



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*

December 20, 2017

Bienvenido el parrochia!

V. 43 #23

Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Teacher, Friend,

We are all products of our environment, how we were raised, the era we grew up the most in and the impact of people in our lives. I was lucky enough my sophomore college summer to work in the produce section of a Kroger store. The best part of my day was getting to work when Art arrived. Art would shout out *"everything's gonna be alright"* and then do a little dance. (You have to say it just right to bring in Art's personality.) Funny how right he was. Art was black, working in a white environment during a scary racial time, and you loved him. And his words of comfort to the start of each new day are no different than our God reminds us of during this Christmas Season. We know it won't be alright for everyone in every moment. It wasn't alright when there was no room at the inn and you end up in the back shed to be birthed. It wasn't alright to be laid in a manger that was a slick wood box with all the splinters licked out by the animals that used it. It wasn't alright to be hustled off to Egypt in a flight for your life. It wasn't alright to be unjustly betrayed, tried, tortured and executed though innocent of nothing but trying to bring people closer to God. But *"everything was gonna be alright"* as the Holy Spirit would come and then everything would make sense. When enough people believe, like Art did, that *"everything is gonna be alright"*, they work together make things as right as they can. There has been a huge outpouring of love from our community this Season. **2,645 items for Day Star** in Cairo, **\$1,585 to Caritas** for "Santa all-year-through", **229 gifts for the Griffin Center** this morning and love poured out to our faculty and staff. *"Everything's gonna be alright."* It might take a day, or a season, or a lifetime, but deep down we know this is true.

Thank you for Jesus is born!

Community helps us break down the loneliness, hurt, and anger of our broken lives and world. Make the effort to "be alright" by joining our community in celebrating the One who came to make it so. By now, I am sure Art has gone home to do his dance in heaven. Come and dance with us for **"everything's gonna be alright"**---eventually.

Weekend Mass Schedule: Sat., Dec. 23 5:00 pm Sun.: 7:00 and 9:00 am (NO 11:00)
CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE Sunday **Dec. 24:** 5p.m. & 10p.m (Christmas Carols Begin At 9:30p.m.) There Is **No Midnight Mass** This Year!

Monday **December 25:** 9 & 11 a.m. There Is **No 7 a.m. Mass On Christmas Day!**



Sharpen your pencils, for it is time to prepare for the Spring Young Authors' program!

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 to your teacher (5th-8th grade students please give your manuscript to your English teacher). For judging purposes, 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 adhered to your manuscript. The chairperson will record the titles and names, and then remove the names from the stories before giving them to the judges. Winning stories will be presented at the school Young Authors' assembly on Thursday, March 1st. The following information may answer any questions you have. ? Please email Robin Nadziejko at icsyoungauthors@gmail.com. Thank you!

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

- A front cover with the title of you manuscript (it can be a simple title page, with no name)
- Your name on a separate piece of paper attached by paper clip or stapled, or on Post-It note (names are removed for judging)
- Pages securely fastened by staple or other means

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.

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 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 Monroe-Randolph County Young Authors' Conference.

Thanks to Robin Nadziejko for chairing one of our best programs!



CONGRATULATIONS to **Jacob Whitworth** who won 3rd place In the 5-8 category, **Paul Ott** and **Emma Tyler** winning 3rd place In the K-4 category and **Kyra Newton** on Honorable Mention in the 5-8 category. 20 states---264 students---209 school blocks entered. The award ceremony will be on January 20, 1pm at The National Quilt Museum, Paducah, KY. Students were coached by Carol Fetcho and Karen Weiler and Jeanette Melliere.



PATRIOT'S PEN Congratulations to **Brock Murphy**-First Place, **Andrew Donjon**-Second Place, and **Aubrey Thompson**-Third Place in the VFW Essay Contest! They were honored by Carol Schilling and Commander John Fuller last week at Post 6504 in Waterloo.



Congratulations to **Mrs. Kim Diesel**, the Edward Jones Teacher of the month from ICS presented by Todd Osterhage!

Powell Hall February 2! Come and hear Mr. Matt Hake play with the St. Louis Symphony! The concert is free and open to the public, and will last about an hour. No tickets will be issued for this concert, but we are requesting RSVPs for planning purposes at slo.org/freeconcerts. Congratulations Mr. Hake!
Maureen Byrne, Director of Diversity & Community Affairs
St. Louis Symphony Orchestra

CARITAS SECRET SANTA ALL-YEAR-ROUND! You are amazing and so generous! \$1,585 donated to this program benefitting so many abused and neglected children and needy of our area!



YOU ARE AMAZING! Builders Club committed to 75 gifts! We took 229 this morning to Sr. Beth Ruder, D.C. at Orr Weathers. Sam Watters drove again for the umpteenth and last time as Seth will be graduating from Gibault and moving to college. BC President Autumn Ramey and Co-Chairs Devon Cason, Sam Atchley, and Kaleb Hugger got the job done with your help! [See the attached](#) Christmas letter from Director Diane Sonnemann if you need a pick-me-up from the power of HOPE!

