

Dec. IEPTO Events

- 2 Hot Lunch - Pizza
- 5 Early Childhood & K-Prep Winter Music Program
6:00PM @ Benson
- 8 2nd Grade Winter Music Program 7:00PM @ Peacock
- 9 Hot Lunch – Pasta w/Marinara Sauce
- 9 Newsletter entries due to
aldevalk@yahoo.com
- 15 Kindergarten Winter Music Program
7:00PM @ Peacock
- 16 Holiday Room Parties @ Benson and Franzen
- 17 Jan. IEPTO Newsletter ONLINE
- 19 – 30 No School – Winter Break

Jan. IEPTO Events

- 2 No School – Winter Break
- 3 School Resumes
- 6 Hot Lunch – Pizza
- 12 Market Day Pick-up
5:30-6:30PM @ Park District
- 16 No School – Martin Luther King Day
- 16 Ice Skating Party – **RESCHEDULED**
(see newsletter for new date/time)
- 19 Culture Night @ Franzen
- 20 Hot Lunch – Chicken Tenders
- 20 Newsletter entries due to
aldevalk@yahoo.com
- 22 Mother/Son Bowl
- 26 IEPTO Meeting
7:00PM @ Franzen
- 28 Feb. IEPTO Newsletter ONLINE

President's Letter

Mark your calendars for the next IEPTO meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 7:00PM in the Franzen Media Center. We are hosting a discussion with our District #10 Board of Education members and Superintendent. If you have questions for the Board of Education, consider filling out the form included in this newsletter and/or attending to ask questions directly. This is one meeting you don't want to miss! Remember that we offer free, onsite babysitting during all IEPTO meetings.

Would you be interested in getting more involved with the IEPTO? We are looking for volunteers to join a Policies Committee responsible for reviewing the IEPTO Policies and providing recommendations this winter/spring. If interested, please contact me in writing at lisaciccia@comcast.net. If you would like more information, please call or email me directly.

We have many events coming up right after the holiday break. Mark your calendars for these fun IEPTO functions: Culture Week, Mother/Son Bowl, Father/Daughter Dance, Ice Skating and many more.

Thank you to everyone that has volunteered recently and/or supported the IEPTO fundraisers. You make a difference!

If you have any questions or comments, please contact any of the IEPTO Board members, or you can email the board at IEPTO@itasca.k12.il.us or leave a message on the IEPTO voicemail at 773-1232 ext. 1527. I will make every attempt to check the voicemail box regularly, but the fastest way to contact a board member is directly or via

email or phone. The board members' contact information is listed on the bottom of the first page of the newsletter.

Sincerely,
Lisa Ciccia

Committee News

Ice Skating Party – Rescheduled!

The Ice Skating Party at the Edge has been rescheduled to President's Day, Monday, February 20th from 1:50 to 3:20PM. See you there!

Cookie Dough Fundraiser

We had a very successful cookie dough sale! Thanks to everyone who participated. Your purchases help support the IEPTO and its events. Thank you, Eileen Ellenbecker and Gina LaRocco, for organizing this fundraiser. Enjoy your delicious cookies this holiday season.

Roller Skating Party

Thank you, Virginia Ciaccio and Nina Lill, for planning a fabulous roller skating event at Coachlite for our school families. Everyone had a great time!

Gift Card Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone that ordered gift cards through the SCRIP fundraiser. We hope that you were able to get some holiday shopping done, while supporting the IEPTO. Thank you to Lisa Emmett for organizing this fundraiser.

Recycling Brigades

In an effort to minimize waste at our schools, the Environmental Committee has started recycling through Terracycle. This raises funds for our schools, as well as minimizes the amount of waste we send to the landfills.

