



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL
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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 19, 2018

Bienvenido el parrochial!

V. 43 #27

Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Teacher, Friend,



Happy Birthday Fr. Chris! We honored Fr. Chris with a Franciscan “brown-out” (St. Francis wore brown because it was the color of the sack he wore), cards, and a dress down day for Our Brothers Keeper. Fr. Chris could not have smiled any bigger! In the picture with him are Maria, Maria, and Stella wearing her “Happy Birthday Fr. Chris” shirt! Fr. Chris turned 79, but as Jesus said in the Gospel that morning, “*Don’t tell anyone!*”

MAGAZINE DRIVE Just got a check for **\$454.07** from December sales. If you haven’t signed in yet, simply go to www.gaschoolstore.com, click register, and fill out the info (ICS’s ID number is 2710556). Once you register your student, the site has tools that allow you to send email, post to Facebook or Twitter, or send text messages with a custom link tailored for your student. Online orders are time stamped, and will be counted for the turn-in day they are submitted. Every order helps ICS, and online sales can help with selling to family and friends out of the area. Some magazines are available online that are not listed in the printed book and extra flyer list, so check it out if you don’t see your favorite listed. Thanks for your help! We are still tabulating today’s results. Andrea Biske

QSP MAGAZINE DRIVE COLLEGE TUITION SAVINGS ACCOUNT We will send home certificates next week from last year, \$129,500.00 in tuition savings that can be used at over 300 national universities and colleges. McKendree is on the list---so is Bradley! 86 families earned credit last year--57 earned \$1000 and 29 earned \$2500! SAGE program---make the sales and build your credit---8 years of \$2500 = \$20,000! This can be used by any student in the family.

Thanks for the hard work! Here is what you have built up: \$2,500- Maria Biske, Maya Dill, Andrew Epplin, Matthew Epplin, Noah Ettling, Isabella Frasure, Sean Frederick, Owen Haney, Aiden Howard-Maul, Daniel Huels, Maryann Imhoff, Stephen Johns, Liam Johnson, Ryan Kroenig, Eleanor McGuire, Kyra Newton, Emmalyn Sander, Ava Schmidt, Drew Schmoll, Allison Shuler, Rose Sippel, Nate Stechmesser, Connor Thoma, Tyler Wahle, Michael Wessel, Sloan Wilson, Joseph Wynn
\$1,000- Ariel Adams, Heath Adams, Brianna Baldrige, Jack Basler, Lucas Beabout, Emma Blaskiewicz, Paula Boser, Lillian Braun, Maxine Conner, Ally Curry, Andrew Daigle, Luke Dalpoas, William Dalpoas, Emelia Doerr, Andrew Donjon, Kaylee Eichenseer, Alaina Ettling, Emily Everett, Dante Gianino, Zachary Gibson, Emmett Gilbreth, Emily Gillan, Maria Hake, Lindsay Harget, Brooke Heimburger, Reagan Herrmann, Jack Holston, Megan Janson, Nicholas Juengling, Sophia Kienzle, Ian Klingert, Lillian Kolweier, Brianne Massie, Avery Melliere, Emma Melliere, Sadie Metz, Aidan Berdeaux, Brock Murphy, Genevieve Nadziejko, Paul Ott, Hope Pollmann, Audrey Randle, Abby Repp, Jordan Smugala, Allison Stark, Brian Stark, Shawn Stuart, Maddi Swip, Layne Traxler, Emma Tyler, Joe Tyler, Ayven VanMatre, Dominic Voegele, Claire Wachtel, Peyton Weiler, Maggie Williamson

Mrs. Diewalds's Class is #1 followed by Ms. Kennedy, Mrs. Matrisotto, and Mrs. Schauster. Lots of prizes to win but in reality, we win! CEAC wins! Liam Johnson is our top seller followed by Will Schmoll, Sean Frederick, Stephen Johns, Maria Hake, Maria Biske, Violet McGuire, Audrey Randle, Connor Kennedy, William Wynn, Emmalyn Sander, Aiden Howard-Maul, Jack Siegel, Maya Dill, Dante Gianno, Emma Ashton, and Jackson Pechacek. Let's follow their lead!

