



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
OF MONTEREY  
FOUNDATION

# March 2010 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](http://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!

It's been awhile since the last update from the ISM Foundation, but we wanted to share a few things with you.

First, please **save the date for ISM Foundation's Annual Fundraising Event - An Evening of Wine Culture and Diversity featuring Master of Wine Tim Hanni as our special guest! The event will take place on Saturday, May 15, 2010 at 5:00PM at the Intercontinental Hotel on Cannery Row in Monterey. There will be dinner, dancing and a fantastic live auction.** Mark your calendars!

Second, ISM was featured in the January 28th edition of the *Monterey County Weekly*. If you have not had a chance to see it, you can read it online here... <http://tiny.cc/a5FM3>. Scroll down to the section "International Effort." In the following week's edition, a double-page spread with an impressive number of names publicized all of the donors to the *Monterey County Weekly's* Community Fund Challenge. It was inspiring to see so many ISM families - parents, grandparent, and students - included on that list of philanthropists. As a community, we raised over \$69,344 from 273 donors! **Overall this year, we have raised \$267,025 towards our goal of raising \$350,000!**

Third, the admission lottery that was held on February 2<sup>nd</sup> had a record number of prospective students. The most jarring figures I heard, though, were about the **150+ kindergarten applicants** waiting to hear if their numbers were called **for the nine (9) placement spots** open for the fall of 2010. You read that correctly: only nine new kindergarten spots were available, with the rest being allocated to children of staff, board members and siblings of 25 current students. It was a potent reminder of how coveted these spots are and just how lucky our kids are to have a place at ISM.

Fourth, if you are one of the families who has contributed to the Family Share this year, thank you - again! - for showing your love for ISM. **We've noticed that many of you have set up monthly payments that are based on last year's Family Share - please take a minute and update your donations to meet this year's Family Share of \$1,800** (e.g. \$180/mo/10 months or \$150/mo/12 months). This school could not exist without the time, energy, and money from the families in the community. So, thank you.

Thanks

The ISM Foundation Team



To every family who has contributed to the ISM Foundation's Family Share, THANK YOU. To those families who have yet to contribute this school year, there is still time.

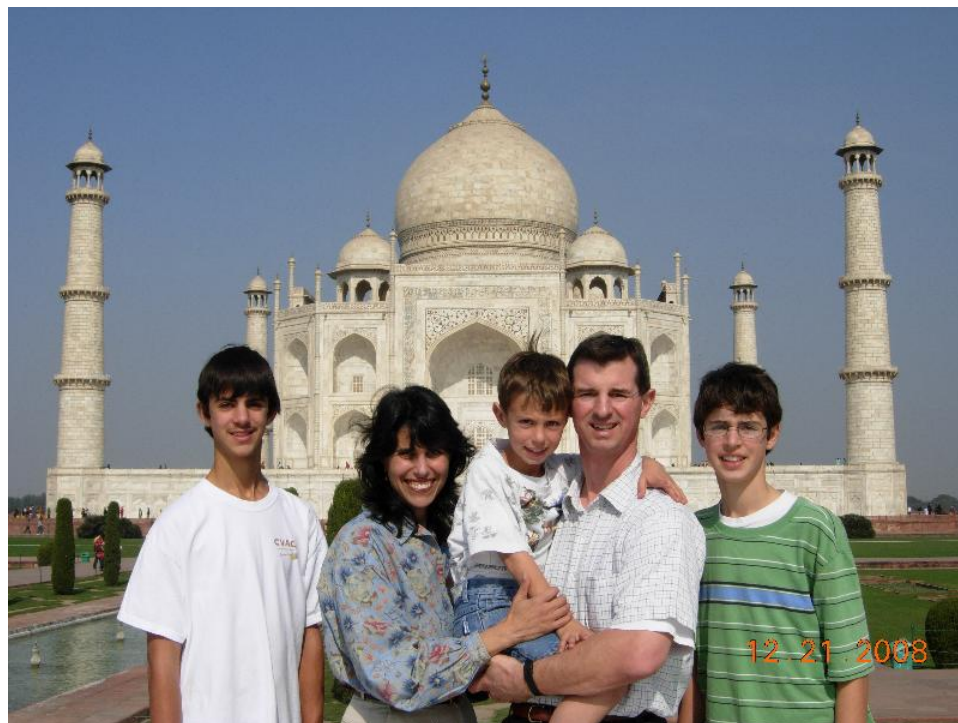
## Classroom Champions

Overall, participation in the ISM Family Share is at **78.7%**. Please help us reach our goal of 100% participation by April 15th! In the next newsletter we will be publishing names of all the families who have made contributing to ISM a priority!

