



# The Irwin Inquirer

*Our vision is to become a model of excellence in the education of gifted and talented students.*

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## A Wise Owl Reminder

Dear Irwin Community,

We are taking this opportunity to make a push to reach our Wise Owl goal for the 2014-2015 school year. Many of you have made your contributions to the Wise Owl fund and we sincerely thank for doing so. We realize that we are all very busy and sometimes these issues slip our minds. We would like to take this time to remind you that it is not too late to contribute to your child or children’s school.

We are at the midway point and need to ensure that our goal of \$20,000.00 is reached for the year. We have raised \$12,788.00 to date, which places us \$7,212.00 short of our goal. This year has been an amazing journey to work towards solidifying our foundation as a PTA. Having the opportunity to see the smiles on our children’s faces, the passion our teachers exude towards our kids and the enthusiastic parent volunteers is priceless. It truly warms my heart because this is who we are as a school. The reality of sustained greatness is a community collaborating with Principal Ashford to ensure the vision for Irwin Academic Center is realized.

Next week, a more detailed explanation of what has been accomplished to this point with PTA support will come home in the Thursday folders. We will include an envelope to return your initial contribution or to make an additional contribution if you wish. Donations can also be made right now online through the [Owl Store](#). Please remember, in order to be a school of this caliber it takes the best of all of us to ensure we sustain this level of excellence.

Sincerely,

Alan Hendrix  
Irwin Academic Center PTA President

## Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
Friday, February 13	Teacher Workday
Friday, February 16	Teacher Workday
Wednesday, February 18	Monthly Staff Breakfast, Hosted by 1st Grade, 8:00am
Tuesday, February 24	Open House, 9:30am
Thursday, February 26	1st Grade Black History Program, 9:30am
Friday, February 27	Men of Irwin Monthly Meeting, 8:00am
Friday, February 27	February Birthday Celebrations, 3:30pm

Find event details in articles in this newsletter or check the Irwin PTA [Google Calendar](#).

### *Men of Irwin*

*We are seeking men who are interested in volunteering to support our children and the school for upcoming initiatives.*

*Please email Derrik Anderson at [derrik.anderson@foresightleadership.org](mailto:derrik.anderson@foresightleadership.org) for more information or to be added to the MOI distribution list.*

## Volunteer Opportunities

- **The Teacher and Staff Appreciation Team** is determined to create an atmosphere where our teachers and staff can do their best work and your help is requested. Please contact committee chair Lisa Stephenson at [appreciation@irwinpta.org](mailto:appreciation@irwinpta.org) for a detailed description of committee roles.
- **The Literacy Team** is still in need of volunteers. We still need volunteers in the Media Center and to help Ms. Bailey with other projects. Head up to the front desk and tell them you're there to help. Contact [volunteers@irwinpta.org](mailto:volunteers@irwinpta.org) with questions.


**Thank you to all of those who dedicated time and resources to the success of the Father Daughter Dance. It was an unforgettable night!**

### NOTES FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

- Use the Remind app to be notified of volunteer opportunities throughout the year. [www.remind.com/join/iacpta](http://www.remind.com/join/iacpta) or text @IACPTA to (704)918-1271.
- To ensure we are able to track volunteer hours please be sure to select the volunteer option when you sign in at school.
- All adults volunteering at Irwin with students must complete the online volunteer registration and screening at: [www.cmsvolunteers.com/volunteer.php](http://www.cmsvolunteers.com/volunteer.php).

—Yolanda Gilliam, IAC membership chair/volunteer coordinator

## Stay Connected with the Irwin PTA

**CALENDAR:** Irwin PTA Calendar dates can be found on the [irwinpta.org](http://irwinpta.org) website. You can change the display of the calendar with the tabs in the upper right corner or add this to your own Google calendar with the  button in the bottom right corner.

The calendar can be accessed directly from your computer or smartphone.

Please use the following address to access your calendar from other applications. You can copy and paste this into any calendar product that supports the *iCal* format.

<https://www.google.com/calendar/ical/ridfkn0idgrmukaa8ril1den3c%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

Or use the following address to access our calendar in any web browser: [ow.ly/C5ljF](http://ow.ly/C5ljF)

**FACEBOOK:** Go to our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/irwinpta](http://www.facebook.com/groups/irwinpta) and click "JOIN GROUP" in order to receive Facebook messages.

**TWITTER:** Follow [@IrwinPTA](https://twitter.com/IrwinPTA)

**QUESTIONS:** Don Schmit, [communication@irwinpta.org](mailto:communication@irwinpta.org)

## Let Me Run Team Registration and Details

**Let Me Run** inspires boys through the power of running to be courageous enough to be themselves, to build healthy relationships, and to live an active lifestyle. **All 4th and 5th grade boys are invited to join us for our inaugural spring season! Please register at [www.letmerun.org](http://www.letmerun.org). Registration opens on February 17.**



The team will meet after school two days a week for seven weeks on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30–5:45. Practice starts on March 23 and consists of the Unity Lap, a run, proper stretching, and a lesson from our curriculum. Topics discussed include anger management, goal setting, honesty, bullying, etc. The season ends with the Let Me Run 5k on May 16 in Huntersville.

Contact Lori Klingman ([lori@letmerun.org](mailto:lori@letmerun.org)) for more information about the season or to sponsor the team. You may also contact the coaches at [LetMeRun@irwinpta.org](mailto:LetMeRun@irwinpta.org).

## First Grade To Host February Staff Breakfast

Happy February!

