



IES PTA December 2018 Newsletter

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December Greetings!



In the days leading up to the end of the year, it sometimes feels like the holidays can't come soon enough. So while you're counting down the minutes, curl up in your softest blanket, pour some hot cocoa, and make sure to treasure every moment with the ones you love. December gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us, and to do a little something extra special for someone! From all of us at IES PTA, we wish you and your family an amazing holiday season!

Your PTA has been hard at work organizing fun and educational events, so check out updates, important reminders, and the calendar below. And P.S. - Don't forget to join the PTA if you haven't already done so.

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THIS MONTH'S
TOP STORIES



News and Updates

- ❖ [With Gratitude--Winter Coat Drive Update](#)
 - ❖ [Candy for the Troops Update](#)
 - ❖ [Talent Show Update](#)
 - ❖ [MSDE 2017-2018 School Report Cards to be released on 12/4/2018](#)
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Upcoming Events

- Dec 10: [Barnes & Noble Holiday Book Fair](#)
- Dec 13: [Start with Hello \(lunchtime, IES Cafeteria\)](#)
- Dec 18: [PTA Meeting \(7-8pm, IES Media Center\)](#)
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Reminders

- ❖ [Use IES Shutterfly link for Holiday Cards and Gifts](#)
 - ❖ [Remember to use IES Storefront for all your Amazon purchases](#)
 - ❖ [Save the Date-- Junior Achievement Day](#)
 - ❖ [Want to Hear from your IES PTA?](#)
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With Gratitude ~ Winter Coat Drive Update

Our wonderful community came together to collect over 150 winter items! We want to share two personal stories from other schools to highlight the meaningful impact your donations have on HCPSS students and families:

“Two pink coats went to a kind and amazing HCPSS student whose family immigrated from South America. Her father died five years ago. Since then, her mother works two full-time jobs. She and her older brother cook, clean, do laundry and homework on their own. They are both very strong students. A week ago, her mother fell at her job and fractured her leg. Because she does not have sick leave, she was without income for a couple of weeks, making it difficult for her to buy gifts. We were able to provide a fall and winter coat for our student. We were also thrilled to be able to send one home for her Mom too.”

“A beautiful blue jacket went to a little girl who is new to our school. She lives with her guardian and several other children. She does not often have opportunities to be gifted new clothing and I almost cried seeing her with her new coat.”

Candy for the Troops Update

Thank you to all who donated and contributed to this amazing cause! We collected 375 pounds of candy to donate to our local USO! Great job, IES!

Talent Show Update

Kudos to all the students who participated in our Annual Talent Show on November 9th and 16th! We had 45 talented kids who performed variety of acts including singing, dancing, gymnastics, playing instruments, jump rope, and magic shows. We are proud of their courage, dedication, and talent. We hope more kids will shine on the IES stage in upcoming years.

We are so grateful to the dedicated members of the IES community who make this event possible every year including the Administration, Staff, and Parents. Thank you for supporting our children! We are also immensely thankful to Ms. Maglocchi and Momina Malik for working to make this PTA event a huge success for the past six years.

MSDE 2017-18 School Report Cards (December 4)

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) will release a *2017-18 School Report Card* containing data about your child's school as part of the requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), signed into law in 2015. This is the first year this school data report will be issued. The report will provide a snapshot of how each school is performing based on the ESSA indicators, which include academic achievement, academic progress (for elementary and middle schools), rate of chronic absenteeism, access to a well-rounded curriculum, graduation rates and college and career readiness indicators (for high schools). The report will provide insight into areas in which the school is doing well and areas where improvement is needed. The results that our schools receive will provide valuable insights that will be used as a measuring stick for school growth, and as a baseline measure from which to assess improvement in subsequent years. MSDE plans to make the school reports public on December 4, 2018. [Information on ESSA](#) can be found here.

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Holiday Book Fair (December 10, 5-8PM)

The IES PTA will again be holding a Holiday Book Fair at the [Long Gate Barnes and Noble](#). This event is a perfect time to get all your holiday shopping done! The Book Fair will include story time with IES teachers, musical performances from IES students, displays of student artwork, and recommended book lists. Planning to buy a holiday gift for your child's teacher? Why not buy a book they can use in the classroom? Wish lists from different teachers will be available, so you can find the perfect addition to their class. Purchases from the Barnes and Noble Cafe will also contribute to our Book Fair earnings. The cafe will have Cheesecake Factory whole cheesecakes available for purchase (yum!). A portion of proceeds ALL DAY on Monday December 10 will go to your IES PTA. Just be sure to show the [voucher](#) (hard copies were included in Friday Folders). Contact: [Ginny Zimmerman](#).

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Start with Hello (December 13, Lunchtime)

Start With Hello (SWH) is designed to bring individuals and communities together to foster looking out for and caring for one another. Through fun lunchtime activities and guidance content, SWH promotes social inclusion and community connectedness by encouraging students to get to know more about their amazing and diverse classmates. Ms. Morrison will lead a lunch session full of icebreakers and conversation starters. We are excited to have parent volunteers join us to help facilitate the conversation. Volunteer at [Sign Up Genius](#) to come share in a fun and fruitful lunch time activity!

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PTA Meeting (December 18th, 7-8PM)

Please join us for our monthly PTA meeting in the IES Media Room. As always, childcare is provided. We look forward to connecting with you.

Shutterfly Gifts and Cards for the Holidays

Ready to order your Holiday Cards and gifts? Shop at Shutterfly and Tiny Prints and Earn 13% for IES PTA! We are excited to continue this “free money” program! If you will be shopping at Shutterfly or Tiny Prints, please make all your orders through our [IES PTA Storefront](#) and 13% of your purchases will be donated to IES PTA! So go ahead and make those Holiday cards, order Holiday gifts and calendars, all while earning free money for IES PTA activities. Contact: [Colleen Howland](#).

[Donate to IES PTA](#)

Donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases to the IES PTA, every time you shop on Amazon. Simply click the link above to make IES PTA your charitable organization. You must use this page, as the regular Amazon homepage will not automatically link to Amazon Smile. Small amounts add up and can make a huge difference – don’t delay, bookmark your Amazon link today! Contact: [Nikki Wilcox](#).



Save the Date - Junior Achievement Day (March 15)

Make sure to hold the date for this all day event which is a common core aligned program that introduces students to a lifetime of learning about finance and career success. The program aims to inspire and prepare students to succeed in our world’s economy by delivering grade appropriate real world experiences and material to the classroom. Parent volunteers teach one of six sequential themes in K-5 grades. Each theme has hand-on activities to help student understand business, economics, and financial literacy.

Want to Hear from your IES PTA?

We would love to hear from you! To keep up with IES PTA events, please check in with us on our [Website](#), and make sure to like our [Facebook](#) page. We also will eblast important reminders and updates on Thursdays each week, and send out this awesome newsletter monthly, often at the end of the month. Some of our events include fliers and important information that is sent in your child's Friday Folders, so please keep an eye out. Finally, we update our Bulletin Board and Showcase regularly so please check them out on your next visit to IES!



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