



Est. 2001 Principal's Message - November 2017 - #3

Visit Us on the Web At: [www.icsannandale.org](http://www.icsannandale.org)

## From Mr. Stone's Desk

Greetings Immaculate Conception School Community,

Collectively and cooperatively, families and staff members alike, we are the stewards of Immaculate Conception School. There are many folks within our community who contribute a lot of time, talent, and treasure in support of what we are trying to accomplish here at ICS. I believe it takes Christ, a commitment to our core mission and values, and selfless people who care and are willing to sacrifice, willing to work hard, in order to maintain Immaculate Conception School as an excellent option for Preschool-Grade 8 students. What we do, each to our own abilities, we do in service to God, our faith-based mission, for the youngsters.

While we can and should seek to appreciate others whenever the opportunity naturally arises, this time of Thanksgiving particularly suits this purpose. For me, I thank all of our staff members for their dedication and diligence in trying to help our young people achieve success. I thank the HSA for the designated parent coordinators of events such as our Wine and Beer Tasting Night, Mother-Son Sports Social, Trunk or Treat, Middle School Dance, etc. I thank Christine Benson and her helpers for their ongoing SCRIP endeavors, Jennifer Beylickjian for overseeing the Blizzard/Love Bags activity, Kelly and Michael Wojtal as our St. Nicholas Shoppe coordinators, and all those involved with facilitation of our Robotics Club, Destination Imagination groups, and CYO basketball.

My thanks also goes out to Sharon Hillwig and the many volunteers who are now into planning and working on our 1980's themed school Gala event (April 28<sup>th</sup>). Thank you to Maria and Joan for keeping the office running smoothly. Thank you to Director Carole Frey, Carolyn Monaco, and the many folks who put in countless hours toward helping our The Little Mermaid play be the resounding success that it was. Thank you also to our teacher substitutes, Joanie Campbell and all who help out with lunch, Patti Dandeo and the after care crew, and our custodial/maintenance staff – Al, Joe, Judy, Bob, and Kevin. Your efforts should never be overlooked!

Room parents, before school morning gym monitors, outside in the elements morning traffic volunteers, fieldtrip chaperones, and current Scholastic Book Fair helpers, led by Julia Sonnenschein – yes, I thank and appreciate all of you as well. Thank you to all who help make ICS ‘go’, those known and unknown, thus enabling us to do what we do in service to our kids.

With respect to ongoing efforts, we have our School Advisory Council, parish priests Monsignor Benwell and Fr. Edgar, the parish Finance Committee and business office personnel, and front office people like Sister Anna and Ann McKenna (who graciously helps put school ‘blurbs’ in the weekend parish bulletin) to thank and appreciate for their collective efforts in support of Immaculate Conception School.

God is good. With God all things are possible. You've heard these phrases before, no doubt, yes? As such, assuming you agree with these sentiments, let us first make sure to give thanks to Jesus for all that we have, for the blessings in our lives which we should never take for granted. Thank You Jesus!

\* \* \* \*

When people ask me, “[Why a Catholic school?](#)” or “[Why Immaculate Conception School?](#)” I would invariably mention how our academics are pretty good. I’d reference the core mission of our school, how we seek to integrate and infuse Catholic values throughout our program. In addition, I might mention a service project here, smaller class sizes there, and most definitely the dedication of our teachers and staff members. I stand fast in my conviction that bullying will not be tolerated, by anyone, and that within our community all are welcome. However, while these ‘bullet points’ are valid and true the one thing that lies at the foundation of our school, along with our core values and beliefs, is that we are a community of people with a common purpose. We may be very different as individuals, and certainly disagreements may exist from time-to-time. What ‘school family’ doesn’t have the occasional squabble? However, collectively I believe that everyone here at ICS has the same interest, the same focus...to do what’s best for kids. Isn’t this why we’re all here?



Even at a school of our size everyone may not necessarily know everyone. Still, our mission-based values and how we strive to treat one another should represent common ground. As with any family there are times of concern, opportunities for improvement, periods when we may need to refocus or redouble our efforts in order to continue going forward. Yet, the answer to "Why Immaculate Conception School?" should be simple. Most folks in this community care more about the value of working together to benefit youngsters than individual recognition or personal agendas. Employees won't get rich working here. Families make tremendous sacrifices of time, talent and treasure to send their children here. Still, collectively and cooperatively, families and staff members alike, we believe that the sacrifices are worth it. We know this to be true by way of the growth we see in our students, how they learn to interact with one another, and how many of the big people in our community step up to serve as willing stewards even when challenges arise.

