

IMSA PAC Newsletter

Parents Day Edition

[HTTP://parents.imsa.edu](http://parents.imsa.edu)

2006 Issue 1

Contents

Notes from the Presidents.....	1
2006-2007 School Year PAC Meeting Schedule:	2
Snack schedule for PAC meetings	2
2007 IMSA Senior Banquet	3
Metro Coordinator Note	4
Downstate Bus transportation for Extended Weekends.....	4
PAC Discipline Committee.....	4
FRIDAY FESTS	5
PARENT PARTNERS	5
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE	6
When a Student is ill –.....	6

Notes from the Presidents

Dear IMSA parents,

Welcome to the sophomore parents and welcome back to the upperclassmen parents.

The PAC is looking forward to an exciting year and we hope you choose to participate in many ways. Friday Fests, Parent Partners and PAC meetings are all monthly opportunities for involvement. Special events such as college fairs and the Senior Banquet are another way to help out.

This year we are celebrating the twentieth anniversary of IMSA. A carnival is being planned for the students on the 20th of September, and a dinner dance, silent auction for the parents, staff and friends of IMSA will be held on the 7th of October. Please consider attending one of these functions to support the future of IMSA.

Along with the usual activities the PAC sponsors we are focusing our efforts on four areas this year: Sophomore Parent Navigation, parent participation in the IMSA Fund, Success for all students, and better communication with the food service. All of these topics will be explained at Parent Day and our first PAC meeting on the 30th of September.

The administration and staff tell our students every year that they will receive from IMSA only what they put into IMSA. What will you contribute as a parent? We need your time, talents, and your resources to make IMSA the best place it can be. IMSA is counting on you.

See you at the PAC meetings,
Kim Schmitt and Barb Kulbida

2006-2007 School Year PAC Meeting Schedule:

Date (Saturday)	Time	Meeting Place	Other Information
September 30, 2006	10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m..	IMSA Academic Pit	Homecoming
October 21, 2006	10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	IMSA Academic Pit	
November 11, 2006	10 a.m. - 11:00 .m.	IMSA Academic Pit	
December 9, 2006	10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	IMSA Academic Pit	
January 27, 2007	10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	IMSA Academic Pit	
February 24, 2007	10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	IMSA Academic Pit	
March 10, 2007	TBA	TBD-UIUC	UIUC Engineering Open House
April 21, 2007	Lunch (approx. 1 p.m.)	IMSA Academic Pit	Follows the <u>College Fair</u>
May 12, 2007	10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	IMSA Academic Pit	New officers run meeting; Prom tonight

Individual committees typically meet prior to the general meeting. Academic informational programs are scheduled immediately following the general meeting. A schedule of these programs will be available on Parents Day and will also be posted on the website.

Meetings are open to everyone and we encourage you to attend. There is always a time for questions and discussion from parents at each meeting. If you are unable to attend, monthly minutes are posted at www.imsa.edu.

Snack schedule for PAC meetings

Each month breakfast (donuts, fruit, etc.) snacks are provided with coffee and tea. The food responsibilities are shared among those attending according to the schedule below.

9/30	PAC will provide for Parents Day	2/24	junior parent reps
10/21	senior parents	3/10	downstate reps
11/11	junior parent reps	4/21	Appreciation Luncheon
12/9	sophomore parent reps	5/12	sophomore parent Rep
1/27	senior parent reps		

2007 IMSA Senior Banquet

June 1, 2007

NIU Duke Ellington Grand Ballroom – DeKalb, IL

ATTENTION: Senior & Junior Parents!

FIRST: Set aside the evening of June 1, 2007

SECOND: Secure graduation weekend housing. The Duke Ellington Grand Ballroom is in NIU's Holmes Student Center. The center also is home to a newly renovated hotel. To reserve your room(s), contact the center at 1-815-753-1444

THIRD: Volunteer for the Senior Banquet Committee. The following sub-committees need at least one senior and one junior parent to assure a gracious evening. We also need Junior Parent Chairpersons.

Senior Photo & PowerPoint Presentation: Collect baby photos. Work with CNS or on your own to scan these into a PowerPoint presentation. Seniors will choose music and CNS will add to CD. Each senior receives a copy.

