



James Irwin Charter Middle School

5525 Astrozon Boulevard
Colorado Springs, CO 80916
Phone 302-9000
Fax 591-9993

December 2, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe we are already in December! The snow today is a great way to usher in the Christmas season, however. ☺ This newsletter is FULL of important information to help keep you updated as to the events over the next weeks. Please read it *carefully*, post it where you can refer to it frequently, and enjoy participating in the events of your choice. ☺

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Our Thanksgiving Food Drive was a great success in which we were able to bless several families who are going through a difficult time. Please help us to expand this outreach opportunity as we continue with another food drive for the Christmas season. Each homeroom (6th grade) and 1st period class (7th/8th grades) will be constructing a creative “sculpture” with their canned goods **by December 11th**. The winning class will receive a FREE NON-FRIDAY JEANS DAY! Please plan to contribute to this much needed community service. ☺ If you are a school family in need, please call Mrs. Donna Greene at 302-9000 ext. 3232 to set up a pick up time for food on December 16th or 17th.
- Recently, we have noticed a few students not being picked up in a timely manner. We want to make sure our students are supervised while on campus, and many times there are no staff members on campus after 4:30 p.m.
 - On Homework Help Club days, please be sure to pick up your student no later than 4:40 p.m. if he/she is staying for that.
 - Athletes should be picked up within 15 minutes of the end of practice or a game.
 - Students who are finished at the regular close of school (3:27 p.m.) should be picked up no later than 4:00 p.m.

If you are having difficulty getting your student on time, please make other arrangements for them to be picked up.

- I regret to inform you that Maria Winkler is no longer here at JICMS. Thank you to Mrs. Deana Eastman, who is filling in at the reception desk until we fill this position.
- **New automated phone system:** Thank you for your patience and understanding as the IT department works through “the bugs” of the new automated communication system we are using. If you are being contacted in more ways than you prefer, please log onto Infinite Campus and change your contact information to only the preferred modes of contact. Both parents must use their own IC access to change their contact information.

- **Boy's Basketball** – We want to encourage you to come out to support the boys for their last game at Banning Lewis (off Marksheffel Rd.) on **Monday, December 7th**. The 7th Grade games begin at 3:30 p.m. followed by the 8th Grade game.
- **WENDY'S FUNDRAISER** – Please come to the Wendy's at Palmer Park & Powers between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. (lobby or drive-thru) on Monday, December 7th.
- **LOST & FOUND** – All lost and found items are on display in our front entrance. Any items that are not claimed by the rightful owner will be taken to Good Will before winter break.
- **Immunization Update** – If you received an automated phone call on December 1st regarding immunizations, your student is missing at least one immunization required by Colorado state law.

The deadline for meeting these requirements is January 8, 2010. Any student not in compliance by January 8th will not be allowed to attend school, until proof of required immunizations is provided.

Please contact your student's physician if you have questions regarding immunizations he or she may be missing.

A written notice regarding immunizations will be forthcoming from Mrs. Masters, our JICMS Health Aide, to those not in compliance. To contact her directly, please call 302-9000 ext. 3610.

- **Holiday/Christmas Concert – Thursday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.**, in the James Irwin Field House (gym) at the High School. Dress code and concert details for band and choir members have been handed out by Mrs. Davis and Mr. Webb. Please ask your student for the information sheet(s) if you have not received it.
- **Girls Basketball Tryouts begin after school on Monday, December 14th**. All girls planning to try out need to have their physical forms turned in to Coach Melillo by December 14th to be allowed to play. NO EXCEPTIONS. Tryouts will be conducted Monday-Thursday.
- **Exam Week, December 14-17, will be an optional Dress Up Week.**
 - Students will have the option of wearing Dress Up clothing **or** regular dress code.
 - On **Monday** of that week, students are encouraged to wear *holiday sweaters* with dress code pants/skirts.
 - *After exams are completed on Monday*, students may wear Santa or other decorative head wear and/or jewelry for the remainder of the school day. We will have activities planned for the students for the remainder of the day Monday after their exams. ☺ (6th grade will have regular classes during the exam blocks for 7th and 8th grades.)
 - **Tuesday through Thursday**, students should either be in dress up clothes or dress code only.

