



THE PATRIOT

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

What perfect timing for some beautiful weather! I simply want to wish a happy Mother's Day to all of the moms, grandmothers, and anyone who acts a mother to someone. It could not be more fitting for the sun to shine on your weekend.

As a husband and father myself, I am in constant awe of my wife and how she makes balancing so many different things look so effortless. There is something special about the connection between a mother and her children. To all of our mothers, thank you for all that you do and for sending us such wonderful children.



IPA Student Recognition

On Friday, May 5, 2017, I had the privilege of attending the Illinois Principal Association's Student Recognition Breakfast at Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park.

Our staff nominated Molly McDermott and Hunter Vaughn as recipients of this award for demonstrating the attributes and

characteristics of outstanding students.

This is an award that we introduced to IJHS during my first year as it is a great time to recognize two of our students with their families. This year, (as you can see) we had beautiful weather for the occasion!



STEP UP DAY: On Tuesday, May 16, IJHS is welcoming our future Patriots for our annual step up day. This provides our 5th graders an opportunity to walk the halls and meet their future teachers.



CONFERENCE TRACK MEET: Our IJHS Track team is participating in their end of season conference meet this Wednesday, May 17 at Shepard High School. This final meet typically runs from 10a - 4p.



SPRING BAND CONCERT: Come join us for our final band performance of the year, next Thursday, May 18 at 7:00p. We will also be welcoming our 4th and 5th grade bands at this concert.

Upcoming Events

Independence is drawing to an end for the 2016-2017 school year, but our calendar is still quite full with some noteworthy events.

Graduation is the headliner of these events as we say goodbye to our eighth grade class, which will be held on Thursday, June 1, at 7:00p in the Independence gym.

However, there are two other events that I want to be sure our families are aware of.

On Monday, May 22, we are holding an assembly from 2:00 - 2:45 in the IJHS gym. The purpose of this assembly is to unveil the Student Council gift to the school. Patriot Dr. is the name of the private drive that runs from Independence Junior High School to 127th St; the drive that runs

Many of us have seen in some cases purchased these spinners for our students. The purpose behind them was originally to help students focus, much like how some may tap a pencil, tap their foot, or other strategy. For students who struggle with attending, these strategies work - and so do these spinners. Unfortunately, spinners have also become the latest fad and are not always being used in the manner in which they should. This can lead to distractions in the classroom.

There are schools and districts across the country that have issued

alongside the Palos Recreation Center. This year's Student Council has performed the many steps required in



acquiring an honorary title for Patriot Dr. Between performing their own research on the topic, working side-by-side with me, and presenting their idea before the Board of Education for their approval (which was a unanimous vote), we will unveil

bans on these spinners. I disagree with an outright ban as it hurts the students who truly need them. Instead, our students need to be educated on how they can be effective for them.

During instruction, taking a test, or working on an assignment, a student who is manipulating the spinner/fidget at their side or below their desk is using the device appropriately. Unfortunately this device quickly can turn into a toy if used in the wrong manner, i.e. in front of their face during class or taking them apart and putting them back together.

“Honorary Ms. O Blvd,” in honor of one of our teachers who passed away a few years ago. Following the assembly, upon dismissal from school, IJHS is hosting a wiffle ball game in the park across from school to raise funds for Cubs Charities in Ms. O's name. Our parents and former students are welcome to attend the assembly and wiffle ball game.

The second event is our annual Awards Day assembly which will be held on the morning of Wednesday, May 31, from approximately 8:30 - 10:30a. Our students receive awards for their various participation in events and for outstanding achievement and leadership. Our doors will be open to any parents who can attend this event as well.

The Fidget Craze

If the device is being used as a toy in school, a teacher will ask the child to put it away until a more appropriate time. If the device is being used appropriately, then the student will certainly be able to continue to use the spinner.

The critical piece to this is the conversation that is held with the child. We will be sure to have those conversations at school, but I ask for your support in having them at home as well. This device can be a benefit and we certainly don't want any student to miss out on a tool that helps them be successful.