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

*For each new morning with its light,  
For rest and shelter of the night,  
For health and food,  
For love and friends,  
For everything thy goodness sends.*

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

## REMINDER

11/22 – Prayer Service – 10:00a.m. – Church  
\*Also 11/22 – No After Care

11/23-11/24 – No School – Thanksgiving Break

11/28 – Giving Tuesday – Blizzard/Love Bag Assembly

11/30 – Gala Meeting – 8:25a.m. – All Are Welcome.

12/01 – \$1 Dress Down Day (StuCo Christmas Spirit)

12/01 – St. Nicholas Shoppe Event

12/01 – Clinton Christmas Parade (ICS has a float!)

12/03 – Beginning/1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

12/07 – First Thursday [No Mass], Faith Families, Early Release at 12:15p.m.

12/08 – Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary School at mass at 10:00a.m. – Dress Uniforms

### 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.

### Volunteerism – Help is always appreciated!

Check out '**Sign-Up Genius**' anytime on our website for available volunteer opportunities. Thank you.

St. Nick Shoppe (12/01) is looking for volunteers!

JOYEUX  
*Noël*  
7th Annual  
INTERFAITH  
CHRISTMAS BENEFIT  
CONCERT

PRESENTED BY

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH  
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
CLINTON CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE  
ANNANDALE REFORMED CHURCH  
LOWER VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
FAITH CHAPEL WESLEYAN CHURCH

*All invited to attend*  
Sunday, November 26, 5:00 PM  
Immaculate Conception Church  
316 Old Allerton Road, Annandale  
OPTIONAL PRICE OF ADMISSION:  
Dry or canned goods for the  
Open Cupboard Food Pantry

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [www.facebook.com/interfaithchristmasconcert](http://www.facebook.com/interfaithchristmasconcert)



Dear ICS Families:

Can you believe that ICS's Annual St. Nicholas Shoppe is just around the corner?

We have some volunteers already signed up to help on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> but we still have openings. Please go to <http://icsannandale.org/> and click on volunteer opportunities.

**We are also in need of donations for the following items:**

1. Scotch tape
2. Various size gift bags
3. Tissue paper
4. Christmas gift tags
5. Wrapping Paper

Donations can be left in the collection box in the front lobby.

In an effort to meet all student expectations we will have volunteers helping the students shop.

Gifts will range in cost from \$2 -\$10 with the majority costing \$3 -\$6.

We appreciate your support!

*St. Nicholas Shoppe Committee*



*Please contact Kelly Wojtal with questions*

*Kwojtal12@comcast.net*



*2013 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence*

## **Reminder – ICS Dismissal and After School Security Procedures**

Prior to 2:30p.m. – All MUST sign in to the office and receive yellow visitor lanyards.

Early Dismissal, drop-off of items etc.

– Should leave the building before the car line is called at 2:45p.m.

After End-of-Day Announcements...

If staying for an activity, the parents or instructors should proceed to the Activities Room (Gym or Library and must remain there until dismissal is complete and they are directed to move with the students to the activity location (e.g. no loitering in the lobby or common areas).

No one may enter the building from 2:30p.m. until the buses have left the pick-up area.

After the buses have left, usually about 2:55p.m., visitors must enter the front doors and sign into the office (until 3:30p.m.). These after school visitors – those who are at ICS beyond office hours to monitor or observe an activity – will receive a Visitor sticker. Thus, all staff members will be aware that the visitors have signed in as required.

After 3:30p.m. visitors will need to sign in/be responsible to the person moderating the activity.

Visitors who are here for an activity should remain in the room where the activity is occurring. They may not wander the halls. If they need a quiet place to work or take a phone call we respectfully suggest they go back to their vehicles to conduct such business.

Visitors arriving for pick-up of their children, from an after school activity, should remain outside of the building. In the case of inclement weather, they should remain in their cars until the activity moderator brings the children to the door.

