



Immaculate Conception School
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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*



REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN THE LORD!

December 14, 2018

Bienvenido el parrochia!

V. 44 #26

Dear Parent,



The Parish Christmas Party was great! You should have heard the Jazz Band! Smooth as silk! Crowd was nearly 200! Thanks Mr. Hake for making us proud! Aidan Sullivan won the \$500 50/50 but he already gave it all away or spent it in one place! Thanks to our Knights of Columbus! Be there next year!



SPPCS won the 10th annual Funderwear competition 4100 to 2735. The schools are tied a 5-5. Sherry Miller, Director of Day Star in Cairo, came up for the presentation. Abby Eichenseer and Josie Thomas chaired the event for ICS. SPPCs won the 7th grade game 33-30 and ICS won the varsity match 38-25. Cairo is one of the poorest towns in

our state and our SVdP does a lot of work for them along with ICY! The Class of '19 led the way for us, followed by Mrs. Tolan's 7th and Mrs. Diewald's Second Grade. Thanks to our Builders Club and all who donated!



A big thank you to MaryBeth

Babcock, Karen Lundy, Laura Whelan

the dads who hauled the stage and risers, our 5 wranglers of Sophie Spurgeon- Hannah Janson- Maddie Parker- Abby Howard- Patrick Dent, Emily Brutton, Matt Hake, Santa Claus, and everyone who worked so hard for the K-3 program! You cannot buy the gain you get from public performance. What a gift! What a show! What a crowd! And Jesus won in the end!



Band Concert/Art Show 30 people standing and an empty chair? Maybe symbolic for all our grandparents who could not attend this year. What another lovely evening. How we can start from scratch and enjoy "Pulse Pounding" music by the end is, well, like the organ said, "baffling". But we know why---students + hard work + Mr. Hake = excellence! Thanks to Mr. Matt Hake, all who help our Band Program by joining and making their payments, and Mrs. Fetcho for the Art environment and Mrs. Whelan for set-up. Thanks

to our teacher-wranglers too and Mrs. Katie Repp for tuning! You surely made the season bright! And it is all about a Baby!

GRIFFIN CENTER GIFTS ARE NEEDED by December 20th. Buy a gift, wrap and tag it with boy/girl and age. Let your child pick out something they might like to receive to enhance the concept of sharing God's gifts. Thanks for loving all God's children! 56 so far! Last year we hit 165! We will transport Thursday morning to the Griffin Center so Sr. Beth can make arrangements with Santa.

BUILDERS CLUB will take donations (25 cents please) for Candy Canes Dec. 14-17 -18-19 to help raise money for Kids Against Hunger. Our goal is \$3500 so we have to hustle! J is for Jesus! Each meal costs right at 25 cents. See KAH details next.



Dear friend of children around the world,

My name is Emma Tippet, Director of the ICS Builders Club Kids Against Hunger Program. I am being assisted by Emma Schmidt who will co-chair. We are celebrating our Tenth Anniversary!

Last year we made 15,984 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 \$1.50 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:

Kids Against Hunger			
Year	meals	cases	to
2018	15,984	74	Honduras
2017	15,120	70	Honduras
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
9 years	121,608	536	avg. 13,512

We hope to raise \$3,500 to again make over 15,000 meals on Saturday, February 9, 2019. 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 dropped into our Church Sunday envelope collection. Thank you for your generosity. May the New Year bring you great joy in serving God's people!
Gratefully, Emma Tippen and Emma Schmidt

BC Minutes: Secretary Report Builders Club December 13,2018

Dues: 3 dollars due by Christmas break for Builder's Club fee to the national office. See Drew.

- We brought in \$2,468.35 for Danielle Dorlac
- Safety month is pending
- Candy Cane sale from December 14-19
- Griffin Center we have 53 gifts and we need at least 22 more
- Stephen Johns finished the activity shirt project in record time and we thank him.
- We won the Funderwear game but lost the challenge 4100 to 2700.
- Suggested putting a Kids against Hunger note in the bulletin and Emma Tippen and Emma Schmidt sent out 26 letters to past contributors.
- A donation amount for Sr. Thea Bowman was discussed since our play is in the Spring.
- Suggested ideas for saying goodbye to this campus
- Talked how we need ambassadors for open house
- Discussed Builders Club Week
- Brought up Talent Show
- We have \$150 in checking right now with ghost suckers and some KAH money to be deposited. The Club voted to make a donation of \$75 to Sr. Thea Bowman School at Advent performance.
- Instead of dances maybe a trivia night or a game night with food or with dances we can maybe order food or bring food

CALENDAR We will "re-set" and finalize at the Board meeting on the 18th. We are working on dates for the move as well. Progress on the site continues but it would be hard to have a new facility in the middle of a mud puddle and we want to get it right. So our excitement continues and we want all families to pledge towards our new facility so we continue to make contacts. Have you made a pledge yet?