CONGRATULATIONS TO Emily Brutton and Sue Lewis for winning a \$500 Classroom Empowerment Grant from Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc. As befits the latest S-W release, we will be buying a drone as part of the project!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR All choir members should arrive by 4:20pm in the Garden Level on Dec 24th, and their parents should stay with them until Mrs. Lundy and Ms. Brutton bring them upstairs. Please wear a nice Christmas outfit, bring a bottle of water, and use the restroom before 4:20. Thank you for sharing your time and talent!

LATCHKEY MORNING HELP NEEDED Great college student morning job. 5 days a week. 6:45-7:50 am starting the days with smiles for some of the greatest kids in the world! Contact Mike Kish at 281-5353.

DC Trip Fundraisers: 8th graders are selling **TJ's Pizza** to earn money for their DC field trip in March. If you would like to order cookie dough, bread braids, gooey butter cake, coffee, all varieties of pizza and more, please contact an 8th grader by Jan. 12th.

ROLLARCADE: Fundraiser Looking for a fun thing to do over Christmas break? 8th grade is having a rollerskating party at Rollercade in South County on Wednesday, December 27th 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 Bev marked Rollerskating. If you have a specific 8th grader that you want the credit to go to for D.C. Trip, please mark their name on the envelope. If you have a questions please contact Holly Blaskiewicz at 314.707.1045. Moms-Dads are welcome to skate. It is a lot of fun for all!

Girls on the Run---This is a 10 week program that 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 for the girls 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 both welcome to coach. **If you are interested in helping with this exciting program, please contact Jessica Wachtel- [314-749-1663](tel:314-749-1663).**

The Daddy/Daughter Dance ICS gym Feb. 3, 2018 from 7-10 p.m.

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

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

SCRIP ---Volunteers needed: to sell Scrip at Mass on weekends. It's a great way to fulfill your time, talent and treasure! We will schedule you for a Mass you already attend. Email Catie Tyler at rcjettyler@gmail.com if interested in helping.

END THE YEAR ON A CLEAN SLATE. PLEASE CATCH UP ON ALL TUITION AND FEES! It is a great time if you are in the market to make donations!

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS FOR TUITION, PRE-K, BOOK FEES. BAND AND LATCHKEY through DiamondMind will end over the Christmas break. Any future invoice payments by credit card should be made through the email invoicing process, and the **new credit card payment link** seen here will replace DiamondMind on the school website over the Christmas break.

<http://cloud.accountedge.com/immaculateconception/webpay>

Sheryl or Keith if you have any questions. **New Stewardship forms for all ICS full-stewardship families are due by January 7.** Copy of the stewardship form is [attached](#). Please give to Bev or send in to the parish office/Sunday collection.

Shoparoo! Shoparoo is an app in which you snap pictures of your everyday receipts in exchange for real cash donations from Shoparoo directly to the school of your choice (ICS of course). Friends and family (near or far) can take part in this fundraiser. Shoparoo makes fundraising easy and fun.

How does Shoparoo work?

You earn Roo Points for your receipts from any store that sells groceries, health items, beauty products & more. Common examples are Target, Walmart, Costco and CVS Pharmacy. The amount of the receipt determines the number of points. See the chart below. You can also earn Roo Points by completing surveys and connecting accounts to Shoparoo. Each Roo Point you earn is added to the overall ICS total. 500 Roo Points = \$1 cash donation, so earning more Roo Points leads to a bigger cash donation.

Receipt Total	Reward
Under \$10	10 Roo Points
\$10-\$50	20 Roo Points
\$50-\$100	30 Roo Points
Over \$100	40 Roo Points

What if I have Non-Grocery receipts?

ICS can earn sweepstakes entries for receipts from restaurants, clothing stores, home improvement stores, electronic stores, sporting goods stores and more. These entries are used in monthly and end-of-school-year sweepstakes that could win ICS \$15,000!

And the Winner is... At the Nov. 13th Parents and Friends meeting, we discussed a contest involving Shoparoo. As Shoparoo allows you to pick a grade to support, the contest is based on the amount of Roo Points per grade at ICS for the month. We are happy to announce the winning class for November is.....Kindergarten!!! We will be working with Mr. Kish on a small prize for all of the kindergarteners.

Let's do this again!

At the November 13th meeting, we had 16 Supporters and 6,060 ICS Roo Points on the Shoparoo app. As of December 8th, we have 43 Supporters and 23,625 ICS Roo Points. Since the contest increased our supporters, let's do it again! We will be doing another grade competition for December. What a great month to snap those receipts as you may be buying more groceries for holiday parties and doing more shopping for gifts!

