



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
OF MONTEREY
FOUNDATION

August 2009 Newsletter

How To Give

The International School of Monterey is a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization. As such 100% of your financial contributions may be tax deductible. 501(3)(c) Tax ID# 74-3062542.

Please make checks payable to ISM Foundation, and mail to P.O. Box 711, Monterey, CA 93940. You may also leave contributions in the black box in the office at the school.

If you would prefer, we are now able to accept contributions online using Paypal at www.ismonterey.org. Make a one time payment, or if it's more convenient, you can now make a monthly contribution on your credit card.

Money orders and cash contributions are always welcome as well!

And don't forget, no amount is too small...or too big!

Congratulations on the start of another fantastic year at ISM!

The ISM Foundation raises funds to support the programs that made each and every one of us choose to send our children to ISM. We are fellow parents and volunteers and our goal is to make sure that we have *all* done our part in supporting ISM to the best of our abilities.

Specifically, our goal is 100% of families making a contribution to ISM with an overall goal of raising \$350,000 this year. The funding gap - money required to offer the programs that we want for our children - is over \$350,000 for all of the students.

The ISM Foundation is challenged with bridging the gap between what the State provides and what it costs to offer programs such as Spanish, art, music, drama and physical education. After ISM receives its State funding, we still need to come up with approximately \$1800 per student to offer these programs - most of which have been cut from the local public schools. It is our job to make sure that we keep these programs funded!

As many of you already know, recent State budget cuts have impacted schools significantly. And we should anticipate that there will be additional mid-year cuts as the State continues to sort out the financial implications of the California budget crisis. It is more critical than ever that we make giving to ISM a priority.

Already this year 58 families have made a contribution to ISM! Please join them in making an early contribution and help ensure that we keep our budget on track. If you have not already done so, please consider making your contribution today.

The Foundation will also have a table at Back to School Night on September 10th to answer any questions you may have and to accept contributions. You will also be introduced to your Classroom Champion that night. These folks will be available throughout the year to answer any questions you may have, and make giving as easy as possible.

We know your child's education is at the top of your priorities, that is why you chose ISM. We cannot stress enough how important it is that ISM is at the top of your charitable giving, so please give as meaningful a gift as you are able. Every contribution makes a difference and our children's education is well worth the investment.

In the spirit of community that is embraced at ISM, we also ask those with greater means to step forward and help a less fortunate family support their ISM education. Please make the additional effort and make a philanthropic donation above and beyond the \$1800 per student.

Thank you to everyone in advance. We are looking forward to another successful year at ISM!

The ISM Foundation Team



Classroom Champions

Please make sure that you get to know your Classroom Champion who will be helping all of us at ISM to reach our financial goals this year.

K-Maren: Camilla Mann
K-Kim: Jennifer Bliss
1-Touryan: Plasha Will
1-Carr: Plasha Will
2-Freeman: Craig Brinton
2-Courtney: Rodney Smith
3-Brown: Dana Cleary
3-Wojtalewicz: Beverly Smith
4-Welsh: Mark Miller
4-Spencer: Mark Miller
5-Burns: John Tilley
5-Riquelme: Ken Peterson
6-Jonas: Lisa Bennett
6-Shephard: Lisa Bennett
7-Concepcion: Jennifer Stone
7-Jones: Jennifer Stone
8-Lane:
8-Zugrave:

August Donor Profile

Every month we will feature comments from a family who has made contributing to the ISM Foundation a priority.

Jacob and Camilla Mann - "From One Child to Two at ISM"

Camilla and Jacob Mann have two students at ISM this year. Riley is in Mrs. Courtney's 2nd grade class while Dylaney has just started kindergarten with Ms. Maren. Their varied careers have run the gamut from running a stock photo agency, freelance writing/editing, construction, floral design, and teaching SCUBA. Right now their day jobs are office administration and fine custom woodwork, but both Camilla and Jacob assert that the most rewarding and challenging jobs they've ever had, by far: mom and dad.



