

THE ICS LINK

A monthly newsletter for families at Independence Charter School
"Opening WORLDS of OPPORTUNITY"

JANUARY, 2011



ICS would like to congratulate the...

SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

BEST IN SHOW: KAYIN BANKO'LE

**8TH GRADE: 1st: Alexandra Olivan
2nd: Ava Biegalski
3rd: Kimberly Alfaro Jimenez**

Honorable Mention: Tyleem Gray, Jerry Henry, David Caycedo,
Ana Maria Martin Zimmerman, Sarina Adams, Kathryn Romano

**7TH GRADE: 1st: Jordan Meriwether
2nd: Jeffer Zhang
3rd: Tony Passante-Contaldi**

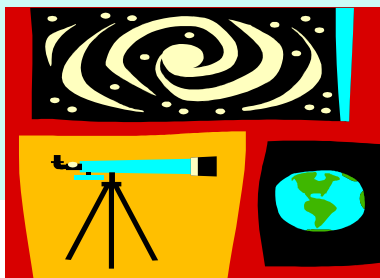
Honorable Mention: Angel Widjaja, Dillon Hershey, Danielle Hing,
Ilker Erkut, Daniela Alfaro, Kenan Butler

**6TH GRADE: 1st: Sabine Loose
2nd: Aliana Pearson
3rd: Eamon Adimi**

Honorable Mention: Ayanna Lemon, Celia HuttonJohns, Olivia Haynes,
Emma Graff, Ismail Baram, Clayton Wilson

**5TH GRADE: 1st: Bella Lentz
2nd: Lena Popkin
3rd: Kaden Wilkinson**

Honorable Mention: Mary Binasiewicz, Ariona Roberson-Carter, Jahree
Adolphus, Jason Casey, Bridget Hennessy, Ella Burrows



I.C.S. Bulletin Board

Survivor: Independence Island Outwit, Outplay, Outlast

Ask your children about the mysterious announcements and messages they've been receiving during morning meeting. They don't know much yet, but soon will! Keep an eye out in upcoming weeks for more information about *Survivor: Independence Island!*



SPELLING BEE UPDATE

The ICS Middle School Spelling Bee will be held on **Thursday February 10th, 2011 at 5:30 pm**. We will have two portions to the competition. The first section is for 5th graders only. One 5th grade winner and one runner-up will go on to represent ICS at the Philadelphia Tribune Spelling Bee in March. The second portion of our Middle School Spelling Bee will be for 6th-8th graders. We will also send one winner and one runner-up from this age group to represent ICS in March. Permission slips and word lists will be coming home with students very soon. If you have questions or would like more information, please email Teacher Amy at amyl@icscharter.com. Thanks and have fun practicing!



2011-2012 Student Lottery (including Sibling Preference)

The deadline for submitting applications for the 2011-2012 ICS student lottery is fast-approaching. **All applications, including those for ICS siblings, must be submitted by the February 25, 2011 deadline.** Please see the lottery application for details about the process and the dates on which you can submit applications. If you have any questions, contact Tr. Megan at megans@icscharter.com or 215-238-8000 x2292.

Spanish Book Gifting Program:

We are working to grow the Spanish book section of the ICS library. We have books that we would like to add to our collection. Unfortunately, we can't add them to the library until you help us out. If you donate the cost of a book (or two or three) to the library, we will not only add the books to the library shelves, we will put that monetary donation towards the purchase of the next book (or two or three). It's a way of doubling your donation by paying it forward. You can make the donation in the name of a current ICS student, an ICS family, a former ICS graduate, a soon-to-be ICS graduate, etc. We will place a special book plate inside the front cover of each book to let readers know who made each generous donation. Please help us to collect more LIBROS EN ESPANOL. Muchas Gracias!

If you are interested in making a donation, please email Tr. Amy at amyl@icscharter.com.

?Te gustaría comprar un libro en español para donar a la biblioteca de ICS? Si estás interesado(a) por favor contactar a M. Amy (amyl@icscharter.com) o puedes recoger un formato en la recepción. ¡Muchas Gracias!

New Teacher Welcome:

ICS is Proud to Welcome the Following Staff Members in 2011!

Maestra Anais Brutus – K-2 Geography/English
Teacher Courtney Peterson – Tr. Scott's Assistant (5th grade)
Teacher Darlene Porter - MS Science and Math
Teacher Dexter Alexander - MS Math Assistant
Teacher Gwyneth Cook – Long-term sub for Tr. Natalie (Art)
Maestra Ivenitza Ortiz – M. Andrea R.'s Assistant (4th grade)
Teacher Toni Ingram – 6-8 Fitness and Movement
Ismael Rodriguez – NTA (Non-Teacher Assistant)

We are happy to have you join us and wish you well here at our school!