Questions? If you have any questions, feel free to contact Joyce Randle at jarandle30@yahoo.com. **Happy Shopping! Parents and Friends Club**

THE SPORTING NEWS... Congratulations to our varsity boys on taking the Consolation Championship Saturday night at Notre Dame. We lost to eventual champ Holy Trinity, and beat St. Libory and Holy Childhood. Good going boys!

Youth Hockey Coaches and PE Teachers, On December 30th, we will be hosting our second annual Street Blues Ball Hockey Tournament. The tournament will be broken down into two divisions, age group 7-9 and age group 10-12. Each division will be comprised of ten teams that have six players and one goalie. Please share this email with any parents/coaches that might interested in registering a team for the tournament. All team managers interested in registering a team for this tournament should visit <https://www.nhl.com/blues/community/winterfest-hockey> for more information. There is no registration fee for the tournament, and each player on the championship winning team will receive a commemorative trophy. Once registration is complete, the teams competing in the tournament will be notified on Friday, Dec. 22nd.

If you have any questions about the tournament, please email me at bknox@stlblues.com. We look forward to seeing you December 30th!

Brandon Knox | Marketing & Event Manager/ Youth Hockey Coordinator
SCOTTRADE CENTER | ST. LOUIS BLUES | PEABODY OPERA HOUSE
1401 Clark Avenue at Brett Hull Way
St. Louis, MO 63103 314.622.2537- Office 314.622.2588 – Fax

GIBAULT NEWS...Junior High Glow Dance – Gibault Ambassadors Club is sponsoring a Glow Dance for grades **7 & 8 on Tuesday, Dec 26, from 7-9PM** in the school cafeteria. Admission is \$3 or 3 canned goods for a local food pantry. White or bright colored clothing is suggested. See you then!

GIBAULT RAFFLE TICKETS are great Christmas gifts and are now for sale! For only \$25, you get a chance to win \$25 every calendar day between Jan. 1st and May 31st, with grand prizes of \$2000, \$1000, \$500, and \$250 drawn on May 6th, 2018. A single ticket can win multiple times! To purchase, contact any Gibault student or Andrea at the Gibault office, abiske@gibaulthawks.com or [618-939-3883](tel:618-939-3883). Thank you for your support!

BUILD UP THE KINGDOM OF YOUR LOVE daily shirts Mason Homeyer, Addison Sanker, Alaina Patton, Nicholas Holdener, Summer Harrington, Sean Frederick, Brynn Moore, Wiley Sasser, Daniel Huels, Nicholas Wahle, Poppy Haywood, Emma Schmidt, Hogan Story, Eli Thebeau, Aiden Howard-Maul, Anna McGill, Abby Repp, Megan Janson, Wes Jasper

Allie Shuler's Grandmother **Barbara Thompson** is nearing the end of her earthly time. Please say a prayer for the family to find some peace during this sad time.

PRAYERS: Barbara Thompson, Marvin Parker, Arlin Stechmesser, Donna Kania, Barbara Thompson, Susie McClenahan Mantz, Paul Thode, Tom Giovanni, Jim Vogt, Norman Waterman, Pat Schwartz, George Perry, Pearl Mueller, 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, **Special Intention**

Life is a Mystery. And it all starts with birth. How fitting we celebrate our union with our God through His Son. Life finds a way---God finds a way---but we have to be open and hope that **“everything's gonna be alright”**. God said it would be so. We must believe!

Mike Kish
Principal

PS THERE WILL NO AFTERNOON LATCHKEY ON DECEMBER 20TH---TODAY!

PS FULL STEWARDSHIP PARISH! Please pray, commit, and return by Jan.7, 2018.

PS PACKETS ARE BEING SENT HOME TODAY. Renew with us or gift someone!
THE 36th ANNUAL ICS MAGAZINE RENEWAL DRIVE WILL RUN JAN. 8-26, 2018

At this time, students from ICS will be calling on the community for their support. Last year the school netted \$11,254! The **Eugene J. Schorb Immaculate Conception Fund for Catholic Education** (Endowment Fund) has received **\$482,518.34 IN THE PAST---** this drive is generating well over \$20,000 a year in interest!) Again this year coming year, profits will go towards the new **Catholic Education and Activities Center** which will replace the current school campus. Help our school and experience great savings by either **renewing current subscriptions or ordering new ones now!** In order to achieve this goal, we are asking each student to renew or sell 9 subscriptions. Thanks to our community for “Thinking Monroe County First” and keeping 40% of the price of your magazine in the community.

AND---Your order can be placed on-line at www.gaschoolstore.com

The school I.D. # is 2710556. Search Immaculate Conception School, Columbia, IL. Shop---pick a student to give the credit.

Exams January 2018

1/8 History 7, part 1	1/9 History 7, part 2 English 6	1/10 Science 6 Science 7 Science 8		
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History Class...

The topic was England. Prince Charles said “nice reindeer” to his Mum. She said 65 years son!

Thanks for the selfie Ms. Taylor!