
CHARACTER COUNTS

Description: The Character Counts Program is one of the ways our schools and the IEPTO strive to promote the six pillars of character-- Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. The IEPTO Character Counts committee meets with representatives from other Itasca schools, community groups, businesses and organizations to discuss ways to continue to encourage and promote these six pillars of character. Meetings are typically held once a quarter on Wednesday evenings from 5:15-6:15 PM at the Itasca School District #10 office. IEPTO representatives on this committee are asked to report back to the IEPTO Board, parents and school representatives at the following IEPTO meetings.

Time Commitment: LOW *When:* Ongoing
School Affiliation: BOTH *Fundraiser?*

CLASSROOM HOLIDAY PARTIES

Description: Each classroom at Benson and Franzen hosts a Halloween and Holiday party for the students, organized and led by four volunteer parents. These parents should work together as a team as no one is designated as the "head parent". To volunteer, sign up at the August IEPTO Welcome Evening. If more than four parents are interested, a lottery drawing is held. This committee, which includes one IEPTO Board member, organizes the parent volunteer lists for each school and coordinates with the IEPTO Teacher Representatives for the Classroom Party Discussion at the September IEPTO meeting. All parent volunteers are asked to attend the September IEPTO Meeting. Party guidelines and an approved snack list will also be available online.

Time Commitment: LOW *When:* Fall and Winter
School Affiliation: BOTH *Fundraiser?*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Description: To promote the health and welfare of children in our community, the IEPTO tries to make a small difference in the life of a local child and his/her family by presenting them with wrapped holiday gifts, grocery cards, books, clothing, etc. during the holiday season. The names and identities of the recipient family are always kept strictly confidential.

Time Commitment: MODERATE *When:* Holiday
School Affiliation: BOTH *Fundraiser?*

CULTURE DAYS

Description: To provide students with diverse culture-related learning experiences, the IEPTO sponsors Culture Days in January at both schools during normal school hours. Students are immersed in a new culture through "hands-on" educational and fun activities. Additional parent volunteers may be needed. Cultures that students have learned about in recent years include: Kenya, Native American, China, Chile, India and Scotland.

Time Commitment: HIGH *When:* Fall
School Affiliation: BOTH *Fundraiser?*

DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Description: The District Advisory Committee is a group of District 10 administrators, educators and community members that discuss, develop and approve a variety of District 10's activities, including the district's calendar, staff development activities and implementation of new technology. IEPTO Representatives on this committee are asked to attend the District Advisory Committee meetings and report back to the IEPTO Board, parents and school representatives at the following IEPTO meetings.

Time Commitment: MODERATE *When:* Ongoing
School Affiliation: BOTH *Fundraiser?*

EDUCATION FAIR

Description: Similar to the Kids Teach Too event held at Benson, the Education Fair at Franzen is a chance to let your child's imagination and knowledge shine. Many students volunteer to present something they know or have learned to their peers at this one-day spring event held during lunchtime. The IEPTO provides all student participants with individual recognition at the end of this event. This committee collaborates with teachers to organize this event. Additional volunteers are needed on the day of the Education Fair to assist with reviewing student's presentations.

Time Commitment: LOW *When:* Spring
School Affiliation: FRANZEN *Fundraiser?*

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK FUNDRAISER

Description: Entertainment Books - full of dining, shopping and traveling coupons - are offered to parents as an IEPTO fundraiser. Sample Entertainment Books and order forms are generally sent home with each student in the early Fall, and purchased books are distributed on a specified later date.

Time Commitment: LOW *When:* Fall
School Affiliation: BOTH *Fundraiser?*

ENVIRONMENTAL / RECYCLING

Description: Students and parents are encouraged to help the environment we live in by recycling. IEPTO recycling collection sites are located at each school. This committee assists our community by submitting the collected items for recycling throughout the school year. Items that we currently help recycle include: gym shoes, pop tabs, 6-pack can rings, crayons, batteries, and cell phones. If you have new ideas for our schools and IEPTO to be more green, please join this committee and share your ideas.