WELCOME

Super Bowl Party Basket

The fifth grade is raffling off a Super Bowl Party Basket on Wednesday, February 2 The proceeds are helping to fund our camping trip.

We would like to encourage you to purchase raffle tickets for the gift basket. We hope to have gift certificates, snacking items, wine/spirits, desserts, football memorabilia....

Tickets are attached (see p. 9!) and you may purchase one (\$1 each) or six for \$5. You need not be present to win. We will find you. Just fill out each raffle ticket you plan to buy and send it in an enclosed envelope WITH THE MONEY labeled 5TH Grade Raffle - Teacher Barbara.

We appreciate your support.
Best of luck on the raffle.





DEAR Me! - Let's Drop Everything And Rejoice!

Please join me, the ICS staff and all ICS families as we seek 100% ICS community support in our technology drive. Did you know that we do not receive funding from the city or state for technology like traditional public schools and school districts? All of our technology funding comes from fundraising. **For the FIRST time, I am asking each and every family to donate** what they can so we can tell the world that each family and staff member contributed to 21st century technology at Independence. I want us to REJOICE in that accomplishment!

Last month, we announced a campaign to provide enhanced classroom technology for students and teachers including:

- a smart board in every classroom
- in-classroom laptops for all grade 5-8 students
- increased classroom access to educational software and web-based programs
- additional access to printers and other hardware including headphones with microphones

Our goal is 100% ICS family and staff participation. If we reach 100% giving by June 1, we will hold a whole school DEAR (Drop Everything And Rejoice) Day.

In addition, as each classroom achieves 100% participation, we will celebrate this accomplishment with the students' choice of a pizza, ice cream, or fruit party/festival. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting project!

This campaign is a challenge to ALL ICS families and the ICS staff:

Please invest in your children's education so that they receive the 21st Century access to technology which will prepare them for high school, college, and beyond.

Please pledge now to support this important initiative.

I want to support Independence Charter School's Technology Campaign!

Enclosed is my gift in the amount of (check one):

- \$250
 \$500
 \$750
 \$1000
 \$2000
 \$50
 \$100
 Other: _____

- This gift qualifies for a corporate matching gift (forms enclosed).

You can further support Independence Charter School by asking your employer to make a matching gift donation. For example, if you donate \$50 to ICS, most employers will have a Matching Gift program, where they will also make a \$50 donation to ICS.

Please make check payable to Independence Charter School and fill out the form below. Then mail both back to Independence Charter School.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

To make a gift by credit card, visit www.independencecharter.org and click on 'DONATE NOW' on our homepage.

Independence Charter School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Help us keep our Development database up to date and accurate! If any of your mailing or contact information is incorrect, or if you would like to be added to our email list, please contact leonorac@icscharter.com.

Kindergarten families, don't forget to check out Principal Stephanie's Latino and Hispanic heritage challenge! Your child could win lunch with Principal Stephanie and a new book of his/her choice. Full details can be found on the bright pink flyer that came home in today's Communication folder.

Kindergarten



Happy New Year 2011! First grade is well rested and started this year with a sprint! It has been exciting returning to school and catching up with all our friends. This month, we will be learning about fractions and their characteristics. We are also looking forward to begin our country studies, Japan and France. In Language Arts, we will focus on becoming better readers and writers. Don't forget to look in your child's folder every night for homework, news, and updates!



Grade 1

Happy New Year to all!! All classrooms are involved in a special environmental project in school and we'll be decorating our entryways with "jungle themed" displays. We are also revisiting ICS Guidelines and practicing following third grade rules. In Social Studies we will begin our country studies on India, so feel free to ask your child about this. In Math, we are excited to begin double-digit addition soon as well as continue our review of Geometry. In Language Arts we continue to perform as strong readers and writers. All second grade classes have 8th grader big buddies that come every other week and read with us. It is a great way to meet our upperclassmen and continue to become a big ICS family. All of the students look forward to this time. Teacher Karen's class continues to write letters to their pen pals in India and Maestra Andrea's class is looking forward to more library trips. We are all looking forward to our trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art next month. Have a fantastic January!

Grade 2



Third Grade has so much going on in this new year! We are very excited for our upcoming January 14th trip to the Arden Theater to see "The Borrowers" and a February trip to the Franklin Institute. In social studies, we have culminated our Pennsylvania study and are busy delving into our country study of Russia. Our exploration of Russia is guided by three overarching questions: How does where I live affect how I live? How can we make a positive difference for ourselves and others? How do geography, resources and culture affect how we live and what we value? In reading, we continue to practice new skills through read alouds, shared reading, guided reading, and independent reading. Since the first day of school our third graders have been asking about multiplication and we are all excited to finally start our multiplication math unit! And finally, big thank you to all the third grade families and friends who joined us for our annual 3rd Grade Potluck! The food was delicious and the company was wonderful. Gracias!

