

Jr. Highlights

Mr. Christopher S. Stultz, Principal
Ms. Marilyn J. Walther, Assistant Principal

Parent Newsletter – September–October 2009
Mrs. V. Haney, Editor – Mrs. S. Grant, Publisher

The Principal's Perspective

Hello everyone and welcome again to the 2009-2010 school year! I was so pleased to see so many of you at the Open House, and I sincerely hope you enjoyed your visit. Please know that we are open to you all the time, so you can feel free to schedule an appointment with your child's teachers or me at any time. Thank you for filling out the feedback form. The number one question was: When will PowerSchool be available to parents? I hope that it is up and functioning by the time you get this newsletter!

We are off to a really good start this year. With the new program, the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, we've made quite a few changes. We've added the FLEX period for this program, and we also had to adjust the daily schedule. Things are going smoothly, and so far, there doesn't seem to be any problems or confusion in our hallways and classrooms. We began the year on a very positive note with the success our students had on the PSSA exams. We increased our 7th grade math proficiency to 85%, our 7th grade reading to 77%, our 8th grade reading to over 88%, and 8th grade math to 73%. All of these figures are way over the AYP (annual yearly progress) targets established by the state! I couldn't be more proud of the job our teachers did last year—and they are ready to do it again this year!

Please note the parent resource about the H1N1 (swine flu) virus included with this newsletter. It contains very useful information about the flu, as well as how to take precautions against it. We are (and will be) implementing as many safety measures as we can, including encouraging staff and students to stay home if they have the flu, washing hands, avoiding direct contact with others, etc. By taking a "common sense" approach, we will all be better off!

School safety remains a major goal at IJHS. It is extremely important that students use crosswalks when coming to or leaving the building. Also for parents, please make sure you drop off your student or pick up your student in the designated areas—it matters!

I hope you are off to a good start for the 2009-2010 school year as well. If you have any questions, please feel free to call!



Chris S. Stultz

Highlights from the Assistant Principal

It has been a wonderful beginning to this school year. What a delight to see all of the students back in school. Our students have been very busy the first week of school, and one of their tasks was to learn the Discipline Code, Behavioral Guidelines and Attendance Policy for the Indiana Area School District. Our policy is adopted by the school board and contains valuable information on topics such as safety, discipline, cell phone, dress code, drugs, alcohol, weapons, tobacco, harassment, and attendance policies. It is important to be familiar with these policies so we can work together to create a positive and safe environment for our students. Parents/guardians, along with their students, are asked to sign an acknowledgement form indicating they are aware of these policies. If you have not yet returned your signed form, please do so as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to an exciting year with many positive changes. One big change is the implementation of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP). This program is research-based with proven results to reduce the number of bullying incidents. Our teachers, aides, custodians, cafeteria workers, and bus drivers were all trained this summer in the Olweus model. For your information, we have enclosed a copy of the IJHS Bullying Prevention Code of Conduct that will be discussed in our class meetings. Currently, we are planning our big Kick-Off event that will take place on **Friday, October 9**. If you would like to help with this event, please call the office. You can learn more about the Olweus program at www.olweus.org.

Once again we will be participating in the Martin's A+ School Rewards Program. This program begins on **October 4, 2009**, and continues through **March 13, 2010**. If you shop at Martin's and designate your rewards card to IJHS, we will receive money that we use to benefit our students. **Our school ID is # 00897**.

There are several ways to register your card:

- Online on the Martin's Website: www.martinsaplus.com
- At the customer service desk right at Martin's grocery store
- Complete the form on page 5, return it to our main office, and we will do the rest!

Even if you have registered your card in the past, each year the registration must be renewed. So, please consider helping our school. It's easy and it benefits our kids.

I look forward to a great school year. I encourage you to keep the lines of communication open as we work together to provide an excellent educational experience for your child.

Marilyn Walther

A stylized illustration of a branch with several leaves. The leaves are in shades of green and orange, suggesting autumn.

