IPA RAVENS NEWSLETTER

5751 E. University Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46219 • 317.357.3770 • Fax: 317.357.3786

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Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, Be Involved, Be Focused

IPA JUNIORS SCHEDULED FOR ACT

All 11th grade IPA students are registered to take the ACT college entrance exam tomorrow, Saturday, April 14th, at 8:00 a.m. Testing will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m., so plan to arrive a few minutes early. Students arriving after 8:00 a.m. will not be allowed in the testing rooms. Plan to get plenty of rest, eat a healthy breakfast, and be prepared to "show what you know"!

ICMS OUTDOOR CLASSROOM CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

Thanks to a generous grant from Lowe's, an outdoor classroom/arbor is about to be constructed at the Irvington Community Middle School. Post holes were dug yesterday thanks to Ed Hansen and his employer, the Indianapolis Power & Light Company, who donated equipment for the post-hole excavation. The project work schedule is as follows:

Saturday, April 14th: 6 a.m.-noon: 24 posts to be set
Monday, April 16th: 6-8 p.m.: construction of arbor
Friday, April 20th: 6-8 p.m.: construction continues
Saturday, April 21st: construction continues (time TBA)

The Irvington Community Schools Dads Club has worked closely in the planning stages with Mr. Dobell, ICMS Choir and General Music Director, who is serving as the outdoor classroom project coordinator. The Dads Club is seeking more ICS volunteers to assist in the project. Skilled and unskilled labor is welcome! For more information, please contact Mr. Dobell at rdobell@ics-charter.org.

ARLINGTON AVENUE BIKE LANES PROJECT TO BEGIN IN APRIL

A major road improvement project was announced by the Indianapolis Department of Public Works at a public meeting held at Irvington Preparatory Academy on Thursday, March 15th, 2012.

This spring, the city of Indianapolis will embark on a road resurfacing and bike lanes project on Arlington Avenue, extending from East Washington Street to 10th Street.

In this corridor, Arlington will be reduced from four lanes to two. A two-way center turn lane and a five-foot dedicated bike lane on both sides of the street will be created. The improvements, representing a collaborative effort involving the Department of Public Works and the Office of Sustainability, will feature new pavement markings designating bike lanes and signage for easy identification. The project will result in an additional half mile of dedicated bike lanes, curb and sidewalk repair, and Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant ramps along the roadway. The project will be completed by August.

Irvington Community Schools provided our six-weeks summer break schedule to the Department of Public Works and requested that the construction work affecting the immediate area be conducted during that time span. If you would like more information about the project, contact Alex Janeczek, project manager, at Alexander.Janeczek@indy.gov or (317) 281-1527.

IRVINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS' NEW MISSION STATEMENT

Irvington Community Schools' Board of Directors approved a new mission statement for the three schools in January. This was completed in a spirit of continuous improvement and reflection regarding where we've been, and where we're headed. The original mission statement was 10 years old, and the schools believed it was time to review and update it to better reflect our identity, purpose, and goals. The mission statement was revamped with input from the board of directors, staff, and a parent focus group.

Irvington Community Schools' Mission is to….

- Provide a small, **safe** learning community where **respectful** behaviors are modeled and expected.
- Partner with students and families to **focus** on a college preparatory curriculum that develops a strong work ethic in order to achieve academic growth.
- Prepare all students for successful post-secondary experiences as **responsible** citizens by being **involved** in service-learning opportunities for the betterment of their local and global communities

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Follow ICS on Twitter: @IrvCommunity

RAVEN OF THE WEEK

This week's Raven of the Week is Michael Lapadat. He was nominated by Mrs. Suttor for being helpful without having to be asked. Congratulations, Michael!

529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN SPEAKER AT NEXT K8 PTSA MEETING

On Monday, April 16th, at 6:30 p.m. in the ICES Gym, Temeka Easter will present on 529 college savings plans. Ms. Easter provided a brief introduction to these unique savings plans at the last PTSA meeting. This time, she will go into significant detail and answer any questions attendees might have.

