

IMSA PAC Newsletter

Third Quarter Edition

2006 Issue 4

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Letter from the President

No, this isn't a plea for volunteers. Its information we, as "seasoned" IMSA parents want to share with all of you.

Maybe you are one of the parents sitting out there wondering how you can learn more about IMSA or what events are coming up that parents have the opportunity to attend. Believe me, there are many!

Presentation Day is April 26. If you are a sophomore parent who wants to learn more about Mentorship, Inquiry and TALENT, this is the opportunity for you. The day is filled with students presenting their research projects in short sessions. Sometimes the mentors are able to attend and sometimes not. It is truly amazing to see the work our students are doing. By coming and seeing for yourself what some students are already doing it can help you as your discuss with your son/daughter what they might want to get involved with and jumpstart ideas for next year. If you currently have a student involved in Mentorship/Inquiry/TALENT this is a must see event for you. Sometimes our kids feel a little self-conscious having mom/dad around and if that's the case just attend the presentations of some of your child's friends. This is one of those events you have to see to really appreciate.

The huge spring College Fair is just around the corner. It will take place April 22. With displays set up for the morning and individual college breakout sessions following. Here again, if your students prefers to view the fair by themselves you can still take part and visit the booths on your own and then talk with your student about the schools later. On this day we also have many PAC volunteers around to help out the college reps and we are happy to help out new IMSA parents as well. This fair is a great way to initiate discussion about schools and maybe get ready for some summertime college visits.

2006-2007 PAC MEETING DATES

September 16 – Parents’ Day Informational Session
September 30 – PAC Meeting (Homecoming)
October 21 – PAC Meeting
November 11 - PAC Meeting (VIP Day)
December 9 - PAC Meeting
January 27 - PAC Meeting (VIP Day)
February 24 - PAC Meeting
March 10 – Downstate PAC Meeting – to coincide with U of I Engineering Open House
April 21 - PAC Meeting (College Fair)
May (?) - PAC Meeting – to coincide with Prom

Academic Committee PAC Meeting Topics & Review

March 4	World Languages, Fine Arts, and Wellness: Program Overviews (Academic Committee Mtg.)		
April 22	College Fair	May 13	TBD

This year the PAC Academic Committee has had very rewarding year. During this year the committee in conjunction with Dr. David Abler has meet with all the key department heads from the seven IMSA Academic departments. Additionally the committee received updates on the TALENT, Inquiry and Mentorship programs as well as a CAC presentation on course selection process. During the rest if the year the Academic Committee will review additional programs that IMSA has created to monitor the progress of IMSA students as well as revising programs reviewed earlier in the academic year.

All the main sessions have been video taped and posted as streaming video on the IMSA PAC web site. This vide are excellent sources of information for current and potential students and parents who want to know the details of what each department offers our IMSA students. You can view the videos using any internet connection. Each session is approximately 1 hour in length so schedule some free time to view the whole video. But if don’t have lots of time you can skip around in the video. The quick path to the video page is <http://parents.imsa.edu/committees/academiccommittee0506.htm> for full information about the academic committee you can check it out at <http://parents.imsa.edu/committees/academic.htm> If you have additional question about IMSA academic opportunities you can address emails to Dr. Abler dabler@imsa.edu or plan on attending a future Academic committee PAC meeting.

Dave Jordan

PAC Academic Chair

Downstate Coordinator Report – Dean Drake

Downstate representatives are still needed for the following regions:

Region 1 – Senior and sophomore representatives

Region 3 – Senior and junior representatives

Region 4 – Sophomore representative

Region 5 - Junior representative

If you would be willing to serve in one of these positions, please contact me or one of the other PAC officers.