H1N1 Swine Flu Update

by Dr. David Allen, District Psychologist

Although a complex disease, I would like to make some simple comments about what is commonly called H1N1 “The Swine Flu.” School-age children appear to be highly susceptible to this flu. However a large majority of ill children have recovered without requiring medical treatment. Under the direction of local medical and emergency management experts, Indiana Area School District is monitoring the constant flow of H1N1 information. In other words, we are staying up to date and planning both prevention and intervention strategies.

At the end of the 2008/2009 school year, there were a number of highly publicized school closings. New guidance from all of the health experts is that schools should not close because of a few cases of students with H1N1. Children who have the flu are usually excluded from school for three to five days. The fever duration is generally two to four days and 24 hours after the resolution of the fever, without fever-reducing medication, the children can return to school. Parental cooperation is essential to the prevention and spread of the H1N1 virus.

Please take a few moments to read the attached paper titled “Talking To Children About Swine Flu (H1N1): A Parent Resource.” If you are looking for additional resources please go to the District’s homepage (www.iasd.cc) and click on the “H1N1 Updates” link.

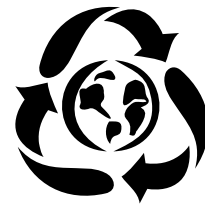
Finally, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of consulting with our school nurses when you have questions or concerns about your child’s physical health. We trust their judgment in helping you to make decisions on school attendance when your child is showing symptoms of illness. Although always concerned about sick children attending school, we are going to be extremely vigilant this year when it comes to the spread of the H1N1 virus.

“Going Green” Initiative Continues!

A school-wide effort is underway to make our school more environmentally friendly by encouraging recycling and reducing paper usage. Administrators, teachers, staff, and students are helping by recycling paper, cans, and ink cartridges throughout the building. The boys’ soccer team is collecting cans to recycle, and STUCO is planning to expand the program, as well. Also included in our going green initiative is the monthly newsletter.

Please do your part! Access the *Jr. Highlights* electronically through our district Web site, www.iasd.cc, or sign up to have the monthly newsletter sent to your e-mail address as an attachment. Parents or guardians without Internet access may select to have the newsletter sent home with their child.

We will continue to mail newsletters home if we don’t hear from you, but we hope you will consider helping us “Go Green” this year! Please return the form below at your earliest convenience, and thank you for your support of this worthwhile project!



Jr. Highlights is the newsletter for families of students at Indiana Area Junior High School. It is published monthly during the school year under the authority of the Indiana Area School District, 501 East Pike, Indiana, Pennsylvania 15701.



IJHS Monthly Newsletter Request Form

I/We prefer to receive the monthly newsletter in the following way: (Please check one:)

- Access the *Jr. Highlights* through the district Web site, **OR**
- E-mail the *Jr. Highlights* to me as an attachment, **OR**
- Send a copy of the *Jr. Highlights* home with my child.

NAME: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

IJHS STUDENT: _____ HOMEROOM: _____



Return this form to your child’s homeroom teacher or mail it to: Attn: Valerie Haney, IJHS, 245 N. 5th St., Indiana, PA 15701.
Thank you.

Winter Athletics Physicals

Physical Information: Students who plan to participate in a winter sport for the 2009-2010 school year, and have not had a physical form completed for this school year, must have their physical forms completed and turned into the nurse by **Friday, November 6**. You may obtain a physical form in the nurse's office.

If a student participated in a fall sport, and has a completed physical form on file in the nurse's office, he or she still needs to stop in the nurse's office to pick up a recertification form before they are able to tryout for winter sports. Physicals for a winter sport must not be dated before October 9.

RECERTIFICATION FORMS MUST BE TURNED IN NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6. The PIAA form states that if an injury or illness occurred in the fall, a new physician's signature will be required.

