From Mr. Baynes

This week we have been reminded several times just how fortunate we are to have great community partners. Whether it’s the WalkAbout volunteers who help every day in the halls, the ISF representatives who ensure that we are stocked with backpacks and school supplies for students needing a little extra support, the many parents and individuals who have signed up for our Career Fair, or our PTSA working to fill school needs and support new and existing programs, we do not take for granted the support our students receive. Most recently, after several staff members envisioned new opportunities to grow and support our WEB program for incoming 5th graders and new students, IMS was able to partner with the IMS ASB and PTSA to provide opportunities and resources to help this program grow in a way that will impact every student on our campus. We are thrilled for this opportunity to partner with different groups to continue to build on and improve a program with a broad reach and large impact on our student body and school culture.

If you are interested in volunteering or supporting our school community, but don’t know where to start or where your skills would be most helpful, please reach out to us. Whether it’s supporting at the school or district level, we are happy to help find a place for you to get involved and connected that fits both your availability and your interests.

March Middle Years Newsletter
The March Middle Years Newsletter is now available. Please take a few minutes to review this valuable resource.

Lost and Found

The Lost and Found is starting to fill up. Please encourage your students to check out the Lost and Found located in the cafeteria. There are quite a few coats and lunchboxes. As you know, writing your student's name on everything guarantees that their belongings will be returned and not donated at the end of the trimester.

Daily Savings Time Begins

Don’t Forget – Spring Ahead - set your clocks ahead one hour this weekend.

Evening All-School Social
Friday, March 13

On Friday, March 13, IMS will host an evening all-school social. There will be a DJ and dancing with black lights, inflatables, a video gaming trailer, basketball, concessions (including glowing items) and more.

The social will take place from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. Parents will need to provide transportation to and from school for the social.

Tickets are $3.00 and will be on sale during lunches next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Students can also purchase tickets at the door on Friday for $4.00. ASB cards are required to purchase a ticket and to attend the dance.

IMS Students Participate in National Mathematics Competition

Twenty students at Issaquah Middle School participated in the 16th Annual American Mathematics Contest 10. The contest was held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015. The students competed for local, regional and national student and school awards. The contest, which covers high school mathematics, is given in participating schools. Its purpose is to spur interest in mathematics and develop talent through the excitement of friendly competition at problem solving in a timed format. In 2014, over 220,000 students from 4,200 schools participated in the AMC 10 & AMC 12 contest.

Top scorers at IMS were Michael Han (1st Place-Winner, Young Student Certificate of Achievement), Jay Sivadas (2nd Place-Team Member), and Alina Chen (3rd Place-Team Member).

Free the Children Fundraiser
On February 9, IMS kicked off the Free the Children charitable fundraiser. Throughout the week, and after the Band, Orchestra, and Chorus concerts, we collected a grand total of $3,936.92.

All money raised benefits Free the Children, an international nonprofit organization. Adopt a Village is a Free the Children program which is built on five pillars that work together to meet a community’s basic needs and eliminate the obstacles that prevent children’s access to education.

A special thank you to the PTSA who provided refreshments before and after the Band, Orchestra, and Chorus concerts and collected money towards the fundraiser. When it comes to bringing education to Kenya, every dollar counts, so thank you to everyone who contributed.

**School Supplies**

The beginning of the trimester is a good time to be sure your student has the school supplies he/she needs. Please take a few minutes to review the supply list and check your student’s school supplies to see if anything needs to be replenished.

**5th Grade Student Visit**

On Tuesday, March 24, all 5th graders attending IMS next year will be visiting the middle school campus with their teachers. They will be warmly welcomed by staff and students as they get their first glimpse of middle school life. During the visit, topics such as course offerings, middle school sports and how lunch works (very important to many) will be covered. We look forward to this visit.

**5th Grade Parent Night**

We look forward to meeting and welcoming both our new and veteran incoming 5th grade parents on Tuesday, March 24, beginning with a welcome reception at 6:00 p.m. hosted by our wonderful PTSA. The main program will begin at 6:30 p.m. sharp and keep in mind that parking is limited in our lot and at the Community Center, so we strongly advise you to arrive early. Our overview of life at Issaquah Middle School will conclude at 8:15 p.m. at which time a Q&A panel discussion will be held in the Commons from 8:15 to 8:45 p.m. for those families considering advance course pathways for their students. For our families with Special Education students, teachers will be available to answer questions beginning at 6:00 p.m. in rooms 503 and 506.

**From the Nurse**

On Saturday, March 21, the ISF Healthy Youth Initiative and the City of Issaquah Youth Advisory Board will co-host the “State of Mind” youth mental health conference from noon to 5:00 p.m. at Tiger Mountain Community High School. Everyone, adults and
students, are welcome to attend. This event is free, but registration is limited to 150 attendees. To ensure a place, we encourage everyone to register early. Presentation topics will include how to manage stress, helping friends with depression and anxiety, youth suicide prevention, how drugs affect developing brains, how to build healthy relationships, tips for developing healthy eating habits and appropriate body image.

From the IM PTSA

Issaquah Special Needs Group
Fostering Independence for a Successful Future

Speakers: Eric Matthes and Erin Hocking from the Arc of King County
Tuesday, March 10, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Issaquah Middle School Library
Free event. Everyone is welcome.

Please join us for this informative event as we listen to Eric Matthes, an adult with Down Syndrome, as he shares his story and personal experiences as an outreach and advocacy coordinator at the Arc of King County. Eric is passionate about empowering people with disabilities to advocate for their rights, the disability movement, and inclusion in the community. He speaks about his employment and the importance employment has on individual’s lives. His presentation will emphasize the importance of employment, independence, advocacy and what parents and professionals can do to help foster those skills. Click here to view the flyer.

From the District

Middle School Summer School
Registration is Now Available

We offer 2 middle school summer programs: a STEM Camp and a Humanities Camp. These are skill-based camps that offer hands-on activities to reinforce the important skills for those content areas.

For information about the camps and for the link to registration, visit the middle school summer school fact sheet.

2016 Capital Bond Feasibility & Development Committee Application

The Issaquah School District is forming a community committee to determine essential facility needs and shape a potential bond measure to go before voters in 2016. If you are interested in representing Issaquah Middle School on the committee, please pick up an application in the main office and return it by Friday, March 6. Committee members will consider the overall need, proposed content, total cost, and tax impact of the ballot
measure and present a final recommendation to the superintendent. The time commitment is several evening meetings in April and May.

**From Issaquah High School**

Please join the Issaquah High School Music Department on Sunday, March 29, at Benaroya Hall as they present the "I Love a Piano" Benefit Concert. Funds raised will help acquire a Steinway Concert Grand for this award-winning youth program. Visit the [Benaroya Hall website](http://www.benaroya.org) for ticket information.