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From Mr. Adams

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed the time with your students at home over the winter break and experienced your share of relaxation or excitement, or perhaps even better, a nice mix of both. We were genuinely excited to return to school on Tuesday and to see your students walking the halls and learning in the classroom.

I find it difficult to believe, with the calendar change to 2017, we are officially starting to look forward to the 2017-18 school year. Here at IMS we are looking over our plans to welcome our incoming 6th grade students and parents in March and planning the master schedule.

However, we can’t lose sight of this year. We are only a handful of days away from being through the midpoint of the ‘16-'17 school year as the middle point of Trimester 2 approaches. Now is an excellent time for you to review your students’ progress and have a conversation with them about how they are going to either improve their grades or continue to maintain the level of performance they are already at. Trimester 2 is a historically challenging one for kids as it has neither the freshness that comes with the start of a school year nor the energy generated with the anticipation of the end of the school year. This is a time when many students will need you to
career, please contact Linda Lung at lindasllung@gmail.com for more information.

From the District
Houston Kraft
Teen Kindness Advocate
Tuesday, January 17
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Issaquah Middle School
What young people today NEED to be successful and kind. Do you want your teen to be kind? Helpful? Generous? Empathetic? Houston has worked with millions of young people talking about how to make their school and their lives more selfless and compassionate. Through his candid conversations and interactions, he has learned a few things about what students today NEED to be more thoughtful, successful, KIND people. In a short hour, he will help you think about character in a new way, make you laugh, and give you some practical tools to engage your teen in meaningful and powerful conversations. Free for all parents of Issaquah School District. Click here to register.

Second Annual Workshop about Positive Behavior and Social Emotional Support (PBSES)
In January 2017, families are invited to the second annual workshop about PBSES (Positive Behavior and Social Emotional Support). You are invited to learn more about how to use PBSES at home. During this workshop, we will discuss engagement vs. compliance and building strategies that enhance engagement with your students. This workshop will focus on motivation,

be their cheerleader, help them balance their schedules and maintain their focus. As always, we are here to assist with this and, if you have concerns about your student’s performance, we encourage you to coach your student to contact their teachers while a difference can still be made. Thank you for your support throughout the year! Go Panthers!

Here’s what’s coming up next week:
Monday, January 9
- Theatre Auditions after school

Tuesday, January 10
- Theatre Auditions after school
- Wrestling Maywood @ IMS 3:30 p.m.
- Girls’ Basketball IMS @ Maywood 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 11
- Theatre Dance Call after school
- Jamboree Girls’ Basketball Maywood @ IMS 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 12
- Theatre Call Backs after school
- Wrestling @ PLMS 3:30 p.m.
- Girls’ Basketball PLMS @ IMS 3:30 p.m.

Friday, January 13
- Temperance and Good Citizenship Day

Monday, January 16
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School

Important Dates
Monday, January 16 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School
Monday, January 30 – Teacher Work Day – No School for Students

“Seussical Jr. The Musical” Auditions
Have you ever read a Dr. Seuss book? Have you ever read a Dr. Seuss book and thought, “Oh snap, that would be an awesome song?” Well you’re in luck. IMS’ spring musical is “Seussical Jr. The Musical,” a musical based on “Horton Hears a Who” by Dr. Seuss. Auditions are Monday, January 9 and Tuesday, January 10, with a Dance Call on Wednesday, January 11. Students must come to auditions with a one-minute monologue and 32 bars of an upbeat musical song that fits their voice. For
organization, positive relationships, and social and emotional learning strategies. There are three opportunities to attend this workshop:

- January 18, 2017 (Pine Lake Middle School),
- January 19, 2017 (Issaquah Middle School),
- January 26, 2017 (Maywood Middle School).

The Student Support Coaches for the elementary and middle schools will host the sessions and they will start at 6:30 and conclude at 8:00 p.m. The PCMS Student Support Coach, Dirk Simon, will be part of the January 19 IMS presentation if you wish to meet him or have specific questions.

