



IRVINE HIGH SCHOOL

Newsletter

Monica Colunga, Principal

December 2009

Principal's Message

This fall has been filled with many activities that are highlighted in this newsletter. The energy and excitement that our students produce throughout the school day and then continue through the many evenings of activities have made the weeks of this fall semester go by joyously and quickly. Within no time, our students will be taking their fall semester finals, and the beginning of our spring semester will be upon us. Students continue to amaze us with their many talents and their commitment to the Irvine High School values of Integrity, Honoring Self and Others, and Social Responsibility. We are looking forward to the remainder of the school year being filled with similar energy and enthusiasm.

As we enter winter break, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to all our parent volunteers for their endless contributions and to our teaching and school support staff for their endless dedication to our students. Together, we form a school community that constantly cares for students and strives for excellence.

Let me also take this opportunity to wish each of you a restful and Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Monica Colunga

School Calendar

The following are highlighted dates that will come upon us quickly when we return:

School resumes-Monday, January 4

Martin Luther King Holiday- January 18

Semester finals-January 26-January 28

Semester break- January 29-February 1

Second Semester begins-February 2

Winter Formal- February 13

The California High School Exit Exam (all sophomores)-March 16 and March 17

The California High School Physical Fitness Exam (all freshman)-March 16

Please be sure to look at the school calendar for updates at: www.irvinehigh.org/schoolcalendar

Spring Class Schedules

On January 5, all students will receive a copy of their tentative class schedules for second semester. Parents and students should review this schedule and make sure that courses and minimum number of credits are correct. Instructions for correction procedures will appear on the bottom of each student's schedule. The Counseling Department is asking for all schedules (with or without changes) to be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the advisor by January 8.

National Merit Honorees

Congratulations to our National Merit Semi-Finalist and Commended students. Our Semi-Finalist students are now ranked among the top ½ of 1% of all seniors in the nation who took the PSAT in 2009. These students will be eligible for Finalist recognition in the spring. These students are: Andrew Bain, Razleen Brar, Benjamin Brown, Sarah Chang, Elice Leung, Kenneth Tham, Victoria Tran, Tiffany Wang, Benjamin Weon, Jun-You Wu, Andrew Yoon, and Levin Yucel.

Our Commended students are now ranked among the top 1% of all seniors in the nation who took the PSAT in 2009. These students are: Melissa Chan, Vivi Chen, Sarah Crestol, Helena Do, Siddharth Gupta, Yuling Huo, Soo-Eun Kang, Brian Lee, Brian Macintosh, Andrea Nguyen, Nikki Nguyen, Ditty Parampathu, Priya Patel, Kieran Peleaux, Graham Pezzuti, Andrew Pitts, Nisha Sharaschandra, Paulina Young, and Hanzhe Zhao.

Fall Athletic News

Congratulations to all our fall athletes for their hours of dedication as they competed and represented Irvine High School in their respective sports with, sportsmanship, integrity, and honor. We are proud of all of their efforts. Postseason highlights include the following:

Our Football Team placed 2nd in the Pacific Coast League which qualified them for CIF competition. Our team competed through the first round of CIF Competition.

Our Boys Water Polo Team placed 2nd in the Pacific Coast League which qualified them for CIF competition. Our team competed through the first round of CIF Competition.

Our Girls Cross Country Team placed 2nd in the Pacific Coast League followed by a 3rd place showing at the CIF Prelims, Analicia Silva represented Irvine High School at the State meet where she posted the 3rd fastest time by an Irvine runner and placed 20th.

In Girls Golf Amy Lee represented Irvine High School at the state tournament.

Winter Athletic Updates

Our winter athletic programs are just underway and we are excited with some of our pre-league results.

Our Girls Basketball team is currently 7-3. The girls brought home a championship trophy from the Century Tournament and looking forward as they continue to build on their pre-season experience. Boys Basketball is currently 2-6. They have competed in two competitive tournaments. They will continue their pre-season over winter break in the Mount Carmel Tournament in San Diego. Our Girls Soccer is currently 3-3. They recently competed in Irvine team challenge competing with teams throughout Orange County. They will compete in the North Orange County Tournament over winter break. Our Boys Soccer team young team is currently 1-2-2. They recently competed in Irvine Team Challenge going 1-1-1.

Our Girls Water Polo Team is currently 5-2. They are working together very cohesively and are gearing up and getting ready to begin League Play.

Our Wrestling team is off to another successful season, most recently winning the Irvine City Championship.

