



IES PTA January 2019 Newsletter

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Happy New Year!



2019 is finally here and it is time to usher in the new year with good spirit and cheer. Time to make new resolutions, greet friends and family, and welcome January with good food and positive thoughts. From all of us at IES PTA, we wish you and your family a great and inspirational year ahead!

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

- ❖ January Assembly - Barry Louis Polisar
 - ❖ Barnes & Noble Book Fair
 - ❖ New PTA Initiative - Family Reading Experience: Calendar of Monthly Observances
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Upcoming Events

- Jan 15: PTA Meeting (7-8pm, IES Media Center)
- Jan 16: Restaurant Night (4-8pm, Noodles & Co)
- Jan 17: Start with Hello (lunchtime, IES Cafeteria)
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Reminders

- ❖ Volunteers Needed for Junior Achievement Day (March 15)
 - ❖ 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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January Assembly ~ Barry Louis Polisar

Renowned author, songwriter, poet, and story-teller, [Barry Louis Polisar](#), welcomed back our very own IES students from winter break. On January 2, he performed two entertaining and informative author programs and concerts. Using these high energy performances, he discussed song writing and the many ways to be an author.



A five time Parents' Choice Award winner, Barry is a pioneer in the world of music for children. He has recorded and shared his songs, poems, stories, and books with audiences throughout the world and has performed at The White House, The Smithsonian, and The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. His performances are included in two different Grammy Award-winning albums, and his song [All I Want is You](#) can be heard in the opening credits of the Academy Award winning movie Juno.

Barnes & Noble Book Fair

Thanks to all who made our Barnes & Noble Book Fair a great success! It was wonderful seeing our community come together to listen to teachers read stories, hear wonderful musical performances by students, listen to readings from our talented young authors, and see the amazing artwork on display!

Over 40 books were purchased to add to IES teachers' class libraries and many students were so excited about the countless books they saw. We had 59 students estimate the number of snowballs covering our snowman, with a few estimates coming fairly close to the whopping 2039 cotton balls that were used! Thanks again for supporting this event and your IES PTA!



Family Reading Experience Monthly Calendar

Each month, we will offer suggested books, activities, and resources to engage and motivate your children! These suggestions correlate with special celebrations and observances for the month. Here are some highlights for this month!

- ❖ January 1: [New Year](#)
 - [Read in the New Year](#), a booklist from the National Education Association that introduces the diversity of New Year celebrations throughout the world and get readers talking about their own New Year's traditions.
- ❖ January 4: [World Braille Day](#) and Birthday of Louis Braille
 - [Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille](#) by Jen Bryant; Illustrated by Boris Kulikov
- ❖ January 21: [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service](#)
 - [Marley Dias Gets It Done \(And So Can You!\)](#) by Marley Dias: Explore activism, social justice, volunteerism, equity, inclusion, and how to use social media for good while ‘keeping it real’ with Marley.
 - [City Green](#) by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan: There is a garbage-filled, vacant lot on the street where Marcy lives. Instead of growing flowers in coffee cans like they usually do each spring, she and her friend Miss Rosa decide to plant a garden there. Their enthusiasm and energy spread and everyone in the neighborhood joins together to create an urban oasis.
 - [Luna and Me: The True Story of a Girl Who Lived in a Tree to Save a Forest](#) by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw: Julia “Butterfly” Hill was born much later than Luna, a thousand year old redwood tree. But her bravery and tenacity saved Luna and the forest from destruction by living in the tree for about two years. This unusual story of activism is told from the perspective of both Butterfly and Luna accompanied by gentle, eye-catching, and informative illustrations.
 - [Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangara Maathai](#) by Claire Nivola: Wangari Maathai's native Kenya was a changed land, literally blowing away because its trees and growth had been destroyed. Rather than complain, she started a reforestation effort for which she was the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Handsome illustrations combine with crisp text to tell the story of one person's impact.



PTA Meeting (January 15, 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.

Restaurant Night (January 16, 4-8PM)

Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support IES PTA at [Noodles & Co](#) Columbia. Come in between 4PM-8PM and tell the cashier you're supporting the cause/ show this [flier](#) and 25% of proceeds will be donated to IES PTA.

Start with Hello (January 17, 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!

Volunteers Needed - Junior Achievement Day

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!

In order for this day to be a success, we are looking for 2 parents or community members to volunteer to "teach" in each of our classrooms on [Friday March 15th \(from 9:00-3:00\)](#). All the curriculum, teaching guides, and materials will be provided, and the classroom teacher will be there to help. You will need to attend a training session held on [February 28th from 6:00-7:00](#), and spend time reviewing the material. The total time commitment is 10 hours (1 hour of training; 2 hours of prep work; 7 hours the day of event). This is a terrific opportunity to get involved in your child's classroom and IES. Contact: [Danna Stanyard](#) with your name and classroom preference if you are interested in this volunteer opportunity.

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.

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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