



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL



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

From Mr. Stone's Desk

Greetings Immaculate Conception School Community,

"I believe that Jesus is in me, in each of my schoolmates and in the adults who help me.

All my actions will show my love and respect for Jesus. Amen."

An active prayer life is important. Prayer is powerful. Daily prayer represents our desire to foster, continue, and strengthen our relationship with God. As is true of any relationship, prayer requires attention. Prayer requires effort. Prayer requires a willingness to listen and to be open to what God is trying to tell us.

Prayer does not necessarily have to be long, standardized, or pre-scheduled. Our faith teaches us many good prayers, including ones we teach here at Immaculate Conception, such as the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, etc. However, prayer can be as simple as one word... "Help." Or two words... "Thank you." Prayer reflects our acknowledgement of God, our desire to communicate with God, our recognition that we need and value our personal, individual relationship(s) with God. Prayer is one of the things we do to show our love for God.

Prayer is something that we can do at any time. Prayer is not just relegated to church, prayer services, religion class, before meals, during difficult times, and/or before bed time. God is always there. God is always waiting and wanting to communicate with us. God eagerly waits for us to find time in our busy lives to continue building our relationship with one another.

Finding time, *making time* to pray is beneficial to us beyond our immediate recognition. It will help us to pause and reflect. It will strengthen our personal spirituality and sense of inner peace. It will lead us to a closer relationship with God. Prayer is good. ☺

Speaking of good things, selfless service by way of active volunteerism is a good thing. As an educator I believe that there is a direct correlation between the number of caring, involved 'big people' which directly relates to the number of positive, enriching opportunities made available for young people to succeed. No research or QED proofs are needed to validate this belief.

Like most all Catholic schools we do have a required volunteerism component. Parents have so many hours over the course of the school year whereby they need to volunteer their talents and time in service to Immaculate Conception School. This requirement reflects our belief that as a community we need and value the efforts of our parents, guardians, grandparents, parishioners, etc.

However, our belief extends beyond the school volunteerism requirement. Helping one another, working selflessly to benefit others without thought, recourse, or benefit to self – this is a core belief that we should advocate, encourage, and try to model.

At times we query our students with the good 'ol Catholic school standby, "What would Jesus do?" We may be referencing a behavior choice, a contextual moral message, or simply trying to stimulate a student's mind, hoping that he/she will pause to think for a moment before responding.

Still, when reflecting upon volunteerism and service to others it is worth all of us asking ourselves, "What would Jesus do?" When our energy is waning and our schedules seemingly can't take even one more thing – there are only 24 hours in the day and I need to sleep sometime! – how will we manage?

The answer is easier than the challenge presented. We will pray to God. We will pray for others. We will do what we can, when we can. Thank you for all that you do. Serviam, David

‘Upstairs / Big Kid Happenings’



The middle school students and teachers began the year by attending Mass.

Grade 6 LA students have discussed their summer reading with each other and the class as a whole. Some students were enticed to write down book titles for further reading, perhaps for a book report? Students have been getting to know each other as a class and as fully inter-departmental students. Returning students have been most welcoming to our new students and have been helpful shepherds, leading the new students throughout the building. The class has taken grammar and reading comprehension pre-tests and highly anticipates the beginning of our first novel, *From The Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*.

Grade 7 LA students have been actively engaged using visuals models, in the completion of noun reviews using Exercises in English. Daily journal writings spark creativity and imagination while simultaneously giving students the opportunity to foster growth through description. Signposts were reviewed to allow for success in the completion of their first marking period book report. Students are excited about accepting character roles in the class performance and reading of the play *The Miracle Worker*, by author William Gibson.

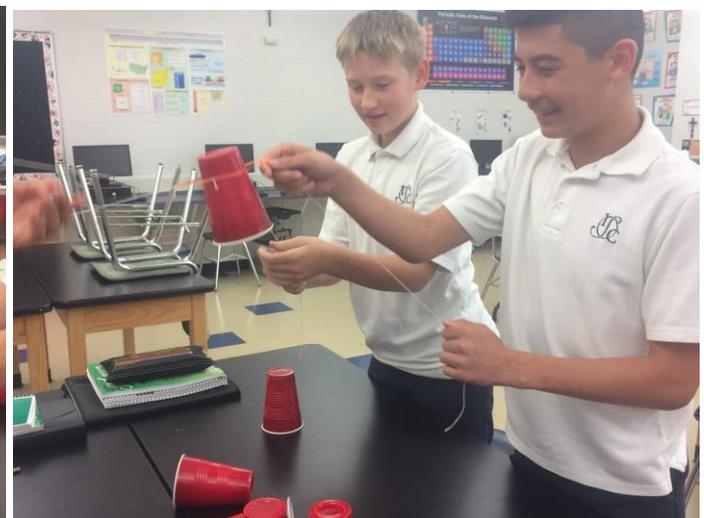
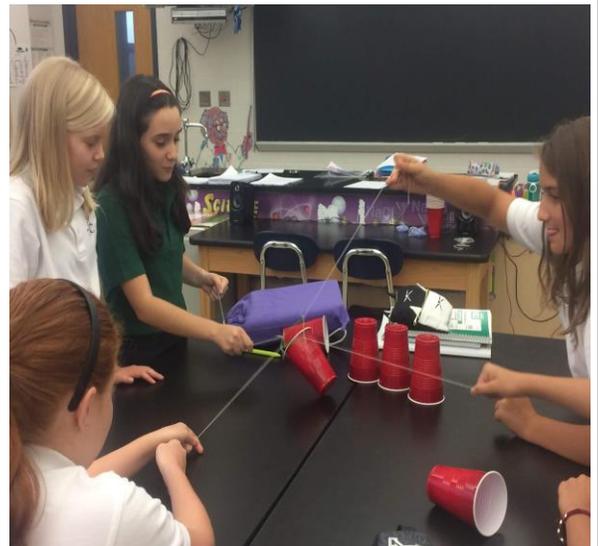
8 J&M LA students have been reviewing grammar and have been introduced to diagramming sentences as part of that review. Parts of speech and sentence structure are continually reviewed! The students are eagerly studying for their summer reading test. :) They have been studying the biography of William Golding in anticipation of reading our first novel, *Lord of the Flies*.

