

A Word from
Mr. Powers

As Principal it's important for me to walk the walk of every member of our community. It's called "Leading by Walking Around." Over the past two years I've spent lots of time observing in classrooms. This year in addition to observing, I've been able to reconnect with the learning that is done every day by our students as a teacher in the classroom. By teaching US History, I'm working with students who see me – and I them - in a new dimension than the past two years. In faculty meetings I'm a colleague who reviews and prepares curriculum, adapts to new technology, plans classes, and gives feedback.

Teachers have traditionally worked in isolation. The research suggests that we all have much to learn from each other. Since September we have expanded on this. Each teacher observes another for one period a week. We're already hearing the wonderful ways we are learning from other educators, the curriculum and our students as they learn in colleagues' classrooms.

We are closing in on the halfway point with our Results First grant. With the \$150,000 of additional funding we have been able to bring more resources than ever before to build a culture of learning interventions that allow all students to reach their potential. The results for the 1st quarter are in and we are making steady improvement across the board.

After the winter break you will be receiving the testing schedule for the January 27-30 Regents Week. Classes will not be held that week. The mailing will include the bus schedule, guidelines, electronics prohibition, etc. that are mandated by state and district practice. Should you have any questions please call 274-2385 or 274-2157.

For the January 31st PLC day that closes Regents Week, staff will participate in workshops with several outside speakers and agencies providing professional development. Among them, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language will send representatives to work with our language teachers on ways to improve speaking assessments.

We are continuing our successful partnership with GIAC with the Conservation Corps that allows students to receive credit through Environmental work in the community. Our pilot program for expanded AP offerings continues with the AVENTA offerings. We are grateful to the community agencies, the Board of Education and you for your continued support.

We wish for all of you a wonderful holiday season and happy new year.

Jarett Powers

Important dates

Dec. 23 - Jan. 1 Winter Recess

Jan. 20 Martin Luther King Recess

Jan. 27 - 30 Regents Exams

Jan. 31 Professional Learning
Community Day

Feb. 8 Winter Formal

Feb. 17 - 21 School Recess

Mar. 17 School Recess

Changing address??

Leaving ICSD??

Please notify Deborah

Casey,

IHS Registrar, ASAP!!

Phone: 607-274-2144;

Fax: 607-277-3061;

dcasey@icsd.k12.ny.us

We've Moved...

The Family Liaison office has moved and is now in the Main Office, near College and Careers.

Barbara Berman
IHS Family Liaison
274-6843

The Art department received a grant from the Fine Arts Booster Group which has made it possible to expand the scope of the classroom by having working artists and professors come into the classroom, present their work and share their insight.

Fashion Illustration students have had the opportunity to meet and ask questions of an array of professionals in the field. Local fashion designer Rachael Reichert shared her experience from Central Saint Martins in London, where she studied fashion. Professor Van Dyke Lewis from Cornell University discussed the difference between fashion drawing and fashion illustration, as well as how he inspires fashion students' thinking. Hilary Gifford, a textile artist who resides in Trumansburg and can be found on the Art Trail, shared her work and experience making a living in the ever changing fashion world.

Digital and Film Photography students will have the pleasure of meeting Keith Millman on December 9th. Millman is a local photographer whose work was just currently shown at the CAP Gallery in downtown Ithaca. Millman will show and discuss his latest series titled "The Projection Series". The work is fresh, smart use of technology and an interesting take on portraiture. This will be especially exciting to IHS students, as they are just finishing up their portrait project.

Drawing and Painting will be completing a portrait project through "The Memory Project". Each student will receive an image of a disadvantaged youth from another country to create a portrait of them to send back as a gift. Another big thanks to the Fine Arts Booster Group for funding this activity!

Sculpture students are currently engaged with creating beautiful hand carved organic forms from cast plaster. Initially, students researched an object found in nature. For example, students may have found inspiration in a river rock, a dynamic plant form or coral structure from an underwater reef. Once students had chosen their natural form they had to begin to design their sculpture by abstracting the original object and then stylizing their intended form. Students are exploring how sculpture interacts with the surrounding space and how to create a visually dynamic sculpture that engages the viewer from all viewpoints.

