

IEPTO.

Itasca Elementary Parent Teacher Organization Monthly Newsletter

September 2011



Sept. IEPTO Events

- 1 **Market Day Pick-Up**
5:30-6:30 PM @ Park District
- 3 **Sept. IEPTO Newsletter ONLINE**
- 5 **No School – Labor Day**
- 6-8 **Benson Book Fair**
- 7-9 **5th Grade Outdoor Education**
- 8 **Benson Curriculum Night Book Fair**
Open for business
6:30-8:00 PM @ Benson
- 12 **Entertainment Books & Payment Due**
- 14 **Hot Lunch Orders & Payment Due**
- 19 **IEPTO Mtg. 7:00 PM @ Franzen**
All Classroom party volunteers must attend
- 23 **Newsletter entries due to**
aldevalk@yahoo.com
- 30 **Back to School Sports Sock Hop**
6:30-9:00 PM @ Peacock
- 30 **Cookie Dough Fall Fundraiser Begins**
- 30 **Market Day Orders Due to School**

Oct. IEPTO Events

- 1 **Oct. IEPTO Newsletter ONLINE**
- 3 **Market Day ONLINE orders due 11PM**
- 6 **Market Day Pick-up**
5:30-6:30 PM @ Park District
- 7 **Hot Lunch - Pizza**
- 10 **No School – Columbus Day**
- 14 **Hot Lunch – Chicken Tenders**
- 14 **Cookie Dough Fall Fundraiser Ends**
- 21 **No School – Teacher Institute**
- 21 **Newsletter entries due to**
aldevalk@yahoo.com
- 28 **Market Day Orders Due to School**
- 29 **Nov. IEPTO Newsletter ONLINE**
- 31 **Halloween Room Parties**
- 31 **Market Day ONLINE orders due 11PM**

President's Letter

It's hard to believe that the summer has come and gone so quickly. I'd like to welcome all of our families back and hope the start of the new school year is running smoothly. The **Itasca Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (IEPTO)** is dedicated to enriching the educational experience of your child(ren) at both Benson and Franzen schools.

We have many educational and family events planned for the upcoming school year! Be sure to check the IEPTO page on the Itasca School District's website (www.itasca.k12.il.us) to see what's new and read our monthly IEPTO newsletters. Look in the Virtual Backpack or find our website under either of the school sections.

Thank you to all the parents who attended the IEPTO Welcome Night! It was great to see all the new faces, as well as all of the familiar ones! Thank you to Mrs. Fleming and Mrs. McClellan, along with all of the Peacock students, for coordinating the babysitting at our Welcome Night – we had 23 children enjoy the evening!

Thank you also to everyone who has already stepped up to volunteer this year! Parent volunteers are the backbone of the IEPTO and are greatly appreciated! Volunteering is an excellent way to make an impact on the educational experience for our elementary students, meet new people, and have fun. No amount of time is too small! If you haven't signed up to volunteer for an IEPTO committee yet, but are interested in Co-Chairing, please check out the "Help Wanted" section of this newsletter and contact Sherri Wolfe (VP Benson) at 630.467.1314 or smwolfe@comcast.net or Denise Glennon (VP Franzen) at 630.250.1322 or deniserory@msn.com.

We have five IEPTO Meetings starting at

2011-2012 IEPTO Board

Lisa Ciccio President
773.8708
lisaciccia@comcast.net

Sherri Wolfe VP Benson
467.1314
smwolfe@comcast.net

Anita DeValk Secretary
467.0513
aldevalk@yahoo.com

IEPTO Voicemail
773.1232 ext. 1527

Denise Glennon VP Franzen
250.1322
deniserory@msn.com

Lori Tobler Treasurer
773.4142
tobler2@sbcglobal.net

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7:00 pm throughout the school year. Our first meeting is scheduled to be at Franzen on Monday, September 19th at 7:00 pm. We invite everyone to join us at these meetings to learn and share information about upcoming IEPTO events. You will also find out what is going on at the schools and in your child's classrooms. Free babysitting will be available during our meetings!