NATIONAL HISTORY BEE LOCAL TEAM The online exam to qualify for regionals is in January. We have excelled in this one! Thanks Ms. Taylor!
Drew Schmoll Brock Murphy Anna Haubrich Emma Schmidt Tyler Wahle
Zach Gibson Audrey Sullivan Drew Roche Sydney Wahle Sam Glasscock

ICS NEWS <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpiiXV0HEGA>

PARENTS AND FRIENDS The Craft Fair netted \$8,079! (Cookies made over \$3,200 and the Basket Raffle \$924!) The sights, sounds, and smells of Christmas were here!

AUCTION TIME!!!! Site is up and you can now buy tickets!!! <http://bloom.givesmart.com>

Invitations with reservation forms, donation pledges, advertising forms and more grandparent honor roll forms will be coming home today. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the committee at icsauction@icsmail.org

Speaking of Honor Roll Forms....We had 26 forms tuned in with checks attached totaling \$1085!!! That's almost \$200 more than ALL of last year and we have 22 form to mail out to our grandparents and friends of ICS. I am blown away by all the generosity. AND the winner is.....Mrs. Tolans homeroom for the pizza party. More info will be coming out next week about the raffle tickets for the Designer Bag, Yeti, TRIP and the wine/liquor pull..... Stay tuned. If you would like to join the committee please email or call Mandy McGuire mlynmcguire@gmail.com. 618-558-1350

The Perfect Christmas Gift for Teachers!

Please read the letter that came home today with the oldest child in the family, regarding the Christmas Teacher Collection.

Parents & Friends has developed a program that has been very popular in the past. Finding just the right gifts for all your children's teachers can be challenging and the cost adds up quickly. If your family would like to participate, you simply send in a monetary contribution. Your contribution will be combined with those from other families and gifted to your children's primary teacher(s) with a portion also allocated to provide a gift to other staff like Mr. Kish and Mrs. Epplin, and the Band, Computer, PE, Spanish and Art teachers. Your child's name will be on the Christmas cards of all his/her teacher(s) and staff. This program is completely **VOLUNTARY**. An envelope (**1 per family**) was included with the letter. Please fill it out entirely to ensure the donation is correctly allocated. If writing a check, please only send one check per family. **Checks can be made out to ICS Parents & Friends. ****The last day to turn in envelopes is Monday, December 17******

Any questions? Please email **Beth Johns** at kidRN74@hotmail.com

ICS ANNUAL SKATE PARTY: December 27, 2018 4:30-6:30. See the flyer last week, Let's have some fun over Christmas break.

Help support the annual 8th Grade Washington, DC field trip by purchasing St. Louis Blues Tickets. These are group tickets reserved for ICS. The game is Tuesday, Feb 12, 2019 at 7pm vs. New Jersey Devils. Please contact Tim Mueth @ 820611cards@gmail.com with any questions. **Please fill out the attached flyer to purchase tickets and return to school.**



1ST GRADE DAISY GIRLS adopted a family from St. Vincent de Paul Society. They were so excited to pose with the gifts. I love that our school and church family promotes so many ways of giving to others. Thanks!
Katie Hart

THANKS FOR AN ANONYMOUS DONATION of \$1,000 to our Band program and \$1,000 to our Art Program! “Money isn’t everything but it sure calms our nerves!”

And it also allows us to dream more and improve our programs! God bless our benefactors!

THANKS TO YourCause Wells Fargo for donations of \$750 and \$375! Wow!
THANKS to Papa Johns for \$35.98



The fourth grade Girl Scout troop came to support Ella Boyd this weekend in the Nutcracker on Ice. The event took place at Webster Groves ice Arena. Ella skated in four shows throughout the weekend and played the part of an Army Mouse. A great experience in the arts for Ella and our Scouts!



Rita Randle (Grandma to Carolyn and Audrey Randle) came in today to share a story she wrote to the class. The class then worked with a partner to illustrate different parts of the story. Mrs. Randle will be adding these illustrations to her story for kids to enjoy in years to come! We love our Resource People! Thanks Rita!

