

The ICS Link

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

September 2009

Dear ICS Community,

Welcome back to school for the 2009-2010 school year. We are eager to welcome the incoming class of 2018 as we nostalgically prepare the class of 2010 for the next phase of their lives. This promises to be an exciting year for both groups, as well as the seven grades in between. This year, we are continuing to implement global education principles across the curriculum, expanding our after-school clubs to include more opportunities for all students, and solidifying our use of the Responsive Classroom (grades K-4)/ Developmental Designs (grades 5-8) model to guide our interactions in school. Please review the K-8 Code of Conduct with your child so that you, as a family, are all familiar with this approach to creating a positive social environment, something which we believe is necessary to graduate responsible, global-minded citizens.

In response to parent request, we are implementing a more streamlined home-school communication procedure. Wednesday will be **School Communication Day** for all families. Except in emergencies, we will send home school communication flyers (school and PTA announcements, trip permission slips, meal menus, reminders, etc.) on WEDNESDAYS ONLY. Students in grades K-3 will receive this information in their daily folders; but it will all come home on Wednesdays. Students in grades 4-8 will each receive a plastic, color-coded **Communication Folder** each Wednesday. They will fill their folders in class/advisory and bring them home to you on Wednesday afternoon. Please place any papers that need to be signed in the folder to return on Thursday. The folders will remain in school with the classroom/advisory teacher until the following Wednesday.

We are also moving dismissal time to end at 3:30 instead of 3:35. If you pick up your child (walker or driver), please plan to be here no later than 3:30.

One procedure that will remain the same however is morning arrival. Students who are not arriving on school busses may be dropped off on Lombard Street or walked to the front gate entrance between 7:45 and 8:25. At 8:25 we lock the gate and students must enter through the Lombard Street main entrance. **Students arriving in the building at 8:30 or later will be marked late. Students who arrive to class later than 8:30 will be marked late even if they entered the building before 8:30.**

This school year promises to be fun-filled and academically challenging. ICS teachers and staff members are dedicated to providing kids a stimulating and safe environment in which to develop positive learning and social skills. We look forward to your involvement in this process; through your participation in conferences and school events, communication with teachers by phone or email, and willingness to volunteer in any way possible. As a member of the ICS family, your continued support is integral to our success.

Thank you and have a wonderful

2009-2010 school year!

Stephanie Bungard, Principal





Dear Independence Charter Family,

As we enter our ninth year as a school of excellence, please accept my warmest greetings and best wishes for the new 2009-2010 school year.

This coming school year is full of interesting undertakings and challenges. We will be undergoing renewal with the School District of Philadelphia. We will also be entering our Middle States Certification process which will provide us with a strategic view on where we are strong and where we can continue growing and improving, and planning exactly how we can accomplish that. What is even more incredible is that we will begin to plan for our 10th anniversary as Independence Charter in 2010. And to make that just a little sweeter, will also celebrate the 100th birthday of this incredible building!

Just as your child/ren will benefit from your guidance and involvement in their learning experience...so also will we benefit from your help as we undergo renewal, strategic planning, and planning for a wonderful host of celebrations. Please know that you are welcome to help us in this process. I look forward to seeing you all again, and a big welcome to our new parents entering with their children in Kindergarten!

Best, Jurate Krokys, Chief Executive Officer

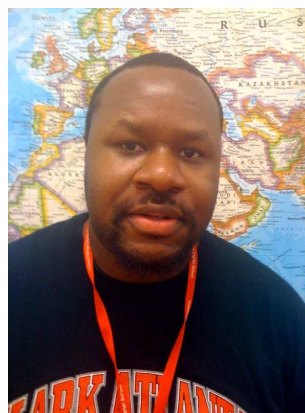
Welcome New Teachers & Staff



Chris Gaskins
Family Liaison



Lela Betts
Reading & ESL Teacher



Dean Kareem Thomas
Dean of Students, Upper School



Ericka Morris
4th Grade Enhanced



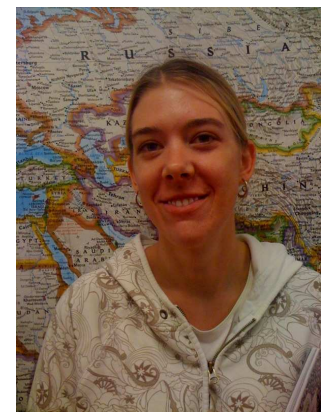
Eva Recio
Spanish Language Arts &
Social Studies, Middle School



