

IHM

*WEDNESDAY MEMO
JANUARY 6, 2010*

I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break. Mrs. Slater and I would like to thank you for the delightful gifts, cards and good wishes sent our way during the Christmas season. We really appreciate it.

IHM has received a check from *Box Tops for Education* in the amount of \$912. Thank you to all who take the time to cut out the box tops and send them into school. We will continue to collect the box tops every First Friday.

Our next *PTA Meeting* will be held at *8:45 AM on Friday, January 8th*.

Mid-term exams for Grades 5,6,7 and 8 will be given the week of January 19th. Each grade level teacher will send home a schedule by next week.

FACEBOOK: A GROWING CONCERN

It has recently come to my attention that *Facebook* is emerging as a problem at IHM. Many of our students have *Facebook* pages. When used properly, it is a means of networking and communicating. Children should not have *Facebook* pages. They are largely unsupervised and allow children freedom that they do not know how to handle. When *Facebook* situations come to light, it often involves the school. For example, if a child writes an unchristian comment about another student, it is considered bullying. The school is then involved. If a nasty comment appears about a teacher, the school has to get involved. If a comment is made that appears to be a threat, the police must be called and the school must take action. Parents have told me that they have checked *Facebook* occasionally and were convinced that their child was having harmless communication with friends. They missed the foul language, wildly inappropriate comments, bullying and more. These activities are taking place on the home computers. The school is being dragged in to situations that require disciplinary action such as suspension and possible expulsion. With this said, I urge all parents to ban the use of *Facebook* for their IHM student.

To emphasize how important a matter this is, we are in the process of getting a speaker to address the students so they can fully understand the ramifications of the improper use of *Facebook*. We are also planning to get a speaker to educate the parents about what can happen when their child has unsupervised use of *Facebook and MySpace*. All of our efforts will mean nothing if the children are not carefully monitored at home.