



IES PTA March 2019 Newsletter

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March is Here!



March brings with it the promise of gardening and warmer, sunny days, as Earth turns its frostbitten cheek to winter and springs forth from the vernal equinox!

March was named for Mars, the Roman god of war. March was the first month of the year until the Gregorian calendar began to be used in 1752. In March, we celebrate Women's History Month. Other popular events are Read Across America (March 2, which is Dr. Seuss' birthday), St. Patrick's Day (March 17), Pi Day (March 14), and Daylights Saving Day.

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

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THIS MONTH'S
TOP STORIES



News and Updates

- ❖ [March Family Reading Suggestions](#)
 - ❖ [Staff Appreciation Dinner - Giving Thanks](#)
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Upcoming Events

- March 1-18: [Raise Craze - Fundraising Through Kindness \(IES\)](#)
 - March 13: [Math Restaurant Night at Uno Pizzeria](#)
 - March 14: [Start with Hello \(lunchtime, IES Cafeteria\)](#)
 - March 15: [Junior Achievement Day \(IES\)](#)
 - March 19: [PTA Meeting \(7-8pm, IES Media Room\)](#)
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Reminders

- ❖ [International Night - A Celebration of Diversity, Heritage, and Culture \(April 11\)](#)
 - ❖ [Spring Festival - Mark Your Calendars \(May 11\)](#)
 - ❖ [Ways to Donate to the IES PTA \(Amazon Smile and Box Tops for Education\)](#)
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March 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!

❖ [Women's History Month](#)

- [Women's History Month Booklist](#), a list from the National Education Association that recognizes and celebrates the history of women.
- [Players in Pigtaails](#) by Shana Corey, illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon (age level: 3-6, Beginning Reader). Katie Casey follows her passion for baseball and winds up playing for one of the professional girls' teams and wins. The little known opening of a well-known tune, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," inspired this fictionalized look at the professional all-girls baseball league that thrived during World War II.
- [Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman](#) by Louise Borden & Mary Kay Kroeger, illustrated by Teresa Flavin (age level: 6-9, Independent Reader). Bessie Coleman grew up picking cotton in Texas, but she aimed high – soaring into history as the first African American woman aviator. Her riveting story is told in inviting, rhythmic language and engaging illustration.
- [Seesaw Girl](#) by Linda Sue Park (age level: 9-12, Independent Reader). Jade longs to see the world beyond the walls of her family's household. But Jade lives in 17th century Korea, where girls and women are restricted. When she figures out a way to get to the outside world, Jade's observations and experiences reveal a different time and place, but also dreams and wishes that contemporary readers will recognize.

❖ [National Reading Month](#)

- [20 Great Read Aloud Titles](#) Celebrate the 20th anniversary of National Education Association's Read Across America with this annotated list of 20 great read-aloud titles that include suggestions for use in a read-aloud setting.

❖ March 21: [World Poetry Day](#)

- [Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes and Friendship](#) by Irene Latham & Charles Waters, illustrated by Sean Qualls & Selina Alko (age level: 8 and up, Independent Reader). Irene and Charles end up as partners for a poem-writing project, exploring such topics as family, friends, food, race, and the world around them.

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Staff Appreciation Dinner - Giving Thanks

With your help, the PTA hosted a staff dinner on Valentine's Day to show our appreciation for IES staff after a long day of meeting with families for conferences. The staff enjoyed Mission BBQ, macaroni and cheese, salad, bottled drinks and some amazing desserts. Thanks to all the IES families who contributed items, gift cards, and their time to make this event a success. And a special thank you to our wonderful PTA volunteers for organizing the event!



Raise Craze (March 1-18)

Raise Craze is here! March 1 marks the start of IES's BFF – big friendly fundraiser! During Raise Craze, students will seek donations for IES from family and friends, and in return will “pay it forward” by performing acts of kindness. Registration instructions will come home with students as well as some awesome stories from their Kick-Off Assembly. Registering is quick and easy, and should be done with your child! Once registration is complete, students have until March 15 to complete their chosen Acts of Kindness.