Visitors should never ask a student or staff member to let them in the building. It puts everyone in a very uncomfortable position when we have to say no.

Aftercare pickup must be in the back of the building. This door should never be used to access any other part of the building after school hours.

If an activity is to occur after 3:30p.m. and the office is closed, prior arrangements should be made with the activity coordinator(s) as to how entrance to the building will be accessed.

Thank you for helping our school utilize prudent security protocols to help keep everyone safe.

Give Thanks, In Gratitude...



Gracious God, we give thanks to you for your overflowing generosity to us. Thank you for being with us in our joys and sorrows, for your comfort in our sadness, and for your companionship in our loneliness. Thank you for yesterday, today and tomorrow. Thank you for the whole of our lives. Thank you for family, for friends, for health and for grace.

May we live every day as grateful disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ, Amen.

– Via RCL Benziger/Anita Foley



## **Wondering how to prepare for Advent and Christmas 2017?**

**Monsignor Benwell invites you:**

**To:** **Immaculate Conception Church**  
**For:** **The Infancy Stories of Christmas**  
**When:** **Wednesday, November 29**  
**Thursday, November 30**  
**Time:** **7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**Presentations will take place in the Presence of  
Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction.**

**Hope to see you there!**



***Prepare the Way!***



Save the date!  
 Friday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> – 6:30p.m.  
 ICS Christmas Program  
 in the church.  
 All Are Welcome.



On behalf of all of the teachers and staff members of Immaculate Conception School we would like to wish all of our families, volunteers, Monsignor Benwell, Fr. Edgar, all members of our parish staff, and all others who contribute and support our community a blessed, Happy Thanksgiving! ☺

### The Beauty of Mathematics

What does it mean to give more than 100%? Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%? We have all been in situations where someone wants you to give over 100%. How about achieving 101%? What equals 100% in life? Here's a little mathematical formula that might help answer these questions. If our alphabet corresponds to numerical values...

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

**Hard Work** =  $8 + 1 + 18 + 4 + 23 + 15 + 18 + 11 = 98\%$

**Knowledge** =  $11 + 14 + 15 + 23 + 12 + 5 + 4 + 7 + 5 = 96\%$

**Attitude** =  $1 + 20 + 20 + 9 + 20 + 21 + 4 + 5 = 100\%$

Now look how far the love of God will take you:

**Love of God** =  $12 + 15 + 22 + 5 + 15 + 6 + 7 + 15 + 4 = 101\%$

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty that:

While Hard Work and Knowledge will get you close, and Attitude will get you there, it's the Love of God that will put you over the top! Awesome!



**Thank-Scrip-ing Day is  
Here!**

**November 21<sup>st</sup>**



#### **What is Thank-Scrip-ing Day?**

- ✓ A special 24-hour event that only happens 2-3 times per year.
- ✓ Offers a wide variety of products and services with higher rebates that are available to you only on Thank-Scrip-ing Day.
- ✓ In most cases, the higher rebates only apply to electronic products – ScripNow, Reload & ReloadNow (physical cards are often not included in the higher rebate promotions.)
- ✓ You DO NOT need to have a Presto Pay account to take advantage of the higher rebates. Simply place your order on Thank-Scrip-ing Day, and submit your payment with your confirmation page. You will receive the higher rebates when the Scrip Team processes your order.
- ✓ This is a great way to help ICS and boost your rebate earnings quickly, while purchasing the products you already use to meet your every day and gift-giving needs!

**Sign into your scrip account on Thank-Scrip-ing Day to see how you can “Rake in the Rebates” and earn credit toward your 2018-19 tuition.**

**\*\* Families who meet their purchase obligation AND earn rebates greater than \$375 will receive 50% of the amount >\$375 as a tuition credit for the 2018-19 school year. (ie if a family earns \$475 in rebates, \$20 will be credited toward the family's tuition for the 2018-19 school year.)**

**\*\* Families of 8<sup>th</sup> graders who will not have younger children enrolled at ICS for the 2018-19 school year will receive the credit in the form of a check.**

**\*\* There is no limit to what a family can receive back in tuition credit (or check, for graduating families). The more rebate you earn through your scrip purchases, the more credit you will receive toward your tuition!**

XXX