OPEN HOUSE Please spread the word that we will have Open House for new students in all grades on Sunday, January 28 from noon-2:00. Please spread the Good News of the Gospel as we reach out to our parish and community. The School Board Development Committee does a great job for this and any great adventure starts somewhere. The school process is a system. Extremely good in some areas, average in others and flawed too. But we work at it here and have a ton of bragging points that start with trying to get across the Gospel message, great parents, students, faculty and staff, work ethic, and lots of excitement as we are constantly piloting ways to get better. Thanks for helping us reach out! [See flyer.](#)

SCIENCE FAIR I hope everyone is right on target or ready for next Friday's displays. In a world crying out for STREAM(Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Math), this is another way to move forward. All the pain and jokes of parents working with students is a process in itself. Thanks for helping and saying this is important in learning how to learn!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK RAISE THE STANDARDS We will send out our schedule early next week. Thanks to Mrs. Christine Matrisotto and Ms. Catie Taylor for their help. We will be busy!

BOOK FAIR The greatest gift you can give your child is a love of reading. If you don't love to read, I wish you did. If you can read, you can learn anything. I am currently reading "A Beautiful Mystery" by Louise Penny. Have you ever wondered how musical chant started?

SATURDAY SCHOOL FEBRUARY 3 IS A DANDY! **MATHCOUNTS:** Sydney Wahle, Tyler Wahle, Ben Haney, Colin Mueth, Andrew Feldker, Brock Murphy, Emma Schmidt, Joe Tyler, Jack Keeven, Allison Stark, (alternates Olivia Blaskiewicz and Kyra Newton) **SLU HIGH MATH CONTEST:** Grant Mathany, Adelynn Murphy, Danny Repp, Daylen Litke **SCHOLASTIC BOWL** competes at Mater Dei in our opener. All in one day!

VALENTINE'S BAGS ICS students have been asked to 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 5th we can make our deadline. Also, many of 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.

Grades 6 & 7 & 8 – pencils
Grades 1 & 2 – candy

Grades 3 & 4 & 5 – bags
Grades Pre K & K – candy

Thank you for your help and support. The children say thank you in a big way!

PARENTS AND FRIENDS All ICS/ICC girls are invited to this year's Daddy/Daughter Dance, "A Night in Hollywood" on Saturday, Feb. 3 in the ICS gymnasium. The red carpet will roll out at 6:30 p.m. Girls, preschool and older, should bring their favorite, star-struck guy to enjoy an evening of dancing, refreshments, and a photo booth. Click [here](#) for more information and to RSVP. If you have any questions, contact Kara Boyd at knboyd2@yahoo.com or [\(618\) 444.6502](tel:(618)444.6502).
Kara Boyd

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).**



Touchstone Grant! The Monroe County Electric Cooperative presented Sue Lewis and Emily Brutton with a \$500 Touchstone Energy Grant on Thursday, Jan. 18. The grant, designed to assist schools with educational projects, will pay for a drone that ICS students will use to apply skills in science, engineering, technology, art, and more. The drone will be incorporated into the curriculum of multiple grade levels for projects such as mapping local land, programming-coding, filming-editing video, and observing the construction progress of the new Catholic Education and Activity Center. Joel Harres, George Obernaegel, and Alan Wattles made the presentation for MCEC. Our Maker Lab takes off!



3 ships in a row! Congratulations to Immaculate Conception School students for winning the St. John Vianney Academic Tournament of Champions on Monday, Oct. 9! This is the third year in a row that ICS has won this contest of grade schools throughout the St. Louis area. The tourney was held in a quiz bowl style this year with one round English, one round History/Geography, and one round Math/Science. The ICS team consisting of Ben Haney, Noah Newton, Autumn Ramey, Sydney Wahle, and Jacob Whitworth defeated Holy Child of Jesus School by a score of 70-20 in the 15-question final round. The team won two rounds and tied one match in pool play. A second ICS team with members Paula Boser, Ally Curry, Andrew Feldker, Daylen Litke and Tyler Wahle also performed well winning two out of three matches in pool play. The team was coached by teacher Karen Weiler with assistance from Dan Kassebaum. A rising tide lifts all ships!

A PROUD MOMENT FOR MATT HAKE AND ICS!

On Friday, February 2nd I will be performing a concert with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. This is a special concert where educators perform along side members of the symphony orchestra. I am especially excited for this concert because I will be playing along side my former teacher and symphony member Tom Stubbs.

