



Est. 2001 Principal's Message - February 2018 - #3

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From Mr. Stone's Desk

Greetings Immaculate Conception School Community,

Sometimes it's best to begin with the end in mind.

The famous artist Michelangelo was sculpting in the center of the city square when a passerby walked up and asked, "Master, what are you sculpting?" Michelangelo replied, "I am liberating an angel from this stone." To which the man questioned, "How do you know the pieces to be chiseled away?" "Simple," he said, "I just chip away all the pieces that are not an angel." Beginning with the end in mind requires us to envision the end result before it becomes reality and, in doing so, allows us to adjust our behavior and actions accordingly to arrive at an excellent state of being. Therefore, I would suggest that the act of improving is intentional not accidental. Such thinking can be applied to one's self, to a business or organization, and certainly to a school. Improvement represents the thoughtful and purposeful actions of those involved.

Now then, when working with youngsters I am sure that we all realize that students are not widgets or products. However, just as certainly we can note how with faith and with proper, prudent, and diligent pre-planning – by attempting to see the end goals we have for each individual student – youngsters can and do learn to make good behavior choices. They learn to seek excellence in what they do, academically and otherwise. They learn to think critically, inquiring after and absorbing new knowledge which they will be able to apply to their future pursuits. Each to their own individual abilities, making progress in their own time, but purposefully nonetheless.

When considering the amount of time, energy and resources it takes to create a successful academic experience it quickly becomes very clear that it is necessary for all members of a school to function at their very best to ultimately create meaningful, significant, and successful opportunities for students to develop and achieve success. Thankfully, it is usually relatively easy here at our Catholic school to encourage and appreciate how most folks choose to

be a positive, contributing part of our community, each in their own way. Over time there will be challenges, changes, triumphs, and even 'character building' experiences, but I am thankful for the intentional efforts of all members of our community. It is not by accident when we choose to be positive, when we choose to improve, when we strive to keep the focus on the youngsters we serve. Thus, perhaps one day our excellent school might also be called a "Masterpiece."

Thank you for all that you do. Serviam, -David

* * * *

Congratulations ICS Student Caleb Y. and his CTSD teammate Connor K.

Caleb and his teammate, Connor K. from Clinton Township Schools, recently placed 2nd in the State VEX IQ Robotics Skills Competition. This achievement qualified them for the World Championships in Louisville, KY at the end of April.

Congratulations to Caleb and his teammate, both of whom worked diligently towards this goal.



REMINDER

02/23 – Gala Meeting – 8:20a.m. – All Are Welcome

02/23 – Gala Shirt Dress Day – **2018** Gala Shirt Dress is free, and with no alternatives. Meaning, if a student isn't wearing a Gala shirt then they are to be wearing their regular school uniform.

03/01 – First Thursday, Mass at 9:00a.m., Dress Uniforms, Early Dismissal at 12:15p.m.

Congratulations Mrs. Regan, ICS School Counselor!



*Jaimisen Drew Regan,
Born
February 14th, 2018
At
6:05a.m., 5lbs 3oz
Mom and baby are
healthy and well!!!*

Yes, ICS will be looking to hire a maternity leave school counselor to cover the remainder of this school year. We are conducting interviews this week and we plan (hope) to have someone in place by March 01st.

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.



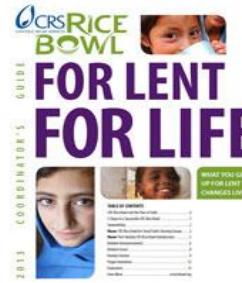
[Pope Francis' message for Lent.](#)

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/lent/documents/papa-francesco_20171101_messaggio-quaresima2018.html

CRS Rice Bowl brings Lent to life.

CRS Rice Bowl is a Lenten faith formation program that helps us to live in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable around the world.

We **pray** to reflect on what type of person we are called to be. We **fast** to remove the things that get between us and God, and to remember those without enough to eat. We **give** to honor Jesus' call to serve those in need. <http://www.crsricebowl.org>



Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls went home via all students today, Tuesday, Feb. 20th. Your prayers, fasting and alms-giving this Lenten season will help CRS to work on our behalf to care for the poorest in our world and to end global poverty.



