

ISSAQUAH MIDDLE SCHOOL E-NEWS OCTOBER 1, 2009

The October 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:

- Middle Years October 2009
- Attendance Office information
- Reflections Program – 2009
- WEB update
- 7th Grade Vision and Hearing Screening
- PE and Health News
- IMS Theatre Production - [The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe](#)
- Issaquah Schools Foundation – *Calling for Kids*
- District letters – HPV and Meningococcal
- October and November Calendars

WEBtivity

Attention **ALL** 6th graders! Are you ready for the WEB Activity Day? **ALL** 6th graders are invited to attend our first WEB Activity on Thursday, October 8 from 2:00 to 3:45pm. Activity buses will be available for transportation home. Students will join their WEB leaders for lots of fun games, a **scavenger hunt**, snacks, prizes and good times! Meet in the commons after school on Thursday, October 8 for the **WEB Activity**!!!!!!

All School Write

Calling ALL Parent Volunteers!!!

We need a number of parents to score the recently administered All School Write to IMS students. Jerry Miller, Director of Instructional Support for Issaquah School District, will be facilitating the training at the start of each scoring session, and there is a detailed rubric that allows for effective and systematic scoring, despite your comfort level with either the writing process or the prompt topic. So all are welcome and encouraged to attend!

The details of volunteering are outlined below. If you are interested, please access the ASW letter on the IMS web page, complete the volunteer form, and return it to your student's language arts (or LRCI Reading) teacher by Tuesday, October 6, 2009.

Scoring Opportunities: You are welcome to attend as many scoring sessions as you are able.

Monday, October 12	9:00 -11:30AM	12:30 - 3:00PM
Monday, October 19	9:00 -11:30AM	12:30 - 3:00PM

* Please note that if we finish scoring early, all of the scoring sessions may not be necessary. We will notify those scheduled for the October 19 session if it is not needed.

Family Access

If you are new to IMS or have forgotten your Family Access log-in and/or password, you can get this information by going to the IMS website, clicking on Family Access and selecting "forgot password." The information will be e-mailed back to you. If you need to add or update your e-mail address, please contact Joni Apman at 425-837-6818.

Salmon Days

Each year the Issaquah Middle PTSA provides parking spots at IMS for Salmon Day attendees. This is a money maker for the PTSA and requires volunteers on both Saturday and Sunday, October 3 and 4. Two hour shifts are available. This is a great opportunity for students to earn community service hours, however an adult must volunteer at the same time. For more information, please contact Debbie Shiozaki, dshiozak@gmail.com, 425-557-1484.

Newcomers Coffee hosted by PTSA - Join Us

New to our middle school community? Please join us at our Newcomers Coffee on Thursday, October 15, from 9 - 11 am at Kristen Allen-Bentsen's house, 1236 Sunrise Place SE, Issaquah 98027 (just off of Front Street near IMS). This a great opportunity to meet other parents with children at Issaquah Middle School and learn more about our school and PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association). We'll have a brief program, plenty of time to chat, and refreshments. PTSA members and non-members welcome. For more information, contact Camille Vaska, PTSA Co-President, at vaskafamily@comcast.net or 425-746-7691.

Calling for Kids

It's not too late—donate to the Issaquah Schools Foundation's *Calling for Kids* campaign by Monday, October 5 and your name will be printed in a thank-you ad in the Issaquah Press! As you may have learned in a recent letter mailed to your home, the *Calling for Kids* campaign funds essential programs and resources for students in our school and across the District, such as academic enrichment grants, after-school homework clubs, one-on-one mentor programs, curriculum updates, and educator professional development. High-school students will be calling families for the campaign on October 20 and 21, but why wait? [Go online to participate now!](#)

Important Event: School Board Candidate Forum

Date: Monday, October 12, 2009

Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Place: Pacific Cascade Freshman Campus Commons

Format: This is a forum and not a debate. Questions will be drawn at random and asked of individual candidates. There will be a two-minute time limit for each answer.

If you would like to ask a question of the candidates, please email those questions to Heather Gillette at heathergillette@hotmail.com. Questions are due by October 5.

Sponsored by the Issaquah PTSA Council

College Bound Scholarship

The College Bound Scholarship offers the promise of tuition and books to qualifying 7th, 8th, or 9th graders in Washington. This scholarship covers the amount of tuition (at public college rates) not covered by other state financial aid, plus \$500 for books. It can be used at any public two- or four-year and many of the private universities, colleges, or career schools in Washington. Click on the link below for eligibility and other information.

http://www.hecg.wa.gov/paying/waaidprgm/documents/CBS_Brochure08-09_11-5-08.pdf

The deadline for eligible 8th and 9th grade students to sign up is June 30, 2010 and the deadline for students in the 7th grade is June 30, 2011.

Neighborhood Safety

Do you know the King County Sheriff's Office operates an online search tool to keep community members aware of registered sex offenders who live nearby? While these offenders have met their legal obligations and are aggressively monitored by Sheriff's Officers, you have the ability to check your own community and even sign

up for alerts triggered when an offender moves close to a certain address, such as your home or school. The Sheriff's Office also provides safety tips for families.

Ride the Bus to Protect Classroom Dollars

We need all regular bus riders to make sure to ride the bus from **Monday, October 5, through Friday, October 9**. That's when drivers will count each student who rides the bus in the morning and each student who rides the kindergarten bus at midday. These rider numbers determine the amount of funding our Transportation Department receives from the State of Washington. Already, we use local levy dollars (about \$3 million last year) to backfill the gap in transportation funding because the state's formula does not cover actual costs. The levy dollars also directly fund classroom expenses, such as curriculum and salaries. So by ensuring all regular bus riders are on the bus during the "count" week, our District can recoup the maximum amount of transportation funding to which we are entitled—and preserve more dollars for the classroom.

Flu Season

Students are definitely getting sniffles and upset stomachs in our schools, but we have not seen anything unusual thus far. District administrators continue to be in weekly contact with health experts, who have a consistent message: H1N1 is just a flu subtype comparable to the other seasonal flu strains we experience annually. Parents should assume that H1N1 is in their schools and communities, take it seriously, and act vigilantly—however, health experts say parents should not be overly concerned with whether their child's sickness is actually confirmed as H1N1 or some other strain. A doctor should be consulted if the symptoms become severe. To prevent the spread of the flu, please: **Keep children home when they are not feeling well (until 24 hours after a fever has passed), wash hands frequently, get vaccinated for H1N1 and the seasonal flu, and cover coughs with tissue or sleeve.** Parents should make a plan for back-up child care in case their students cannot go to school. The District's pandemic flu committee has been meeting regularly and has authorized extra hand sanitizers and sanitization machines for each school. More resources for families are online.