

The ICS Link

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

June 2010

Comings and Goings

In bittersweet news, the Board of Trustees is saying good-bye this month to two of our original founders: Rebecca Baehr and Rosina Miller. Becky and Rosina were part of the group of dedicated parents and community members who conceived of and helped create ICS in the late 90s, and they have both served on the Board of Trustees continuously since that time. Becky's unwavering dedication to the original vision for the school has helped us stay on track over the years. Rosina's steady hand guided the school responsibly over some rocky shores and into our beautiful home here on Lombard Street. They have each chaired key committees (HR and Finance, most recently) with grace and effectiveness. We thank them warmly and wish them well.

We will undoubtedly miss their presence however. To retain their institutional memory and expertise, we are creating a Board Advisory Council so that they and others can continue to serve as a resource for the Board and the school going forward. Rosina and Becky will also each serve as a mentor to a new board member this year....which brings me to the sweet side of the story.

We have some terrific new Board members joining us this summer. I'll be able to tell you all about them after the Board has voted them on at our June meeting, but we are certainly excited to have them join us. We also are welcoming our new Parent Rep, Mary Fitzpatrick, who won the (very close) parent election. Mary is the parent of a 5th grader at ICS. She is also a children's librarian and a student of languages, including Russian and Arabic! Welcome Mary. We're delighted to have you join us and look forward to working with you.

Mary will be replacing Parent Rep Kristin Nocco, who has patiently and persistently pushed us over the past two years to improve our board orientation process, to look more rigorously at our food service finances, and who will continue to do fabulous work from the Community Relations Committee. Thank you Kristin!

Finally, a big thank you again to all who voted in the Parent Seat election (bucking national trends, we had an unprecedented turnout!). And thank you to all of the truly amazing parents who ran this year; the depth and breadth of our parent community never ceases to amaze me. I sincerely hope we find ways to engage your energy and talents for ICS.

Though the school year is coming to a close, the work of the Board and the administration continues throughout the summer. Our June meeting has been pushed to the 21st, 7pm. Our summer meetings are July 14th and August 11th. You are always welcome.

-Rona Buchalter
President, ICS Board of Trustees



After 8 years of service to ICS, Senior Secretary Nancy Hionides will retire this coming summer

"Nancy is a great example of what an ICS citizen can be: she gives back to individuals and her community at ICS. She is always generous of spirit: greeting you with a smile or an understanding hug. She works hard to figure out complexities, helping students, staff and parents maneuver a sometimes complicated system. She "always looks at the bright side of life," even when it is really hard to do so, thereby rejuvenating the rest of us when the task is tough. Nancy's genuine smile, her generous spirit, and her celebration of life and the individuals who populate it makes ICS and the world a better place to live in." -Direktore Jurate

"It has always been comforting to know that Nancy would be the first to greet any visitor to our school. She embodies true kindness and shows us the importance of it daily and will be missed tremendously." -Tr. Michael

"Tr. Nancy has a well-earned reputation among, students, parents and co-workers for being extremely helpful. She has become such an ICS fixture that over the years students have repeatedly called many different ICS adults "Tr. Nancy" when looking for an adult to help them with something. I think that's a great tribute to the standard that Nancy has set." -Tr. Megan

"Some people enter our lives and then are gone. Nancy entered our lives and made them better." -Dr. Larry Taylor

"The front office will never be the same without Nancy. It has been a pleasure working alongside of her for so many wonderful years. Nancy will be missed but her friendship will continue beyond these ICS walls." -Tr. Tracey

"ICS will not feel the same without Nancy's cheerful and encouraging greetings. Nancy always finds a way to see the brighter side of things." -Tr. Barb Z.

I.C.S. Bulletin Board

Upcoming Events:

- June 3rd & 4th-**
Seventh Annual International Festival
- June 7th-** Field Day (Grade 6-8)
- June 8th-** Field Day (Grade 3-5)
- June 9th-** Field Day (Grade K-2)
- June 16th-** 8th Grade Graduation
- June 17th-** Kindergarten Graduation
- June 18th-** Last Day of School for Students
- June 21st-** June Board Meeting, 7PM

Attention 8th Grade Students & Parents Upcoming 8th Grade

- Field Day -Monday 6/7
- Trip to New York City 6/8-6/9
- Luncheon at the Gershman Y 6/15
(8th graders are allowed to dress down on this day)
- Graduation at the Gershman Y 6/16 4-6pm

This information can be viewed on the 8th grade website at www.ics8thgrade.wikispaces.com.

Greetings Parents of ICS!

I would like to ask you to send in suggestions NOW for ideas for next year's cafeteria menu, etc. Also, all 8th graders and/or students who are transferring need to pay off meal balances in order to be considered "in good standing". Please call me at ext.2228 or e-mail me at: neyzac@independencecharter.org if you have any questions regarding your child's balance.
-Thank you, Tr. Neyza

Field Day is next week! If you haven't signed and returned your child's permission slip, please do so as soon as possible. It's going to be hot next week so please send your child with a bottle of water. Make sure your child is dressed appropriately for playing games and running outdoors in the warm weather. The day of your child's Field Day is a dress down day. Each child must wear sneakers – no sandals or flip flops.

Thank you!
Field Day Committee

- Grades 6-8 Monday, June 7th (9:30 – 2:30)**
- Grades 3-5 Tuesday, June 8th (9:30 – 1:00)**
- Grades K-2 Wednesday, June 9th (9:30 – 1:00)**

"Clubration" Friday, June 5th

The Photography, Drama, Comic Books, Girl's club, Art & Portfolio & the International Connections Clubs would like to request your attendance at our end of the year "Clubration" Friday, June 4th in the ICS cafeteria from 6-8PM. Come check out what we've created in our clubs this year. The Drama club will perform 2 skits showing at 6:30 & 7:15. Lite refreshments, cool jazz and some really decent student work awaits you. Please RSVP to this event with teacher Tracey.

Yearbooks are still on sale right now for \$25. Get your yearbook in time for the school wide year book signing event, date TBA. Yearbook order forms can be picked up from the front office.

