



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL



Est. 2001 Principal's Message - February 2018 - #1 Visit Us on the Web At: www.icsannandale.org

From Mr. Stone's Desk

Greetings Immaculate Conception School Community,

Immaculate Conception School is an awesome school. Collectively there are lots of folks – teachers, parents, staff members, volunteers, etc. – who work hard to provide faith, academics, and service opportunities for the students we serve. Together we keep our eyes on the prize, striving to provide multiple avenues for students to achieve individual success, realizing that each of us is a gift from God and that each of us has different strengths and areas for growth.

Just as we have high expectations of our children and students, so too do we have high expectations of one another. Families expect Immaculate Conception School to provide a safe, nurturing environment that integrates and infuses Catholic values, challenging students to grow academically, physically, and spiritually. For the school's part, ICS expects families to work cooperatively with staff members, participate in various fundraising and service oriented school events, and to support the mission of our school.

To this end I am very thankful for the many people who choose to be involved. Professionally or as a volunteer, teaching and/or parenting, there are numerous examples and manifestations of how our community helps one another. A willingness to be involved, to participate, to be active...these are very important qualities worthy of recognition and continued positive reinforcement.

Research has shown that children who have parents who are positively involved in their education are more open to learning and acquiring new skills than those children who face the classroom learning environment alone. Communication, two-way and meaningful, between home and school on a regular basis, coupled with good parenting skills will significantly improve a child's chances for success in the classroom. When a parent volunteers a child realizes that education is important and he/she subsequently becomes more involved and interested in the learning process.

A comprehensive survey of 85 studies was published in a series of reports from 1981 to 1995. These reports "document the profound and comprehensive benefits for students, families, and schools, when parents and family

members become participants in their children's education and their lives." (National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs, National PTA, May 1998).

The following findings, in no particular order, are taken from these reports.

- The most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school is not income or social status, but the extent to which the student's family is able to: (1) create a home environment that encourages learning; (2) communicate high, yet reasonable, expectations for their children's achievement and future careers; and (3) become involved in their children's education at school and in the community.
- When parents are involved, students achieve more, regardless of socio-economic status, ethnic/racial background, or the parents' education level. The more extensive the parent involvement, the higher the student's achievement.
- When parents are involved in their children's education, students have higher grades and test scores, better attendance, and complete homework more consistently.
- Educators hold higher expectations of students whose parents collaborate with the teachers. They also hold higher opinions of those parents.
- Students are more likely to fall behind in academic performance if their parents do not participate in school.
- Different types of parent/family involvement produce different gains. To attain long-lasting gains for students, parent involvement activities must be well-planned, comprehensive, and inclusive. When parents are involved, students exhibit more positive attitudes and behavior. Alcohol and drug use, violence, and anti-social behavior decrease as parent involvement increases.
- On the other hand, students whose parents are not involved are more likely to fail and/or drop out of school.

Involvement, participation, and cooperation. Together we help kids. Thank you for all that you do. Serviam, -David

REMINDER

02/10 – ‘Donuts with Dad’ – 9a.m. – Preschool 3s, 4s

02/12 – 100th Day of School! ☺

02/14 – Ash Wednesday – Beginning of Lent – Prayer Service at 10:00a.m. -and- Valentine’s Day 🐘

02/16 – No School – Professional Development Day

02/19 – No School – President’s Day

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. In your son Jesus’s name we pray, Amen.

Sanctity of Human Life

Poster Contest



Every year the Diocese runs a poster contest to promote the Sanctity of Human Life. Originally, we had intended for this to be our January Faith Family activity. However, when we lost that opportunity to a snow day, we worked on them in our home rooms. Students brainstormed all the different ways we respect human life: from helping the homeless, to caring for children, to assisting the elderly. Although there were many wonderful submissions, we are only able to send one from each grade level to the Diocese. The ICS Art Club assisted Mrs. McBride in selecting the work of the following students, whom we congratulate:

Grade 1: Evalyn McMahon (1D)
Grade 2: Elizabeth Miller (2D)
Grade 3: Olivia Farrell (3M)
Grade 4: Eliana Leamy (4M)
Grade 5: Andrew Eisenhart (5B)
Grade 6: Brenlyn Cox (6K)
Grade 7: Samantha Tanelli (7F)
Grade 8: Madison Adams (8M)

Nice Work
Students!



All the other posters are being displayed in the hallway across from the Multi-Purpose Room. Please stop by to see the students’ thoughtful and creative drawings! ☺



End of 2nd Quarter – Grades – Report Cards

Hard copies of report cards are being sent home today, Tuesday, February 06th, via sealed envelopes. As always, please feel free to communicate with your child’s teachers regarding any related questions which you might have. Thank you.



Thank you for continuing to choose
Immaculate Conception School!

Registration is now open for the 2018-19 school year.

Please begin with the online registration at:

<http://www.icsannandale.org/2018-19-registration>

Once the online registration form is submitted you will receive the Tuition Agreement Contract to be signed and returned with the required registration forms and fee.

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The 2018 Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, with Easter Sunday on April 1.

During Lent, we are asked to devote ourselves to seeking the Lord in prayer and reading Scripture, to service by **giving alms**, and to sacrifice self-control through **fasting**. Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. Contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition in this **reflection**. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God’s gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446).

Lent is a favourable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ.-- Pope Francis

In Lent, the baptized are called to renew their baptismal commitment as others prepare to be baptized through the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**, a period of learning and discernment for individuals who have declared their desire to become Catholics.

The key to fruitful observance of these practices is to recognize their link to baptismal renewal. We are called not just to abstain from sin during Lent, but to true conversion of our hearts and minds as followers of Christ. We recall those waters in which we were baptized into Christ’s death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

Catholics are also encouraged to make going to confession a significant part of their spiritual lives during Lent. Dioceses are encouraged to make the sacrament available often during Lent and to promote participation.

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/lent/index.cfm>



Volunteerism Need: Morning Care, 7:15a.m.-7:45a.m., Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Choose a day or multiple days! Volunteer Opportunities available via the **Sign-Up Genius** link on the home page of our ICS website: <http://www.icsannandale.org/> Thank you.

Blessing Bags (with Scarves) – Delivery

Mrs. Ziemba, Mrs. McBride,
Mrs. Jones, and Mrs. Del Gaizo...

Well, after 5 hours and some 16,000 steps (I forget how many miles, ladies?) we finally delivered all the Blessing Bags. With the bitter cold, we struggled to find many people in need actually on the streets. But, we gave many bags to a Soup Kitchen and to Covenant House. Overall, a very positive experience! (Karen McBride) – Great Job Ladies!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this Catholic Schools Week service project happen.