All parents signed up to coordinate a classroom Halloween or Holiday party are asked to attend our September 19th meeting. Our Teacher Reps will be discussing guidelines for these parties from a teacher's perspective.

Again, we are very excited about the school year! 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 is to contact a board member directly or the IEPTO email. The board members email addresses are listed on the bottom of the first page of this newsletter.

Sincerely,
Lisa Ciccia

Committee News

Thank You!

The IEPTO would like to send out a heartfelt THANK YOU to those who donated to our schools on this year's registration forms. The use of these funds will be voted on by the general membership at our Sept. 19th meeting. Thank you for helping to make a difference in our schools!

A Kind Request...

All IEPTO committee co-chairs and members are kindly being asked to minimize interruptions to the school day. The principals have requested that anything needing to be brought to the classroom or picked up from the classroom occur before the school day - **7:50-8:20 am @ Franzen, 8:00-9:00 am @Benson**, during the lunch hour - **11:15-12:05 pm @ Franzen**,

11:45-12:35 pm @ Benson, or after school has dismissed - **2:30-3:30 pm @ Franzen (2:15-3:30 on Thursday), 3:20-4:30 pm @ Benson (2:40-4:30 on Thursday)**. Since the goal is to minimize interruptions to the instructional day, following these guidelines would be greatly appreciated by all!

Help Wanted!

The IEPTO is thrilled that so many people have already volunteered to co-chair a committee this year! There are still more co-chair opportunities available. Please take a moment to consider helping us fill these vacancies.

- The **ADVERTISING** committee is in need of THREE more co-chairs. This committee solicits businesses and designs the ad pages for our school directory. Time commitment is low. Contact Sherri Wolfe, VP Benson, if you are interested.
- The **CULTURE DAYS** committee needs ONE more co-chair. This committee works to provide hands-on, educational, and fun activities that immerse students in a new culture. Culture week occurs in January at both schools during normal school hours. During that week there is also a Culture Night where families are invited to join in the fun. Time commitment is high. Contact Sherri Wolfe, VP Benson, if you are interested.
- The **SKATING PARTY** committee needs ONE co-chair to help organize the January Ice Skating Party at The Edge in Bensenville. Time commitment is low. Contact Denise Glennon, VP Franzen, if you are interested.
- **FRANZEN CHALLENGE** is in need of ONE more co-chair. This after-school program stimulates learning and team building in a "game show" environment. Student teams select from a variety of topics and answer challenging questions. This program runs for 6 weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays during January and February. Time commitment is

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moderate. Contact Denise Glennon, VP Franzen, if you are interested.

Character Counts

All co-chairs and parent volunteers are asked to complete the Itasca Character Counts form included within this newsletter. By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you will abide by and promote the pillars of Character Counts and strive to focus on character education with positive values at all IEPTO events. Please return this form at our IEPTO meetings, or to either school - ATTN: IEPTO Anita DeValk.

Entertainment Book Fundraiser

Money and unwanted Entertainment Books are due by September 12th. Please return them to school with your child by this date. If you have questions, please contact Jenny Burke @ jenmarie823@yahoo.com or 630.775.0887.

Fall Fundraiser – Cookie Dough!

Someone once said, "A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand!" Luckily for us, our Cookie Dough Sale begins Sept. 30. IEPTO will be selling Sally Foster Cookie Dough in easy scoop tubs and pre-portioned cookies in 10 varieties. IEPTO receives 40% of every purchase! Last year we received more than \$2,400 from the cookie dough sale. Keep your eyes open for more sale information coming home at the end of September. The sale will end October 14 and pick-up will be on Nov. 16.

Hot Lunch

Hot Lunch order have been sent home! If you need an extra, you can find another at the end of this newsletter. Please return forms by Wednesday, Sept. 14th. We understand that many students have food allergies, and we try our best to provide safe, nut-free lunches. However, it is the parent's responsibility to contact Mr. Jorge Tenorio of Home Run Inn at 630.417.0704 or check the ingredient list on the website at: http://www.homeruninn.com/pizzerias/school_lu

[nch/menu.html](#) if you need more specific information on the lunches provided. All other questions can be directed to Jenny Saele @ 630.773.1521 and Nina Lill @ 630.773.3818 for Benson or Denise Glennon @ 630.250.1322 and Alba Colavitti @ 630.285.1740 for Franzen.