Senior:

Junior:

Senior Gifts: Senior Parent Chairperson (Sr. Chair) has details for ordering the traditional gift; gift bags, and wrap. Wrap gifts, with Sr. parents (following Apr. PAC meeting). Purchase gifts for MC and speakers. Transport gifts to banquet site.

Senior:

Junior:

Invitations/Programs: Order invitations/programs, complete word processing, buy stamps. Whole committee - stuff, address, and stamp invitations (following Feb. PAC meeting).

Senior:

Junior:

Video & Balloons: Compare vendor bids. Reserve date. Order balloons.

Senior:

Junior:

Speakers and Entertainment: Seniors vote on a faculty MC and two guest speakers. Request any other entertainment (IMSA piano and vocal groups). Provide photo-op areas.

Senior:

Junior:

RSVP's and seating: RSVPs sent to Sr Chair who will check accurate payment, food orders and arrange seating. Sr. Chair is the banquet facility contact.

Senior:

Gary & Lucinda Dittmer

Junior:

Ushers: Sub committee chairs and their students. All provide own transportation

Please indicate your willingness to support this event through email or at the September PAC meeting.

Respectfully,

Senior Parent Chairpersons

Lucinda & Gary Dittmer

630-513-0230

garydittmer@sbcglobal.net

Junior Parent Chairpersons

Metro Coordinator Note

As metro-coordinator, my main task is to help organize the regional picnics for the metro regions (IMSA regions 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10).

These picnics are held in the summer and enable incoming sophomores to meet some families from their area. Any parent can volunteer to be a regional representative. I have found that hosting a picnic is a great way to meet other IMSA families.

Pat Davenport Region 6 junior rep and metro-coordinator

Downstate Bus transportation for Extended Weekends

Several of our downstate regions organize bus transportation for the students for the Extended Weekends and some holidays. This way parents can make their IMSA trips for the *fun things* like music events, sports, shopping and just spending time with their kids. The coordinators need information on how many students will be interested in this option. For details please contact any of the following for more information:

2006/2007 Downstate Bus Coordinators
IMSA to Bloomington/Peoria – Don Driscoll Don_Driscoll@rlicorp.com
IMSA to Springfield/Collinsville – Vangie Hovermale vhovermale@hotmail.com
IMSA to Effingham – Dan & Angie Woods woodzyowl@msn.com

If you have questions or suggestions about other downstate issues contact Noble Redmon, your downstate coordinator at:

Email: redmons4@verizon.net – tel: 618-985-4312

PAC Discipline Committee

PAC's Discipline Committee was formed during the 2003-04 school year for the purpose of (1) assisting IMSA in reviewing and modifying the discipline procedures and investigation guidelines, (2) assisting in the education of parents and students about the goals and impact of the discipline procedures and (3) assessing the ongoing application of the procedures throughout the school year.

The Discipline Committee first conducted a survey among parents and provided that feedback to IMSA, which led to a substantial revision of the Discipline Policy commencing the 2005-06 school year. The specific goals of the new policy were to provide an express structure regarding consequences for prohibited conduct in which the discipline became gradually more serious with each level, to be clearer and more consistent in applying discipline for similar conduct, and include parental and student involvement in the discipline decision making process. The Discipline Committee met with the IMSA administration on a regular basis throughout the 2005-06 school year to discuss the application of the new Policy to disciplinary events.

After the first year of the new Discipline Policy, the PAC committee conducted a parent survey this summer regarding the impact of the new policy, what worked well and what might not have worked so well. We will soon be analyzing the results of that survey and invite interested parents to join us in that process as well to become involved throughout the school year in assessing the application of the Discipline Policy on IMSA students. We are particularly interested in having new faces with fresh perspectives on the Discipline Committee, so please contact Don Driscoll at don_driscoll@rlicorp.com and join the Committee!

FRIDAY FESTS

September 15 - Pot Luck/Pizza
October 20 - Asian
November 10 - Italian/Pasta
December 15 - Finals Fest/Subs

February 4 - Super Bowl Sunday/Chili
March 16 - Indian
April 20 - Latin American
May TBA - Finals Fest Cook-out

Friday Fests are PAC sponsored get-togethers for the students where they can hang out with their friends in the Student Union and have some homemade (or store-bought) food supplied by IMSA parents. Fests are planned about every month and usually occur on a Friday. Parents help serve up food that is both donated by parents or purchased by PAC.

