



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!**

**July 17, 2015**

**V. 41 #02**

**Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Teacher, Friend,**



*To my ICS Family,*

*I wanted to write you all a thank you for so many things, and thought maybe an email thank you would be okay. I want to thank you for supporting me and my family for the last two years through Zac's illness. From the beginning everyone was there for me. ICS is my family and I do believe I have my four boys and 290+ other kids as well. I treat them all like they are my own and I feel you treat me the same way. So many prayers, hugs, well wishes, bring me treats to school, food for Zac to try and fatten him up, taking care of the twins, the fundraising, food for the funeral, families that came to the visitation or the funeral mass, the memorials in Zac's honor. I have felt very overwhelmed, but in a good way. Zac was such a fighter and never quit living life even when he was so sick. I have learned a lot from him and will continue to live my life the way he has taught me. I miss him every day, but knowing I have so many people supporting me keeps me strong. I will be happy to be back in school in August and seeing all my smiling kids in the hallways.*

**Beverly Eplin**

Secretary

Immaculate Conception School

*THE MESSENGER has a great article on Zac this week---another reason to subscribe to The Messenger!*

## **IN THE WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS**

*The call of Jesus pushes each of us never to stop at the surface of things, especially when we are dealing with a person. We are called to look beyond, to focus on the heart to see how much generosity everyone is capable. No one can be excluded from the mercy of God; everyone knows the way to access it and the Church is the house that welcomes all and refuses no one. Its doors remain wide open, so that those who are touched by grace can find the certainty of forgiveness. The greater the sin, so much the greater must be the love that the Church expresses toward those who convert.*

*Dear brothers and sisters, I have often thought about how the Church might make clear its mission of being a witness to mercy. It is journey that begins with a spiritual conversion. For this reason, I have decided to call an extraordinary Jubilee that is to have the mercy of God at its center. It shall be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live this Year in the light of the Lord's words: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. (cf. Lk 6:36)"*

***This Holy Year will begin on this coming Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will end on November 20, 2016, the Sunday dedicated to Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – and living face of the Father's mercy. I entrust the organization of this Jubilee to the Pontifical Council for Promotion of the New Evangelization, that [the dicastery] might animate it as a new stage in the journey of the Church on its mission to bring to every person the Gospel of mercy.***

*I am convinced that the whole Church will find in this Jubilee the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God, with which all of us are called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time. From this moment, we entrust this Holy Year to the Mother of Mercy, that she might turn her gaze upon us and watch over our journey.*

**THANKS TO THE CLASS OF 2015** for their video of our new school theme song for the year. The song was written by Karen Lundy in collaboration with Fr. Carl and the prayer motions are by MaryBeth Babcock. This is Pope Francis theme for the year. Mercy is mentioned 32 times in his "Joy of the Gospel". Here are the lyrics for our theme song so hit our website and sing along!

### **OPEN THE DOORS OF MERCY**

Open the door of mercy open the door, Open the door.

Open the door of mercy, God calls us to open the door of mercy, let love in, let love in, open the door, open the door!

Live the way of mercy, kindness and truth, forgiveness and peace.

Live the way of mercy, God calls us to live the way of mercy, let love in, let love in, open the door, open the door!

Mercy brings serenity, joy and peace. Let the well-spring of God's love release!

Be the face of mercy, you are God's hands, you are God's feet!

Be the face of mercy, God calls us to be the face of mercy let love shine, let love shine!

Open the door, Open the door!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our new School Board Officers! President: Teresa Dorlac  
Vice-President: Adam Randle Secretary: Cindy Schaefer

Thanks to retiring Board Members Doug Ramey, Christine Schorb, Sarah Lundberg for all their guidance and leadership and a big welcome to Tammy Hoeflinger, Lynetta Newton, and Bob Wachtel. Cindy Schaefer "re-upped" and we are grateful to her too! This will be an exciting year for us and the Board will play its part well!

