



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

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CELEBRATING 163 YEARS OF MISSION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

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.

January 6, 2017

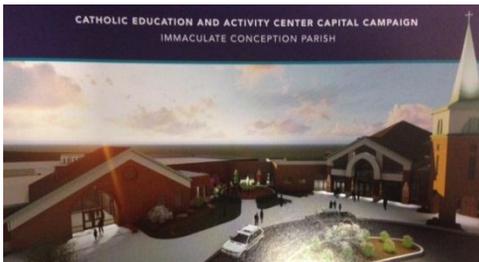
V. 42 #29

THE JOY OF LOVE

Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Teacher, Friend,

THREE WORDS: **WHAT. A. YEAR.**

New Year's resolutions--- Statisticians say about 8% are met. 2016 was a tough year for me. I usually make up a good/bad list for the year. Good won 11 to 9 but when you factor 2 Moms and a sister-in-law in heaven, it really goes up. My goal this year is appreciating the passage of time and using it wiser---read more---pray more---less TV--- less stroking out about little stuff---remembering that I don't need to get my way---God does. **Happy New Year!**



Capital Campaign---Catholic Education and Activity Center .
If you haven't been contacted yet, you can make an advance payment on your pledge towards it!!!!

Everything depends on you, prayerfully, knowing everything depends on our Lord. Isn't it wonderful to SEE WHAT FAITH CAN BUILD! The ROI is great!

1% PLEDGE Our School Board designated the next 6 years of profit from our Magazine Drive to our new Catholic

Education and Activity Center. If our success continues as in the past, we will have donated \$116,000 which is ONE PER CENT OF OUR GOAL of \$11,600,000! As you can well imagine, the sooner we hit our campaign target the sooner we break ground! The Committees and Subcommittees Please pass your pamphlet around during the holidays and start setting your goal. Each sub sold averages \$9.23 in profit! **The 36th Annual ICS Magazine Drive** starts Monday or maybe you have already made some sales! 40% of the cost of the magazine can stay in Columbia in the form of prizes to our students and our new Catholic Education and Activity Center. A new feature is the **SAGE Program**. If a student sells \$250 in subscriptions, they can stockpile \$2500 towards credit towards college tuition. The SAGE list is growing with 365 universities from 45 states on board. Included from Illinois are McKendree, Millikin, DePaul, Bradley, Quincy. Details coming! Go to www.gaschoolstore.com to order on-line. Magazines make great gifts! Our ID # is 2710556.

If you have a letter of intent pending on the Campaign, please get it in. If the Principal is supposed to visit you, sorry for making you wait. We know our "asks" are big. We know it takes prayer. We know that life gets in the way. But we do know that "Faith finds a way". Always has, always will. Outcomes may not be what we want but "Thy will be done" is what we pray for.

CHRISTMAS THANKS The end of the year is very humbling as gratitude is poured out in so many ways. Thanks for all the cards, gifts, money which spends just like cash, treats, prayers, and kindness to me and the Faculty. Thanks too for the monogrammed cup(tag fell off). I am still opening presents, especially the ones I could freeze! Just know that we are so grateful that YOU SPOIL US. An attitude of gratitude for a God Who cared enough to join us in the mystery of being a human. It may seem too good to be true but it is! Thanks you Jesus----God made man!

BUILDERS CLUB M and M's for Kids Against Hunger with a note on them. Is this enough for one family? Sure. Count them up, divide them up, and see how the world should eat by sharing. We do a great job of it here! Catholic Urban Programs sent us a thank you this week for being the single largest donation during the Advent Season. The M and M's are free. They cost the Builders Club about a buck each so 25 cents above that cost is a meal for someone. We are also soliciting donations outright as per our KAH letter.



Dear Friend of children around the world,
My name is Molly Tippen, Director of the ICS Builders Club Kids Against Hunger Program. I am being assisted by Marie Prindiville who will co-chair.

