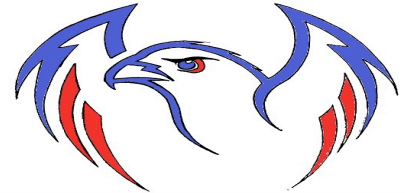


The Hawk



April
2013

Innovation Academy Charter School

Dear IACS Families,

This time of year is brimming with spring activities for both students and parents. Please take some time to review information about events occurring inside and outside of the classroom. We do have one special scheduling to note that affects all families:

All after school activities will be cancelled on the following dates: April 11th, 12th, 23rd, 24th, and 25th. These cancellations are necessary to allow large-scale construction equipment to arrive on campus after school hours. The trucks will be carrying large sections of modular buildings for our new 5/6 wing!

Greg Orpen, High School Principal

Performing Arts: Who is thinking about summer? WE ARE!!! IACS is thrilled to provide two weeks of performance arts camps this summer! Please see the registration form at <http://www.innovationcharter.org/current-students-and-families/performing-arts>

Please note the \$30 discount if your registration is turned in by April 15! Space is limited and is first come, first served. The Performing Arts Program of Innovation Academy in Tyngsboro Proudly Presents 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! Contact rhawthorne@innovationcharter.org for more details.

All School Reminders

- 4/8 IACA Meeting 6:30-8:30PM
- 4/8 IACS Board Meeting 6:30-8:30PM
- 4/8-12 All School Spirit Week
- 4/10 Full Day Wednesday
- 4/15-19 No School – April break
- 4/24 Early release 12:25PM

Parking Reminder:

Due to recent parking constraints, we need to make an extra effort to insure that the reserved handicapped parking spots are readily available to those who have permission to use them. The only cars that should be using the handicapped spots are those cars with handicapped license plates or those families who have received a handicapped parking pass through the Health Office. These passes will have to be displayed on the dashboard for pick up and drop off. Most passes will require a doctor signed note stating that access to this area is medically necessary. Thank you for your cooperation; if you have any questions please call the Health office at extension 2104.

All School Survey: Thanks for your feedback on this year's Family Survey. We have closed the survey so that we can begin to review all of the feedback.

IACS Health and Wellness Advisory Council Invites You to a Parent Forum on Wednesday May 8th from 6:30 to 8:30pm at IACS **Teen Substance Abuse and Related Parenting Challenges**. 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!

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.**



Middle School Updates

Congratulations are in Order!

The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers announced the 2013 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards on Friday, March 15th. IACS eighth grader, **Spencer Royston**, received a **Silver Medal in this international competition for his personal memoir, "The Storm."** The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers established its annual Art and Writing Awards in 1923 to foster and recognize the preeminent work of our nation's youth. Now in its 90th year, the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards provide a singular opportunity for students to be noticed for their creative talents. Each year, increasing numbers of creative teens submit their work, and they become a part of a community that includes alumni artists and writers such as Andy Warhol, Sylvia Plath, Truman Capote, Richard Avedon, Robert Redford, Ken Burns, and many more. Over 230,000 international works of art, writing, and film were submitted to The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards this year, with winners from as far away as Singapore: Only the top 1% of entries achieved top honors. The 2013 Art and Writing Awards National Ceremony will be held on May 31 at Carnegie Hall.

Spencer submitted a personal memoir/essay entitled, "The Storm," a poignant and powerful remembrance of the death of his grandfather during Hurricane Sandy in 2012. Spencer credits the collaboration between the Arts and English Language Arts department at Innovation Academy with giving him the opportunity – and time and space – within which to develop his work. "Writing a story starts with inspiration. My Opa (Grandpa) was the inspiration for this story, and the hard times that came before and after his death. I never expected to qualify for an award at all, let alone a national competition. I really appreciate that I am at a school that allows me the chance to have these types of opportunities. In fifth and sixth grades, my English teacher fostered my writing skills and inspired me to keep creating stories. This year my English teacher helped me edit and enter my work into the contest. I would not be where I am without their support. I would encourage other writers to keep practicing and consider submitting their work."

Congratulations to 5% Social Studies Teacher Sara Krakauer. Sara is participating in a Fulbright Alumni Workshop in Washington, DC on April 4th and 5th. She is co-hosting a workshop session entitled Using Technology and Social Media for Global Education with Julia de la Torre, Executive Director of the Boston-based education nonprofit.

Congratulations to the IACS Destination Imagination teams. Both teams came up with creative solutions and placed third in their challenges. A big thank you to the team managers, Kim Albert and Alyssa Zenitz, who spent countless hours with their teams. Three IACS students will be moving on to the state tournament in conjunction with their town's team. Congratulations to Cameron Braunstein, Araceli Schmalz, and Isabela Schmalz for this accomplishment!

