

A Glimpse at IHS Clubs/Organizations

Written by Lauren Douglas and Raine Beckman

Information concerning clubs and organizations is provided by members, officers, and responsible adults involved. Some clubs are school/district sponsored, while others are independent, in which the school provides only a place to meet.

Green Team Cleans, Promotes Healthy Environment



Current and former members of IHS Green Team at a local park after a cleanup. A new cleanup at the same park is scheduled again this year.

The green team rises again! Chemistry teacher and Green Team sponsor and founder Jill Smith said she enjoys being this club's sponsor because she likes "...students and young people who can recognize our relationship to our environment and [Smith] to see them inspired and even a little upset with the current situations regarding the environment."

Spectrum is New on Campus

Looking around our school we see new, 'more inclusive' clubs rising up and inviting students who didn't quite fit into other ones. If we take this as an indicator, IHS is displaying greater support and acceptance of diversity. In particular, the Spectrum Club has been a major representation of this.

HOSA Opens Opportunities

Another year of HOSA is upon us, and all of those scrubs-wearing students on campus have an opportunity to join and enjoy benefits as members of HOSA-Future Health Professionals (formerly known as Health Occupations Students of America). (See *HOSA*, pg. 3)

Bible Club Shares Gospel

Founder and advocate for the newly formed Bible Club Wyatt Griffith said he wanted to "...help expose people to God and bring an opportunity for fellowship to people who are interested."

(See *Bible*, pg. 3) All Club Stories jump to page 3. Go read what it's all about!



From left, Ashton Habluetzel, (hidden) Wyatt Griffith, Yesenia Garcia, and Mariam Silvas.



BRAINS HARD AT WORK: Andrew Heard (sitting) checks calculations for student Micah McGill in a complex mathematical calculation while Ms. Darlene Rogers assists. Students are preparing for UIL Number Sense competition.

UIL Competition Builds Academic, Social, and Professional Skills



Written by Raine Beckman

Students who are more deeply involved in the academic world know that winter is the time for UIL (University Interscholastic League) competitions. These students take time before or after the school day to practice so they can show off their intellectual skills in out-of-town high school competitions.

Any student can participate, as long as he or she maintains a passing grade point average (GPA). Students benefit from these competitions, especially if they score well. Certainly, they enhance knowledge in not only their academic areas, but also in testing, performing, or competing strategies. If a student advances to higher levels of competition, they can earn scholarships and demonstrate their enthusiasm and ambition for accomplishment on their future career resumes.

While current participants have already attended coaching and practice meets, new participants are still in demand. Last minute competitors are greatly appreciated by all coaches. In an interview with co-coordinator Ms. Rogers, she said that in recent years, IHS students have not proceeded to the state competition, but it is possible. After the district tournament, the participant can compete in region, and finish it all off at the state level, possibly winning scholarship money.

If interested, a quick visit with Co-coordinators Mrs. Darlene Rogers or Mrs. Stacy Ostrom will help anyone decide in which event to compete. They can also direct students to the coach for that

event. These are the teachers coaching events: Callie Nunez, Robin Palmer, Stacy Ostrom, Darlene Rogers, Jessica Conway, Robert Hon, Katie Hon, and Becky Nielsen.

With so many events available, anyone can find something in which he or she is interested. Generally, our school has subjects like math, reading and writing, social studies, science, art, and acting and speaking events like one-act.

"There is so much value in participating in academic UIL, because it is not only helping students fine-tune skills in the classroom, but it also prepares them for college life and learning to manage their time," UIL Journalism Coach Jessica Conway said.

The first practice meet in Port Aransas on Jan. 26 has already passed, but a UIL contest is scheduled for Feb. 16 and another on Feb. 23. District meet is Mar. 30 in Sinton. Prospective participants are urged to sign up before it's too late.

In past years, as many as 50 students competed from IHS, but fewer participated last year and even fewer this year are competing, thus far. Currently, the same few students have stepped up to take over and do all or most of the events at meets. Even if the students do not place, it is still a benefit for the mind and looks better on our school.

Border Crisis Discussed in History Class

By Raine Beckman

Teachers are often encouraged to make their lessons in the classroom “relative” to what’s going on in the “real-world”. How does the “border crisis” affect IHS? Ms. Stacy Ostrom gave several important insights. “To explain the border crisis to students the first thing I would say is that it is a conflict between the two ideologies of conservatism and liberalism where the conservatives say that a wall will keep out any illegal immigrants, and the liberals believe that that is an immoral thing to do,” Ostrom said.