If you have any of the items listed below at home, you can bring them to the school for recycling to help us raise funds. Each item will raise \$.02 for our PTO. It may not sound like much, but when you add it up, it can make a difference for our kids! If your child brought a Lunchable & a Capri Sun every day for lunch & recycled it through our program, the PTO would have over \$7 from your child alone by the end of the year without costing you a dime! Add in some pens, highlighters, & candy wrappers and the total can only grow. We are currently recycling the following items:

Lunch Kit Recycling includes: Lunch Kit plastic trays, Lunch Kit plastic lids, Lunch kit plastic film, lunch kit outer wrapping.

Candy Wrapper includes: Individual Candy Wrappers, Large Candy Bags, and Multi-Pack Candy Bags. Send in those Halloween wrappers!

Elmer's Glue Crew: glue sticks, glue bottles, glue tops.

Writing Instrument Brigade: pens, pen caps, mechanical pencils, markers, marker caps, highlighters, highlighter caps, permanent markers, permanent markers caps.

Drink Pouch Brigade: Aluminum Drink Pouches, Plastic Drink Pouches (Capri Sun).

Any questions, contact Aimee Allison at allisonfam5@gmail.com or Kara Roll at kroll1113@gmail.com.

Cell Phones and Ink Jet Cartridge Recycle Drive

Tell your friends, family and co-workers! We need old cell phones and used inkjet cartridges. You can drop them in our collection boxes located at Benson and Franzen. Planet Green will recycle them responsibly and pay us for each phone and cartridge we turn in. It's that simple.

Additionally, if you purchase your inkjet cartridge through Planet Green, 15% of your order amount gets donated directly to the school. Here is our dedicated website where you can read about our program further, as well as start ordering your cartridges today! www.planetgreenrecycle.com/bensonfransen

Holiday Parties

The holiday parties are just around the corner! The party times are as follows:

Benson AM Parties: 10:15 -11:15 AM
Benson PM Parties: 1:45 – 2:45 PM
Franzen Parties: 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Just a couple of reminders:

No one is designated "head parent." All four parents should work together as a team. Plan a meeting to create your "party plan" and make sure that, in the event that one of the parents cannot make it the day of the party, the other parents know the exact "game plan." This will ensure that the party runs smoothly and is a success.

Be sure that someone emails the classroom teacher so she/he is aware of the activities planned ahead of time.

Please remember that younger siblings are **NOT** allowed at the classroom holiday parties.

If you need to reference the volunteer list, FAQ's, or district snack list they can be found in the Virtual Backpack.

Mother/Son Bowl

The Mother/Son Bowl will be here before we know it! Registration ends on December 9th. The cost is \$40 for Mother and Son, with different price levels for additional children. Look for the registration form in the virtual backpack. This event includes bowling, raffles, lunch, and more. The committee is still looking for any family or business raffle prizes and volunteers, especially dads, for the day of the event. Please contact Ann Deardorff at j_deardorff@sbcglobal.net or 630-285-1164. Hope to see you all there!

Vote for Franzen's Outdoor Education 2012 Grant Submission

Thanks to all of you who have been voting for Franzen's Outdoor Education Grant. The votes are starting to add up, but we still have a way to go. Voting ends on December 9th. Wondering how to vote? See the flyer attached to the newsletter. Remember, you can vote everyday!

Spirit Wear Orders

Show your school spirit by ordering from this year's great line-up of spirit wear. Samples are on display at Benson and Franzen for viewing. All orders are due to school by Friday, December 2nd. See the virtual backpack for order forms. Orders will be delivered in time for the holidays.

Please join us at the next **IEPTO Meeting**

(Itasca Elementary Parent Teacher Organization)

Thursday, January 26th
7:00 p.m.

Franzen Media Center

Agenda items:

- Discussion with the District #10 Board of Education and Superintendent, Dr. Marcia Tornatore
- Principal and Teacher Representative Updates
- Opportunity for IEPTO Committee Co-chairs to provide updates

FREE babysitting during our IEPTO Meetings!

Children are always welcome at our meetings. We are once again offering free babysitting during our meeting by Peacock student volunteers.