As planned, Art History students will be deep into the Renaissance by Christmas. They have covered an amazing amount of artistic landscape from Mesopotamia to Gothic and are true explorers, breaking academic ground with this new course.

AP Studio Art students are developing their ideas for Concentration themes that will inspire a 12 image series. Local artist, Sylvia Taylor will be visiting the class in the next few weeks, sharing her whimsical portfolio and techniques for linocuts and illustration.

AP Art digital portfolios will be online by January. Art teacher, Jackie Richardson will be on maternity leave at the end of this semester and retired IHS art teacher, Helen Bigsby will be returning to the department and supporting her classes in the interim. We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday and New Year!

Carol Spence
Fine Arts Department

I wish you could be here with me, period 3, December 3, 2013. Where? In the Library, of course!

In our F-16 classroom, one student plays boogie woogie on our visiting piano (door closed, not disturbing to the Zone of Silence next to it). Three friends eat lunch and do homework while he plays. In Lab 2 there are ten students, some are watching sports bloopers (with headphones), some doing homework, some checking mail. At the Reading Room tables two students eat a snack while doing homework with our textbooks; a table of six are discussing sports at the moment, but with homework folders out; a table of five students are all doing the same math assignment and talking about parts of it while they eat lunch; five students are at carrels working silently (one of them might be napping; I'll have to gently remind him); two students are arguing about the pronunciation of a word in Chinese; and one student is sitting by himself at a table in the middle of the Reading Room, simply reading. If you can believe it, three Library Club students are sewing bookmarks to sell at the Craft Fair!

Meanwhile, in the Zone of Silence three students are concentrating on their work, while there are students at all 20 Reading Room computers -- most listening to their music while they work, some checking their phones (but not making calls, thank you very much); other students sit in the comfy chairs up front while chatting, listening to music while they read, and relaxing.

Welcome to our Library, which relies on students' maturity to have somewhat unusual high school library privileges (music, food), and is gaining a good level of cooperation and buy-in as a result. With over one hundred students per period, during lunches, we need it!

AND I got a copy of the new Gayle Forman, *Just One Year*, before the other District libraries did, and it got checked out instantly.

"A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life."

—Henry Ward Beecher

Yours in the Library,
Nan Bell

Quiz Team

On Saturday, December 7th, Ithaca played host for the second annual Brain Busters Fall tournament, an official NAQT Quizbowl event. The biggest single-day tournament in Central New York attracted 28 teams from 16 schools across New York and Northern Pennsylvania to compete in an academic quiz competition. Winning teams qualified for national tournaments in Chicago and Washington, DC.

Ithaca's Quiz Teams have been doing amazingly well in other, similar tournaments, including accomplishing a rare "perfect game" at a tournament in Buffalo, and featuring the first all-freshmen team in the *entire country to ever win* an all-grades tournament at Cornell University. The future is bright for the IHS Brain Team!

Benjamin Kirk
Mathematics Teacher

Science Department

Speaker Series is Working Inspire Student Involvement in STEM-Related Careers

The Ithaca High School Science Department is sponsoring a STEM Speaker Series starting in January 2014. Talks will be on the second Thursday of the month and take place in H-courtyard, where our students can interact closely with the speakers. The speakers, who are from a variety of science and engineering fields, will be speaking about their work to expose ICSD students to a range of real-life applications, product development, solution-oriented designs and research meant to solve 21st century problems. The Department hopes to encourage even more students to enroll in Ithaca High's Science and Engineering courses. *All caregivers, family members, and community members are welcome.*

The Department would like to thank Cornell University and Ithaca College faculty and staff for their continued involvement in the Ithaca City School District. If you have questions or would like to volunteer to speak in ICSD classrooms please contact Deb Lynn (dlynn@icsd.k12.ny.us) or Carlan Gray (cgray@icsd.k12.ny.us).

Math Department

Club: If a student enjoys math they should check out our Math Team. It's not too late to join this club that meets after school on Tuesdays in H 211. Interested students should stop by!

Homework Help: Students who find themselves with math questions can easily get help in two ways. They can just walk in to the homework help room during their lunch or go to H 112 after school (M, T or TH). No appointment is necessary! Details about when and where the help is available are posted in every math classroom.