It may seem obvious that Ingleside and the coastal bend area are geographically and economically connected to the “border crisis” action, and that events occurring on the border can affect local lives. All of Ostrom’s classes, she said, try to involve themselves as much as possible. Before current discussions, most students were not really aware of the recent attempts by thousands of Central American immigrants in caravans trying to cross our border and the very heated political arguments in Washington on this matter. But through all of her classes Ostrom discusses the consequences and disputes between the two sides to try and inform the students so that they will be able to make informed decisions when voting.

One major consequence of closing the border is that it would open more jobs for legal Americans. Other U.S. government concerns discussed in news reports include providing government medical, housing, education, and other social services for immigrants. Some illegal border crossings also

involve crimes such as illegal drug distribution, and human sex trafficking. Proponents of a border barrier say it would greatly reduce the flow of people across the border.

Students don’t necessarily understand, according to Ostrom, what building a wall would entail. They think that building it would keep illegal immigrants out, but they don’t understand how current politics plays into the shutdown. Neither side of the opposing forces in Washington have, so far, agreed to anything resembling a compromise agreement that would open up the government.

News outlets have also reported that the president and Republicans have refused to sign the budget bill, an act that would allow government workers to be paid, ending the shutdown. And the Democratic have refused to agree to provide President Trump’s almost \$six billion spending on the wall at any time. Trump decided to shut portions of the government down until a compromise was reached.

Ostrom continued: “This problem is not just easily fixed by shutting down the government. It [the shutdown] comes with many consequences.” At the time of this issue’s publication, these departments and bureaus of government had been shut down for over a month with no sign of reopening. “The ripple effect spreads from those who are no longer getting paid to their families, businesses where they live, and other places in which government workers spend money.. It is starting to affect airports, which results in changes of airline flights, hotels, and businesses. You can imagine that these families are becoming

frustrated at the loss of their paychecks, This shutdown cannot go on forever,” she said.

All of these problems come from the obvious reason that immigrants are coming to the United States illegally. “Realistically, the numbers that I’ve seen, the numbers seem lower than they’ve ever been,” Ostrom said, “You can see hundreds of people trying to get over a fence. You can see that because the news crews are there and they’ve got cameras running. You don’t see the students who come over on work or student VISAS for a year and then drop out of school and decide never to leave.”

Being this close to the border, we are growing more and more concerned because these immigrants have been slowly coming through our borders for a very long time, Ostrom said. “The government shutdown is going to cause things like TSA (Transportation Security Administration) to shut down, people calling in “sick” because of not getting paid. Important people like border patrol, FBI agents, DEA agents, ATF agents on strike and just not coming to do their job. Some branches of military are even without pay. Sometimes it is hard to bring these things into the classroom and school environment because of how controversial these topics are, Ostrom said, but she wants to make sure her kids know the facts before they go out into the real world. “We are trying to talk about this every day just to make

Tracksters Get Ready

By Bobby Gonzales

It’s cold. It’s hot. It’s windy, and on some days it’s all three during track and field season. Whether a runner, jumper, or thrower, you know that training for any of these is painful, exhausting, and mentally nerve-racking. But it’s exhilarating when you jump the highest, break that finish tape in the lead, or put the shot or discus ahead of all others.

Last year’s 2018 track and field season was remarkable, but this year’s thinclads look even stronger, according to track Coach Robby Gonzales. Both the boys’ and girls’ teams have plenty of talented aspiring athletes joining and returning. All are confident about this season, but recognize the necessary preparation and effort required for success, Gonzales said.

“The [runners and throwers] in the track program are excited,” boys’ head track Gonzales said. “There is a belief among them that great things will happen along the way as they strive to reach both their individual and team goals.”

After the results from last year’s qualifiers, the coaches feel they are prepared for success. Mustang girls track captured 2018 31-4A district runner-up position, area champions, proceeded to the regional track meet in Kingsville, and had two state qualifiers. Meanwhile, Mustang boys placed runner-up in 2018 21-4A district, competition, 3rd in the area, and competed in the regional and state track meets.

“Last year, senior leadership was outstanding and certainly difficult to replace,” Girls’ head track coach Eric Miller said.

