students and their guests. Due to space constraints in the auditorium, students are limited to no more than 2 guests at the assembly. Please respect this rule to ensure all that attend can be seated.

The MCAS schedule is as follows:

5/6-5/7- 7th & 8th grade Mathematics

5/8- 7th & 8th grade Mathematics makeups (honored with a medical excuse)

5/9-5/10- 5th & 6th grade Mathematics

5/13-5/14- 5th & 8th grade Science/Technology/Engineering

5/15-5/20 MCAS makeups (honored with a medical excuse)

Families often ask us what they can do at home to help their child be prepared and do their best on the day of the exam. Please be sure your child is well-rested and eats a healthy breakfast on testing days. Remind your child that the tests are untimed and s/he is well prepared for the exams. We want our students to remember to show and check their work. Be certain to arrive at school on time. Once a testing session has begun, students who are tardy are not permitted to enter the testing room and would need a medical excuse to participate in the make-up exam. For specific questions about MCAS, contact Ms. Attfield Quinlan at attfieldquinlan@innovationcharter.org.

Family Orientation:

All new high school families need to attend a High School Orientation. This Orientation should be attended by the student and at least one parent/guardian. Each session will be led High School Principal Greg Orpen and will give you important information about transition to high school. Please plan to attend one of these sessions.

Monday, May 20th, 5:00-6:00 PM

Wednesday, May 29th 5:00-6:00 PM

Thursday, May 30th, 3:30-4:30 PM

Monday, June 3rd, 5:00-6:00 PM

Thursday, June 6th, 3:30-4:30 PM

In order to plan for an accurate number of families, please call or email Kathleen Feeney, (kfeeney@innovationcharter.org) as soon as possible. If you are unable to attend one of the scheduled sessions, please let Kathleen know.

The Middle School Art Department needs your help!

Our 5/6 students are working on final projects. We would appreciate **NUT FREE** empty boxes. Cereal, soda and snack box donations are appreciated. Thank you! Ms. Shaby and Ms. Mac

Yearbook Reminders for Eighth Graders:

The Early Bird SALE PRICE for the Middle School Yearbooks ends on Friday, May 3rd so order your Yearbook NOW at the preorder sale price of \$20 instead of waiting until May 6th and paying \$23. For a limited time Peggy is still accepting Eighth Graders Baby Pictures and Personal Pages. Get them in NOW!

8th Grade Semi-Formal: Friday, June 8th at IACS from 7:00- 10:30 PM. This is always a fun night, and we are hoping to have 100% student participation this year. At school, we will share plans with students so that they may look forward to this last celebration with their eighth grade classmates, while at the same time ensuring that students understand how this is distinguishable from a formal event, like a prom. Girls may opt to wear a simple party dress. Gowns, short mini-dresses or other revealing dresses are not permitted. Boys may opt to wear a collared dress shirt and dress pants. **Tuxedos are not permitted. Limousines are not permitted. Students must be at school for the entirety of the school day in order to attend the dance.** Tickets will be on sale closer to the event and details of this fun event will be discussed with students as the dance approaches.

Need Jury Volunteers: We 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 (juries start at 8:00 and go throughout the day until 4:00) this spring, please contact Paula Girouard at girouardpaula@comcast.net or stop by the office.

Quarter 4 Interim Reports will be mailed home on May 13th for any student in danger of not passing Quarter 4. **Congratulations** to the many students earning Honors, Distinguished Honors, and Academic Improvement Awards for Quarter 3.

High School Updates



Learning Spotlight:

IACS Group Spends April Break Exploring Costa Rica

Students Haley Allard, Mariah Bush, Luna Crowley, Ryan Goffman, Ian Hachman, Cam Jacobs, Emily Malachowski, Tim O'Neill, Marc Printz, and Rosalie Toupin, along with chaperones Donna Harrington, Todd Goffman, and Kellie Burtch, just returned from a week of learning and adventure in Costa Rica. Our guide, Herson Guevara, first took us to Inbioparque near San Jose, the country's capitol. It harbors wildlife that can be found in the major ecosystems located in Costa Rica and we had a private tour with a park naturalist. From there we drove into the mountains to learn about coffee production at DOKA Coffee Estate followed by a hike to Poas Volcano. The first busy day concluded with a couple hours of swimming and soaking in mineral hot springs at the Baldi Resort.

On the second day, we traveled to a rural village to volunteer with a small organic farming family. Our gracious host family patiently helped us improve our bridge-building skills and prepared a delicious home-cooked meal. Our bridge construction project was a success! The students demonstrated excellent focus, commitment, and optimism throughout the day.