Grade 3

4th Graders, did you know that you can choose to do either—or both—of Principal Stephanie’s Latino and Hispanic heritage challenges this month? You could win lunch with Principal Stephanie and a new book of your choice. Full details about each can be found on the bright pink flyer AND the purple flyer that came home in today’s Communication folder.

Grade 4



5th graders, don’t forget to check out Principal Stephanie’s Latino and Hispanic heritage challenge! You could win lunch with Principal Stephanie and a new book of your choice. Full details can be found on the purple flyer that came home in today’s Communication folder.

Grade 5

In Math Problem Solving, 6th graders are on their way to becoming wizards at adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions in *Bits and Pieces II!*

Spanish language arts students are right in the middle of their first book club books. They are also perfecting the present tense.

In English Language Arts, the sixth graders are beginning Literature Circles using a non-fiction text, *Ice Story*, which is about the explorer Ernest Shackleton. We are also beginning a unit on persuasive writing, and to continue to work on point of view, summarization and citing evidence from the text to back up our written responses to literature.

In Social Studies, the sixth graders are deep into the study of Ancient Egypt. Like most of us, they’re fascinated by mummies, pharaohs, and the mysteries of the pyramids.

Grade 6

7th and 8th graders, don’t forget that “**National History Day**” night is Thursday, January 20 from 5-7pm! We can’t wait to see you and your families there.

Grades 7-8



Music Music

A Message From Maestra Ronith

The first part of the year, our ICS musicians were very busy learning about sound properties and their Spanish names. They identified those characteristics and applied them in new sounds. After that, we started our second unit, called: Ritmo (Rhythm). In this unit, they have learned how to differentiate PULSO (BEAT), ACENTO (STRONG BEAT) and RITMO (RHYTHM).

The musicians are also sight-reading musical notes, using percussion instruments and, some of them, recorders. If you think of it, you can ask the Kindergarteners about REDONDA, BLANCA Y NEGRA (whole, half and quarter note), the first graders about REDONDA, BLANCA, NEGRA Y CORCHEA (whole, half, quarter and eighth notes) and the second graders about REDONDA, BLANCA, CORCHEA Y SEMICORCHEA (whole, half, quarter, eighth and sixteenth notes). Third, fourth and fifth graders are being challenged with the concept of COMPAS (MEASURE).

Finally, all the musicians have been singing songs related to our country (making connections with the Social Studies Unit they were studying in their classes) and also some songs in Spanish.

Maestra Ronith Epelbon Hochman
K-5 Music Teacher

Parents and guardians: Remember to support your children's musical skills by asking them to perform for you at home what they have learned at school. It will give them an opportunity to show off his or her talent, and is also going to put a big smile in your face and your heart.

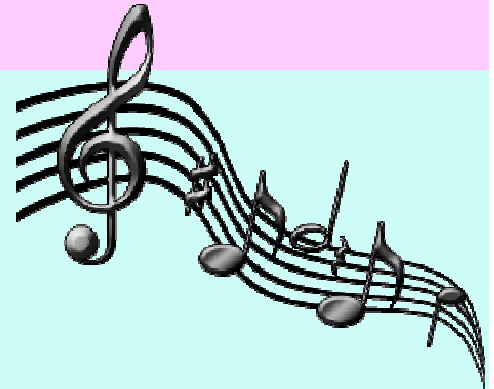
La primera parte del año, nuestros músicos de ICS estuvieron muy ocupados aprendiendo acerca de las propiedades de sonido y sus nombres en español. Ellos identificaron esas características y las aplicaron a sonidos nuevos. Luego de eso, empezamos la unidad llamada RITMO. En esta unidad los alumnos aprendieron a diferenciar PULSO, ACENTO y RITMO.

Los músicos de ICS están también leyendo música en pequeñas partituras y tocando instrumentos de percusión (algunos de ellos también están tocando las flautas). Si quieren pueden preguntarle a los alumnos de Kindergarten acerca de la REDONDA, la BLANCA y la NEGRA; a los de Primer grado acerca de la REDONDA, la BLANCA, la NEGRA y la CORCHEA; a los de Segundo grado acerca de la REDONDA, la BLANCA, la NEGRA, la CORCHEA y la SEMICORCHEA. Los alumnos de Tercero, Cuarto y Quinto grado están siendo desafiados con el concepto de Compás Simple.