***Mustang Messenger
Invites Story Ideas,
Comments
ron.landiers@inglesideisd.org***

Clubs Fit Variety of Individuals, Interests

Spectrum is New on Campus

By Raine Beckman

Spectrum Club, founded by Dakota Bass, is a student led, teacher/campus police supervised organization that began in the 2018-2019 school year.

“A ton of kids aren't accepted and/or don't know how to express themselves. So this [Spectrum] is a safe haven for them,” Leader Bass said. “This is an environment created for people of the LGBT community who need a safe haven from the world to find a comfortable place to talk about their problems,” Bass said. “The goal is for the students to not feel so alone but supported instead.”



Founder Dakota Bass displays symbol for Spectrum/Safe Zone Club.

Bass created this group so students could surround themselves with a more accepting and equal community, she said. Some people are not accepted at home or school, but this club is a safe haven from judgements, she added.

At meetings, members' activities include these: “coming out” stories, advice, and “anything else that comes to mind.” If interested in joining or attending a meeting, students are invited to “see what it's all about.” Meetings are scheduled for second Wednesdays of each month.

Green Team Cleans and Cares

By Lauren Douglas

The team is more of a “Let's do it, group” Smith said. Furthermore, they don't have scheduled meetings. Smith said the idea of starting the team arose when she was selling Earth Day shirts one year. She noticed many kids gaining interest in improving their environment. So, she created the Green Team and has lead a group of kids that clean up litter and all kinds of debris polluting the earth.

Last year was the first year the team existed. They completed a beach cleanup in Port Aransas, a community cleanup in Ingleside at Live Oak Park, and a cleanup at the high school campus.



From Left to Right, Jacob Reeves, Sarah Brinker, and Izabella Martinez.

This year, they plan to do the same cleanups, along with another catalog fundraiser (What kind of fundraiser is this?) that contains “items that you wouldn't find in a typical fundraiser”, according to Smith.

The club' first met this school year Wednesday, Jan. 23. If you're an environmentalist looking for others of your breed, make sure to check the announcements for meeting times and expeditions of the the Green Team.

HOSA Has Many Advantages

By Lauren Douglas

This international career and technical student organization is dedicated to preparing students for careers in healthcare. Sponsor, Lorna Smith, has been the HOSA sponsor here at Ingleside for four years. But, she has been a HOSA sponsor for 18 years total! She teaches health science classes here at Ingleside High School.

HOSA is designed to help students interested in health careers grow, professionally and seek and find future opportunities. To help members become leaders and succeed in their future careers, HOSA has opportunities and events at the local, area, state, and international levels. Vice President Brianna Garrett said, “HOSA allows me to be competitive in the field I hope to one day work in.” HOSA provides 60 different events in the competitive events program. Being in a HOSA chapter helps students build teamwork, communication, and leadership skills, as well as confidence in themselves.

Students also learn hands-on skills and knowledge by studying and competing in a competitive event. At these events, students can meet and network with industry professionals and future employers. HOSA also offers scholarship opportunities for members. Overall, HOSA offers student members opportunities to grow now and in the future.

The organization's president, Megan Whitehead, and vice president, Brianna Garrett, are looking forward to their final year of HOSA. Whitehead said, “Being apart of HOSA has helped me further my understanding of medical careers. HOSA has helped me determine what career I hope to accomplish in the future.”

“However, I am excited about the depth and potential of this team [this year].”

From fifth place in the district meet to a state qualifier, both the coaches axnd teams are ready to take down whatever comes towards them, they said. “From the moment we get off the bus, our goal is always to put ourselves in the best state of mind, best position, and to give ourselves the best chance to improve each week!”

Bible Club Shares Conflict

By Lauren Douglas

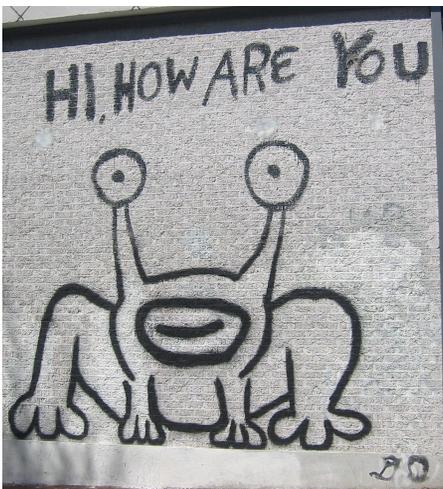
Forming a circle during meetings, members read aloud from the Holy Bible, studying various chapters to share thoughts and comparing certain events between biblical accounts and their own lives today.