More Computers for Teachers and Students Next Year

The school recently purchased 70 new computers, both desktop and laptop computers. This purchase is in support of the school's long-term goal of 1:1 computing in the classroom, that is, every teacher and student will have a computer. With this purchase, we will have nearly 300 computers for approximately 800 students and teachers.

Currently, we have one computer lab and two mobile labs for classroom instruction. In addition, we have one mobile lab for small group instruction. All classrooms in grades 3 to 5 and the Social Studies classrooms in the middle school have computer centers. A computer center consists of three to four desktop computers.

Next year, we will have four mobile labs for classroom instruction and two mobile labs for small group instruction. (One of the mobile labs replaces the computer lab in the basement.) Each classroom in grades K to 5 will have computer centers. The English and Spanish Language Arts and the Social Studies classrooms in the middle school will also have computer centers.

[The ICS Link](#)

Independence Charter School 2010-2011 Student Calendar

(subject to change)

The school day will begin at 8:30a.m. and will end at 3:30p.m. (except on Early Dismissal Days)

DATE	Early Dismissal at 2:30p.m. EVERY Wednesday, starting on 9/15/10
Tues, 9/7	First Day of School for 1 st -8 th Graders
Mon, 9/13	First Day of School for KINDERGARTNERS
Wed, 9/22	BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT (Kindergarten, 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th)
Thur, 9/23	BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT (5 th , 6 th , 7 th & 8 th)
Mon, 10/11	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Thur, 11/11	VETERANS' DAY HOLIDAY- SCHOOL CLOSED
Thur & Fri 11/25-26	SCHOOL CLOSED (Thanksgiving holiday)
Tue-Thur, 12/14-16	EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS due to Report Card Conferences (Late afternoon and evening)
Fri, 12/24-Fri 12/31	WINTER BREAK- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Mon, 1/3	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Tue, 1/4	Students Return to School
Mon, 1/17	SCHOOL CLOSED (Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday) Alumni Day for ICS Graduates
Mon, 2/21	SCHOOL CLOSED (Presidents' Day holiday)
3/14-25	Math & Reading PSSAs (3 rd -8 th grades)
3/28-4/1	Writing PSSAs (5 th & 8 th grades)
Fri, 3/25	REPORT CARD DAY- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
4/4-8	Science PSSAs (4 th & 8 th grades)
Mon-Fri, 4/18-22	SPRING BREAK- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Mon, 4/25	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Mon, 5/30	SCHOOL CLOSED (Memorial Day holiday)
Wed, 6/15	TENTATIVE (pending confirmation of facility) 8 th Grade Graduation (after 3p.m.)
Thur, 6/16	Kindergarten Graduation 9:30a.m.
Fri, 6/17	Last Day for Students
Week of 6/20	Final Report Cards will be mailed home



To: Independence Charter Parents
From : Direktore Jurate
Re: Dress Code Changes for 2010-2011

We have considered, discussed, and finally made decisions in regard to some minor changes in our school dress code that would come in to effect in the 2010-2011 school year. Thank you to the many parents who participated in the survey and who spoke up at meetings and sent emails during the school year.

Our purpose in making some changes in the dress code are directly tied to creating a productive, student/learner friendly environment that contributes to “optimal focus” on learning. You will see in the dress code description that we have removed much of the variability thereby reducing ever increasing interpretation which has often led to a competitive environment among the students and in some cases a focus on fashion not learning. In all cases we have sought to keep costs low.

Here are a few brief guidelines:

-For the K-4 setting, next year will be a transitional year. Although we urge you to follow the changes in the dress code regarding colors, it is not required until the following 2011-2012 school year. What is required are the knee length skirts, shorts, skorts and closed shoes. Please see the chart.

-For the 5-8 setting, there is no transition year. We will move immediately to a required, logo red collared polo type shirt/blouse. It is important to note, that we are launching this initiative by providing each 5-8 student with their first logo shirt for the fall. You will be responsible for obtaining others and we give you the places where this is possible. Beyond the logo shirt, you will see a slightly narrower description of the other parts of the dress code. We will be sure to review this with students before they leave this school year. Please also do so as a parent..

If you are a parent who is experiencing financial hardship, please be sure to let us know (CEO, Principal, Counselor, Dean) so that we can assist you in making the revised dress code a possibility.

OUR DRESS CODE PROVIDERS:

-As we have mentioned previously, our goal is to continue providing as much as possible an affordable “uniform”.

-Our main vendor will be Cramer’s Uniforms which has locations on Frankford Avenue, Passyunk, and the Gallery. In store purchases of a logo’d red shirt will cost \$ 13.50 for a youth size and \$ 16.50 for adult. This is for short sleeves.

-Online vendors will include Cramer’s and Land’s End.

-An inexpensive option for non-logo’d shirts for K-4 only is any other vendor as long as the solid color and collar are within described dress code.



Bottoms: K-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Loose-fitting navy trousers/slacks, capris worn at the waist ✦ Navy jumper, skorts, skirts and shorts - must be knee-length or longer ✦ No jeans or jeans-like pants, no exercise/stretch pants. ✦ No ripped or intentionally-distressed pants permitted ✦ Solid navy sweatpants on dance/movement, fitness/movement days only
Tops: Middle School (5-8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Red polo shirt purchased from ICS-approved vendor ** (long- or short-sleeve) ✦ Shirt-tails may not extend below fingertips
Tops: Lower School (K-4)	<p>Red or navy polo* shirt (long- or short-sleeve)</p> <p>***2010-2011 will be considered a “transition year” for the Lower School. During 2010-2011, students may continue to also wear white, blue, pink polo and oxford shirts/blouses. In 2011-2012, all Lower School students must follow the above-described dress code (red or navy polo).</p>
Outerwear: K-8	<p>Solid navy sweater, pullover or vest. No hoods may be worn. Solid <i>white</i> shirt worn underneath polo shirt for warmth (gr.5-8) Solid red, white or blue shirt worn underneath polo shirt for warmth (gr.K-4)</p>
Socks: K-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Socks, tights or leggings may be worn and may be any color or design ✦ No intentionally-distressed tights and leggings
Shoes: K-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Closed shoes, sneakers or boots ✦ No sandals ✦ Toes and heels must be covered
Dance/Mvmt Fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Solid navy sweatpants may be worn all day ✦ Shorts must be worn under skirt/jumper ✦ Dress code polos required
Accessories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Stud earrings, not extending below or wrapping around ear lobe ✦ 1 watch, 1 simple ring, 1 simple necklace tucked under shirt/blouse ✦ No bracelets. ✦ No hats or scarves unless for religious reasons ✦ Hair accessories may not be hazardous or distracting
Field Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Students must remain in dress code for all trips unless otherwise indicated by the teacher due to nature of field trip.
Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Upper school wears ICS-approved vendor polo shirts; lower school not required ✦ Length of skirts, shorts, skorts and jumpers must be knee-length or longer ✦ Dance/Mvmt/Fitness pants must be solid, no stripes or designs on sweatpants ✦ NO logos other than ICS logo on any polos, no matter how small
Recess	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Students will go outside in all weather, between 15° and 95°, including light rain and snow. ✦ Rain coats and ponchos, no umbrellas. ✦ Under 40°: winter coat, hat, gloves and neck warmers required.

