"The National Catholic Schools Week logo brings the theme to life. It features a swirl of colors surrounding a cross, which is at the center of all Catholic education. The vibrant colors, movement and shadows in the logo combine to portray the interconnectivity and community life that characterize Catholic schools." www.ncea.org

January, 17, 2014

Dear Parents,

The sights and sounds of a Catholic school are nothing but delightful when we take a step back and just look! Those sights include the many, many symbols of our Catholic faith as we open our eyes and look. As we enter the atrium of the school, we are struck by the beautiful painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe to our right and Our Lady of Medjugorje as we look above. We have the statues of St. Anthony and the Sacred Heart of Jesus quietly and peacefully "being present" with us as we begin our day.

As we continue to "look" in a new and different way at Our Lady's School, we see the presence of the angels behind the office desk back on the wall. As our student leaders join us together in community, the daily Morning Prayer and Virtue of the Month are posted along with the other basic information needed as people come into the school. Again, there is Our Lady prominent to the left of the office area along the wall. "Praying Hands" along the south wall of the office remind us that our thoughts, words, and deeds are prayers as we continue through the school day. The sights and sounds continue throughout the entire school and, joyfully so, are truly too numerous to mention! Our Lady continues her intense presence in the library along with Mother Teresa. The cheers of the sports teams and fans resonate as St. Michael's sword rises when we enter the gym with the crucified Christ always present to remind us that there is a cross involved in life's journey on the way to the crown.

One of the great saints of our faith, Maximilian Kolbe, who gave the ultimate sacrifice of his life in a concentration camp in Nazi Germany by asking to die in the place of a father with children, said the road to sainthood has a simple formula. The simple equation, for all of you math people out there, is this: "W + w = S." The capital letter stands for God's Will. The small w stands for our wills. When the two wills unite, they equal Sanctity.

In a Catholic school, we are honored and blessed to be able to talk about "Future Saints", have a St. Dominic Club, have Cherubs singing, and have our wonderful priests come and help us work toward that formula. We are grateful to everyone who has made a difference in any way for the children and Catholic education. We thank our parents, grandparents, benefactors, prayer warriors, parishioners, clergy, teachers, staff, volunteers, and so many more who give in so many ways. Congratulations to our wonderful ICCS Bookkeeper Diane White, our Honorees of the Year. Please join us in thanking her for all she has done in her dedication of Catholic education, not only for Our Lady's School, but as the mom of two ICCS alumni and a Catholic School graduate herself. During this month of National Catholic Schools Week, let us all continue to model for these children the road to sanctity through the sights and sounds in our own personal world. *In Him, Elaine Schad, ICCS Principal*

THIS MONDAY, JANUARY 20
NO SCHOOL!!
MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY!!
(OVER)

DEAN'S DISPATCH

Teaching Children a Strong Work Ethic!

Paul Cuttica , Dean of Students, Lower School

I recently read an article on line about teaching children to have a strong work ethic. Many of our parents and grandparents came to this country to better their lives. They worked hard and willingly to make a new, better life for their families. What an inspiration they were to us all!. Children with a strong work ethic will be successful in life. Children are never too young to develop a strong work ethic. These steps were outlined in the article:

1. Praise children for effort. For example, if your child brings home an "A" on her report card, tell her "I'm so proud of how much you studied", or "I'm pleased you put so much effort into that class".

2. Encourage improvement, especially in areas where your child is skilled. For example, if your child excels in reading, say "You're doing such a great job on your reading, so I think you're up to an even better challenge", and present harder tasks.

3. Give age-appropriate chores for all family members, and give more difficult and complex chores as your child gets older.

4. Share stories about how hard work and persistence pays off. These can be fictional stories, stories from your life, or accounts of famous people.

5. Play games which require delaying gratification. Practicing delayed gratification actually strengthens areas in the brain that govern responsible behavior and decision-making.

