

### *From the PTA President*

Greetings IHS Families,

As I sat in a recent Fine Arts Booster Group meeting listening to Karla Notarianni, music teacher at Northeast Elementary, describe her teaching methods I was amazed by the breadth and depth of what she's offering her students. This kind of dedication and creative teaching permeates throughout our entire district and it's amazing what and how our students are learning, at all levels. Take a look at the new "Learning" tab on the ICSD website, top of the page.

With the course selection process underway I'd like to draw your attention to the Program of Studies and the multitude of options being offered in all areas of study. Of note is the Student and Caregiver Planning Guide found at the back of the Program. The guide is an excellent tool for talking with your child about preparing for post high school plans and what they can do now to get the most out of their high school years. The form is an opportunity for you and your student to communicate pertinent information about interests, extracurricular involvement and post high school plans to counselors in preparation for their annual meeting with your child. The more we can partner with each other the more opportunities might arise for students. I encourage you to read through the Program of Studies and fill out the Student and Caregiver Planning Guide with your student. All of this information can be found on the ICSD website under the High School tab, then Student Services at the bottom of the left hand side. I also HIGHLY recommend that you and your student, 9th-11th grade, attend the "Getting In Night" event at Kulp Auditorium on April 24th. Our guidance counselors, along with several college admissions officers, will offer excellent advice on how to get into college.

In May the PTA is hoping to offer a screening of Screenagers: Growing up in the Digital Age, a documentary about how screen time affects our lives. As

one of the biggest issues we face with our kids today coming together as a community is a great way to learn about and share ideas about how to balance screen time. See the weekly E-news for more information.

The PTA continues to work hard to increase communication, support teachers and staff, enhance student learning and offer programs pertinent to all of us. None of this can happen without the efforts of the PTA Board members, volunteers and supporters. A hearty thank you to all of you! We continue to need to raise funds for the activities and programs that enrich our student's and staff experience at IHS. Please consider donating to our Direct Appeal that is happening now until March 31. 100% of donations to this appeal go directly to support our school community. Any amount you can give is greatly appreciated!

Finally, the PTA Board will be in transition next year and we'd love to have more volunteers now that can continue to help into next year. Several board positions will be open next year and we have a fabulous group of current board members happy to make it a smooth transition for anyone able to serve on the PTA. Please consider taking a turn and supporting the work that we do. Feel free to e-mail me directly at [vwagner@twcny.rr.com](mailto:vwagner@twcny.rr.com) with any questions. The next PTA Meeting will take place on April 6th at 5:30pm. Please see E-news for up to date information. I hope to see you at an upcoming event.

Happy Spring!

Vanessa Wagner, IHS PTA President

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#### **Save the Date**

PTA Meeting: April 6, 5:30 pm in Activities

Getting In Night: April 24, 6-8 pm in Kulp Auditorium

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## Math

Here's a sampler of what's happening in math classes right now.

\*Do elderly patients with a female primary care physician have a lower mortality rate than those with male doctors? (This is from the unit on hypothesis tests and confidence intervals for categorical data in AP Statistics.)

\*Factor  $3x^2 - 13x - 10$  into a product of two binomials. (From the next unit in Algebra 1)

\*Find the instantaneous rate of change for  $f(x) = 6x^3 - 5x^2 + 2$  when  $x = -1$ . (Precalculus AB)

\*Graph the line that has the equation  $y = 4x + 3$ . (Pre-Algebra)

\*If side  $a = 10$  ft,  $m\angle A = 70^\circ$  and  $m\angle B = 55^\circ$ , find the length of side  $b$ . (Intermediate Algebra/Trig)

\*Implement a method that returns the index of the minimum value in an array of integers between two given indices. (AP Computer Science)

\*Suppose a basketball player has an 80% free throw success rate. What is the average number of shots she might be able to make in a row without missing? (Intro. to Statistics)

\*The sale price is \$50,600, the down payment is \$5000 and the monthly payments are \$710 for 6 years. Find the finance charge. (Business Math)

\*The sides of a triangle measure 3 m, 6 m, 7 m. The sides of another triangle measure 12 cm, 28 cm and 24 cm. Are the triangles similar? (Geometry)

\*What is the square root of  $-16$ ? (Algebra 2ab will learn about complex and imaginary numbers next.)