I will be playing on 3 of the 5 pieces. I'm playing timpani on Night on Bald Mountain, triangle on Dvorak's Carnival Overture and cymbals on John William's Superman Theme. If you are interested in attending, the concert is free and should last a little over an hour. Here is a link to rsvp but no tickets are necessary.

https://www.sls.org/en/com/community_concerts/community-events/extra-credit-on-stage-at-powell/

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

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 is to your teacher (5th-8th grade students please give your manuscript to your English teacher). **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. Winning stories will be presented at the Young Authors' assembly on Thursday, March 1st. Please email Robin Nadziejko at icsyoungauthors@gmail.com.



sleeve
their Kids

BUILDERS CLUB The money is rolling in and we are half-way there to our goal! A tube of M and M's ---BC is hoping you return the without the M and M's but filled with donations of change or bills for Against Hunger Project. 25 cents will feed one person. We are also soliciting donations(any amount) to make our packets and have \$1560 so far of our \$3500 goal to make over 15,000 meals. Jacob Whitworth is our Director and Caitlyn Schwartz is assisting as Fundraising Director.

<u>Kids Against Hunger</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>meals</u>	<u>cases</u>
	8 years	105,624	489

15,000 meals on Saturday, February 10, 2018 again? Be a hero to someone you will never meet! 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!



POLAR EXPRESS DAY! ALLLLLL ABOARD! PreK and Preschool took an adventure on the polar express on Wednesday. What a better way to celebrate the COLD weather outside than to hop aboard the train to see the North Pole! It was a day full of excitement as we packed a bag, got our tickets and boarded the train to hear the story, have a snack and some of us even HEARD the bell ringing!

Call for help, our Diocesan mandated child protection program for children will be January 23. Child safety in this society is important. Parents can choose to opt out of this program with a written note to the office.

LATCHKEY MORNING HELP NEEDED 5 days a week. 6:45-7:50 am start your day with a smile for some of the greatest kids in the world! Contact MR. Kish at 281-5353.

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

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

VINTAGE PIANO NEEDS A NEW HOME! Good condition, but needs tuning. Available immediately. Contact Lynetta Newton at Lsnewton@htc.net if interested.

THE SPORTING NEWS... BOYS DIOCESAN IS January 19-20-21. We have a chance! Listen to the coach and do your best!

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

Saturday Jan 20th in the ICS Gym
Registration/Warm-ups 7:30 AM

Girls and Boys Ages 9-14
Competition Begins 8:00 AM

GRAD IN THE NEWS...

Brittany Huebner (ICS ') graduated from Maryville University on December 9 with her doctorate degree in Physical Therapy. This has been 6 ½ years in the making. Next up for Dr. Huebner is the boards this month. She has accepted a position at St Mary's Hospital in St Louis. We are proud of you Brittany!

MARCH FOR LIFE: This year 60 students and chaperones from Gibault Catholic High School will be

participating in the March for Life in Washington, DC from January 18th through January 21st. Pray for them and Mrs. Cyra Herrmann and all at the Pro-Life March. The world is a culture of death and Jesus came to change that!

TASTE OF THE REGION: Join us at the Gibault Hustedde Gym on February 3rd from 5-9 PM for a fusion of cuisines from Monroe County restaurants, businesses, distributors, and vendors! Tickets are \$25, please contact Katy Hugger (hugger06@gmail.com) for more information or ticket orders. This event sells out so get your tickets early!

A tribute to the Franciscans in honor of Fr. Chris who personally knows Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM
Jesus of Nazareth

Love Needs a Face

It was probably St. Francis of Assisi (c. 1182-1226) who first brought attention to the humanity of Jesus within organized Christianity. During its first thousand years, the Church was mainly concerned with proving that Jesus was God. Prior to St. Francis, paintings of Jesus largely emphasized Jesus' divinity, as they still do in most Eastern icons. Francis is said to have created the first live nativity scene. Before the thirteenth century, Christmas was no big deal. The emphasis was on the high holy days of Holy Week and Easter, as it seems it should be. But for Francis, *incarnation was already redemption*. For God to become a human being among the poor, born in a stable among the animals, meant that it's good to be a human being, that flesh is good, and that the world is good—in its most simple and humble forms.

In Jesus, God was given a face and a heart. God became someone we could love. While God can be described as a moral force, as consciousness, and as high vibrational energy, the truth is, we don't (or can't?) fall in love with abstractions. So God became a person "that we could hear, see with our eyes, look at, and touch with our hands" (1 John 1:1). The brilliant Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas (1905-1995) said the only thing that really converts people is "an encounter with the face of the other," [1] and I think he learned that from his own Hebrew Scriptures.