Instrumental Music

Irvine High School does it again! The Irvine High Music School Program has again made it to the final round for the GRAMMY Signature school program. This program is designed to recognize the top music programs in the nation, each program must have vocal, band, and strings ensembles to qualify. This year 140 schools nation wide have been selected to enter the final round.

The Mighty Marching Vaqueros had another fantastic fall season. Congratulations to all the Marching Band members for their hard work and dedication to the program.

The Holiday Music concerts were performed on December 9 and 10 at 7:00 PM in the IHS Theater.

The Instrumental Music department's "Guest Artist Concert" will feature Barbara Morrison on March 12, at 7:00 in the IHS Theatre. Irvine High School will once again host one of the largest Jazz Festivals on March 20. Please check the IHS web-site for information regarding our spring concerts. Our annual "In-Concert" is scheduled to take place on June 4 at 8:00 PM at the amphitheater. Please check the IHS web-site for information regarding our spring concerts.

Choral Music

The Choral Music department presented the Holiday Concert on December 16 at 7:30 PM at St. Mark Presbyterian Church. The Sweethearts Concert is scheduled on February 11 at the Irvine High School game gym. The Spring Concert is scheduled on April 20, and the Voices Concert is scheduled for June 10 and 11.

Congratulations to ten of our talented students who were selected by audition to participate in honor choirs sponsored by the Southern California Vocal Association. Our students joined about two hundred of the top singers in Southern California and present an evening concert on November 21. Our ten talented students are: Tiffany Wang, Flora Wang, Jennifer Pei, Janani Ravikumar, Judie Hong, Sarah Chang, Alexa Heitzenrader, Simon Paik, Jesse Singh, Trevor Ainge. Please check the IHS web-site for complete details of concert dates and locations.

Theater and Dance

Congratulations to our Drama department for their successful presentation of the classic *Frankenstein*. This year's musical will be Irving Berlin's *Annie Get Your Gun* on February 23-27 at 7:00pm with a 2:00pm matinee on February 27. For tickets call 949-936-7150.

The Dance Ensemble has been working hard all fall semester choreographing an impressive array of dances. They will perform their Dance Concert on January 4-5, at 7:00 PM in the IHS Theater.

Pride Day

Under the supervision of Mr. Steve Sewell, Mr. Ray Manriquez, and Mr. Flip Larnard, on November 21, over 200 students showed up in force to beautify the campus. They planted trees, flowers, shoveled and carted wood chips and mulch throughout the planters on campus. They cleaned and stenciled new logos on trash cans and washed windows. The respect these IHS students showed toward Irvine High School provides all of us with a great sense of pride. Congratulations to Dennis Cook, ASB and Student Forum officers who volunteered their time to organize the event.

PTSA Reflections Contest

Congratulations to the following students who submitted various work that was recognized by the Irvine Region. They are: Melissa Falz (10th) Literature, Christie Cutler (11th) Photography, Sarah Rundle (12th) Photography, Kelsey Hart (11th) Photography, Sang Yoon (9th) Visual Arts, and Melanie Pak (9th). The PTSA theme this year was "Beauty is..."

Charitable Activities

Every year it is heartwarming to see the generosity of the parents and students of the Irvine High School community as they donate their time and money for the benefit of others. The following activities are a result of the efforts of ASB, Student Forum, Student Advisement, and many clubs on campus:

- In a successful Blood Drive, we collected 68 units of blood.
- This year our student community members collected approximately 2500 cans of food to stock the pantries at "Families Forward" for Thanksgiving and the winter holidays.
- Our TA classes collected nearly \$1,000 in cash toward gift cards that will be delivered to families via "Families Forward".

OUR TEACHERS AND STAFF DESERVE "P.A.T.S." ON THE BACK!

THE IRVINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION PRESENTS
PARENTS APPRECIATING TEACHERS AND STAFF

Thank your child's teachers and special staff members for all of their hard work through the **Parents Appreciating Teachers and Staff (PATS)** program.

There are many reasons to participate in PATS:

- It is a great way to recognize those individuals who make a difference in your child's education.
- Your tax-deductible donation goes directly back into the classroom through the Innovative Teaching Award Program (ITAP).
- Your child's teachers and staff members receive a personalized certificate of recognition with a small gift expressing that you think they are special and how much you appreciate them.

APPRECIATE YOUR FAVORITE TEACHER OR STAFF TODAY!