January Regents: Many students are taking Regents Exams in January. There will be review sessions on Mondays after school in H 214 for students who are signed up for the Algebra 2/Trig test. (Students who are currently taking Honors Algebra 2 will take the exam in June, not in January.)

Courses: Next fall we will offer a non-AP Statistics course for the first time. This new course is in addition to the other math electives: Introduction to Programming, Fractals and Chaos, AP Statistics and AP Computer Science. Also, we will continue to offer a course designed to provide students with the skills they need to be successful in college math courses, but it may no longer be called "Algebra 2/Trig."

STEM Speaker Series		
Date	Speaker	Title
January 9, 2014	<u>Chris Schaffer</u> Associate Professor Biomedical Engineering Cornell University	Blood, Brains, and Lasers: Using light to uncover the mechanisms of neurological disease.
February 13, 2014	<u>Doug Turnbull</u> Assistant Professor Computer Science Ithaca College	Google, Netflix, Pandora: How to build a recommender system.
March 13, 2014	<u>Bruce Monger</u> Senior Research Associate Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Cornell University	Threats to World's Oceans Resulting From Anthropogenic Increases in Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide
April 10, 2014	<u>Hod Lipson</u> Professor Department of Engineering Cornell University	The Future of 3D printing: The promise and peril of a machine that can make (almost) anything.
May 8, 2014	<u>Lena F. Kourkoutis</u> Faculty Fellow Cornell University Applied and Engineering Physics	Seeing With Electrons

World Languages Department

The period 8 Advanced Latin class marked the sesquicentennial (or 150th) anniversary of the delivery of the Gettysburg Address, on November 19th, by reading the speech in class and looking for the classical rhetorical features that it exemplifies: we found good examples of anaphora with asyndeton (repetition of key words / phrases, with an absence of connective words), such as “and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth,” and tricolon crescens, of which the former is a good example, as is “we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground.” In Advanced Placement Latin, we study these rhetorical figures in Latin prose and poetry, so it helps to prepare the students by learning to notice and name the figures in English.

The same week saw the fiftieth anniversary of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, so it seemed appropriate to read excerpts from his Inaugural Address and look for more of these features. There’s a kind of chiasmus (ABBA) structure going on, with his famous “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.” Any of the students in Latin 2, Latin 3 or Latin 4 can tell you what that means, if you don’t already know! Much of the time, the students in this class work in their separate curriculum groups on their own Latin readings, so I like to take opportunities as appropriate to focus on something as a whole class. In addition to taking time out to look at two notable American speeches, we have been reading (in translation) episodes from Homer’s *Iliad* and *Odyssey* and Vergil’s *Aeneid*, to savor some of the best reasons for studying the Latin language and, again, to prepare for that part of the Advanced Placement curriculum that focuses on Vergil.

English Department

This fall, Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition students continued the drama-in-production component of their class by attending productions of *Carmen* at the Binghamton Tri-Cities Opera, *Into the Woods* at Ithaca College, and *Lie of the Mind* at Cornell University. Teachers and students look forward to seeing the final plays of their theatre series, *Titus Andronicus* at Cornell University and *Black Pearl Sings* at The Kitchen Theatre, in the coming weeks.

In addition to directing IHS's production of *Rumors* this October, Ms. Lorraine Tino also oversaw the Fall Theatre Festival during the first week in December. Two student-directed one-act plays were performed in the Black Box Theatre to many appreciative audience members. Congratulations to all involved!

The Academic Intervention Services (AIS) English room (GK101) continues to be open every period of the regular school day and until 4:22 PM Monday through Thursday. Any student can visit our AIS room for help with English work. Additionally, some students are assigned AIS English in order to receive support for English coursework and testing. If you have questions about your student's placement into AIS English, please feel free to contact the English department leader, Ms. Jean Amodeo, at (607) 274-2187.

Later this winter, students will be selecting their courses for the 2014-2015 school year. The English department will be offering two new courses next year: English 9 Honors / AP World History (Combined), a ninth grade core course emphasizing the relationship between world history and world literature, and English 12 Writing Your Family History, a senior elective which aims to perfect students' research and writing skills by examining influences on their personal backgrounds. All students should review IHS's Program of Studies and ask their English teachers questions about which courses are available to them next year.

