

IES PTA September 2019 Newsletter

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Welcome Back!



Welcome back! It was great to see so many of you at Open House and Back-to-School night!

As you rest and regroup this weekend, take a minute to check out our updated website - <http://iespta.weebly.com>. There you will find details about upcoming PTA events, all of our updated forms and flyers, as well as contact information and a link to connect with us on Facebook. Your PTA is looking forward to the year ahead, and we have already been hard at work organizing fun and educational events. Consider joining the PTA and making a donation to help pitch in.

We look forward to connecting with you!

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THIS MONTH'S
TOP STORIES



News and Updates

- ❖ [September Family Reading Suggestions](#)
 - ❖ [PTA Meeting \(September 24, 7-8PM\)](#)
 - ❖ [PTA Membership and Donation Drive](#)
 - ❖ [School Readiness Checklist](#)
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Reminders

- ❖ [Sign up to volunteer with the PTA](#)
 - ❖ [Ways to Donate to the IES PTA](#)
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September 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!

❖ [Hispanic Heritage Month](#)

- [Imagine](#), written by Juan Felipe Herrera; illustrated by Lauren Castillo (age level: 4-8, Beginning to Independent Reader). When Juan Felipe Herrera was very young, he picked flowers, helped his mama feed the chickens, slept under the starry sky, and learned to say goodbye to his amiguitos each time his migrant family moved on. When he grew up, he became the United States Poet Laureate. This beautiful free verse memoir invites you to “imagine what you could do.”
- [Under the Lemon Moon](#) written by Edith Hope Fine, illustrated by Rene King Moreno (age level: 6-9, Beginning to Independent Reader). One night Rosalinda is awakened by a noise in the family's garden. She is astonished to see a man creeping away with a sack of fruit from her beloved lemon tree. Rosalinda seeks out *La Anciana* for advice. The wise old woman offers an inventive way to help the tree and the man driven to steal her lemons. This charming story explores how it feels to get gifts – and to give them.
- [I Lived on Butterfly Hill](#) written by Marjorie Agosín, illustrated by Lee White (age level: 9-12, Independent Reader). Celeste Marconi lives peacefully among friends and neighbors and family in the idyllic town of Valparaiso, Chile – until the time comes when even Celeste, with her head in the clouds, can't deny the political unrest that is sweeping through the country and is eventually sent by her parents to Maine. Steeped in the history of Pinochet's catastrophic takeover of Chile, this multicultural ode to the power of revolution, words, and love is both indelibly brave and graceful.

❖ Library Card Sign-Up Month

- [Read Across America Booklist](#), a list from the National Education Association that celebrates libraries and librarians.

❖ September 8: [International Literacy Day](#)

- [Literacy and Multilingualism Resources](#), a list from UNESCO that celebrates linguistic diversity in education and literacy development.

❖ September 22-28: [Banned Books Week](#)

- [Frequently Challenged Books for Kids](#), a list of books from Common Sense Media and the American Library Association that have been challenged by individuals or groups seeking to have them removed from libraries or classrooms.

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PTA Meeting (September 24, 7-8PM, Media Room)

Please join us for our first monthly PTA meeting in the IES Media Room to meet parents, staff, and administrators and to hear about what is being planned for the year. As always, childcare is provided. We look forward to connecting with you!

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PTA Membership and Donation Drive

Why join PTA? Why donate? The number one reason to join the IES PTA is to benefit your child, be a role model, and stay connected with our community! Your \$10 membership shows your support for our school, and allows us to continue our focus on student and staff support and community outreach. Your membership helps us to bring parents, students and teachers together! Our goal is 100% family membership and participation this year! Volunteering is not a requirement for membership, but we'd love your help as your schedule permits. Where do membership fees and donations go?

Student Support & Advocacy - student assemblies, field trips, class events, annual book fair, Kindergarten Spring Sing, 1st and 2nd grade Author's Tea, school plays, Jr. Cheetah Day, Start With Hello, Cultural Arts, and Field Day.

Educator & Staff Support - classroom supply stipends, workbooks, reading and math resources, special education enrichment, GT fairs, teacher and staff appreciation events.

Family Outreach - International night, talent shows, bingo, community speakers, movie nights, and annual festivals.