Meet the Board of Education and Superintendent of School District #10

Mark your calendars for the January IEPTO Meeting (Itasca Elementary Parent Teacher Organization) to meet and hear from our District #10 Board of Education and Superintendent, Dr. Marcia Tornatore.

Thursday, January 26th
7:00pm
Franzen Media Center

Don't miss this opportunity! This is your chance to meet the Board of Education members elected by our community, become informed on important happenings within our schools and have your questions answered!

Any questions you have for the Board of Education may be asked in person at the IEPTO Meeting or may be submitted in advance. If you have any questions or topics you would like addressed by the Board of Education at the IEPTO Meeting, feel free to complete and return to bottom of this form to either Benson or Franzen in an envelope labeled "ATTN: IEPTO President".

FREE babysitting during our IEPTO Meetings!

Children are always welcome at our meetings, and we are also offering free babysitting by Peacock Middle School student volunteers.

Question or topic to be addressed:

Name (Optional):

IEPTO BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

Parents,

The Holiday Bake Sale Fundraiser is rapidly approaching. It will be held the evenings of the Winter Music Program, **for the 2nd Graders December 8th and for the Kindergarteners December 15th**. We are looking for volunteers to donate baked goods for both dates. If you are interested please fill out the bottom of this form and send it to school with your child. We will also need additional help the evening of the bake sale, if you are interested let us know. Please call or email if you have any questions.

Dena Ranieri 630-773-0554 dena2229@aol.com
Tracy Lampignano 630-773-0554 trixi21@sbcglobal.net
Maria Failla 630-773-0554 ziamia2@comcast.net

Thank You,
Dena, Tracy, & Maria

_____ Yes, I would like to donate a baked good!

_____ 2nd Grade (December 8th) _____ Kindergarten (December 15th) _____ Both

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please let us know what you would be willing to bake from the list below:

_____ Cookies	_____ Cake	_____ Other _____
_____ Fruit Pies	_____ Cream Pie	
_____ Cupcakes	_____ Muffins	
_____ Brownies	_____ Loaf Bread	

Support Outdoor Education

We need your vote! It's simple!

We have nominated Franzen School for the *Power a Bright Future* Grant Program
to

Fund Itasca School District 10's 5th Grade Outdoor Education Program

Each year, Clorox Corporation gives away 5 large grants to promote school programs!

Between the dates of October 24th and December 9th, go online to www.powerabrightfuture.com
and vote for our submission!

Find us in the **EXPLORE CATEGORY** or type in **Itasca or Franzen** and click on search
to find the grant.

*Winning a grant like this could fund our Outdoor Education Program for years to come. Would you
please send this information, via email to every list you have; or use Twitter, Facebook, or the QR
Code found online and ask them to vote, once a day if possible from 10-24 to 12-9?*

Awards are announced January 2012.

It takes a Village and we are grass roots fundraising! Thank you in advance!!

You must be 13 to vote, and you can vote once a day from one email address only...

There are easy sample emails and Facebook templates at www.powerabrightfuture.com

What our kids have to say about Outdoor Ed:

"If you asked every 5th grader how much fun it was, we would all say so, so, so much fun." "...it literally felt like you were a pioneer, we used things that pioneers would use when they were alive!" "We got to pretend we were animals and "hunt" for food in Instincts for Survival and swing on a rope in Team Building!" *A college senior explains what it meant to her:*
"It truly was the best experience...I knew after coming back it was a trip I would never forget. Eleven years later, I still haven't."

HURRY TWO WEEKS ONLY!!!

In support of our Benson & Franzen Military families & personnel

IEPTO COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Is in need of the following donations this holiday season:

- Cash
- Prepaid Phone calling cards
- New or Used Paperback or hardcover books (for adults)
- DVD movies, music CDs, Video Games (new & used)
- Gift cards (Do you have any you haven't used that aren't expiring soon?!)
- Grocery Store gift cards
- Restaurant gift cards
- Movie tickets

Donations can be sent back to school or dropped off in the Military donation boxes at Benson & Franzen. Donations can also be dropped off at the following addresses by

December 21st:

South Side of Itasca: 5N385 Fairway Lane

North Side of Itasca: 324 N. Linden St.