Last year you were a generous donor to our program. We made over 14,000 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 \$1.45 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>Year</u>	<u>meals made</u>	<u>cases</u>	<u>country aided</u>
2016	14,040	65	Honduras
2015	14,472	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
7 years	90,504	419	avg. 12,929

We hope to raise \$3,000 to again make over 14,000 meals on Saturday, February 18, 2017. 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 drop into our Church Sunday envelope collection. Thank you for your generosity. May the New Year bring you great joy in serving God's people!

So WHERE DID THE SNOW GO? You get to school and everything is already shoveled. It comes from the Tinkers and the people who signed up for stewardship of time. And it sure helps to have Grandpa Ed Schaefer on the big Ford tractor! Heavy lifters include Grandpa Mike Whelan, Rich Toenjes, Tom Farr and Grandpa Dave Heck. I just can't keep up with the thanks! And we don't want to take you for granted!

FR. Carl leaves for vacation on Monday. Say a prayer that he gets some good rest. Few priests do as much as he does and he needs to stay healthy. Former Pastor Fr. Steve Humphrey will be here next week. For Masses as Fr. Chris is on retreat. One of my favorite writers Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM will be with him.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETING AT WEST PARK BOWL AT 7:00

Tuesday: CALL FOR HELP Alicia Sweney, Community Preventionist, will be here Tuesday, January 10 as part of our required Diocesan Child Protection Policy children's component. Topics have varied over the years but the message stays the same---be vigilant and tell if something just doesn't feel right. Technology has really entered the picture too. It takes a village to save us from the village idiot! If you do not want your child to hear her, let us know.

PARENTS & FRIENDS JANUARY 9, 2017 7 PM WEST PARK BOWL

Agenda

I. Opening Prayer

II. Secretary's Report - Christy Hornacek

III. Treasurer's Report – Joyce Randle

IV. Teacher's Report –

V. Principal's Report – Mr. Kish

VI. Old Business

- Square 1 Art, Jolene Sasser

- ICS Craft Fair/Cookie Booth/Basket Raffle, Holly Blaskiewicz

- Santa's Cottage, Holly Blaskiewicz & Christy Hornacek

VII. New Business

- Dinner Auction, Mandy McGuire

- Girls on the run,

- Gym Sleepover, Chair TBD

- Eating Out for ICS, Tricia Haywood

- Bounce U Fundraiser, Tricia Haywood

- Rummage Sale, Diane Ramey

VIII. New Ideas to Discuss---Making a major donation to the Catholic Education and Activity Center

IX. Next Meetings

- FEBRUARY 13, 2017 Merz on Main 210 S Main St 7:00 pm

- MARCH 13, 2017 Who Dat's 123 S Main St 7:00 pm

- APRIL 10, 2017 Joe Boccardi's 117 S Main St 7:00 pm

- MaY 8, 2017 Tequila's 850 Columbia Center 7:00 pm

X. Closing Prayer

"Big Changes" from White House Retreats

A Muslim senior physician at St. Louis University Hospital has for years organized the young Muslim doctors to provide service for a clinic serving the poor of the city. When asked by a reporter why he did this, he responded that God's children had a right to healthcare. Following up the reporter asked who were God's children, the physician threw open his arms as if to embrace the waiting room and answered, 'Everyone.'

A current saying is 'Change isn't difficult; resisting change is.' Epiphany marks the epicenter of massive change in the understanding of who gets included. The pagan astronomers from the East

follow an alluring star which which promises the remaking of the world as God intended it to be. They weren't included in the promises made to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants. They may not have even started their wanderings as believers in the one God. But they were chosen, they were summoned, they came to revelation of God among us. And the Light began to make the path clear. All are summoned by the star and bidden to come by the angels, even those we might suppose would be excluded. - Francis X. Ryan, SJ

REVISED YOUNG AUTHORS DATES We had to move our dates to meet the State Contest. Thanks to Robin Nadziejko and Gina Thompson! And our Judges who read the Write Stuff!

