

# The Jaguar International

## Silver Spring International Middle School

### PTSA Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 4

June 2009



Have a great summer



### Letter from the Principal

Another year is coming to an end, and while we anxiously look forward to another exciting year, there is still lots going on this year. By now you should have received your child's course enrollment for next year. Please be sure to review this information and contact your child's counselor if you have any questions or concerns. It's always best to resolve any issues now instead of waiting for the new school year to begin and have to make those adjustments at that time. Many of you have asked about our schedule for next year. We are fortunate to be able to continue to offer the 8 period block schedule for the 2009-2010 school year. This provides additional opportunities for all of our students – those wanting to take advantage of our numerous electives as well as those needing additional academic support.

Many of our students are getting ready for the end of year final exams which begin on June 10. If your child is taking a high school credit course (Algebra 1, Geometry, Spanish or French – this includes all of our immersion students), you should have received a letter explaining the implications of this courses for your child's high school transcripts. If you have not received the letter – we gave them to the students to take home – please stop by the guidance office to pick up a copy. This is important information that you and your child need to have.

As this year ends, we bid farewell to our 8<sup>th</sup> graders and wish them continued success as they move on to high school. We hope many of them participate in our end of the year celebrations: the 8<sup>th</sup> grade cruise and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion ceremony. They should all be very proud of their accomplishments in their time at Silver Spring International Middle School – we are all very proud of them! Many of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are currently participating in the creation of an 8<sup>th</sup> grade mosaic mural, under the guidance of Mr. Arturo Ho, artist-in-residence, and our very own art teachers, Ms. Morcate. Please come by and see the work located in the hallway leading to the cafeteria. It looks fantastic...what a great way to leave a mark on the school.

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### From the PTSA Co-Presidents

As PTSA co-Presidents, we are often focused on the week's meetings, the most pressing parent concerns, or upcoming events. As the end of the year approaches (as this is being written, our children tell us that there are just days left), it seems like a good time to take a step back and remember some recent experiences we and our kids have had that make SSI the kind of community where we are happy to send our kids.

- Hundreds of families came together as a community for each of these parent-led events:
  - Harlem Wizards vs. SSI Jaguars FUNdraiser in February
  - Health Fair in April
  - International Night in May
- At the spring concert in May, the band and chorus put on an incredible performance for families. Every group that performed was outstanding, including the soloist and quartet that wowed the audience during a set change (and went on the following weekend to a State music competition). Not many middle schools in the county have a jazz ensemble, let alone one that looks and sounds as good as ours! Most of these students also headed to the annual Music in the Parks festival in Hershey Park to compete against other middle school bands and choral groups - and have some well-deserved fun.



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## *From the Principal (continued)*

Lastly, I want to once again thank all of our parents for your incredible support. Our staff truly appreciates all that you do to ensure Silver Spring International Middle School is the best school it can be. A school is truly as strong as the community that nurtures and supports all that we do for our students. On behalf of our entire staff and student body...THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, for all you do. I look forward to seeing you at our end-of-year festivities and back again in the fall.

Enjoy your summer.

**Vicky Parcan**  
Principal

## *From the PTSA Co-Presidents (continued)*

Also in May, more than 100 8<sup>th</sup> graders presented their "passion projects" to panels consisting of teachers, administrators, and parents. Topics ranged from cooking to the history of fashion, from commentating a baseball game in English and French to making a katana (ancient Japanese sword). These projects have provided a unique opportunity for our kids to work closely with faculty advisers on a subject of their own interest - their passion. This was the first year that parents participated in the panels, and they reported that it was an excellent way to see another side of the school and the impressive students. The entire SSI community will have a chance to see some of the work at the **MYP showcase on June 4<sup>th</sup>** - don't miss it.

SSI was also well represented...together with some of the area's elite private schools...at the recent awards ceremony for the national French contest Le Grand Concours.

And there have been many other notable experiences just this spring - for example:

- In April and May fully funded by the PTSA, all 7th and 8th graders worked with the Shakespeare Theatre, and 6th graders worked with a visual artist in sonnet workshops, through their English;
- The Green Club will be taking a trip to Port Isobel in early June;
- In late May the Fantasy Baseball Club attended a real Washington Nationals game; and
- The after-school drama club is busy preparing for the spring musical, Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory Jr.