\*What is the total surface area of a cylinder with a diameter of 4 inches and a height of 9 inches? (GeoTech)

\*What is the Hausdorff (fractional) dimension of the Sierpinski Triangle? (Fractals and Chaos)

\*Write a transformation matrix for a reflection through the  $xyz$  space in 4 dimensions. (Precalculus BC)

\*You open a savings account and deposit \$500. The bank offers a 3.5% interest rate. How much money will you have in the account after 5 years, if you don't deposit or withdraw any money? (Algebra 1)

\*AP Calculus BC has been working with infinite series. AP Calc AB has been working on derivatives and integrals of transcendental functions and will soon start working on separable differential equations.

### Other Math News

In February we had about 150 students take on the challenge of the American Math Competition. The results aren't in yet, but

we fully expect to have students qualify for the next round. It's great to see students choose to spend 75 minutes doing hard problems and even more inspiring to see them immediately start discussing the questions with each other as soon as the competition is over.

Students are starting to consider courses for next year. We have a few electives to consider, including Intro. to Programming, AP Computer Science, Intro. to Statistics, AP Statistics and Fractals & Chaos. To find out more about these, check out the short videos on the district website (under Student Services then Course Description Videos).

In terms of choosing a core math course, the array of options can be confusing. We recommend students and families consult this year's math teacher about what would be the best choice for next year. While we always want students to aim high, we are concerned about students overloading themselves or signing up for a course they don't have the background for.

Math Awareness Week is in April, and in March we'll have a t-shirt design competition. The winning design will be printed on the shirts students win when their correct answer to the "problem of the day" is drawn during Math Awareness Week itself.

The Ithaca Math Club is doing well. They're tied for 15th in the entire state of New York in the NYML contests after four out of six contests. NYML is the New York Mathematics League.

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## Health Office

For parents of 11th graders

New York State now requires all 12th graders to have received the Meningococcal conjugate vaccine before beginning their senior year. Students who haven't received the vaccine may be excluded from school. There are two doses in this series and one must be given after age 16. (Only one is required if the first dose is given after age 16.) Please don't wait until the last minute! If your child has already turned 16, be sure s/he receives this vaccine and we receive the documentation. Call the Medical Office at 274-2173 if you have any questions.

## *Club News*

### *Undivided*

*Shirley Kennedy, advisor*

Six members of the IHS club Undivided were among the sixty-six Ithaca area youth who attended a retreat entitled ComeUnity at the Montrose Conference Center the first weekend of winter break.

The event, sponsored by five Ithaca churches, focused on youth building friendships and facing moral challenges of the 21st century.

In addition to workshops and worship, students participated in paint ball, wall climbing, sledding, basketball, and time just to talk and be together.

The retreat, in its second year, is planned to be an annual event. For more information, contact the club's faculty advisor, Shirley Kennedy, at [skennedy@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:skennedy@icsd.k12.ny.us).

Undivided, which meets Mondays from 8:00-8:40 for drop-in prayer time in K-102 while IHS staff, community members, and pastors pray across the hall in York Lecture Hall, has its regular meetings Mondays after school. Documentaries, student-led Bible studies, and personal testimonies from college students have been the focus of past meetings. All are welcome.

### *Brain Team*

*Benjamin Kirk, advisor*

On January 28th, two teams from the Brain Team, Ithaca High School's nationally ranked academic quizbowl team, traveled to Rutgers University to play in the Scarlet Knight Winter tournament. The Ithaca A team, featuring seniors Andrey Shakhzadyan, Daniel Xu, and Casey and Luc Wetherbee, took first place at the tournament with an undefeated 11-0 record. Casey and Daniel, as well as sophomore Isaiah Gutman of the Ithaca B team, placed in the top 10 of individual scorers at the tournament.