K-8 Technology Teacher – Monday, Feb. 26th

Starting Monday, February 26th ICS will welcome our new K-8 Technology Teacher, Mr. Louis De Lauro. Mr. De Lauro comes to us with over 23 years of teaching experience, has taught a myriad of subjects including technology at the K-6 level, is experienced and has a wealth of knowledge regarding technology, and has even spent some of his teaching time within a Catholic school. Please help welcome Mr. De Lauro upon his arrival next week!

PS Please also help thank Mrs. Jeanne Dunham, who has admirably helped oversee the prior media and tech classes while ICS was experiencing and facilitating a transitional time period. And, now 'hot off the presses' as it were, Mrs. Dunham has graciously agreed to step up and facilitate our spring Scholastic Book Fair event. Thank you Jeanne!



*Lent summons us,
and enables us,
to come back to the Lord
wholeheartedly
and in every aspect of
our life.*



Food For Thought – “TV, Friend or Foe?”

The television can be our friend or our foe, but one thing we must not let it be is *in charge*. We can choose to let television be a babysitter for our children, or we can choose to benefit from its limitless potential. For example, television can be an excellent source of information and discovery, as well as relaxation, amusement, and escapism – but **reading** furnishes all the same benefits, while fostering a flourishing vocabulary and imagination as an added bonus. Here are a few tips to consider.

* *Think about how much is too much.*

TV viewing time and frequency are relative. What seems reasonable to a teenager may be entirely too much for a kindergartner. Similarly, a day-long TV spree might be fine for a sick one staying home all day, but it is not a good use of vacation time.

* *Closed Captioned television is not just for the hearing impaired.*

This is a great way to combine TV and reading!

* *Learn something new every day.*

Encourage children to keep a log of facts and words learned from television.

Finally, TV and technology can be very useful, when utilized appropriately and in conjunction with reading, experience, and application. Think of it as wanting a balanced diet for your brain!

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.

“Let today be the day you give up who you’ve been for who you can become, growing closer to God.”

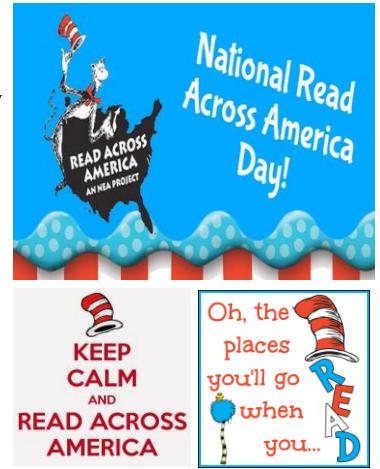
On The Horizon:

Dr. Seuss Birthday / Read Across America Day

Friday, March 02nd

‘Red, Black, White’ Dress Day for the donation of a new or gently used children’s book

There will also be Buddy Class activities that take place in the morning.



CRS Rice Bowls – Competition

That's right, it's the older kids versus the younger kids, upstairs students versus the downstairs students. (The Early Education Building is part of the 'younger kids, downstairs students' team!) CRS Rice Bowls have just recently been distributed. Extras are available via the school office.



The team – upstairs versus downstairs – that has the most coin/monies donated, total, at the end of Lent will receive a free dress down day. It's a win-win! Donate, support those in need, and help determine who is the at the top here at ICS...the big kids or the younger students! 😊



We're off to see the Wizard...!

The ICS Theater Department proudly announces the 2018 school musical...The Wizard of Oz! We are getting an early start to get things rolling before the end of this school year.

Tentatively, auditions for grades 6-8 will be scheduled before Easter Break. We may need a few munchkins from the lower grades, so keep an eye out if your child might be interested. All forms and permission slips will be available by March 02nd. I look forward to working with your children on this wonderful musical! – Mrs. Carole Frey, Director

SICK CHILDREN AND SCHOOL

It's hard sometimes to decide whether to send your child to school when he or she doesn't feel well. It is very seldom a convenient situation when your child is sick. Often, you have to consider work schedules, childcare arrangements, transportation and other family matters in that decision, and of course, you want what is best for your child's health.

We feel very strongly at Immaculate Conception School that good attendance is extremely important to your child's success at school! They must be here to learn. There are also important health reasons for keeping your child home from school, so here are some important guidelines to consider when you hear those words, "*I feel sick; I don't want to go to school today.*"

These guidelines are the standards of practice for the Immaculate Conception School Health Office. They were developed from the New Jersey Department of Education /Division of Student and Field Services *Parent Education Handbook*.

