



IES PTA February 2019 Newsletter

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Lovely February!



February is upon us, and it's due to be a packed month. With Black History Month, Chinese New Year, the Super Bowl, Valentine's Day, and Mardi Gras quickly approaching, you need to shake off the winter blues fast and get ready to celebrate!

The name February comes from the Latin term *februarius mensis*, referring to a month of purification. The Roman calendar was changed in 700 BCE to include February, then called Februarius, to extend the year and make it longer.

Your PTA has been hard at work organizing fun and educational events for February, so check out updates, important reminders, and the calendar below.

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THIS MONTH'S
TOP STORIES



News and Updates

- ❖ [February Family Reading Suggestions](#)
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Upcoming Events

- Feb 14: [Staff Dinner \(4:45-5:45pm, IES Cafeteria\)](#)
 - Feb 19: [PTA Meeting \(7-8pm, IES Media Center\)](#)
 - Feb 21: [Start with Hello \(lunchtime, IES Cafeteria\)](#)
 - Feb 28: [Junior Achievement Volunteer Training \(6-7pm, IES Media Center\)](#)
 - Feb 28: [Inaugural Speaker Series/Movie Night \(6-8pm, IES Cafeteria/Media Center\)](#)
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Reminders

- ❖ [Raise Craze - Fundraising Through Kindness \(March 1-18\)](#)
 - ❖ [Save the Date - Family Fit Night \(April 11\)](#)
 - ❖ [Ways to Donate to the IES PTA \(Amazon Smile & Winter 2019 Box Tops Contest\)](#)
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February Family Reading Suggestions

Each month, we suggest books, activities, and resources to engage your children! These suggestions correlate with special celebrations for the month. We will also donate some of these selections to the IES Media Center. Here are some highlights for this month!

❖ [Black History Month](#)

- [African American Booklist](#), a list from the National Education Association that celebrates African American heritage, tradition, and achievement.
- [Something Beautiful](#) by Sharon Wyeth, illustrated by Chris Soentpiet (age level: 3-6, Beginning Reader). A young girl learns to find beauty in her sometimes gritty urban neighborhood, showing how the way one sees makes a difference that affects others. Luminous watercolors detail the child, her neighborhood, and suggest what she sees around her.
- [Bill Pickett: Rodeo-Ridin Cowboy](#) by Andrea Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney (age level: 6-9, Independent Reader). The most celebrated Black cowboy was Bill Pickett, a fearless rodeo star with a knack for taming bulls that brought the crowds to their feet. The closing note in this book provides an overview of the history of rodeos and Black cowboys.
- [Ghost Boys](#) by Jewell Parker Rhodes (age level: 9-12, Independent Reader). A gripping and poignant story about how children and families face the complexities of today's world, and how one boy grows to understand American blackness in the aftermath of his own death.

❖ February 5: Chinese New Year

- [Red Is a Dragon: A Book of Colors](#) by Roseanne Thong, illustrated by Grace Lin (age level: 3-6, Beginning Reader). A little girl discovers a rainbow of colors in the world around her. Red is a dragon in the Chinese New Year parade, yellow are the taxis she sees on her street, green are jade bracelets. With rich illustrations, fun rhyming text, this book will brighten every child's day!
- [Sam and the Lucky Money](#) by Karen Chinn, illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright & Ying-Hwa Hu (age level: 6-9, Independent Reader). Sam can't believe that he has his very own lucky money to spend for New Year! But when Sam meets an old homeless man, he realizes that there are better things to do with his lucky money. Conveys the impact of generosity.
- [In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson](#) by Bette Bao Lord, illustrated by Marc Simont (age level: 9-12, Independent Reader). Based on the author's own experiences, the story captures the highs and lows of coming to live in a new country, learning English, and falling in love with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

❖ February 18: [President's Day](#)

- [Presidential Reads Booklist](#), a list from the National Education Association that honors the contributions of those who have served as President.

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Staff Dinner (February 14, 4:45- 5:45PM)

The PTA will be providing a dinner full of comfort food to warm the hearts of IES staff during their parent-teacher conference night, which happens to fall on Valentine's Day! Please [Sign Up](#) to to volunteer anything that fits your budget and schedule.

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PTA Meeting (February 19, 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.

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Start with Hello (February 21, 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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Junior Achievement Volunteer Training (February 28, 6-7PM)

On Friday, March 15, IES will again participate in [Junior Achievement Day](#), an all day event that introduces students to a lifetime of learning about financial literacy 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. It's an incredible day for our students, and we receive great feedback every year!

A training session for parents who have generously volunteered to "teach" in each of our classrooms is being held in the IES Media Room. Contact: [Danna Stanyard](#).

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Inaugural Speaker Series/Movie Night (February 28, 6-8PM)

The PTA is excited to announce a new event that is sure to please both children and parents! We will be hosting a speaker event for parents on issues related to parenting elementary school children in combination with a movie night for kids.

We are proud to present [Nikki Highsmith Vernick](#), President and CEO of the [Horizon Foundation](#) as our inaugural speaker. Ms. Vernick will discuss the multiple opportunities to improve early diagnosis and treatment for child mental health in Howard County and within HCPSS, efforts to promote positive mental health and wellness in our schools and communities, and what we as parents can do to help our children manage stress and feelings of anxiety and uncertainty.

Along with [Howard County Dads](#), we are delighted to sponsor a fun movie night for IES students in combination with our speaker event. **Pizza, popcorn, and water will be provided!** Come to meet other parents and discuss an important topic, all while your children enjoy a great movie! Stay tuned for more information. Dads looking to volunteer can contact [Howard County Dads](#).

Event Contact: [Thurka Sangaramoorthy](#).

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Save the Date - Family Fit Night (April 11)

Enjoy a family-inspired, 2-hour event that encourages healthy living. Parents and kids exercise side by side. Kids enjoy nutritious snacking and a dance party, while parents learn key lunchbox strategies to pack a wholesome and tasty lunch kids will love. Volunteers are needed to help with registration and sign-ins! Contact: [Laurie George](#).

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Raise Craze - Fundraising through Kindness (March 1-18)

Please join us this year for a unique way to raise money for our school while helping our community. Students will ask friends and family for donations and, as a way of thanking those donors, pay it forward by performing acts of kindness for others in our community. They spend time serving not selling, and learning about compassion and gratitude along the way. Please look for information coming your way in Friday folders, and come join us for **Service Night on March 7** to learn about community service opportunities, donate to those in need, and perform acts of kindness! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact: [Amy McCarthy](#).

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[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](#).



Winter 2019 Box Tops Contest

IES receives 10¢ for every [Box Top](#) submitted. Funds are used to support IES programs. Steps:

1. Cut Box Tops from your favorite snacks. (Ask friends/family to help too)
2. Check that the expiration date is after March 1, 2019.
3. Place UN-expired Box Tops in a plastic sandwich bag.
4. Write your child's homeroom teacher's name on the front of the bag.
5. Have your child drop the bag(s) off in the designated collection box in their pod/classroom as early as possible, but no later than **February 22, 2019**. Contact: [Nikki Wilcox](#).



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