Room Party Information

Thanks to all those who have volunteered to help with the holiday parties. The students and teachers always look forward to these special days! At the end of the newsletter you will find the current list of room party volunteers. FOUR parent volunteers are allowed per party. Parents began to sign-up for classroom parties at our Welcoming Night on Aug. 22nd. There was also a sign-up at the Franzen Curriculum Night. A sign-up will be available at the Benson Curriculum Night as well. Guidelines and ideas for the Halloween & Winter parties will be discussed at the September 19th IEPTO meeting at Benson. *All room party volunteers are encouraged to attend.*

Please check the current list. Some classes have plenty of help and some still need volunteers! If too many parents volunteer for a specific class, the volunteers will be selected randomly. If your child's class has less than 4 volunteers, it's not too late to sign up! For Benson, contact Sherri Wolfe @ 630.467.1314. For Franzen, contact Josie Cardone @ 630.875.9950.

Market Day

Thank you to everyone that supported the first Market Day sale of the new school year. If we can continue to get this much involvement we will be able to contribute nicely to the IEPTO. Remember, when you order through the school form, the IEPTO earns **10%** as opposed to only 5% of sales at the Market Day Store. If you still aren't sure what to order take a look at www.marketday.com to see a list of the week's Top Sellers (look under the Quick Menu tab). You can also get nutritional information for all their items. We hope to see you at the October

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6th pick-up. As a reminder, the pick up location is the Itasca Park District from 5:30 to 6:30 PM.

Back to School Dance

Get your dancing shoes on! Join us for a fun evening of music, dancing and catching up with friends! On Friday, September 30 from 6:30 – 9:00 PM the Benson and Franzen students, parents, and younger siblings are invited to Peacock Jr. High for our annual Back to School Sports Sock Hop. Please note this is NOT a drop-off event. A parent or an adult must supervise their student(s) during the evening. Volunteers and raffle prizes are needed and appreciated! Please contact Kathleen Madaras @ 630.250.8830.

Planet Green Cell Phone and Ink Cartridge Recycling Program

We have an exciting, new recycling program we would like to share with you! We can all do our part to help our planet while supporting our schools.

- One cell phone can contaminate 35,000 gallons of water (enough to provide water for 153 people for one year)
- Cell phones and their batteries contain eight toxic substances, including arsenic, lead and mercury
- In the US alone, we already retired more than 500 million cell phones
- Each month, an additional ten million cell phones are retired
- Almost all inkjet cartridges can be recycled
- Both inkjet cartridges and cell phones are filling up our landfills at alarming rates

Announcing: **Planet Green**, a company committed to helping the environment with community recycling programs. 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/bensonfranz

Thanks in advance for all your help! If you have any questions about this program, please contact Faith Bernardi @ 847.529.8688 or bernardi297@comcast.net.

You can make a difference!

Thank you to everyone who has attended IEPTO meetings and/or volunteered!



The Itasca CHARACTER COUNTS Coalition is made up of individuals from Itasca businesses, schools, agencies, community and the Itasca Elementary Parent Teacher Organization. The Coalition strives to promote Character Counts not only to schools, but also to the community and our children as a whole.

It is our responsibility as parents to surround our children with positive images and values.

Character is developed through examples and practice and reinforced throughout the community. As a member of the Coalition, the I.E.P.T.O. can act as a model for our children as well as our school community.

As members of the I.E.P.T.O., we are all responsible for setting the examples that will encourage our children to develop and promote their character.

As a volunteer on a committee for the I.E.P.T.O., you are acknowledging that you will abide by and promote the pillars of Character Counts and strive to focus on character education with positive values at all school functions, outings, assemblies and/or activities.