Monday, January 23rd: Turn-in stories & jeans day
Friday, February 17th: Spring Assembly
Saturday, March 18th: ROE Conference

I read this week that 2.7 million children have a parent in jail---Another reason to support the good work of Our Brothers Keeper and Fr. Chris Reuter, OFM.

You are the only enemy you ever lose to. A. Hamilton

ICS DINNER AUCTION February 11th --- The Falls --- You! Now is a great time to get your donation or re-gift something for our Auction---It is the main reason we can dream so big here at ICS!

CHESS MEET DATES so far... St. Teresa - January 28 ICS - February 25

Practice Schedule:

Practices for Grades 1&2: Tues 1/10, Tues 1/31, Tues 2/21, Tues 3/14

Practices for Grades 3&4: Tues 1/17, Tues 2/7, Tues 2/28, Tues 3/21

Practices for grades 5-8: Tues 1/24, Tues 2/14, Tues 3/7, Tues 3/28

Cyra Herrmann, ICS Chess Coach

SPEECH TEAM PRACTICE After school on Tuesday---Important. Be there! Thanks Mrs. Watters.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION \$1,166.90! Thank you for the little clippings that add up to thousands! \$27,046.45 Tell me it ain't worth it? It is! Thanks to all our families and grandparents and friends for helping and Carrie Boser for chairing!

CONGRATULATIONS MRS. SUE LEWIS! We received a hit on a \$500 Empowerment Grant from the Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.! This will be used for..... One Fusion 5000L Laminator \$400 and Thermal scan pouches at a cost of \$100. \$25 per 200 and we would need 4 packages for our enrollment or lost cards.

FULL STEWARDSHIP

Our annual renewal has us tracking down parish school families who have not turned in their form. We are the only Full Stewardship Parish in the Diocese of Belleville. We don't do this to be contrary or to be different or to be special but because full stewardship is the Gospel way of life. Until you come to know that everything is a gift from God, you will be resisting real happiness. If you need to understand this a little better, see page 10 and 11 of our handbook.

If you are in financial distress, please let us know on the commitment form. The financial section is managed by the Parish Business manager Mr. Huels and is confidential. As a CFP, he understands confidentiality. We need you to pray and take the time and commit. God understands how hard it is but God doesn't want part of your time, talent, and treasure. God

wants all of it. You do this by doing the best you can and offering what you have and who you are to God.

We emailed out the forms this week to those we have not collected yet. Print out, complete, and return by way of school, mail, or Sunday collection to Keith Huels, Parish Business Manager.

Thanks for making stewardship a way of life. It will change your life.

Jamie Kish is moving her shop to St. Louis Spa at 4455 Telegraph Road. Starting January 3rd, I'd like to try again w the ICS families pricing and percentage donations. Hopefully the move closer will get more people in and a bigger donation towards the educational center.

Here's a newsletter friendly advertisement if necessary.

Jaime Kish, St. Louis Spa, 4455 Telegraph Road , St. Louis, MO 63129

Bring any ICS students in for a haircut and \$10 of each cut will be donated to the ICS Educational Center Ages 3-10 \$25 Ages 11-14 \$35

Any ICS parent that comes in will receive a free cut w any chemical service and 20% will be donated to the ICS Educational Center

Thanks a million, Jaime Kish

THE SPORTING NEWS...CROSS COUNTRY 2017? We are looking to gauge interest in the 2017 ICS Cross Country Team. Cross county is a popular sport in our area. Middle School aged kids run approximately 1.86 miles in the races. Training begins in late August and ends early October and can be done in conjunction with soccer. The Goal of CC is not to win races but to develop self confidence by focusing on individual improvement. **Please let Mrs. Tara Kennedy tkennedy@icsmail.org know if you think your child might be interested so we can plan for next year.**

GRADS IN THE NEWS...



Zach Hennes is in Honduras doing his SLUH Senior Project. As you can see, his hands are full!

GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWS...

