

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

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CELEBRATING 162 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.

OPEN THE DOORS OF MERCY!

January 15, 2016

V. 41 #29



Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Teacher, Friend,

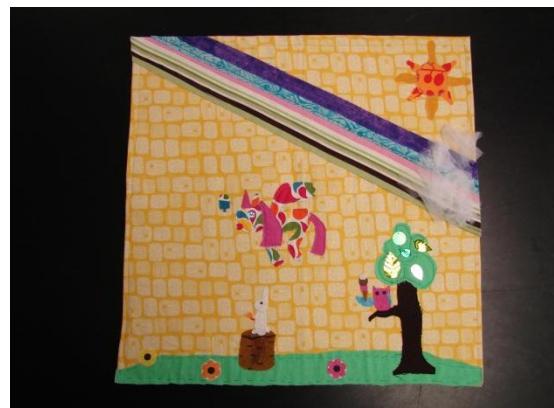
NATIONAL QUILT BLOCK CHALLENGE!!! We are the Champions!

Jacob Whitworth, Ally Curry and Noah Newton won the Grand Prize(\$100 each) in the National Quilt Block Challenge for their quilt block "Patriotic Elvis". **Kyra Newton** won 3rd place(\$100) in the K-4th grade division with her quilt "Wonderland". The national competition had 222 entries from 329 students participating from 17 different states. Additional team members from ICS were- Allison Shuler, Spencer Biske, Noah Chism, Holly Repp, Georgia Sasser, Jacqie Gogolek, Emma Melliere, Maria Biske, Isabella Frasure, Katie Grawitch, Jessica Lambert, Marie Prindiville, Stephen Johns and Emma Tippen.

The School Block Challenge Reception and Awards Ceremony will be Saturday, January 23, 2016 at 1 pm at the National Quilt Museum in Paducah, Kentucky. Winning quilts will be on exhibit through the summer and returned around August/September of 2016.

ICS art teacher Carol Fetcho and teacher Karen Weiler were moderators.

Patriotic Elvis-National Champion: Jacob Whitworth, Ally Curry, Noah Newton
Wonderland-3rd place K-4 Kyra Newton





87 TODAY The world is a sorry place when you forget your heroes yet this is how people tend to operate so we are constantly seeking new ones. Politics lends itself to that for we are always looking at our politicians and asking ourselves "are you the one?" Will you solve our complex problems? Will you bring justice to all? Will you make mercy paramount or the rule of law which is an ideal and oftentimes unattainable? Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15 of 1929. He was a great man, and like all great men, had great sins too. Though his path of nonviolence, his eloquence, his ideals did not protect him from jail, humiliation, and assassination, he does remind us how change can happen when you go against the grain and throw off the status quo of injustice. Compare his life to Gandhi, Archbishop Oscar Romero, Dorothy

Day, and Our Lord Jesus Christ. Monday is a national day of service. I don't have something special planned but I do have a 10:00 meeting with Missions International that is the parent organization for our sister parish program with St. Raymond's. Last year you donated \$27,629 through our parish and school collections to our sister parish in the city of San Carlos in the province of Alzata in Guatemala. This is service of treasure. Do something and honor Dr. King on Monday. Every time we advance the cause of civil rights, we protect our own rights too.(King depicted on The Mall in DC coming out of "The Mountain of Despair"--only Mall monument not dedicated to a president.

From Dr. King:

- The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.*
- Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.*
- Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.*

From First Graders:

- No one will be poor. Everyone has a good education. Everyone is loved. Everyone gets along. No more wars. Everyone shares. --Shawn*
- Martin dreamed that everyone shouldn't be judged by their skin color and hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that. Everyone gets treated the same. I dream that people aren't homeless. I wish people weren't sick. I wish people didn't go to jail. --Gus*
- Martin dreamed that everyone was treated fairly. He also had a dream that his 4 little kids would live in a nation where they weren't judged by the color of their skin but their character. --Carolyn*
- He wanted to make everyone friends so people weren't judged by their skin but by their love so everyone to be more like Jesus. --Cam*
- He was trying to change the laws that everybody would be treated fairly. I dream that everyone would be nice at recess. --Ella*
- He tried to change the laws and it worked and lots of people protested and the laws changed and everyone got treated fairly. -Steven*

