



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

321 South Metter Avenue

Columbia, Illinois 62236

Michael L. Kish, Principal

(618) 281-5353

mkish@icsmail.org www.icscolumbia.org

Teresa Dorshorst, School Board President

tjdbusinessservices@yahoo.com

CELEBRATING 163 YEARS OF MISSION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

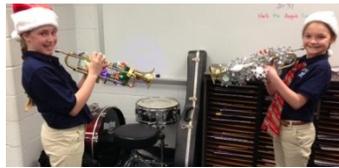
The mission of Immaculate Conception School is to provide experiences to inspire, challenge, and nurture the mind, body, and spirit of our students within the framework of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the tradition of the Catholic Church.

December 16, 2016

V. 42 #27

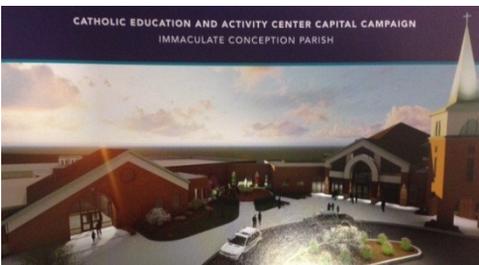
THE JOY OF LOVE

Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Teacher, Friend,



WHAT A CONCERT LAST NIGHT! WHAT A CHRISTMAS PROGRAM TUESDAY NIGHT!

Thanks to MaryBeth Babcock, Karen Lundy, Mr. Hake, Mrs. Fetcho, the Bands, the Artists, Mrs. Whelan, all who helped hang our art, Mrs. Prindiville for tuning and all teachers who helped monitor our bands and classes for this week's Christmas spirit. You just cannot say enough about what the arts do to us as people in getting us to be "noticers" and paying attention to the world around us! Two nights, probably over 1500 people, and all in reminder of the birth of a little Jewish baby who was Christ the Lord!



Capital Campaign---Catholic Education and Activity Center .

RETURN ON INVESTMENT Our market driven economy often drives our every-day talk. Why should I support a capital campaign for a new school? Why should I get a big "ask" for the new Center? Well, it comes down to what you are willing to support and why you support it. If you are in it to get something for yourself that's one thing but we are looking at gift sustainability. What we are doing will last 100 years. How is that for a RETURN ON INVESTMENT? Your child, or your neighbor's child, and really God's child will benefit for decades. Long term effect is huge. As the tax year ends and the market continues to do well, it is a great time to look for a return on investment that is faith-based, not "my kid" based. If you haven't been visited yet, know we are coming. If you have and have pledged, thank you. If your pledge is pending, please get it in for our end of the year report. When we get to "half-done", we will bring out the good news that the RETURN ON INVESTMENT is a major faith concept here! The excitement continues, the plans are getting firmer, and I can't wait for ground-breaking since I am "shovel-ready"! We take cash, check or charge!

IMPORTANT---LATCHKEY The last day of school is December 21. **NO LATCHKEY** that day. There is no bus at 3:00 and no play practice, no chess, no scholastic bowl, no tutoring, and practices start at 5:00. Please make arrangements now to cover you children.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR I am requesting that if anyone else wants to join the children's choir on Christmas Eve I could use the voices for volume. Please send Karen Lundy an email at karenslundy@gmail.com if your child would like to help.

I ask that you have your children at church on Christmas Eve by 4:30. We will meet in the Garden Level (bottom level). Please make sure your children bring water if you feel they will need it. We will most likely go upstairs and begin singing by 4:45.

We will not have choir on December 21 or Jan. 7th. I look forward to seeing the children again in 2017 on the 14th!

Thanks, Karen Lundy



Terrific Kids – December 2016

Mrs. Diewald: **Gus Schmidt** – Gus is the Terrific Kid in our class for the month of December. He has a positive attitude towards school and always strives to do his best work. He is a great friend to his classmates and is always willing to help others. Gus sets an excellent example for other students.