Will there be additional fundraisers this year? This is our primary fundraiser for the year, and its success determines the need for additional fundraising. You can show your support throughout the year by attending events, volunteering, attending restaurant nights, purchasing spirit wear, and shopping through reward programs.

New this year - pay online! Visit <http://iespta.weebly.com/> and click on the link to pay via Paypal. Important: Please include all requested information in the notes section, so we can properly track memberships and donations. You can also return this [form](#) (see back) with payment to the front office, or send in with your child in an envelope labeled "Ilchester Elementary PTA Membership/Donation."

DUE DATE: October 5, 2019 You can become a member at any point in the year, but please join by the due date to help us continue to provide the planned Fall programs. Drop off this [form](#) along with payment to the front office, or pay online by: October 5, 2019 This year the Membership and Donation campaign will serve as our Fall fundraiser. We are depending on you to help your PTA start the year strong!

Questions? Contact Katie Keefe, PTA Membership Lead at: Kkeefe@vt.edu or Carmella Hart, PTA President at: IlchesterPTA@gmail.com.

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School Readiness Checklist

Here is a checklist of things to help make sure you are equipped with the information you need to have a successful year:

1. Join the IES PTA

Download and fill out the [paper form](#). Make checks payable to IES PTA or [pay online!](#)

2. First PTA Meeting

The first PTA meeting is **Tuesday, September 24th at 7 pm in the IES media center**. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and find out more about what the PTA does.

3. Connect with IES PTA on Facebook

Keep up to date with the latest news and information by [connecting with IES PTA](#) on FB.

4. Volunteer with IES PTA

We have opportunities to fit any schedule. Check out all the ways to be [involved!](#)

6. School and PTA Calendar

You can view the [school calendar](#) and the [PTA calendar](#) to see what events are upcoming.

7. Complete your Family File

Please complete your [family and emergency contact information](#). The PTA school directory will be distributed electronically again this year. If you would like to receive one, make sure to opt in to be included in the directory, with at least one parent name, one student name and grade/teacher, and one email. Only those who opt in will receive one by email.

8. School Lunch Account

Add money to your child's lunch account at www.myschoolbucks.com or [apply for free and reduced meals](#).

9. Student and Parent Handbook

The [HCPSS Student and Parent Handbook](#) is a great resource if you have questions about the school.

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Volunteers Needed

We have several positions open that could use your talent and enthusiasm! Please fill our Volunteer Interest Form [HERE](#) to get started. In particular, we'd love to have volunteers to keep the kindness flowing this year by helping with our **Raise Craze** fundraiser this Spring!

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Donate to IES PTA

Amazon

Donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases to the IES PTA, every time you shop on Amazon. Click this [link](#) to make IES PTA your charitable organization. You must use this page, as the regular Amazon homepage will not automatically link to Amazon Smile.

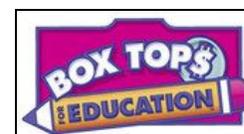


Spirit Wear

Click below to find some new Cheetah gear! Click here for: [Spirit Wear Order Form link](#).

Box Tops For Education- Fall Contest Deadline 10/25/19

Did you know that the IES receives 10¢ for every Box Top submitted? The funds are used to support IES programs. There are two ways to donate this year! Please send in all non expired box tops in a baggie with your child's homeroom teacher written on it. There is also a Box Top app that is super simple to use. Just scan your receipt and IES is automatically credited the amount of Box Tops on your receipt! The class with the most Box Tops and Bonus Points will win a special surprise! Go to www.btf.com/products for a complete list of participating box tops products. Contact: Jen Rutz at jsrutz@gmail.com.



Shutterfly / Tinyprints

Help support your PTA all year by going to: <http://ilchesteres.shutterflystorefront.com> to order your holiday cards, photos, calendars, memory books, invitations, and all the other great products that Shutterfly and Tinyprints offer! You can still use all the promotional codes you know and love AND earn money for IES PTA.

Ilchester earns 13% on all orders year-round! Click the flyer: [Shutterfly](#).



Office Depot / Office Max

Help support our school all year long by using the following ID number when you shop at Office Depot or Office Max: 70046550. We earn 5% on all purchases made when this rewards number is used at checkout.

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[Website](#), [Facebook](#), ilchesterpta@gmail.com