35th ANNUAL MAGAZINE DRIVE TURN-IN DAYS ARE January 15-21-25 and 28. Magazine Drive profits go to the new Catholic Education and Activities Fund as we work towards our future! Order online anytime and your child will get credit during the drive! www.gaschoolstore.com I.D. 2710556 Booklets were sent home before Christmas and more on Monday. You can't sell if you don't ask! Promote reading and thinking!!!



Nationally, magazine sales were up 1.4% last year. Yes, you can read on-line but I love the convenience of the printed word. If you don't get any magazines, let me recommend *The Smithsonian Magazine*, *Discover*, *National Geographic*, *Newsweek* or *Time*, *Highlights*, and the great sports magazines that are out there.(Rolling Stone only has one good article a month but it is often worth it too---and the Pope made the cover!) 40% stays here in prizes and net

profit. Parents are imitated by their children. Be a reader and raise one!



OPEN HOUSE---SUNDAY JANUARY 24

12:30 open house starts; light lunch served; REMARKS in cafeteria
1:15 tours of the school given either to individual families or groups depending on attendance

We need some Builders Club Ambassadors please.

TERRIFIC KIDS – JANUARY 2016 Congratulations and thanks for your example! **Go Kiwanis!**

Mrs. Diewald: **Jack Thieret** - Jack is an all-around great student. He works hard to always do his best school work and never forgets to do his homework. He is a great friend to his classmates and is always willing to help others.

Mrs. Meyer: **Riley McGill** - Riley is the terrific student of the month because he is a good leader in the classroom and works well with others!

Mrs. Wilkerson: **Carter Groppe** – Carter has shown a lot of improvement this year and has become a very helpful and respectful member of our class. He tries to work hard and help others in his group. He is always respectful to adults.

Mrs. Matrisotto: **Audrey Randle** – Audrey is a Terrific kid for outstanding academics, wonderful work ethic, being a self-starter, and homework completion. Audrey not only finishes assignments on time, but often will go above and beyond. Audrey is fantastic at writing stories which include many exciting details. I am proud of the effort Audrey puts forth for her assignments.

Mrs. Donjon: **Rhyan Ward** - Rhyan is always completing her work on time. She is also always willing to help out in the classroom. It shows that Rhyan tries her best on her work. She is a good friend and a great student.

Mrs. Ettling: **Andrew Donjon** – Andrew is a conscientious worker in the classroom. He puts forth 100% of his effort from the time he arrives until it's time to go home. I'm proud of Andrew for the effort he puts forth daily. Keep up the hard work!

Mrs. Taylor: **Dan Stewart** - Dan is always helping me in the classroom from erasing the boards to stacking chairs to passing out song books everyday for mass. Dan is a hard worker who is always willing to lend a hand.

Mrs. Schuster: **Brian Stark** - Brian is a great addition to our classroom. He is a very caring individual who is always looking out for other students in school. He wants to make sure that everyone has their needs met.

A SINCERE THANK YOU TO MRS. PRISCILLA WILKERSON!

I would like to say a sincere thank you to Mrs. Priscilla Wilkerson for all her help this first semester for ICS. She stepped in and kept the ball rolling for us and took her job very seriously while filling in for Ms. Tara Kennedy who returned yesterday.

God's blessings on Mrs. Wilkerson for all her help and let's all hold hands and work together this second semester as we continue the Holy Year of Mercy!

One thing for sure, when you release the calendar---there will be changes! Please note the red.

Calendar 2015-16 second semester

January 18 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day---no school

April 9 District Band Contest

May 6 May Crowning 1:00

May 15 Jazz Band plays the National Anthem at Grizzlies Stadium



On February 6, we hope to make about 14,000 meals again. Help needed. 8:00 to 11:30. Can work in shifts.

