May 15, 2015

REMINDER - NO SCHOOL TUESDAY, MAY 19th, 2015

Dear Issaquah School District Community

I am writing to inform you that Issaquah Teachers, represented by the Issaquah Education Association (IEA), have voted to join their colleagues in a statewide action to protest the lack of legislative action to fully fund basic education. This involves a one-day walkout, which will occur on Tuesday, May 19. I cannot endorse this walkout and regret the negative impact to our students and families. However, I do share some of the frustration that has led the teachers across the state to take this action.

Due to the fact that teachers will not be at work, there will be no school for students on May 19. No before school activities will take place. However, after school activities, athletics, evening performances, as well as IB testing will continue as scheduled on May 19. Schedules for state assessments underway will be adjusted at the school level.

The school day will have to be made up, just as we would make up a snow day. The make-up day will be added to the end of the school year. Therefore, our last day of school will now be Thursday, June 18. There will be no change in graduation dates or the last day of school for seniors. A revised school year calendar will be communicated out to families as soon as we work through the logistics of this change.

Dozens of school districts across the state have experienced or will experience these one-day walkouts. It is important for families to know that this action by the IEA and our teachers is directed at the Washington State Legislature and NOT at the Issaquah School District community.

The Issaquah School District is fortunate to have outstanding teachers, dedicated staff, a supportive community, and wonderful families and students. The disruption that this change in schedule may cause is regrettable, and we will communicate schedule revisions as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Ron Thiele, Superintendent

Student Surveys

This spring, our District will be administering new surveys to students in grades 3, 4, 7, and 9.
These surveys will ask students to communicate about their experiences in school to help us determine how we, as a school system, are meeting our mission of preparing students “to accept the academic, occupational, personal, and practical challenges of life in a dynamic global environment.” We have a number of academic measures. However, our purpose here is to gather information on what we refer to as “soft skills” such as persistence, determination, and flexibility. The surveys for grades 4, 7, and 9 ask students to reflect on their capabilities in these skill areas. In third grade, the questions also ask students to reflect on how they, and others, are treated and how they feel at school.

**Classroom Staffing Update**

All of ISD is in the throws of hiring new staff for next fall. Though we are not done and there are almost always changes over the summer, here is the current classroom staffing plan for next year. I am excited to welcome two new members to our team, both experienced teachers that I am confident will be a great fit for our school! ~ Rich Mellish

**Kindergarten**: Andrews, Gaul, Robinson will be joined in full-day K by Ms. Miller* who is currently teaching kindergarten in Alaska and looking forward to returning to the Issaquah area. We are currently looking for a half-day kindergarten teacher. (Mrs. Lanham is moving to Vancouver, WA)

**First Grade**: Cakarnis, Hirshberg, Bhatia, Thomas and Simonsen

**Second Grade**: Genereaux, Hill, Eisele, Johnson will be joined by Ms. Martinsen transferring from Creekside Elementary. Ms. Martinsen started her career at Newcastle a few years back taking over for Ms. Barcello during her first maternity leave

**Third Grade**: McKenzie, De Jesus, Brousseau and Crawford (Mrs. Barcello is taking a 1 year leave.)

**Fourth Grade**: Keller, Vaughan, Howard and Rickey

**Fifth Grade**: Laing, Lundberg, Laughlin, Binks

**Amazing Race – June 5**

Save the date! Details to come soon.

**Dates to Remember**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>No School</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>Chorus, 8:00 am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Great Kids @ Lunches</td>
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<td>Choir at Liberty, 6:30 pm</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>Scratch Code Club, 3:40 pm</td>
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