This is a lot to be thankful for. And it is just a fraction of what our staff and parents help our children achieve. As this is our final newsletter as co-presidents, we want to thank the many, many volunteers who helped out with one activity or many; who volunteered for activities that we advertised or came with new ideas or projects. We would like to especially thank the PTSA officers and committee chairs who have given much of their time to make Silver Spring International a dynamic place for our children to spend three years.

Enjoy the summer!

**Jeanne Atkinson**  
**Lisa Gabriel**  
PTSA Co-Presidents



## **Staff Appreciation Luncheon**

Thanks so much for your many donations and much support for the Staff Appreciation luncheon on Tuesday, May 5. We were able to present a lovely lunch, with plenty of food and the staff was very vocal in their appreciation. It is great to be part of such a supportive community and I really enjoyed serving at the luncheon. There was so much appreciation expressed in both directions that it was a great place to be.

Many thanks to Ellyn McKay, Karen Garner, Jenny Melendez, Dianne Dumais, and Lisa Gabriel for their help setting up, serving and cleaning up after the luncheon. Also thanks to all who brought food and sent donations. They were very much appreciated.

We had several empty serving bowls that we washed and left in the staff lounge. They are on a small table that is to the right of the door. If you are unable to pick up your bowl or other item, please let me know. I'm happy to bring it home with me for you to pick up here, or to help find a better place for you to pick it up. Thanks again for all of your hard work. There were several people who obviously put a lot into this and I'm aware that even getting things there requires a significant amount of effort. I want to assure you that your efforts were appreciated.

**Crystal Willis**

## Silver Spring International Students and the Silver Screen: AFI in June

The American Film Institute is a great resource for students at SSI. In the first week of June, students at all grade levels will attend screenings at the theater and take advantage of free programs arranged by SSI teachers. Plans include:

- June 1: Grade 6 and 7 Lights! Camera! Literacy! students will screen the films they have made for their families and peers
- June 4: 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students will see Glory in connection with the US History curriculum through the Educational Screening Program

June 5: Grade 6, 7, and 8 French Immersion students are tentatively scheduled to view "Le vieil homme et l'enfant", Claude Berri's first film.

## Year-End Ice Cream Party Monday, June 8, 7-8 p.m.

You are invited to an Ice Cream party at Silver Spring International on Monday, June 8, 7-8 pm in the Media Center. Meet fellow parents with incoming and continuing students at the PTSA's end-of-year celebration.

We ask that everyone contribute just one of the following:

- \* gallon of ice cream,
- \* Dozen brownies, or
- \* Package of ice-cream cups or popsicles.



The PTSA officers will scoop the ice cream!  
Hope to see you there!

**Felicia Charlouis**  
*ronandy@msn.com*



## You can be a PTSA Leader and Support Your Child's Success!

Some jobs are very large, but others are seasonal or manageable mainly from your home.

Contact our current co-presidents

**Jeanne Atkinson at (301) 588-1474 or [atkinbuch@rcn.com](mailto:atkinbuch@rcn.com)**

**Lisa Gabriel at (301) 593-4358 or [lgsag@comcast.net](mailto:lgsag@comcast.net) for more information.**

**You'll be glad you did. Thanks!**

## Carta de la Directora

Otro año llega a su fin, y mientras esperamos ansiosamente otro emocionante año, aun hay mucho que hacer en este año. Usted debería haber recibido una carta con los cursos de inscripción para el próximo año. Por favor, asegúrese de revisar esta información y comuníquese con la consejera de su hijo si tiene alguna pregunta o inquietud. Siempre es mejor resolver las cuestiones ahora en vez de esperar que el nuevo año escolar comience. Muchos de ustedes han preguntado por nuestro horario del próximo año. Somos afortunados de poder seguir ofreciendo los 8 bloques/ períodos para el año escolar 2009-2010. Esto permite oportunidades para todos nuestros estudiantes - aquellos que quieran tomar ventaja de nuestros numerosos electivos, así como los que necesitan ayuda académica adicional.

Muchos de nuestros alumnos se están preparando para los exámenes finales que comienzan el 10 de junio. Si su hijo/ hija está tomando un curso de escuela secundaria de crédito (Álgebra 1, Geometría, español o francés - esto incluye a todos nuestros estudiantes de inmersión), debería haber recibido una carta explicando las implicaciones de estos cursos para su hijo en la escuela secundaria. Si no ha recibido la carta - se las entregamos a los alumnos para llevar a casa - por favor, pasen por la oficina de consejería para recoger una copia. Esta es información importante que usted y sus hijos necesitan tener.

A medida que este año escolar termina, nos despedimos de nuestros alumnos del 8vo grado y les deseamos éxito en la escuela secundaria. Esperamos que muchos de ellos participen en nuestras celebraciones de fin de año: el crucero del 8vo grado y la ceremonia de promoción. Todos ellos deben estar muy orgullosos de sus logros en su tiempo en la Escuela Intermedia Internacional de Silver Spring - ¡todos estamos muy orgullosos de ellos! Muchos de los estudiantes de 8vo grado están participando actualmente en la creación de un mural de mosaico, bajo la dirección del Sr. Arturo Ho, artista en residencia, y nuestra propia profesora de arte, la Sra. Morcate. Por favor, vengán a ver la labor situada en el pasillo que conduce a la cafetería. Es fantástico...que buena manera de dejar una marca en la escuela.

Finalmente, quiero una vez más agradecerles a todos nuestros padres por su increíble apoyo. Nuestro personal realmente aprecia todo lo que hacen para asegurarse nuestra escuela realmente es la mejor escuela que puede ser. Una escuela es tan fuerte como la comunidad que nutre y apoya todo lo que hacemos para nuestros estudiantes. En nombre de todo nuestro personal y alumnado... GRACIAS, GRACIAS, GRACIAS, por todo lo que hacen. Espero poder verlos en nuestras fiestas de fin de año de nuevamente en el otoño. Disfruten de su verano.

¡Muchísimas gracias por todo lo que hacen!

**Vicky Parcan, Directora**

## June 2009

	<u>1</u> ODD	<u>2</u> EVEN <a href="#">7pm Spring Musical Production</a> Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory Jr.	<u>3</u> <a href="#">7pm Spring Musical Production</a> Green Club Trip to Port Isobel ODD	<u>4</u> EVEN Green Club Trip to Port Isobel 7pm MYP Passion Project Showcase	<u>5</u> 2:30pm Gr 8 Cruise Green Club Trip to Port Isobel ODD	<u>6</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> EVEN 7pm PTSA Year-End Ice Cream Party	<u>9</u> <a href="#">7pm French Immersion Parent Meeting</a> Review Day for Exams ODD	<u>10</u> EVEN Exams	<u>11</u> Exams ODD	<u>12</u> EVEN Exams	<u>13</u>
<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> Exams ODD	<u>16</u> EVEN Make-up Exams 8th Grade Promotion Last day of school for students	<u>17</u> Professional day for teachers	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> Report cards mailed	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>

And mark your calendars for the start of the 2009-2010 school year:

- Grade 6 student orientation, 8:30 to noon: July 7<sup>th</sup> (last names A – H), July 15<sup>th</sup> (last names I – P), August 6<sup>th</sup> (last names Q – Z). Parents of incoming students are invited to attend orientations on the same dates.
- First day of school for students, Mon, August 31, 2009

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents Help Wanted for 8<sup>th</sup>-Grade Promotion

On **Tuesday June 16<sup>th</sup>** the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will have their promotion ceremony in the field house (gym). It has been a tradition at SSI for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents to host the reception that follows the promotion ceremony.

Thanks to those who have already volunteered, but we can still use at least 5 more helpers on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>. We will need:

- 2 parents to help set up 8/8:30am
- 6 parents to help serve cake/punch following the ceremony
- 2 parents to help clean up (11/11:30am)
- Donations of goodies like: brownies, cookies and clear soda for the punch bowl.

If you can help with these activities, please contact one of us to let me know. And remember next year we can look forward to having the same celebration for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders!

Thank you.

**Deb Frew** (301- 585-2156 or [josephfrewdds@comcast.net](mailto:josephfrewdds@comcast.net))

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