March 24, 2017

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From Mr. Adams

Confidence, self-awareness, and perspective – these are growth goals worth pursuing throughout life, but of particular importance in your child’s middle school years. The Issaquah School District, in partnership with filmmaker Rick Stevenson, will provide an amazing opportunity for our students this year – creating a Video Time Capsule for each participating student.

Born out of the 5,000 Days Project, where Rick Stevenson interviewed a select group of students from the Issaquah School District over a period of time, the School of Life Project at Issaquah Middle School will allow students to record themselves once per year in a computer-automated interview. Through video prompts, students will be asked key life questions and be encouraged to verbalize how they are feeling at that snapshot in time. Students can fully express themselves in a safe setting, and the footage - their own private video journal - will be stored until they are ready to access it at the conclusion of their senior year of High School.

One of the Issaquah School District’s goals is to educate the “whole child,” and The School of Life Project provides middle school students with a tool in which they can self-reflect, grow emotionally, and develop perspective.

If you have questions or need more information, you are welcome to visit The School of Life Project webpage. To enroll your student in The School of Life Project at IMS, please click on the Kids and Teens drop down menu within this site. Then click on “Let’s Do It Now,” Complete the online Participation Agreement/Release form by April 7. Student interviews will begin April 19.

If your students have already participated in prior years they are automatically included and will not require an additional sign up.
Obtain list of students from office
Turn on five to six Surfaces for students to use
Go to the lunchroom and ask for kids to be called over loudspeaker
Keep track of who attended and whether work is completed
For more details and to sign up click here. Please contact Tara Moe with questions.

IM PTSA Outstanding Educator Award
Is there an educator (teacher, assistant, custodian, bus driver, administrator, faculty member) who has gone above and beyond for your IMS student and has had a positive influence in his or her life? The Outstanding Educator Award is your chance to say thank you. It was created to recognize individuals who have provided outstanding educational opportunities for youth that are above and beyond the normal scope of their job. Please talk with your students about the Outstanding Educator Award and personally nominate or encourage them to nominate someone.

2016 recipients: Tim Baynes, Barbara Galler, Lindsay Laing
Nominations for Outstanding Educator Award will be accepted until April 3, 2017 and can be submitted through the Online form or through the Paper form. Nomination forms can also be found in the IMS Office.

Lunch for the Break
The IM PTSA is collecting donations for the Lunch for the Break program run through the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank. If you would like to help, please check out the sign up genius. Our goal is to fill 5 complete boxes. However, we will collect more of the same.

Here’s what’s coming up next week:
Monday, March 27
- Site Council Meeting 2:25 p.m.

Tuesday, March 28
- Girls’ Soccer IMS @ PLMS 3:00 p.m.
- Boys’ Basketball PLMS @ IMS 3:30 p.m.

Friday, March 31
- Spirit Day - Black Out Day - Wear all black
- MVP Celebration at Lunches
- “Seussical Jr. The Musical” 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 1
- “Seussical Jr. The Musical” 2:00 and 6:30 p.m.

Site Council Meeting
The IMS Site Council, which meets regularly, is composed of IMS teachers, parents, students, staff and administrators. The purpose of the Council is to advise the principal on how to advance student learning through strong shared planning, communications and problem-solving. Community members, parents and students are invited to attend at any time. Regular meetings will be open to the community. An open forum time will be a part of each meeting, allowing up to three (3) minutes per person requesting to speak.

Our next meeting is Monday, March 27, at 2:25 p.m. at IMS. Click here for the agenda.

Smarter Balanced Assessment
Beginning May 1, 2017 Issaquah Middle School students will be taking the online Smarter Balanced Assessment. Students will be taking the test by grade level following the schedule below:
- 8th Grade - May 1, May 2, May 4, May 5 and May 17 - MSP Science Test
- 7th Grade - May 8, May 9, May 11, May 12
- 6th Grade - May 15, May 16, May 18, May 19

Please avoid these dates when scheduling appointments or vacations. We encourage families to help students become familiar with the online Smarter Balanced state test by practicing the SBA test at home. Training tests for Math and English Language Arts are found here and allow your child to experience what the Smarter Balanced test is like and to practice using the testing tools needed to take the online assessment.

Third Annual IMS Talent Show
This year, IMS will be hosting our third annual Talent Show. We are looking for students who would like to perform. Acts need to be 3 minutes or shorter and school-appropriate. If your student has a talent and would like to perform, he/she can sign up in the office and return their Talent Show packet (parent signature required) by Friday, March 31.
Here are some important dates:
items on the shopping list. Donations can be dropped off in the school office through Monday, April 3. We are also collecting new or gently used children and young adult books for Lunch for the Break. Thank you!

From the City of Issaquah
Friday, March 24 - March Madness 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at the Issaquah Community Center. Reserve a spot in the double elimination bracket for your team of 3 or 4 players by emailing Cathy Jones. The cost is $20/team at the door. 6th graders will most likely play 8th graders; girls will most likely play boys. This event is hosted by the Issaquah Youth Advisory Board.

Be YOUtiful! Saturday, March 25 - For grades 6 to 8. 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Issaquah Community Center. Learn how to effectively use makeup, hair and clothing to express yourself. This new event is hosted by the Issaquah Youth Advisory Board. Pre-register at 425-837-3300 or on our website. $12 for Issaquah residents; $15 for non-residents.

From the District
Every four years, the Issaquah School District asks local
voters to approve levies to pay for educational essentials that the state does not fund, including school buses, classroom technology, and about 20 percent of the operations budget. Because our current levies expire next year, the district is forming a community committee now to help plan the renewal levy measures. If you are interested in representing Issaquah Middle School on the committee, please pick up an application in the main office or download one from our website and return it by Friday, March 24. Committee members will consider the overall need, proposed content, total cost, and tax impacts of the ballot measures and present a final recommendation to the superintendent. The commitment is several Wednesday evening meetings in May and June.

**Got a Bachelor’s Degree?**

**Emergency Substitute Teachers Wanted**

Do you know of anyone who loves working with students, can manage a class and follow safe work practices and procedures? Along with a bachelor’s degree, they can be an Emergency Substitute Teacher right here in the Issaquah School District.

We are looking for Emergency Substitute Teachers. The requirement is a bachelor’s degree. The first step is to complete a certificate substitute application using the online application system. Go to the Career Opportunities page from the ISD Website.

If you know of anyone, contact Karen at 425-837-7063 for more information.

**“Stronger Together”**

You are invited to a special event on March 31 being sponsored by our District along with the City of Issaquah, Issaquah Schools Foundation, Issaquah PTSA, King County Libraries, and CISC. The event, featuring TEDx speaker, Luis Ortega, aligns with our District’s efforts around cultural competency and includes discussion tables to address and discuss matters of inclusion and empathy. All staff, parents, students, and community members are invited. Click here for the informational flyer.

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What's happening outside of school?

Check out Issaquah Middle School's Community Fliers electronic bulletin board.