

The ICS Link

“Opening WORLDS of OPPORTUNITY”

October/November 2011

Letters from the Principals

Lower School

Congratulations to parents, students and staff for a fabulous start to our 2011-2012 school year! Our new staff have assimilated nicely into the ICS culture. Your children are eager and focused on learning which is a tribute to our staff and the support of our parents.

As children start Kindergarten parents are involved with their education. Parents attend teacher conferences, school concerts and hang up schoolwork in the family art gallery: on the refrigerator.

Kids need their parents to stay actively involved in their education throughout their educational life, however. As students grow, parents can easily stay involved in small ways that will make a big difference. Here are a few ways to serve:

1. Ask teachers about ways to share your culture and traditions with their classes.
2. Offer to read to the class or individual students.
3. Volunteer to tutor struggling students.
4. Supervise children on the playground during lunch and recess.

Our 2nd graders will be treated to performance by the Creole Choir of Cuba on October 17th at 9:30 a.m. In addition, our 2nd graders will run a fresh fruit market. The Mercado de Frutas begins on Tuesday November 1st. Stay tuned in for more details.

Take care,
Principal Rich
(richtr@icscharter.com, x2260)

Middle School

The 2011-2012 school year is off to a superb start. I am beginning my 9th year at ICS and am so excited to be doing so as the Middle School Principal. I can't believe that the students I was first introduced to as Kindergartners are now Middle Schoolers!

The 5th graders look so “mature” with their schedules, planners, and expandable files. As the 6th graders navigate their way through the 3rd floor halls for the 1st time, the 7th graders are realizing that high school is not that far off and are living up to ICS' high expectations. Tr. Anne is almost finished meeting with each one of our 63 8th grade families in order to provide individualized help with high school applications. Thanks so much for your dedication and hard work, Tr. Anne!

This summer, I worked with a number of teachers on redesigning our supervision and evaluation system and am looking forward to its successful implementation this school year. If you'd like more information about our new system, please contact me.

Parents are an integral piece of a middle schooler's academic success and I look forward to working with all of you. Although many of our 5th-8th graders are taller than both their parents and teachers, they still need the guidance and support of the adults in their lives. I hope to see you soon at our Middle School Fall events!

Best,
Principal Kristen
(kristenl@icscharter.com, x2244)

Updates from CEO Jurate

WELCOME to our new Principals!

Lower School Principal Richard Trzaska is our Interim Principal. He comes with over 30 years of experience in education. He was the long-time Principal and CEO of the award-winning MAST Charter School in Northeast Philadelphia. Kudos for a great job at ICS: supporting teachers, students and families while we begin a search for a lower school principal. Principal Richard is looking forward to retirement after contributing his talent and experience this year.

Middle School Principal Kristen Long is an appointed Principal. She has been a teacher for over 14 years starting as a Teach for America teacher in Washington, D.C., then a teacher in San Francisco. Principal Kristen has been with ICS for 9 years as a Curriculum Specialist, teacher, and now, Principal. She knows our kids, our curriculum, and has helped to integrate our unique global education program.

Our Middle States Accreditation process and our approaching 10 year anniversary pushed us to think about WHAT we do and HOW we do it with an even greater laser-like precision. Our goals to continue to grow in teacher/staff support and family involvement and responsiveness all indicated that a larger school like ICS needed two Principals to get the job done with the kind of excellence that we expect from our students, our staff, and our own selves. This will be an excellent year for growth and maturation. We are excited and hope you are too!

Interim reports are coming!

At ICS, we believe that it is valuable to include and inform parents. In the week of October 17th, we will be mailing out interim reports to all families. These interim reports give you an idea of how your child is doing in various classes. It is an opportunity to make mid-course “corrections” with your children in regard to school performance including homework completion, attendance, and class participation. Please keep an eye out for those! (Also please make sure that you have given us your most recent address—if you have to make a correction please contact Ingrid Schafroth at ext. 2259 or by writing ingrids@icscharter.com)

I.C.S. Bulletin Board

Mark Your Calendars! - Independence Dress Down Fundraiser Days

Independence Charter has a tradition of holding dress down fundraiser days where students pay \$1 to wear jeans or other appropriate casual wear to school. These dress down days help ICS to defray the costs of school field trips and fund special programming.

2011-2012 Dress Down Fundraiser Schedule (All dates are Early Dismissal Wednesdays)

- Oct. 19** – Supports the PTA Carnival/Friendraiser
- Nov. 9** – Supports the 5th Grade Camping Trip
- Dec. 7** – Supports the 6th Grade DC Trip
- Jan. 18** – Supports the 7th Grade Heifer Trip
- Feb. 15** – Supports the 8th Grade NYC Trip
- Mar. 7** – Supports the Take Flight Travel Program
- Apr. 11** – Supports Odyssey of the Mind
- May 9** – Supports Field Days

ICS now offers discount prescription cards!

ICS has partnered with a company called [Trust Scripts](http://www.trustscripts.com) (www.trustscripts.com) that has negotiated discount prescription prices with drug companies. Anyone who might benefit can use their cards--you don't have to be affiliated with ICS, you don't have to qualify in any way, and you don't have to register. *You just have to have a card.*

Most pharmacies accept the card (see [online locator](#)). You will be charged 10-85% less than the standard retail price for any drugs that you purchase with the card, depending on what Trust Scripts has negotiated.

The cards could be helpful to anyone who:

- Does not have prescription coverage
- Struggles to bridge the Medicare Part D coverage gap
- Purchases drugs not covered by their prescription drug program
- People with PETS - you can use the cards for pet meds too!

You can request cards for yourself and friends/family anytime at the front desk or contact Tr. Jenny (jennyh@icscharter.com, x2500) to request that a card be sent home with your student.

Do you have old magazine sitting around the house that you'd hate to see go to waste? Drop them off in the front office of ICS and we will put them to good use in classrooms and after school clubs!

GO GREEN!

Save a tree or two this year. Sign up to receive news & information from ICS electronically!

Simply send an email to Tr. Jenny (jennyh@icscharter.com) with the subject "GO GREEN" and the names/grades of your students.

The K-4 Enhanced classroom, K-4 Immersion classroom, and Middle School advisory that each recruit the most new green families this school year will receive Dress Down passes for their whole class this spring!

Have you checked out Comcast's Internet Essentials program?

If your child qualifies for **FREE LUNCH**, your family likely qualifies for **Comcast's \$10/month Internet service** and a \$150 NetBook laptop.

Call 1-855-846-8376 TODAY to start the enrollment process.

To activate your service, you will need a letter from ICS that confirms your child's school enrollment and lunch status. Call or email Tr. Jenny (jennyh@icscharter.com, x2500) to request this letter.

Meal Card Reminder!

Don't forget that your child's meal card is part of the dress code this year *in that he/she must bring it to school each day*. Students are NOT, however, required to wear the cards during the entire school day. Cards may be kept in lockers, cubbies, or backpacks when not in use.

Food Services Committee

We invite you to join the Food Service committee this year if you would like to help our meal program continue to improve and run smoothly! Contact M. Neyza at neyzac@icscharter.com or x2228 for more information.

School Bus Safety for Drivers

It's that time when school buses are everywhere. If a school bus has its lights flashing and stop arm extended, you must stop. The only exception is if you are on the other side of a highway divided by a concrete barrier or grassy median. If you are following or traveling alongside a school bus, the law also requires you to stop at least 10 feet away. Learn more about the school bus stopping law and penalties for violations at www.DriveSafePA.org.

ICS Parents
Celebrate Independence Charter School's
10th Anniversary



**10 YEARS OF
EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**



**100 YEARS OF
HISTORY AT DURHAM**

Thursday, November 17, 2011
Celebration and Cocktail Reception
6pm to 8pm
The Racquet Club of Philadelphia
215 S. 16th Street
An invitation to this special event will be mailed to you in early October. Please call Monika Kriedie at 215/238-8000 ext. 2430 for more information.



**OPENING WORLDS
OF OPPORTUNITY**

Watch for a Family & Community report to go home next week that will include detailed information about last year's parent survey!

A. ALYCE KESHISHIAN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

EBRU ERHAN-ERKUT
LEGAL ASSISTANT

CONCENTRATING ON
IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY LAW

100 S. BROAD STREET, SUITE 1330, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19110
TELEPHONE: (215) 977-8264 FACSIMILE: (215) 563-2795

A Message to Parents/Guardians regarding the PSSA tests and ICS

This is the 8th consecutive year that ICS has made Adequate Yearly Progress! This means that ICS has made AYP in each of the 8 years the ICS students were tested.

Pennsylvania has set a standard of 67% growth expected from year to year. This year, ICS students across all racial and ethnic groups average 80-90% "growth" year to year in Mathematics and 82-89% year to year "growth" in Reading. Growth scores are reflected in PVAAS scores (Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System: not shown here, as yet not available to the public).

ICS students who received special education services average 68.8% "growth" year to year in Mathematics and 77% "growth" year to year in Reading. "Growth" is the true measure of year to year achievement. PSSA scores are scores that compare grades to grades. This is different than student growth. Although ICS PSSA overall school scores have grown year to year, there have been occasional dips in scores. This year is one such example:

	Mathematics	Reading	
2011	77.8	68.7	Met AYP
2010	81.3	73.9	Met AYP
2009	77.8	68.8	Met AYP

We will be studying these dips carefully and intensively starting in September and throughout the year. We realize that kids are learning well as evidenced by an average 80-90% growth from year to year. In addition, we have put the following intensive tools in place:

- We have assigned a new position of Achievement and Testing Coordinator. In this position, T. Odamis Fernandez-Sheinbaum will focus on achievement and will work with the Principals to target specific areas, organize tutoring, support teachers, and more.
- We have moved tutoring from an after-school service to in-school tutoring with two floating, seasoned teachers providing tutoring in math and reading to students in K-8.
- We have purchased a new online program called Achieve 3000 which allows for gr.3-8, in school and at home practice in reading (available in English and Spanish!). It is constructed to complement the PSSA testing. When there is a dip in overall scores, we always seriously consider reasons for the dip and how we could improve.
- We have reviewed variables such as additional new students in the middle school, special education student performance, an increase in English Language Learning students, and our own instruction. Our review to date does not pinpoint any one specific variable as the factor causing a dip in scores. It is important to note however that the test this past year was given a whole month earlier than in previous years. We will continue to study these changes with the goal of focusing laser-like at those variables which we can influence and change.
- We also realize that when a school reaches higher scores, as we have, it becomes increasingly difficult to continue growing in scores. We are a school that operates with an open lottery and welcomes all of Philadelphia's children. We are proud of our students' considerable performance. For example, our graduating 8th graders this year scored: 73% Advanced/Proficient in Math, 86% Advanced/Proficient in Reading.

Parents and Guardians can be very helpful in this process as we advance toward excellence by helping with the following:

1. Strong attendance and punctuality are very important and support optimal learning.
2. For students in grades 3-8: they have received their sign-in and passwords for using Achieve 3000 at home or at a computer center. Please remind your child to practice using Achieve 3000 to increase performance and skills. You can contact the teacher to get more information.
3. Read, read, read. Reading for fun will increase scores not only for the PSSAs but also for those eventual SAT tests going to college. Please make time and room for reading in your home. Designate reading before allowing TV/electronics time.

Hello Kindergarten families!

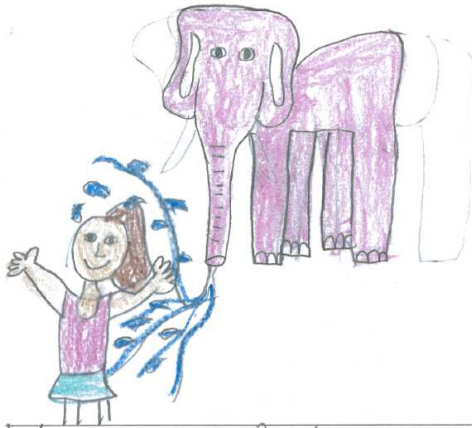
Class 100 and 103 are learning patterns and numbers from 0 to 5. Class 101 and 103 are learning about vowels in Spanish. Class 101 is also learning about the sight word "I" and children are writing sentences with the word "I".

Kindergarten

On the right: Wolfgang Rodeck in Tr. Jeff's class is happy!



Esto es lo que vi.



Vi un elefante rosado
mirándome a mí.

First grade is off to a FABULOUS start! We've been busy learning procedures and rules in order to have a great year. In Math, we studied all about patterns. We even made our own patterns following Kokeshi Japanese dolls. In Language Arts, we've been reading a lot. We've read repetitive stories, like *Salí de paseo*, and created our own page of the story. We're excited to see what the rest of fall will bring!

Grade 1

On the left: Maya Lindsey creates a page of Salí de paseo.

Second Graders are gearing up for a great year. The emphasis so far has been on establishing and practicing classroom and school-wide routines. These young scholars have been hard at work reviewing important mathematical concepts, engaging in reading and writing activities, using maps of the USA, and simply getting to know one another. Look out! It's coming your way soon! Mercado de Frutas begins in November. Look for information to come home soon about a few planned field trips, too! We're up and running again! Yay!

The Second Grade Team

Grade 2





3rd grade families, save the date for the 3rd grade pot-luck on Tuesday, November 8 from 5-7:30 PM. We cannot wait to see you there!

Grade 3

Fourth grade is off with a bang, and it is hard to believe we are already in the second month of the school year. Students are busy learning the ins and outs of the classroom, school, and routines. Academically, fourth graders have been hard at work practicing multiplication, elapsed time, and reading *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*. Fourth graders have also been working hard to narrow down specific hopes and dreams that they would like to achieve during the school year. Students have also been creating classroom rules they can all follow so that everyone has the right environment to accomplish their goals.

Grade 4

Thanks to all of you who made it to Back To School Night. It was nice getting to see new faces and hearing from you about your children!

The 5th grade has been busy getting used to new expectations as middle schoolers: a different dress code and the idea of more than one teacher! They are excited to visit the Constitution Center on October 21st. It will be a great conclusion to their study of the Constitution.

In math all fifth graders are learning different strategies for multiplication and getting ready to tackle multi-digit multiplication. (If your student is rusty with his/her basic multiplication facts, NOW is the time to practice them and learn them.)

SAVE THE DATE!! The Middle School Science Fair is November 30. Keep an eye out for more information. Projects are due on November 21. You should have received an instruction sheet with the science fair information by now (if not contact T. Elisse or T. Mary Beth).

If you did not receive the information regarding class dues, please speak to Teacher Barbara. The bulk of the 5th grade dues goes towards the 5th grade Camping Trip. The remainder will fund science boards, other trips and class treats.

Next month is the first 5th grade fundraiser: Cookbooks

Grade 5

(215)545-9182
 rlr1m1@aol.com
 Rob
 1527 South Street
 Philadelphia, PA. 19146
Process Junior's
 Special Thanks to our loyal clients

LAW OFFICE OF
 ALISON ALTMAN GROSS
 2526 SOUTH STREET
 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19146
 (215) 435-8524
 www.altmangross.com
 alison@altmangross.com

Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney,
 Estate Administration (Probate), Guardianships,
 Estate and Trust Litigation.

5th – 8th grade English and Spanish language arts are off to a speedy start—we're diving in to books at our reading level with 100 Book Challenge, starting our core books, and writing everything from vivid paragraphs to high school essays! We encourage you to get involved with your child's reading homework by asking them about the books they're reading, signing their readings logs as their coaches, and finding your own ways to celebrate reading in your home. Also, check out the 7th and 8th grade English language arts blogs at the links below!

<http://7sevenspeaks.blogspot.com>
<http://icscrazyeights.blogspot.com>

Middle School Language Arts

Middle School Science

Science Fair.....Aaahhhh!! Yes, we have begun the 2011 science fair process, but hopefully after receiving a more detailed rubric and with the addition of in class workshop days your students are feeling better about the large undertaking of science fair. We have all been working hard and look forward to seeing the final products.

Hello ICS Families! Since the beginning of the school year, students have been reviewing rules and procedures for the Music classroom and singing songs from a group called: "Sol y canto". In those songs you can find a fun combination of English, Spanish and Latin American rhythms. Ask your child to sing and dance one of these songs for you. I am sure they will be pleased to have such a caring audience.

Music

Students have been also reviewing the names and the correct way to play some percussion instruments.

In October we are starting our Sound Unit, where students will be able to listen, classify, analyze, compare and produce different sounds based on their properties. We will also be learning songs about our beautiful country and its traditions. If your child is in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade you will be receiving soon a letter with information about when are we going to start playing the Recorder and how you will be able to get one for your young musician.

If you have any question or comments, please send an email to ronithe@icscharter.com.

Thank you very much for your support!!!
Maestra Ronith, K-5 Music Teacher

Buenos días Familia de ICS!

Desde el comienzo del año escolar, los estudiantes han estado repasando las reglas y procedimientos para la clase de Música, y cantando canciones del grupo "Sol y Canto". En esas canciones se puede observar una divertida combinación de inglés, español y ritmos latinoamericanos. Si le pide a sus hijos que le canten o le bailen algunas de las canciones, estoy segura que ellos estarán contentos de actuar ante tan importante audiencia!

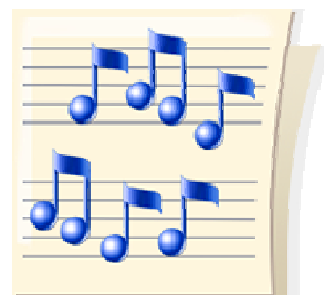
Los estudiantes han estado también repasando los nombres de los instrumentos musicales y la manera correcta de tocarlos. En Octubre estamos empezando a estudiar nuestra unidad de Sonido, en la cual los estudiantes van a poder escuchar, clasificar, analizar, comparar y producir diferentes sonidos basados en sus propiedades. También vamos a aprender canciones sobre Estados Unidos y sus tradiciones.

Si su hijo o hija esta en 3ro, 4to o 5to grado, usted recibirá una carta muy pronto con toda la información necesaria acerca de cuando vamos a empezar a estudiar la Flauta y como puede conseguir una.

Si tiene alguna pregunta o comentario, por favor escriba a ronithe@icscharter.com

Muchas gracias por su apoyo!!

Maestra Ronith
Maestra de Música
Kinder -5to grado



Lend a helping hand!



Middle School Families: We need your help!

The middle school team is still looking for donations of baked goods and other snacks to sell at their Math Carnival next Wednesday. Please sign up to bring items using this handy [online form](#) OR contact Tr. Jenny at jennyh@icscharter.com, x2500 and let her know what you can contribute. We are in excellent shape for drinks right now, but definitely lacking in the food department!

Also, the Walk-a-Thon is *quickly* approaching as we still need a few good helpers to pitch in for the post-walk picnic. Tr. Kerry and past organizers will guide you & the other volunteers through the process. Email Kerry directly (kerryr@icscharter.com) if you can pitch in to make this happen. Without your help, the kids will not have a chance to celebrate with each afterwards!

Do you know of a portable metal clothing rack looking for a good home? ICS's Lost & Found would love to help out. Let Tr. Jenny know if you have one to donate!

More Volunteer Opportunities (We love our parent volunteers!)

Historian

If you are a history buff, we need your help. As ICS celebrates the 10th Anniversary of the School and the 100th Anniversary of the Durham Building, we need someone to write-up a brief history of all that has happened in Durham Building. It shouldn't take more than a few hours of research and a few hours to get it on paper.

To wet your appetite, the Durham School was initially a neighborhood school then changed to the Durham Child Development Center (using an alternative education model) in the 1970s and now is the home of ICS. Alumni of Durham include: Congressman Chakah Fatah, film maker Jeremiah Zagar, and more to be uncovered. There is also a book written about the school from 1920.

We need this history for our commemorative program on November 17th and to use as we solicit press for the year-long anniversary.

CCRA Annual House Tours

Sunday, October 23, 1-3pm

Once again ICS will be participating in the Center City Residents' Association Fall House Tours. We will need 5 to 6 parent volunteers to staff the event at ICS. The volunteers will be used as hosts, lead short tours of the schools and help make the house tour participants feel welcome. Volunteers will receive tickets to visit the other sites on the tour which include homes of Ursula Hobson, Judy Wicks, and Eric Berg.

Anniversary Reception

Thursday, November 17, 6-8pm

Volunteers are needed for the decorating committee and program committee. If you have good writing skills, communication skills or visual skills, you could be very help to us as we plan this event. It will be just a few hours of your time and some things you can do at home. We need people to contact school alum, plan a visual history and help decorate the Racquet Club for our big celebration.

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities please contact Monika Kreidie at monikak@icscharter.com 215/238-8000 ext. 2430.

Calling all volunteers! Are you interesting in working with the ICS library?

There are many ways to help:

- 1) We need help with clerical tasks such as labeling, re-shelving, organizing, and cataloging books, etc. This could happen any day after school or during the school day on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. You can sign up to help just once, every once in a while, or you can set up a regular schedule. Tr. Amy will provide a brief orientation to get you started.
- 2) We also need folks who are interested in being Visiting Librarians. Visiting Librarians will serve as a guide when classes visit the library. They will help students find books, help students check books in and out of the library, and help reinforce expectations for library behavior and routines. Depending on comfort level this might also be an opportunity to read aloud to students. Shifts would be on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. You could sign up for a few hours or just one. Whatever fits your schedule. It would be very helpful if you could sign up to come on a regular basis. Tr. Amy will provide a brief orientation so that you will have all the information you need.
- 3) We are interested in creating a set of shelf covers that would help to "close" the library shelves during global arts drumming classes and would help to sound-proof the room and provide better acoustics. This would be a fairly simple sewing project. Tr. Amy can help with measurements and creating a plan/pattern.

Thank you so very much to all the parents who have donated books and to those who have been such generous, helpful volunteers! Your help is invaluable and is so appreciated. We *really* love our volunteers!

Reading Tips For Parents

Every other month M. Luz Angela and Tr. Amy will share with you some tips!

Everyone can help!! Start today!!

Get them to read another one: Find ways to encourage your child to pick up another book. Introduce him or her to a second book by a favorite author; ask the librarian or classroom teacher for additional suggestions.

Crack open the dictionary: Let your child see you use a dictionary. Say, "Hmm, I'm not sure what that word means... I think I'll look it up."

Talk about what you see and do: Talk about everyday activities to build your child's background knowledge, which is crucial to listening and reading comprehension. Keep up a running pattern, for example, while cooking together, visiting somewhere new, or after watching a TV show.

First drafts are rough: Encourage your child when writing. Remind him or her that writing involves several steps. No one does it perfectly the first time.

Teach your child some "mind tricks": Show your child how to summarize a story in a few sentences or how to make predictions about what might happen next. Both strategies help a child comprehend and remember.



© Mystic Arts, LLC 2005

Consejos acerca de la lectura para padres de familia

Cada mes la M. Luz Angela y Tr. Amy compartiran algunos consejos con uds!

Todos pueden ayudar!! Comienza hoy!!

Consiga que lea otro libro: Encuentre maneras para que su hijo(a) coja otro libro. Muéstrela un segundo libro teniendo en cuenta un autor preferido, pregúntele a la bibliotecaria o a la directora de grupo para que le de otras sugerencias.

Utilicen el diccionario: Deje que su hijo(a) le ve utilizando el diccionario. Diga: "mmm...no estoy seguro de lo que significa esta palabra... voy a mirar en el diccionario."

Hable acerca de lo que ve y hace: Hable acerca de las actividades que hacen a diario para reforzar conceptos y conocimientos que es crucial para la comprensión lectora y de escucha. Trate de hablar con su hijo(a) cuando esta cocinando, al visitar un lugar nuevo, después de ver un programa de TV.

La escritura es un proceso continuo: Apoye a su hijo(a) cuando este escribiendo. Recuerdele que el proceso de escritura involucra varios pasos. Nadie lo hace perfecto la primera vez. Se escribe un borrador y se perfecciona poco a poco.

Enseñe a su hijo(a) algunos trucos: Muéstrela a su hijo(a) como resumir un cuento utilizando tan solo algunas oraciones o como hacer predicciones de lo que puede pasar después. Ambas estrategias le ayudan a comprender y a recordar.

Want more information about how to support your child's literacy! Contact one of our reading specialists any time:

**Tr. Amy at amyl@icscharter.com or x5035
M. Luz Angela at luza@icscharter.com or x5072**



Here are the current events that are in store for our families through the PTA:

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, November 3rd. Pizza dinner starting at 5:30 PM. Meeting promptly begins at 6:00 PM.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS:

The PTA sponsored clubs are underway and will run for 10 weeks. There are still spots available in some of our clubs. If interested, contact either Susan at susanb@icscharter.com or Maureen at moeagen@comcast.net or 215-498-6195. If successful, more clubs will be offered next trimester.