Mrs. Meyer: **Alex Hrdlicka** – Alex is a Terrific Kid. He has worked very hard on his reading and writing this year. I am proud of his hard work and accomplishments. He has a good sense of humor and participates well during class lessons.

Mrs. Matrisotto: **Eva Haywood**-Eva was selected to be Mrs. Matrisotto's Terrific Kid for the month of December. Eva is a compassionate, kind, generous, loving, and caring. Eva has a heart of gold and treats everyone like Jesus wants us to treat others. Thank you Eva for being such a good role model!

Ms. Kennedy: **Keeley Cooper** – Keeley is a terrific kid because she has made great strides in the classroom. She has shown that hard work and determination make her a successful student. Keeley is always willing to help out in any way. She also gets along great with her classmates and is very respectful to her peers.

Mrs. Donjon: **Mason Voegle** - Mason is a fantastic student who always tries his best. He is a super friend to everyone. He brings happiness to the classroom and to all around him. Truly a Terrific Kid!

Mrs. Ettling: **Michael Wessel** – Michael is a terrific kid because he is kind to others. He has a positive attitude all day and is always prepared for class. Even if something is difficult, he doesn't complain. He continues to try his best with a positive attitude!

Mrs. Schauster: **William Reed** - Will has been a wonderful addition to our class. He comes into school with a grin on his face and seems genuinely happy to be at school each day. Will is a friend to all of his classmates and tries very hard in school each day.

Mrs. Taylor: **Zack Harrington** - Zack is a great, caring kid, and I enjoy having him in class. He is always adding to class discussion. And, when I need a little extra help in the classroom, he will always lend a hand.



Sr. Thea Bowman's Dress Rehearsal Prayer in motion and such talent and emotion! We presented \$1100 from our Builders Club and they will use this as part of their window project for which they have a matching grant. If you know someone who believes in the future of kids who could spare a little to increase their match, contact Roberta Trost at Sr. Thea Bowman School to help!

USO We received a nice thank you from the USO for our candy donations after Halloween. Thanks to Taylor and Jeremy Schultz for the idea and transport to Lambert International!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER Let us have a conversation about compassion. Let us have a conversation about innocence and why we celebrate every year the story of the Holy Family. Let us discuss how hard it seems to be to stick together, yet how easy it should be.

We are bound by similar needs, identified by Abraham Maslow in 1943: physiological, safety, love/belonging, esteem and self-actualization. It is human nature to seek out these things. We are wired this way.

So as a therapist, when I see or hear about children interacting with an absence of compassion, I can attribute some of their behavior as developmental and pointing to basic instinct.

However, this does not mean we shall fall silent when children are missing the mark of compassion as they seek the approval of others (seeking **safety** in the hierarchy of peers and adoration (**love**) of others). In other words, could "mean girl" and "mean boy" behavior be driven by part of this hierarchy. Yes, I believe so. Again, this does not mean we settle for this. Quite the contrary, we use it as an opportunity to teach.

Every time I work with a child, a teen or an adult, I hope I am conveying the need to understand someone else's perspective. Our need for compassion, understanding and protection of each other is what we should glean from the Holy Family.

We need to be **constantly** teaching our children to be kind and to treat other with the *benefit of the doubt*. Please err on the side of assuming your child **needs to be reminded and shown** to be kind. To EVERYONE.

God bless your holy family this Christmas.

Karen Lundy, ICS School Counselor
The Teaching Never Stops

SPEECH MEETING Monday after school Thanks to Sam Watters.



THE GRIFFIN CENTER The Builders Club, with the help of Sam Watters, your generosity, and the generosity of Mary Clare Murphy's softball team, dropped off 166 gifts this morning to provide Christmas to some of our area's neediest children. Kalia Jerkatis, Emily Gillan, and Mary Clare Murphy chaired for the Builders Club!

Dear Parents, Grandparents and family of the K-3 ICS students:

Thank you so much for your generous donation to our mission trip to Ecuador. We collected \$932.00! Wow. That is such a wonderful addition to our fundraising efforts. We appreciate it and we love ICS! Ethan Schmersahl and Henry Babcock, ICS grads '14

ICS DINNER AUCTION February 11th --- The Falls --- You! Now is a great time to get your donation or re-gift something for our Auction---It is the main reason we can dream so big here at ICS!