Members learn how to fellowship with others “...have internal peace, and overcome external conflicts.” Griffith said.

Griffith said, “I personally like the ability to show ideas and thoughts at my own perspective and hear and understand thoughts from others. It's not very often you can have a spiritual conversation with someone these days. I find it helpful that there are people in this school that are still striving to learn more of the gospel and find eternal peace and comfort.”

Students interested in participating in the Bible Club can meet with these students in Mr. Daniel Clancy's classroom (room 31) every Monday after school. Bibles will be provided to those who do not have one. Griffith said he wants you to know that “you are always welcome.”

'Hi, How Are You?' Means More than it Says



Spray-painted mural in Austin, Texas states message of wishes for good mental health. What we based our school "Hi, How Are You" wall off of.

IHS students review compliments, greetings, and kind words given from other students anonymously on the "Hi, How Are You" wall.



By Farrah Gauthreaux

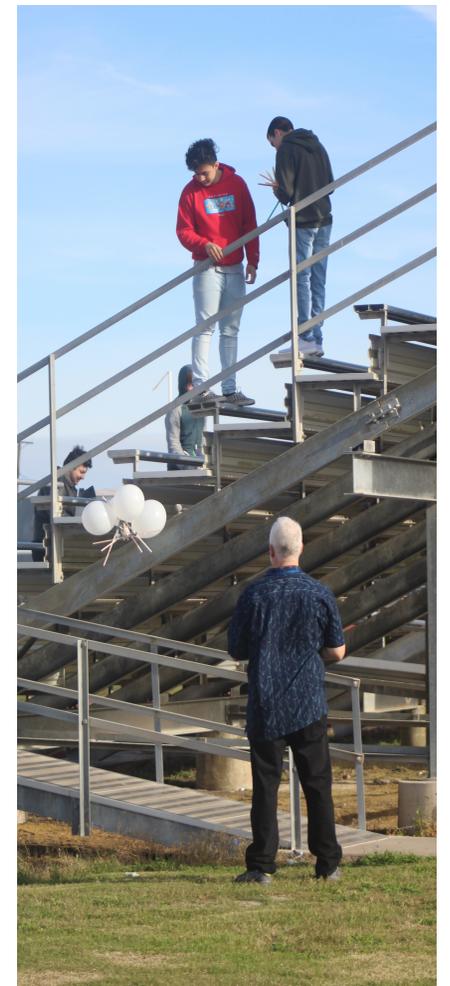
Throughout the past few weeks, you may have noticed the awkward green frog that oversees the hallway. This frog may be a familiar sight for some, as it is a depiction of the famous "Hi, How Are You" mural in Austin, Texas. Daniel Johnston, the artist of the mural, has decided to team up with creators Tom Gimbel and Courtney Blanton to launch a project that would bring more meaning to his art.

The "Hi How Are You" project began last year Jan 22. This day became a celebration encouraging Austin locals to reach out to a family member, neighbor, friend or loved one and ask, "Hi, How Are You?". Although this may seem like a simple task, the project works to remove the stigma from mental health or well-being such

as unhappiness, loneliness, or exclusion by sparking a conversation with others on the subject.

Our student council has decided to take part in this project to help bring the conversation to IHS. In doing so, the student council encouraged students to wear the mental health color green on Jan. 22 as awareness for mental wellness.

In addition to this project, the "We Dine Together" group recreated the mural to bring the attention of our students to the topic. In celebration of the National Compliment Day on Jan. 24, the Student Council decided to add their own twist to the project by allowing students to anonymously write a compliment for each student at our high school. The mixtures of these projects made for a kindness packed week here at Ingleside High School.



Science teacher Mr. Daniel Clancy waits to see if a student's egg cracks in the apparatus designed by students to cushion the fall.



National Honors Society Inductees who could not make the first induction due to other responsibilities were inducted on January 17th after school. From left to right, Jon-Paul Tevino, Felicity Adame, Monique Solsbery, Bryar Griffith, McKenzie Brown, and Andrea Torres wait for the ceremony to start.