Mid-trip, our group traveled on horseback to Monteverde Cloud Forest. We hiked through the rainforest in the morning, and flew through and above the tree canopy on a zipline tour in the afternoon! One line was 1 km long! Manuel Antonio National Park on the Pacific Coast was our final destination. We saw three different kinds of monkeys, sloths, lizards, birds, snakes, and butterflies. We had to watch our belongings carefully, as families of white-faced monkeys are known to collaborate to raid visitor's bags for food, clothes, and electronics! Everyone loved swimming in the ocean and spent hours each day playing in the waves!

It was an amazing week spent making friends, enjoying Tico cuisine, photographing wildlife, and practicing our Spanish! Please look for our picture display on Exhibition Night!

College Corner:

* Next SAT exam is on Sat. May 4th and registration for the June 1st SAT and Subject Tests is due by May 2nd.

*Next ACT Exam is on Sat. June 8th and registration is due by May 3rd.

*Teacher Recommendation Letter Requests due by May 31st

11th grade students and parents should check their email for important information and deadlines through the "College Counseling News and Notes." Email Mr. Barr with any questions: dbarr@innovationcharter.org

On Friday April 26th, IACS 11th and 10th graders with high school advisors boarded buses to spend the day on a college campus. The variety of public and private colleges our students were able to experience through a scheduled guided tour by a current undergraduate student included Smith College, Worcester State, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Clark University, Holy Cross and Brandeis University. While sophomores were assigned a college to tour by their own advisor group, the main goal for these students was to be introduced to a college campus by seeing residence halls, an academic class, the dining hall, and the student center among other aspects of campus. The juniors were able to choose the college they visited which allowed them to visit a place they may already be interested in, a place they have wanted to see and/or a college they do not know as much about. This college tour was beneficial even if a student did not end up liking the specific college they visited as this information of why the school wasn't the right fit just as why it was the right fit only benefits their college search process going forward. Advisors will be talking about their experiences and debriefing the day with their advisor groups over the next few weeks!

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

May 7th Endersession Meetings 2:30-3PM.

May 13th & 14th Grade 10 Math MCAS Exams

May 23rd High School Exhibition Night 6-7:30PM

May 24th Junior & Senior Prom 7-11PM;
Tickets purchased by May 1st-\$70pp

May 28th IACS Junior/Senior Award Night 630-8PM

May 30th & 31st High School Fall Play Auditions 3-4PM

Last Bash: Last Bash is to provide our Class of 2013 with a post-grad party! At this time of year, only one thing is on the minds of high school seniors across the country: GRADUATION! Unfortunately, it historically has also been one of the most deadly nights for teens. **Graduation celebrations should be fun, not fatal!** The *Senior Last Bash* will be a substance-free celebration filled with food, fun and entertainment for our graduating seniors. High Schools across the country report that their events are a huge success, providing wonderful memories to graduates and peace of mind to families. It also sends a message to our students that their achievement and safety is a priority to family, friends and community. To make this possible for our 2013 graduating class, we need to raise money & have plenty of volunteers and community support. The support of the entire school community is essential to creating this annual event. **We are counting on everyone to help us celebrate the Class of 2013! The Class of 2013 has worked hard and deserves a party to remember!** Parents from all grade levels are encouraged to get involved so when your child is a senior, they too can enjoy this event. We hope every family will donate at least \$20.13. Money not used this year will be used as seed money for future classes. To donate, simply send a check to the IACS Main Office. Please write Last Bash on the envelope. **Checks may be made out to IACA (Innovation Academy Community Association). Memo: Last Bash**

If you would like volunteer your time to help with planning, decorating or chaperoning, contact Tracy Leedberg at lastbash@innovationcharter.org.

Presentations of Learning and Senior Project:

Students have kicked off the week with their Presentations of Learning and Senior Projects. It has been an amazing week thus far to see students share their growth as a learner and present some exceptional work. If you have not yet come in, we hope you can still make it in to watch presentations of either your own student or another IACS student. If you have any questions about these presentations, please contact your student's advisor.



IACA

Innovation Academy Community Association
iaca.weebly.com

Next IACA Meeting
Monday
May 13th
6:30 - 8:30pm
In The Café

The IACA Basket Raffle Collection is here! We are collecting any and all kinds of new or like-new re-gifted items for the annual IACA Basket Raffle! All proceeds go directly back to the school, so anything you can donate is always appreciated! See the list below for your student's homebase/advisory basket theme. Feel free to send in items for ANY of the themes. Gift cards, lottery tickets and cash toward purchase of items for baskets are also great ideas. Please deliver items to school by **Monday, May 13th**. Middle School students can deliver items to their homebase. High School students can deliver items to the collection box in the Principals' hallway. Basket Assembly is May 21st from 4 -7PM. Feel free to come and help assemble anytime between 4-7PM. Baskets will be on display and raffle tickets will be sold on May 23rd at the High School Exhibition Night and on May 31st at the Middle School Art Show. Winners will be selected at the end of the art show. Can't make it to one of the events? Basket images will be posted to the IACA website <http://iaca.weebly.com/> once they are assembled. Tickets may be purchased by sending your name, phone number, baskets you would like to buy tickets for, quantity of tickets you want to purchase and check made payable to IACA to the attention of "Michele Frey – Basket Raffle" in a sealed envelope delivered to the school office.

