

ISSAQUAH MIDDLE SCHOOL E-NEWS SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

The September issue of the IMS Panther Press is now available on our website. Click on the link below to enjoy.

http://www.ims.issaquah.wednet.edu/Current_Events/PantherPress.html

Included in this edition:

- Important information on Family Privacy Options
- 2009-2010 IMS Calendar
- New Registration Information for Middle School Sports
- IMS Dress Code
- Transportation Update on bus routes and activity bus routes
- ISD Check Acceptance Policy
- Issaquah Schools Foundation
- September and October Calendars

IMS Theatre Auditions

Attention all actors and actresses! The Squak Valley Players are announcing auditions for the Fall production of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." Auditions will be held after school on Thursday, September 3 and Tuesday, September 8. Please sign up on the green room door to the left of the stage in the cafeteria. Please have memorized a one minute monologue to perform.

IMS Curriculum Night

Mark your calendars!! IMS parents are invited to attend Curriculum Night on Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity to see the campus and meet your student's teachers.

Picture Make Up Day

If your student missed getting his/her picture taken at Back to School Check In – make up day will be Tuesday, September 15. All students will need to have their pictures taken for ID cards and the yearbook. If you want to purchase a packet of pictures, please have your student bring the order form and check made payable to Dorian Studios to the photographer on September 15.

Join the WALKABOUT Program!
(Training September 8 at 7:00 pm - required)

The WalkAbout Program is a great way to stay connected to your child's school without a big time commitment. The program is a parent staffed program that provides a **positive** adult presence on campus during high traffic times (**before/after school and lunch times**).

The additional adult presence discourages inappropriate behavior therefore allowing students to feel safe. It also gives parents an additional connection to a big part of their child's day. You can volunteer as much or as little as your schedule allows and each shift is typically only 30 minutes. Great for working parents and its fun!

All IMS parents are welcome to participate after completing a one time **required** training session on **Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00 pm in the IMS Commons**. Don't miss the chance to stay connected! (Only required for parents new to the program.)

For more information about the program check out the website at www.ims.issaquah.wednet.edu (click on "WalkAbout" on the left side panel).

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Issaquah School District needs to honor families' privacy while meeting its obligation to share education-related information with the community. The annual Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) notification and opt-out process—described in this form—helps schools balance these interests.

FERPA is a federal law that allows school districts to disclose students' "directory information" to anyone, without consent, as long as the district annually notifies parents and allows them the chance to opt out.

FERPA defines "directory information" as information contained in a student's education record that generally would not be considered harmful or invasive to privacy if disclosed. The law allows school districts to determine and notify parents of its exact definition of such directory information. The Issaquah School District defines student directory information as: Full name, address, phone number, photograph/image, date and place of birth, participation in school activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of school attendance, diplomas and awards, and schools attended.

Under FERPA, if you do NOT want the Issaquah School District to release this directory information about your student, *you must make a request in writing and send it to your school principal by September 15 each year.* A sample FERPA opt-out letter is at www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/legal/FERPA.aspx.

What happens if you write the FERPA opt-out letter? The Issaquah School District and its schools will not release your students' directory information in any publications that reach beyond the schoolhouse or to any outside organization. This means, for example, that your student will not be included in the school yearbook, PTSA newsletters, school directories, photos or videos on District websites, event and athletic programs, award listings in local media, or school newspapers. Essentially, the District will not provide any information that validates your student's identity or enrollment in its schools.

What happens if you do not write the letter? The Issaquah School District and its schools will release your student's directory information in publications and to outside organizations to promote non-commercial, education-related news, achievements, and activities. This includes using your child's name and photo/image on the District's websites and in newsletters, yearbooks, and athletic/event programs. Without seeking parent/guardian consent, schools could allow, for example: the Issaquah Schools Foundation to use film from your student's class to highlight a program during its annual luncheon; local newspapers to run a picture of your student's class engaged in a learning activity; or a local non-profit to publicize your student's name for participating in a school fund-raiser that benefited the organization.

Please note: Even for students with no FERPA opt-out letter on record, District employees will exercise their best judgment when releasing directory information and seek parent/guardian permission for situations that would generally be considered outside of the realm of typical school-related activities or news. Also, the District cannot control the release of

certain directory information—such as photographs/images or names—when students participate in school events open to the general public.

More information about your rights under FERPA is available online at www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpc/ferpa/index.html.