The 36th Annual ICS Magazine Drive is upon us. We have sent home packets today. If you see relatives over the Holidays, it is a great time to put 40% of the cost of the magazine back into Columbia in the form of prizes to our students and our new Catholic Education and Activity Center. And now you can stockpile SAGE credits towards college tuition. Details coming! Go to www.gaschoolstore.com Our ID # is 2710556.

Mrs. Claus stopped by today to read to our Pre-K! Stories never get old!



CONGRATULATIONS TO COLIN MUETH on getting published in The Messenger with his prayer!

Colin Mueth, Immaculate Conception Catholic School, Columbia, Sixth Grade —

*Dear Heavenly Father,
Please help us to prepare and await the coming of son, Jesus Christ, in this season of Advent. Let us remember that when we light a candle on our Advent wreath, it is a reminder of our four weeks of waiting for the coming Christ, the light of our world. May it be a time of reconciliation and peace. In this time of preparation, may the love of Christ surround us. Lord, lead us to 'the star' that led the three wise men to Our Savior. Help us to turn away from all evil in this world so that we may have eternal happiness with your Risen Savior.
Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.*

your

LOOKING FOR A FUN THING TO DO OVER CHRISTMAS BREAK? ~ 8th grade is having a roller skating party at Rollercade in South County on Wednesday, December 28th from 2-4. Tickets are 10.00 per person and that includes roller skates. If you want inline skates it is an additional 3.00. If you are interested in tickets please send money in to the ICS Office marked Roller skating and if you have a specific 8th grader that you want the credit to go to, please mark in envelope. If you have any questions please contact Sue Dalpoas at 314.265.4263 or Ellen Sippel at 314.283.8310. Thank you!

Joy of love tee shirts this week--- Eli Thebeau, Sadie Metz, Reagan Kenner, Thomas Schaefer.

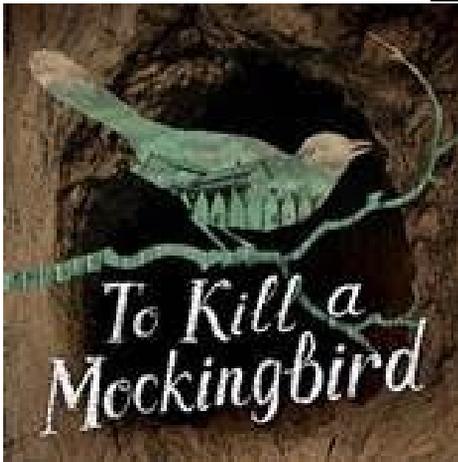
Chess 2016-2017 Practice Schedule:

Practices for Grades 1&2: Tues 1/10, Tues 1/31, Tues 2/21, Tues 3/14

Practices for Grades 3&4: Tues 1/17, Tues 2/7, Tues 2/28, Tues 3/21

Practices for grades 5-8: Tues 12/20, Tues 1/24, Tues 2/14, Tues 3/7, Tues 3/28

To continue the celebration of The Rep's 50th anniversary The Rep is offering students an opportunity



to win a \$250 gift card to Barnes and Noble by creating an original poster celebrating our production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

The posters will be judged by a panel of artist, educators and theatre professionals. Prizes will be awarded to the top three posters. All poster artists will be recognized on The Rep's website. Individual students may enter or you can do this as a class project. **Grades 7 and 8 will attend a performance of "To Kill a Mockingbird" at The Rep on February 23!** Here is a link to the contest information, rules and entry form.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/8w2epxbkb9spydx/Poster%20Contest%20info.pdf?dl=0>

THE SPORTING NEWS...Girls basketball is finished after some very strong play at Olney this past weekend. Please launder your uniform and return to Mrs. Whelan.

The Boys will be finishing up right after Christmas. All the best in the SPPS Tourney over the Holidays.

