

## *From the PTA President*

Hello IHS Families,

We've made it to the home stretch of the 2016-2017 school year. Congratulations to our seniors who will be crossing the stage to collect their diplomas signifying 4 years of hard work and engagement. One of those students will be my daughter, and as I look back I'm reminded of how fortunate we are to be in one of the best high schools in the nation that offers so many different opportunities to our students. Whether they sing, build robots, play lacrosse or speak another language, Ithaca High School supplies our students with the chance to reach high levels of accomplishment in whatever path they choose. There is a lot of information about events and opportunities available to our students in school and the greater Ithaca community that is shared via our weekly E-news. Thank you to Erin Oats and Marilyn Sgrecci for producing the E-news each week.

It was wonderful to see so many in attendance at the film *Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age*. It was an excellent start to a community conversation reminding us of the need to balance all the positive influences of digital devices with the tendency to lose ourselves in it. Join Tech Talk Tuesdays, found at [screenagersmovie.com](http://screenagersmovie.com), for weekly notices with great conversation starters to continue in your homes. Thank you to the Ithaca City School District Administration for partnering with us to offer the film to our families free of charge and putting together a great panel discussion.

The PTA has played an important role at IHS with enhancing the communication between school and home as we continue to provide not only the weekly E-news, but the quarterly WORD newsletter and the annual Guide, as well. We've awarded close to \$2000 in teacher mini-grants, supported Link Crew and the Family Liaison Program, granted student awards, organized volunteers for Picture Day and envelope stuffing, and hosted monthly Morning Brunch for teachers and staff. We look forward to the Staff Appreciation Luncheon in June and hope you will be involved in any way you can. Please look for more information coming soon in the E-news.

Looking ahead to next year, the PTA has several positions that we need to fill. While many of our core programs are covered, there are many open officer positions and a couple of program positions available. It doesn't take a lot of time and without your help the PTA wouldn't exist. Please consider volunteering as little or as much time as you have. This is an excellent way to connect with the school, other parents/caregivers, and be involved in your student's high school experience. We hope you'll join us. It really does make a difference! Please feel free to contact me with any questions about what we do and how you can help. Thank you!

Wishing you all the best for a happy and healthy summer!

Vanessa Wagner, IHS PTA President

[vwagner@twcny.rr.com](mailto:vwagner@twcny.rr.com)

June 8th @ 5:30pm - Final PTA Meeting for 2016-2017

June 13th @ 12:00pm - College Student Panel Discussion

## ***OPEN PTA POSITIONS***

We need YOU! Please consider taking a turn serving on the IHS PTA Board or helping in another capacity. Open board positions include Co-President, Treasurer, Membership and Secretary. Other opportunities include Mini-Grants Coordinator, Listserv Coordinator and Webmaster. It's a great way to develop a stronger connection with the high school, get to know other IHS parents, and share your views on current issues impacting our kids. The high school PTA is much less time-intensive than other PTA's, and veteran PTA board members can guide you every step of the way. Help continue the great work our PTA does - funding mini-grants for teachers, achievement awards, Link Crew, staff appreciation events and publishing "The Guide" and "The Word." Please consider lending a hand or nominating someone for one of the positions - contact Vanessa Wagner ([vwagner@twcny.rr.com](mailto:vwagner@twcny.rr.com)) for more information. Thanks!

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IHS Word is the Ithaca High School newsletter, jointly funded by the PTA and IHS. It serves all IHS parents, caregivers, and staff, and is mailed home with mid-quarter reports.

## *Student Council News*

### Ithaca High School Student Council Works with Administrators to Include Music in GPA

Many students at the high school that participate in music classes work for hours a week practicing and participating in extracurricular activities that directly involve musical skills (such as the IHS Musical). They also spend free periods in A building playing their instrument, singing, or writing to improve their skills as musicians. Others simply enjoy participating in their daily music classes as an escape from the rest of the stressful school day. Many students believed that the time spent in A building counted as part of their GPA-- however, music classes are graded, but the number does not factor into grade point average. Student Council and a team of administrators and teachers are actively working to change this fact.