Once a month, the Irwin PTA hosts a Staff Breakfast for the teachers, administrators and support personnel here at Irwin. Each grade level takes a turn "hosting" but ALL FAMILIES are encouraged to participate.

For February, the First Grade classes are asked to "HOST." **The staff breakfast will be Wednesday, February 18 in the Staff Overlook Lounge.**

Let's show the staff at Irwin how much we love and appreciate them! The monthly breakfast is one of the staff's favorite events we do for them. Please consider donating food items or your time to make this month's breakfast a successful event.

When planning your donation, keep in mind we have 70 staff members at Irwin.

**To participate, please click on this link and sign up:**  
[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C044AA4AC23ABFA7-february1](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C044AA4AC23ABFA7-february1)

**For your convenience, please send in the donated items with your child OR drop your donated items in the labeled buckets in the front lobby on Tuesday, February 17.** This will ensure that all donated items are received and distributed.

You may drop off your **hot breakfast items** by 7:45 am in the Overlook Lounge on Wednesday, February 18th. If you submit a homemade item, please label your container so that it can be properly returned.

Thank you in advance for your support!  
 Irwin PTA Teacher and Staff Appreciation Committee

### January Staff Breakfast THANK YOU!

*A big thank you to all of the 2nd Grade parents and other Irwin parents that provided food, monetary donations or their time for the January Staff Breakfast that was held on Wednesday, January 21. Without your participation this event would not have been possible. The staff loved and appreciated all the yummy food!*

*Thanks again!  
 Irwin Teacher and Staff Appreciation Committee*



## Reading For Education Fundraiser

Our Irwin Owls have the opportunity to **win some cool prizes** all while earning money for our school. Please keep your eyes open for a booklet of postcards that your child will bring home in the Thursday folder. The booklet has a picture of the “Glow-In-The-Dark” Smiley Face prize shirt on the cover.

By completing this booklet, you will be helping our school meet its fund raising goals for the 2014-2015 school years. You will also find details on how your child can receive a **FREE “Glow-In-The Dark” Smiley Face prize shirt.**

- Our school has the opportunity to win a \$100,000 playground
- Your family could win \$10,000
- Your child’s teacher could win \$5,000 for their classroom

We thank you in advance for your support and if you have additional questions please email us at [fundraising@irwinpta.org](mailto:fundraising@irwinpta.org).

**Kick off Day: Thursday, February 12**

**Midway Update (which class is leading): Wednesday, February 18**

**Final Collection Day: Friday, February 20**



This time last year, schools were closed due to a winter storm. While our weather has been mild so far this year, keep in mind that we have several weeks of winter remaining.

CMS asks everyone to be aware of Severe Weather procedures. Visit the [Severe Weather page](#) on the CMS website for details about early dismissals, 2-hour delays, and closures.

## Father Daughter Dance Wrap-Up

The Father Daughter dance was a huge success!! The young ladies and their escorts ventured into “Candy Land” and danced the night away. We would like to thank all of the volunteers who contributed such creativity and effort to this event. Our sincere appreciation goes to Coca Cola for providing refreshments through the **Be There Dad** (Men of Irwin) initiative.

Highest compliments to all the participants of the dance contest for their fun routines. **Congratulations to this year’s winners, Vern and Frances Wilkinson.**

## Tax Donation Letters

If you requested a tax donation letter for your Fun Run Donation, you should have received that letter. If you requested a tax donation letter for your Wise Owl Donation, you should receive that letter in your student’s February 12th Thursday Folder. If you have not received a tax donation letter for 2014 Irwin PTA donations and would like one, please contact [treasurer@irwinpta.org](mailto:treasurer@irwinpta.org).

—Beth Collins Himes, Treasurer and Delano Rankin, Assistant Treasurer



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PTA Website:  
[www.irwinpta.org](http://www.irwinpta.org)

The next Irwin Inquirer will be published on February 25. If you have announcements you would like to have included in the next issue, please contact Lisa Newell at [lweedmannewell@gmail.com](mailto:lweedmannewell@gmail.com). **All materials must be emailed by February 19.**



## Are you interested in serving on the PTA board?

Now that half the 2014–2015 school year is behind us, we need to start thinking about next year. We are responsible for continuing the legacy of the Irwin PTA! Our PTA provides key functions to the school: volunteer, financial, and community support. **Family engagement in education is essential to the success of our school.** Great things have been done so far...let's make sure we keep involved so great things can be done in the years ahead!

**We are now recruiting parents to serve as PTA Board Members for the 2015–2016 school year.** The positions are: President, Vice President Maroon, Vice President Gold, Secretary, and Treasurer. Please email [nominating@irwinpta.org](mailto:nominating@irwinpta.org) for details.

—Patricia Mate, nominating committee chair

## Math Stars Update and Reminder

Wow! The 3rd quarter is here already. The Math Stars Team would like to say "Great Job" to all those kids (and their parents) who have been working hard to complete their math stars worksheets as well as to the volunteers who have been correcting them. We would like to encourage students who are not participating to look for the new worksheet every Friday. Please turn in the completed sheets the following Friday. Remember Math Stars is a voluntary program supported by Irwin PTA that is designed to enrich our students math skills. **The Math Star Team will be having a contest to see which class per grade level has completed the most math stars towards the end of the year. The class who has completed the most math stars will have an ice cream party!!**

If you have any questions about the math stars program, please contact LaTonya Archibald at [larchibald@aol.com](mailto:larchibald@aol.com).