* Polo shirt/blouse means with a collar, knit type material

** ICS will be providing each MIDDLE SCHOOL student with one new ICS polo logo shirt. ICS will use Cramer’s as the logo shirt supplier. LOWER SCHOOL students are not required to have logo wear although parents may choose to purchase logowear. Parents can continue to purchase collared shirts from Lands End although middle school parents will need to use Cramers with three locations in Philadelphia: on Passyunk, the Gallery, and Frankford Avenue.

Congratulations to the Class of 2010 for the following high school acceptances:

Academy at Palumbo, Arts Academy at Benjamin Rush, Bodine High School, Boys Latin of Philadelphia Charter High School, Carver High School for Engineering and Science, Central High School, Charter High School for Architecture and Design (CHAD), Conrad High School in Delaware, Constitution High School, Dobbins High School, Franklin Learning Center, Franklin Towne Charter, Freire Charter School, Friends Central, Friends Select, Germantown Friends School, Girard Academy Music Program (GAMP), The Haverford School, High School of the Future, Mastery Charter High School, Motivation High School, Multicultural Academy Charter School, Northeast High School, Parkway Center City High School, Parkway West High School, Paul Robeson High School for Human Services, Penn Charter, Philadelphia Electrical and Technological Charter High School (PET), Philadelphia High School for Business and Technology, Philadelphia High School for Girls, Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA), Philadelphia Military Academy at Elverson, Philadelphia Military Academy at Leeds, Prep Charter, Randolph Career Academy, Saul High School for Agricultural Studies, Science Leadership Academy (SLA), Swenson Arts & Technology High School, Roxborough High School, Upper Darby High School, West Catholic, The Williston School, World Communications Charter School

Independence Charter Hosts Global Education Workshop

Independence Charter hosted a full day global education workshop titled "A Practical Approach to Establishing K-8 Global Studies in Your School" on May 7. The attendees included a cross-section of administrators, teachers, and other staff members from charter, public, and private schools. Speakers/presenting organizations included global education experts from academia and industry including:

- Mary Ramirez, Director of Community and Student Services, Pennsylvania Department of Education
- Shari Albright, Executive Director, International Studies Schools Network, Asia Society
- Christiaan Morssink, President, United Nations Greater Philadelphia
- Homa Sabet Tavangar, Author, "Growing Up Global: Raising Children to Be At Home in the World"
- Mohamed Latib, Professor and Dean, School of Business and Center for Lifelong Learning, Gwynedd-Mercy College
- Galen Godbey, Director of Government Relations, DeSales University
- Arvind V. Phatak, Executive Director of the Fox School of Business Institute of Global Management Studies and Center for International Business Education and Research

Other participating organizations included Chestnut Hill College, University of Pennsylvania's National Resource Centers, World Affairs Council, Pulitzer Gateway Crisis Center Reporting, and Global Competence Consulting, LLC. This interactive forum was a great opportunity for Independence Charter to share best practices with other educators interested in establishing a global studies program in their school. Special thanks to Founding Board Member Pam Prell and parents Tina Staley-Bailey and Cristina Veja for serving on a

We can't believe it's already June! Think back many months ago when you sent your child off to the first day of school... everyone was so nervous and shy. The kindergarten team has enjoyed watching the students grow and develop throughout the school year. Your children have come a long way since September, and now they can read and write sentences on their own! You should be proud of them. Kindergarten students have been preparing for the International Festival. We hope you will stop by and check out our display about what we've learned about Mexico. You'll have a chance to taste food, try your hand at playing balero (ball and cup game), or participate in the Mexican Hat Dance! Have a safe and restful summer, filled with lots of reading!!!



Kindergarten



First grade just finished our 2-day state mandated Acuity testing. Thank you to all the parents and guardians who made sure their children were present, prepared, and on time for those important testing days. The first grade village would also like to thank our wonderful families for all the donations to help make two amazing baskets for the silent auction. Our baskets were a hit and both went for over \$200! We are finishing up our chapters on measurement and probability in math. We will use the month of June to review concepts we have covered this year. Please continue to check communication folders every day; important information continues to come home all the time. Our field day will be Wednesday, June 9th. We hope for nice weather, especially after the rainy day we had last year that caused us to have to move the activities indoor. Finally, with this school year coming to an end, you will start receiving information about our summer "reading log" initiative. Stay tuned for more information! We look forward to a summer of many hours of reading!

Grade 1

Wow! We can hardly believe that this is our last newsletter for this school year! It's been a wonderful year, full of great learning and cooperation! We've enjoyed so much together: village activities, awesome fieldtrips, school-wide performances, the International Festival, and the Mercado de Frutas! Thank you to all of you for supporting our classroom needs as wonderful volunteers, and for your ongoing support for the growth of your child/ren. Please have your child/ren read, read, read throughout the summer. Encourage them to write stories, create illustrations of places they see, make grocery lists for you, calculate differences when shopping, count change. Make math meaningful by using it every day! Keep them in "the life-long learning loop"! Enjoy the long days of summer and sunshine! Thanks for an incredible year!