Including music classes in students' GPA is a popular course of action for many participants in these classes currently. Music department teachers Nicki Zawel (Band), Kristin Zaryski (Choir), and Bill Makin (Orchestra) also believe these classes should be included for a grade. The music programs offered at Ithaca High School are already excellent, but offering to include music in GPA could clearly send the message that Ithaca High School is committed to its music department. Music is a curricular class, and these classes operate on a spiral curriculum. A spiral curriculum works so that students explore new pieces and musical skills each year, building off of accomplishments and artistry achieved the previous year. Music concepts do not change, similar to grammar concepts in language classes, but musicians are constantly growing and improving their music skills with daily practice and exposure to new genres of music. The new two ensemble system for Band, Choir, and Orchestra allows for even more room for growth and achievement. Students are able to explore more challenging repertoire at a faster pace. Recently, IHS Band director Nicki Zawel, Mr. Brown, Art Department head Ms. Spence, and Mr. Trumble met to discuss the music in GPA initiative. "We are headed in a very positive direction and we have administrative support" says Ms. Zawel. Mr. Brown will be meeting with administrator Liddy Coyle to discuss whether or not adding music to a student's GPA would have a negative impact on weighted GPA. Mr. Trumble commented on the situation, saying that the team has "looked back twenty years, and seen that IHS has never included music in GPA before, although the stars are aligning in the

conversation to make it happen." On the next steps of the initiative, he commented "Ms. Spence is reaching out to other schools to identify if there are any downsides to the issue, though it seems like a win-win." Mr. Trumble assumes that the music in GPA initiative is a bigger decision than just a "yes" from the principal. He said that the issue "has been looked at historically, and now it is time to look at it moving forward." Select students have expressed concern that including music in GPA would lower their weighted GPA. The team involved has taken this factor into account and are completing further research on the issue. An option that was suggested was the possibility of classifying Wind Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, and Chorale (the higher level ensembles) as honors classes. Mr. Brown will be meeting with administrator Liddy Coyle to further discuss the actual implications of this concern. One factor to consider would be that all students in the high school are required to take Health and Principles of Government, two classes not weighted as honors classes.

Students put in the hours for their music classes regardless of whether or not they are included in their GPA. The music program at Ithaca High School already has a reputation for excellence, as evidenced by the amount of people who attend concerts, performances, and showcases, as well as the dedication that students show in participating in music classes. However, many believe that including the grade students receive to count towards college and academic life further validates the amount of time and effort put in by students and educators towards artistic excellence, especially for those wanting to go to college to pursue a career in the arts, as well as for students who participate in multiple ensembles. Student Council is concerned about and involved in this issue because our job is to take issues that students show interest in and make them a reality. Many students have shown enthusiastic support for including music classes in GPA, so Student Council has pursued this policy. If you want to get involved or comment on the initiative, contact Student Council officers Samson McKinley ('18), Ruth Silcoff ('17), Ania Pracel ('18), or Tilden Chao ('19).

## *Math News*

### **Regents Review**

We'd like families to know that we have started after-school review sessions. These are designed to help students prepare for any of the three Regents Exams (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II). Students can come to as many as they'd like and don't need to sign up in advance. Right now there are very few attendees so each student can get personal attention. The review sessions are in H217 after school on Mondays and Thursdays.

### **Math Competitions**

We have had quite a few students participate in some challenging competitions in the last few months.

In February we had about 150 students compete in the challenging American Math Competition. The AMC 12 is open to all students and the AMC 10 is only open to 9th and 10th graders. For the AMC 10, Jeff Lantz took 1st place, 2nd place Patrick Yuan 2nd place and Samuel Shvets 3rd. For the AMC 12, Myeong Hak Lee and Vivek Myers tied for 1st place and Michael Zhao came in 2nd.