Due to the State of California's severe cash crisis, Jacob and I received an IOU from the State Controller for our 2008 tax refund. This same cash crunch has resulted in State funding cuts to schools, including ISM.

There has always been a gap between what the State funds and what programs ISM provides, sometimes called a 'funding gap.' And with the state's economic crisis and ensuing funding cuts, that funding gap is widening. The State funding does not cover the extras that we are so blessed to have at ISM, so that funding gap must be made up somehow. For that reason, ISM asks for family support of both time and money.

And now, having two students enrolled means even more time and even more money for our family. We've grown accustomed to writing ISM a check to cover the funding gap for Riley. So, in addition to a bigger funding gap this school year, we also have a second student in the mix. As easy as it would have been to write the same check that we've grown accustomed to writing, we are cognizant of the fact that doing that would not be good for the school's bottom line. The funding gap - money required to offer the programs that we want for our children - is over \$350,000 for all of the students. Because we now have two students at ISM, we are getting twice the benefits and we should now expect to contribute twice as much. More time and more money has required some advance planning and strict budgeting, but it's something that Jacob and I do without hesitation. We do it with a smile and with the expectation that other families will do their part as well.



Join the ISM Foundation!

If you are interested in becoming a member of the ISM Foundation, please contact Plasha Fielding Will at foundation@ismonterey.org

The Foundation meets on the first Saturday of every month at 9:00AM at MY Museum, 425 Washington Street in Monterey.

August Donor Profile, continued

When our eldest son, Riley, started at the International School of Monterey (ISM) two years ago, it was the second week of the school year. At the beginning of August 2007, still number one on the waiting list at ISM, we grudgingly enrolled him at our local public school, hoping that a spot would open up sooner rather than later. So, when Karen Kushel called us on Monday, asking if we still wanted the spot and, if so, when Riley would start, I was only half joking when I responded that he be there in that afternoon! We felt so lucky that, only four days into the school year, a spot in Ms. Maren 's kindergarten class had become available for Riley. Riley started classes at ISM the following day.

This month our younger son, Dylaney, started kindergarten at ISM. He is thrilled and so are we. One benefit of being a sibling of a current student: we did not have to endure the excruciating limbo of not knowing if Dylaney would have a spot. We did not have to participate in the lottery enrollment process; we knew that we, like 18 other sibling families, would automatically be able to enroll in kindergarten. What a relief!

Another reason for relief this school year is that our cost to cover the funding gap per student is less than what we've been paying for preschool the past few years. That's probably true for most families. So, we can cover the funding gap for Riley and Dylaney; we can donate a little bit more to offset the gap for families who are not as fortunate as we are; and we can start to replenish our neglected savings and breathe a little easier.

Our expectations for the education Riley would get at ISM have been met - and exceeded. Riley only attended our local public school for four days, but the difference between that school and ISM is dramatic. ISM stands out from other schools in the area because of its rigorous curriculum, its talented faculty, and its dedicated staff. ISM can also boast - quite truthfully - a close-knit community with an involved, active parent community. While ISM is a public charter school, unlike other public schools, ISM 's program offerings exceed what the state funding covers. In addition to the basic curriculum, ISM continues to offer a foreign language, art, music, drama, physical education, and other enrichment. Those are probably reasons that you opted to send your child to ISM versus your neighborhood public school - all the extras. I know those were factors in our decision to pursue enrollment at ISM for our two boys.

Jacob and I are grateful to be a part of the community, thankful that our kids are enriched and challenged on a daily basis, and look forward to many more years here. I love seeing parents ' happy faces on campus, giving time and energy to the school. Even with family involvement, lights don't turn on and teachers' salaries aren't paid with goodwill. As with everything else, it takes money to run ISM. The adage of "time is money" isn't wholly accurate when applied to this context. In the case of family involvement at ISM, the school requires both time and money. Consider both an investment in the most precious thing you have: your child or children.

ISM is a phenomenal environment for our students. So, we ask you to, please, look at the reasons you opted to enroll your student or students at ISM and then to make the most generous monetary contribution that your family budget allows. We have. Please join us. Thank you.

~Camilla and Jacob