Thanks to our Latchkey ‘saviors’ Sue Lewis, Maren Donjon, Carol Fetcho, Sandra Whitworth, Kim Sullivan, Angela Ettling, and Christine Matrisotto for jumping in while Mrs. Hope Wienhoff recovered. It worked!

GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWS...Placement Test: If you missed it, contact Pat Herzing (pherzing@gibalthawks.com) The test is given free of charge.

Gibault March For Life Group is taking Honey-Baked orders for your Christmas entertaining! Forms are available at the exits of church, or you can contact Beverly Epplin for more information (bepplin@icsmail.org). Please return to the parish or school office by Tuesday, December 18th. Orders can be picked up from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, 12/22/18 in the ICS cafeteria. Thanks!

Gibault Raffle Tickets are a great Christmas gift and are on sale now! For \$25, you get a chance to win \$25 every calendar day between January 1st and May 31st, with grand prizes of \$2000, \$1000, \$500, and \$250! A single ticket can win multiple times! To purchase your ticket: abiske@gibalthawks.com or 618-939-3883

Junior High Glow Dance—The Gibault Catholic Ambassadors Club is sponsoring a Glow Dance for grades **6- 8 on Sunday, December 30 from 6:30-8:30PM** in the Gibault cafeteria. Admission is \$5. White or bright color clothing is suggested. We hope to see you there! **Talk to 8th graders who went last year---they had a blast!**

Gibault Softball Camp Dec. 26-28, Noon-2:00. See last week's flyer!

GRADS IN THE NEWS... Congratulations to the **RT All Local Soccer Team for 2018!**
First Team: Alex Barton-CHS Adam Stearns, Dylan Altadonna-Gibault Second Team:
Johnny Adams-Gibault HM-Ryan Swindle-Gibault ICS '2015 continues to shine!

Life is not a race - but indeed a journey. Be Honest. Work Hard. Be Choosy. Say 'thank you', and 'great job' to someone each day. Go to church, take time for prayer. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh. Let your handshake mean more than pen and paper. Love your life and what you've been given, it is not accidental ~ search for your purpose and do it as best you can. Dreaming does matter. It allows you to become that which you inspire to be. Laugh often. Appreciate the little things in life and enjoy them. Some of the best things really are free. Do not worry, less wrinkles are more becoming. Forgive, it frees the soul. Take time for yourself. Plan for longevity. Recognize the special people you've been blessed to know. Live for today, enjoy the moment!

Bonnie L. Mohr

YEAR END TAX TIP... Tell Grandpa and Grandma. Donate IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) to Immaculate Conception or other charities tax-free if over age 70 1/2. Annual withdrawals from traditional retirement accounts that accumulated tax-free are required after age 70 ½. However, you can avoid income tax on a required withdrawal up to \$100,000 per year by donating directly to a qualifying charity. Charitable contributions must be made by December 31 and can only be made from IRAs (not a 401(k) or 403(b) unless rolled to an IRA). You don't need to itemize your taxes in order to make an IRA charitable distribution, but cannot additionally claim a charitable contribution tax deduction. For a retiree in the 25 percent tax bracket, an IRA charitable contribution of \$5,000 could reduce your income tax bill by \$1,250. Funds must be transferred directly from the IRA to an eligible charity by the IRA trustee in order to qualify for the tax break. Contact Keith Huels in the parish office or your tax advisor for more information.

TEC (TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST) Calling all juniors and seniors in high school: TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) weekends: January 19-21, 2019 at Althoff Catholic High School in Belleville, IL, and February 16-18, 2019 at Sacred Heart School in Du Quoin, IL. TEC is a three-day Catholic retreat for the young adults of Southern Illinois. It's a place for older teens and young adults to reflect-through talks, skits, art, music, sacraments, fellowship and fun-on where they are in life and where they're going, where God fits in, where their faith is leading them, and how they can live their faith with love, joy and courage. TEC is also open to adult observers (18+). To learn more and/or to apply visit: www.bellevilletec.org



We are Full Stewardship! Please turn yours in. 58 out of 171 ICS families are in so far (337 total). Commit to your God and see what life sends you. Life will still be messy but you will handle it better if God is in the mix! We have over 1550 families. Officially due 1/7 so get homework finished early!