Gibault Catholic High School placement test for the incoming Class of 2021, will be offered again on **Friday, January 13, from 12:45-4:00**. The test is given free of charge, please RSVP to Susan Mackin (smackin@gibalthawks.com).

Gibault Catholic High School Band Alumni night will be at the home basketball game on Friday, January 13, 2017. All GCHS alumni band members are invited to join the band! Contact Scott Ruppel sruppel@gibalthawks.com for more information.

Glo Dance : Gibault is hosting a dance for 7th / 8th grade students on Saturday, January 21, from 7-9PM in the Gibault cafeteria. Admission is \$3 or 3 canned goods for the Hope Christian food pantry.

FULL STEWARDSHIP Please get your commitment form in!

Dear Parents,

Thanks to all of you for bringing your children on Christmas Eve. What a wonderful celebration it was!!

The next Children's Choir will be on **January 22nd at 11:00 Mass. I like for other masses to experience the children as well. Our first 2017 rehearsal will be Jan. 11th from 3-4.** Please call me [618-719-1815](tel:618-719-1815) or e mail me with questions.
Happy New Year!! Karen Lundy

JOY OF LOVE T-SHIRT: Hope Schwartz, Lauren Thorne, Steven Schaefer

PRAYERS for Mrs. Connie Huebner and a note:

I wanted to let you know that I will be taking a medical leave of absence for a few weeks in January and possibly February. As some of you may know, I had surgery on my pancreas in November 2015. I had several problems after that surgery and I ended up having a second surgery 10 days later. Unfortunately, I have had some issues with the healing of that incision that I need to get fixed. The last thing I want to do is take time off in the middle of the school year, but at this point the doctor (and my family) have given me no choice.

My surgery is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18. Hopefully my stay in the hospital will only be for 3-5 days and my plan is to be back at school on "light" duty about 2 weeks later. Mrs. Donna Carrico will be taking over for me while I am out. Mrs. Carrico has been working in the kitchen for about 9 years. I have been training her for the past few weeks and she is more than ready to take over for me while I am out. The other ladies who work in the cafeteria have also agreed to change their work schedules to accommodate my time off. I cannot thank them enough for that. The students will not notice any change in their lunches other than me not being there to help serve.

I have not trained Mrs. Carrico on posting payments. Mrs. Epplin will be holding on to any payments that come in during this time until I can get to them and any payments made electronically I will also get posted as soon as I can.

Again, I am not anticipating any disruption in the lunch process and plan to be back as soon as I can. Thanks, Connie Huebner

HEPPA We are happy to publish requests for prayers. Some families are more private and don't want things published which is ok. We include them in our Special Intentions for Mass and our prayers. Let us know and we are happy to include you.

Thank you for all the prayers for our niece, **Rachel Warden**. She is still in the ICU at SLU. We spent a lot of time with family over the break, at each others' houses and at the hospital. Rachel continues to slowly show signs of improvement. She is currently breathing on her own, but still has the trach in place. I received a text update this morning that she had her eyes open for about 2 minutes! This was a first and a long awaited improvement (as she has been 'sleeping' since 12/18). Her mother also said while her eyes were open there were a lot of heavy breaths and gurgling (which was good) and they believe she was trying to talk. Depending on how the week goes, they are thinking of transferring her to a neuro-rehab facility. Mom and Dad are feeling more relieved as the improvements keep coming. It is all so unknown, which is the hardest for them. Thanks for the prayers. Seeing prayer at work is amazing. She is a lucky girl to be here, but has a hard road of recovery ahead of her. The family's strong faith has really helped them out.

Also - I saw my buddy, **Dan Borisuk**, the other day. He seems upbeat and looks good. He continues to work during the week, while getting his treatments. I didn't get too many specifics of the cancer, but if he looks good and is smiling and laughing like his old self, I take that as a positive. Thanks again for the prayers. God Bless –Maren Donjon

Tootie May fell at home over the holidays and broke her arm and dislocated the socket. She is a snowbird and went south for the surgery and therapy in Florida. Please put her on our prayer lists. She served our Kindergarten for over 25 years as a volunteer. Cheyanne and Keegan's grandma.