We are looking for a knowledgeable varsity boys volleyball coach. Please contact Ms. Kennedy or Mr. Kish quick. We need someone Child Protection Certified. Thanks for spreading the word!

CROSS COUNTRY 2017? We are looking to gauge interest in the 2017 ICS Cross Country Team. Cross county is a popular sport in our area. Middle School aged kids run approximately 1.86 miles in the races. Training begins in late August and ends early October and can be done in conjunction with soccer. The Goal of CC is not to win races but to develop self confidence by focusing on individual improvement. **Please let Mrs. Tara Kennedy tkennedy@icsmail.org know if you think your child might be interested so we can plan for next year.**

ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS: Congratulations to **Alicia Archambault, Samantha Estes, Samantha Groppe, Jake Heet** from Columbia High School; **Thomas Herrmann, Jay Hollman, Morgan Ladyman, Alejandro Perez** from Gibault Catholic High School, **Zach Hennes** from SLU High, and **Madelon Belaska** from Notre Dame High School on being honored as Illinois State Scholars! 10 students from ICS in our Class of '14 of the 39. High stats here and we are PROUD OF YOU!

GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWS...

If you missed the first date, the **Gibault Catholic High School placement test for the incoming Class of 2021**, will be offered again on **Friday, January 13, from 12:45-4:00**. The test is given free of charge, please RSVP to Susan Mackin (smackin@gibaulthawks.com). *Something Better Within Reach!* **Welcome to the Gibault Catholic family!**

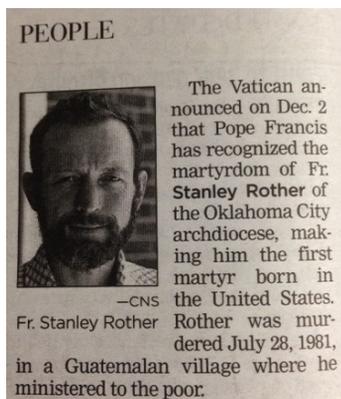
Gibault Catholic High School would like to wish all of our Parish families, alumni and supporters a Merry Christmas and a blessed and Happy New Year! Thank you for your support of our students throughout the year!

Gibault Catholic High School Band Alumni night will be at the home basketball game on Friday, January 13, 2017. All GCHS alumni band members are invited to shine up your instrument and join the band! Contact Scott Ruppel sruppel@gibaulthawks.com for more information.

Glo Dance : Gibault is hosting a dance for 7th / 8th grade students on Saturday, January 21, from 7-9PM in the Gibault cafeteria. Admission is \$3 or 3 canned goods for the Hope Christian food pantry.

GUATEMALA Over 200,000 souls were killed during the civil war in Guatemala during the 1980's and 1990's. I visited there in January of 1998 with our parish group. The truce was one year old. The pastor of St. Raymond's, Fr. Leonardo, who had one large parish and 11 missions and 24,000 parishioners, took us to Fr. Stan Rother's church in Santiago, Atitlan, one of the most scenic and beautiful areas of Guatemala. Our **parish Deacon Linus Horcher and his wife Alice were close family friends** and visited him whenever he came home. For Deacon Linus ordination to the diaconate, Fr. Stan gave him a stole as a gift. Deacon Linus was buried in it. When Fr. Stan's name was put on the death list in Guatemala, he came home but only stayed a month or so since he missed his parishioners. He was murdered shortly after he returned. **Fr. Stan's body was returned to his home in Oklahoma but his parishioners requested and received permission to keep his heart, which is buried in his parish church in Atitlan.** This is a brief from National Catholic Reporter followed by his story. Once again, a priest rejected from one seminary finds a way and graduates

from Mount St. Mary's in Emmetsburg, Maryland. We drive right by this university every year from Gettysburg to D.C. The Church is still suffering martyrdom, some one day at a time. Being a Christian is hard. And the single biggest lie we can tell ourselves is that "I cannot be holy". We can!