Stewardship of Charity Meeting

As part of our Full Stewardship plan, we will hold our annual parish Stewardship of Charity meeting on Sunday, February 10, at 12:30pm, in the Garden Level. Each year 2% of our previous year's collections are given to charities which help the

poor. Charities eligible for nomination must serve the poor, their mission and work must be consistent with Catholic moral teaching, and they must be charities not supported by our parish. (Over \$161,000 given to charities so far.) Any parish family attending the event may nominate one charity. Charities nominated in previous years may be nominated again. No one charity may receive more than 10% of the fund. If you are unable to attend, ask a friend to come, nominate, and advocate for your favored

charity. Be prepared to provide the name, mailing address, email, and phone number of the charity you nominate.



VOCATIONS Sign up with Joanne Schilling at jrs530@htc.net or Sign up to host the Chalice for Vocations here: [sign up](#) The prayers are short and meaningful. We cannot just pray. We have to encourage and point out that many of our children would make excellent workers for the harvest and many of our teens and young adults who are looking for a rewarding career would find it in working for the Church.

Encourage vocations! Give your child permission to think about it!

Dec. 12, 2018 Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas:

See, I am coming to dwell among you.

We rarely see any depictions of the Holy Family with dirty hands or work-stained clothing. We are more comfortable picturing them as distant from the detritus of everyday human life. For many years, in fact, our Christian tradition had taught that our earthly bodies were inherently bad, dirty and sinful. Yet Advent is a celebration of the coming of Emmanuel, "God with us." Our humanity is exactly what God chooses to enter into; not to condemn it but to empower its potential as the body of Christ. We celebrate the miracle of Christmas at the Eucharist as we hear the words: "By the mingling of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity."

May we rejoice, as Mary did, in our ability to become the body through which Christ is delivered to the world. [Mary Joshi](#)

Stephen Johns Grandpa **Tom Johns** is on hospice. Please say some prayers for him and his family.

Classmate and pal Deacon Rich Bagby has had a stroke and is in ICU. Say one for him please!

PRAYERS: Special Intention Danielle Dorlac, Tom Johns, Michael Dorshorst, Ken Biske, Pat Morr, Charlie Stockes, George Perry, Angela Roepke, Joyce LaPrade, Jan Hoffmann, Bill West, Jerry Weiler, Jennifer Nesser, Bill Anderson, Patrick Kish, Owen Jordan, Patti Rottler, Mike Taylor, Richard Prater, Donna Kania, Libby LoPorto, Lindsey Herbeck, Marla Vogt, Judy Gundlach

ONE OF MY FAVORITE READINGS is Paul's letter to the Philippians 4. This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday so...

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! By our kindness we should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

(best part for me) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.”

In the Gospel, along comes the “crazy man” John. He is so counter-cultural, transcending human nature, that they wonder if he is The Messiah. Probably coming out of the Essenes in the desert, he tells the people to share, no usury by the tax collectors, no falsely accusing, no griping about wages and how underpaid you are. He baptizes with water symbolically but the One Who Is to Come will baptize with the Holy Spirit! He talks very tough. We'll be sorted out like the chaff from the wheat...scary thought for sure. But then comes Jesus and the door is opened for us.

Advent is about getting your house ready. Even I helped put up the two trees. Get your spiritual house ready too and Christmas will mean what it should. **Once you understand Who He is, you will realize why He came!** Come rejoice with us!

Mike Kish

Principal

PS HAPPY BIRTHDAY today to Holly Blaskiewicz and tomorrow to Connie Huebner! Many happy “no” returns of presents!

PS ICS Varsity's Rock the Gym Night will be on Wednesday, December 19, starting at 5:30. **Our varsity girls and varsity boys will play St. James with tip-off at 5:30.** If anyone is making posters for the players in 8th grade, please email ibasler@icsmail.org with any questions. Posters must be at school on the morning of the 19th at the latest. We appreciate everyone who attends, thanks! Go Crusaders!

PS GCHS winter baseball camp is Dec 26-28! [See attached flyer](#) for information last week!

PS **Latchkey**---will not be available on December 21 so they can attend the Faculty-Staff Christmas party. Please plan ahead.

Exams December/January 2018-2019

12/17 Sr. Thea in the morning	12/18 His 8 Part 1 His 7 Part 1 English 6	12/19 His 8 Part 2 His 7 Part 2	12/20 His 6 Part 1 8 English Geog 7	12/21 His 6 Part 2 Sci 6, 7, 8
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