Students who do especially well on the AMC, getting a score set by the Math Association of America, go on to participate in a much harder, invitation-only competition. This year we had five students qualify for the American Invitational Math Exam: Myeong Hak Lee, Vivek Myers, Michael Zhao, Woo Cheol Hyun and Justin Tan.

In March, an Ithaca High team took third place at the St. Bonaventure Programming Contest: Woo Cheol Hyun, Jeong Hyun Lee, Vivek Myers, and Jacob Silcoff.

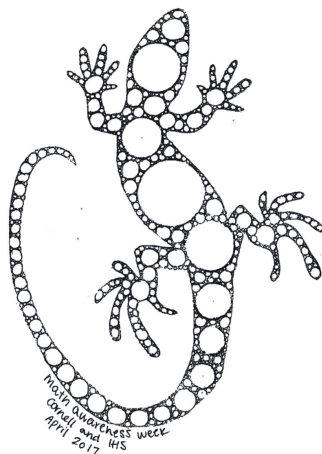
In April, the math team took second place at the New York State Mathematics League competition: Eric Dusenberry, Taerim Eom, Michael Guan, Erin Hilgartner, Jeong Hyun Lee, Myeonghak Lee, Jocasta Manasseh-Lewis, Vivek Myers, Jacob Silcoff, Ruth Silcoff, Justin Tan, Zifeng Wang, Sara Xin, Daniel Xu and Lisa Yoo.

Last but definitely not least, one of our programming teams took first place at the Fourth Annual Cornell High School Programming Contest. That team consisted of Vivek Myers, Jacob Silcoff, and Mrinal Thomas.

### **Hands-on Math**

This has been the first year we've offered GeoTech, a course for students who are interested in seeing the many ways geometry and technology interweave. It is ideal for those who have passed Algebra 1, but struggle to learn in a traditional classroom setting. The course ends with a final exam, but not a Regents exam. It is co-taught by a math teacher and a technology teacher, and is held in a technology room. Students who are interested in taking GeoTech next year should contact their counselor.

The hands-on exploration of geometric concepts students have done this year include engraving drinking glasses with their own designs, making ornaments, and designing and printing math posters. Everyone in the class entered the contest for Math Awareness Week t-shirts, and Olivia won. Last month, students who got the correct answer (and had their name drawn) won one of these shirts. Here's the "Fractal Gecko" she designed:



## *English*

This April, students and staff took part in a number of activities coordinated to celebrate Poetry Month: the Poetry Slam in the Black Box Theater had a record number of participants and audience members; poems were read over the daily announcements; and students used chalk markers to decorate the windows around school with poems for all of IHS to enjoy.

On April 26th, the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers, a choral group dedicated to the preservation of negro spirituals and slave songs, performed in Kulp Auditorium. English teachers and students were able to attend the performance and incorporate it in their study of Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass.

Ms. Scholl's 11th grade classes attended a special performance of Throw Pitchfork at the Kitchen Theatre, on 5/4. The play, which documents and explores the lives of two generations of men in an African American family, was enjoyed by all.

In March, Mr. Asklar collaborated with local actor, Kristen Sad, to perform a scene from Macbeth. Mr. Shyne filmed the scene in the Gun Hill studio, and

Mr. Asklar used the scene with his tenth grade Honors English students, who also selected various scenes from the play to perform in the studio, under Mr. Shyne's guidance, in April.

Later, the students watched and evaluated all of the student performances, as a closing activity for Macbeth. This project was a prosperous collaborative effort, involving students, educators and a community member.

The Reading and Writing Lab (GK101) continues to be open every period of the regular school day and after school Monday through Thursday. Any student can visit the Lab for help with English work and/or Regents exam preparation. Additionally, some students are assigned to Reading and Writing Lab in order to receive support for English coursework and testing. If you have questions about your student's placement into RaWL, please feel free to contact the English department chair, Ms. Jean Amodeo, at (607) 274-2187.