Grade 2

The third grade has an exciting end of the year planned. We have been preparing to present Russia at the International Festival and are very excited for Field Day. We are wrapping up the year with decimals in math, fiction writing, and a study of biography. Remember to read, read, read over the summer and keep your eye out for summer reading logs coming home soon.



Grade 3



The year has whizzed by and the fourth graders cannot believe we are in the home stretch already. In social studies, the students have been feverishly studying Australia, exploring all this unique country has to offer. The entire fourth grade has been lucky to be chosen for two exciting International Festival performances; one dance and one musical. They are *very* eager to show off all they have learned during the International Festival. Students should make sure they don't miss a day, because the final month is packed full with excitement, adventure, and lots of education. From the International Festival, to field day, the hiking trip, various other projects, and the fourth grade move up celebration, these students are busy, busy, busy!

Grade 4

The 5th Grade Camping Trip was terrific. Cool weather and a little bit of moisture didn't stop us from cooperating with one another on the low ropes and challenge course. We enjoyed canoeing, archery, zipline, nature scavenger hunt, stream study and high rope activities. Skits, a night time hayride and a campfire were also big hits. A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped support our fundraising activities this year. Our students were great and we received many compliments about their terrific behavior. 5th graders have a special number project coming up in math class. They will have the opportunity to show off their understanding of factors and multiples. The fifth graders completed their protest projects successfully. They performed strong, persuasive speeches and also created protest songs and dances in small groups. It was a fantastic project for the end of the year. We're looking forward to a great success at the International Festival. Our students have worked hard to create an authentic exhibit on South Africa. Thanks in advance for all of the help and attention from parents during this process! Fifth graders have shadowed 6th grade partners to help with the transition to 6th grade in the fall. They have also acted as hosts to 4th graders who have shadowed them to see what changes await them in 5th grade in September. We have enjoyed working with your children this year and wish everyone a healthy and safe summer.



Grade 5

In English Language Arts, students are reading Esperanza Rising and studying the history of migrant farm workers. At the end of the year, we will have a Mexican-themed fiesta to celebrate our accomplishments this year, so get ready to prepare your favorite Mexican food! In Spanish language arts, students are finishing up book clubs, preparing for their last book report, and making all the school signs bilingual! All sixth grade advisory groups are wrapping up their year long service-learning projects. During the last week of school, students will have a "shout Out Day of Sharing" where they will share their learning experiences and wear t-shirts they designed to represent their class projects.



Grade 6



The 7th graders had a fun and educational time on a field trip to the Wetlands on May 25th. We traveled down to the Jersey shore and observed plant and animal life both on the bay side and ocean side. Many students took advantage of the time on the beach and splashed in the waves. The weather was beautiful and the 7th graders really seemed to enjoy the day. Continuing in the spirit of outdoor field trips, the 7th graders are also preparing to depart for Massachusetts on June 10th and 11th. The class will be staying on a ranch managed by the organization Heifer International. This charitable organization donates food to people in need all over the world. The students will get a chance to live in an environment recreated to resemble a developing country. They will need to manage their living quarters and make sure they ration the food they are provided with to last the 2 days and 2 nights spent on the ranch. In 7th grade science class students are experimenting with magnets and will soon begin a unit on electricity. In MPS, the 7th graders will finish the year working in Filling and Wrapping, a unit on three-dimensional measurement. We'll get to rectangular prisms and cylinders, and hopefully to a few other things as well.

Grade 7

In Language Arts, we just celebrated the end of our playwrighting experience with a Play Festival on Friday, May 28th at the University of the Arts. All students participated either by sharing their plays, acting, creating programs or set designs, or finding props for the actors. It was an incredible success! We will end the year with a debate on Monster by Walter Dean Myers and sharing our graduation speeches. In Math, We finished our unit on quadratics and are finishing the year taking a closer look at data and statistics. The Algebra class has been busy creating their quadratic formula presentations -- looking forward to seeing how creative they are! In Science, we are focused on chemistry and understanding the Periodic Table of Elements. In Social Studies, we recently finished our units on Immigration and the Progressive Era.



Grade 8

PTA Information

PTA, Potluck & Peter Pan Play:

Thursday night, June 10th beginning at 5:30

The PTA will hold its last meeting of the school year on Thursday night, June 10th beginning at 5:30. There will be dinner and a brief meeting followed by The ICS Drama Club presentation of "Peter Pan". The main order of business will be elections for next school year. The following have been nominated: Stephanie Kindt for Treasurer, Maureen Eagan for Membership and Liz Reed for co-secretary (along with Nannette Johnson).

Lost & Found Runneth Over!

Before the end of the school year, don't forget to check the Lost & Found area in the stairwell outside the Fitness/Movement Room (which is next to the cafeteria on the ground floor). Winter hats, gloves and coats have been replaced by a vast assortment of hoodies and lightweight coats. Due to space issues, we cannot keep these items over the summer. All unclaimed items will be donated at the end of the school year. We hope to organize several "claim days" during student recess times.

The long awaited Cherrydale PARTAAY is scheduled for Friday afternoon, June 11th in the schoolyard. This is for those students that sold 10 items or more during the Cherrydale fundraiser last October.

Silent Auction Wrap Up

Thanks to all your donations, your help, your time, your contributions and your spending, the 2010 Silent Auction & Social raised a little over \$10,000! Congratulations to all the auction winners! And now, the committee would like to say muchos gracias, merci, shukran, asanta, labai dekoju and thank you to the following listed below. If anyone is omitted, please accept our deepest apologies!

The generous businesses that supported the Silent Auction: Tommi Life Style Boutique, Giovanni & Pileggi, Yakatori Boy, AnneDaly, Dhyana Yoga Studio, Sophy Curson Boutique, Mama Palma's Gourmet Pizza, Cherrydale, Barksdale, Mug Shots, Yards Brewery, Philadelphia Brewing Co., Shanks Sandwiches, NL Arts, Green Steps, Juju Salon & Organics, Ursala's About Phase Make-up Studio, Elina Safin - Gourmet Phacialist, YMCA - 19th & Christian, Marshall Asnew, Inc., Campbell & Co., Pat Winthrop Jewelers, Jane Theis (jewelry), Joan Strott-Alvini - Glass on Gold, Unstrung Designs (Courtney Chobert), B&R Jewelers, Copa Soaps, nap sacks, Ants Pants Cafe, Langdon Photography, Pizzica Health Systems (golf outing), Nana's Memory Album's, Diaper Cake Depot, Dussie's Dream Parties, The School of Rock Music, Philly Kitchen Share, Koresh Dance Company, Overbrook Farms House Tour, All Occasions Flowers, Big Green Earth Store, Bacchus Market & Catering, Pumpkin, Target, Chi Movement Art Center, The American-Italian Society, Bicycle Coalition, Cara Frank Acupuncturist, The Arden Theatre, Omoi gift shop, Rouge, Westin Hotel Philadelphia, Govinda's Gourmet Vegetarian, Café L'Aube, The Bean Exchange, Oggi Salon & Spa, Liquid, Yoga Child, The Riversharks, Eastern State Penitentiary, Walgreens

Congratulations Live Auction Winners: Jamie Petroski won Phillies Baseball Tickets in Mayor's Box donated by ICS parent Maureen DiStephano; Julie Snell won a weekend stay at an Ocean City Condo donated by ICS parent Gabriel White & Family; and Paula Umana won a one week stay at a Cape May Bungalow donated by The Earling Family!

Monetary donations & various contributions by Donna Sharer, Cheryl Young, Christine, Tr. Nancy Hionides, Nancy Boyd, Tr. Leonara Cravetta, Rosina Miller, Robert and Lynn Salem, Adelaide & Frankie Medlock, Ebru Erkut, Analisa Fede, Hiromi Lindsey, Lisa Bowe, Emma Coats, Tr. Tienne, Lynn Hunt Catering, TJ Gobreski, Diana LaMastra, Dawn Ang, Rob Kopf, Fran Melmed, Maria Alesi-McLeod, Wayne & Tarae Tern Jr., Dan Long, Gretchen Diemer and Grandmother of Marcus Diemer, Sonia Phelps, Ryo Lindsey, Cheryl & Troy McLaughlin, Jill Roy, and Janet Pinkerton.

Pounding the Pavement Awards to Joan Alvini, Kristin Bailey, Brian Leighton, Frauke Schnell, The DiStephano Family, Marcello Ciurlino, Kristin Nocco, Sarah Eistensten, and The Hing Family

Cheers to the Volunteers that helped make the evening such a success: Nancy Brisbon, Molly Stiles, Denise Wilbanks, Bridget Davis, Suzanne Slatery, Ruth Pearson, Barbara Ruth-Cook, Nirva LaFortune, Paula Umana, David Webber, Frankie & Adelaide Medlock, Sean Hennessy, Dan Weidner, Francesca and David Engel, Ian Smith, Hanna Manninen, Vince Romano, Shannon Bloom, Jamie Petroski, Cynthia Kwan, Katy Maroldo, Chef Gabe, Michael Prell, Tr. Jose, Tr. Nick Vacca, Jean Miller, Kerri Wilkerson, Lauren HuttonJohns, Amy Weidner, Ann Farnsworth, Tr. Megan Steelman, Caroline West, Denise Wilbanks, Todd Lentz, Liz Reed, Brian Leighton, Conswelia McCourt, Sonya Phelps, and Rea Whatley

Take a Bow Committee Members Laura Ayala, Nikki Butler, Michelle Coats, Debora DeV Vaughn, Maureen DiStephano, Mary Ann Duffy, Sabrina Fecher, Gia Guadagnino, Tracey Hill, Lynn Hunt, Jessica Jacquay, Stephanie Kindt, Marcie Litchman-Lentz, Maureen Long, Conswelia McCourt, Jean Miller, Jeffrey Newberger, Maria Palladino, Liz Reed, Karina Roepel, Caren Seltzer-Devine, Megan Steelman, Cristina Vea, Maureen Wellner, Jean Miller, Mary Ann Duffy, Karina Roepel and the Beverage Team of Tr. Lance, Tr. Ramzy and Nathan Snyder.

Have A Great Summer, Stay Safe, and Thank You for supporting ICS PTA throughout the 2009/2010 School Year. See you in the Fall!

**Your PTA,
Conswelia, Cristina, Liz, Luci, Nannette, Stephanie, Susan**
The ICS Link

National History Day State Competition

Congratulations to our two groups who represented ICS and Philadelphia at the state finals of the National History Day competition on May 12th and 13th. Our 8th grade group, **Arin Dyer, Jasmine Smith, and Nzingah Whitely**, presented their performance titled, "Penicillin". Our 7th grade group, **Dessler Watson-Sharer, Ismael Rivera, Christian Philmore, and Tomil Bates**, presented their website, "Interstate Highways: Pathways to the Future or Destroyer of Neighborhoods?" You can visit their site at <http://70835405.nhd.weebly.com/> These students presented their projects at Millersville University along with many other qualifiers from the state of Pennsylvania. This is the fourth year in a row we have had groups from ICS qualify for the state competition! Next year's theme is "Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences", so start thinking about topics now!



NEWS FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

Happy Summer everyone.....How fast this year went. I still cannot believe that it's June and we did it, another successful year! Congratulations to the children, staff members and parents of ICS; we all deserve a round of applause. Just a couple of summer time tips; all kids should be wearing sun screen daily. In addition we have field day coming up next week and it could be hot, so make sure that all kids have sunscreen and plenty of hydration. Safety in the water is another point that I want to stress. Parents; please watch your kids in the water. Even if they are swimmers, keep a close eye on children who may be horse playing in the pool and not following the rules of the pool. Now that the sun is out, so are all of the bikes. Please make sure that kids and parents alike are wearing helmets and obeying all traffic laws. Remember to read; libraries are air conditioned usually and are a great way to cool down and enjoy some good summer reading. I hope that the summer brings to you all of the rest and enjoyment that everyone deserves, and everyone returns in September rested and refreshed.

**Have a wonderful summer,
Nurse Leslie**

Summer Reading 2010 Update

We are getting ready for Summer Reading! The program is a little different this year. We still want everyone to READ, READ, READ over the summer vacation. However, instead of reading specific, required books, we will be sending home lists of recommended books and asking you to keep track of the TIME SPENT READING in a very special reading log. We want you to read lots of books and try out lots of different genres, in Spanish and in English. The point is to have fun reading all summer long!

In the fall, we will be sharing our book logs and talking about all the fun we had reading over the summer. We will be having Book Talks so everyone will get to hear about each other's favorite books. We also have some very special summer reading celebrations planned.

Look for reading logs to come home with students before June 18th. If a reading log for any reason gets lost or does not make it home - please visit the school website (independencecharter.org) to download pages to make a reading log at home.



¡ Lee ~ Aprende ~ Disfruta! Read, Learn, Enjoy !

The ICS Link

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New Ideas Bloom in the Schoolyard

Over the past several months, Independence Charter School (ICS) has worked with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) to develop a new landscape master plan for the schoolyard. Julie Snell and Mark Paronish, both landscape architects and Philadelphia Green project managers with PHS, met with a stakeholder group of ICS teachers, administrators, and parents, as well as the Mural Arts Program, over several months. This group looked critically at how the yard now functions and provided input and feedback to Julie and Mark as they developed a new plan for the schoolyard. The process yielded a result that is beautiful and creative, as well as functional.

Look for the “Landscape Master Plan” to soon be published on the ICS website. The ICS stakeholder team invites feedback and hopes many in the ICS community will offer comments and share their thoughts about this exiting new plan. Think of the master plan as a map that will help direct future projects. It is a vision of what the yard could become, and PHS hopes it will get you dreaming as well.

A brief excerpt from the text of the plan:

Plane Tree Stage- An outdoor platform serves many functions: spectacle, classroom, hangout, and more. Located at the back of the yard between two existing mature trees, the **Plane Tree Stage** is the focal point of the schoolyard, especially when looking into the yard from the Lombard Street student entrance. This centralized placement in the yard maximizes views from all angles.

To unify aesthetics, the stage is constructed in a similar fashion (using the same construction style and materials) as the Lombard Street student entrance gate. The stage structure is designed to rest on existing concrete curb/wall to minimize impact to root zone of the existing, mature London Plane trees. Lighting and speakers for the stage may be mounted on building facade to minimize trenching.

A backdrop is created behind the stage by establishing a dense landscape planting behind the stage along the Naudain Street fence. This helps to mitigate sounds from the play yard and improve views from residences across Naudain Street.

Borrowed View- In addition to the planted backdrop of the stage, climbing vines trained on the Naudain Street fence enhance the neighbor’s view of schoolyard. The vines, woody and evergreen, are planted in raised containers on the street side of the Naudain Street fence. There is room in the planters for the Naudain Street neighbors to plant whatever their hearts desire.

Lombard Garden- Lush plantings along the Lombard Street fence create a front border garden (quite literally, curb appeal) that is the public face of the school yard. Conditions along this edge run from sheltered to open. A pathway delineated by plants and other natural features keep “active” zones separated from “quiet” zones and allow access into and up close to the spaces within the garden. Shrubs and grasses are located to frame views of mural wall and provide clear views into yard.

With so many possibilities, one idea rises to the top: edible woodland plantings such as blueberry, amelanchier, and cherry interwoven with conventional food crops like peas, lettuce, radishes, and garlic along with ornamental grasses and native perennials. All this and more aesthetically situated in the exuberant garden at the front edge of the yard.

Hello to all staff, friends, and family members of ICS:

As this year comes to an end, I would like to thank all of the people that made this year as successful as it was for the school meal program. We could not have done it without all of you. I know that we still have a lot of work to do and I am looking forward to working with you all again, as I am sure that you know Linton’s will be coming back next year to continue the food service in the cafeteria.

On behalf of Linton’s and the staff in the cafeteria, I would like to wish all of you a wonderful and safe summer vacation.

Thank you!

Chef Gabe



2010-2011 School Year Supply Lists

Kindergarten

Please note that all supplies will be collected and shared by the class, with the exception of the plastic folders and change of clothes. **Please do not label other items**, as this may cause conflict during the year. PLEASE **DO NOT** send space savers or pencil boxes.

All supplies will be collected the first week of school. If you are sending them in a grocery bag, please label that bag. As the year progresses, some supplies might need to be replenished (especially tissues!), so we will send a note home when we need to ask you for more generous donations.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM ALL KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS!

1 Packs of 3 (or more) Glue Sticks and 1 bottle of Glue

1 Change of Clothes including underwear (2 pairs), socks, top and bottom all labeled in a gallon-sized zip lock bag (labeled)

3 boxes of tissues

1 pack of sandwich sized baggies

1 pack of gallon sized baggies

1-2 packs of Clorox/Lysol antibacterial wipes (for tables)

1-2 packs of Baby Wipes (for hands)

2 pack of large basic color crayons, 1 pack of thin crayons

6-8 pencils (without erasers if at all possible) My First Ticonderoga or Beginner's Pencils-the fat big pencils

3 large pink rubber erasers

3 Double pocket PLASTIC folders (do not label)

Modeling clay

Big colored markers

WISH LIST:

extra glue sticks
extra boxes of tissues
extra containers of Clorox antibacterial wipes (or the similar)
extra pencils
extra clay
play dough
notebooks
popsicle sticks

1st Grade

Please note that all supplies will be collected and shared by the class, with the exception of the change of clothes. **Please do not label other items**, as this may cause conflict during the year.

PLEASE **DO NOT** send space savers or pencil boxes.

All supplies will be collected the first week of school. If you are sending them in a grocery bag, please label that bag. As the year progresses, some supplies might need to be replenished (especially tissues!), so we will send a note home when we need to ask you for more generous donations.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM ALL 1ST GRADE TEACHERS!

