

## (IPA) Independent Parent Association Monthly Meeting

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### Meeting minutes\_Open forum\_US cafeteria\_10/21/25\_8:15a

- Amy Miller, IPA President, opened meeting with paper copy of upcoming important dates/events and QR codes to volunteer as well as a brief introduction of IPA Exec members: Amy Fernandez, VP; Dustin Thiry, Treasurer (not present); parent division leads: Erin Black (ELC), Megan Resch (LS); Cara Gerhardt (MS), Megan Sutton (US) (not present)
- Introduced guest speaker Jessica Stong, TIS Marketing, Admissions and Fundraising:
  - Jessica introduced herself, sharing she has 2 children at TIS, previously consultant for non-profit and spoke on “Time, Talent, Treasure” as it relates to involvement at TIS.
  - She believes that the people are what makes the TIS experience special and unique and wants to unite in one goal: to change children’s lives and see them thrive at TIS.
  - She also shared that there are 3 main ways to play a part in TIS future, which center around giving with purpose vs. giving more:
    - Time: when you give of your time, when students see adults show up for them— as volunteers, friendly greetings, tour guides, etc.,— it sends a message that “you matter”, that you believe in their school and you believe in them.
    - Talent: Sharing your specialized talents is a powerful way to contribute. Planning, organizing, mentorship, expertise, etc.,— using and sharing what talents we already have will strengthen the school.
    - Treasure: consider donating to the Panther Fund at whatever level and frequency appropriate for your family. Shared there was an internal contest for staff giving participation and the Lower School won the “wine and cheese” prize with their 100% participation. Thank you Lower School staff.
  - Wrapped up with sentiment that “Participation is the power behind progress.”
- **Booster Update, Jade Vickery**
  - Booster Club financially supports K-12 athletic needs such as uniforms and other team/sports/equipment related needs.

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- They are currently working on registration efforts to get more members to support Booster Club. Division heads will send out an email soon.
- Homecoming 50/50 raffle winner/prize still unclaimed so they will roll over the money to the booster fund.
- Hoping to do a gift wrap fundraiser during the holiday season, intent to include the help of MS athletes and parents.
- Also on the horizon, a t-shirt design contest and possibly a “Granny Basketball” event.
- Tyler Kiem has suggested/requested a shed for sports equipment as a booster contribution. Efforts underway to see this through.

**Division Updates:**

**- Erin Wilson, Head of Upper School**

- Upcoming events/ **Parent Volunteer Opportunities:**

- Trunk or Treat, Sunday 10/26, 3:30-4:30 in LS parking lot
- Thanksgiving Feast, 11/18 will be catered by Olive Tree this year so will need RSVPs 2-weeks prior.
- Grandparents day 11/21, parent volunteers needed

**- Erin Wilson, in for Jodi Todd, Middle School**

- Same as above
- MS Snack Table this Friday, fundraiser for IPA, send cash with kids

**- Monica Patino, Head of Upper School**

- Shared thank you to parents who brought conference meals & snacks for PSAT
- 10/24 Panther Night Lights this Friday night: Dodgeball game 7th-12th in US gym
- Parent Volunteer Opportunity: Thanksgiving Feasts, Grandparents Day
- November includes NHS Blood Drive
- 11/14-16 Musical: Tuck Everlasting

• **General upcoming dates to remember:**

- Nov 4: IPA Restaurant Give Back Night at Wichita Brewing Co. (WBC) at the N. Woodlawn location only, 5-9p. Be sure to mention you're there for TIS and 15% of your sales will benefit TIS IPA!
- Nov. 6: TIS Open House 6pm. Please consider volunteering to give a tour!
- Dec. 2: Giving Tuesday. Please consider giving a financial gift to the TIS Panther Fund.

**Q & A & Comments**

Parent Question: What is the "Winter Breakfast"?

Winter breakfast is hosted on the 1/2 day before winter break for students at the Middle School.

Parent Question: In regard to discussion about "Treasure" and "giving with a purpose", does TIS have any information around giving strategically? For example, company workplace matching contributions and directing matching contributions/donations to TIS.

Jessica Stong will get more information from this parent and share more details as well as further develop this opportunity for other TIS parent/employees with similar programs.

Parent Question: In regard to request for donations and Panther Fund contributions, what is our (TIS) annual goal?

Mr. Paul Druzinsky shared that the goal is around \$400K to assist with operating costs and conversation continued that IPA and Booster are not included in this number so the ideal number would likely be closer to \$450K so that the parent groups were not charged with raising funds for general operating efforts such as athletics and field trips, etc., but could instead focus efforts on providing time and talent.

Parent Question: How many families (not students) do we currently have at TIS?

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Administration staff present was unsure of this number at the meeting but has since shared that we have around 300 families within TIS.