- \$20.00** donation recognizes one (1) teacher or staff
- \$40.00** donation recognizes three (3) teachers or staff
- \$60.00** donation recognizes five (5) teachers or staff
- \$80.00** donation recognizes seven (7) teachers or staff
- \$100.00** donation recognizes nine (9) teachers or staff

All Donations Must Be Received By March 5, 2010

Please make checks payable to IPSF

Mail check with this page to IPSF

18552 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 200, Irvine, CA 92612.

Please write "PATS" on your envelope!

Teacher/Staff Name: _____

If you are recognizing multiple teachers or staff, please include the necessary information on a separate sheet.

School or Location: _____

Student's Name: _____

Optional Personal Message to be printed on certificate (20 words or less only, please): _____

Parent's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Irvine Public Schools Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

how do I show you
how much

i love you

...this holiday season,
give the gift of memories...

to remember this year forever, reserve a yearbook for your student

order online at www.yearbooksonsale.com or make a \$100 check payable to: Irvine High School,
4321 Walnut Ave., Irvine, CA 92604

please present the attached gift certificate to your student

2nd Deadline

Extended!!!

SENIORS

Senior Ad
prices
before
January
4th

1/8 pg	\$ 90
1/4 pg	\$ 140
1/2 pg	\$ 200
full pg	\$ 350

Dedicate a space to your senior for congrats
or to show off some childhood pictures!

Seniors, you could also **split the cost with friends**
and personalize your very own page together!

Go to www.theyearbookcompany.com for more details.

Senior Ad
prices
after
January
4th.

1/8 pg	\$ 115
1/4 pg	\$ 170
1/2 pg	\$ 250
full pg	\$ 400

Hurry, the deadline for the SPECIAL DISCOUNTED price
is coming up on January 4th!!!

Cut along the dashed line to present
this gift certificate to your child.

Our gift to you this year
is your very own
YEARBOOK

COUNSELING NEWS AND NOTES - WINTER, 2009-2010

GET TO KNOW YOUR IHS COUNSELOR

- Ms. Judi Confrey
- Ms. Linda Davis
- Ms. Connie Franks
- Mrs. Amy Klamberg

MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNSELORS

Do you know a young person who seems sad or one whose life seems to be a series of conflicts with friends, teachers or parents? Most children experience conflict once in a while, or will express sadness about disappointing events in their lives. If these conflicts and crises at home and at school arise on a regular basis, you may be concerned. Talk with your child to understand the events and the patterns of behavior or feelings that led to the conflicts. Contact your child's school counselor and arrange to discuss your concerns. The counselor is an important connection between you and your school and can help you assess your child's intellectual development and social and emotional well being in school.

SUCCESSFUL ACADEMIC PLANNING

- Familiarize yourself with graduation requirements
- Make effect use of your time
- Develop your learning habits
- Monitor your progress
- Building strong academic, language, mathematics and critical thinking skills by taking challenging courses
- Learn about extracurricular activities
- Get to know your counselor
- Visit the LIFE Center
- !!!READ!!!

SAVE THE DATES

Financial Aid Night – January 6
7:00 p.m. at Northwood High School

Community College Day – March 3
10:00 – 11:30 a.m. in HLG
(College Fair during lunch in Quad)

National College Fair – Sunday, April 25
Anaheim Convention Center
1:30 – 4:30

GRADUATION STATUS – SENIORS

A graduation status letter was sent home detailing required credits and courses remaining to be taken. Another will be sent home during spring semester. Make the opportunity to review graduation requirements with your senior to ensure that he/she is on track for receiving an IHS diploma!

SENIORITIS, SENORS Y SENORITAS?

Avoid this contagious bug which is particularly fond of seniors. Tips for preventing senioritis include:

1. Keep your goals in mind – short term, long-term, educational and career.
2. Assess your progress – focus on semester progress and final exams.
3. Maintain responsible behavior with homework and test preparation.
4. Work on study skills – this will be helpful in higher education and training programs.
5. Seek assistance from teachers, tutors and your counselor.
6. Follow your senior schedule as planned – remember, once you have reported your intended courses to colleges, it is your obligation to advise them of any change!
7. Add a course – enroll in a community college course to demonstrate academic maturity.
8. Meet with your counselor to review your transcript for accuracy – many colleges will expect to receive a 7th semester transcript and an 8th semester transcript must be sent to the college you attend.
9. Correct any deficiencies if you have not already done so by making arrangements to repeat a class if necessary.

