

# IMSA PAC Newsletter

First Semester Edition

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

2007 Issue 3

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## Notes from the Presidents

Happy New Year....

A new year and a new semester mean new beginnings.

2007 could be the year you become involved in the PAC. Your involvement could be as simple as attending the PAC general meetings at 10 am, one Saturday a month in the AC Pit. If you have a little more time, consider attending a committee meeting. Three PAC committees meet at 9 am, prior to the general meeting. The Student Life Committee which discusses student council events, student welfare issues, Friday Fest and Parent Partner programs. The Tech Committee discusses technology at IMSA as it pertains to academics, communication and information. The Academic Committee meets to discuss curriculum. The Parent Navigation Group gathers following the general meetings in the AC Pit. Parent concerns or questions are addressed. The Senior Banquet committee follows the general meetings. Beginning on January 27, there will be a list of committees and their meeting times and locations available at the check-in desk.

We strongly encourage you to attend at least one PAC committee meeting in 2007. We are always looking for new ideas and you will be informed of the latest developments at IMSA. Your input is invaluable.

Looking forward to working with you in 2007,  
Barb and Kim

### Parents and PowerSchool by Kim Schmitt

Many of you know that I am a quilter. In order to quilt, you need a variety of tools. Tools make life easier and more enjoyable. I LOVE tools! For quilting, I have a sewing machine that can create 180 different stitches (I only use about five of those stitches). I have special rulers and rotary cutters that make the patterns more unusual and the seams more precise. If I use them properly, all these tools help me make a better quilt. This year, we received a new tool at IMSA. PowerSchool is helping everyone at IMSA “make a better quilt.”

PowerSchool is enhancing communication between the staff, faculty, students and parents. Beginning second semester, all teachers will be using PowerSchool to record attendance and grades. Anecdotal reports from your student’s teachers are no longer mailed to you with the quarterly grade reports. They are only available on PowerSchool. Students appreciate the open grade book concept PowerSchool provides. By simply logging in, they know where they stand in any of their classes on any given day. They are able to access assignments, leave notes, and track their progress. As parents, we can also log in and access the same information. We can log in at 5:30am or 11:30pm, whenever is convenient. We can always find this information even if we can’t locate our student! What a tool!

As parents, we need to consider the appropriate way to use this tool. Everyone has a bad day. Sometimes we choose not to share what happened with anyone. We choose to move on, get up the next day, and try to make it better than the previous one. Students have bad days, too. These usually translate into a missed assignment, a tardy or unexcused absence, or a poor test grade. Prior to PowerSchool, we probably never had this information. We can use this information to reassure our students that a slip-up now and then is inevitable. Ask if they are

getting enough sleep, or perhaps they need to speak to their teacher if they are struggling with a concept. Our students have chosen an extremely challenging environment in which to learn. There are bound to be bad days. An isolated tardy or poor grade should be regarded as such. PowerSchool is a tool to help parents communicate more effectively with their student. It will also help parents note trends and then, if necessary, those trends can be addressed with help from the faculty and staff.

Each piece is important: students, parents, staff, and faculty. Power School is a great tool bringing each piece together to create a "better quilt."

## PAC Meeting Schedule 2006-2007 School Year:

Date (Saturday)	Time	Meeting Place	Other Information
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	PAC Nominations
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 during the general meeting.

Meetings are open to everyone and we encourage you to attend and speak up. If you are unable to attend, monthly minutes are posted at [www.imsa.edu](http://www.imsa.edu).

### **Snack schedule for PAC meetings**

Each month breakfast (donuts, fruit, etc.) snack responsibilities are shared among those attending according to the schedule below.

1/27 senior parent reps      2/24 junior parent reps      3/10 downstate reps  
 4/21 Appreciation Luncheon      5/12 sophomore parent Rep

*Academic presentation at PAC meeting: January 27 Junior Course Selection Guidelines  
 February 24 English & History/Social Science*

## Downstate PAC Meeting Update

**March 10, 2:15pm, Grainger Engineering Library,  
 University of Illinois, Urbana, IL**

This year's downstate PAC meeting will coincide with U of IL's Engineering Open House (EOH). Come explore the engineering campus and stay for the PAC meeting. EOH covers a lot of territory, so pick a few departments that you're interested in and check them out.

### **We've reserved a room in the heart of the engineering campus.**

The official link for EOH is: [eoh.ec.uiuc.edu/](http://eoh.ec.uiuc.edu/). Currently, it's under construction, but it does link to 2006 EOH which has relevant info. Official EOH hours are 9am-4pm on Friday March 9, and 9am-3pm on Sat March 10.

