



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

321 South Metter Avenue

Columbia, Illinois 62236

Michael L. Kish, Principal

(618) 281-5353

[mkish@icsmail.org](mailto:mkish@icsmail.org) [www.icscolumbia.org](http://www.icscolumbia.org)

Teresa Dorshorst, School Board President

[tjdbusiness@aol.com](mailto:tjdbusiness@aol.com)

**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.*

**"We are people of joy" will continue as we OPEN THE DOORS OF MERCY!**

June 12, 2015

V. 40 #56

Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Teacher, Friend,



**What a year we had in 2014-2015!** Fr. Carl's pick for the yearly theme turned out to be a prediction come true! We hope to continue the joy as we move into our new theme from Pope Francis and "OPEN THE DOORS OF MERCY". Pope Francis mentioned MERCY 32 times in his "The Joy of the Gospel". Thanks to Fr. Carl, Mrs. Lundy, Mrs. Babcock, Mrs. Tolan, Spencer and Todd Biske and the Class of 2016 for our new theme-song-prayer motions-video! This year isn't over till the fiscal year ends but next year has started and "WELL BEGUN IS HALF-WAY HALF-DONE"!

**And here is a big reason for such a great year!**



The Immaculate Conception School class of 2015 held commencement exercises on May 21 after a record setting year in speech, most Scholar Bowl wins, major math awards, National Finalists in the History Bee, Chess, Art and stage accomplishments.

Jack Sainz and Sarah Rose received the DAR Award for History, Sarah Rose, Jack Sainz, and John Adams received Honor Roll Awards for 4 years of excellence, Builders Club President Sophie Spurgeon was honored and also received a \$150 Scholarship from the Columbia Kiwanis, Sarah Rose, Adam Stearns, and Ryan Swindle received the "SPIRIT OF ICS AWARD" for embodying Mission-Community- and Service, Lucy Settle won the Knights of Columbus \$1000 High School Scholarship for her essay, Mrs. Pat Herzing of Gibault Catholic High School presented Fr. Ed Hustedde Fine Arts and Academic Awards to Sarah Rose, Johnny Adams, Isabella Garcia and Mason Babcock, and a Business Partner Award was presented to Lizanne Young for graphic design, scripting, and production support.

**Members of the Class of 2015 are: John Adams, Dylan Altadonna, Mason Babcock, Alex Barton, Kaleb Chism, Isabella Garcia, Andrew Gibson, Chloe Graff, Rachel Groppe, Madilyn Gummersheimer, Lucas Herrmann, Maggie Parks, Sarah Rose, Jack Sainz, Lucy Settle, Sam Sippel, Sophie Spurgeon, Adam Stearns, Ryan Swindle, Hannah Weiler, Thomas Young.**

**And another reason:** 42% of Grades 4-8 had their best quarter of the year in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter! What a strong finish!

### **HONOR ROLL 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER**

1<sup>st</sup> Honors: Anna Adams, Johnny Adams, Dylan Altadonna, Alex Barton, Spencer Biske, Emma Blaskiewicz, Paula Boser, Alexia Brooks, Jack Burke, Kaleb Chism, Noah Chism, Ally Curry, Dominic Dalpoas, Jacob Feldker, Isabella Frasure, Kaylum Furlow, Eli Garcia, Isabella Garcia, Andrew Gibson, Katie Grawitch, Robbie Guetterman, Andrew Harmon, Lexi Hennes, Lucas Herrmann, Reagan Herrmann, Claire Huebner, Hannah Janson, Kalia Jerkatis, Caroline Keefe, Jessica Lambert, Delaney Lundberg, Abby Mathany, Grant Mathany, Eve Melliere, Adelynn Murphy, Mary Clare Murphy, Noah Newton, Maggie Parks, Bryce Pautler, Glenn Powers, Marie Prindiville, Nick Prindiville, James Ramette, Autumn Ramey, Holly Repp, Sarah Rose, Jack Sainz, Georgia Sasser, Collin Schmidt, Maggie Schulte, Caitlyn Schwartz, Ally Shuler, Rose Sippel, Jordan Smugala, Sophie Spurgeon, Adam Stearns, Hannah Stearns, Trevor Stockard, Ryan Swindle, Zoe Swip, Molly Tippen, Ben Traxler, Reece Ward, Hannah Weiler, Mary Wessel, Jane Whelan, Jacob Whitworth, Thomas Young

2<sup>nd</sup> Honors: Alex Bira, Allyse Broske, Claire Eppinger, Andrew Epplin, Matthew Epplin, Emily Everett, Noble Faris, Ryan Gallagher, Emily Gillan, Jacqie Gogolek, Chloe Graff, Rachel Groppe, Ben Lambert, Joshua Matthews, Charlie Soetaert, Tyler Stern

**WRAPPING UP THE YEAR** Our fiscal year runs through June 30. We still have some lunch, band, book bill, and just a couple Pre-K and Pre-S bills out. As a corporate body, ICS counts on each dollar budgeted to make it through the year. We can't put anything on a credit card to pay later and have to pay as we go. Please come current so we can come current! Please do it by June 30.