FRIDAY PLAY DATES IN THE PLAY YARD

The PTA is excited to offer the chance to students and their parents or caregivers to come play and socialize on the play yard on Friday afternoons from 3:30-4:30. There will be no fee for this activity. A parent or caregiver MUST accompany any child who plans on participating. We are limited in the number of families that we can accommodate, so it is important and necessary that you sign up with the PTA.

FALL FRIEND RAISER

Saturday, October 29th. Rain date, Sunday, October 30th come socialize in the school yard and enjoy food, fun and games. Volunteer opportunities are available. Volunteer forms have been sent home; if you need another form or additional information please e-mail the PTA or one of the officers or pick-up a form at the front desk.

MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't already joined, please consider doing so today. You can e-mail the PTA, contact our membership chair, Caroline Masters, or join on-line at www.icspta.org using Paypal.

Membership dues are \$10/individual and \$17/family for one year.

The [Independence Charter School PTA](http://www.icspta.org) (www.icspta.org) is part of the [National PTA](http://www.pta.org), (www.pta.org) which advocates for children's issues and concerns.

PTA Officers (2011-2012)

- President: Maureen Eagen, moeagen@comcast.net
 - Vice President: Annette Earling, earling@zaza.com
 - Co-Treasurers: Marc Hensley, mwhensley1@comcast.net;
Stephanie Kindt, stephaniekindtpvps@gmail.com
 - Membership: Caroline Masters, carolinemasters375@hotmail.com
 - Secretary: Denise Wilbanks, moniegirl2@verizon.net
 - Communications: Susan Burrows, sjeburrows@earthlink.net
- For more information or to direct a question to the PTA, email pta@icscharter.com.

ICS Passport Night

Passport Night will take place during the **December PTA meeting**. All students and families will need to bring all necessary documents including a cut passport picture in order to apply for a US passport.

U.S. Passport application requirements for all minors under age 16:

1. Complete Form DS-11: *Application For A U.S. Passport*
2. Submit Form DS-11: *Application For A U.S. Passport* In Person
3. Submit Child's Evidence of U.S. Citizenship
4. Submit Evidence of Relationship Between Child and Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
5. Present Identification of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
6. Submit a Photocopy of Each Parent/Guardian ID Document To Be Presented (Step 5)
7. Provide Parental Consent or court order establishing custody/guardianship
8. Pay the Applicable Fee
9. Submit Two Passport Photos

Note: Both parents must be present to apply for a passport.

To obtain detailed US passport application information for minors please visit Travel.State.Gov:

http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/minors/minors_834.html

Passport photographs should be **2 x 2 inches** in size. The face size, measured from the bottom of the chin to the top of the head (including hair), should not be less than 1 inch or more than 1 3/8 inches.

To obtain information for passport picture requirements please visit:

<http://travel.state.gov/pdf/Photo-Quality-Requirements.pdf>



Thursday, December 1, 2011, from 4:00pm – 7:00 pm

Independence Charter School
1600 Lombard Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146



Contact us
for more information:
1636 South Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146
(215) 545-0320
www.growthruplay.com

Grow Thru Play, LLC is a therapy clinic and play space which provides occupational therapy, physical therapy, interactive metro-nome, group classes, and special workshops. Find out more about our fall classes: handwriting group instruction, fitness classes, and toddler parent playgroups.

Low Muscle Tone Workshop Do you want to know?

- Why my child's muscles appear less firm or more floppy than other children their age?
- What is hypotonia or low muscle tone?
- How much will low muscle tone impact my child's development?
- Should I worry if my young child w-sits?
- How can I help my child meet developmental milestones or develop adequate strength?

Date: Thursday, October, 27 Time: 7:30-8:30pm Cost: \$35

Talking About Tummy Time Have you ever wondered?

- Why tummy time is so important?
- How much tummy time does my baby need?
- Should I worry if my baby hates tummy time?
- How can I make tummy time more comfortable?

Date: Wednesday, November, 2 Time: 12:30-2pm Cost: \$35

Show your school pride with an ICS window decal!

Opening **WORLD**S of **OPPORTUNITY**



Independence
CHARTER SCHOOL

Abriendo **MUNDOS** de **OPORTUNIDAD**

The decals are removable 4" x 8" window "clings" that can be displayed from inside your car or home window.

Proceeds will benefit the ICS Odyssey of the Mind teams. They will be used to help defray travel expenses should one or more of our teams advance to the State level, or hopefully the World Finals level of competition!

The program introduces kids to team-based problem solving that encourages out-of-the-box thinking. Last year ICS students had great fun and achieved much success, with both teams placing in the state level and one placing seventh in the world!

Decals are \$5.00 each.

For information regarding orders, please contact Marcie Lichtman-Lentz at ramonall@comcast.net



**Attention K-5 Families:
Middle School Walkathon**



(Proceeds Benefit 6th, 7th & 8th Grade End of the Year Trips)

Saturday, October 22nd, 2011 11:00AM @ FDR Park

Please join us by registering on or before October 19th: \$5 kids, \$10 adults, Max. \$25 families
OR

If you'd like to support our Middle School trips we welcome your donations!