### From Gibson Ek High School

Gibson Ek will be accepting incoming 9th grade students for the 2017-2018 school year. Online applications will be available from January 3 through January 31. Current 8th grade students and their parents are invited to our information sessions to learn more about Gibson Ek and our innovative real world learning program.

- **January 13 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. - Student Showcase in the Gibson Ek Commons**

### From the Issaquah Schools Foundation

#### ParentWiser Events

Focus on Students of All Ages

The Issaquah Schools Foundation is proud to sponsor ParentWiser, a volunteer-led parenting education program of the Issaquah PTSA Council. Upcoming ParentWiser events serve families at all stages of education.

- **For Elementary Parents:** On Thursday, January 12, health
- **For Middle Years Students:** On Tuesday, January 17,

more information and to sign up for a time, check the Commons, the Drama website, or see Ms. Weed in room 3203. Just think about all the thinks you can think when you think about Seuss!

### Catch Up Café Returns to IMS

**January 10**

Catch Up Café is back, beginning January 10, and will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays during all three lunches in the Office’s Large Conference Room. Students with missing assignments may be referred to Catch Up Café for an opportunity to make up missing work for credit in their classes. When attending Catch Up Café, students should get their lunch and bring it with them — along with their work and materials.

This program is supervised by staff members, and this year, PTSA will also partner with us. Parents can volunteer to:

- Be an additional adult presence
- Be a “runner” to the Cafeteria to check on assigned students who haven’t reported
- Be a “runner” if students need work from teachers
- Help supervising staff member with student sign-ins

At Catch Up Café, students should be able to work independently to complete their work. If more direct support is needed, students are encouraged to connect with their teachers and/or attend the appropriate after school homework support group for Math, Science, Language Arts/Social Studies, or the Writing Center. As space permits, students are welcome to stop by Catch Up Café on a drop in basis for quiet space to complete work for class. The library is typically open during the second half of lunch for the same purpose, but food is not allowed in the library.

As we get this program underway, we encourage you to remind your student of this opportunity. And one more important reminder: when students complete and turn in their missing work before a Catch Up Café session, they are excused from attending.

We are grateful to the Issaquah Schools Foundation for funding this year’s Catch Up Café sessions and hope that students will benefit from the chance to get more of their work done during the school day.

### Middle Years Newsletter

The January issue of the Middle Years Newsletter is now available for you to enjoy.

#### Kindness Opportunity; You’re Invited!

We are lucky to be welcoming Houston Kraft to the Issaquah School District community. He’ll be speaking at Issaquah Middle School in an assembly to all students & staff on Tuesday, January 17. In addition, Houston would like to invite YOU to come hear his message in a district-wide community event on the evening of January 17 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at IMS. Free for all parents of Issaquah School District. **Click here** to register.
educator Amy Lang will present “Birds & Bees Talks for the 21st Century: Raising Kids in the Age of Technology” at Cascade Ridge Elementary. Parents will learn how and when to talk about the birds and the bees as well as simple tips for handling the yucky stuff tech can bring into kids’ lives. Event begins at 7:00 p.m.

For Middle and High School Parents: On Tuesday, January 17, teen kindness advocate Houston Kraft will speak on anti-bullying and acts of kindness. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. at Issaquah Middle School. In addition, Kraft will bring his comedic brand of motivational speaking to assemblies at all five middle schools.

For All Ages: On Tuesday, February 28, hear from John O’Sullivan, author of “Changing the Game” at Issaquah High School. O’Sullivan will present “Creating a High Performing Mindset in Our Kids” on creating a positive experience for youth athletes. Suggested donation $10; free for district PTSA members.

Register for all events at parentwiser.org. Walk-ins welcome.

Amazon Shopping Supports Students Year Round

Bookmark the Issaquah Schools Foundation’s Amazon link to support our students every time you shop online. Up to 8% of your total purchase will be donated directly to the Foundation. (Note: This is not Amazon Smile, and the rewards are greater for the Foundation when you use this link.)