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### *From the Registrar*

Is your student leaving IHS for any reason at the end of the school year (by June 30th) or over the summer? If your son or daughter is graduating in June, this does not pertain to them as they will follow different procedures for returning their assigned or borrowed materials.

If so, the withdrawal procedures listed on page 32 of the IHS Student Handbook and on page 16 of the IHS Guide & Staff Directory must be completed before academic records can be released.

All borrowed or assigned materials, including Chromebook & charger, textbooks, sheet music, musical instruments, choir or sports uniforms, cameras, calculators, and library books must be returned before a student leaves IHS.

Please contact IHS Registrar Deborah Case at (607)274-2144 or [dcasey@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:dcasey@icsd.k12.ny.us) at least 10-14 days before your student's last day so that the proper forms can be completed and arrangements made for materials to be returned.

## WISE

The IHS WISE Program will kick off its presentation season with our annual Student Sample on June 1st at 7pm in York Lecture Hall. Our student presenter is Gio Velazquez who will share the details of his project "The Art of Fly-fishing." Any student, teacher, mentor, parent or community member is welcome to attend this event in order to learn more about the WISE Program or Gio's 16-week independent project.

For more information about the WISE Program and to see our various 2017 IHS WISE student projects and our June presentation schedule, please visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/ihswiseprogram/home>

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### *From the Nurse*

#### Medications

Reminder! The school district supplies no medication for students. A parent/guardian or physician may want a student to self-administer medication during the school day or sporting events. This is helpful for students who use inhalers for asthma or need medication for allergic reactions. We need an order for "self-carry" from the physician. **THIS FORM MUST BE RENEWED ANNUALLY AND SUBMITTED TO THE IHS MEDICAL OFFICE.**

#### 10th Grade Physicals

New York State requires all 10th graders to have documentation of a physical exam on file with the school. Exams done from the start of 9th grade will suffice. If you have a 9th grader this year who has not received a check-up, please be sure to schedule a well-child exam as soon as possible. Physical exams within the past year are also required for sports and working papers. If you have any questions, call the Medical Office.

#### New Meningococcal Requirements for 12th Graders

New York State now requires that 12th grade students have two meningococcal vaccines (brand names of Menactra, Menveo or Menomune). One vaccine must be given after the student turns 16. Students who receive the vaccine after age 16 only need one. If your child is entering 12th grade this fall, please be sure we have received documentation showing that your student is in

compliance with this requirement. Our fax number is 274-2174. Please do not wait until the last minute – students will be excluded from school if they are not in compliance by Monday, 9/25/17. Please call our office if you have any questions.

#### Message from the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids

It's time for the most important spring cleaning you can do—inside your medicine cabinet. Two-thirds of teens who report abuse of prescription medicine are getting them from friends, family and acquaintances. Be sure to safeguard your home, so the teens in your life don't have access to your medicine.

Follow these three steps to find out how to monitor, secure and properly dispose of unused and expired prescription drugs and over-the-counter cough medicine in your home:

- **Monitor:** Take note of how many pills are in each of your prescription bottles and keep track of your refills.
- **Secure:** Secure your medications in a locked cabinet your teen cannot access.
- **Dispose:** Safely dispose of expired and unused prescriptions at a medicine take-back location.

To find out more about medicine abuse, and what you can do to protect or get help for someone in your family, visit the Medicine Abuse Project at [drugfree.org](http://drugfree.org).

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### *Staff Appreciation Lunch*

The annual Staff and Teacher Appreciation Luncheon is coming up on **Wednesday, June 7th**. The lunch will again be catered by Sam Schuepbach of Aladdin's Natural Eatery. There are many ways to show your support for the people who teach and help our children every day! We need people to donate desserts, homemade or purchased! Please keep in mind that we can always use gluten-free and vegan desserts along with the usual cakes, cookies, etc! We will also need several people to help set up (8 am to 10am) and clean up (1:00 to 2:30 or so). Please contact Laura Andolina at [andolina@aol.com](mailto:andolina@aol.com) or Mia Slotnick at [miajs123@yahoo.com](mailto:miajs123@yahoo.com) and let us know how you can help. If you don't have time for baking or coming in to help, please consider a donation to the luncheon, which is sponsored by your IHS PTA. We are hoping to raise enough to purchase some small potted plants to give out to the teachers as a thank you. Suggested contribution is \$10, but any contribution is greatly appreciated! Please send checks (made out to IHS PTA - lunch) to our treasurer Jacquie Lopez at 8 Genung Rd., Ithaca, 14850, or drop them off in the PTA mailbox in the IHS main office. Thank you, parents, for your continuing help and support!

