



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL
321 South Metter Avenue
Columbia, Illinois 62236
Michael L. Kish, Principal
(618) 281-5353 mkish@icsmail.org www.icscolumbia.org
Bob Wachtel, School Board President

The mission of Immaculate Conception School is to provide experiences to inspire, challenge, and nurture the mind, body, and spirit of our students within the framework of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the tradition of the Catholic Church.

*Merciful God, you are the Divine Builder, who calls us to build your Church. Guide us in building our new **Catholic Education & Activity Center**, so that we can build the Church of the future by passing on the treasure of our faith to future generations. Bless the work of our hands, and keep us strong in faith, hope and love, so that all we do might bring glory and honor to you, forever and ever. AMEN*

January 5, 2018

Bienvenido el parrochia!

V. 43 #25

Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Teacher, Friend,

YOUR GRATITUDE IS HUMBLING! Thank you for all gifts great and small during the holiday season! An attitude of gratitude is a life goal and rooted in love for those around us and even people we will never meet. Thanks to Beth Johns for coordinating the Teacher and Staff gifts through your donations and all the individual gifts you have given us. Our best gift is the 348 reasons we get up in the morning and the challenge to help them know God loves them! God bless you in this New Year of Hope!

THE GIRLS DIOCESAN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT starts tonight with games hosted here, at St. James, and at SPPS Waterloo. This takes a lot of work. Thanks to Ms. Kennedy, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Epplin, Mrs. Whelan and our food sponsors for their hospitality. Varsity Girls play at 7:45 tonight here and then W-2:30 Sat. at St. James or L-Noon Sat. at ICS. Junior Girls play at SPPS 5:30 tonight. W-10:00 Sat. at ICS, L-9:00 Sat. ICS. Best of luck and play hard and fair ladies! Thanks to Coaches Jaylene Murphy and Matt Blaskiewicz and Kevin McGill. CHAMPIONSHIP IS SUNDAY AT GIBAULT.

THE 36th ANNUAL ICS MAGAZINE RENEWAL DRIVE kicks off on Monday and will run Jan. 8-26, 2018. **PACKETS WERE SENT HOME before Christmas.** Last year the school netted \$11,254 for the Catholic Education and Activity Center! The **Eugene J. Schorb Immaculate Conception Fund for Catholic Education** (Endowment Fund) has received **\$482,518.34 IN THE PAST---** so this drive is also generating well over \$20,000 a year in interest from our 35 year effort!) Again this year, profits will go towards the new **Catholic Education and Activities Center** which will replace the current school campus. Either **renew current subscriptions or order new ones now!** We are asking each student to renew or sell 9 subscriptions. Thanks to our community for "Thinking Monroe County First" and keeping 40% of the price of your magazine in the community.

AND---Your order can be placed on-line at www.gaschoolstore.com

The school I.D. # is 2710556. Search Immaculate Conception School, Columbia, IL. Shop---pick a student to give the credit.

CAMP ONDESSONK We are usually the #1 school in attendance at our Diocesan Camp Ondessonk in Ozark, Illinois. Ondessonk means “bird of prey”, a nickname for St. Isaac Jogues and his “black robe”. Jessie will be here for the annual promotion on Monday, January 8th at 8:05 for grades 3-8. Register early to get your “pick week”.

CHESS PRACTICES FOR WINTER 3:00-4:00 IN THE ICS CAFETERIA:

Grades 2 and 3 - TUESDAYS - 1/9, 1/23, 2/6, 2/20, 3/6, 3/20

Grades 4 through 8 - TUESDAYS 1/16, 1/30, 2/13, 2/27, 3/13, 3/27

Chess Meets:

January 27- St. Teresa School, Belleville

February 17- ICS

March 10 - St. Clare, O’Fallon

March (date TBD) Diocesan Meet - Blessed Sacrament

PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEET MONDAY NIGHT AT 7:00. ICS Cafeteria Agenda