State of Mind Conferences Focus on Youth Mental Health

Save the date for the Healthy Youth Initiative’s State of Mind

We encourage you to mark your calendar, and come hear Houston Kraft’s inspirational and motivational message that is extremely necessary for all to hear and live out. 500 schools and half a million teenagers have taught him a few things about what young people today NEED to be successful and kind.

Boys’ Basketball and Girls’ Soccer

Sports Season 3 begins January 31 – 7/8 Grade Boys’ Basketball and 7/8 Grade Girls’ Soccer. Complete sports registration packets must be turned in by Tuesday, January 31, to be eligible to participate on the first day of practice. Sports registration packets can be picked up in the office or are available on the IMS Website – click here.

Jamboree teams will start the week of February 13.

Fines and Fees

This would be a great time to go online and check your student’s account to make sure the account is clear. Reminder notices were sent out with students just before winter break to any student who had an unpaid fine or fee. Clearing up the account will eliminate the need for your student to receive a reminder later this month. If you have any questions feel free to contact Julie Morgan, Bookkeeper at morganj@issaquah.wednet.edu or 425-837-6813.

Evening Events

Issaquah Middle School offers many after school and evening events such as sports competitions, music concerts, and theatre productions. We encourage the support and participation of all our students and parents. High school events can be very exciting and fun for our middle school students as well. We would like to encourage you and your family to participate as much and as often as you can.

Safety is always our highest priority when sponsoring any afternoon or evening event and you can help us out by providing direct adult supervision for every student at every event. Please plan to attend with your student(s) and stay with your student(s) at all times. Siblings are invited as long as they remain seated with their parents during the entire event. Please make arrangements to accompany your own child, or make sure they are with another supervising adult. It is a violation of KingCo League rules to drop middle school students off at any event without direct adult supervision. Please have your middle school student, or the students you may be supervising, remain with you throughout the event. Unfortunately, a number of injuries/medical incidences at football and other sporting events have occurred when students leave their parents/guardians to play unsupervised games behind the concession stands, under bleachers, or in adjoining fields. Unsupervised students at concert events are not only a safety concern, but represent a distraction to the rest of the audience as well as performers.

Because our evening events are so well supported and attended by our community, your help in championing our safety concerns and guidelines will be very much
conferences, with sessions on stress management, self-image, substance use and other mental health topics. Middle and high school students, parents, staff and community members are invited to attend one, two or all three conferences.

Conference dates and locations:
- Saturday, Feb. 4, 11:30-4:30
  Mary Queen of Peace, 1121 228th Ave. SE, Sammamish
- Saturday, March 4, 11:30-4:30
  Liberty High School
- Saturday, April 29, 11:30-4:30
  Issaquah High School

Math Club Students Earn Honors at Issaquah Middle School

Twenty IMS students participated in the AMC 8 (American Mathematics Competitions) on November 15, 2016. The following four students earned honors for their outstanding work:

Angie Z.
- School Winner
- Honor Roll (Top 5% Nationally)
- 1st place (Gold)

Jasmine L.
- Honor roll
- 2nd Place (Silver)

Hassan H.
- 3rd Place (Bronze)

Micah M.
- 4th Place (Certificate of Achievement: outstanding score as a 6th grader)

We are very proud of all of our Math Club student participants. They put in the extra time and effort in order to improve their math skills.

WalkAbout Training

Come get involved in WalkAbout. WalkAbout is a parent volunteer, PTSA sponsored, school loved organization that places parents on campus to be a positive presence during high traffic times (before school, during lunch and after school). Training is once per lifetime during your children's tenure at IMS but is required before you can participate in the program. Please join Principal Seth Adams and WalkAbout co-chairs Julie Dietiker and Blyth Claeyss for our 2nd and final training on Wednesday, January 25, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the IMS library. We need you! Questions? Contact Julie Dietiker/Blyth Claeyss or visit our web page.

No School for Students
Monday, January 30

Please remember --- Monday, January 30, is a teacher work day and there is no school for students. We hope you enjoy another 3-day weekend!

What's happening outside of school?
Check out Issaquah Middle School's Community Fliers electronic bulletin board.