Congratulations to HB Edelman, who earned distinction as the homebase that raised the most funds (over \$900) and earned a lunch provided by the Olive Garden. Thank you to the community for your support of this fundraiser and to HB Gates and Mr. Leedberg for their work to engage students in an important cause. We are proud that IACS rose over \$3200 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Mrs. Kapeckas is in China:

Middle School Principal Melissa Kapeckas is currently in China on an administrator exchange. She encourages the community to learn alongside her by reading her posts as a guest blogger on Ms. Krakauer's site <http://www.innovationonearth.com>.



Things to Remember:

Please help 5th grader Keara Schmidt. Keara is currently running a **pet supply drive for the MSPCA**, a project she has arranged for her Girl Scout Bronze Award. You can help animals in need by donating non-perishable pet food, pet supplies, office supplies, cleaning supplies, and towels. A wish list is attached to the box in the cafeteria. The drive runs until April 12th. For more information, go to www.mspca.org/adoption/methuen-nevens. Thank you for your support!

Middle school students who want to join robotics club should email Donna Harrington at dharrington@innovationcharter.org. This club will meet on Tuesday afternoons from 3:00-4:00, April 2nd, 9th, 23rd and 30th. The club meets in room 241 of the high school. Students will be working on projects to present at the annual Botball/Botfest contest and exhibition. Students can design their own project, which could be an artbotics project (art that responds to the viewer). The Botfest exhibit takes place at UMass Lowell Gymnasium on May 4th from 11:00-1:00. Some parents will be needed to supervise and all are encouraged to attend.

Worcester Museums Field trip for 7/8 grade Social Studies students in Homebases Brinker, O'Connor, Parks and Winfrey has been rescheduled (again!) to Thursday, April 11. We need chaperones on this new date! If you can chaperone on that day, please email Martha McLure at mmclure@innovationcharter.org or Jason O'Neil-Willoughby at joneilwilloughby@innovationcharter.org. Attendance will be taken at 8:00 am on the buses that will be located at the end of the Middle School parking lot that day. Students will need a lunch, beverage, snack, and a notebook. Students may bring a camera. Pencils will be provided. No backpacks that day, please.

Yearbook Reminders for Eighth Graders:

8th GRADERS will be able to submit one personal page for the yearbook; it is a chance to submit images and words that represents you as long as it's school appropriate.

You are allowed to collaborate on a personal page as follows: Quarter page is 1 person, half page is 2 to 3 people, and Full page is 4 to 8 people. However, you may only be represented in ONE submission. Please draw or copy your images onto an 8 1/2 by 11 piece of paper for quarter or full pages. Use a folded page for a half page (it is a different dimension than full)

Do you want to show your friends what you looked like as a baby? Well, now is your chance! **Eighth Graders may submit one baby picture. Make sure your name is written on the back.** Deadline for Personal Pages and Baby Pictures is April 12. Submit to Peggy Stephens-North or any yearbook staff member.

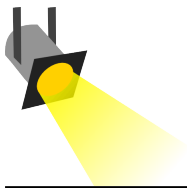
Have you been taking pictures at school events?

If so, would you be able to share them with us for possible use in the yearbook? Grade 5-6 send pictures to mgaynor@innovationcharter.org and grades 7-8 send pictures to pstephensnorth@innovationcharter.org

8th Grade Semi-Formal

The dance will be held on Friday, June 8th at the school 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.





High School Updates



Learning Spotlight:

Students in Spanish Cultural Themes have just completed a project on the importance of family in the Spanish-speaking world. They have constructed family trees using Spanish naming conventions for last names, and have also learned vocabulary related to family and relationships. Upcoming units before and after April break will include politics, cuisine, and other exciting topics.

Students in Introduction to Spanish Literature are examining varied pieces of literature from both the Middle Ages and the nineteenth century. In addition to improving their Spanish speaking, listening and writing abilities, they are learning about the differences between Romanticism, Realism and Naturalism in Spanish literature and the major works of these genres. Next week and after April break, students will begin examining 20th century works and poets.

Students in OLA II have built a strong immersion classroom, playing games and speaking Spanish throughout the period. Students should see their nightly written homework beginning to expand in length and complexity by this point in the semester. Students have completed their second recorded conversation in their digital portfolios.

Students taking Spanish for Professionals have been learning Spanish phrases, questions, and commands needed for job specific purposes. Through information obtained in this course students have been able to examine cross-cultural issues pertinent to dealing with Hispanic speakers in real life situations. They will be working on a exciting project to apply skills learned in class after April break.

IACS Junior Senior Prom 2013...

When: May 24, 2013

Time: 6pm-11pm

Where: Sky Meadows Nashua, NH

There will be dancing, dinner, music and a professional photographer to capture the memory!

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 or touring locations can contact Ms. Morocco, Smorocco@innovationcharter.org

Yearbook:

Yearbook sales are still in full swing! Get yours before it is too late!