I. Opening Prayer

II. President Report: Holly Blaskiewicz

III. Vice-President Report: Joyce Randle

IV. Secretary Report: Christy Hornacek

V. Treasurer's Report: Kate Kienzle

VI. Teacher's Report:

VII. Principal's Report: Mr. Kish

VIII. Old Business

- Square 1 Art: Jolene Sasser

- ICS Craft Fair/Cookie Booth/Basket Raffle: Holly Blaskiewicz, Laurie Conrad & Robyn Baker, Christy Hornacek

- Santa's Kottage: Beth Johns & Holly Blaskiewicz

- ICS Spirit-wear: Jessi Gianino

IX. New Business

- Magazine Drive: Andrea Biske

- Dinner Auction: Mandy McGuire, Tricia Haywood, Jolene Sasser

- Girls on the run: Jessica Wachtel

- Gym Sleepover: Jessica & Greg Sheehan

- ICS Spirit-wear: Jessi Gianino

- Dining Out for ICS: Laurie Conrad, Jessi Gianino

- Casimer Pulaski Day FUNdraiser : Amanda Buhr, Michelle Juenling

- Rummage Sale: needs chair

- Father Daughter Dance: Jean Swip, Kara Boyd

X. New Ideas to Discuss

IX. Next Meetings

February 12th: TBD

March 12th: Merz on Main 210 S. Main St.

April 9th: Proving Ground Café [180 Columbia Center](#)

May 14th: Tiny’s Pub & Grill (End of Year Celebration) 602 N. Main St.

X. Closing Prayer

CHILD PROTECTION OFFICE --- things are really back logged at DCFS. If anyone needs to update a CANTS form for the rest of the school year they want them to do that now. Don't get caught missing a field trip or activity---we have some big ones coming up this second semester!

Counselor's Corner January 2018 Failing Forward Happy New Year!!

We certainly don't want to encourage our children to fail; however, the pressure on all of us to be the 4.0 or have the 4.0 student or get into the best school or have the best job, internship, etc. is unbelievable. The amount of anxiety I have seen in students who are suffering from the pressure to never make mistakes is toxic. Striking the balance in "doing your best" and loving someone through their mistakes and failures is a tricky parent skill, but an important one.

I know for myself that the best lessons I have learned in life have been borne of the worst decisions and ugliest mistakes I have ever made. Period. It's the way humans learn. So let's be careful about the push, push, push and let's be mindful of nurturing and cultivating more. Cultivate more from the mistakes that our children naturally NEED to make. I encourage you, at the very least, to find a balance somewhere between extreme performance and what truly is their best, natural work.

If you ask me, every good coach should ask their players, "Are you willing to fail?" and every good teacher should challenge their student to consider, "Are you willing to experience being average?" This is not to cultivate mediocrity, but to see that there is truly a spectrum in life and that coming in anything other than first is a skill in life we all need. After all, we read, we pray and we sing that God's grace is enough and in our weakness, God is made strong.

If you accomplish striking this balance between high anxiety to be THE BEST ALWAYS and really just being your best, if you do this for me, a professional counselor, and you might work me out of a job-and the day no one needs the counselor anymore may just be the paradise we are all looking for.

Karen Lundy, ICS School Counselor
The teaching never stops

Young Authors---Spring 2018

The spring turn-in day will be **Monday, January 29th**. This will also be a jeans day for every student turning in a manuscript. Please give your submission to your teacher (5th-8th grade students please give your manuscript to your English teacher). For judging purposes, do not write your name on your story. We ask that you attach your name on separate piece of paper (with a paper clip or stapled), or on a Post-It note adhered to your manuscript. The chairperson will record the titles and names, and then remove the names from the stories before giving them to the judges. Winning stories will be presented at the school Young Authors' assembly on Thursday, March 1st. The following information may answer any questions you have. ? Please email Robin Nadziejko at icsyoungauthors@gmail.com. Thank you!