BUILDERS CLUB **Kids Against Hunger**

16 \$1505 so far! Would you be so kind? 24 cents makes a meal.

15	14,472 MEALS	67 CASES	TO	Nicaragua
14	15,768	73		Honduras
13	13,176	61		Uganda
12	13,176	61		Madagascar
11	11,016	51		Mexico
10	8,856	41		Haiti
6 years	76,464	354		avg. 12,744

BUILDERS CLUB M & M PROJECT Today the Club is sending home

M & M tubes. Consider them a gift. Also, please consider sending the tubes back with change or some folding money for our Kids Against Hunger program. Last year we netted over \$700 from this project. Hannah Janson and Maggie Schulte are chairing for us.

TEC RETREAT---ICS IS OFF LIMITS till Monday night! From our parish: Jay Hollman, Cara Gallagher, Alicia Archambault, Allison Terveer, Hope Drennan, Jake Daniels, Therese Beabout and from the diocese: Ethan Huff, Payton Bridegroom, Taylor Smith, Nicole Zimmer, Emily Woods, Andrew Lewis, Gabriel Hulling and Jason Berthe. Please be with them in prayer this weekend!

YOUNG AUTHORS---January 25 turn-in and jeans day for writers. Sharpen your pens and get them in to your teachers please. I am counting on all teachers to promote this activity! Do the Write Stuff!

TOP TEN FINALISTS FOR 2015-2016 NATIONAL HISTORY BEE: Ben Traxler, Spencer Biske, Jane Whelan, Jack Burke, Nick Prindiville, Ryan Gallagher, Andrew Harmon, James Ramette, Eli Garcia, and Katie Grawitch who took the on-line test yesterday. The first step...Did you remember we have had 11 national finalists the last 3 years?

Alex Cal and Oscar Flores will be joining us for a while during the second semester. They are from Belize and are receiving help from Shriner's Hospital. They are our friends from previous stays while having surgeries or getting prosthetic adjustment from the good Shriners! They are staying with Jack Burke and family. Hola Alex and Oscar!

PAPA JOHNS DAY IS COMING ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 22ND. It will be sausage pizza only.
Thanks for supporting our lunch program!

JUST A HEADS UP ON PARKING AROUND ICS--- We have some no parking zones during school hours, especially on Metter Ave. and Liberty and the bus drivers alert me so a ticket isn't given by the police---that would wreck my day..and it will wreck yours because the signs are posted. Do yourself a favor and avoid these areas. We can still use the Main Church lot a while. There is no really good drop-off place here which is another reason for the new school!

ICS FATHERS CLUB ANNOUNCES: We have a date! Texas Hold'em!
Saturday Feb 27th - 7:30pm start - \$50 Buy in @ Immaculate Conception Church on Palmer Rd - Lower Level

Last year we were 6 tickets short of selling out and it is a real possibility that we will sell out this year. I wanted to make sure and give our past supporters first opportunity to purchase tickets. Tickets will be available for purchase at Khoury Pharmacy in Columbia **Monday Jan 18**, however I will not start our general advertising until Jan 22. Giving you guys an entire week to easily secure your tickets. The easiest way to buy tickets is to go to Khoury Pharmacy 101 N Main Columbia, IL. They will take cash or check made payable to ICS Father's Club and you receive your ticket(s).

If you can not make it to Khoury Pharmacy, email Devin Dalpoas at icsfathers@gmail.com and we will come up with an arrangement to get you tickets. PLEASE go to Khoury Pharmacy next week to secure your tickets or email me back so you are not left out. Thank you so much for your past support and we look forward to seeing you on the 27th. [See attached flyer for details.](#)

Chess News: We have the first chess meet of the season HERE on Saturday, January 23rd. Check in begins at 8:15 and round one starts promptly at 9:00. Please pre-register with Mrs.Herrmann by **tomorrow** (1/16) if you have not done so already at chermann@icsmail.org

Additional meets will be January 30th at St. Teresa and March 5th at Blessed Sacrament. Stay tuned for more dates!

