January 15, 2016

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From Mr. Baynes

Dear IMS Families:

While the shortest days of the school year may be behind us, lighter and brighter mornings could not come soon enough. I joke about this regularly with our WalkAbout parents in the morning, but it will be a joy in the winter months of next school year to walk through indoor hallways that don’t require all of your warmest winter gear. That being said, it’s amazing how many of our students still choose to sport the same shorts and t-shirts they wore to school in September.

When our students are arriving to school on these dark mornings, one place where we all need to focus our attention is on our parking lot during the busy drop off time. If your student walks to school, please remind them to always use sidewalks and crosswalks and to never cut through the parking lot. Particularly on these dark mornings where visibility can be poor, it is important for all of us to remember to be safe. Additionally, if you drop off your student at IMS in the morning, please remember to use the drop-off lane directly onto the school walkway instead of pulling into a parking space. This not only maintains a smooth flow of traffic, but is also safer as your student will not have to cross amongst the other cars dropping off students. If you do need to pull into a spot to come by the building – and we welcome you to do so – please make sure to park in a visitor’s space so our staff members can
January is National Mentoring Month

Resolve to make a difference this New Year. Volunteer just one hour a week supporting a student. ONE Mentor - ONE Student - ONE Hour

The VOICE Mentor Program is looking for community volunteers to work one on one with Issaquah students. These students are referred by teachers and counselors as needing extra support whether it is academic, social or emotional. The volunteers work in the school setting in partnership with the school staff.

Please help us recruit your neighbors, friends, relatives or colleagues to become a mentor.

For further information contact: Susan Gierke or Teresa Bretl VOICE Mentor Directors
E-mail: VOICE@isfdn.org Phone: 425-837-6801
Susan Gierke: Gierkes@issaquah.wednet.edu
Teresa Bretl: Bretlt@issaquah.wednet.edu

VOICE is funded by the Issaquah Schools Foundation in Cooperation with the Issaquah School District.

access parking and be to their various classrooms and locations around the building for the beginning of school.

Now, as you all know, this weekend we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and we encourage you to enjoy the long weekend and to talk to your students about Dr. King and his legacy. Next weekend, we will once again have a three-day weekend for students, as Monday, January 25, is a Teacher Work Day with no school for students. This is just a reminder to plan ahead and to enjoy the extra time.

Thank you, and as always, it’s a privilege to serve in this amazing learning community.

Important Dates
Monday, January 18 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School
Monday, January 25 – Teacher Work Day – No School for Students

IHS Early Release Dates
Issaquah High School will release students at 10:35 a.m. on January 21 and 22. Buses from IMS will not need to pick up students from the high school on those days so if your student rides the bus, please be aware that he/she may arrive home earlier than normal on those days.

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 will be sent out with students by the end of next week to any student who has an unpaid fine or fee. Clearing up the account now will eliminate the need for your student to receive a reminder. If you have any questions feel free to contact Julie Morgan, Bookkeeper at morganj@issaquah.wednet.edu or 425-837-6813.

Yearbooks
If you have not yet purchased a yearbook you still have time. If you want to buy a yearbook for the 2015-16 school year please see Mrs. Morgan in the office or you can buy them online from the payment link on the school website. Make sure to check your account to see if you already ordered one. Yearbooks cost $25. Don’t miss out on the memories and fun!

Math Club Students Earn Honors
Twenty IMS students participated in the AMC 8 (American Mathematics Competitions) on November 17, 2015. The following six students earned honors for their outstanding work:

- Jay Sivadas - School Winner - Honor Roll (5%, score greater than/equal to 16) - 1st place (Gold)
- Vincent Wei - Honor Roll - 2nd Place (Silver)
- Jacob Lessing - 3rd Place (Bronze)
- Emily Robinson - 3rd Place (Bronze)
- Matthew Kim - 3rd Place (Bronze)