Finalmente, me olvidé de mencionar que todos los músicos de ICS han estado cantando canciones relacionadas con USA (haciendo conexiones con la Unidad de Estudios Sociales que estuvieron estudiando en sus clases) y también canciones en español.

Maestra Ronith Epelbon Hochman
Profesora de Música

Padres y tutores: recuerden apoyar las habilidades musicales de su niño/a pidiéndole que le muestre en la casa lo que aprendió en la escuela. Esto le dará a su niño/a la oportunidad de demostrar su talento, y le pondrá a usted una cálida sonrisa en su cara y en su corazón.





From The PTA



The Middle School Parents Group and the PTA proudly present:

“ICS On Ice”

It’s that time again...the 3rd Annual ICS Ice Skating Event at Rizzo Rink! Dust off those figure or hockey skates...give those leg warmers a wash...and brush up on your skating lingo (like toe pick, Tanya Harding and Zamboni).

Date: Saturday, February 5, 2011
Place: Rizzo Ice Skating Rink, 1101 S. Front Street
(Front St. & Washington Ave.)
Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Cost: \$5 per skater* (rental skates included in cost)



Please join us for a fun family night out. Rizzo rink has a concession stand which will be open if you’d like to purchase snacks or hot chocolate. This is family event for the whole school and is not a fundraiser.

*For those who require skates, the facility has figure skating and hockey style skates in adult and children sizes. But if you can bring your own, it is strongly recommended.

Children must be with an Adult to participate, unsupervised children will not be admitted.

Spectators will not need to pay to enter.

This is sponsored by the Middle School Parents Group and not an official school function.

If you have any questions please contact:

Caren Seltzer-Devine: carensday@yahoo.com, 215 219-9550 or

Susan Burrows: sjeburrows@earthlink.net, 215-805-2621.

-----complete and return to school no later than 1/28/11 -----

Parent Full Name: First: _____ Last: _____

Telephone: _____ Email _____

Name of student(s) attending and home room or advisory:

How many in your party will be skating: _____ x \$5 each = \$ _____ Total Enclosed

How many in your party will require rental skates? _____

My payment was made by CASH / CHECK or MONEY ORDER.

Please make Checks/Money Orders out to the ICS PTA with “ice skating” in the note area.

Return this in an enclosed envelope marked “PTA Ice Skating Party, front office” by 1/28/11.

This form can also be returned at the front office.

Rizzo Ice Skating Rink is a Department of Recreation Facility located conveniently off of I-95 using the Columbus Blvd. exit. where there is ample on-street parking, this is also accessible by using SEPTA.



Take Flight is really taking off!

Here's what's been happening and what's coming up:

- Two international trip proposals were received from ICS teachers last spring and Ecuador has been selected as Take Flight's inaugural destination.
- Fundraising for this trip has been successful through ICS 365, calendar sales, and personal contributions.
- **On January 14, Student Travel Applications are due.**
- Applications will be evaluated, applicants interviewed, and approximately ten 7th graders will be selected to travel to Ecuador during spring break.
- On Feb. 3 at 5:30 pm ICS will hold Passport Night for **ALL** ICS students and their family members who would like to apply for a US Passport.
- Students who will be traveling will make every effort to finance a portion of their trip in order to supplement ICS's contribution.
- From April 18 – 25, teachers Andrea Ringklib and Kristen Long will lead the group to Quito, Ecuador where they will explore the effect of zero degrees latitude at the equator, share a school day with local students, visit a cloud forest, a glacier, and an arts market.
- When they return, they will share their experiences with the ICS community through photos and stories.
- Next year, the Take Flight program will add a banking opportunity so families can begin saving for an international trip as early as their students' Kindergarten year.