Chess Practices:

Lower Grades (1-3) - Jan 26, Feb 9, Feb 23, March 8, March 22

Upper Grades (4-8) - Jan 19, Feb 2, Feb 16, March 1, March 15

HEAD LICE Key Points from publication:

-female lives up to 3-4 wks and can lay up to 10 eggs/day

- itching is from the sensitization to components of the saliva when they suck tiny amount of blood form the scalp every few hours to feed.

-viable nits are unlikely to incubate and hatch at room temperatures without human Contact. If they did, the nymphs would need to find a source of blood for feeding within hours of hatching.

-Vigorous combing of wet hair after treatments is better than combing of dry hair.

Nix is the recommended over the counter drug of choice for treatment, applied to damp hair that was shampooed with non-conditioning shampoo. Leave on hair 10 min then *rinsed off, not washed off*. It leaves a residue on hair to kill nymphs emerging from the 20% of eggs not killed with the application at first. However, conditioners and shampoos with detanglers or conditioner prevent the drug from adhering to the hair shaft and reduce residual effect. therefore repeat treatment in 7-10 days (day 9 recommended).

Rid applied to dry hair, left on 10 min and *rinsed out*. No residual on hair left and newly laid eggs do not have a nervous system for a few days so 30% eggs are still viable after treatment. Therefore retreatment in 7-10 days recommended, day 9 is optimal.

Kwell may cause seizures in children, left on 4 minutes at max, repeat treatment in 9-10days, resistance has been reported worldwide for years.

Essential oils are used widely but with varying constitution of the oils from company to company, success rate has not been reproduced effectively, not FDA approved or inspected for safety standards.

Petroleum shampooing is using petroleum jelly massaged in to scalp and hair, left on overnight w a shower cap. Diligent shampooing for the next 7-10days is required to remove the residual. Success rate falls directly into the daily attention to the grooming, not the procedure itself. The same applies to tub margarine, mayonnaise, oile oil and melted butter.

Vinegar, acetone, vodka, bleach and WD-40 all proved ineffective, interfered with residual activity of Nix and Rid products and damaged human hair beyond repair.

LiceGuard and Robi-comb are battery powered lice'combs' like a bug zapper. No studies performed on either for success rate and are not to be used on people with seizure disorders or pacemakers.

Colleen Goessling, Community Health Nurse, Monroe County Health Dept.



MaKey-MaKey is an invention kit for the 21st century. Turn everyday objects into touchpads and combine them with the internet. It's a simple Invention Kit for Beginners and Experts doing art, engineering, and everything in-between: the makeymakey kits is a printed circuit board with an microcontroller running Arduino Leonardo firmware that plugs into your computer with a usb. It uses the Human Interface (you) to communicate with your computer, and it can send key presses, mouse clicks, and mouse movements. There are six inputs on the front of the board, which can be

attached to via alligator clipping, soldering to the pads, or any other method you can think of. Anything that can conduct a little bit of electricity can be turned into a controller apples, bananas, card board, pencils, playdoh, etc. It also can interface with scratch, programing software that they have learned already, and create games and videos that can be controlled with just about anything.

Here is the site if you want to learn more about Makeymakey <http://www.makeymakey.com/>

We wrote a grant for these computer "switches" but did not win. So God sends a generous donor to give us \$500 and the fun and creativity has begun! Tech Club gets first crack! Makey-Makey Turn your donut into a switch...or Marie's head...or play-dough!

PARENTS AND FRIENDS CRAFT FAIR

76 vendor booths---Total Net Profit for the event was

\$5,742.51 \$1,155.01 increase! Santa was good to us this year!