Joshua Klur
Middle School Mathematics



Ryan Dunn
Fitness and Movement & SEI
Middle School



Andrea Ringklib
4th Grade Immersion

**In addition we would also like to welcome our three new
Middle School World Language Teachers-**

Tr. Fatan Baraka (Arabic), Tr. Beatrice Bolger (Kiswahili), Tr. Annie Huynh (Mandarin Chinese)

I.C.S. Bulletin Board

Annual Special Education Information Session

Please join us for a discussion about special education and the related services that ICS provides. You will have a chance to ask questions and meet our four special education teachers. All are welcome.

**Wednesday,
October 7th 5:30PM**

Questions- Contact Barb Zisk
barbaraz@independencecharter.org

Back to School Night Tuesday, September 22nd 5PM-8PM

Please mark your calendars to attend Back to School Night on Tuesday, September 22nd from 5pm until 8pm. In the past, ICS Back to School night has spanned over 3 nights. However, in response to parent and ICS staff concerns regarding the challenges of this model, this year we are going to "pilot" having one Back to School Night for the entire school. This approach will allow parents to see all teachers and other staff members, as they can expect that everyone will be here on the same night. Back to School Night will be held on Tuesday, September 22nd from 5pm until 8pm. More details will follow in next week's Wednesday communication folder.

Independence Charter Brick Walkway Dedication Ceremony

Join Independence Charter as we dedicate our Brick Walkway and recognize the many friends who made this possible.

October 16, 2009, at 11:00 a.m.

To rsvp, please contact Leonora Cravotta [via e-mail](#) or by phone at 215-238-8000, ext. 2430.

Independence Charter 365

Fundraising Event- Modeling Global Citizenship Every Day of the Year

Join us for Independence Charter School's annual fundraising event featuring:

An Original Freedom Writer Student

Meet one of Erin Gruwell's students from Wilson High School who helped spark the Freedom Writers movement and was highlighted in the 2007 *Freedom Writers* film.

Meet Michael Farrell, an Independence Charter School teacher, who narrates his experience of teaching in the Independence Charter classroom in the new book

"Teaching Hope: Stories from the Freedom Writers Teachers and Erin Gruwell".

This event showcases the artwork, photography, creative and expository writing of Independence Charter School's students and debuts our 2010 World Holidays Calendar featuring student artwork.

November 13, 2009

6-9 p.m.

Samuel S. Fleisher Art Memorial

719 Catherine Street

Philadelphia, PA 19147

(215) 922-3456

All proceeds benefit Independence Charter's after school and summer school programs.

Tickets are \$55 (\$65 at the door). For more details, contact Leonora Cravotta via e-mail or by phone at 215-238-8000, ext. 2430.

Purchase includes hors d'oeuvres, liquid refreshments, and 2010 Independence Charter Calendar featuring student artwork.