Deadline for school drop-off: Friday,

December 17th

Deadline for house drop-offs: Monday,

December 21st

Any questions call: Peggy Kinander 312-316-

6805 or Alba Colavitti 630-244-8402

- *Homemade cookies!*
- Men's White Tube Socks
- Hand & Foot Warmers
- Powder Drink Mixes
- Hard Candy - no chocolate
- Balls & Simple Sports Equipment: Football, Soccer ball, Baseball, BKBs, Frisbees
- Gum



Annual Mother - Son Bowl

Sunday, January 22, 2012

Stardust Bowl
37 E. Lorraine, Addison, IL
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

****Enjoy a day with your son****
Lunch! Bowling! Raffles! Prizes!

Registration Fee:

For Mom + 1 son the fee is \$40.00
For Mom + 2 sons the fee is \$50.00
For Mom + 3 sons the fee is \$60.00

This fee includes 2 games of bowling, shoe rental, lunch, and a photo memory of the occasion. Return this sign-up form and your check made out to the IEPTO to school by Friday, December 9.

Exciting News! Updated lanes now include bumpers as an option on every lane!

Mother's Name: _____ Shoe Size: _____

Son's Name: _____ Shoe Size: _____ Teacher: _____ Grade: _____

Son's Name: _____ Shoe Size: _____ Teacher: _____ Grade: _____

Son's Name: _____ Shoe Size: _____ Teacher: _____ Grade: _____

(Son must be a student at Benson or Franzen School. Exception is only for children of Itasca District #10 staff members)

Please provide us with the best phone number and email address at which to reach you:

phone number

email address

We need assistance with setup, serving, and clean up. If you are a mom or dad interested in helping with a portion of the event please check below.

_____ YES! I would be happy to help with the event. Please contact me.

Raffle Prize Donations: Would you like to donate an item for our raffle? Do you know of a business that may be able to donate? Please contact Ann (630-285-1164).

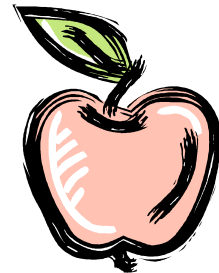
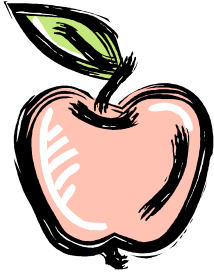
We look forward to seeing you there!

Your 2012 Mother-Son Bowl Committee . . . Jenny Burke, Gayle Carzoli, Ann Deardorff, Eileen Ellenbecker & Sue Sampson

Questions? Ann (j_deardorff@sbcglobal.net) or Eileen (eileen12@sbcglobal.net)

If a mother is unable to attend this event with her son, an adult family member, adult friend or dad may attend.

Market Day



Itasca Elementary Parent Teacher Organization Sponsors a Market Day each month to earn money for our school! Please consider placing an order today.

Orders are due by Dec. 2nd or
on-line by Dec. 5th by 11:00 PM.

Return orders to the SCHOOL
Pick up is THURSDAY DEC. 8th, 2011
5:30-6:30 PM @ Itasca Park District

This January 2012

Come ABOARD as we travel to...



INDIA

Culture Night - January 19th, 2012

Benson School – Jan 17-20th

Franzen School – Jan 23-27th

This IEPTO sponsored, weeklong program aims to broaden our students' horizons as they explore the rich culture of India. Cultural activities in Specials, an assembly, Culture Night and student poster displays are some of the planned activities.

Parents interested in volunteering or donating items please contact: Lynn Pistorio at lynn.pistorio@sbcglobal.net