## *IHS PTA Direct Appeal*

A big thank you to everyone who made a donation to the IHS PTA Direct Appeal. We were able to raise approximately \$1600 to help fund programs such as mini-grants for teachers, Junior and Senior awards, Link Crew, staff appreciation events, "The Guide" and "The Word." Thank you very much to all of our PTA members for supporting Ithaca High School and our PTA!

Abdel-Ghany, Doa	Estill, Matt	Katz, Ruth	Munasinghe,	Sipple, Patricia	Whitehead,
Alani, Eric	Ethridge, David	Kearl, Shari	Viranjini	Slotnick, Mia	Deborah
Andolina, Laura	Ethridge, Ishan	Khatkhate, Radhika	Muscente, Maria	Smith, Andrew	Wilkie, Jen
Andrulis, Rich	Munasinghe	Kiely, Joe	Muscente, Paul	Smith, Melissa	Williamson, Ann
Archer, Shivaun	Falk, Jackson	Kiely, Patty	Neal, Barb	Sonken, Lori	Willick, Laurie
Auble, Bart	Falk, Laura Winter	Kinchen, Vernetta	Noble-Grange, Angela	Souchet, Theresa	Young, Jack
Babiak, Brian	Ferdinando, Mike	Koizumi, Yayoi	Oates, Bill	Spingler, Marjorie	Zabel, Ingrid
Babiak, Wendy	Finlay, Marcie	Krause, Beth	Oates, Erin	Sposito, Jen	Zabel, Mark
Barnett, Jenny	Flecker, Alder	Kuo, Elaine	Oreg, Ayelet	Sposito, Lou	Zhang, Angela
Barnett, Susan	Flecker, Alex	Laface, Karen	Oreg, Shaul	Sprole, Bob	Zhang, Shiyang
Bedore, Darcy	Flecker, Liana	Lambrou, Nick	Pabody, James	Stoff, Bruce	Zhu, Liqing
Benenati, Nicole	Foley, Melissa	Lambrou, Sharon	Pabody, Susan	Stoff, Terri	
Bodenstein, Mark	Fox, Pat	Lee, Brian	Patti, Lisa	Stone, Robin	
Bollingier, Maureen	Freeman, Gwen	Lee, Britta	Peck, Liz	Strogatz, Joanna	
Breuhaus, George	Fubini, Susan	Levine, Anne	Pereboom, Derk	Strogatz, Leah	
Brisson, Gail	Gao, George	Levine, Eric	Place, Denise	Strogatz, Steven	
Brooks, Nancy	Garg, Charoo	Li, Xin	Place, Ned	Stroock, Abe	
Campbell, Elizabeth	Gavirneni, Ramadevi	Liu, Jun	Power, Alison	Stroock, Laure	
Carlson, Greg	Gavirneni, Srinagesh	Loehr, Caitlin	Quinones, Jerilynn	Studin, Sandy	
Catterall, Sara	Geddes, Rick	Loehr, Jamie	Quinones, Yvonne	Supron, Kate	
Catterall, Simon	Getzin, Zoe	Lopez, Jacque	Rachlinksi, Melissa	Talty, Helen	
Cheng, Shuping	Gillespie, Laurie	Lovette, Heidi	Racoosin, Esther	Talty, Kevin	
Chickermane, Vivek	Gillespie, Pat	Lovette, Irby	Rassnick, Kenneth	Thayer, Connon	
Chun, You Lee	Gilroy, Maureen	Lu, Jordan	Rassnick, Nishi	Thayer, Kylie	