8th Grade Parents

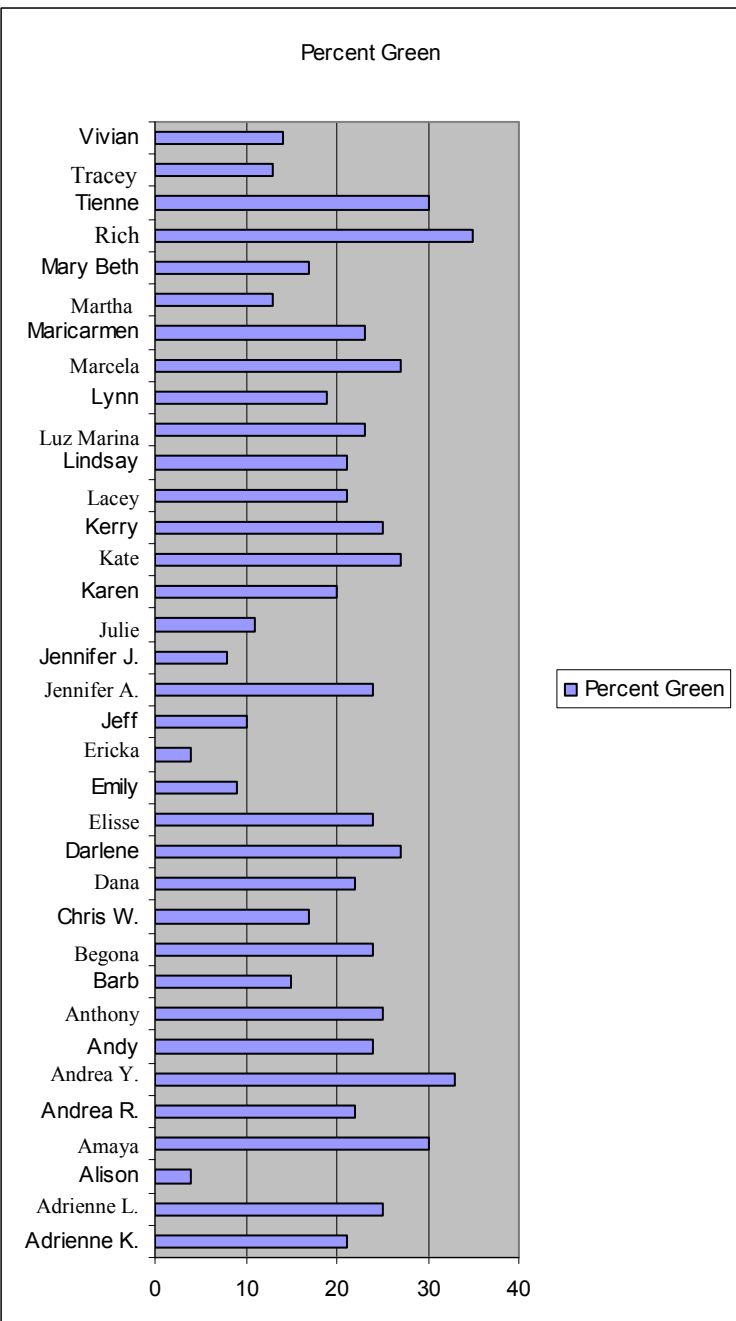
Please be reminded that many charter and private high schools have deadlines quickly approaching. You may contact the schools directly for application information. Please contact Counselor Julie if you have any questions or need copies of your child's transcript or PSSA scores.

Don't forget to **GO GREEN** if you haven't already and receive your LINK electronically!

See the chart below for the latest tallies of which ICS classroom is the greenest. The first class to reach 85% will earn dress down passes for the whole class! Tr. Rich is still ahead with Andrea Y., Tienne, and Amaya right on his tail!

If you would like to help your class reach the top first, send an email to Tr. Jenny (jennyh@icscharter.com) today with "**GO GREEN**" in the subject heading and your students' names and grades in the body.

You can also help us go green by choosing to have the Link sent home only with the youngest of one or more siblings. Send an email to Tr. Jenny (jennyh@icscharter.com) with the subject heading "**YOUNGEST SIBLING**" and your students' names and grades in the body.



2011 Super Bowl Basket Fundraising
Supporting ICS 5th Grade Camping Trip
Drawing: February 2, 2011
Cost per Raffle:\$1 for 1/\$5 for 6

Chips and Dips
Snacks of all sorts
State Store Gift Certificate
Gift Certificates to WAWA, Dunkin' Donuts
And Much More

Name & Phone #: _____

Student Name/Room #: _____

Return this with your student in an enclosed envelope with exact amount in cash marked:
Tr. Barbara (Room 213) - Super Bowl Basket
By Wednesday, February 2, 2011

2011 Super Bowl Basket Fundraising
Supporting ICS 5th Grade Camping Trip
Drawing: February 2, 2011
Cost per Raffle:\$1 for 1/\$5 for 6

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By Wednesday, February 2, 2011



Looking for a few (okay, A LOT of) good people!

The “jobs” to be done at ICS began to pile up over the holidays as life got crazy... and busy... and crazy-busy. Check out the Volunteer Classifieds below and contact Tr. Jenny (jennyh@icscharter.com, 215-238-8000, x2500) if you would like to take on one (or more!) of the jobs. (And if you indicated on your volunteer form that you were interested in jobs like any of those listed below, watch out because Tr. Jenny might be tracking you down individually in the next few weeks!)