Time Commitment: LOW *When:* Ongoing
School Affiliation: BOTH *Fundraiser?*

SANTA'S SECRET SHOP

Description: Typically held on the first Saturday in December, Santa's Secret Shop is an avenue for Benson and Franzen students to purchase reasonably-priced holiday gifts - at cost - as a service from the IEPTO. Additional volunteers are needed to assist students while shopping during this Saturday morning event. Parents may remain outside the school gym to allow student's to purchase gifts in secret, but while supervised by other parent volunteers.

Time Commitment: LOW *When:* Winter
School Affiliation: BOTH *Fundraiser?*

SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Description: The Itasca School District #10 Board of Education meets regularly on the second Wednesday of each month (except as noted on the school calendar). Meetings are held at the Itasca Village Hall at 7:00 PM. The Board encourages citizens of the district to attend its sessions so they may become better acquainted with the operation and programs of the schools and so the board may have the opportunity to hear the opinions and ideas of the public. IEPTO Representatives on this committee are asked to attend the Board of Education meetings and report back to the IEPTO Board, parents, and school representatives at our following IEPTO meetings.

Time Commitment: MODERATE *When:* Ongoing
School Affiliation: BOTH *Fundraiser?*

SCHOOL SUPPLY BOXES

Description: To provide parents with a voluntary, comparably-priced and simplified alternative to purchasing school supplies at stores, each Spring order forms are sent home with all students at Benson and Franzen to pre-order School Supply boxes for the following school year. Additional volunteers are needed on the specified pick-up date for School Supply Boxes.

Time Commitment: LOW *When:* Summer & Spring
School Affiliation: BOTH *Fundraiser?*

SKATING PARTIES

Description: The IEPTO sponsors several fun-filled roller or ice skate parties throughout the school year for all Benson and Franzen students. These free skating parties are typically in the evening or during No School days. There will be a charge if you'd like to rent in-line skates. A parent or other adult is required to attend with the student. Younger siblings may attend but will need to pay for their own skates.

Time Commitment: LOW *When:* Several times/yr
School Affiliation: BOTH *Fundraiser?*

SPANISH CLUB - BENSON

Description: The IEPTO sponsors a fun and educational student introduction to learning a new language through our Spanish Club. Offered to Benson students in Kindergarten through 2nd Grade, this is a voluntary, fee-based educational club. Classes are held at Benson one day a week for several weeks.

Time Commitment: MODERATE *When:* Ongoing
School Affiliation: BENSON *Fundraiser?*

SPANISH CLUB - FRANZEN

Description: The IEPTO sponsors a fun and educational student introduction to learning a new language through our Spanish Club. Offered to all Franzen students, this is a voluntary, fee-based educational club. Classes are held at Franzen typically after-school one day a week for several weeks. A year-end party is held at a local Mexican restaurant.

Time Commitment: MODERATE *When:* Ongoing
School Affiliation: FRANZEN *Fundraiser?*

SPIRIT WEAR

Description: Proudly wear your school spirit! In the fall, the IEPTO offers several clothing options for purchase with Benson, Franzen or District #10's name and mascot printed or embroidered in school colors.

Time Commitment: LOW *When:* Fall
School Affiliation: BOTH *Fundraiser?*

SPRING FAMILY NIGHT (BINGO)

Description: All IEPTO families, teachers and staff are invited to join us for a free, fun-filled Spring Family BINGO Night. In addition to BINGO, refreshments and prizes are provided. Many additional volunteers are needed the evening of this family event.

Time Commitment: MODERATE *When:* Spring
School Affiliation: BOTH *Fundraiser?*

SPRING FLOWER PLANTING

Description: For hands-on learning experience for our students, along with the continued beautification of our schools, the IEPTO sponsors a day of planting spring flowers in the front of both Benson and Franzen. Parents are encouraged to volunteer the day of this event. The Village of Itasca has graciously donated the flowers in the past.

Time Commitment: LOW *When:* Spring
School Affiliation: BOTH *Fundraiser?*