I, _____ would love to attend the walk-a-thon!
Number Attending _____ kids _____ adults

I, _____ would love to donate to the Middle School trips!
Donation Amount _____

Please return to ICS' Main Office– Attention: Tr. Kerry.

Middle School Math Carnival

Wednesday, October 19th 6:00 - 8:00 pm In the 3rd floor math wing

Games  Prizes  Food  Fun

Parents, join your students for a night of mathematical fun playing games from the math problem solving curriculum!

*** All students must be accompanied by an adult. This event is for 6-8th grade students only ***

Dollar Dress Down Day! Wednesday, October 19

Benefits the **Fall FriendRaiser** 
carnival **October 29**
11 am - 3 pm
Rain Date: October 30
at Independence Charter School

Pine Deli

1613 Pine St. Phila., PA 19103 • Corner of Smedley St. & Pine St.

215-545-8985

EAT-IN or TAKE-OUT

Open Monday-Saturday 8am-9pm; Closed Sunday and holidays.

ICS Calendar | Calendario 2012

featuring ICS Student Artwork



- Our goal is to raise \$20,000 for Take Flight Scholarship Travel Program at ICS (more info on reverse) through Classroom Calendar Sponsorships, calendar sales, and ads and well wishes in our 2012 calendar.
- Support international travel at ICS!

Here are 3 ways you can help us reach our goal:

- Be a Classroom Calendar Sponsor—\$275** Your \$275 contribution purchases one calendar for every student and teacher in the ICS classroom of your choice. Specify class here:
Teacher's name _____ Grade _____
- Advertise your business in the calendar—\$50** Take advantage of this special ad rate for ICS families! For \$50, your black & white, business card size ad (2 x 3.5" horizontal or vertical) will appear in the back of the calendar. See ad submission specifications below. Deadline for ad submissions is November 1.
Name of business _____
- Wish your student well—\$20** For \$20 we will print your message of inspiration for your student in the back of the calendar. Messages must not exceed 60 letters. Please write your message here:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (day) _____

Email address _____

Thank you for your support!

Please make checks payable to Independence Charter School. You may also pay by credit card through JustGive.org by visiting our website and clicking the "Donate Now" button: www.independencecharter.org. Make sure to note that you are contributing to ICS Calendar.

Mail or fax sponsorship commitment to:
Attn: Caroline Masters
Independence Charter School
1600 Lombard Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146
Fax: 215.545.2924, Phone: 215.206.7629
Email: carolinemasters375@hotmail.com

Ad and logo Submissions: Ads/logos must be submitted electronically by November 1. Email your ad or logo as a high resolution (300 dpi) .pdf or .jpg to huttonlaura@verizon.net



Independence
CHARTER SCHOOL

1600 Lombard St., Phila., PA 19146 | phone: 215.238.8000 | fax: 215.238.1998 | www.independencecharter.org

****Parents, please read & share this important safety message from the [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#).****

Anchor for Safety: TV and Furniture Tip-Over-Related Deaths and Injuries Not Slowing Down *A child is killed once every two weeks, tens of thousands are injured every year*

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In March of this year, an 11 month old died while watching TV with his dad and his 2-year-old sibling. The baby's brother bumped into the furniture holding the TV and the TV fell onto the baby's head and abdomen. Unfortunately, this is not a rare incident. Furniture and TV tip-over incidents are one of the top hidden hazards in the home. Today, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is urging parents and caregivers to inspect and anchor furniture and TVs now, in order to protect young children from a preventable tragedy.

A new [data report](#) (pdf) shows that between 2000 and 2010, CPSC staff received reports of 245 tip-over-related deaths involving children 8 years old and younger. More than 90 percent of the incidents involved children 5 years old and younger. In more than half of the 245 fatalities (56%), the child was crushed by the weight of the television, furniture, or appliance. The majority of these children suffered fatal injuries to the head (67%).

In addition, more than 22,000 children 8 years old and younger are treated in hospital emergency rooms every year (2008-2010) for injuries related to instability or tipover of televisions, furniture, and appliances. And like the fatalities, a majority of these injuries (56%) are to the head.

"Children like to climb on furniture. Placing TVs on furniture not intended for them or having furniture that is not secured can have tragic consequences," said Chairman Inez Tenenbaum. "These tragedies can be prevented by taking low-cost steps. Anchor those TVs and dressers, and protect your child or a child visiting your home."

The most common tip-over scenarios involve toddlers who have climbed onto, fallen against or pulled themselves up on furniture. About 70 percent of children's fatalities (169 incidents) involved falling televisions, and 27 percent (65 incidents) involved only furniture falling. Of the 135 child fatalities where furniture fell by itself or fell with a TV, the majority of incidents (64%) involved a chest, dresser, or a bureau. Often, these pieces of furniture have drawers that children can use to climb.