Seth Watters is home and recovering.

Ken Biske, Maria's grandfather, is home awaiting news on the mass removed during his surgery.

Sister Susie Kish Settle is in the hospital for tests. Prayers please.

Brother Dennis Kish had surgery this week---is a scary one so please keep him in your prayers.

God's peace to the family of **Glenn Thebeau**---Jim's grandpa---Tyler, James, Gabe, Eli, Michael's great grandpa, has passed away over the holidays. Please keep the family in your prayers.

PRAYERS: Special Intention Susie Kish Settle, Dennis Kish, Tootie May, Seth Watters, Rachel Warden, Angie Peters, Lynn Pelker, Bill Kesler, Pat Whelan(Dan's Mom), Delores Deleveski, Jan Walsh, Dan Borisuk, Jessica Stemler Barcik, Denise Conner, Maggie Williamson, Dan Whelan, Patricia Steppig, Lauren Foran, Rich Cullen, Barb Winschel, Josh Ritter, Tom Kish, Stella Moll, Gertrude Scherrer, Henry Scott Dabbs, Carolyn Baker, Scott Schaefer, Katy Basinski, Chrissy Hoeflinger, Barbara Buchheit, Angie Rose, Ken Bolton, Nick Carron, Mary Giovanni, Roy Lansing, Sis Blaes, Arlin Stechmesser, Marcella Heinrichs, Florence Dorshorst, Bill Pennock, Pat Weber, Ed Hengel, Vince Webb, George Stein, Desiree Frasure.

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

Mike Kish, Principal

PS Giant thanks to all for the Christmas gifts for the faculty and staff. Special thanks to Lynetta Newton for chairing the Christmas collection this year for the staff.

PS Happy Birthday to Parish Secretary Angie Bueltemann birthday on January 14. The first point of contact for our parish next to you!

PS The Capital Campaign is doing well but we need to know our pledges so we can figure out how much we will need to plan. Just like a baby doesn't come with an instruction manual, life doesn't come with a crystal ball. That is why we have faith. Please commit so we can commit to getting construction started. We are trying to make a big push now so everyone in the parish has a chance to be involved in our largest undertaking ever!

45TH ANNUAL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW CONTEST Mark Frierdich won the first contest in 1972. We held the competition on the outside court and have done it ever since though it moved in-doors after that! This year's Council level contest will be next Saturday morning here at ICS with doors opening at 7:50 and shooting to start promptly at 8:20 so we can free up the gym by 9:30 for the three Diocesan basketball tournament games starting at 10:00. This is open to boys and girls ages 9 to 14 as of January 1. Matt Buhr is chairing for us. Register with parent signature. It is a skill, not luck but sometimes luck helps.

Nine FACTS ABOUT THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

1. The three Kings (Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar) represented Europe, Arabia and Africa respectively.
2. Hundreds of years ago, roast lamb was traditionally served at Epiphany in honour of Christ and the three Kings' visit.
3. Whoever finds the small statue of a baby Jesus hidden inside their slice of the Rosca de reyes throws a party on Candlemas in February.
4. In some European countries, children leave their shoes out the night before to be filled with gifts, while others leave straw for the three Kings' horses.
5. According to Greek Orthodox Church's traditions, a priest will bless the waters by throwing a cross into it as worshippers try to retrieve it.
6. In Bulgaria too, Eastern Orthodox priests throw a cross in the sea and the men dive in - competing to get to it first.
7. In Venice a traditional regatta that started as a joke in the late 1970s has been incorporated in the celebrations of Epiphany Day.
8. In Prague, there is a traditional Three Kings swim to commemorate Epiphany Day at the Vltava River.
9. In New York, El Museo del Barrio has celebrated and promoted the Three Kings' Day tradition with an annual parade for more than three decades. Thousands take part in the procession featuring camels, colorful puppets and floats. The day's activities involve singing holiday carols called aguinaldos.