It takes many hands to make light work. We had such a great event and it is all thanks to the awesome crew that helped make it such a success. Special thanks to:

Sarah Griffin	Jen LoPorto	Kathy Schmidt	Matt Blaskiewicz	Laura Whelan
Mr. Kassebaum	Andrea Harget	Amy Tucker	Kim & Izzy Foutch	Catherine Tyler
Gina Thompson	Robyn Baker	Laurie Conrad	Carrie Stark	Angie Kesler
Tina & Eric Baldridge	Sarah Theiret	8th Grade Students		
Cookie Crew - awaiting info from Sandra Whitworth and Desiree Frasure				

Thank you Holly Blaskiewicz for a great job chairing for us and thanks to Beth Gallagher and Denise Gillan and all past chairs for making this a great day!

Speech The Diocesan Meet is **here** on Feb. 20th at ICS! We need a full team of 12. Practice: Next week will be Monday-Thursday 3:10-4:30. Open to Grades 5-8.

NOT SURE WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR DUPLICATE CHRISTMAS PRESENTS OR THE AWESOME ITEM GREAT AUNT TILDA GAVE YOU?

Donate it to the ICS Annual Dinner Auction! Yes, it's that time again, we are collecting for the Dinner Auction. If you have items to donate please fill out the Auction Donation form and send it into the school office. **Sat., Feb. 20, 2016!** All the information was sent home today with your oldest child.

VALENTINE PROJECT sponsored by Grade 2

It is that time of year again that the ICS students make Valentine bags for the children at the Griffin Center! We will be filling 500 bags so we will need your help. In the bag we would like to give each child a pencil and two pieces of candy. We have listed below the items we would like each grade level to donate. If you could please send all donations to the second grade classrooms by February 8th we would greatly appreciate it. Also, the children do not have Valentines to hand out to their friends. It would be great if you could donate a box or send in any cards that have not been written on. Thank you for your help and support. The children say thank you in a big way!

Grades 6 & 7 & 8 – pencils

Grades 3 & 4 & 5 – bags

Grades 1 & 2 – candy

Grades Pre K & K – candy

COUNSELOR'S CORNER Another great homily requires a shout out. On Wednesday, Fr. Chris spoke about Samuel who heard his name being called but didn't realize that it was the Lord calling. How often do we not hear the Lord calling us? Fr. Chris challenged all of us to join our families for dinner tonight and then turn everything electronic OFF. Now, this is not a stretch for Fr. Chris, who is often suggesting this. On the spiritual side, we need quiet and peace to connect with God. On the emotional side, we need time to commune with one another. So many of us are suffering from being too busy, too plugged in, too disconnected, or connected only through social media.

On the physical side, here is a sobering truth that I read in Psychology Today: "**Taken together, [studies show] internet addiction is associated with structural and functional changes in brain regions involving emotional processing, executive attention, decision making, and cognitive control.**" --research authors summarizing neuro-imaging findings in internet and gaming addiction (Lin & Zhou et al, 2012)

I am so grateful to be able to work at a Catholic school and have the privilege to be encouraged to slow down, shut things down and take in God. Join me.

Karen Lundy, ICS School Counselor

The Teaching Never Stops

K OF C SPELLING BEE The Knights of Columbus are once again sponsoring their annual Spelling Bee. The competition is open to all students in elementary grades 3 thru 8. The event will begin at 10:00am in the Knights of Columbus room in the Garden Level at Immaculate Conception Church on Saturday, January 30th. Any questions or to reserve a spot, please contact **Jim VonDerHaar** at [314-494-8874](tel:314-494-8874) or **Pat Grawitch** at [314-495-0742](tel:314-495-0742).

ASK ME ABOUT MY MERCY DAILY TEE SHIRT WALKING BILLBOARD Paul Ott-Logan Loperto-Eva Haywood-Connor Thoma-Owen Haney-Blake Powers-Riley McGill-Mary Clare Murphy

PARISH NEWS...Church envelopes for Young Stewards were sent home last week. 30-30-30-10 is a great plan for kids' money and our lives. 30% for long term like college, 30% for emergencies, 30% for fun money, and 10% for God. If only I had taken this more seriously as a youth, many of my bad money habits would be so much easier to manage.

