

January 2012

The Parents' Association Academic Committee helps to enhance our children's educational experience by facilitating communication and involvement between the administration, faculty, and parents on academic matters.

Parents of current IMSA students are invited to attend our regular meetings in room A-150 at 9:00 immediately preceding the regular PAC meeting. Beginning with the January 21 meeting, we are also attempting to offer internet access. Remaining meetings for 2012 will be held on February 11, March 17, and May 19.

The 2011-12 year is devoted to reinvigorating this standing committee. We are presently working closely with Barb Miller, Director of Enrollment and Academic Services.

Our current projects are as follows.

- Be of service to a wider circle of parents.
 - Answer questions for prospective parents at Preview Days, Information Sessions, Sophomore Orientation, and Placement Testing Days.
 - Include parents from distant regions through the use of video conferencing and electronic collaboration.
- Promote understanding of how parents can support students' academics and personal growth while students are residing away from home.
 - Presently we are mutually supportive as parents.
 - In the future we may consider offering a speaker or special program.
 - In the future, we may aid the PAC in producing appropriate publications such as a revision to the parent-to-parent handbook and parent association's information materials for orientation.
- Follow through on parent concerns with appropriate action and discussion. Concerns raised include: the effect of experimentation in teaching methods on our students, sophomore student adjustment to academic rigor and new social relationships, implementation of the new proficiency based grading and self-paced learning in physics, grading practices in physical education, possible improvements in interface with the SIR office, and effective use of PowerSchool.
- Follow through on concerns of the administration with appropriate action and discussion. As a committee, this year we were able to provide insight into potential useful qualities of a redesigned web-site.
- Improve our awareness of the academy's internal review process.
 - Understand the program review process. Residential Life is currently being reviewed. In 2010-11 reviews of fine arts, world languages, and wellness were conducted.
 - Seek out the video on the fine arts review.
- Support academic integrity.
- Be mutually supportive in awareness of academic current events and discussions in the IMSA community.
- Maintain momentum for 2012-13.