On February 11, the Ithaca A team—this time with Andrey, Daniel, Casey, and senior James Park—went to Yale University to play in the Bulldog High School Academic Tournament. The team went undefeated there as well, with wins against other nationally ranked teams from Dorman, South Carolina, and Phillips Academy from Andover, Massachusetts in the finals.

Visit the team's Twitter page for updates about their progress as well as a daily Quizbowl Fact of the Day with their #QBFOD hashtag, and please consider coming out to Ithaca High School to support the team at their upcoming trivia night fundraiser on March 30th.

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### *Registrar*

Is your student leaving Ithaca High School for any reason at the end of the school year (by June 30) other than graduating?

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

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

Please contact IHS Registrar Deborah Casey at 6-7-274-2144 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.

### *IHS PTA Direct Appeal*

We continue to need to raise funds for the activities and programs that enrich our students' education at IHS. Please consider donating to the IHS PTA Direct Appeal that is running now, until Friday, March 31. 100% of donations go directly to support our school community. In the past we've been able to fund many teacher mini-grants for enriching classroom experiences, thanks to your generous donations. Some of these include:

- \* beads to help Ms. Benenati's students understand protein folding and DNA
  - \* equipment for Mr. Tuori's Sustainable Agriculture class
  - \* student licenses for Brain HQ software
  - \* science books for the partnership between Ms. Gray's AP Biology class and third graders at Caroline Elementary School
- Please help support teacher mini-grants and the other programs our PTA runs (see back cover for more details). Any amount you can give is greatly appreciated - thank you!

## *Social Studies*

Engaging high school students in conversations about school can be very challenging. General inquiries often produce little more than the startling revelation that students have been studying “stuff.” The Social Studies Department would like to suggest the more specific questions below, focused on topics that students have been studying, in the hope that they will engender more meaningful conversations.

Possible current events questions:

N.Y. York state is one of two states that prosecutes anyone over the age of 16 as an adult. Do you think NY should raise the age at which individuals accused of crimes should be raised?

What do you think US immigration policy should be?

How concerned should Americans be about possible foreign influence/intervention in the last election?

### **9th Grade:**

How “barbaric” were the Mongols?

How did the Bubonic Plague affect Europe?

What are the three most influential “Golden Ages” prior to 1500 C.E?

Was Justinian a successful ruler?

### **10th Grade:**

How and under what conditions do totalitarian leaders come to power?

Are there elements of socialism in the US economy? If so, where?

Was the use of the atomic bombs on Japan justified?

### **11th Grade:**

What previous president -- or person in American History -- do you think Donald Trump most resembles? Why?

Do you think a strong national government is a threat to freedom -- or is necessary to protect individual freedoms?

Is it okay for the Government to restrict individual liberties to keep Americans safe?

Does the U.S. have the right to intervene in the affairs of other countries? If so, under what conditions?

What kinds of strategies does the media use in order to grab the attention of the public? Are these techniques similar to the “yellow journalism” of the early 20th century?

### **Government (12th grade)**

Where do most U.S. politicians fall on the Political Spectrum? Why is this the case?

What is so controversial about President Trump’s executive order regarding the travel ban and extensive vetting process of foreigners? What is your opinion on the fairness of the ban?

Why are so many people concerned about “fake news?” How can we figure out whether or not a site is trustworthy?

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## *English*

This winter, teacher librarian Armin Heurich delivered five periods of engaging talks to all of Mrs. Kennedy's classes on the subject of fake news. You can see his interesting material on the IHS library web page by clicking on the article “Detecting Fake News” or by going to: <https://sites.google.com/a/icsd.k12.ny.us/ihs-library/detecting-fake-news>.