FULL STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT Number received from households which have students at ICS in K thru 8: 159 Number received: 78. Number due: 81. Thanks for dropping them in the collection this week. Please commit Time-Talent-Treasure and remember the "belonging is believing"!

ANNUAL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS APPEAL Our School Board campaign has begun. \$2741.25 to date! Thanks for paying it forward!

THE SPORTING NEWS...

CONGRATULATIONS to Bryce Pautler on making the All-Tourney Team at the SPPS Christmas Tourney. He received his medal yesterday.

Basketball uniforms need to be laundered and turned in. Volleyball uniforms will be issued after basketball uniforms are returned. Games start next week. Dig it-Spike!

Check the athletic schedule for practices and contact these coaches. Please let the office know if we have additional coaches or players signed up.

Boys VB	8th grade team (7 & 8)	Mary Anne Lambert, Chris Bira, Todd Biske
	6th grade team (5 & 6)	Lauren Powers
	5 th grade team	Janice Schaefer and Sandy Mercille
<u>Girls VB</u>	8th team	Jim Wessel
	7th team	Ellen Sippel and Mary Ann Lambert
	6th grade team	Katie Voges and Brooke Schwartz
	5th grade team	Kathy Schmidt and Todd Biske

- **VOLLEYBALL PICTURES JAN. 22** see corrected times--- order forms sent last week.
- Corrected volleyball team pictures schedule and order form attached.
- Friday, Jan. 22, 2016
- 5th Grade Girls 4:45
- 6th Grade Boys 5:15
- 8th Grade Boys 5:30
- 6th Grade girls 5:45
- 5th grade boys 6:00
- 8th grade girls 6:15
- 7th grade girls 6:30
- **COLUMBIA KHOURY LEAGUE** see last week's attachment to sign up for the national game!

45th Annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

Sponsored by the Knight of Columbus George R. Kutterer Council 6165

Sunday, January 24th in the ICS gym

Doors open at 2:00pm for registration and warm-up- Shoot at 2:30.

Council Level – Open to boys and girls ages 9-14 as of Jan. 1, 2016 in the Columbia School District.

Ages 9, 10, and 11 can shoot from the 12 foot line.

Winners will advance to the district competition in February.

Register at the door with a parent or contact **Mr. Kish** at 281-5353 for a registration form.

In case of snow and changes to the school day, you will get a robo-call from Mr. Kish. There is a possibility we could have a "Late" Start to school. This would be a 2 hour delay to the school day, buses will run on that schedule. If roads are bad we could also have "snow routes" which means the routes are condensed. If you have signed up with the transportation office, these were listed on your sheet. If you have questions regarding the condensed route, call Patty or Brenda at 281-6555.

LUNCH THAT DAY---JUST IN CASE: If we would follow the late start schedule, lunch will be adjusted. It will be a set menu due to have a shorter time to prepare lunch. The menu will be Cheese pizza or cheese and crackers(no chef salads available), vegetable and fruit from that day's menu and milk.

DIOCESAN NEWS...THE MESSENGER Renewal is coming up soon. Grades 7 and 8 will soon be receiving an on-line subscription to the Messenger. More curriculum with no increase in time. All we can do is be very good planners to get it all in. This will be a good chance to teach students how to skim-read for content and interest. In the end, it should help us encourage spiritual reading and realize we are part of the bigger Church too.

ONDESSONK We are the single largest group of campers annually to our Diocesan Camp. Time to register!

CAMP ONDESSONK What it means to me

I was twelve years old when I first felt that feeling. I had just moved to a new school and was feeling the stereotypical adversities that go with such a change. I was fitting in well at my new school, but I was still timid. Immaculate Conception, my new school was full of wonderful and exciting new opportunities that I had never had before, and it made me nervous. In the midst of this new found pressure, I made a great group of friends to help me along; my new group introduced me to Camp Ondessonk.