MLK Alumni Interviewers – On this year’s alumni day (Jan. 17), we would like to conduct brief, informal video-taped interviews that can be archived to use for a multitude of purposes. If you would like to spend 1-2 hours asking and learning about life beyond ICS this coming Monday, email Jenny with the subject line “**MLK Interviews**”.

Winter-Wear Washers – On the following Fridays for the rest of the winter, we need families who can take a load of shared winter-wear home to wash: 1/21, 2/11, 3/4, 3/25. Email Jenny with the subject line “**Winter Washing**” and the date that you can do a Friday pick-up (and then a Monday drop-off). And just in case you are wondering—kids are NOT sharing hats. Once a child “borrows” a hat, it will remain assigned to that same child.

March Family Night Planners/Facilitators – On Thursday, March 3, we will have our first family night dedicated to topics YOU have requested that are outside the school’s academic curriculum. For students, topics might range from building teen self-esteem to practicing basic street safety skills. For adults, you might be able to get some financial tips or hear about how to safely guide your child through the ever-expanding technological choices out there. Or maybe your whole family can attend a yoga session together! Exact topics will be determined based on the resources of parents who join the planning team. If you are interested in helping to plan or facilitate any part of this event, email Jenny with the subject line “**March Family Night**”.

Tuesday Mailbox Stuffers – Every Tuesday afternoon (anytime between 12-6pm) we need help distributing Wednesday communication items into teacher mailboxes. Email Jenny with the subject line “**Mailbox Stuffing**” and your available hours if you are interested!

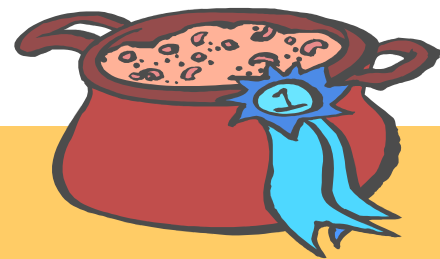
5-8th “Grade Parents” – We are on the hunt for parents who would like to be official “grade” parents for the 5th-8th grades. We need a group of 2-4 parents for each grade who would collaborate together to support the middle school teachers in fundraising for middle school trips and otherwise building middle school community. If you think you are the parent for the job, email Jenny with the subject line “**Grade Parent**”.

Parent Panelists for Middle School Info night – We are looking for seasoned middle school parents to serve on a discussion/info panel to educate 3rd and 4th grade parents about what ICS middle school is all about. The tentatively scheduled date is Thurs., Feb. 17 and we would most likely run the panel between 6-7pm. If you would be interested in sharing your experiences with our stellar middle school program, email Jenny with the subject line, “**Parent Panel**”.

Monday Walking Chaperone - Tr. Dana in 3rd grade is in need of a regular partner to help walk her students to visit their elderly reading buddies at the Scottish Rite House. You would meet the class at the school at 1:15 each Monday, walk them to the house at 16th and Fitzwater, enjoy a quiet, cozy hour of reading (you could serve as a stand-in buddy for kids whose partners are absent), and return to the school by 2:45. Email Jenny with the subject line, “**Reading Chaperone**” if interested!

Regional Family Representatives - Now that the Directory is here, I am looking for volunteers to be the lead family “connection” in various neighborhoods around the city (encompassing a number of zip codes in your area depending on size/ICS population). As the regional rep, you would encourage communication amongst families in your area in order to keep each other in the know about neighborhood events, help each other out with logistics like car-pooling, and even organize convenient-to-attend family get-togethers in your neck of the woods (if you think it would be great to see your ICS friends sometimes without having to sit in traffic and circle for parking!). If you would like to be the rep for your area of Philly, email Jenny with the subject line “**Regional Rep**”.

ICS CHILI COOK-OFF



Think your Chili is the best in Philly? Prove it!

Make your best batch and enter it in our 2nd annual ICS Chili Cook off; **Sunday afternoon January 30th, 3-6pm.** To enter & for more details, email or fill out this form and return to Tr. Tracey by **Friday, January 14th, 2011.** *Entrants must be ICS staff or ICS family member or recommended by ICS staff or ICS family member.

Sign me and my chili up to compete in the cook off

Name _____ Phone # _____

Email _____ ICS child name _____

What do you call your chili? _____

Or,

Bring the family out to taste some chili and mingle with the good folks of ICS!!! Let's make this a fun Sunday afternoon ICS tradition! Just \$5 per person gets you a meal. **Sign up by Friday January 14th** to reserve a spot.

