



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
OF MONTEREY
FOUNDATION

August 2008 Newsletter

In This Issue

[Investing In Your Child's Education](#)

[August Donor Profile](#)

[Other Ways To Give](#)

Quick Links

[Donate Now](#)

[ISM Home Page](#)

[Family Association](#)

Dear ISM Parent,

Congratulations on the beginning of a new school year at ISM! We have all chosen this school because it offers an environment where children thrive and learn.

This unique educational experience comes at a price. As a public charter school, we receive less State and Federal support than other public schools in the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District - enough for a basic education, but not enough to fulfill the ISM promise to you and your child. **After ISM receives its State funding, we still need to come up with an additional \$1500 per student in order to offer the services and programs that made each of us choose ISM for our child's education** - music, art, drama, foreign language, physical education, teacher's aides, counselors and the many extras that are funded in large part by parental contributions.

Each year, we will ask your family to do your part, and come as close to reaching that \$1500 goal as you are able, or if financially possible, exceed it, and help a less fortunate family. **ISM will thrive only as long as parents of ISM students recognize the value of the education we deliver and contribute their "Family Share"**. This will allow us to maintain the programs that set ISM apart from other schools.

You have chosen to send your child to ISM. Now we are asking you to join us in making a contribution to your child's education.

Sincerely,
The ISM Foundation Team

Investing in Your Child's Education

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.

In future correspondence, we will be thanking and acknowledging our contributors.

Philanthropists:

Donors who contribute *above* the \$1500/student Family Share, and help a less fortunate family.

Family Share Holders:

Donors who reach the \$1500/student Family Share goal.

Participants:

Donors who make a contribution to the Family Share program.

If for any reason you do *not* want your name posted, please contact the Foundation Chair John Tilley, and let him know.

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!

August Donor Profile

Every month we will feature comments from a family who has made contributing to the ISM Foundation a priority. This month we are featuring Denise LaFontaine and Dan Simpson.

Denise LaFontaine and Dan Simpson: "It All Adds Up"



With two students in the school (Ty entering 5th Grade and Danielle entering 3rd Grade), our goal is to contribute \$3000 per year (\$1500 per child). Here's how our family funds our annual contribution to the ISM Foundation!

Our family saves some money together each year by collecting coins in a big jar. It is amazing how spare change can add up, if you provide a place for it to collect. Dan and I dump our pocket change into this jar. When the kids find coins on the street, they add it to the jar. Last year, we saved \$700 this way!

I find that this cash jar is a very visual way to help my kids understand the idea of saving and how small amounts of money add up to larger sums. Dan and I like to demonstrate to the kids that spare money such as this can be devoted to a tangible family goal. For us, the goal is to use this cash to fund part of our annual ISM financial contribution.

There is no reason to insulate our children from the economics of daily life. I want Ty and Danielle to understand our family's financial priorities and how our priorities inform our family budget. ISM is a big priority for us. Like the majority of ISM families, we have made a commitment to support ISM with contributions of time and money.

When the kids want things, as all kids do, I often ask them "Do you really need this? Or do you just want it?" We invest in the basics of living first, education second, and then we figure if we can work in that fancy pair of sneakers or whatever it is that catches the kids' eyes (or ours!). I don't keep it from the kids that there is a cost to a good education and that Dan and I make a monthly contribution to support ISM's programs.

So, the kids know that the coins in the big jar go toward paying our school contribution. I feel much better having my discretionary cash going to support a solid daily school experience for my children than to have it dribble away into junky toys that just get lost or extra trips to McDonalds or you name it. You know what I'm talking about - it is so easy to just spend on the trivia, even when you don't intend to.

I know there are all kinds of family budgets here at ISM. If you can write one big check at the beginning of the year, that's wonderful for the school. But that certainly isn't the only way to go. Our family can't afford to do that, so we write a monthly check. I know many people don't have checking accounts and don't use credit cards - and that is just fine. Everyone in this world welcomes cash, including ISM. Just walk \$20 into the ISM office every week or so. Believe me, the staff will accept it with a smile and add it to your Family Share contribution!

Thanks for joining me in supporting ISM. I look forward to a good school year with you all.
Denise and Dan

Other Ways to Support ISM

For more information on any of these alternative ways to give to ISM, please contact Jennifer Stone at jenstone723@sbcglobal.net

1. Support another Student

By contributing more than your \$1500 per student, you can help to support a student whose family is not able to reach that goal. All donations are anonymous and confidential; people in need are not identified or advised of any donation on their behalf.

-

2. Join these Community Partners to Support ISM

eScrip

On-line shopping

Box Tops for Education

Visit

http://www.ismonterey.org/Documents/RoomParents/ISM_Community_Partners_Table.pdf to find out more about our Community Partner programs.

3. Participate in Fundraising Fridays

Hot Lunch Fridays are sponsored by individual classroom families as a way to fund schoolwide activities, field trips, and non-profits in need.

-

4. Encourage Grandparent Support

Many grandparents have time, talent, and financial resources that they would happily contribute to their grandchildren's school. Please let us know if your parents would like to be involved with ISM - by contributing either time or money.

5. Represent ISM at Community Service Events

ISM has developed business partnerships with the Salinas Air Show, Big Sur Marathon, Big Sur Half Marathon and AT&T Pro Am Golf Tournament.

6. Donate your Car

Cars 4 Causes - 1-800-766-CARE

Donate Cars USA - 1-800-269-6814