In 6th-8th Grade Social Studies, students are familiarizing themselves with the textbook and all of it's helpful sections. 6th grade students will become cartographers, learning about maps, and then archeologists, conducting their own archeological investigations. 7th graders will be debating the benefits and problems with the Columbian Exchange and how the changes in the New World will have far reaching consequences. 8th grade students will be exploring the long and short term events that directly and indirectly led up to the Civil War.

Fifth graders are adapting to the new routine of carrying their materials with them as they change classes. In LA they are learning Signposts which help them identify the author's purpose in writing. Grammar and vocabulary lessons are also being introduced, as well as a unit on descriptive writing. In Social Studies, the students are reviewing and expanding on their knowledge of basic maps and their components. The students reviewed lab safety in Science, and are starting a unit on matter. In Math, the fifth grade is reviewing place value concepts.

In Religion, grades 5-8 started the year with the Ten Rules of Common Courtesy. Students are expected to put these rules into practice everyday and everywhere. Each day, we always start Religion with a prayer. We pray for our world, our country, our school/parish and ourselves. If a student has an intention and would like all the middle school students to pray for this intention, he/she may write it on a piece of paper and drop it in the "Lord, hear our prayer!" container. These intentions are included in our daily prayers.

The sixth and seventh grade students started science with a challenge! Their task was to stack six cups into the shape of a pyramid...but there was a catch. They could not touch the cups with their hands; they had to manipulate the cups using only a rubber band with four pieces of string tied to it. Just in case that was too easy, they were given another obstacle. They were not allowed to speak to each other. Students had to work as a team to position the cups correctly. Most teams managed to complete the task in about thirty minutes the first round. Round two was much faster with some teams finishing in less than five minutes. This fun activity was a great way to get to know the students. Some students took the lead, some followed, some liked to pre plan their method of attack, while others jumped in without any planning. All of the teams found a way to successfully communicate without speaking.



Grades six through eight started the first full week of school with lab safety in science class. Each class was assigned a different activity to demonstrate the lab safety guidelines. Students will now be able to safely perform various lab activities throughout the year.

[Great start to the new school year big kids!](#)

REMINDER

- 09/12 – 8th Grade Fieldtrip to Camp Bernie
- 09/18 – Back-To-School Night – Grades 5-8
- 09/19 – Back-To-School Night – Preschool-4 & Specials
- 09/20 – Adoration – 9:30a.m.-2:00p.m. – IC Church
- 09/21 – International Day of Peace
- 09/29 – HSA Wine and Beer Tasting Event – Evening
- 10/04 – 1st Thursday – Mass at 9:00a.m. – All Are Welcome – Early Dismissal at 12:15p.m.

Parent-Student Handbook – Acknowledgement

All families need to please review our Parent-Student Handbook, available on the ICS website under the 'Parents' tab, subsequently completing the electronic form acknowledging information within. Thank you.

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.

FYI ICS Parents / Families – Lockdown Drill

We will be having a Lockdown Drill Thursday morning, September 13th. Your child may come home talking about such. This is only a drill. A Clinton Township Police detective will be onsite, helping to insure that we are following/learning correct school lockdown procedures. As always, student safety is our highest priority.

Peanut/Nut – Snack (No) / Lunch (Ok)

Being mindful of students with allergies and such, please do not send your child to school with a peanut/nut snack (including Nutella). Such is ok for lunch as we have a 'Nut Free' table designated for students. Thank you.

PROMISE TO PROTECT



Next Virtus/Protecting God's Children Sessions:
Thursday, Sept. 27th, 7:00p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 24th, 7:00p.m. – Men Only
Thursday, Nov. 08th, 7:00p.m.

Immaculate Conception Church Parish Hall
Anyone who works or volunteers with children – classroom, fieldtrips, etc. – must first take this course and complete a background check. Before attending the class all are required to register online at www.virtus.org.