3 plastic folders

\$6.00 (1st Grade teachers will purchase special 1st grade notebooks with this money. These special notebooks will help students with handwriting)

2 boxes of Crayola crayons (16 count)

8 glue sticks

1 dozen #2 pencils (sharpened)

2 large pencil erasers (pink)

2 boxes of tissues

2 boxes of Ziploc bags (1 quart size and 1 gallon) size

2 box of Clorox wipes (desks)

1 box of baby wipes (hands)

1 pack of 12-count colored pencils

1 pack of washable markers

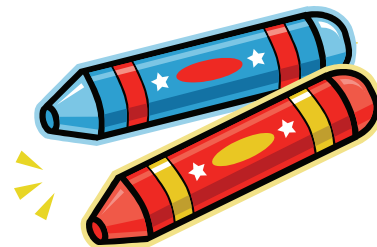
1 package white paper plates and plastic ware

1 pack of 4 dry eraser markers for individual white boards

1 Change of Clothes including underwear, socks, top and bottom all labeled

WISH LIST:

extra glue sticks
extra boxes of tissues
extra containers of Clorox antibacterial wipes (or the similar)
extra baby wipes
extra pencils



2010-2011 School Year Supply Lists

2nd Grade

PLEASE note that **ALL** supplies will be collected and shared by the class as a community. **Please do not label any items !!! Thank You!**

PLEASE DO NOT send space savers or pencil boxes.

All supplies will be collected the first week of school. If you are sending them in a grocery bag, please only label that bag. As the year progresses, some supplies might need to be replenished (especially pencils, wipes, and tissues!), so we will send a note home when we need to ask you for more generous donations.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM ALL 2ND GRADE VILLAGE TEACHERS!

- 5 marble composition notebooks (sewn, not spiral or glued)
- 5 plastic folders- unlabelled (for home-school communication: homework, etc.)
- 3 dozen #2 pencils, SHARPENED
- 2 white or pink pencil erasers
- 2 boxes one-quart Ziploc bags
- 1 box one-gallon Ziploc bags
- 1 box of 24 crayons
- 1 pack of washable markers
- 2 containers of disinfectant wipes (for desks)
- 1 box of baby wipes (for hands)
- 2 boxes of tissues
- 8 glue sticks
- 1 pack of 4 dry erase markers (for individual white boards)

WISH LIST:

extra glue sticks
extra boxes of tissues
extra containers of disinfectant antibacterial wipes (or the similar)
extra pencils
Post-it notes
Pencil sharpener that holds shavings (for teacher to lend out)
Masking tape
Scotch tape
Clear packing tape



3rd Grade

Please note that all supplies will be collected and shared by the class. **Please do not label any items**, as this may cause conflict during the year. **PLEASE DO NOT** send space savers or pencil boxes.

All supplies will be collected the first week of school. If you are sending them in a grocery bag, please label that bag. As the year progresses, some supplies might need to be replenished (especially tissues!), so we will send a note home when we need to ask you for more generous donations.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM ALL 3RD GRADE TEACHERS!

- 3 large glue sticks
- 3 dozen #2 pencils (sharpened if possible)
- Pencil sharpener that holds shavings
- 4 pencil erasers (bars)
- 2 boxes of crayons (24 count)
- 2 boxes of washable markers
- 8 composition books (wide ruled, black & white speckled, not spiral bound)
- If new student to ICS, 1 composition notebook for music class in addition to the 6 above.
- 4 hard plastic folders NO DESIGN
- 2 pocket folders NO DESIGN (red, blue, yellow, green)
- 1 box of gallon sized Ziploc bags
- 1 box of small – sandwich Ziploc bags
- 3 boxes of tissues
- 1 box of baby wipes (for hands)
- 1 box of disinfectant wipes (for desks)
- 1 pack of post it notes
- 1 can of play dough
- 4 dry erase markers (for use with individual white boards)
- Ruler (with inches & centimeters) to be kept at home
- One pack of index cards
- 2 highlighters
- \$4 for magazine subscription (For English class)
- Mini Composition book 4 ½ in. by 3 ½ in. (for Spanish Class)
- 1 pack of colored pencils (sharpened if possible)
- 1 binder (2 inches)
- OPTIONAL, but HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: English dictionary for home

WISH LIST:

- 1 white – out marker
- 2 bottles of paint (any color)
- Paint brushes (any size)
- extra boxes of tissues
- extra containers of Clorox antibacterial wipes (or the similar)
- pencil sharpener that holds shavings (for teacher to lend out)
- extra pencils
- Glitter
- 1 bottle of Elmer's Glue
- extra glue sticks
- extra baby wipes

2010-2011 School Year Supply Lists

4th Grade

Please note that all supplies will be collected and shared by the class, with the exception of the plastic folders. **Please do not label other items**, as this may cause conflict during the year.

All supplies will be collected the first week of school. If you are sending them in a grocery bag, please label that bag. As the year progresses, some supplies might need to be replenished (especially tissues!), so we will send a note home when we need to ask you for more generous donations.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM ALL 4th GRADE TEACHERS!

- 1 package of glue sticks (6 total)
- 3 dozen #2 pencils (**Ticonderoga, Papermate or Mechanical Pencils only!**)
- 1 set of washable markers
- 1 package of pencil eraser toppers
- 5 marble composition notebooks (not spiraled – sewn)
- If new student to ICS, 1 composition notebook for music class in addition to the 5 above.
- 1 package of wide-lined paper
- 2 hard plastic folders
- 5 plain solid colored folders (yellow, red, green, purple and blue).
- ½ inch 3 ring binder
- 2 boxes of tissue
- 2 box of disinfectant wipes (for desks)
- 1 box of baby wipes
- 1 pack of **lined** post it notes (any color)
- 1 box of Gallon-sized Ziploc Bags
- 1 box of sandwich size Ziploc Bags
- 1 pencil sharpener that holds shavings (Staples has a good brand)
- 1 pack of 4 dry erase markers (for use with individual white boards)
- Hand sanitizer
- A box of red pens
- A package of highlighters
- A package of index cards

WISH LIST:

- pencil boxes
- extra boxes of tissues
- extra containers of antibacterial wipes/baby wipes
- pencil sharpener that holds shavings (for teacher to lend out)
- Colored tissue paper
- Disposable cameras
- Paint
- Sculpt Play dough (does not dry)
- Australian/ Ghanaian artifacts and materials such as: music, posters, pictures, postcards.

5th Grade

Please note that all supplies will be collected and shared by the class, with the exception of the plastic folders and notebooks. **Please do not label other items**, as this may cause conflict during the year.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM ALL 5th GRADE TEACHERS!