4th ANNUAL SOPHOMORE COUNSELING CONFERENCES

Beginning in January 2010, IHS counselors will schedule individual High School Planning conferences for all sophomore students. Students and parents will be invited to attend an academic review including graduation requirements the high school transcript, graduation status and post secondary planning. Letters will be mailed home advising of conference dates and times.

PRIVATE COLLEGES

Students who have applied to private colleges are being asked to hold any requests for required Mid-Year reports until the close of fall semester.

COLLEGE VISITS

There is nothing to compare with visiting campuses and taking advantage of a student-led tour to assist you in either developing a list of prospective colleges and universities or for clarifying that final decision. Spring semester offers long weekends for visiting colleges that are close to home and spring break for either quick trips or an extended trip further away from home. Consider picking up a handout entitled “THE CAMPUS VISIT” from the Counseling Office to assist with steps to a successful campus visit.

GUIDEBOOKS ARE NOT THE LAST WORD

*A message from NACAC
The National Association
of College Admission Counseling*

To learn about the variety of college and university options, many students and their families turn to popular publications, sometimes called “college guides”. These books or directories attempt to list various colleges and universities and, sometimes, rate them according to the

publisher's standards. **Remember: guidebooks are not the last word and must be used carefully.** If you decide to use a guidebook or any other rating of colleges and universities, be careful about the conclusions being drawn. If you are beginning to choose a college or university, start by getting as much of the best information as possible. Your counselor may have worked with the colleges and universities you are considering and that knowledge can help make your decision easier. Finally, the best authority is the college admission office.

COLLEGE BOUND "CAN, CAN"

Still undecided? Options are still available to consider. Some private colleges have deadlines of February 1st and later or rolling admissions or no closing date such as Arizona State University, Indiana University, Loyola Marymount University and other out-of-state public universities. Meet with your counselor to clarify your goals and determine a plan of action. Visit the LIFE Center to research your options.

FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIPS

Financial Aid forms may be filed January 1. FAFSA, Cal Grant and GPA Verification forms have a deadline of March 2, 2010. **File early to increase your opportunity to compete for the aid that is available.** Refer to the insert in this newsletter publication. Private colleges often have additional institutional forms with varying deadlines. Be sure to review the applications or call the institution to verify.

Scholarship opportunities may be researched free of charge in publications, on the web, on the Irvine High School web site digital bulletin and in the Scholarship Binder in the Counseling Office. Students are encouraged to review scholarships posted in the IHS Scholarship Binder
DON'T BE FOOLED

Beware of scholarship scams and use caution if you are asked to pay for a scholarship search service.

A genuine scholarship can help to pay for college, but beware of con artists. The Federal Trade Commission says complaints about scholarship scams are rising.

A financial-aid service is probably fake if:

- There's any application fee for a scholarship.
- There's any advance fee for an educational loan.
- A scholarship is "guaranteed".

Be suspicious if you're told that:

- "Billions of dollars of aid went unclaimed last year." That's simply untrue.
- "We apply on your behalf." The reality: You must always submit your own application for a scholarship.
- "We have a high success rate." In fact, fewer than 1% of the people who pay for scholarship services actually obtain one.

For more information, including legitimate (**and free**) ways to find scholarship money, on the web, go to:

www.finaid.org

Holiday Fire Safety

The Orange County Fire Authority and the Irvine Police Department want you and your loved ones to enjoy a safe and happy holiday season. The following safety tips are provided to ensure your holidays are fire safe and injury free.

Intentionally Set Fires

Communities throughout the country see a spike in criminal fire activity during the school holidays. Often times this is attributed to juveniles participating in mischief and vandalism. Unfortunately, the resulting behavior damages people's property and/or causes injuries, leaving parents personally responsible for the subsequent property damage and injuries. Please help us in protecting your family, your home, and the community by ensuring your children do not participate in illegal fire setting. If you or your children see such activity, please call the police.

Christmas Trees

- Cut 2-3 inches off the bottom of a fresh tree and put it in water immediately.
- Check lights for broken sockets and frayed wires before putting them on your tree.
- Place tree away from fireplaces and candles. Ensure the tree doesn't block doorways.

Holiday Lights

- Check cords for frays, broken wires, and loose connections. Replace if damaged.
- Keep electrical connections away from water and moisture.
- Only lights and extension cords designed for outdoor use should be used for outdoor purposes.
- Unplug lights before going to bed or leaving the house.

Candles

- Never use lighted candles on a Christmas tree or near evergreens. Keep away from paper.
- Never leave burning candles unattended and always extinguish before leaving the house or going to bed.
- Keep burning candles out of reach from children and pets.