

September 2009 Newsletter



Thursday,
September 3, 2009

Volume 6, Issue 1

Principal's Message:

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. I am enthusiastic about the new school year. Our staff worked very hard at ensuring we had a wonderful start and our students are showing their best behavior and academic performance. During the first weeks of school our teachers are discussing our expectations of student performance and academic achievement with their classes. In addition, students are reviewing skills to ensure they transition into their grade level curriculum successfully.

We appreciate your attendance in last night's Open House. This was an opportunity to learn about your child's educational program. If you were unable to attend, make a point to contact your child's teacher for a parent-teacher conference.

Please join us for our Title I Family Fun Night at the Regency Stadium on September 23, 2009. This will be a fun event and information about our school will be provided. Our PTO is planning our annual PTO Dinner and Silent Auction. This event will be at the Village Green Pavilion on October 2, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

To assist us in providing your child with the best educational program, be sure your child is on time for school. Our doors open each morning at 9:00 a.m. and dismissal is 3:45 p.m. For your child's safety please do not drop-off your child before 8:55 a.m.

If you have not already, please be sure to submit your child's emergency cards (white and yellow) to school. We rely on this information to contact you in the event of an emergency. Remember to contact Mrs. Buckley, Registration Secretary, when you have a change in your phone numbers.

I am pleased to inform you that our school made AYP on MSA 2009. We are in safe harbor in Special Education Reading, however I am confident that we will excel in this area on MSA 2010. In addition to this accomplishment, we were recognized as a PBIS Gold School. This is the highest achievement a school can gain in maintaining a positive learning environment for students.

Finally, I look forward to this school year and making our school the best learning environment for our students. I value your opinion and I am open to hearing your thoughts and concerns. I care very much about our children, our school, and our community.



Warmest regards,

Toni C. Melton-Trainer
Principal

September

- 1 PTO Dinner at 5:30 & Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 2 Open House 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- 7 Labor Day—Schools & offices are closed
- 8 First Day for Category 3 Pre-K
Board Meeting
- 11 Patriot Day
- 14 Claire's Gourmet Fundraiser Begins
- 17 Citizenship Day
- 18 Fair Day—Schools closed for students
- 22 First Day of Autumn
- 23 Title I Family Night—Regency Stadium
6:00-8:45 p.m.**
- 24 PTO Executive Board Mtg. at 2:00 p.m.
- 28 Interims issued
- Two-hour early dismissal – No 3's Program
Title I Family Night—Regency Stadium
6:00-8:45 p.m. (RAIN DATE)**

October

- 1 PTO Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 2 Claire's Gourmet Fundraiser ends
PTO Silent Auction & Dinner 6:00-8:30 p.m.
at the Village Green Pavilion
PTO Coat Drive Begins
- Individual Picture Day
- 8 Regional Road Show—Lackey H.S.**
- 12 Columbus Day—Schools open
- 12-23 CCPS 1st Quarter Assessments for Gr. 1-5
- 16 MSTA Convention – Schools are closed**
- 21 Two-hour early dismissal – No 3's Program**
- 22 PTO Executive Board Mtg. at 2:00 p.m.
- 28 1st Quarter Ends
Family Math Night 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 29 Two-hour early dismissal – No 3's Program**
- 30 Halloween Class Parties/ Parade/PTO Coat Drive Ends

* * Counselor's Corner * *

Welcome back to a new school year! I love the beginning of the school year because everyone is excited and in good spirits. I hope that this will continue as the school year progresses. I am looking forward to reacquainting myself with students and getting to know new students and families.

We will continue with our character education program this year. The students will be learning about different character traits each month. At the end of each month, the classroom teacher picks a student from his/her class that portrays that particular character trait. The student's picture is taken and posted in the front office for everyone to see. Please be looking to see if your child is picked!

In September, the students will be learning about **RESPECT**. Respect is a very important trait because it affects all aspects of our lives. We need to teach our children how to be respectful early on so they can be successful in school and then in the work force. As a school system, we urge you, as parents, to also teach your children about respect: model it for them and reinforce them with praise when they succeed. If you have younger children, a good book to read with them is [The Grouchy Ladybug](#) by Carol Frey, Roseann Meinholz, & Marcia Reed. A great book for the older students is [Felicia the Critic](#) by Conrad. A great website to use as a resource for character education is <http://www.k12.hi.us/~mkunimit/page13.htm>.

Thank you in advance for your support because it is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns about your child, please feel free to contact me by phone at 301-743-5454 or email at vkennedy@ccboe.com. Have a fantastic school year!



Sincerely,
Valentina Kennedy
School Counselor

Parent/Guardian Volunteers

Volunteers are always welcome and needed at Indian Head Elementary School. Everyone can be a school volunteer. Volunteers not only help the school staff; they also assist the children. There are numerous ways to volunteer your time in and out of school so that everyone can achieve their goals. The following is a list of things anyone can do to help:

How to fulfill your commitment:

- Volunteer in the classroom
- Volunteer in the Parent Area any time school is open
- Attend Open House
- Attend PTO Meetings
- Attend student concerts, plays, chorus
- Attend workshops
- Attend Parent Education Meetings held in the county
- Attend Parent /Teacher Conferences
- Help with Fundraisers
- Accompany classes on field trips
- Help in the library
- Take work home to complete and return
- Assist with various school-wide events

School Bus Safety

Here are a few reminders to review with your children when traveling to and from school:

- Always walk to the bus stop never run.
- Be at the bus stop five minutes before the scheduled arrival time.
- While at the bus stop, wait in a safe place. Do not run and play while waiting.
- Be aware of the Danger Zone, which is the area where students are in danger of being hit.
- Never go behind the bus, but cross five giant steps in front of the bus.

Parents are responsible for their children at the bus stop. Don't assume there is another parent at the bus stop to watch your child. Transportation to and from school is a privilege, not a requirement. School Bus privileges can be suspended for behavior problems and violations of school policy.

News from Our PTO!

The Indian Head Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (IHES PTO) is comprised of parents and guardians of students at Indian Head Elementary School. The administration and faculty are also members. There is no fee or registration associated with membership.

Every year the dynamics of the PTO changes with the constant flow of new parents and volunteers. These are people just like you, who care about our children and enhancing their educational opportunities.

The PTO serves the IHES community by means of programs, projects, activities and financial donations.

The PTO is at work throughout the school year. It is only through the help of numerous individuals donating time and talents that this group works so effectively.

Please consider joining any of these efforts to improve and/or enhance the school experience for our children.

Our first meeting is September 1, 2009. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. and is provided by Olive Garden. The General Meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

NOTICE OF VACANCY

The position of Treasurer and Member-At-Large on the IHES PTO Board are vacant. Anyone interested in filling these positions, please call Jocelyn Denyer at (301) 743- 7831. Or leave a message for the PTO at the school at (301) 753-1746. The position will be filled before the October general meeting in accordance with PTO Bylaws.

UPCOMING PTO EVENTS

September 1-30, 2009	T-Shirt Sales
September 1, 2009	IHES PTO, General Meeting 5:30–dinner, 6:00– meeting
October 2, 2009	Silent Auction and Reggiano's Dinner

COLLECTIONS

We are in need of baskets for the auction. Please send in baskets and containers of all sizes. We also need volunteers to put baskets together, and help serve for the Silent Auction.

Don't forget to send in BoxTops, Campbell's Soup Labels, Tyson's Labels–The school gets money and equipment for all we redeem.

Register your Safeway, Giant, and Food Lion cards–The PTO got more than \$150 last year from all your receipts.