COMMITTEE (S) _____

SIGNATURE _____

PRINT NAME _____

DATE _____

Children are 27% of our population, but 100% of our future. Character education is everyone's responsibility and our children will learn from what they see and hear.



WANTED!

GENTLY USED BOOKS

Do you have books that your kids no longer read or have an interest in? If so, the Birthday Book Club is collecting gently used books geared for children from age 3 through fifth grade.

Collection boxes will be located in the Media Centers at both schools beginning on September 6, 2011.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Frank at 630-779-9171 or nfrank2210@hotmail.com.

Calling all recruits
ready to volunteer on our journey . . .



**Benson Primary's Fall Book Fair
September 2-9th**

Interested? Check your available times and return this form

Name: _____ **Phone #s:** _____
e-mail: _____

Set-Up

Friday, Sept. 2

9:15-11:40AM _____

1-2:15 PM _____

Book Fair

Tuesday, Sept. 6

9:15-11:40AM _____

1-2:15 PM _____

Wednesday, Sept 7

9:15-11:40AM _____

1-2:15 PM _____

Thursday, Sept 8

9:15-11:40AM _____

1-2:15 PM _____

Curriculum Night

6-6:30 PM _____

6:30-7PM _____

7-7:30PM _____

7:30-8 PM _____

Tear-Down

Friday, Sept. 9

12-2:15 PM _____

**Questions? Contact Lu Semenzin lugilbert@aol.com
or 630-250-9355 or 630-290-9842
Or Shirley Morikuni shomori@comcast.net or 630-285-8223**

Hot Lunch - Yummy!

The 1st Semester hot lunch menu from Home Run Inn is set and ready for your children's enjoyment (and no lunch packin' for Mom or Dad!). Please put a check mark by the lunches your child would like and total the cost at the bottom of the order form. Please complete a separate order form for each child, and separate checks would be helpful too. Then simply return the order form(s) with a check made out to IEPTO by **Wed. September 14th**.

All of the menus are designed to be appropriately portion sized for our students. We are unable to custom order portions from the designated menu. If your child would like additional hot lunch food you may order 2 complete meals on any particular day, but no individual extra components.

A receipt will be sent home the week prior to the first hot lunch to confirm your child's order. Please be sure to sign the bottom of the order form, or we cannot process the hot lunch order form.

If you are interested in helping pass out Hot Lunch please come to the schools on any hot lunch designated day and join in on the fun. No need to RSVP to the committee chairs, just show up and lend a hand. Thanks!

Benson

1st grade - 11:45

2nd grade - 12:10

Franzen

4th & 5th grades - 11:15

3rd grade - 11:35

Questions can be directed to any of the Hot Lunch committee chairs listed below.

Benson:

Jenny Saele - 773-1521

jensaele@gmail.com

Nina Lill - 773-3818

nina.lill@sbcglobal.net

Franzen:

Denise Glennon - 250-1322

deniserory@msn.com

Alba Colavitti - 285-1740

colavima@comcast.net

Benson/Franzen Hot Lunch Order Form

Return to school by 9/14

Child's name _____ teacher _____ grade _____

October 7th

Large Cheese Pizza Slice
Jumbo Chocolate Chip Cookie
Juice

\$4.00 _____

December 2nd

Large Cheese Pizza Slice
Jumbo Chocolate Chip Cookie
Juice

\$4.00 _____

October 14th

Chicken Tenders
Go Gurt
Juice

\$4.00 _____

December 9th

Pasta with Marinara Sauce
Warm Baked Breadstick
Juice

\$4.00 _____

November 4th

Large Cheese Pizza Slice
Jumbo Chocolate Chip Cookie
Juice

\$4.00 _____

January 6th

Large Cheese Pizza Slice
Jumbo Chocolate Chip Cookie
Juice

\$4.00 _____

November 18th

Cheese filled breadsticks
Sun Chips
Juice

\$4.00 _____

January 20th

Chicken Tenders
Carrot Sticks with ranch
Juice

\$4.00 _____

Please put a check mark under each meal you would like to order for your child.
All meals cost \$4.00.

