



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
OF MONTEREY
FOUNDATION

October 2009 Newsletter

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: 50%
Camilla Mann
K-Kim: 70%
Jennifer Bliss
1-Touryan: 55%
Plasha Will
1-Carr: 70%
Plasha Will
2-Freeman: 50%
Craig Brinton
2-Courtney: 41%
Rodney Smith
3-Brown: 50%
Dana Cleary
3-Wojtalewicz: 55%
Beverly Smith
4-Welsh: 48%
Ken Peterson
4-Spencer: 40%
Mark Miller
5-Burns: 31%
John Tilley
5-Riquelme: 33%
David Awerbuck
6-Jonas: 58%
Lisa Bennett
6-Shephard: 58%
Lisa Bennett
7-Concepcion: 48%
Jennifer Stone
7-Jones: 36%
Jennifer Stone
8-Lane: 38%
Paula Carter
8-Zugrave: 28%
Paula Carter

Happy Fall Break!

Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution to the ISM Foundation so far this year! Our goal was to reach **50%** of families giving to ISM before fall break, and so far this year, we have raised **\$92,000** and have **47%** of families contributing. To those of you who have participated - THANK YOU! ISM relies on these funds to operate!

To those of you who are making regular payments - thank you too! If you haven't already updated the monthly amount to ensure that you reach the \$1800 level by June, please update your PayPal account or on-line billing payments accordingly. (The 10 month plan is \$180/month, and the 12 month plan is \$150/month). If you need any help with this, please do not hesitate to contact us at foundation@ismonterey.org.

The next goal is to reach 75% of family participation by the December break. With everyone on board, we will reach our fundraising goal of raising \$350,000 by June, 2010. Please do what you can to ensure that we reach our goal and keep the ISM budget strong so that we can make sure to keep all the ISM programs that make this school so special!

If you have not already done so, please make your contribution today - and of course - if you are able to do more and help support the education of another student at ISM, please consider doing so.

Thanks
The ISM Foundation Team



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
OF MONTEREY
FOUNDATION

October 2009 Newsletter, continued

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!

October Donor Profile

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



Bonnie and Ivan Barcinas "Education First: A Family Tradition Even During Tough Times"

Bonnie and Ivan Barcinas have two children at ISM. Their son Josh is in Ms Concepcion's seventh grade class and their daughter Gabby is in Ms. Brown's third grade class. Ivan is a licensed electrician. Bonnie has worked in the investment industry for seventeen years and is currently employed with Merrill Lynch.

When someone asks me about myself, one of the first things I talk about is my culture. Ivan and I are both Guamanian. Our culture is very strong, and the tight traditional Guamanian family structure and values guide us in life. Because Ivan and I both treasure our Guamanian culture as well as our American culture, I was intrigued when I heard about the International School eight years ago, when Josh was ready to enter kindergarten.

Bonnie and Ivan Barcinas "Education First: A Family Tradition Even During Tough Times", continued

I grew up on Guam till I was ten years old, when my family relocated to California. Ivan's parents are from Guam originally, but Ivan grew up as an army brat, moving back and forth between bases in Marina and Germany. He settled in Guam at age eighteen to re-connect with his grandparents and extended family, and he lived there for about six years, getting training as an electrician. We met when I went back to the island to visit family.

When it came time for our older child to start kindergarten, we planned to enroll him at San Carlos School. But when our daycare provider mentioned ISM, and its international focus, I visited the campus, met the school Director, and was very impressed. Fewer people were aware of ISM at that time, so we were lucky in getting Josh in immediately. Now, I know it is a different story; many people are aware of the school and keep their names on the waiting list for years to transfer their kids into ISM.

For the middle school years, more than ever, I am pleased that Josh is in the ISM environment. Because he is very involved in sports here in Marina, he gets the best of two worlds - close friendships with Marina kids in the baseball organization and a strong academic connection with the ISM students and teachers.

I know that less would be asked of Ivan and me financially if Josh attended Los Arboles Middle School and Gabby attended J.C. Crumpton Elementary here in Marina. Both of these public schools have their students raising funds by selling wrapping paper and cookie dough and whatever else, but the schools are not trying to provide the extras that ISM does. Therefore, they do not need to ask parents for a significant financial contribution, as ISM does.

However, I have no regrets when I write those Family Share checks. Ivan and I have always put our kids' education first, and we believe that includes financially supporting ISM just as it includes volunteering time to ISM.

I was one of nine kids. My parents really had to scrimp and save to provide food, clothing, and to send us to the local Catholic school. Parochial school on Guam wasn't hugely expensive, and the school offered our family a volume discount, since there were so many of us. But, still it was a sacrifice on my parents' part to educate us. Yet, my father always told us to put education first. I remember the stories and the lessons my father told me, and I tell him today "Now I'm living your stories!"

Even during times like these, when the economy is so bad and Ivan has had no work for months because of an injury and then because all construction has stopped, we will find a way to pay our Family Share. We definitely need to squeeze our budget to make the ISM Family Share payments, but for us, education comes first. We're just grateful that we aren't paying private school tuition to get the quality that we are getting from our ISM staff and curriculum.

My friends whose seventh graders are not at ISM often tell me how lucky I am. They wish their kids were with us here, but, of course, it is difficult to transfer, because the school is so popular now. That long waiting list of interested families illustrates the value of the school.

It may be hard to put a price on the value of a strong elementary and junior high school experience for our kids -but then at the same time, the "price" is pretty clear. That funding gap between what ISM gets from the State and what ISM delivers to our kids is the "price" - \$1,800 per year per child, or whatever your family budget can really handle, be that more or be that less.

Bonnie and Ivan Barcinas "Education First: A Family Tradition Even During Tough Times", continued

And, by that I mean, what you can afford to pay when you look at yourself honestly and figure out what you can scrape together, even given this economy. I figure if I can still go out to the Marina Bagel shop for coffee occasionally instead of always making it at home, then I can certainly prioritize my kids' education and make my Family Share payment. I just have to squeeze things a little harder when I budget.

I realize that all of us have priorities and expenses in our lives that compete with ISM. Personally, I have a constant struggle with my health. I was diagnosed with lupus, an auto-immune disease, six years ago, but I have struggled with it for much longer. My joints hurt, and I am often fatigued to say the least. Basically, lupus (when it flares) really beats the heck out of you and you don't know what to expect or what part of the body it's going to attack.

I treasure the good days when I feel OK, and I dread the bad days. Between my job, teaching CCD at church, kids' sports, and volunteering time and money for lupus research, I am stretched pretty thin. I bring this up, because I know I'm not the only person at ISM who has to make decisions about where to invest limited money and time. Many of us parents struggle with the same types of conflicts.

But, Ivan and I figure that, even with Ivan not working (temporarily, we hope and anticipate!), as long as I am working, we can figure out a way to pay what we owe the school to cover the cost of an excellent education for our kids. I remember what my dad did for us in Guam and I tell him that I learned a lot from him about how to sacrifice for something that matters as much as education.

Ivan and I know what our responsibilities are. We made an agreement to contribute to the Family Share, and we have managed to do it each year, during good times and bad.

I was so pleased to hear how many fellow parents share the same philosophy and honored their financial obligations to ISM. I know it hasn't been easy for many of us. It certainly hasn't been easy for our family this past year. But, that's just life, isn't it?

Just think - we are not on the waiting list, wishing our child were attending ISM. We are lucky enough to be here now. Let's all continue to support the Family Share program and pay for what makes ISM the school we value.

~Bonnie and Ivan Barcinas