Ticket Prices: 1 for \$1, 6 for \$5, 12 for \$10, 25 for \$20. Questions? Contact Michele Frey mfrey66@gmail.com

Middle School Homebase Themes

- Edelman: Tailgate
- Gandhi: Off To Camp
- Salk: Game Night
- Barton: Day at the Beach
- Keller: The Great Outdoors
- Bell: Snack Attack
- Rowling: Chef's Delight
- Mandela: Love My Pet
- Russell: Home Office
- O'Connor: BBQ
- Brinker: Home Improvement
- Gates: Ultimate Picnic
- Copernicus: Gardener's Green Thumb
- Pasteur: Zen
- Winfrey: Arts & Crafts
- Parks: Love to Read (grades 8 and under)

High School Advisory Themes

- Cruz/Brody
 - Hinkle/Weiss
 - Ruback/Einsidler
 - Frothingham/Frankhouse
 - Renau/Goucher
- } Pizza & Movie
- Onos/Burtch
 - Carvajal/Hickey
 - Gross/Olesen
 - Orpen/Dalton
- } Car Car/New Driver
- Derival/DiCarlo
 - Johnson/Morocco
 - Pelham/Smith
 - Kelly/Derry
- } Off to College

Middle School Socials!

The IACA is pleased to announce the last two middle school dances for the 2012 – 2013 school year. **May 3rd for 5/6 grade students and May 10th for 7/8 grade students.** The two dances will be an end of the school year celebration. The cost is \$5.00 per student and will be from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Please email Lisa Reed at tired@comcast.net if you are available to help set up, chaperone or clean up. All offers of help are greatly appreciated. You must already be CORI approved.

Baseball for Boxtops! Spring has sprung and the annual IACS boxtop baseball competition has begun! We have 16 homebases and 26 advisories all vying for the title of "2013 Boxtop Champions". Search your cabinets, talk to your grandparents, and put a collection box in your parents' workplace. Collect those Boxtops! How to play: submit your boxtops with your name and Homebase/Advisory in the cafeteria Monster box. Every 25 boxtops = a base. Every 100 boxtops = a run. The team with the most runs scored by June 7th will be the winner and will receive a prize! Check the bulletin board in the cafeteria for an update on scores.

Go Team IACS!!!!

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities!

***It's election time!** If you are interested in serving as an officer in the 2013-2014 school year the, Vice President Elect., is a one year term in preparation for possibly filling the President chair the following year. We also have the Clerk or Secretary chair which is mostly taking the minutes of the meeting and providing research. If you are interested in running for any of these seats, please come to the IACA meeting on May 13th, 6:30 in the cafeteria.

***8th Grade moving up and HS Graduation Reception:** If you are interested in helping with the HS Graduation reception or the 8th grade moving up ceremony please contact Lori at lolidimattia@comcast.net.

***End of the Year BBQ:** The end of the year Barbeque will be held on Wednesday, June 19th. If you would like to volunteer to help please contact Kerry Wellenstein at wellensteins@comcast.net.

***Last Bash Party:** If you are interested in helping with the graduation night *Last Bash Party* please contact Tracy Leedberg at lastbash@innovationcharter.org.

***8th Grade Semi-Formal: The 8th Grad Semi-Formal will be held on Friday Evening June 7th from 7-10pm.** Look for permission slips to be sent home on May 3rd and are due back on May 24th. There will also be an invitation sent out on May 17th. If you have any questions or would like to help please contact Kerry Wellenstein at Wellensteins@comcast.net.

***Hospitality Chair:** We are looking for a Hospitality Chair for the 2013-2014 School year. The Hospitality chair is responsible to greet new parents at open houses and expositions as an IACA representative while you pass out baked goods, water and information contact iacapresident@gmail.com

The Fundraising committee would like to thank the IACS community for making IACA's Comedy Night and Silent Auction such a success. By joining us at the event, making donations, and bidding high and often on silent auction items, we were able to raise over \$10,000 to benefit the students of IACS. These funds will be used as seed money for clubs, to provide funding for scholarships and to support the social and academic enrichment of our students. I would like to thank those who helped set up at the event, those who baked for the dessert trays and especially Annie, Paula, Lori, Beverly, Michelle, Valerie and Jamie who spent the evening working with me to make the event a fun time for all who attended. Thank you, Heather Landis IACA Fundraising Chair