Breakfast

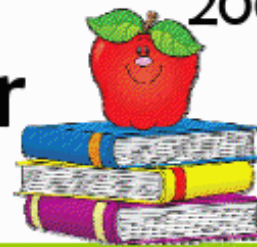
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Milk Choices 2% Low Fat or 1% Low fat Chocolate or Skim Food Contains No Pork Products</p>	1	2	3	4
<h1>Welcome Back!</h1>				
<p>7</p>  <p>Labor Day School Closed</p>	8	9	10	11
	Muffin Yogurt 100% Fruit Juice Milk	Mini Pancakes Fresh Fruit Milk	Muffin Yogurt 100% Fruit Juice Milk	Breakfast Box* Milk
14	15	16	17	18
Breakfast Box* Milk	Muffin Yogurt 100% Fruit Juice Milk	Scrambled Eggs Turkey Ham Fresh Fruit Milk	Muffin Yogurt 100% Fruit Juice Milk	Breakfast Box* Milk
21	22	23	24	25
Breakfast Box* Milk	Muffin Yogurt 100% Fruit Juice Milk	Mini Pancakes Fresh Fruit Milk	Muffin Yogurt 100% Fruit Juice Milk	Breakfast Box* Milk
28	29	30	<p>Breakfast Box Each Breakfast Box consists of a bowl of cereal, box of juice, and graham crackers.</p>	
Breakfast Box* Milk	Muffin Yogurt 100% Fruit Juice Milk	Scrambled Eggs Turkey Ham Fresh Fruit Milk		



Special News

When it comes to good nutrition, all forms of fruits and vegetables matter—fresh, frozen, canned, dried and 100% juice. With 200+ options and a variety of convenient packaging to make fruits and vegetables easy to store and easy to serve, there's bound to be something to please everyone!

Check out www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org for more information



LUNCH

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><u>Prices</u> Student: \$ 2.30 Reduced: \$.40 Adult: \$ 3.50</p> <p>Food Contains No Pork Products</p>	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
 Labor Day School Closed	Cheese Steak w/ Fried Onions Wheat Roll Potato Fries Fruit Milk	Chicken Parmesan over Penne Pasta Tossed Salad Fruit Milk	Sweet & Sour Meatballs over Rice Vegetables Fruit Milk	Meatloaf w/ Gravy Mashed Potatoes Wheat Roll Fruit Milk
14	15	16	17	18
Tuna Noodle Casserole Wheat Noodles Vegetables Fruit Milk	Chicken Enchiladas w/ Wheat Tortillas over Rice & Beans Fruit Milk	Macaroni & Cheese w/ Turkey Ham Stewed Tomatoes Fruit Milk	Sloppy Joe Wheat Bun Vegetables Fruit Milk	Chicken Nuggets Sliced Wheat Bread Tator Tots Fruit Milk
21	22	23	24	25
Spaghetti w/ Meatballs Wheat Roll Tossed Salad Fruit Milk	Hot Dog Wheat Bun Tator Tots Fruit Milk	Fish & Chips Sliced Bread Fruit Milk	 International Day Ghana	Pizza Fresh Baby Carrots w/ Dip Fresh Orange Smiles Cookie Milk
28	29	30		
 SCHOOL CLOSED	Veal Saltimbocca White Beans Spinach Fruit Milk	Chef's Choice Vegetable Fruit Milk	<u>Nutritional Requirements</u> Protein 2oz Fruit/Vegetable 3/4c ea Bread 1s1 Grain 1/2c Milk 8oz	

Welcome Back!

**Served
Daily**

Entrée
Choices

- M- Turkey Ham & Cheese Sandwich on Rye Bread
- T-Turkey & Cheese Sandwich on 12 Grain Bread
- W- Turkey Ham & Cheese Sandwich on Wheat Bread
- Th- Turkey & Cheese Wrap
- F- Turkey Salad Sandwich on Kaiser Roll

Salad

Choices

- M-Asian Chicken Salad
- T-Chef Salad
- W- Harvest Salad with Apples, Dried Cranberries and Chicken
- Th- Turkey Caesar Salad
- F- Taco Salad Or Tossed Salad w/Cheese (All Salads Are served with crackers)

Milk Choices

- 2% Low Fat , 1% Low Fat Chocolate or Skim Milk

A La Cart Choices

- M-F Milk and Juice \$0.40
- M- Granola Bar \$.75
- T- Ice Cream Sandwich \$.75
- W- Yogurt \$.75
- Th- Rice Snacks \$.75
- F- Sun Chips \$.75

All A La Cart Items must be paid for in cash



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