Colbert, Kristin	Ginsparg, Paul	Lynn, Deborah	Reitenbach, Lyn	Thayer, Shannon	
Comella, Bonnie	Goldberg, Mark	Lyon, Beth	Richards, Jeremy	Thayer, Steven	
Cook, Cathy	Goldberg, Sheryl	Lyon, Harper	Richards, Lisa	Theodore, Carolyn	
Copman, Linda	Gordon, Erin	Mackey, Katrina	Richards, Rachael	Todhunter, Rory	
Cronin, Amy	Gorsky, Karen	Mackey, Shannon	Richmond, Becky	Tomasik, Jeff	
Cronin, Peter	Gras, Laura	Macleod, Meredith	Riesman, Diana	Torres, Darah	
Culotta, Bella	Greenberg, Steven	Magnus, Peter	Rivkin, Devra	Touesnard, Monica	
Culotta, Sara	Gremaud, Pierre	Magnus, Tami	Rodriguez, Karen	Trible, Karen	
Cusack, Jill	Gualtieri, Julie	Mangor, Jodie	Rooks, Ally	Uhlig, Julie	
Daniels, Leslie	Haaf, Sandy	Maranca, Sophia	Rosenberg, Ellie	Uhlig, Rich	
Davis, Lia	Habicht, Amelia	Maranca, Tony	Rudert, Angela	VanDeMark, Allan	
Demuyneck, Ineke	Habicht, Oliver	Marschner, Heidi	Ruina, Prachi	VanDeMark, Suzy	
DePalma, Bernie	Haffenden, Trena	Marschner, Steve	Russell, Diane	Vanlooy, Sara	
DePalma, Mary Turner	Hagen, Becca	Marteal, Erin	Saggese, Carolann	Van Nouhuys, Saskya	
de Roos, Marie	Hao, Yue	Mattice, Taryn	Saggese, Steve	Vieira, Luiza	
Dev, Joyce	Healy, Jean	Mattice, Terry	Salmon, Jack	Vieira, Maria	
Dewey, Greta	Heitzman, Holly	McNairn, Adrian	Salmon, Kate	Vieira, Patricia Lima	
Dewey, Reed	Heitzman, John	McNairn, Julie	Salmon, Meredith	Wagner, Vanessa	
DiNapoli, Ron	Henderson, Shane	McNairn, Madeleine	Salmon, Paulette	Walker, Larry	
DiNapoli, Sue	Hill, Spencer	Merson, Esa	Salmon, Peter	Walker, Lynne	
Dongtoe, Sonam	Hohn, Magdalena	Messing, Marc	Samuels, Shirley	Walker, Nadine	
Dortch, Shannon	Hohn, Tom	Miller, Dan	Santelli, Arthur	Wang, Ping	
Duncan, Craig	Horst, Anne	Miller, Susie	Santelli, Francesca	Wardlaw, Dana	
Earls, Cecilia	Hubbell, Greg	Milstein, Mark	Santelli, Frank	Wardlaw, Jeff	
Earls, Chris	Hubbell, Myra	Moore, Carolyn	Schiffman, Carole	Warner, Beth	
Eng, Janine	Hwang, Juri	Moroni, Loredana	Shaver, Laurie	Way, Beverly	
Eng, Lauren	Jander, Lucia	Locatelli	Shulman, Zach	Way, Christopher	
Eng, Wing	Jewett, Arti	Moroni, Matilde	Silberman, Caryl	Wendel, Brad	
Engst, Tonya	Jones, Laura	Morse, Ann	Simons, Aleza	Weston, Jaclene	
Erato, Leah	Jordan, Tom	Morse, Laurie	Simons, Michael	Weston, John	
Estill, Madeline	Kadiyali, Vrinda	Moulton, Pamela	Sipple, John	Westwig, Erik	