**MAGAZINE DRIVE** We still have 174 orders out from the "Pay-later" portion of the Magazine Drive. Maybe it is still in the pile of bills-to-be-paid. Thanks for continuing to pay. We have a print-out of each students sales and payments. We have received 86% of our sales so far and would like to do at least our usual 93%. Thanks! Over \$10,000 in sales came in from on-line!

To order online anytime---your child will get credit during the drive--- go to [www.gaschoolstore.com](http://www.gaschoolstore.com) I.D. 2710556 Magazines make great gifts---gifts that give all year long. The drive is the single largest donor and we have placed over \$490,000 into the ***Eugene J. Schorb - Immaculate Conception Fund for Catholic Education.***

**SUMMER FUN** Don't miss **SHREK the Musical, Jr.** tonight at Gibault. It's a gas! Outstanding casting, costumes, and performance make this a "don't miss". ICS has 12 members in the cast, many in leads. Come see *Shrek, Princess Fiona, Donkey, Lord Farquaad, and the Fairy Tale Characters* in this MaryBeth Babcock gem. "I'm a believer"! Next Thursday and Friday will feature **Peter Pan, Jr.** and June 25 and 26 will bring **Sleeping Beauty kids** to the stage at Gibault. A musical in a week is an unbelievable project that has yielded a rich harvest!

**NATIONAL HISTORY BEE IN LOUISVILLE:** Hannah Weiler and Ben Traxler finished the contest with 11 points each which placed them in the top half of the 540 competitors. Adam Stearns scored 8 and Sarah Rose competed in a very tough contest. We have qualified 10 National Finalists in 3 years and are proud of our students and Mr. Bill Riley! Thanks to our parents for driving!

**Monday is the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Magna Carta!** Much of our legal rights can be traced to this foundational document. As God's people, we have always had these rights but there were always oppressors out there whose god was power and riches at the expense of others. Thus comes a revolt and King John is humbled and signs a document of tremendous historical impact.

**UNIFORM RESALE WILL BE HELD THE LAST SATURDAY OF JULY (7/25/15).** Resale will be held in the ICS Cafeteria from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Help is needed to set the tables up and sort the donations on Friday afternoon 7/24/15 at 3:00 p.m. Contact Skip Ward [618-975-2340](tel:618-975-2340) with questions or to volunteer. Re-use, Recycle, Re-gift and still make a profit! A winner to the 4<sup>th</sup> power! Thanks Skip and helpers!

**DQ NIGHT** \$138.74 Thanks to Chad Stultz and all lovers of Blizzards and Mushroom Swiss and PBP's!

**Monroe County will celebrate its 200th anniversary** throughout the year in 2016, according to plans outlined by a bicentennial planning committee. An overview of those plans was presented to the Columbia Chamber of Commerce during the chamber's May 20 meeting. Bicentennial Committee members Dennis Knobloch and Mike Kovarik have begun taking their message to the public in recent weeks. The Bicentennial Combined Committee met Tuesday, May 26 at the Monroe County Courthouse in Waterloo. Over 20 volunteers have been meeting in planning sessions for months.

The county committee is planning a fun-filled and educational year of events and activities. A contest for local high school students to design a logo for the celebration was just recently completed. Local community salutes to the bicentennial during normal annual events are being coordinated. Activities are being coordinated with the Regional Office of Education and the county's schools. A number of U.S. Postal Service commemorative postmarks are being planned. There will also be coordinated displays at the county's museums as well as other activities still in the planning stages. The committee is seeking sponsorships and donations to help fund the activities.

Some of the events already set include:

--"Ring in the New Year." Individuals and church will ring in the bicentennial year at 12 noon Friday, Jan. 2, 2016.

--"Bicentennial Birthday Bash, Jan. 16 at the Hecker Community Center.

--Lets Explore Monroe County, a series of bus tours throughout the year highlighting historical and natural points of interest throughout Monroe County.

--Ceremonial meeting of the Monroe County Board at Harrisonville, the first Monroe County seat of government scheduled for June 2016.

--Bicentennial Plaque Dedication at the courthouse in Waterloo during the Porta Westfalica Fest, June 21, 2016.

--Wheat-cutting demonstration on farmland originally owned by Illinois' first Governor Shadrach Bond. This will feature a threshing demonstration and farm equipment display in Valmeyer. This event will be July 2016.

--Abe Lincoln Day on the courthouse grounds in early August. This event will commemorate the Aug. 25, 1840 political speech given by Lincoln at the Monroe County Courthouse. This event will feature a Lincoln impersonator, Civil War band and other activities.