These programs are open to anyone interested in learning about child abuse and most particularly, child sexual abuse, in the United States. The primary purpose is to arm volunteers with the knowledge necessary to keep children safe, to identify persons and practices that represent a threat to children, to understand legal obligations and pitfalls and to change caring adults' behavior in ways that will make it more difficult for predators of children to succeed. *Additionally, the new third edition/2015 version, discusses internet/cyber issues impacting our youth with advice to parents on how to protect their children.*

The Protecting God's Children program is restricted to adults who are defined as persons over 18 who have graduated from high school; however some classes have a special teen leader section available upon advance discussion with the instructor.

Attendees are asked to arrive on time and remain the entire class to receive credentials for attendance. No children are permitted present.

Although teaching "Catholic" policies the program material is both universal and ecumenical; aimed at all who honor a duty to God, family and community. The trainer for ICC is Nora Burke Klippstein (Pah.trained@gmail.com).

The www.virtus.org website is a valuable resource for anyone interested in keeping all children from age 0 to 18 safe. Check it out for a course preview.

Immaculate Conception School Song

From a hill in Hunterdon,
Blessed with beauty by God's hands.
Shines a light for everyone,
Here our alma mater stands.
Jesus shepherd bless our days,
As we grow in wisdom and grace.
Jesus teacher, Jesus friend,
Help us know the Father's plan.

Refrain:

Immaculate Conception School,
Friends are true and journeys bright.
Immaculate Conception School,
Hail our blue and hail our white.

Children of the light are we,
Sons and daughters of the day.
Patron Mother Mary,
Guards our lessons and our play.
Here we learn to serve and share,
Marching on in courage and prayer.
Living hope and charity,
Faith will serve to light our way.

Refrain:

Back-to-School Night Information

Tuesday, Sept. 18th – Grades 5-8

General Meeting – ICS MPR – 6:45p.m.-7:15p.m.

Classroom Visits – 7:20p.m.-8:35p.m.

**Wednesday, Sept. 19th – Preschool thru Grade 4
-and- Specials Teachers**

Preschool/PreK/TK/Kindergarten-Grade 1:
Classroom Visits – 5:45p.m.-6:45p.m.

Preschool/PreK/Tk-Grade 4 General Meeting:
ICS Multi-Purpose Room – 7:00p.m.

Grades 2-4 – Classroom Visits – 7:30p.m.-8:30p.m.

Immaculate Conception Needs YOU!

Have you checked out the orange **Sign-Up Genius** link on the home page of our school website? Our talented HSA folks keep this updated regularly. Our school does have a few current needs.

1. Morning Care Duty - 7:15a.m.-7:40a.m. 'ish - Gym
Thank you new ICS Parent Elizabeth Lewis for signing up for a bunch of days! Woo-hoo! Yes, there are still openings available! 😊

2. Traffic Guard/Safety Monitor – 7:30a.m.-8:00a.m.
We have Thursdays and Fridays taken care of but we are still looking for help Monday-Wednesday. Please consider helping out via this important safety-oriented need. Thank you.

3. Yearbook Coordinator – Danielle Peluso
Yearbook Parent Assistance – Help Wanted! 😊
Looking for a few volunteers for the yearbook to assist in taking pictures, coordinating students on the yearbook committee after school and helping with the design, review, and completion of the yearbook. It's fun, and we produce a treasured keepsake for students! For any questions please contact Danielle Peluso at (908) 399-2003 or dc1872@aol.com.

4. Wine and Beer Tasting Event
Coordinator – Jennifer Flynn. Volunteers needed!
This HSA event is a fun 'adults only' way to help kick off the new school year. jennifer.kerr.flynn@gmail.com



WINE & BEER FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday September 29, 2018

Immaculate Conception School invites everyone to have a taste of the

Red, White, & Brew!

Please join us Saturday, September 29th
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Perryville Wine & Spirits
Music Provided by "78 West"

Enjoy sampling over 100 wines and dozens of beer at
Hunterdon County's LARGEST wine and beer tasting event!

Many local restaurants will provide food.

Plus, a 50/50 raffle too!

Admission is \$45. Pay in advance or at the door.

NJ PERMIT #63578

Bee a Big Help to Our School!
Clip and Save Box Tops Coupons



A Prayer for September 11, 2001

Let us pray.

Loving God, source of healing and hope,
we come to you in prayer on this anniversary
of the catastrophic events of September 11, 2001.

May your constant love and the love of family and friends
bring comfort to those who continue to feel the loss
of their loved ones who died in this tragedy.

May our memories of the courage and generosity
of the countless people around the world who reached
out to offer many kinds of support, bring us hope and
help us to remember we are all brothers and sisters.

Members of one global family.

As we pause to remember the events of September 11,
guide us in the ways of peace.

We ask you to give us hands willing to work for justice
and peace in our families, our school, and our communities,
hearts ready to trust in your goodness despite the pain and
brokenness in our world, and faith in your promise of a future
where justice will reign and suffering will be no more.

We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus.

Amen.