We need volunteer parents to come donate their time to help create a FUN and FOOD filled event for the students. This is a great way to get to know some of the students your child is living, studying, working, and hanging out with, as well as meeting other parents of IMSA students. If you cannot attend, we gladly accept food or monetary donations for the Fests.

If you would like more information or to sign up for one or more of these dates please contact our Friday Fest Committee Chairs:
Ann Iglesias iglesias@airlogic.net or Allison Boldridge boldridge@comcast.net

We look forward to meeting and working with you this year!

PARENT PARTNERS

In case your wondering what a Parent Partner does, compare it to a room parent when your children were in elementary school. The Parent Partner coordinates with other wing parents to arrange for wing dinners, birthday treats, hall decorations, whatever will make the wing comfortable for the kids and that the RC would like. Hopefully, each wing will have 2 parent volunteers. Sign-ups will take place during Parent's Day or you can email either Kim Schmitt kimberlyschmitt@aol.com or Marsha Carter marshacarter@hotmail.com. We have loads of ideas and will be available to help get things going. 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 the IMSA 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.

We would especially like some articles about things that have happened in the past 20 years at IMSA. We are interested in hearing from current and veteran IMSA parents about their experiences. If you have ideas for parents visiting the area, if you have been through some stressful time and would like to share how you made it through, 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.

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

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 Kim Schmitt kimberlyschmitt@aol.com or Barb Kulbida BAMKC52@aol.com

I hope the school year has been off to a positive start for everyone. Our students have been on campus almost a month now and I have to admit cleaning my son's room after he left was bittersweet for several reasons. As this is his senior year at IMSA and he will be off to college next year, this also means it is my final year at IMSA! Through the Parents' Association Council (PAC) I, too, have developed some wonderful friendships at IMSA.

The purpose of PAC is to support our students, IMSA, and each other. We at PAC are interested in providing opportunities for families to get involved with their students and their lives at IMSA. Parents are truly an important resource for IMSA and the students that attend.

It is a difficult decision to have your child attend a residential school, however, being involved with PAC provides the opportunities to get to know other IMSA parents, become involved in campus activities and meet your child's friends. PAC serves as a wonderful resource and network for families.

I encourage you to take advantage of what PAC offers and become actively involved! I look forward to meeting and working with you throughout this school year.

Sincerely,

Gina Zager
PAC Co-President
dgzager@comcast.net

WE HAVE A FARM MANAGER.

He helps us with taxes, financial planning, marketing and basically all of the basics that go into taking a look at where we've been, where we are and where we need to be in our farming operation. Each year we gather for a meal with all of his other clients and go over reports, graphs and other business related material. One item he leaves us with at the end of the program is his Top Ten Strategies for going forward into the new farming year. A few years ago his Top Ten included "Help Your School." That got me thinking.

I know as our sons have been attending IMSA we have done a lot for them. We've made trips to see ball games and brought food. We've taken them out to eat and then shopped for food. We've sponsored wing pizza parties, provided transportation and sent encouraging emails when things got tough. But I really couldn't think of anything we had done to "Help Our School." That's when I took a closer look at what PAC was doing and found ways to get involved.

As you look through the materials, we have prepared for your Parent's Day packet you'll notice a sheet that lists PAC officers and committee chairs on one side and regional reps on the other. We still have positions open and hope you will consider filling one of these vacancies. If you want to be a part of decision making that affects folks in your region, then being a region rep or alternate might be a good place for you to use your talents. If you are interested in multicultural activities on campus, you'll notice we do not have a chairperson for that area at this time. You'll be hearing about the work of our ongoing committees today and maybe one of those will spark your interest. Aside from committees, we are in need of someone to prepare PAC items for posting on the website. If you have talents in this area, we could greatly use your help, as it is another way for us to keep parents informed, but not exactly a useful tool if we can't keep it current.

Maybe you're a junior or senior parent who wasn't involved during your first year here at IMSA. It's never too late to get involved. A lot of us had enough on our plate just getting used to having our children living way from home. Now that some of this has become routine you might want to get more involved with the other parents and the school itself. As you consider these possibilities, please make use of the email addresses and phone numbers of those on the committee/rep sheet. Any of us would be happy to talk to you more about PAC. Also, consider those same people as your resource when you just want to talk about how we dealt with sending kids off to school. The more we help each other; the more we help and strengthen our school.

Sandy Hamman
Carthage
Co-Pres. PAC