How should my work be packaged? Your submission should include the following:

- A front cover with the title of you manuscript (a simple title page, with no name)
- Your name on a separate piece of paper attached by paper clip or stapled, or on Post-It note (names are removed for judging)
- Pages securely fastened by staple or other means

What should I write, and how will it be judged? The emphasis of the Young Authors program is on creativity. A parent volunteer will judge your work based on its originality, its organization (does your story have a beginning, middle, and ending?), and on its use of clear, descriptive words. Stories are evaluated based 75% on creativity and 25% on grammar and punctuation.

You may also enter a poem. It will be judged based on its creativity, how well it flows, and on the strength and clarity of its message. For upper grade students, a poem or collection of poems should have at least 20 lines total.

Any submission may be written at home or as part of a classroom assignment. Please do not submit work that has been entered in Young Authors competition in a previous year.

Can my parents help me? Young Authors is designed to encourage you to write, and so the work must be your own. You can try out your ideas on your parents if you like, and they can help you with proofreading grammar, punctuation and spelling. Very young authors may tell their story to a parent while the parent writes it down. The child may then write out the story, or the parent may write it or type it. It is important that the story be "in the child's own words," which is the state rule for the Young Authors program. Parents should encourage their children to work on submissions as independently as possible.

What if I win? Congratulations! You may win a Young Authors' trophy once each school year. If you win a trophy, be sure to keep entering! Your future submissions are still eligible to win runner-up awards.

By entering repeatedly, you are also eligible to receive special awards at the end of the year. Students in grade k-4 receive their Young Authors awards at presentations following each judging. Older students receive theirs at the Awards Night in May. Enter twice, and you receive a Young Authors' pin at the end of the year.

All winners from fall and spring are entered into a drawing, and one randomly selected student from each grade will be invited to attend the regional Monroe-Randolph County Young Authors' Conference. Thanks to Robin Nadziejko for chairing one of our best programs!

LATCHKEY MORNING HELP NEEDED Great college student morning job. 5 days a week. 6:45-7:50 am starting the days with smiles for some of the greatest kids in the world! Contact Mike Kish at 281-5353.

Girls on the Run---This 10 week program empowers girls in grades 3-8 to be healthy and confident by incorporating life lessons with running. The program ends with 5K in St. Louis in May. We will be starting this program at the end of February 2018. Sign up will be in January. **We need your help!!** We need coaches especially for Grades 6-8. You **do not** have to enjoy running to help! Women and men adults are welcome to coach. **If you are interested contact Jessica Wachtel- [314-749-1663](tel:314-749-1663).**

The Daddy/Daughter Dance ICS gym Feb. 3, 2018 from 7-10 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest: Sat., Jan. 20th, start time of 8:00am

Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee: Sat., Jan. 20th at 10:00am.

SCRIP ---Volunteers needed: to sell Scrip at Mass on weekends. It's a great way to fulfill your time, talent and treasure! We will schedule you for a Mass you already attend. Email Catie Tyler at rcjetyler@gmail.com if interested in helping.

Shoparoo! Shoparoo is an app in which you snap pictures of your everyday receipts in

exchange for real cash donations from Shoparoo directly to the school of your choice (ICS of course). Friends and family (near or far) can take part in this fundraiser. Shoparoo makes fundraising easy and fun. **Questions?** If you have any questions, feel free to contact Joyce Randle at jarandle30@yahoo.com. **Happy Shopping! Parents and Friends Club**

THANK YOU for \$84 from **YOURCAUSE CORPORATE MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM!**
THANKS TO EXPRESS SCRIPTS for a donation of \$131.25 in matching gifts!

BUILDERS CLUB



As a “Little Christmas” gift, the Builders Club sent home a tube of M and M's today to share---one per household. They are asking the you return the sleeve without the M and M's but filled with donations of change or bills for their Kids Against Hunger Project. 25 cents will feed one person. Your generosity usually helps us raise over \$400!

We are also soliciting help in raising the \$3500 it will take to make over 15,000 meals. Jacob is our Director and Caitlyn is assisting as Fundraising Director.



January 4, 2018

Dear Friend of children around the world,
 My name is Jacob Whitworth, Director of the ICS Builders Club Kids Against Hunger Program. I am being assisted by Fundraising Director Caitlyn Schwartz who will co-chair.