At twelve years old, I was convinced to make my first big excursion away from home and I went with close to twenty of my friends to magical Ondessonk. The feeling I felt was overwhelming oneness. I felt like I was one with nature, with my friends, with the counselors, but most importantly with myself. I could smell the breeze that picked up the magnificent scent of 983 acres of aged trees, and rocks, and water. Frowns were nonexistent and ear-to-ear- smiles filled their place. Hearts glowed and family traditions were passed on. Since 1959 beaming families have filled the trails of this wonderland and have given a spirit more powerful than anything on earth. Since its genesis, it has been a home away from home full of love, compassion, and empathy. Generations have felt the same feeling I felt and had the marvelous experience I did.

I could reach out and feel the history; Ondessonk is so potently filled with traditions and activities that have made a difference to every person that has set foot on the property, whether in their dotage or their youth. Throughout my first week, I became addicted to the happiness I felt at Camp, to the nature around me, to the traditions, to the vibrant young spirit, I absolutely fell in love, but there was an underlying love about this place that I didn't discover until 3 years later as a CIT.

In the council ring, a very sacred place and the grounds for the lodge ceremony, I laid down beside the guys from my CIT group, and the group after us to have a meaningful talk with one another. In this moment, I realized that Camp is a haven, a home for children who feel lost at home. Being a kid can be extremely difficult, especially when you feel like you're alone, but Camp doesn't let that happen. Ondessonk is a family of thousands spanning over 50 years of campers, staff, and administration, and you are connected to all of them.

So for me, I guess Camp is a chance; a chance to be a part of a family that takes you for you, a place undisturbed by the strife of our daily lives, a breeze that carries the stories of thousands of campfires, and most importantly a home for those who feel alone. I am now going to be a member of general staff at Camp Ondessonk, and my coworkers and I get to make a whole new generation of campers realize just what Camp means to them. Camp Ondessonk-What it means to me. By Jake Daniels

GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

This year 55 students and chaperones from Gibault Catholic High School will be participating in the March for Life in Washington, DC from January 20th through January 24th. We will be part of a pilgrimage that includes speakers, daily mass, rosary, reconciliation and testimonies from people whose lives have been touched by abortion. If you would like to donate to help defray the cost for the students, please send donations to Gibault Catholic High School, c/o March for Life. If you are unable to provide a monetary donation at this time, we ask that you keep our students in your prayers as they journey on their pilgrimage. We thank you for any help you can offer.

The Gibault Drama department is proud to present **The Man Who Came to Dinner January 28th-30th** at 7:00 PM and Sunday, January 31st at 2:00 PM in the GCHS Auditorium. Come laugh along with us! Grades 5-8 have been invited to attend on Thursday, January 28th!

Experience your Catholic high school in action! The **Gibault Catholic Welcome Wednesday** series continues February 3rd, 9 – 11 am. Meet Principal Russ Hart for coffee and conversation about Gibault Catholic – an area leader in academics, technology, fine arts and athletics. Tour the campus “live” when classes are in session. RSVP: Pat Herzing pherzing@gibaultonline.com or 618.939.3883. Join us for part or all of the morning – We would love to see you!

Gibault Catholic High School Placement Test The make-up placement test for our incoming Class of 2020 will take place on Friday, February 5th at 12:15 PM. Please contact Ms. Mackin at smackin@gibaultonline.com to register. Welcome Hawks!

TASTE OF THE REGION at Gibault Catholic High School will take place on Saturday, February 6th from 5:00-9:00 PM. Tickets are \$25, please contact Sev sev@gibaultonline.com for more information or ticket orders.

And....our **spring musical this year will be “Beauty and the Beast”!!!** Auditions for grade school students will be on February 24 at 6:30PM at Gibault. The musical will be performed April 14-17.