The Decree of his Martyrdom was signed by Pope Francis on December 2, 2016 and his [beatification](#) ceremony is tentatively scheduled to take place in the fall of 2017. In the room where Stanley Rother was murdered, the following poem resides.

Unbroken

For Padre A'plas from his people

Your days clasped to our days, one by one,
had chained you tight. You wouldn't cut and run.

Bound by your affection, and our trust,
you had no other world but here with us.

Long days, hard days, tight-linked down the years,
nights sharing plans and other people's tears.

Hosts lifted high against a rusting roof,
you fed us God.

How could we set you loose?

Torn from flesh, your shackled heart remains.

Compelled we sent your bones.

We kept the chain.

R.P.G



Life from Cuba! Ned Lane spoke to our 7th and 8th grade Geography Classes today. If you can't go some place, talk to some one who just got back. Perspective: Ned's porter at the International Hotel was a doctor. He could make more on tips than he could through his government job. (There is great hope for the people as long as it doesn't get turned into another Las Vegas!) Thanks Ned and JoAnn!

FULL STEWARDSHIP Please get your commitment form in!

The Communion of Saints Wednesday, December 14, 2016 Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM

Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up his eyes to heaven, he said, "Father, . . . I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one. I in them

and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”—John 17:1, 20-26 [1]

This beautiful prayer for union is from Jesus' Last Supper address to his disciples. It might be the highest level of mystical teaching in the entire New Testament. Here Jesus connects everything: he in his Father, the Father in you, you in God, God in him, God in the world, and you in the world. It's all one.

I think this is the core realization of every saint. Saints see things in their connectedness and wholeness. They don't see things as separate. It's all one, and yet like the Trinity, it is also different. What you do to the other, you do to yourself; how you love yourself is how you love your neighbor; how you love God is how you love yourself; how you love yourself is how you love God. How you do anything is how you do everything.

Faith is not simply seeing things at their visible, surface level, but recognizing their deepest meaning. To be a person of faith means you see things—people, animals, plants, the earth—as inherently connected to God, connected to you, and therefore, most worthy of love and dignity. That's what Jesus is praying for: that you could see things in their unity, in their connectedness.

I will go so far as to say that the more you can connect, the more of a saint you are. The less you can connect, the less transformed you are. If you can't connect with people of other religions, classes, or races, with your "enemies" or with those who are suffering, with people who are disabled, with LGBTQ folks, or with anyone who is not like you—well, to put it very bluntly, you're not very converted. You're still in the kindergarten of faith. We have a lot of Christians who are still in kindergarten, walking around the world with their **old** politics and economics. They have not allowed the Risen Christ to fully transform their lives. Truly transformed individuals are capable of a universal recognition. They see that everything is one.

You don't go to heaven; you learn how to live in heaven now. And no one lives in heaven alone. Either you learn how to live in communion with the human race and with all that God has created, or, quite simply, you're not ready for heaven. If you want to live an isolated life, trying to prove that you're better than everybody else or believing you're worse than everybody else, you are already in hell. You have been invited—even now, even today, even this moment—to live in the Communion of Saints, in the Presence, in the Body, in the Life of the eternal and eternally Risen Christ.

Gateway to Silence: We are already in union with God.

Prayers Please: Lynn Pelker, Crytal Schaefer's stepmom since she was 2, needs our prayer as she recovers from surgery. Thanks!

Angie Peters, friend of Holy Blaskiewicz, suffered a stroke at age 45. Please keep her in your prayers!