Please note the dress code for Dress Up Days. This is written on page 19 of the Student Planner/Handbook as well.

Boys:

- Collared dress shirt , long or short sleeved and tucked in;
- A tie (We have extras here at school if your son does not own a tie.);
- Dress pants; and
- Dress shoes (not work boots or athletic shoes)

Girls:

- Dress or skirt **no higher than the kneecap**
- Dresses/tops must have long or short sleeves and a conservative neckline (If in doubt about the neckline, don't wear it.)
- Dress slacks (no jean material) and skirts are acceptable with a dress shirt.
- Dress shoes only

- **Please check what your student wears on Dress Up Days.** (It is not comfortable for anyone involved to have to make corrections when a student does not show up in JI dress code.)

- **Our Quarter Finals for 2nd Quarter will be as follows:**
 - Monday, December 14th – 7th & 8th period exams will be given first thing in the morning with a built-in review session for each. ***We will have pizza for sale (\$1.25 per slice) for the student body that day.*** The remainder of the day will include special activities. This day is a regular length school day.
 - Tuesday, December 15th – 1st & 2nd period exams (School will be dismissed at 11:00 a.m.)
 - Wednesday, December 16th – 3rd & 4th period exams (School will be dismissed at 11:00 a.m.)
 - Thursday, December 17th – 5th & 6th period exams (School will be dismissed at 11:00 a.m. for those who are finished with ALL exams.)
 - Makeup exams will be conducted from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday. Students who need to take a makeup exam must contact the teacher(s) in advance to arrange the makeup exam.
- **All student work must be turned in by December 11th.** *There will be no exceptions.* December 10th will be our last Homework Help Club of the quarter.
- **Second Quarter report cards** will be mailed home January 5th though you have open access to your student's grades on Infinite Campus at any time. Please notify the office if you didn't receive your 1st Quarter report card or got it much later than expected so that we can verify that we have the correct address for you in our records.
- **Please note the following in regards to Academic Probation.** If, at the end of any quarter, a student's academic average is below a C-, or if an F is received in any core subject, the student is placed on academic probation. A letter will be sent home to parents. The student's activity period may be modified to maximize academic success. The student and/or parents must meet with the Principal to review the student's academic performance. To be removed from academic probation, students must earn at least a C-average (with no failures) during the following quarter. If a student remains on academic probation through the end of the 4th quarter, he/she will lose his/her good

standing as a student of JICMS. Parents, it is imperative that you stay apprised of your student's grade throughout each quarter and have communication with your student's teachers so that there are no surprises at the end of a quarter. Thank you for your support for your student and partnering with us to help his/her educational experience be successful. ☺

- **Second Semester schedules** will be given to the students on January 5th, their first day back from their winter break.
- **Spirit Week, January 25-29, 2010!** We are starting our plans for this exciting week at school. Please note the following theme days to help as your student plans ahead to participate. ☺
 - Monday, January 25th - School Color Day(Blue and/or silver hair dye may be used.)
 - Tuesday, January 26th – Retro Day - Students may dress in the attire of their favorite decade (50's, 60's, 70's, etc.)
 - Wednesday, January 27th – Super Hero Day
 - Thursday, January 28th – Pajama Day
 - Friday, January 29th – Sports Fanatic Day

More specific dress guidelines will be sent home at the beginning of January. As always, modesty is the rule. ☺

Thank you all for another great month. As the school year continues, it is such a pleasure for Mr. Roots and I to get to know more of the students and to see them grow academically and in character. We very much value our partnership with you in helping our students become successful. ☺

With appreciation,

Mrs. Varnum, Principal
James Irwin Charter Middle School