WISE

Second semester begins the WISE Program Project Season! Students in WISE English 12 will begin independent projects on a topic of their choosing. Over the second semester, students will broaden their knowledge and make connections in the larger community in an effort to learn as much as they can on their topic of interest. Please consider supporting the WISE Program by serving as a mentor, a Task Force community supporter, or an end-of-year project evaluator. Those interested, contact the WISE Program Facilitator, Alexis Lord: alord@icsd.k12.ny.us

Both WISE English 12 classes have decided to raise money to aid victims of recent natural disasters. Inspired by one student's research project on the Lake Okechobee Hurricane of 1928, Ms. Gergely's class is raising funds for the victims of the recent Philippines storm. Ms. Gergely's 2nd period class has raised \$120.00, and when they reach the goal of \$400, the class will get to eat her award-winning soup!

Performing Arts

At the beginning of December, 7 IHS music students traveled to Rochester to participate in the NYSSMA Conference All-State Music Festival. Acceptance to All-State is a high honor, and we are so proud to have these students representing IHS to the state-wide music organization. They were selected along with 900 other students from around New York State. Members of the All-State Ensembles: Toby Elser (violin), Julian Eng (saxophone), Jay Hamilton (clarinet), Mattie Hause (flute), Rex Lei (viola), Michael Stern (trumpet), and Jesse Yuan (violin).

On Saturday, November 16th, the Ithaca High School Choir participated in the 35th Annual Ithaca College Choral Composition Festival at Ithaca College. This festival is a nationally recognized event that champions new choral works, honors up-and-coming composers and celebrates the joy that comes from group-singing.

Every year, six high school choirs from across New York state and New England participate in the festival, each having prepared a song vetted for competition. This year, Ithaca High School was tasked with preparing a song written by rising young composer, Michael Rickelton. The music, which was beautifully set to Robert Burns poem, "O, my luve's like a red, red rose", was a favorite of the IHS singers throughout the many weeks of preparation.

After a day of performances, workshops, and rehearsals with the composers, each high school choir presented their song in an evening performance, which included a premiere performance by the Ithaca College Choir, a grand finale with over 500 musicians singing on stage, as well as the announcement of the winning composition.

Though the Ithaca High School Choir has been invited to this event for many years, last month's festival marked the first time that their prepared composition took first place in the competition. Congratulations to Michael Rickelton for writing such a fantastic piece, and congratulations to the Ithaca High School Choir for giving it a wonderful, winning, and meaningful performance!

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 10th grader this year who has not received a check-up, please be sure to schedule a well-child exam as soon as possible. Please also make sure that we receive the documentation. Physical exams within the past year are also required for sports and working papers.

If you have any questions, call the Medical Office at 274-2173.

Join the PTA Listserv and Stay Connected

For up-to-date information concerning IHS, sign up for the PTA listserv by sending an (empty) email to IHSPTA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

To share information with or ask questions of other IHS families, join our discussion listserv by sending an (empty) email to IHSPTA-discuss-subscribe@yahoo.com.

HOLIDAY GIFTS AVAILABLE AT THE HIGH SCHOOL!

Still looking for that perfect holiday gift for your Ithaca High School student? How about some nice high school wearing apparel? The Ithaca High School Store is new this year and has a variety of clothing in a variety of colors! How about a comfortable Ithaca High School hooded sweatshirt or an embroidered stocking cap to keep your special student warm this winter? The School Store also has sweat pants, long sleeve and short sleeved T-shirts, embroidered headbands and more!

The School Store is open in the cafeteria from the 12:45 PM –1:45 PM every weekday. Or, if you can't make it there, you can place an order by calling the School Store manager, Jay Barnes, at 607-280-4637, or in his office at 607-274-2147. The School Store is open for the entire school year so keep us in mind all year long! Happy Holidays!!!



IHS Word is the Ithaca High School newsletter, jointly funded by the **PTA** and **IHS**.

It serves all IHS stakeholders and is mailed with student progress reports each quarter.

Please Join the PTA!

For more info visit the IHS PTA web site <http://www.ihspta.info/wordpress/>