Last year you were a generous donor to our program. We made 15,120 meals for children we will never meet in a land we may never visit. Our food is often transported by the United States Army. The product in the bags we make tastes like chicken and rice without the chicken, has a three year shelf life, and will feed six people at a cost of about \$1.50 a bag. It is amazing how the good we do accumulates over a period of time! Here are the numbers since we began the program:

<u>Kids Against Hunger</u>				
<u>Year</u>	<u>meals</u>	<u>cases</u>	<u>to</u>	
2017	15,120	70	Honduras	
2016	14,040	65	Honduras	
2015	14472	67	Nicaragua	
2014	15,768	73	Honduras	
2013	13,176	61	Uganda	
2012	13,176	61	Madagascar	
2011	11,016	51	Mexico	
2010	8,856	41	Haiti	
8 years		105,624	489	avg. 13,203

We hope to raise \$3,000 to again make over 15,000 meals on Saturday, February 10, 2018.

Our hope is that you can again support us in our effort. And we do understand it if you are helping others instead. Our world is in great need and there are so many worthwhile causes but children need to eat!

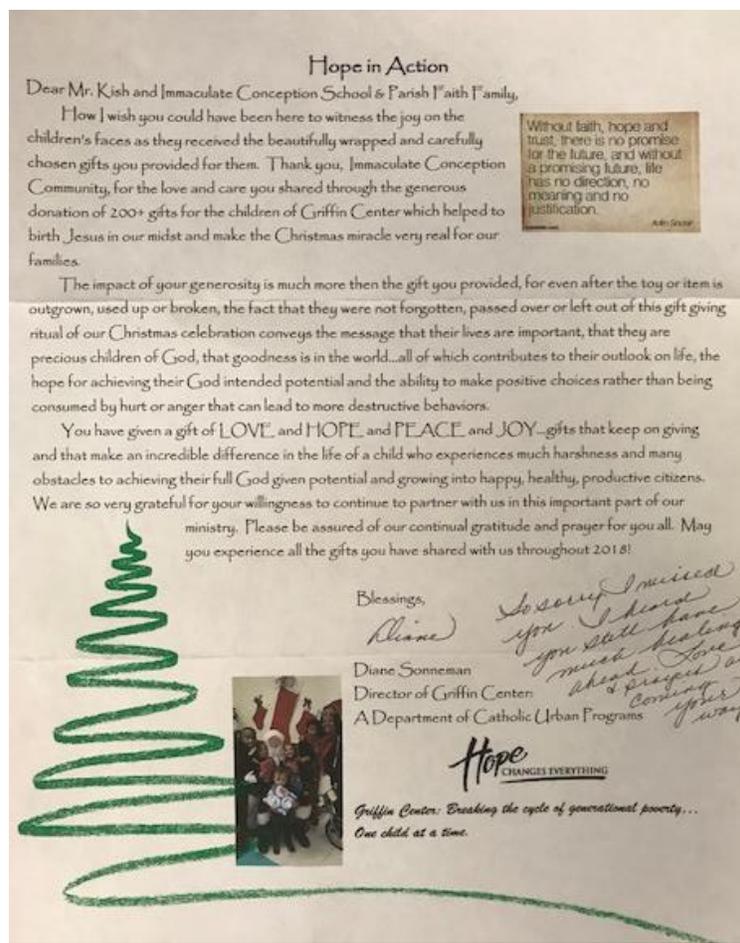
Donations can be mailed to The ICS Builders Club, Immaculate Conception School, 321 S. Metter Ave., Columbia, IL or put in an envelope and dropped into our Church Sunday envelope collection.

Thank you for your generosity. May the New Year bring you great joy in serving God's people!

Gratefully,

Jacob Whitworth, Caitlyn Schwartz

A letter of thanks from the Griffin Center:



DC Trip Fundraisers: 8th graders are selling **TJ's Pizza** to earn money for their DC field trip in March. If you would like to order cookie dough, bread braids, gooey butter cake, coffee, all varieties of pizza and more, please contact an 8th grader by Jan. 12th.