Starting Dates: The following sports have designated their first day of practice. Please be aware that if students do not have completed physical forms/re-certified physical forms to the nurse by **November 6**, they will not be able to participate in their sport until they are up-to-date with the physical form.

| <u>Sport</u> | <u>Grade</u> | <u>Start</u> | <u>Place</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Boys' Basketball | 7-9 | 11/20 | JR. HIGH |
| Girls' Basketball | 9 | 11/20 | JR. HIGH |
| Wrestling | 7-9 | 11/20 | JR. HIGH |
| Co-ed Winter Track | 9 | 11/20 | SR. HIGH |
| Co-ed Rifle | 9 | 11/20 | SR. HIGH |
| Co-ed Swim/Diving | 9 | 11/20 | MEM./ZINK |
| Hockey | 7-9 | TBA | ICE RINK |



First Fall Dance



The *Crimson Arrow* is sponsoring a dance on **October 2** from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. Tickets will go on sale September 28 for all students. The cost is \$4.

Dance Guidelines

- Dance time is 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. No student will be admitted after 8:00 or will be permitted to leave before 9:30 without parental request.
- Tickets will be sold during lunch the week of the dance. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Students cannot give or sell their tickets to another student. Students with a ticket other than their own will not be permitted to enter the dance.
- Students who received an in-school detention or out-of-school suspension during the time between scheduled dances may not attend the dance.
- Students who are absent from school or who arrive tardy (after 9:15 a.m.) the day of the dance will not be permitted to attend the dance.
- Tickets will be collected and students' names checked off at the door. The dance sponsor will notify parents of students who purchased a ticket but are not present.
- The dress for the dance is to be school appropriate. Administration and sponsor reserve the right to prohibit inappropriate attire.
- Sponsors, chaperones, and police will have the authority to eject from the dance anyone who is a behavior problem, after consulting with the principals. Inappropriate conduct will not be tolerated, and sponsors will notify parents.
- Following the dance, students should be picked up between 9:30 and 9:45 p.m. Parents must be informed of this time, as there are no phones available for student use. Supervision will conclude at 9:45 p.m. Students should leave school immediately after the dance.
- Students who must arrive late to the dance because of a school-related event should notify the office the day of the dance.
- Ticket cost is non-refundable.



Red Feather Yearbook Sale Announced

If you want to remember all the great times from the 2009-2010 school year, plan to purchase the *Red Feather* Yearbook! Orders will be taken throughout the year until **April 1, 2010**. The cost is \$24. Please make checks payable to IJHS.

Attending an Activity at IJHS?

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act and need assistance at an event, please make your needs known to Mr. Stultz or Mrs. Walther in advance. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate you.

★—————★
Early Dismissal Day

On Friday, October 9, students will be dismissed from school at 11:00 a.m. Please plan accordingly for their supervision. Students planning to patronize the businesses in town are reminded to behave appropriately. Parents are asked to take a few minutes to discuss expected common courtesies with them.

★—————★
Make us proud uptown!

School Store Open for Business!

The school store held its grand opening on September 15. The Business Sampler class, taught by Mrs. Janice Brocius, runs the school store, which is located across from the main office. The school store enables students to experience many aspects of the business world through this “hands-on” learning experience. Students order and receive inventory; then they enter the information into the computer. In addition, they organize displays, prepare for customer satisfaction, price items, and design ads.

The store will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from: 7:30-7:40 a.m., Flex Period, 5th Period-open only A and C lunches (closed B lunch), 2:36-2:45 p.m., and Club Period. The store will be closed on Mondays and Fridays. The students involved in the Business Sampler class are ready to begin work! They are **Lalah Ali, Krupa Brahmhatt, Shivani Brahmhatt, Alex Castro, Brittany Evans, Emily Kastelic, Kordell Sesock, Ryan Sorber, Devin Steffey, and Alexa Strong.**



Join PTSA! Membership Drive Underway

PTSA is an important way for you to become involved in your child’s education. Please take the time to join and spread the word that memberships are needed. As a PTSA member, you are helping to strengthen and enrich the educational programs for all of our students. PTSA builds relationships and creates opportunities for parents, teachers, students, administrators, and community members to work on programs and activities that benefit our children. Yearly student dues are \$3.50; Parent/Guardian/Teacher/Community member dues are \$4.50. A membership form is included with this newsletter for your convenience.