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.
Season 3 Sports Begin Monday, February 1
Boys’ Basketball and Girls’ Soccer
For successful registration, please follow these simple steps:
1. Check for Fines
All fines must be paid before your student can participate. To verify your student has no fines, records may be reviewed at the “Pay Online” site on our website. Sports fees may be paid at this same location
2. Print off Forms
Click here to print off forms. You will need to complete the ISD Athletic Registration Form, ISD Middle School Athletic/Activity Medical Emergency Authorization Form, Concussion Awareness Form, Sport-Specific Informed Consent Form, Student-Parent Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form and the 2015-16 Physical Form. Forms may also be picked up in the IMS office.
3. Complete all Forms
All students must have a Physical Exam dated after June 15, 2015. If your student played a sport in Season 1 or 2 this year, you only need to complete the Informed Consent Form and the Medical Emergency Authorization Form.
4. Return Completed Forms and required fees to the office. Students must have a paid ASB card.
Go Panthers!!

Career Fair – Friday, February 5
Presenters Needed
Issaquah Middle School will be hosting our second annual Career Fair on Friday, February 5, from 12:45 to 2:05. The Career Fair expands our students’ career horizons and encourages them to start planning for high school and beyond. Thank you to those parents/guardians who have already indicated that they were interested in presenting at the Career Fair. We are still looking for more presenters. We need people working in a wide range of careers to present on what they do, what is cool about their job and what their education pathway was to get to that career. Please email Amy Lorang if you are interested loranga@issaquah.wednet.edu

From the Nurse
Cold and Flu Season is Here
Stop the spread of germs that can make you and others sick. Thorough hand washing is your best defense. Now is the time to review good hand washing practices with your children, and if your diligence has slipped, it is time to recommit. Please take a moment to review the information the ISD website for preventing the spread of colds, flu, and other diseases. The CDC now recommends that you cover your cough by covering your mouth and nose with a tissue and put your used tissue in the waste basket. If you don’t have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, Not your hands. Then wash your hands. For more information on protecting your family from the flu, please visit: http://here.doh.wa.gov/materials/protect-family-from-flu.
When to Keep Your Child Home from School
Communicable Disease Guidelines

Keep your child home if he/she has any of these symptoms:

Fever – over 100 degrees F. orally. Temperature should remain normal (98.6 degrees) for 24 hours before returning to school

Sore throat – especially if associated with fever or swollen glands

Vomiting – within the past 24 hours

Diarrhea – more than one occurrence in a 24 hour period

Drainage from the eye – the eye crusted and difficult to open (especially upon waking) accompanied by redness, irritation, watery or yellow-green discharge

Nasal discharge (yellow or greenish) – If your child’s nasal mucus has a color and is accompanied by a fever and/or coughing, sneezing, drowsiness, and general signs of not feeling well, your child may be contagious and should remain at home until the symptoms subside. Call your doctor if you have any concerns or questions.

Appearance/Behavior – unusually tired, pale, lack of appetite, difficult to wake, confused

Rash – body rashes not associated with heat, or allergic reactions to medications

Head lice – contact school office or nurse if any indication of head lice

Very important - Remember to keep the school updated with new phone numbers and emergency contacts in case your student becomes ill at school. Any questions please call our school Nurse Juli Holst at (425) 837-6817.

The most important thing you can do to prevent illness is for you and your child to wash your hands.

Planning Ahead for SBAC Testing

SBAC testing will be April 28 and 29 and May 2, 3, 5, 6 and 9. Please schedule appointments and trips around these testing dates.

Smarter Balanced State Tests Practice Tests

If you have not yet had the opportunity, we encourage all families to set aside just one hour this week to help your child become familiar with the online Smarter Balanced state test. Training tests in both Math and English/Language Arts are available online and will allow your child to experience what the Smarter Balanced test is like and be introduced to all the tools needed to take the test online. Click on the above link and login as a guest. Be sure to select the appropriate grade level on the login form. The Smarter Balanced website has lots of information on the new tests including a helpful FAQ.

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