THE SPORTING NEWS...

2017 SPPCS Holiday Tournament Congratulations to our Varsity boys on taking

the **Consolation crown! Glenn Powers** was named to the **All Tournament Team**. We lost the opener to St. Boniface and defeated Valmeyer twice.

K OF C 47th Annual Free throw contest Jan 20 2018.

7: 30am Doors open Registration---parent signature needed. All kids warm up while we wait for the contest to begin. Ages 9,10, & 11 shoot from the 12 foot line and use 28.5 (smaller ball) 12,13,14 use 15 ft line and (bigger ball)
8:00 am Shooting Begins, 3 Warm ups, and 15 Consecutive Free Throws. Shoot-off in 5 for ties. Next round TBD. 9 - 9:30 am estimate End time

OUR OLD YEAR BABY Mikayla Korinne Haywood was born on December 22, weighing 8lbs 3oz. with lots of dark hair, just in time to spend her first Christmas at home with Eva, Turner, and Poppy. They are so in love with their new baby sister and are being a huge help with her. Congratulations to Tricia and Kory!

Keith Huels is recovering from surgery. Please keep him in your prayers for a quick return. He has been amazing for us in updating our financial files.

PRAYERS: Arlin Stechmesser, George Perry, Donna Kania, Marvin Parker, Susie McClenahan Mantz, Paul Thode, Tom Giovanni, Jim Vogt, Norman Waterman, Pat Schwartz, Pearl Mueller, Dennis Kish, Kaylee Fogarty, Larry Pelker, Danielle Barnett, Brandon Martin, Susan Adams, Laurie Austin, Donna Barton, Lydia Boyer, Alicia Cohen, Denise Conner, Kenny Hamontree, Susie Kish Settle, Rachel Warden, Bill Kesler, Dan Borisuk, Lauren Foran, Rich Cullen, Jessica Stemler Barcik, Gertrude Scherrer, Carolyn Baker, Scott Schaefer, Katy Basinski, Chrissy Hoeflinger, Barbara Buchheit, Angie Rose, Ken Bolton, Nick Carron, Roy Lansing, Sis Blaes, Marcella Heinrichs, Florence Dorshorst, Bill Pennock, Pat Weber, Vince Webb, George Stein, Desiree Frasure, **Special Intention**

God's peace to Helen(John) Csik's Mom **Lois Schweizer** and her family as she was laid to rest this morning from St. Dominic Savio Church. Lois attended many ICS events over the years as Allison, Emily and Daniel were graduates. Helen is very active in our parish and founded our Meals from the Hearts program. Many years ago, Helen gave me this quote. She said it fit her Mom for sure. I wish it fit all of us.

***Live your life in such a way that those
Who know you but don't
Know God
Will come to know God
Because they know you.***

RISE UP IN SPLENDOR, JERUSALEM! YOUR LIGHT HAS COME, THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHINES UPON YOU. Isaiah's reference to the birth of God Made Man reminds us of the joy a city feels when they win the Super Bowl or World Series or NBA

Championship. This Sunday we are reminded that Jesus came for all, not just the Hebrews. The Magi represent us. Bring your gift to the Altar this Sunday. Epiphanies are many. Incarnations are just the One we celebrate!

Mike Kish

Principal

Our Building a Catholic Education and Activity Center Prayer:

Merciful God, you are the Divine Builder, who calls us to build your Church. Guide us in building our new Catholic Education & Activity Center, so that we can build the Church of the future by passing on the treasure of our faith to future generations. Bless the work of our hands, and keep us strong in faith, hope and love, so that all we do might bring glory and honor to you, forever and ever. AMEN

PS FULL STEWARDSHIP PARISH! Please pray, commit, and return by Jan.7, 2018. The 2018 Stewardship Commitment form, which is due Jan 7th, is now available on the parish website. It is not something that you have to print and mail but an online form. It is completely confidential and will directly to Keith.