Total meals ordered _____ x \$4.00 = Total \$ _____

Please return this form with a check made out to IEPTO. **We cannot accept cash.**

By signing this, I agree that my child can have access to specific foods listed on the menu above. If I have questions regarding the content of these meals, I will contact Mr. Jorge Tenorio of Home Run Inn at (630) 417-0704 or check the ingredient list on the website at <http://www.homeruninn.com/hot-lunch-program/menu-and-nutritional-information>.

Parent Signature

Contact phone or email address

Please join us at the next
IEPTO Meeting
(Itasca Elementary Parent Teacher
Organization)
Monday, September 19
7:00 p.m.
in the Franzen Media Center

Agenda items:

IEPTO Budget for 2011-2012

Principal and Teacher Representative Updates

Classroom party discussion

All Classroom Halloween & Holiday Party volunteers are
encouraged to attend.

FREE babysitting during our IEPTO Meetings!
Children are always welcome at our meetings, whether
you'd like to use the babysitting service or not. If you
know of any Peacock Middle School students looking to
fulfill their community service hours, please let them know
about this great opportunity!

Save the Date...

You're Invited to the
Benson & Franzen
Back to School Sports
Sock Hop



When: Friday, September 30, 2011

6:30-9:00 p.m.

Where: Peacock Middle School Gymnasium

****Please note – the date has changed from the original calendar****

D.J., Prizes, Food & Fun!

**Volunteers and Raffle Prizes
Needed & Appreciated!**

Please contact Kathleen Madaras @250-8830.

2011 FALL FRANZEN BOOK FAIR NEWS



Volunteer Services

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

The 2011 Fall Franzen Book Fair was a huge success. We had sales over \$6000! The One For Books Loose Change Challenge was also a big success with almost \$600. Thank you to Lu Semenzin for coordinating this event! Congratulations to Ms. Busse's class for having the highest total! Thank you to all of the volunteers, staff, parents and students! Without your time and effort, this book fair would not have been the success that it was.

I want to recognize the following people for their hard work:

My old ex-Girl Scout troop 1434 for helping set up the book fair.

Christine Samagalsky, Anita DeValk, Lu Semenzin, Lisa Sgarbossa, Jenny Saele, Tammi Edgecombe, Virginia Ciaccio, Shirley Morikuni, Regina Jung, Alba Colavitti, Jacque O'Neill, Claudia Apuzzo, Penni Panawa, Jenn Kirby, Lynn Pistorio, Carole Nowotarski, Laura Valavicius, Ann Deardorff, Lynnea Pinkston, Ms. Wit, Ms. Wesley, Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Putzell, Ms. Robertson, Mr. Tony and Mr. Catalano.

Community Service Workers: Casey Samagalsky, Zach Deardorff, Astra Panawa and Bob Sampson. Great job!

I am sorry if I missed anyone. Once again, thank you so much for all of hard your work. It was appreciated not only by me, but the staff, the school, the parents and most of all the kids!

GREAT JOB!!!!!!

Debbie McComb

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 **Sept. 30th** or
on-line by **Oct. 3rd** by 11:00pm
Return orders to the SCHOOL.

Pick up is **THURSDAY**
Oct. 6th, 2011
5:30-6:30pm
at the
ITASCA PARK DISTRICT

Itasca Cub Scout Round Up

Thinking about becoming a Cub Scout?

2011/2012 School Year



Itasca Park District

Friday, September 16th 7 p.m.
@ our September Pack Night and Carnival

**Learn about our Den Meetings – Scouting Achievements – Pinewood Derby –
Raingutter Regatta – Cubmobile –
Fun Family Activities – Museum Campout - Community Service and more!**



Itasca Cub Scout Pack 409 Grades 1-5

***Parents of returning and new scouts – pick up den books, get
schedule for the year, register for the current year and sign up for museum
field trip.***

For more information:

Laura Franzen (847) 250-5029/laurafranzen@att.net

Darren Franzen (630) 688-0724

The sport in Scouting is to find the good in every boy and develop it.
Robert Baden-Powell, Founder of the BSA