Name _____ Phone # _____

Email _____ ICS child name _____

I have enclosed \$ _____ for _____ person/people

Or, circle one or both

I would like to volunteer my services or a dish for the ICS Chili Cook-Off

Name _____ Phone # _____

Email _____ ICS child name _____

*please return this form to Tr. Tracey by Friday, January 14th, 2011 or sooner * **All proceeds to benefit the 8th grade class trip*** Also featuring a "People's Choice Award" category

Entertainment will be provided by the School of Rock Philadelphia performing songs from Led Zeppelin- Physical Grafitti and Pink Floyd- The Wall.

Philadelphia School of Rock -- Philadelphia's premier performance-based rock music school for students aged 7-17 is located at 421 N. 7th St., Phila., PA 19123. Currently accepting enrollment for the upcoming season! This season's shows:

Lynyrd Skynyrd vs. The Allman Brothers and Classic Punk

Parent Volunteer Position Available for Fall 2011:

Fall Friend Raiser Carnival Chairperson/s:

Responsibilities include organizing games, activities, food, and entertainment for this community-building event which takes place in the ICS play yard at the end of October. Schedule volunteers and communicate with ICS community. For more information, please contact Laura Hutton at huttonlaura@verizon.net or Susan Burrows at sjeburrows@earthlink.net



Adventures in Family Connections!

Do you do Donors Choose? www.DonorsChoose.org

Families, if you are looking for a good cause to support in the month of January, think about visiting Donors Choose and helping to fund a project posted by an ICS teacher!

This month you can give a big boost to ICS's **Spanish FLES** program by funding projects posted by **Maestras Kate and Elizabeth**. Both teachers are in need of puppets and props that will bring the Spanish language to life for their students!

Click "Search Projects", then type "19146" in the website's Keyword search box and look for their projects titled:

Super Spanish Speakers Seek Supplies

Make Spanish Come Alive in the Elementary Classroom!

Have you gotten your copy of the 2010-2011 ICS Student Directory??

If not, request it electronically by emailing Tr. Jenny (jennyh@icscharter.com) or request a paper copy in your child's folder by emailing or calling Tr. Jenny at 215-238-8000, x2500. Your message should include your child's name and classroom/advisory teacher.

Version 1.1 (including a first round of corrections/additions) will be distributed electronically next week.

If you are part of a two-household family and you would like the 2nd household's information to be included in future versions of our directory, please send an email to Tr. Jenny with the subject line "2nd Household".

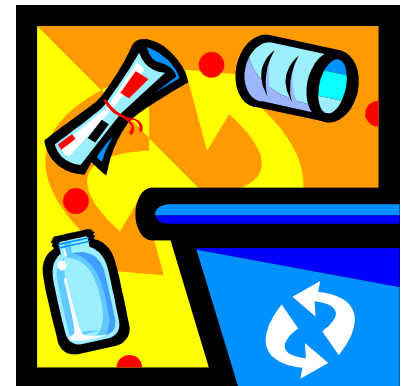
Recycle Bank –

Are you getting the most out of your relationship with your recycling bin?

If you haven't signed up for **RecycleBank** yet, now is the perfect time to make sure you get **PAID** to be kind to the Earth. If you want to find out if your area of Philadelphia is participating, or if you **KNOW** your neighborhood is eligible but you misplaced the activation code that the city sent you, you can find out everything you need to know about signing up for the program here: <http://www.phillyrecyclingpays.com/> or by calling 1-888-769-7960.

Once you have that sticker on your recycling bin, watch your points stack up weekly.

Then redeem them for handy discounts at all kind of stores, OR, better yet, donate them straight back to environmental education programs in schools in Philadelphia with **Recycle Bank's Green Schools Program**. ICS does not have a project registered right now but we are working on joining the program in 2011. Start banking those points now so you'll have lots to spend on us when the time comes!



MLK Alumni Day of Service Donations - Monday, January 17th ICS is hosting its 3rd annual **Alumni Gathering and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Service Project**. This year we are inviting graduates from 2007- 2010 to come visit with us and each other and participate in a simple service project. We will be making sandwiches to donate to a local shelter. In order to make our service project a success, **we are looking for donations of sliced bread, ziplock sandwich bags, sliced cheese, sliced bologna and packets of condiments**. If you are interested in donating supplies towards this project, please email amyl@icscharter.com. Thanks for your support! Please note the alumni gathering and service project is for alumni and staff only (no current ICS students).

