



Family Journal for the Week of October 10, 2007

*If a man knows not what harbor he seeks,
any wind is the right wind.*

-Seneca

Individual Learning Plan (ILP) Philosophy

All students at IACS will be developing goals this week during their Advisory meetings to share with us at their upcoming conferences as part of the Individual Learning Plans.

We expect all students to ask themselves, “what do I want to get out of school?” The ILP is a way for students to answer that question for themselves, for the teachers and for their parents. Students at every level can benefit from thinking about what they want to get out of school, how they’ll get it, and how they can assess their progress.

We encourage students to use goal-setting both as a chance to reflect on themselves as learners and as a chance to connect their school goals to the real world. What work habits or skills do they need to develop? How can they connect their school learning to what they care about? For this reason, we discourage goals that correlate directly to the standards the school sets (such as “I will get an A in every class”). While we certainly want our students to strive for “A’s” in their classes, we want them to think more reflectively, setting goals that not only guide them to better grades, but also to becoming a better student beyond the classes they are currently taking.

By asking each student to make a plan for their learning, we ask each student to take an active role in their education. This said, it is imperative that teachers, parents and students are on the same page so that students can get the support they need to achieve their goal(s). The conferences scheduled for next week will be an important part of making sure this happens.

October 17, 18 and 19

Advisor/Student/Parent conferences will take place in the afternoons of the 17th, 18th and 19th. Students will be dismissed at noon on these dates. Your child’s advisor will be contacting you to set up a meeting time.

Upcoming soccer game

The IACS soccer team has a 4:15 game this Thursday at the Chelmsford High School Graniteville Road fields. If you are unsure where the field is, you can call Ann, in the main office, for directions.

Volunteering and CORI forms

Volunteer forms, with CORI Forms attached, went home with the students last month. If you did not receive either of these, please contact the office and we will be happy to send one home with your student. If you expect to be volunteering in the school, you need to submit a CORI Form. The CORI form **MUST** have a copy of your ID attached. Without the ID copy, the form cannot be processed. If you have a student at the middle school and submitted the paperwork there, you are not required to fill out another form.

The family journal is released every Wednesday afternoon and includes important information and occasional thoughts from teachers and school leadership. The family journal is also posted online at www.innovationcharter.org.