To prevent tragedies follow these safety tips in any home where children live or visit:

- Anchor furniture to the wall or the floor.
- Place TVs on sturdy, low bases.
- Or, anchor the furniture and the TV on top of it, and push the TV as far back on the furniture as possible.
- Keep remote controls, toys, and other items that might attract children off TV stands or furniture.

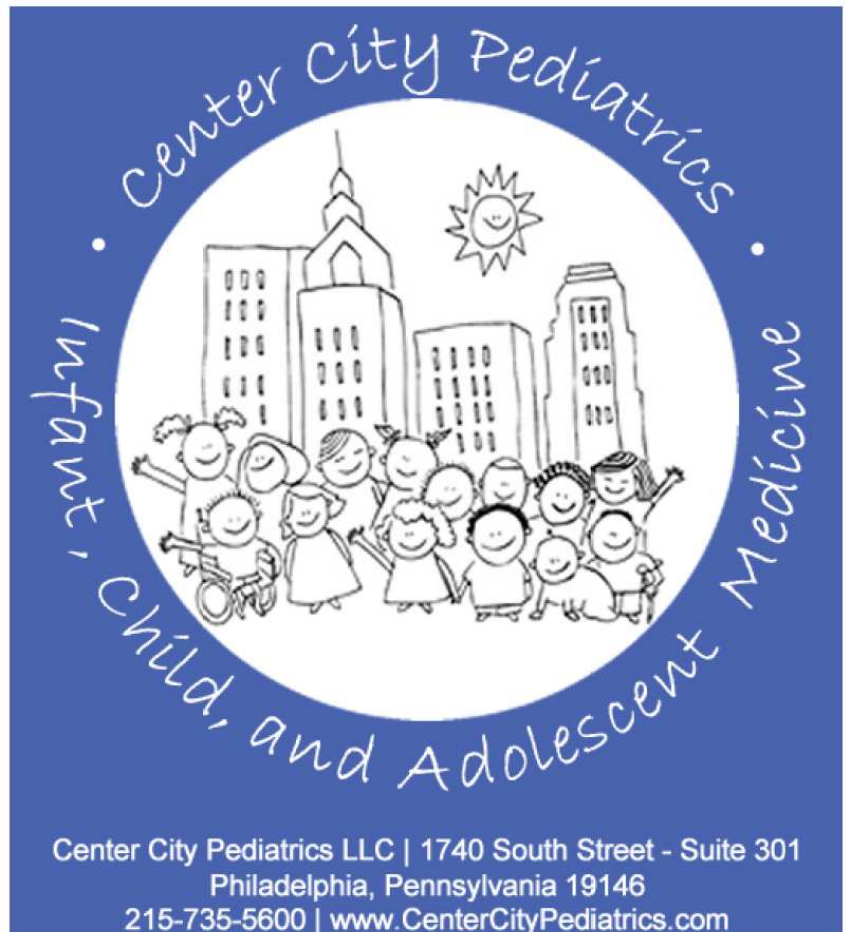


Bigwigs
Hair studio

1604 South Street
Phila. Pa 19146
(215) 545-5277

Bigwigshairstudio.com

- Keep TV and/or cable cords out of reach of children.
- Make sure free-standing kitchen ranges and stoves are installed with anti-tip brackets.
- Supervise children in rooms where these safety tips have not been followed.



Center City Pediatrics
Infant, Child, and Adolescent Medicine

Center City Pediatrics LLC | 1740 South Street - Suite 301
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19146
215-735-5600 | www.CenterCityPediatrics.com

Fall Friend Raiser carnival

at Independence Charter School

October 29, 2011
11 am to 3 pm

*Bring
a friend!*



Rain Date: October 30

Pie Throwing ★ Cake Walk ★ Gross Clinic

ICS's fourth annual "Fall Friend Raiser" is an old-fashioned carnival put together by parent volunteers. The purpose is to build community within our school and neighborhood.

Come play a game, throw a pie, decorate a cupcake, and get to know other ICS families and their friends. There is no cost to enter the carnival and most games and activities are only 50 cents.

Can you juggle? Paint faces? Tell fortunes? Draw caricatures? Are you willing to manage a game or activity table or help with lunch for an hour or two? Please fill out this form and either send it back to school with your child or drop it off at the front desk.

ICS Fall Friend Raiser Carnival is not a fundraiser. However, if there are proceeds at the end of the event, they will benefit Take Flight scholarship travel program at ICS.

Sign me up!

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I would like to contribute in the following way/s:

Juggle Paint Faces Tell Fortunes Make Balloon Animals

Stilt Walker Decorate Nails Hair Artistry Tattoo Artistry

Draw Caricatures Let folks throw pies in my face Help in the kitchen

Help with set-up Help with clean-up Work at a game or activity table

Bake a cake for the cake walk

Bake (undecorated) cupcakes for the cupcake decorating table

Rent a flea market table (\$20) *We strongly suggest kid-oriented items.*

I'd like to help but none of these options are for me. Please contact me.

I'd like to make a donation to help defray costs. I am enclosing _____

Cash or check made out to Independence Charter School with "PTA" on the memo line.