STUCO Representatives for 2009-2010

Elections for student council were held last school year for returning 8th and 9th graders. Selected to represent IJHS are:

President – **Austin Jasper**
 Vice President – **Matt Holuta**

Ninth Grade:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alexia Akbay | Tiffany Bray | Chelsea Cornetto |
| Krista Gibbon | Kelly Greene | Kayla Grube |
| Ashley Hill | Mahum Jabir | Katie Jack |
| Molly Masterson | Christi Michele | Morgan Mitchell |
| Caitlin Paterson | Savanna Smith | Audrey Stapleton |
| Haley Stapleton | Jayme Strait | Alexis Tshudy |
| Rachel Zilinskas | | |

Eighth Grade:

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sloane Healey | Nathan Houck | Olivia Kimmel |
| Issac Mastalski | Thomas Nakrosis | Robyn Nicewonger |
| Nyla Numan | Spencer Poston | Hannah Santana |
| Garrett Sharp | Vrenda Soni | Derek Stapleton |
| Sean Thompson | | |



Co-Ed Café Resumes

The new Co-Ed Café students have begun their six-week rigorous training in food service. The students are gearing up for opening day of the Co-Ed Café restaurant scheduled for **October 22**. The café serves faculty and staff homemade soups, sandwiches, special salads and desserts three days a week. Co-Ed Café proves to be an excellent experience for any student, even those not interested in a food service career.

This semester students who will be working with Mrs. Carol Vanscavish and Mrs. Caryn Penrose are **Melanie Barr, Nicholas Bizousky, Courtney Blystone, Andrew Bustillos, Darnae Clemons, Andrew Costello, Cheyenne Domino, Sista Gamble, Jeremy Gaston, Jessica Hurley, Kaliyah Huskey, Aida Issa, Paige Johnson, Scott McKirgan, Morgan Mitchell, Harrison Padasak, Sydney Rosas, Jayme Strait, and Brittany Yankuskie.**







STUCO Craft Show Announced!

The Indiana Junior High School Student Council would like to invite you to attend the 10th Annual Craft Show on **Saturday, October 24** at the Indiana Senior High School. There will be 55 tables of crafters set up from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Door prizes donated by the crafters will be awarded throughout the day. Admission is only \$1.00 and tickets will be sold at the door. Refreshments will be available. The students and crafters are looking forward to your support.

October 2009

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|---|---|------------|-----------------------|---|---|--|
|  | | | | 1 | 2 Dance 7-9 | 3  Indiana Co. BandFest 2009 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 PTSA 6:30 | 8  | 9 Act 80 Early Dismissal Olweus Kick-off Day Homecoming Varsity (Home) | 10 |
| 11 | 12 Act 80 No Classes | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Varsity Football (Home) | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Picture Make-up Day | 24 STUCO Craft Show @ SH 9-3 |
| 25 | 26  | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 End of Qtr. 1 Varsity Football (Home) | 31 Jr. High Girls' Basketball Tournament |



2009-2010

Please join our PTSA

Return this completed form to the Junior High office along with \$ for dues.

Any questions, call the office at 724-463-8568

STUDENT NAME: _____ GRADE: _____ HOMEROOM: _____

DUES: Adult \$4.50

| ADULT(S) NAME | ADDRESS | PHONE NUMBER | ALTERNATE PHONE NUMBER | AMOUNT |
|---------------|---------|--------------|---------------------------|--------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Total Amount Enclosed for PTSA dues: \$ _____

(Please make checks payable to IJHS/PTSA)

DUES: Student \$3.50

| STUDENT(S) NAME | GRADE | AMOUNT |
|-----------------|-------|--------|
| | | |

_____ I would like to contribute to the **Dr. Walter G. Kealey, Jr.** "Do the Right Thing" **Memorial Scholarship**. Please complete a separate check made payable to IJHS/PTSA with a notation for the memorial fund.

Donation Amount: \$ _____.