**REPFEST 2015 High Quality, Local Entertainment without leaving town!**

The Odd Couple July 15-16-17 at 7 pm  
Shrek The Musical, jr. July 18-21 at 7 pm and July 19 at 2 pm  
Once on This Island, jr. July 22-23 at 7 pm  
Steel Magnolias July 24-25 at 7 pm and July 26 at 2 pm

[See the attachment!](#)

**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 MEET AND GREET** This Sunday the Columbia DQ will be hopping as we get to know our new families and Pre-School, Pre-K, and Kindergarten and new students in a real sweet way from 6:00 7:30. A big welcome to all and thanks to our business partner Chad Stultz and DQ!

**FULL STEWARDSHIP** 447 parishioners have completed their stewardship pledge. I sure hope you are in this number! Make a commitment of time, talent, and treasure and live the life you are meant to live. God does not hold back on his love and generosity. God blesses us so we can bless others. Do your part and watch your priorities turn around! **Jesus-Others-Yourself.**



On June 26, six of our teachers and their principal hopped a school bus and took a 64 mile tour around Monroe County in hopes of expanding the celebration the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Monroe County. 47 teachers attended from the County and I was shocked at how well-behaved and mannerly they were. They even took notes!

County Clerk Dennis Knobloch, Mike Kovarik, and yours truly shared their love for where we live. Help us celebrate by taking part in the activities planned for this year!

**THANKS TO TARGET AND THANKS TO YOU!** We received a check for \$550 from Target thanks to 22 of you who thanked them(\$25 each) through the #ThanksaBillion teacher appreciation program.. Target has pledged to give out \$1 billion to education by the end of this year! Thanks for shopping there and thanks for their generosity!

**THANKS TO THE AT & T EMPLOYEE GIVING PROGRAM** for another \$14!

**WRAPPING UP THE YEAR** Our fiscal year ran through June 30. Just a few lunch, band, book bill, and a couple Pre-K and Pre-S bills out. Though we ended a little in the black, we still need all bills paid so we can move forward with a clean slate in the new year. Band students need their fees current in order to continue.

**MAGAZINE DRIVE** Another \$316.40 profit check from Pay-Later---another 35 subscriptions paid! We still have 130 orders out. Thanks for continuing to pay. We have a print-out of each students sales and payments. We have received 88% of our sales so far and would like to do at least 93%. Thanks!

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.***

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

### **COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

Hurting and healing. As a community we are in pain, shock and extreme sadness, and yes, perhaps even anger. We have rallied, we have prayed, we have poured ourselves into the hope for a miracle--the healing and recovery of Zac's health. How does anyone move on? Some questions are impossible to answer with an exact, precise or even acceptable explanation.

You may well be wondering as parents: How do I reassure my child? Myself? It is, in fact, situations like these where we reach for and demonstrate the greatest lesson for our children and ourselves. We hear these words at our baptism, "This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to proclaim it in Christ Jesus." Proclaim your faith, through your honesty, through your tears, through your showing up to be with each other and hold in each other in this raw grief. Use this as a teaching point of the irreplaceable value of community, friendship, loving one another as the body of Christ.

I would like to return to the concept of the last 2 years of our prayers and hopes. We pray for health and healing. We never want our community to lose anyone at such a young age. Let's face it: we never want to lose anyone. We cling when our faith begs us to trust.

The truth is, God's way of healing may not be our way. We are told, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are my ways your ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9

God wants us all home. Believing that is one thing. Accepting that on God's terms is clearly another. If you haven't already started, now is the time to assure your children to love and live in the now and have complete trust and faith in tomorrow. That "healing" may have happened and we continue to trust that God is good, all the time. All the time...

Karen Lundy, ICS School Counselor  
The Teaching Never Stops

### **Family Movie Night!**

Attached is the flyer for the next **Knights of Columbus Family Movie Night.**

Please click on the link below and sign up.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Zukkl9tiwGZrGzXhf4-6waRr1EmUvZh0bITUaQX-1-g/edit?usp=sharing>

**OUR CONDOLENCES** to Jason, Maren, Andrew, Cam, and all the Donjon Family on the loss of

Jason's father Calvin on July 4<sup>th</sup> at age 76. May he rest in peace!

**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 All the best to our Eleanor McGuire as she competes for "Little Miss Monroe County" this Sunday evening!** Retiring Fair Queen and former "Little Miss Monroe County" is ICS grad Jessica Altadonna!