From Lauren Schmidt, Senior at Gibault

Mr. Kish,

Each year at Gibault Catholic High School, seniors give back to the community through various service projects over a three-week period. This year a group of fifteen seniors, including seven Immaculate Conception alumni, (Lauren Schmidt, Monica Shuler, Owen Murphy, Amanda Schmidt, Josh Witges, Jason Merz, and Joe Hippisley) have the opportunity to offer their service to the needy and homeless in Cuenca, Ecuador. From February 20 through March 5, we, along with our classmates, will be traveling to Ecuador to assist at Bless An Orphan, a local agency that provides care to orphaned children. Here we will prepare meals, teach kids math and English, and build necessities (wells, trenches, small homes, community gardens, etc.) for their community. Through our time and service in Ecuador, we hope to spread the light of Christ and offer hope to all we meet.

We are asking for Immaculate Conception School's support through a dress down day fundraiser. Students can bring any amount of change to make a "change" in the lives of those we will serve through our service with Bless an Orphan. We ask that the money raised will go toward our trip to fund travel expenses and projects such as building a community garden, sponsoring a family day, and purchasing supplies for a medical camp. We also ask for your prayers for our team and the people that we will serve in Cuenca. In exchange for your generous support, we would love to give a presentation about our experience to your students the week after we get back. If you have any further questions or want more information about the trip, feel free to contact Lauren Schmidt (lschmidt538@gmail.com), Monica Shuler (monica2898@gmail.com), or Shanna Witges (witges6@gmail.com).

Thank you and God Bless!

Thanks Lauren and grads....we will let you know!

Prayer for the Year of Mercy: God of Mercy, As you have forgiven us, so you send us forth to bear Your message of mercy to all.

Give us willing feet and gentle hands. Bless us with listening ears and searching eyes. Endow us with understanding minds. Ordain us with compassionate hearts.

In our acts and in our words, make us vessels of your mercy to reach out to the broken on behalf of the Father Who wipes away our debts as lovingly as He wipes away our tears and calls his children home. Help us to lift your people in body and spirit, and so, make every year a year of mercy. Amen

Our Condolences to the Chism family on the loss of Noah's Uncle Brian Sherman on Vicki's side. May he rest in peace.

CONDOLENCES to Katie Voges, our 6th grade girls volleyball coach, on the loss of her Dad John on Tuesday. God's peace to him and all who loved him!

We all know we are not getting out of this world alive. That's why we must support each other in the peaks and valleys of life. Oftentimes, the support is exactly what gets us through. God help us!

PRAVERS: Marian Wiljeck, Dale Anderson, Marian Keim, Dan Whelan, Mary Giovanni, Josh Ritter, Steve Wilkerson, Denise Conner, Kevin Diehl, Roy Lansing, Sis Blaes, Arlin Stechmesser, Marcella Heinrichs, Rick Abrahamson, Josephine Chapman, Florence Dorshorst, Bill Pennock, Patty Juengling, Pat Weber, Ed Hengel, Vince Webb, George Stein, Desiree Frasure, **Special Intention**

THE WEDDING FEAST AT CANA Dad put aside wine for 16 years to celebrate his daughter's wedding and honor his friends. The 3 day party was so much fun, it ran out. Mary was a noticer. She went to her Son and trusted. And He is made manifest again. There is no such thing as "Ordinary Time" in the liturgical calendar. It is all "Extraordinary Time"! Jesus is the life of the party. Make Him the life of your life's party! Thanks be to God! We Shall Overcome!

**Mike Kish
Principal**

Ps THE STAR WARS PRESENCE: Overheard in the cafeteria: "*USE THE FORK LUKE!*"

PS Happy Birthday to Angie Bueltemann on the 14th and Diane Zika and Fr. Chris Reuter on Monday the 18th! These people were "cool" babies!

PS No A.M. Mass on January 27th. Mass at the new Church that night at 7:00 to celebrate!

Ps Catholic Schools Week is Sunday, January 31 to Feb. 7. We will close this year on the first Sunday in February. Flyer out next week---our chairperson Mrs. Taylor is out today. We will have a poster contest based on showing mercy within the family unit. Watch for details!

Ps Entertainment Books---For Sale at \$20 each.

Ps: We are in the need for extra latchkey help, for more information, see Mr. Kish.(Brianna took a job with more hours.)