Downstate Bus transportation for Extended Weekends

Downstate buses which transport students from IMSA to home and back on extended weekends help save time and money for downstate parents while reducing environmental pollution and conserving energy for our world. It is logical for the IMSA PAC to play a role in facilitating the efforts of downstate parents who organize these bus routes. With Pac's recent incorporation, it will now be able to relieve individual parents of personal liability for the bus contracts. Our region 5 alternate sophomore representatives, Jane and Noble Redmon, tried to arrange for the bus which runs from IMSA to Effingham to extend its route to include Mount Vernon. The shuttle service did not have a large enough bus to accommodate this and contracts had already been signed for this year. However, the idea makes a great deal of sense and should be a part of next year's planning. If you need information about the buses transporting students to the downstate regions please contact the following individuals:

IMSA to Peoria (regions 1 & 2) – Don Driscoll – email: don_driscoll@rlicorp.com tel: 309-693-9070

IMSA to Effingham (region 3) – Dan Woods – email: woodzyow@msn.com – tel: 217-347-9449

IMSA to Collinsville (regions 4 & 5) – Maggie Daugherty – email: daughertykm@charter.net – tel: 618-566-9588

If you have questions or suggestions about other downstate issues contact me, Dean Drake, your downstate coordinator at:

Email: drake194@charter.net – tel: 618-398-4774

PAC REGION NEWS

What: **IMSA Region 7 2006 picnic**
When: Sunday 8/13/06
Location: Jon Huerr
Blackhawk Forest Preserve
35W003 Rt. 31
South Elgin, IL
Time: 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Contact: Gary & Lucinda Dittmer
garydittmer@sbcglobal.net
PH: 630-513-0230

When a Student is ill –

Parents need to pick up their sick children if they are notified by ISMA. Students need to leave campus if they have a temp of more than 100.4, a contagious disease, multiple episodes of vomiting and/or diarrhea, or any communicable disease. We understand this can be difficult for parents living outside the suburban area, therefore PAC is putting together a list of parents available to accommodate sick IMSA students for a short period of time (less than 24 hours) until a parent can arrange to get them.

If you are willing to pick up a student from IMSA needing to be off campus for medical reasons and have them at your home until a parent can arrive, please email Gina Zager at dgzager@comcast.net.

FRIDAY FESTS

04/21/06 (PAC meeting/College Fair on 4/22/06)

05/30/06 (Tuesday; Finals Fest - PAC meeting was 2 weeks earlier on 5/13/06)

The Friday Fests will be in the Student Union. If you're coming to IMSA on the Friday evening of Friday Fest consider dropping off some food for the students to devour! All donations are appreciated! The kids love fresh fruit. And come by and check out a Friday Fest! Questions? Contact Marsha Carter, Co-Chair, Student Life Committee, marshacarter@hotmail.com 847/224-0308

PARENT PARTNERS

Kim Schmitt and Mary Mullins are co-chairing the Parent Partner Committee. In case you wondered what a Parent Partner does, compare this to a room mother when your children were in grade school. The Parent Partner arranges schedules for dinners, birthday treats, hall decorations, whatever the RC would like. Kim and I have lots of ideas and will be available to help get things going. You can email either Kim or me. Those email addresses are kimberlyschmitt@aol.com or stitchinggirl_2000@yahoo.com
We are looking forward to a great year for all of the dorms and all of the wings.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The main responsibility of this committee is to issue a newsletter on our website www.IMSA.edu and in print for PAC meetings five times during the school year. They are issued for Parents Day and each of the marking periods. Information to be placed in the newsletter are any articles that might be of interest to the IMSA parent community. These include reports from each of the officers and committee chairs, awards that have been received, news about past events and activities, and most importantly, upcoming events and activities in which parents and students can participate. If you would like to work on the newsletter, the web site posting, or contribute an article or information, please email BAMKC52@aol.com or fax to (630) 860 0039

STILL WANTED: WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR

PAC is in need of someone to prepare information for posting on the IMSA/PAC website. If you are knowledgeable in this area please contact any member of the executive committee.

PAC WANTS: News Items of interest

We are interested in hearing from current and veteran IMSA parents about their experiences in letting their children leave home to attend the school. If you have ideas to share for parents visiting the area, if you have been through some stressful time and would like to share how you made it through them, If you have questions you would like to pose to other IMSA parents, what are some of the things your kids miss most from home, how have sibling relationships changed as your child moved away. We would like to incorporate your experiences in our Newsletter so that all families can benefit from your experiences and ideas. The newsletter is just one more way we have to keep communication open between all of us who live so far from each other.