HOW TO JUMP-START STRUGGLING READERS from Renaissance Learning

By: Lynn Esser, Senior Product Marketing Manager, Renaissance Accelerated Reader 360

Imagine reading a sentence, but not understanding its context. You can read each individual word fine, but the sentence itself doesn't make sense. Imagine praying, crossing your fingers, and hoping that your teacher doesn't call on you to read aloud in class. Knowing in the back of your head that you understood the words in your science book, but can't quite figure out what they really mean. Wishing you could just do simple math equations because you know your facts but everything gets mixed up when you come across a story problem. Struggling to complete classwork and homework. Feeling less than your peers who find reading so easy, making your self-confidence plummet. Realizing there are five months of school still left. Dreading the next hour, the next class, the remaining eight years of school. **Can you imagine?**

My son, Cannon, was in kindergarten when he started feeling anxious about school. Even at age 6, he was comparing himself to others and felt he didn't measure up when it came to reading.

When I taught in an inner-city middle school, many of my students had already mentally checked out of school after years of struggle. **They hadn't discovered the magic of a story.** They hadn't grown up in a household full of books. When money is tight, books are a luxury. When parents are working two jobs, there isn't time (or energy) to go to the library. When kids get off to a slow start, it can be hard to catch them up.

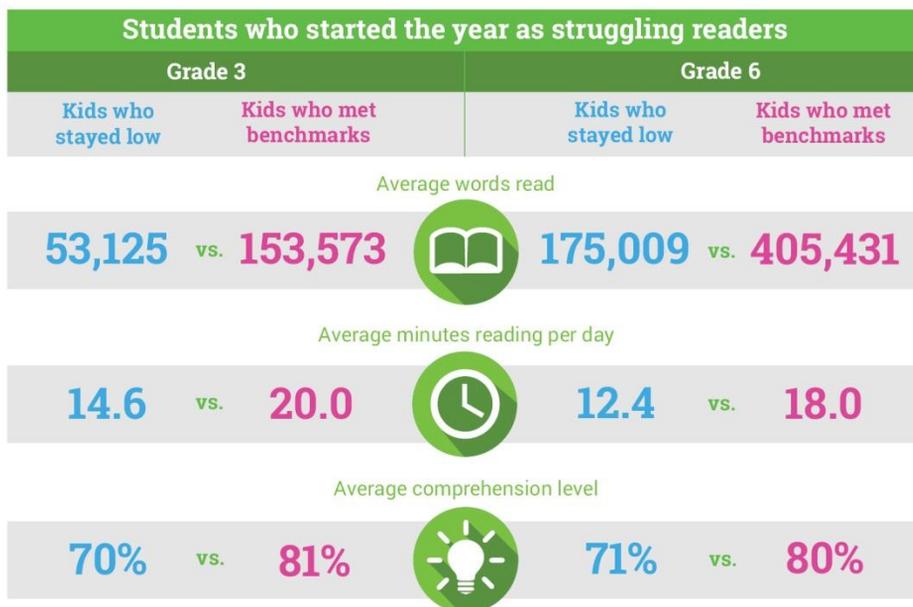
Catching struggling readers up

But there IS a way to catch kids up. Renaissance's annual *What Kids Are Reading: And How They Grow* research report includes powerful evidence. **The key to jump-starting struggling readers? Jan**

Bryan touched on it last week. It's reading practice, and lots of it, with books at an appropriate level so students can read successfully with comprehension.

The graphic below shows struggling third- and sixth-grade students. Those who began the year as struggling readers but met end-of-year benchmarks read more words, read more minutes per day, and experienced higher rates of comprehension.

High-quality daily reading practice helps struggling readers surge ahead



All students shown began the school year in the bottom quarter of reading achievement. Kids who read more words, spent more time reading each day, and read with greater understanding pulled ahead to end the year meeting college- and career-readiness benchmarks for their grade.

Source: Renaissance Accelerated Reader 360®, 2015–2016.