**K-Maren: 90%**  
**K-Kim: 100%**  
**1-Touryan: 85%**  
**1-Carr: 100%**  
**2-Freeman: 73%**  
**2-Courtney: 96%**  
**3-Brown: 73%**  
**3-Wojtalewicz: 86%**  
**4-Welsh: 64%**  
**4-Spencer: 76%**  
**5-Burns: 63%**  
**5-Riquelme: 76%**  
**6 -Jonas: 84%**  
**6-Shephard: 80%**  
**7-Concepcion: 92%**  
**7-Jones: 80%**  
**8-Lane: 57%**  
**8-Zugrave: 79%**

## March Donor Profile

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



*"Teaching Children To Think - Preparing Our Kids For Future Education" ~ Najoo and Tim Ruediger*

*Najoo Ruediger works as a Business Process Leader at CTB McGraw-Hill. Tim Ruediger is a CFO for a local agricultural company. Their sons Erik (age 16) and Cyrus (age 15), started at ISM when the school was formed, and are now students at Monterey High School. Their son Jesse is in Ms. Brown's third grade class.*

Every day at work, I am called upon to synthesize information, give presentations, and work cooperatively with colleagues.

The ability to analyze data and the capacity to present information coherently are skills many people need at work, and many of us wish we had gained these skills earlier in life instead of learning them on the job!

As a child in India, I don't remember being taught to make presentations and work cooperatively in elementary and middle school, but, in retrospect, I wish I had been. It would have been an excellent preparation for my future.

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That is why I think ISM is doing our children a favor by focusing on these skills beginning as early as first grade.

I know that making presentations is difficult initially for shy children, but when you are taught at a young age to do research and to speak in front of the class, you have time to work through the difficulties and to accumulate enough experience to reduce the stress.

By the time our kids walk into high school, they have research and presentation skills that students from many other middle schools have not had the opportunity to develop.

ISM taught my sons Erik and Cyrus to think - not just to regurgitate facts. The skills they accumulated at ISM made an easy transition to Monterey High, and their ISM friendships have endured through the high school years.

A strong academic grounding and supportive friendships are a testimony to the quality of the school we have all created together.

ISM's rich K- 5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum is why most of us enrolled our young children here. However, it is when our children reach middle school that we value more than ever the camaraderie of a positive peer group, a culture of respect, and a curriculum that offers academic rigor.

If you have a middle school student at ISM this year, I'm sure your focus is starting to be on high school. Perhaps the ongoing talk about ISM activities and need for financial and volunteer support is getting a little repetitive.

But, in my opinion, this is the time you might most value ISM. Many parents with students in other local middle schools wish their children were spending each school day within a culture of high behavioral and academic expectations.

Please remember: your contribution and the contribution of others to the Family Share program helps to finance a strong middle school academic experience for your child and for his or her fellow students. In fact, if your middle school student has spent several years at ISM, your family has benefited the longest from the high standards and academic extras that ISM's Family Share program provides.

Our continuous K-8 grade curriculum is something worth acknowledging and appreciating, and it is worth supporting financially to the maximum extent of our ability. For those parents with children in seventh and eighth grades - please continue to contribute to the Family Share Program, even though your focus is now on high school.

The costs of ISM's classes and services are higher than the costs of education at Colton, Los Arboles, King Middle School and the other public middle schools. ISM is able to offer more to our kids because Family Share contributions pay for extras the State funding will not cover.

Thank you to those families who are contributing to Family Share. As a parent who has seen my older sons and their friends enter high school with confidence and competence, I appreciate your financial leadership.

**~Najoo and Tim Ruediger~**