A 529 plan is a higher education savings plan designed to help families set aside funds to help cover future college costs. Extended family members and friends may contribute to a 529 plan for any child. The Internal Revenue Service established 529 plans in 1996.

Worth noting, Indiana taxpayers are eligible for a state income tax credit of 20 percent of contributions to a 529 account, up to $1,000 credit per year. If you would like to learn more about this important college savings resource, be sure to join us at next Monday night's meeting.

PAX INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Students and parents who are interested in learning more about either being a foreign exchange student or hosting a foreign exchange student are invited to an informational meeting with the PAX organization on Wednesday, April 25th, from 9:45-10:15a.m.

UPCOMING COLLEGE VISITS

As part of our college preparatory experience, on Tuesday, April 24th, all IPA 9th-11th graders will be going on college visits throughout the state. Freshmen will be divided into two groups, visiting Franklin College and Ball State University. Sophomores will be visiting Indiana University in Bloomington. Juniors will be divided into two groups, visiting either Manchester College and Taylor University or Purdue University. Permissions slips and information about lunch plans will be sent home with students next week.

APRIL AT A GLANCE

13th: "Fright Night", 6:30-10:00 p.m.
14th: ACT exam (Juniors), 8:00 a.m.
17th & 18th: ACT Plan/Explore exams (Freshmen & Sophomores)
23rd: Mid-term Progress Reports mailed home
24th: College Visits
Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m. at ICES
27th: IPA Spring Luau, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

IPA PROM UPDATE

Tickets for the May 12th Prom are $45 for couples and $25 for singles, and can be purchased from Mrs. Pittman. The Prom Committee is also hosting a raffle fundraiser and is in need of donations. If you have any items you would like to donate to the raffle, please contact Mrs. Pittman at ppittman@ics-charter.org or 357-3770 x113. Information regarding raffle ticket sales will be provided soon! We are also looking for donations of snack trays, cookies, punch, and other desserts for the Prom on May 12th.

DRUG EDUCATION FOR PARENTS

If you are interested in learning more about the warning signs to watch for in your teen to indicate possible drug abuse, or interventions to assist you, please plan to attend the Parent Drug Education Night, presented at the Ruth Lilly Health Education Center on April 30th from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Attendance is free and open to the public.

JOIN US FOR "FRIGHT NIGHT"

The IPA Student Council will host a "Fright Night" of scary movies *tonight*. The event will take place in the IPA Gym from 6:30-10 p.m. Featured films will be *A Hunting in Connecticut* and *When a Stranger Calls*. The $5 entrance fee includes popcorn and soda, and additional concessions will be available for sale. All guests must be approved in advance through Mr. Ballard and must be between the ages of 14 and 20, and may not be previously expelled IPA students. **Please note that the previously scheduled Air Band Contest that same evening is cancelled.**

DRESS CODE REMINDER

Now that warmer weather is upon us, many students are wearing shorts and skirts to school. Please remember that while these items are approved for dress code, all uniform items must be of appropriate length and fit. No tight-fitting or sagging pants/skirts/shorts/capris. All shorts and skirts must be at least "finger-tip length." (If your student rests their hands to their side, finger tips must not be touching skin.)

What's for Lunch...

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Parmesan	Pancakes & Sausage	Chicken Quesadilla	Lasagna	Grilled Cheese w/Tomato Soup
Corn Dog	Chicken Sandwich	Cheeseburger	Pizzaburger	Pepperoni Pizza
Ham & Cheese Sub	Bologna & Cheese Sub	Chicken Ranch Wrap	Tuna Salad Sandwich	Buffalo Chicken Wrap
PB&J	PB&J	PB&J	PB&J	PB&J
Spinach	Peas & Carrots	Refried Beans	French Fries	Broccoli
Peaches	Pears	Rosy Applesauce	Apricots	Banana