--Bicentennial Time Capsule Dedication will be Nov. 27, 2016 at the Bison statue on the County Courthouse grounds.



MK 4:26-34 He said, *“To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth.”*



### **THINKING SMALL! Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI**

Maya Angelou, a black woman of considerable talent and remarkable graciousness, shared this story:

“When I was six years old,” she said, “one summer day on the playground a little boy called me the “n-word”. Fall came that year, winter came that year, spring came that year and brought with it all kinds of flowers, and summer came in all its splendor and beauty – but, in all that richness, the only thing I can remember from that whole year is being called the “n-word”!”

This reminds of a story from John Patrick Gillese, of going home, to the small town in Alberta where he had grown up, for a funeral of an elderly woman. Among the many messages of condolence that were sent to her family there was a note from a family who had left that small Alberta district some 30 years before. The note expressed sympathy to the family on the loss of their grandmother and added simply: “We will never forget how kind she was to us back in the 1930s.” Here was a family who remembered a small act of kindness, whatever it was, fifty years later.

These stories, although they make the point in opposite ways, teach the same thing: Small acts, of cruelty or kindness, leave their effect long after the effects of events of seemingly much greater importance have passed away. There is, I believe, a profound lesson in this. The Kingdom of God, as Jesus assures us, is about mustard seeds, about small seemingly unimportant things, but which, in the long run, are the big things.

Not much in our world today helps us to believe that. Most everything urges us to think big and to be careless about small things. The impression is given us that what is private in our lives is little and unimportant. Likewise what is played out on the smaller stage of life – in the more domestic areas of family, marriage, and our exchanges with our neighbors and colleagues – is also deemed to be of little consequence. The big stage is what is important. What mark have you left in the world? What have

you achieved on the bigger stage? What has been your involvement in the great causes? Nobody cares about your little life! Private morality, private grudges, the little insults that we hand out, our many angers and resentments, the small infidelities within our sexual lives, the many little acts of selfishness, and, conversely, the small acts of sacrifice and selflessness that we do and the little compliments that we hand out, these are not valued much in our culture. As a song suggests: "Our little lives don't count at all!" I remember a young man, very dedicated to social causes, once asking me: "Do you really think that God gives a damn whether or not you say your morning prayers, or whether or not you hold some small grudge, or whether or not you are always polite to your colleagues, or whether or not you are always chaste sexually? That's petty, small, private stuff that deflects attention off of the bigger moral issues."

Well, I believe that God does care, and that God cares a great deal because, in the end, we care and small things, as these stories illustrate, affect a great deal.

I have always found it ironic that we easily forget the big things, the events that seem of great importance. Who won the Nobel prize for literature two years ago? Who won the academy awards last year? Who won the Super Bowl three years ago? Who won the World Cup 10 years ago? Who starred in that Broadway (or West End) play three years ago? It's funny how quickly we tend to forget these things. It is also curious what we do not forget. We tend to forget quickly who won such or such an award, or who starred in such and such a movie or play. But we remember, and remember vividly, with all the healing and grace it brought, who was nice to us all those years ago on the playground at school. We remember who encouraged us when we felt insecure. Conversely, we also remember, and remember vividly, with all the scars it brought, who laughed at us on the playground, made fun of our clothes, or who called us stupid.

*Falls come, winters come, springs come, summers come and go, and sometimes the only thing we can remember from a given year is some small mustard seed, of cruelty or kindness.*

*(WE ARE THE MUSTARD SEEDS. LET'S WORK TO GROW OUR FAITH AND THE FAITH OF OTHERS BY HOW WE LIVE. OPEN THE DOORS OF MERCY AND EVERYTHING CAN CHANGE!)*

## **PARISH AND DIOCESE**

**PLEASE SUBSCRIBE: to The Messenger and make your commitment to the Diocesan CSMA campaign!**

**PRAYERS:** Florence Dorshorst, Bill Pennock, Zac Epplin, Patty Juengling, Marian Keim, Dan Whelan, Edward Pelker, Pat Weber, Ed Hengel, Josh Ritter, Valerie Bauchens, Vince Webb, George Stein, Desiree Frasure, Special Intention

**Mike Kish**  
**Principal**

PS Bishop Braxton's "The Racial Divide in the US" will be a study document for our school this coming year.

PS **Art Camp** continues-**Chess camp** is coming up-the **KC Summer Festival is June 20 at 6:00** at our new Church(bounce house-tube steaks-music-ice cream and family fun galore) Re-gather the students!

PS Watch the parish bulletin for updates on our Main Street campus. The future is bright as long as we make it through the present! Hindsight is 20/20. The future is 50/50!

As part of the Common Core movement, the State of Illinois took the PARRC tests this past year. Here is an interesting graph of the technology used by students to take the test:

