



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL



Est. 2001 Principal's Message - October 2018 - #2 Visit Us on the Web At: www.icsannandale.org

From Mr. Stone's Desk

Greetings Immaculate Conception School Community,

One goal of most any school/teacher, of course, is to provide regular communication regarding the academic progress or deficiency of students such that parents remain informed and surprises don't occur when Report Card time comes around. Obviously using PowerSchool can be a big help with this, providing an opportunity to engage in regular monitoring of student progress via the cooperative partnership that develops between teachers and parents. After all, while we encourage and seek to develop good student habits, student accountability, self-motivation, responsibility, and a life-long learning perspective we are still dealing with Preschool-8th grade kids. Sometimes a little follow-up, encouragement, poking, and prodding is needed to help keep them on the path which will provide the most opportunities for success. Thankfully given the talents, care, attention, and concern of both our parents and teachers we are usually pretty diligent in fulfilling this goal, partnering together so that more often than not matters are clear and understood.

After a school's faculty and staff we next come to the realm of students, recognizing that at ICS we are specifically concerned with youngsters ranging in age from 2-13. All children are a gift, a blessing from God. Many – most – of our students do a very good job of implementing good work habits. The bigger kids know that they should be using their school Planners to list assignments and any other relevant class information.

Five plus weeks into this school year and by now students are aware of the communication methods and routines teachers utilize to post anything from the daily schedule to task objectives, reading, and homework. Also, by now students should understand that Immaculate Conception School faculty and staff members have high expectations of them – spiritually, behaviorally, academically and morally. Even our school grading scale reflects such expectations. “Dorothy, you're not in Kansas [public school] anymore!”

Faith-based school, faculty and staff, students...next? Parents, of course, I would think. I recall hearing a dad telling his son an oft repeated phrase... “School is your job.” I understood his intent, though I'm not sure I'd say youngsters engaged in the learning and developmental process are exactly attending ICS to punch their time clock as a job so-to-speak. Still, at this point in a young person's life it could well be said that school is the primary focus of their efforts. If we utilize the job analogy then, as is the case with any job, it is imperative that students try to fulfill their responsibilities as well as possible. It is very important that as they continue to grow and age they also continue to strive to enhance and further develop the values, skills and abilities necessary to help take them anywhere they may wish to go in life.

Students, school is your job. Do your job well.

Students who may lack self-motivation (or even worse, students who simply choose not to complete their assignments) are ultimately failing themselves as it will be their future which they are unprepared for. I confidently believe that the teachers and staff members of Immaculate Conception School are dedicated to helping students be successful. I am equally convinced that the parents/guardians of our students want their child(ren) to be successful. [I know such because I saw everyone raise their hand when I asked these kinds of questions during one of our Back-to-School Nights.] By working together we can, we must, and I pray that we will make sure that the youngsters we serve are being challenged and subsequently achieving success, each according to their individual abilities.

If a child fails a subject or falls below expectations as related to her/his ability then certainly they have not done their 'job' well. However, just as certainly we may not have done all we can to monitor and follow-up on matters. Failure on either front, by the child or the parents and teachers, is not acceptable. To this end I encourage all parents to communicate frequently with your child's teacher. Use PowerSchool. Check

your child's Planner. Take a look at your children's teacher's website. Send an e-mail, make a phone call.

Parents and teachers, we all care about kids. We are all here for the same reason, to help youngsters achieve success; parents as the first teachers of their children, and ICS as an extension of Christ the Master Teacher. Thank you for all that you do in support of our common goal, our mission. Serviam, -David

Prayer for Immaculate Conception School

Dear Lord, bless our Catholic school. Help us to continue to be a humble source of wisdom, always yearning to learn more about your tremendous love for us. May all who enter Immaculate Conception School be filled with the gift of your Holy Spirit, coming to know you in a more meaningful way. Guide us as a community that respects and welcomes everyone. May Catholic education continue to grow so that your good news can be taught to children throughout the world. Amen.



Warm Coats from Warm Hearts

COAT DRIVE

During the month of October, the parish Altar Rosary Society, together with the Knights of Columbus Council, are collecting new and gently used winter coats for men, women, and children to be distributed to those most in need.

Bins will be available in the narthex of the church and the school lobby for your donations.

Together we can make a difference, serving Christ by serving the needy.

Volunteer Opportunities – Morning MPR Duty, HSA Trunk or Treat, School GALA, etc. Please review and consider signing up via 'Sign-Up Genius' on our school website. Thank you.



10/12 – LifeTouch Picture Day – Dress Uniforms

10/14 – [Catholic] Pastor Appreciation Day

10/18 – Adoration – 9:45a.m.-1:45p.m. – IC Church

10/26 – HSA Trunk or Treat Event – Evening – ICS

October – Fridays – End-of-Day Gathering – All School (1st-8th Grade) – Decade of the Rosary

Counselor Corner – Mrs. Severson

Over the past two weeks I have begun my classroom lessons. All students have learned the "Take 5" breathing technique and were encouraged to teach it at home. Grades K-2 worked on expanding their feeling vocabulary, grades 3-5 worked on understanding empathy, and grades 6-8 began their mental health course starting off with the topic of body image. This incorporated positive self-talk, identifying and debunking gender stereotypes, and how media impacts our perceptions. A Calm Down corner was also established in each classroom as a place where students can turn as needed. These stations currently include guided breathing exercises but will expand to incorporate other calming techniques as the school year goes on.

October is National Bullying Prevention month. My classroom lessons will incorporate understanding diversity and differences, being an Upstander, and identifying the differences between conflict and bullying. I am thoroughly enjoying my classroom time with your children!





Middle School News



In the month of October, the ICS middle school has been a fluster of activity. Commencing in prayer, as we do with all things, we began the month with a presentation on the rosary along with recitation of the first decade of the Joyous Mystery. On first Thursday, we met with our buddies. Students are working diligently on their book reports, and eagerly await their dress uniform day, for photographs on Friday, October 12th.

Eighth grade experienced a unifying team building activity at Camp Bernie. Although June seems far away, graduation preparation and excitement has already begun with the measurement of caps and gowns, as well as for class rings. Beginning in mid-October, a special Friday snack privilege will be held during their lunch period. In language arts, students are reading *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, a psychological study of split personality and the balance of good and evil. In social studies, students are reenacting the Civil War. The applications of equations through word problems is a focal point in mathematics, and the studying of the Periodic Table of Elements and its patterns is one of science.

Seventh grade is gearing up to prepare for their science fair adventure, through the outline and direction of expectations. They are exploring political and economic differences between colonies in social studies and multiplying and dividing rational numbers in mathematics. Apropos to the month of October, 7th grade is beginning the thematic unit of the macabre and mysterious with the study of Edgar Allan Poe's short stories and poems.

Sixth grade is studying the relationship of the earth, moon and sun. They are completing operations with rational numbers in mathematics. In social studies they are completing a unit of study on Mesopotamia. They will begin one on Egypt to coincide with a cross curricular language arts study, through the reading of the *The Egypt Game*.

Fifth grade culminates their literary unit on *Wonder* with a written analysis through the use of signposts. In social studies, they are finishing regions and will begin a unit of study on Native Americans and explorers. They are exploring particle theory using investigative techniques and through the experimentation of why cold drinks "sweat?" They are multiplying multi digit numbers in mathematics.

In religion, middle school students are researching a saint of their choice in order to prepare for All Saint's Day, November 01st.

We are looking forward to Halloween classroom celebrations with our buddies.

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“There are those who believe they can, and those who believe they can't.

Both are correct. Which are you?”

Immaculate Conception School



TRUNK OR TREAT



Friday, October 26
6:00 - 9:00 pm

**Put on your Halloween costumes, decorate your trunk
and join us for a night of family fun.**

ICS Family Name: _____

Children Attending: # _____

Will decorate trunk: Y / N

Email: _____

Cheese Pizza (\$12): # _____

Gluten-Free Cheese Pizza (\$15): # _____

(Beverages will be available for purchase)

MUSIC

**Prizes for best
costumes & trunk**

**200 pieces of
Candy per family**

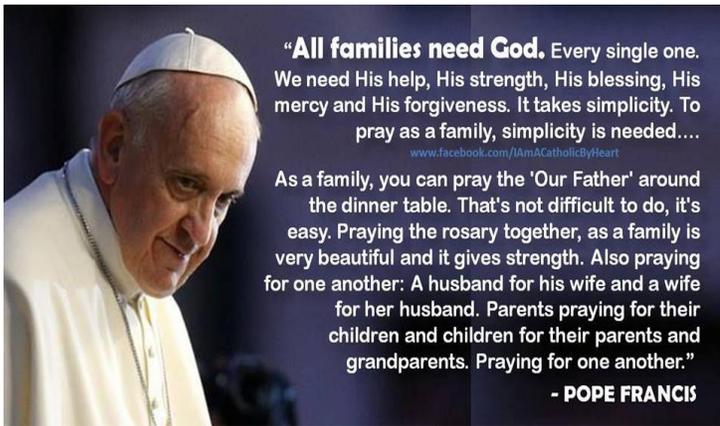
Send \$10 participation fee, pizza fee and this form to Main Office by October 24th!

(Make checks payable to ICS)

Please contact jodilukas@yahoo.com with questions

***event for current ICS Students only!**





LIVING ROSARY IN OCTOBER



Saturday, October 14 - Living Rosary at Immaculate Conception Church, Annandale, after the 9:00am Mass. Please sign up to be a 'bead' on the Rosary.

For more information, please contact Clarekathy@hotmail.com or at 908-256-2803.



Morning Arrival – Traffic Redo and Crossing

Morning arrival procedures are evolving. Our first focus involves separating bus and car drop-off points, just as we do with bus and car pick-up points in the afternoon.

Starting today, Tuesday-09th, we are trying out having the school busses drop students off via the backside MPR exit/entrance. We will review input from the bus drivers and continue with such or we will next try rerouting car traffic around the back of our school.

Note: If you are arriving when the busses are coming out from the backside cemetery road please be courteous and let them turn to continue their departure.

We will no longer have a traffic/crossing guard.

For now, pending bus driver input that could result in a revision of car traffic, morning arrival passenger vehicles will continue current procedures. Vehicles need to stop prior to the crosswalk lines when letting your youngster out of your vehicle. Parents who choose to park in the parking lot must then walk their child into school, utilizing the crosswalk. Students are not to walk across without an adult. New signage will soon be in place, representing state law that vehicles stop for pedestrian traffic entering a crosswalk. There will be no change in PM/Dismissal procedures.



Save The Date!
 School Christmas Program: Friday, Dec. 14th, 7:00p.m., in Immaculate Conception Church. All Are Welcome.

"Socktember" – Donated Socks – Thank You
 Thank you to all who donated new pairs of socks. We will be providing over **1,700 pairs of socks** to those in need! That's awesome! During our recent Oct. 04th Faith Families time each student helped to attach a prayer to a new pair of socks. The socks and accompanying prayerful message will be distributed to folks here in Hunterdon County.