JUST IN: GREAT NEWS!! The printer has given us 2 extra weeks to SELL, SELL, SELL! **The ABSOLUTE LAST DAY** to purchase yearbooks **NOW is Friday, April 12, 2013** by 3:00pm. **NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

Yearbooks are \$32 plus personalization/icon if interested and forms can be found in front of Tina's office. **BUY NOW!!!** Return all forms/money to the zebra mailbox in the teacher mailbox area.

College Corner



Email Mr. Barr with any questions: dbarr@innovationcharter.org

April 6th and 24th 9am-1pm Sat Prep Exam at IACS

April 13th 8am-2pm ACT Exams at IACS

Teacher Recommendation Letter Requests due by May 31st

11th grade families who have not had a college meeting, please email Mr. Barr to schedule the family meeting

The deadline for seniors to pay the deposit at a college is May 1st

Presentations of Learning and Senior Project

All families were mailed a letter towards the end of March indicating the time and date of student presentations, which occur over the week of April 29th through May 3rd. It's an amazing week to see students share their growth as a learner and we hope you can come watch presentations of either your own student or another IACS student you know. If you have any questions about these presentations, please contact your student's advisor.



Innovation Academy Community Association
iaca.weebly.com

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

Comedy Night

21+ IACA Fundraiser

Friday April 5th, 2013 Billerica Hall of Elks 7:00pm

Live Comedy - Buffet Dinner - Silent Auction - 50/50 - Cash Bar - Photo Booth
Tix \$35ea - 2/\$60 - table(10) \$250 for tix or ?'s email domeafavorheather@hotmail.com



Join us for a night of laughs and great fun at 7PM on Friday, April 5, 2013, at the Billerica Hall of Elks. This year's show will feature live comedy by Boston Hysterical Society's Peter Gross. The evening will include buffet dinner, cash bar, silent auction, 50/50 raffle, photo booth and lots of laughs. Tickets are \$35 each or 2/\$60 or better yet grab some friends and buy a table of 10 for \$250. All proceeds to benefit the IACA in their efforts to support the students of Innovation Academy. Tickets will also be sold at the door. For a preview of our growing list of silent auction items please go to www.iaca.weebly.com or check us out on Facebook IACA. For questions or to purchase tickets, contact Heather Landis at 978-502-9450 or domeafavorheather@hotmail.com. Hope to see you there!

IACA Volunteers Needed

- We are looking for volunteers!
- **Last Bash Party:** If you are interested in helping with the graduation night *Last Bash Party* (details on the front page) please contact Tracy Leedberg at lastbash@innovationcharter.org.
 - We need a **Dance Social Chairperson** for the 2013-2014 school year. If you are interested in learning to run the dance socials please contact Lisa Reed at treed@comcast.net. There are a few dances left to learn how to coordinate the dances.
 - **8th Grade Semi-Formal Volunteers Needed:** Please contact Kerry Wellenstein Wellensteins@comcast.net if you would like to get involved.

Middle School Socials

May 3rd for 5/6

May 10th 7/8

7-9PM Admission: \$5



Come join your classmates for a night of fun. Dance to the latest hits with our rocking DJ and cool lights or hang out and play games with your friends. Dances are 7:00-9:00PM admission is \$5.00. You must be an IACS students to attend. No outside beverages or backpacks are allowed, water is provided. (Please see the school handbook if you have any questions.) We need chaperones and decorators! Please contact Lisa Reed at treed@comcast.net in advance if you wish to chaperone. All volunteers must be confirmed and CORI'd before the dance.

Need Jury Volunteers: 6th & 8th grade have received their jury dates. 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 main office.

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 recyclable items into dollars for IACS! In addition to the MS lobby, we have a new location to drop off items: Chelmsford Storage Solutions, 296 Littleton Road Chelmsford. See Karen Lowry's Contact Nancy Therrien: ntherrien@verizon.net

Box Top Contest: Irish for More Boxtops:

How many boxtops can you collect in one month? We challenged our students and they didn't disappoint us. IACS students brought in over \$200 worth of Boxtops during the month of March! CONGRATULATIONS to our winners: in the **high school**, **Lee DiMattia** of Burtch Advisory, 7/8 **Sara Yoken** of homebase Copernicus and **5/6 Ethan Gierke** of homebase Mandela whom submitted an incredible **591 boxtops!!!!** Our winners will all receive \$20 gift certificates. COMING SOON: Baseball Boxtops - in the meantime keep collecting those Boxtops!



Got Books?? Remember to drop your used books CDs, DVDs & Records in the Got Books container located next to the High School. If you want to donate books directly to the school, please be sure to bring those donations in to the library. Contact: Heather Landis at (978) 649-0432 ext: 1208 or email: hlandis@innovationcharter.org with questions. Thank you!