BETTER KNOW OUR... VISITOR PROCEDURES

Next week an updated electronic version of the 2010-2011 Parent and Student Handbook will be released. It will include updates and corrections to the staff directory to reflect staff changes that have happened since September. **It will also include a new section that carefully outlines our visitor procedures, which have been clarified in keeping with our responsibility to ensure student safety.** A summary of the procedures is included below:

ICS Visitor Procedures

All visitors to the school must sign in at the front office and wear a "Visitor" or "Volunteer" badge at all times. Depending on the reason for your visit, you will be given one of three tags:

- ◆ A general **Visitor** tag – This indicates that you are in the building for a scheduled appointment. You will be escorted to/from the office by an ICS staff member or by a pair of students from the classroom you are visiting.
- ◆ A specifically labeled **Visitor** tag – This indicates that you are in the building to take care of routine business. For instance, if you are a parent who has come to check the Lost and Found, your tag will say, **Visitor: Lost and Found.**
- ◆ A **Volunteer** tag – This indicates that you are in the building to do volunteer work. Your volunteer tag will specify the work you are doing. For instance, if you are distributing pretzels, your tag will say, **Volunteer: Pretzels.**

It is important that you always wear the correct label so that ICS staff know who you are and can easily see that you have permission to be where you are. Otherwise, all staff members are required to politely ask you to return to your scheduled location or to the front office to obtain the appropriate badge.

BETTER KNOW YOUR...

PHILADELPHIA MLK DAY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

For complete information on the projects listed below, visit: <http://www.nextgreatcity.com/event>

[MLK Day Of Service 2011 at Overbrook Environmental Education Center](#)

January 17, 2011 (8:30 am-4:00 pm)

Help us strengthen the community and honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in a day of service at the Overbrook Environmental Education Center (OEEC). The OEEC is West Philly's "ultra-urban" environmental outreach center where conservation and environmental best management practices are demonstrated for public benefit. <http://www.jastechdevelopment.com/oeecc/default.asp>

[MLK Day of Service - Cynwyd Trail](#)

January 17, 2011 (9:30 am-12:30 pm)

HUGE trail clean up along the Cynwyd Trail. Over 150+ volunteers and county have already signed up. Join them at Barmouth Station, Levering Mill and Belmont Ave. in Bala Cynwyd.

[MLK Day of Service with Art Sphere](#) (Fishtown area)

January 17, 2011 (10:00 am-2:00 pm)

Art Sphere Incorporated will be working with stencil workshops, mural painting, and park cleanup activities. Please come prepared to paint with acrylic and water-based permanent paints. Pizza and t-shirts will be available for all volunteers!

[MLK Day with NKCDC](#) (zip code 19125)

January 17, 2011 (10am - 2pm)

Volunteers are needed to assist Sustainable 19125 Green Guides in distributing over 300 free compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs to neighbors!

Join your **Mt. Airy** neighbors to help refurbish Roosevelt Middle School on Monday from 9am-2pm. Sponsored by the Trolley Car Diner and East and West Mt. Airy Neighbors. RSVP: Cynthia Bradley at cbradley@mtairyusa.org or call 215-844-6021 ext. 214.

PTA News You Can Use: Upcoming Events

There's still time to register for the **Babysitting Training Course for 6-8th graders**



The Middle School Parents Group of the PTA is please to offer again this year the American Red Cross Babysitting Training Course, open to students age 11 to 15.

When? Monday, January 17, 2011 from 8:45 to 4pm. While school is officially closed this day to honor Martin Luther King Jr., Day of Service, the babysitting training course will take place. Reservations should be in by this Friday, January 14, 2011

Where? Exact location in the school is still to be determined

Who can attend? This course is open for students age 11 to 15.

How much? The day-long training fee is \$60 which includes lunch and snack, American Red Cross Babysitting Training Handbook, Emergency Reference Guide and a training CD-ROM on how to run a babysitting business.

The training has been newly revised to help students become the best and safest babysitters on the block. Students will learn:

- How to pick up and carry an infant
- How to bottle and spoon feed an infant
- How to burp an infant after feeding
- How to check an unconscious infant or child
- How to recognize breathing emergencies in infants and children
- First aid techniques for infants and children

Leadership skills plus more...

If you are interested, please fill out the form below and return to the PTA before Friday January 14th. Payment is due by or before Monday January 17th. If paying by cash or money order, please make checks/money order out to "ICS PTA".

Questions? Please call Susan at 215-805-2621, or via email sjeburrows@earthlink.net, or you can leave a message at the front desk (215-238-8000).

----- **Return form below to front office** -----

Student's full name: _____

Birthdate: _____

Homeroom Teacher and Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact:

Full name: _____

Home or cell phone number: _____

Email (for confirmation purposes): _____

◇ Payment enclosed

◇ I will pay on or before 1/17/11.

◇ We could use parent volunteers that day. If you can spare an hour to two, please check box and let us know what time works best for you that day: _____