- 8 composition books (marble, sewn) (for Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, Spanish, and Science)
- \$5.00 for *Time for Kids* one-year weekly magazine subscription
- 1 composition notebook for Music (if child is new to ICS)
- 4 Sturdy Folders (labeled with child's name, preferably plastic)
- Backpack/bookbag
- 2 boxes of tissues
- 2 canister of Clorox wipes (for desks)
- 1 pad of post it notes
- 1 pack of wide-lined paper
- 2 packs of 3x5 index cards, lined
- Glue stick
- Washable Markers
- 1 gallon Ziploc bags

The following items should be in a pencil case:

- #2 pencils - ONGOING, student needs to have SHARPENED pencils on a daily basis pencil sharpener erasers
- 1 red pen, 1 blue pen
- Covered pencil sharpener that holds shavings

For Home Use:

Dictionary, ruler, protractor

OPTIONAL:

- Colored Pencils
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Pencil sharpener that holds shavings for teacher to lend out
- 1 container hand sanitizer



2010-2011 School Year Supply Lists

Middle School



Please note that all supplies will be collected and shared by the class, with the exception of the notebooks, binders, and pencil sharpeners. **Please do not label other items**, as this may cause conflict during the year.

PLEASE DO NOT send space savers or pencil boxes.

All supplies will be collected the first week of school. If you are sending them in a grocery bag, please label that bag. As the year progresses, some supplies might need to be replenished (especially tissues and lined paper!), so we will send a note home when we need to ask you for more generous donations.

Individual covered pencil sharpener

4 dozen pencils

1 box of black/blue ink pens

Highlighters

Two different colored **Non** Blue or Black Pens for editing purposes (e.g., red, green, purple, etc)

1 box of Gallon size Ziploc bags

1 box of Quart size Ziploc bags

2 or More Boxes of tissues

2 Marble Black & White Composition Note Books

3 One Subject Spiral Notebooks

7 packs of white lined paper

One 1 inch binder (to be used for homework)

2 packs 4x6 white index cards

2 pads of Post-its

1 pack of colored pencils or markers

1 container of Clorox wipes

Scientific Calculator (recommended TI-30X IIS (from Texas Instruments)

\$5 for folders to be used in all classes

\$7 for Spanish/Spanish Dictionary for home (*Immersion Students Only. Not necessary if purchased last year*)

OPTIONAL, but HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

English dictionary for home

WISH LIST OF DONATIONS:

Extra pencils***

Extra lined paper

Extra tissues***

Extra covered pencil sharpeners for teachers to lend out to students

Extra containers of Clorox antibacterial wipes (or the similar)

Sharpie Markers

The ICS Link

Cap Erasers

CELEBRATE "AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY" on THURSDAY, JULY 1ST @ INDEPENDENCE BRANCH!!

BILINGUAL (Chinese/English) STORYTIME presented by Librarian Jennifer Chang. Join Jennifer and friends for stories, songs, and rhymes-- make a patriotic craft! 10 am and 11 am story time is for children ages 1 to 5 yrs. and their parent/caretakers 12 noon story time is for school-age children Childcares and camp groups **MUST** call to reserve space!



COURTYARD BOOK AND BAND SALE—Presented by Friends of the Independence Branch
12:30 TO 2:30 pm Free concert by the Walter Bell Trio. Acclaimed jazz flutist and recording star Walter Bell presents cool, summery jazz exuding hot Caribbean/ Brazilian sound waves!! Browse and purchase inexpensive, used books, videos, DVD's and CD's with proceeds benefitting Independence Branch.

ONGOING PROGRAMS:

TODDLER STORY HOUR

For children (ages 1-4 yrs) and parent/caregiver
Enjoy seasonal stories and cheery songs, plus "make-and-take" crafts with your child!
Thursdays @ 10:30 a.m. July 8, 15, 22, and 29th August 5, 12, and 19th
Childcares must call to arrange a separate group story time!
Story time is cancelled Aug. 26th, and Sept. 2nd

TOTALLY PRE-K HURRAY!

Seasonal Stories, songs, and movement activities For preschoolers and parents/caretakers
Fridays @ 10:30 a.m. July 9, 16, 23, and 30 Aug. 6, 13, and 20th
Preschool and Childcare groups welcome—Please call to RSVP!!
Story time is cancelled July 2nd, Aug. 27th, and Sept. 3rd

SCRABBLE WITH LEAH!

For beginners and advanced players—improve your vocabulary and math scores!!
Tuesdays @ 3 p.m. July 6, 13, 20, and 27th Aug. 3, 10, and 17th

MAKE A SPLASH @ YOUR LIBRARY!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FAMILY PROGRAMS--Presented by Friends of the Independence Branch

DAVE SMITH "One Man Sideshow"

Presents a laugh-a-minute show of juggling and comedy, PLUS a juggling workshop for children over 8 yrs of age!!
Wed., July 7th @ 6:30 pm

SNAKE PARTY! With Scott Prior

Join in a live Reptilian FUN FEST—we dare you to touch one!! Wed., July 14th @ 6:30 pm

MARCUS THE MAGICIAN

Will amaze and astound you with awesome tricks of close-up, interactive magic!! Wed., July 21st @ 6:30 pm

THE RONALD MCDONALD SHOW!!

Ronald McDonald (McDonald's Goodwill Ambassador to the World) performs educational and interactive shows to help children learn about the environment, reading, self-esteem, and character development. He uses interactive skits, magic tricks, music, and laughter to make the message memorable. For this special program, Ronald will present "Book Time"—a fun and informative show to help families develop the love of reading!! Wed., July 28th @ 6:30 pm

PETER MOSES--Children's Songwriter and Musician

Peter's concerts are highly participatory, funny and upbeat. His performances combine sing-along's with original folk & pop-rock for children. Wed., Aug. 4th @ 6:30 pm

STEVE ABRAMS—Puppeteer

Myths from the Native American culture of the Northwest coast. Tabletop show with humor including a creation story and a trickster tale. (Funded by the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania)
Wed., Aug. 11th @ 6:30 pm

INDEPENDENCE BRANCH 18 S. 7th STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106 215-685-1633