Please also plan to attend Service Night at IES on **March 7 from 6:30-8:30pm**. This inaugural event will feature local organizations that provide services to our community, information on volunteer opportunities for families, and several acts of kindness for students to perform! Don't forget to bring one or more of the following items to donate:

- ❖ Children's pajamas (new) for Casey Cares*
- ❖ Books (new or gently used) for Stevens Forest Elementary School
- ❖ Canned food for the Howard County Food Bank
- ❖ Recess toys like jump ropes, basketballs, kick balls, etc. (new or gently used) for HCPSS Title 1 Schools
- ❖ Tissues for IES Staff
- ❖ Dog and cat food for the Howard County Animal Control & Adoption Center
- ❖ Look for more information to come on the March 18 closing celebration!

**Our school-wide Act of Kindness is the Casey Cares pajama donation. Let's encourage as many students as possible to select donating to this wonderful organization as one of their chosen Acts! Contact: [Amy McCarthy](#).*

Math Restaurant Night (March 13, 11AM-11PM)

Join us for a fundraiser to support IES PTA at Uno Pizzeria (4470 Long Gate Pkwy)! Come in between 11AM-11PM and tell the cashier you're supporting the cause and up to 20% of the proceeds will be donated to IES PTA. **Math Night will take place from 5:30-7:30PM!** Please remember to present this [flier](#) when you visit.

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Start with Hello (March 14, 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. [Sign up](#) to volunteer and come share in a fun and fruitful lunch time activity!

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Junior Achievement Day (March 15, All 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! Contact: [Danna Stanyard](#).

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PTA Meeting (March 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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International Night - A Celebration of Diversity, Heritage, and Culture (April 11)

Please join us from 6:30-8:30PM to celebrate the wonderful and diverse communities that make up IES! Sign up to participate and volunteer here: [IES International Night 2019](#). We are looking for volunteers to set up and decorate table displays, participate in a cultural parade or performance, and share traditional food samples. Contact [Momina Malik](#).

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Spring Festival – Mark Your Calendars (May 11)

We are very excited for this fun family event with games, food, music, raffles, prizes, and more! Details will be coming soon! A special thank you to our Early Bird Sponsors below: [Wegmans](#), [OUCH Urgent Care](#), [Victory Martial Arts Tae Kwon Do](#), [Mathnasium Of Columbia](#), [Midas Rx Pharmacy](#), [Chinese American Parent Association of Howard County](#), [Kumon](#), [Bob Lucido Team](#), [OX Orthodontix](#), [Johns Hopkins Medical Imaging](#), [Johns Hopkins Community Physicians](#), [Code Ninjas](#), [Pazani](#), [Chuck Norris Morgan – State Farm](#), [Sean Williams – Mortgages](#), [Katherine Mock – Independent Lilla Rose Stylist](#), [Eye of The Needle Embroidery](#). We are still accepting sponsorships through April 1, so please contact IESSpringFestival@gmail.com to find out about how your business can partner with the PTA. [Click here](#) for the sponsorship form.

PLUS We are looking for IES community members to donate goods, services, tickets, or gift certificates for our silent auction and basket raffles for our inaugural Spring Festival! We also have a cakewalk planned for the event and are hoping for donations of baked goods that our students will be excited to win. Please visit our [Sign Up Page](#) for more info.

[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](#).



Please help IES programs by donating your Box Tops from specially marked packages. IES receives 10¢ for every Box Top submitted.

Steps:

1. Cut Box Tops from your favorite snacks.
2. Check that the expiration date is **11/1/2019** or later.
3. Save the box tops in a plastic baggie so you are ready for the next box top contest. If you don't want to wait, send in the box tops to the school and have kids drop off in a designated collection box in their classroom/pod area.



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