PRAYERS: Special Intention Angie Peters, Lynn Pelker, Bill Kesler, Delores Deleveski, Jan Walsh, Dan Borisuk, Denise Conner, Leigh-Anne Feldker, Maggie Williamson, Dan Whelan, Patricia Steppig, Lauren Foran, Rich Cullen, Barb Winschel, Jessica Stemler Barcik, Josh Ritter, Stella Moll, Gertrude Scherrer, Henry Scott Dabbs, Carolyn Baker, Scott Schaefer, Katy Basinski, Chrissy Hoeflinger, Barbara Buchheit, Angie Rose, Ken Bolton, Nick Carron, Mary Giovanni, Roy Lansing, Sis Blaes, Arlin Stechmesser, Marcella Heinrichs, Florence Dorshorst, Bill Pennock, Pat Weber, Ed Hengel, Vince Webb, George Stein, Desiree Frasure,

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

Sincerely,

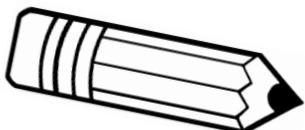
Mike Kish, Principal



- PS See attached for Parents and Friends Dinner Auction---time to start collecting!
- PS Friends of Zac Epplin are sponsoring a Soccer Clinic in his memory. See the flyer.
- PS [Columbia Khoury League registration link](#) from last week.
- PS **Exam Schedule for First Semester 16-17**

Monday: History 6, English 7
Tuesday: History 7, English 8
Wednesday: History 8, Science 7, Science 6
Friday---January 6: Geography 8, Geography 7

YOUNG AUTHORS ANNOUNCEMENT! Thanks Robin Nadziejko and Gina Thompson!



**Young Authors
Spring 2017**



Sharpen your pencils, for it is time to start preparing for the Spring Young Authors' program! The spring turn-

in day will be Monday, February 6th (this will also be a jeans day for every student turning in a manuscript). For judging purposes, we ask that you attach your name either by a Post-It note or on a separate piece of paper (attached by paper clip or stapled. The chairpersons will record the titles and names, and then remove the names from the stories before giving them to the judges). Please do not write your name on your story. Give your submission to your teacher (5th-8th grade students please give your manuscript to your English teacher). Winning stories will be presented at the Young Authors' assembly, at school, on Monday, March 13th. The following information may answer any questions you have. If you have other questions, please email Gina Thompson or Robin Nadziejko at icsyoungauthors@gmail.com. Thank you!

How should my work be packaged? Your submission should include the following:

- Your name attached only by paper clip or post-it note (names are removed for judging)
- A title
- Pages securely fastened by staple or other means
- A front cover (it can be as simple as a title page)

What should I write, and how will it be judged?

The emphasis of the Young Authors program is on creativity! A parent volunteer will judge your work based on its originality, its organization (does your story have a beginning, middle, and ending?), and on its use of clear, descriptive words. Stories are evaluated based 75% on creativity and 25% on grammar and punctuation.

You may also enter a poem. It will be judged based on its creativity, how well it flows, and on the strength and clarity of its message. For upper grade students, a poem or collection of poems should have at least 20 lines total.

Students in grades 5 through 8 may also enter non-fiction essays including classroom assignments. Judges will be looking for clear, descriptive sentences and well-organized paragraphs. Any submission may be written at home or as part of a classroom assignment. Please do not submit work that has been entered in Young Authors competition in a previous year.

Can my parents help me?

Young Authors is designed to encourage you to write, and so the work must be your own. You can try out your ideas on your parents if you like, and they can help you with proofreading grammar, punctuation and spelling. Very young authors may tell their story to a parent while the parent writes it down. The child may then write out the story, or the parent may write it or type it. It is important that the story be "in the child's own words," which is the state rule for the Young Authors program. Parents should encourage their children to work on their submissions as independently as possible.

What if I win?

Congratulations! You may win a Young Authors' trophy once each school year. If you win a trophy, be sure to keep entering! Your future submissions are still eligible to win runner-up awards.

By entering repeatedly, you are also eligible to receive special awards at the end of the year. Students in grade k-4 receive their Young Authors awards at presentations following each judging. Older students receive theirs at the Awards Night in May. Enter twice, and you receive a Young Authors' pin at the end of the year.

All winners from fall and spring are entered into a drawing, and one randomly selected student from each grade will be invited to attend the regional Young Authors' Conference.

What are the details on the Young Authors' Conference?

Winning in either the fall or the spring makes students eligible for the honor of representing their grade and ICS at the Regional and State Young Authors' Conference. Attendees will be randomly selected – one student per grade.