Parking on campus is always an issue. On Sat, the general public can park in any lot, unless the space is marked as rented 24hrs Engineering is on the north side, north of Green St. If you're planning to visit EOH on Friday, you have three parking options: 1-park in designated lot by Assembly Hall and ride the shuttle (free); 2-feed the meters; 3- rare, free street parking north of Springfield Ave. If you want to stay overnight *make your reservation now.* As March gets closer, check for more EOH info & links at the PAC website.

## **PAC Officers Needed for 2007-2008 School Year**

We are recruiting Junior and Sophomore parents for next years PAC officers. **The slate needs to be filled for the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.** Elections will be held at the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. The new Board takes over at the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Anyone interested in taking a position, continuing a position or moving up in position please contact Kim at [KimberleySchmitt@aol.com](mailto:KimberleySchmitt@aol.com) or Barb at [BAMKC52@aol.com](mailto:BAMKC52@aol.com). If you think that someone might be a good candidate please give us your suggestions and we will contact them.

## **SENIOR Updates!!!**

### **SENIOR BANQUET 2007!!!!**

First semester of the Senior Year is finished! This is a reminder to hold the date on your calendar for the Senior Banquet, the night before the Graduation Ceremony:

**Friday evening, June 1, 2007**

**NIU Duke Ellington Grand Ballroom – DeKalb, IL**

**MARK THE DATE NOW – A Reservation Form will be mailed to you later this winter.**

Last Year's Banquet was a huge success – enjoyed by over 600 people! Don't miss out!

Sincerely,

Lucinda Dittmer, Senior Banquet Co-Chair

[garydittmer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:garydittmer@sbcglobal.net)

### **WANTED: IMSA CLASS OF 2007 BABY PHOTOS!!!!**

We are preparing a special slide presentation to celebrate every senior. The presentation will be shown the evening of the Senior Banquet. **Please send 1 or 2 childhood photos of your Senior to be included in the slideshow!**

If possible, please email a copy of your photo(s) to:

[thompsons679@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thompsons679@sbcglobal.net)

- Please make the subject line "IMSA Senior pictures" so we insure we recognize your email.
- Each digital image size should be less than 100KB (you can send multiple pictures in the same email).
- Label each photo with your student's name and age.

You can mail photos to:

Robin & Jane Thompson 679 Blackhawk Dr. Batavia, IL 60150

- Include your student's name and age on the back of each photo.
- Photos should be no larger than 4x6.
- We will try to return photos but can not guarantee this, please send copies instead of the original.
- To prevent damage in mailing, secure photo between cardboard.

**DEADLINE** for receipt of photos is January 16, 2007.

**Class of 2007 GRADUATION ACTIVITIES**

**2007 IMSA Senior Banquet**

**June 1, 2007**

**NIU Duke Ellington Grand Ballroom – DeKalb, IL**

## Downstate Bus transportation for Extended Weekends

Several of our downstate regions organize bus transportation for the students for the Extended Weekends and some holidays. 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](mailto:Don_Driscoll@rlicorp.com)  
IMSA to Springfield/Collinsville – Vangie Hovermale [vhovermale@hotmail.com](mailto:vhovermale@hotmail.com)  
IMSA to Effingham – Neil and Carrie New [naclnew@gmail.com](mailto:naclnew@gmail.com)

*If you have questions or suggestions about other downstate issues contact Noble Redmon, your downstate coordinator at: [redmons4@verizon.net](mailto:redmons4@verizon.net) – tel: 618-985-4312*

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

### **WE ARE IN NEED OF A COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR FOR NEXT YEAR! NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO GET INVOLVED.**

The main responsibility of this committee is to issue a newsletter on the PAC website [HTTP://parents.imsa.edu](http://parents.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 is any articles that might be of interest to the IMSA parent community. These include reports from officers and committee chairs, awards received, news about past events and activities, and 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](mailto:BAMKC52@aol.com) or fax to (630) 860 0039

## FRIDAY FESTS

### ***February 4 - Super Bowl Sunday/Chili***

March 16 – Indian    April 20 - Latin American    May TBA - Finals Fest Cook-out

For information or to sign up for one of these dates contact Friday Fest Chairs:  
Ann Iglesias [iglesias@airlogic.net](mailto:iglesias@airlogic.net) or Allison Boldridge [boldridge@comcast.net](mailto:boldridge@comcast.net)  
We look forward to meeting and working with you this year!

## PARENT PARTNERS

The year has started off well. Parents are stepping up to the plate, volunteering time and food for students, and they really do appreciate it. Contact your student's RC and let them know that you will put together a function for your student's wing. The students will truly appreciate it!

## When a Student is ill –

Please remember, parents need to pick up their sick children if notified by ISMA. **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](mailto:kimberlyschmitt@aol.com) or Barb Kulbida [BAMKC52@aol.com](mailto:BAMKC52@aol.com) .**