Children who have the following symptoms should stay home and not come to school until these symptoms have been gone for at least 24 hours (48 hours for Norovirus/Norovirus-like illness) without the help of medication, or until your doctor sends a note that states the condition is not contagious and it is OK for your child to come back to school.

- **FEVER** – check your child's temperature with a thermometer, **and if a fever over 100 degrees is present, don't send him or her to school, even for just a little while in the morning.** It doesn't help your child's health to give medicine for fever and send them on to school...that only **reduces the fever for a short time, and doesn't take care of the illness that is causing the fever.** Coming to school sick (and possibly contagious) not only exposes other children to the illness, but also delays your child's healing time. Once the medicine wears off and the fever returns, your child must be picked up anyway, and valuable healing time has been lost. **Children must be fever-free for 24 hours, without the use of medicine, before returning to school.**

VOMITING/DIARRHEA – until we know that these are not signs of a contagious illness, such as a stomach virus, your child should be kept home. Consider how uncomfortable these two things are, even to an adult who has better control, and how distressed and embarrassed your child will be at school having to go to the restroom often, or feeling sick while sitting at his/her desk. If the vomiting or diarrhea happens more than once that day, or if they are associated with fever, **you must keep your child home.**

- Even if these things happen only one time before school starts, and your child feels better immediately afterwards, it is still wise to watch for a few hours to see if it happens again before sending him or her on to class. *Please note, your child must be symptom free for 48 hours during the Norovirus/Norovirus-like illness period.*
- **SKIN RASHES-** if the rash has any fluid or pus coming from it, the child must remain out of school until the rash has been treated and a note from the doctor states it is ok to return to school, **or** until the rash is gone, dried, or scabbed over with no new spots appearing. **Anytime a rash is associated with fever, the child may not come to school until that fever is gone for 24 hours without medication.** Sometimes a rash is a sign of a contagious disease such as chickenpox. Sometimes, rashes are not contagious, but are uncomfortable and itchy from contact with something the child is allergic to. In that case, although school is certainly a good option, please consider comfort measures such as an antihistamine, **following the district policy for medication administration at school** and discussing possible treatment with your doctor and/or the school nurse.



- **RED EYES, ESPECIALLY IF THERE IS ALSO DRAINAGE OR CRUSTING AROUND THE EYE** -this can often mean your child has *conjunctivitis*, also known as **pink-eye**. Not all pink eyes are contagious. Sometimes it is just allergies or other irritations that are causing the red color, but until we know for sure, which means we must have a note from the doctor stating the condition is not contagious, or until the redness and drainage are completely gone, your child must remain out of school.
- **PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE) OR SCABIES** - these small insects cause skin conditions that are uncomfortable and itchy, and could become infected. When students are identified with these conditions, the parent or guardian will be contacted and asked to immediately pick up their child and his/her belongings from the program. Parents should ensure their child is promptly treated with the appropriate medication; further, they should ensure all belongings that were removed from the program are washed before being returned to the program. It is understood that several treatments may be necessary to remove all forms of head lice. Following the confirmation, Immaculate Conception School will take the necessary precautions to ensure the program is sanitized and safe for the children.

If your child has other symptoms such as **headaches, cramps, sore throat, cough and/or thick mucus** that don't require them to be out of school but that will make them uncomfortable during school, please discuss the use of over-the-counter (OTC) or prescription medications with your doctor, **and remember you must follow the district requirements for giving medicine at school.** Call the Health Office if you are not sure about those requirements.

Kids who are truly sick will heal better and faster when they have proper rest at home, with lots of fluid for hydration and healthy nutrition. **We have common goals with you - the health, safety, and school success of your child!**

Thank you for all that you do!
Sara Cook, RN, MSN, ACNP-BC
School Nurse

Immaculate Conception School
314 Old Allerton Road
Annandale, NJ 08801
Phone: (908) 735-6334 x3
Fax: (908) 238-0724
nurse@icsclinton.org

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Late Breaking News:

CONGRATULATIONS

to

Tristan B.,

Immaculate

Conception

School's

first two-time

Knockout winner!

(2015 and 2018)

