

IFA Meeting
February 4, 2015

Committee reports:

RECRUITMENT

Feb 21st at 10am is the next & last open house. Last one was full to bursting. Need help with flyers for the next. May need volunteers to call accepted families. Upper grades/middle school applicants, please send our way. There's a form email to send to families.

ENRICHMENT

Chess Club starts tomorrow with 10 students. Looking for another coach. If you have suggestions or contacts, talk to Yashika.

STAFF APPRECIATION

Valentine's Week, give the staff sugar! Setting up a tree with hearts where you can write a note to the whole staff for the tree or for teachers to bring up to the classroom. Signup Genius for bringing treats on Thursday.

FUNDRAISING

2015 Inspired Giving Drive is softly launching. Official drive is 3/6-14. Goal is \$80K. Money will be used to hire a full time music teacher and purchase instruments. ITS can provide music instruction to every student at least once a week. ITS admin has committed to continuing the music program for future years. There's going to be a music program next year, we're hoping it will be a relationship with Education through Music, but even if it doesn't, there WILL be music for all grades starting in the fall. Depending on what we raise, we may have more or less instruments. A generous family will match \$5K between now and 3/6.

3/6 will be big kickoff event. Child/parent karaoke party. No charge for event – for excitement/momentum build.

During week of drive, volunteers will be in lobby every morning to collect donations. Also, will be online giving. Cards will be given during kiss and go.

Saturday, 3/14 is the Inspired Gala. Silent auction – student art and live auction. Really cool space. Live auction is classrooms coming together as a community to bid against each other for classroom experiences & workshops. But the money comes from us!

Make a gift that's meaningful to you. Maybe it's \$20 because that's what you spend to get here every week, or \$200 because you paid that for a music class, or \$2000 because that's what you spent on childcare last year. We would love to get 100% participation – helps with grants.

Do you want to get together with other parents to bundle & match. Talk to Merry, Lucy, & Ana if you want to bundle. Founding families match – get families who've been here from the start to pledge. Think about why you give to any organization & how much the school does for your kids & how much you can help the school grow! For every share on social media, you get an additional \$30. You can set up recurring payments over the course of the year. They'll announce the matches as they are able. Can email fundraising@inspiredteachingschool.org.

Financial Report – See Stephen's one pager

Box tops, we've raised \$230 so far. Mr Berg's class won a prize for participation. Great way to get the kids involved. We may do labels for education as well.

LOWER SCHOOL REPORT

Zoe asked Deborah to share that Mr Dixon has joined us as 4th grade teacher. Tremendous asset. Kids love him.

2nd grade science fair was a success. Such excitement from the kids. They had on lab coats. Talked about their process, scientific method, hypothesis. Authentic and kids learned a lot. Second learning showcase "The big Orange Spot"

Reminder that Valentines Day is candy free.

Questions about maternity leave?

Z will be gone about 4 months. DC guarantees 16 weeks. Making time for her to recuperate and bond. No contact once she's on leave. She plans to return in May. Debbiy, Kate, Latisha, Behavior Intervention Specialist, etc. Debbiy & Zoe have been meeting daily. Debbiy has experience as director of lower school & teachers.

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

They are recruiting teachers who share the mission of our school. They are seconds away from hiring a new school psychologist FT person. This is a Doctoral level psychologist. They are seeking new board members. Board meetings every other month. Monthly committee to meet with committees. Consider it. School will be fully enrolled in 2021. Deadline is next Friday.

Spread the word – let's be kinder to members of our community. Don't park in the crosswalk. As you think about how we contribute to the school, think about our community.

School Nurse? Still getting the runaround.

Crossing guard? We asked for one; no answer.

Kiss & go – expand for unofficial crossing guard? Flyer? Say something politely to a parent.

Start date of school will be in next week's monthly bulletin from Debbiy.

UPPER SCHOOL REPORT

Learning showcase – please come support the middle school students. They presented at the Pulitzer Center. Thanks to parents who came out. They are having more opportunities to “dress up” and we could use some gently used ties. Model UN in April field=trip. Overnight camp in March for 5th grade & June in 6th. Need sleeping bags, camping kits. Amazon wishlist? Started capoeira & kids love it. Chess trip to Florida was great. They got some trophies & did it again in Baltimore this weekend. They got second place & some students got rated. Players are moving up.

Parents asked school to please share middle & lower school news with EVERYONE, not just lower or middle school families.

Tonight met with 3rd & 4th grade families to share what they're looking to in middle school.

YMCA

Nick from YMCA. We serve a lot of schools, and this group is great. Aftercare 120 kids daily plus dropins. Working on service projects (a can drive, care packages for soldiers, kids at Children's Hospital). YMCA offers aftercare subsidies for lower-income families.

Summer camp, part of camp will be here at ITS. Still working on figuring out which camps will be where. Goal is to have camps for each age group at each location. Aquatics, cooking, & rock climbing will be at Bowen. Hoping to have some sports at ITS & some at Harrison & Cardozo. Middle school after care is more club based. They've been working at Deal with middle schoolers and they're trying to get space there as well. We do get priority registration. Our after care staff will be camp counselors. Bowen is not allowed to take vouchers yet, but they're working on getting it. Financial aid is available. Calculation based on income.

Parent - We miss the activities at the Y branch. The Y is working on getting a bus so that it might be possible. Jasmine or aftercare teacher can share the weekly schedule. Nick can email it out. For trip camps, they will leave from Bowen.

Parent - Appreciate black history month learning that happens at the Y. Does ITS do anything like that? "It's ITS' expectation that all students are learning about all people all the time." Teachers want to make sure that these things are done in a developmentally appropriate way.

Submitted by Allison Acosta, Vice President, and adopted by the IFA board,
May 20, 2015