All students are currently selecting their courses for the 2017-2018 school year. Students should review IHS's Program of Studies and ask their English teacher questions about which courses are available. Two new courses students might consider are: English 12 Women in Literature and Reading the World: Exploring Fiction from Other Countries.

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. 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.



## *Visual Art*

### DADA:

Our Drawing & Painting, Digital Photography, Sculpture & Independent Art students are creating works inspired by Dada art. Carol Hockett shared the history and Dada art works from the Johnson Museum. Dada is a movement that emerged in the aftermath of the chaos & horror of WW1. It was a form of artistic anarchy born out of disgust for the social, political and cultural values of the time, a protest movement with an anti-establishment manifesto. Our students are creating collages, digital photos and sculpture as their Dada response to contemporary political, cultural and social issues.

### DRAWING & PAINTING:

Our students were delighted that the Ithaca Journal gave front page coverage of their Memory Project portraits. The Memory Project is a nonprofit organization that invites art teachers and their students to create portraits for youth around the world who have faced substantial challenges, such as neglect, abuse, loss of parents, and extreme poverty. This year, the students created portraits of Syrian children who are living in refugee camps. We want the portraits to help the children feel valued and important, to know that many people care about their well being, and to act as meaningful pieces of personal history in the future. For the art students, we want this to be an opportunity to creatively practice kindness and global awareness.

### SCHEDULING:

As students consider their scheduling requests for next year, we want to remind them that there's a new look and lots to learn in the IHS Art Department:

Along with our traditional Studio course and Studio in Sculpture and Fashion, students can choose:

Metals, Glass & More: a Studio course that explores form & function using these media.

Draw, Paint , Print : drawing & painting with a twist; some printmaking techniques to expand the traditional approaches.

AP Art History: full year college credit course open to 10-12 graders

Zero period options now in Studio A & B & Ceramics A & B.

Don't wait until Senior year to make learning inspired or to start a portfolio.

Art is SmArt at IHS.

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## *SAT/ACT Test Dates*

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration
May 6: SAT or Subject Tests	April 7	April 25
June 3: SAT or Subject Tests	May 9	May 24
June 10: ACT or ACT+Writing	May 5	May 19

More information/registration at [sat.collegeboard.org](http://sat.collegeboard.org) IHS Code: 332-535

## **ITHACA HIGH SCHOOL PTA Direct Appeal**

The IHS PTA helps to fund activities and programs that enrich our students' high school experience.

To accomplish this, we are asking for financial contributions from the school community.  
Please support the Ithaca High School PTA and donate to the Direct Appeal!

In order to maximize fundraising impact and offer families an easy, quick way to contribute, we are conducting a Direct Appeal fundraiser. No baking, no pestering relatives, no going door-to-door selling things that people don't need to those who have probably supported your students multiple times in the past! Simply make a donation where 100% of what you give goes directly to help the school community. All donations are tax-deductible. Any amount is very much appreciated and makes a difference. Examples of programs and publications that the PTA helps to make possible include the following:

- \* Mini-grants for teachers
- \* Open House
- \* Junior Achievement and Senior Awards
- \* Staff Appreciation Morning Munch and Luncheon
- \* Family Liaison Program
- \* The Guide
- \* Link Crew
- \* The Word

We cannot do this alone – we need your financial support. A successful “Direct Appeal” ensures that we can continue to fund these programs. Every little bit counts! Please complete the form below and return by Friday, March 31.

### **Ithaca High School PTA Direct Appeal--2017**

Parent/Caregiver Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (for tax receipt): \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to contribute: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed please find cash or my check, payable to IHS PTA.

Drop off in the school's main office, or mail this form to:

IHS PTA – Direct Appeal  
Ithaca High School  
1401 North Cayuga Street  
Ithaca, NY 14850

For questions about the Direct Appeal, please contact Ally Rooks at [ahrooks@gmail.com](mailto:ahrooks@gmail.com) or 279-4840.

Thank you very much for your support!