When the face of the other (especially the suffering face) is received and empathized with, it leads to transformation of our whole being. It creates a moral demand on our heart that is far more compelling than laws. Just giving people commandments on tablets of stone doesn't change the heart. It may steel the will, but it doesn't soften the heart like an I-Thou encounter can. Many of the Christian mystics talk about seeing the divine face or falling in love with the face of Jesus. We are mirrored into life, not by concepts, but by faces delighting in us, giving us the beloved self-image we can't give to ourselves. Love is the gaze that does us in! How blessed are those who get it early and receive it deeply. (There is that dialogue of self-disclosure and response again!)

If God is Trinity and Jesus is the face of God, then it is indeed a benevolent universe. God is not someone to be afraid of, but is the very Ground of Being and is inherently, objectively, and concretely on our side. [1] To trust this is to have faith (which is quite different than going to church or obeying some commandments).

More Rohr... Who Was Jesus?

Jesus was from the peasant class. . . . His use of language was remarkable and poetic, filled with images and stories. . . . He was not an ascetic, but world-affirming, with a zest for life. There was a sociopolitical passion to him. . . he challenged the domination system of his day. He was a religious ecstatic, a Jewish mystic, for whom God was an experiential reality. . . . Jesus was an ambiguous figure—you could experience him and conclude that he was insane, as his family did [Mark 3:21], or

that he was simply eccentric or that he was a dangerous threat—or you could conclude that he was filled with the Spirit of God. —*Marcus Borg [1]* [H]ow we see Jesus . . . shapes what we think the Christian life is most centrally about. —*Marcus Borg [2]*

Hello Families,

BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH: *The Family Fully Alive* reminds us the theme for January is FAMILY PRAYER.

"The Christian family needs to put first things first by cultivating a relationship with God together through prayer. Prayer is essential for families to develop Christian joy, faith, hope and love."

What stands out this month in reading from the booklet is the Family Project:

Make a "prayer corner" in the home in order to facilitate prayer.

Here is a short video you can watch on prayer: <https://youtu.be/-mASCSCQW7U>

"Building The Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish"

Nick Matrisotto

Brian Repp

Ted Haney

Knights of Columbus Family Committee

Jordan Jeffries, 7-year old first grader cousin of Mrs. Mandy Borgmeyer, was diagnosed with a brain tumor early this school year. She had surgery to remove it. It came back this November. She had a second surgery to remove it, but they couldn't remove it all. Right after Christmas, they discovered it had grown back and was now a Stage 3 Rare Brain Tumor. There aren't a lot of options. They are hoping at this point to extend her life to make it to a trial. She is a brave little girl who could use some extra love and prayers. Thanks.

Michelle Bender, David Callico's Mom, is recovering well. Please keep her in your prayers. Thanks!

Ms. Catie Taylor's Grandmother **Angela Roepke** is 96. She fell and needs arm surgery. Prayers for a quick rebound for her!

Captain Justin Weiler is being deployed to Qatar instead next week,.. Change of orders. Prayers please!

OUR CONDOLENCES to the Stuart family on the loss of good friend **Joe Riggins** who will be laid to rest tomorrow. May he rest in peace!

OUR CONDOLENCES to the Wachtel, Theiret, and Holdener families on the loss of Grandmother and Great Grandmother **Margaret Brinkmann** who was laid to rest today at age 96. A lifetime can be well-lived in all kinds of years. God's peace to her and all who loved her!

PRAYERS: Special Intention Jordan Jeffries, Angela Roepke, Michelle Bender, Arlin Stechmesser, Norman Waterman, Marvin Parker, Paul Thode, Tom Giovanni, Pat Schwartz, George Perry, Pearl Mueller, Donna Kania, 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

Gospel [MK 1:14-20](#)

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:

"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Jesus now takes the lead in the spiritual revolt. He starts His movement. He recruits by invitation. Old, young, fisherman, tax collectors, "sons of thunder", all kinds of people. No women though. Culturally, women, children, the poor, the sick, the marginal didn't count. Jesus probably would have been executed far earlier if he had recruited women. Yet He called all at the risk of His life and set an example for all time. Come hear the Good Word. Come be community. Come and go fishing for souls! The first reading of Jonah and Nineveh reminds us that the world around us needs our lives to call it to greatness.

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 Tax credit statements are being sent home today. The tax man cometh!

PS **REPORT CARDS** WERE SENT HOME TODAY. Please sign and return to the homeroom teachers. Grades are available through MyStudentProgress.com as updated. Own your education!

PS Come shoot free throws tomorrow morning and then go to the spelling bee! Thank you brother Knights!