6. Teach children to solve problems themselves by teaching them trouble-shooting techniques, and encouraging them to take the lead. For example, if your child is dealing with a mean classmate, ask questions to prompt your child to think out an appropriate response. Praise your child for coming up with good solutions, and for handling problems independently.

7. Let children see your work ethic. Explain to them what you do at work, why you do chores, etc.

8. Give rewards for responsible behavior. For example, a child who easily does her chores without being reminded may be ready to care for a small pet.

9. Structure your family's time and teach your child good time-management skills. Use a large calendar, dry-erase board, or magnets to keep track of to-do lists and schedules.

10. At the appropriate age, make sure your child has summer jobs, and contributes towards their own expenses.

11. Work with your kids--work alongside your children showing, modeling and teaching. For example, when laundry needs to be done, sort the clothes with your children, then together fill the washing machine, together put them in the dryer. Then when it's time to fold, fold the clothes side by side showing how to fold and doing it together.

I would like to add to this another, most important step--making God the center of your family life. With God and with faith we can move mountains!

Thank you for choosing Immaculate Conception Catholic School to nurture your child. God bless you in your incredible journey as parents and grandparents! *Blessings, Mr. Cuttica* ***(OVER)***

Makeup Days

Immaculate Conception Catholic School was closed for three days during the recent ice storm. Makeup days will be as follows:

April 21—Easter Monday
May 29 and May 30

*****The calendar for the last week of school will be adjusted to incorporate these dates*****

Please join us to highlight our Catholic School at the 10 a.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception On Sunday, Jan. 26. Students should wear their dress uniforms!

CALLING ALL ICCS STUDENTS!!!
MARK THE DATE!!
WEAR YOUR ICCS DRESS UNIFORM TO YOUR PARISH MASS THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 25 AND 26
AND RECEIVE A JEAN AND SPIRIT DAY!!!
MORE INFORMATION COMING YOUR WAY!

*******WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR UPCOMING RECRUITMENT WEEKENDS AND MINISTRY FAIRS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL!**

We are always in need of speakers and people who can spend a little time after Masses at either St. Mark or Immaculate Conception parishes as part of our Recruitment Weekends and Ministry Fairs. The job is easy..just stand by the table for a short time after the Mass and spread the Good News about Catholic Education and about Immaculate Conception Catholic School, or you may choose to speak for a couple of minutes during the Mass along with family members to give them your own witness. We will be needing speakers and people to stand by display tables at Immaculate Conception the weekend of and the January 25 and 26. Please call the office and leave your contact information if you can help or e-mail *iccsoffice@gmail.com.* Light the Way!!

(OVER)

NEWS YOU CAN USE!!

Letter From ICCS Advisory Chair John Josefsberg: Please read carefully the letter from our School Advisory Chair regarding tuition and fees for 2014-2015 enclosed in this Brown Envelope. We are extremely grateful to our entire Advisory Council for their advice and wisdom as we continue this inter-parochial Catholic school ministry of St. Mark and Immaculate Conception parishes of **Catholic faith formation** and **excellence in the education of the whole child.** We continue to pray through the intercession of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St. Mark the Evangelist that our school will continue to be the flourishing place of faith-filled energy that it is.

In-House Registration for 2014-2015 Begins Monday, January 30: Please note the very important enrollment information enclosed with this Brown Envelope. Those families who are currently enrolled receive first opportunity to re-enroll during Catholic Schools Week January 30-Feb. 3. Beginning on Monday, February 6, registration will be open to parishioners of both of our sponsoring parishes of St. Mark and Immaculate Conception. Open Registration begins Monday, February 13. We expect that some of our classes will be at capacity for 2014-2015, so be sure to secure your spot. Please ask if you have questions.

INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION: Please be aware of our procedure for inclement weather. In ICCS announces a late start or closing, it will be announced no later than 7 a.m. on the major prime television channels. See the link below on our school website www.catholicschooldenton.org :

RECEIVE A TEXT MESSAGE IMMEDIATELY—SIGN UP FOR NIXLE ON SCHOOL WEBSITE!!
http://www.catholicschooldenton.org/index.cfm?load=page&page=166

An e-mail will be sent out to those on our regular weekly school e-mail list generated from Fast Direct. If you are not receiving weekly e-mails, please contact the school or e-mail iccsoffice@gmail.com

IN CASE OF DELAYED OPENINGS, THERE WILL BE NO MORNING EXTENDED CARE: Our staff members are also unable to get to school in bad weather situations.

******REMINDER TO CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY 9 A.M. IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT**: Please see handbook: "If for any reason a student will not be in attendance at school, the parent is required to call the school office (940)381-1155 by 9:00 a.m. to report the absence." A short phone call saves the office a lot of time from having to contact parents. Thank you!!

CALENDAR ITEMS:

January 20: Martin Luther King holiday….**NO SCHOOL**
Jan. 22: NTIL Academic Meet at Sacred Heart in Muenster
January 23: Alumni Recognition Night basketball versus Sacred Heart ICCS gym
January 24: Catholic Schools Week Spaghetti Dinner and Open House sponsored by the Knights of Columbus 5:30 TO 8 P.M. IN THE GYM.
January 25: Catholic Schools Celebration Banquet Ft. Worth Convention Center
January 26-Feb. 2: Catholic Schools Week…LIST OF ACTIVITES BELOW!
January 27: IN-HOUSE REGISTRATION BEGINS FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR!!

Jan. 29: Ordination of Rev. Monsignor Michael Olson S. T. D. as the Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth…NO SCHOOL..

(OVER)

Jan. 30: **PLEASE BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM THE LAST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH FOR OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES FOR THE POOR!! THANKS FOR CARING!!!**
Feb. 1: NTIL Varsity Basketball Tournament at Tioga. End of the basketball season.
Feb. 7: NO SCHOOL….DIOCESAN IN-SERVICE…..
Feb. 12: ICCS Advisory Council Meeting 7 p.m. in the Library
Feb. 14: Brown Envelope Goes Home
Feb. 15: PSIA Area 1A Academic Meet at ICCS.
Feb. 19: Chuck-E-Cheese Family Night 3 p.m. to close
March 1: ANNUAL AUCTION!!!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR FUNDRAISING PROJECTS!

--WE RECEIVED MORE THAN $200 IN SPENDING CREDITS TO STAPLES, OFFICEMAX AND OFFICE DEPOT FOR THE LAST QUARTER OF COLLECTING USED INK CARTRIDGES!! ***Thank you so much for keeping those used cartridges coming!! Our school is able to purchase much-needed office, teacher, and classroom supplies with these credits!! WE ALSO NEED USED CELL PHONES!!!!***
THANK YOU! For turning in those who continue to support the Box Tops for Education program at Immaculate Conception Catholic School. **The school recently received a check for $1,200** which will help Our Lady's School keep Catholic education affordable for our parish families. Please continue to clip those Box Tops!! For more information to to www.boxtops4education.com

DON'T FORGET TO BRING IN THOSE CAMPBELL'S LABELS AND ALSO RECYCLE PAPER IN OUR RECYCLE BIN IN THE PARKING LOT.

--WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE FUNDS FROM TARGET-ALBERTSONS-KROGER-CHUCK-E-CHEESE-BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION-LABELS FOR EDUCATION AND MANY MORE BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT. THANK YOU!

DO YOU WORK FOR WAL-MART OR SAMS OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?

ICCS HAS RECEIVED $750 IN GRANTS FROM WAL-MART THIS YEAR FROM THE WAL-MART "VOLUNTEERISM ALWAYS PAYS (VAP)" PROGRAM. Volunteer up to 25 hours in any volunteer effort and then apply your volunteer hours to ICCS. If you are an employee of Wal-Mart or Sams, please go to their website or ask contact Mrs. Schad and she will assist you. THANK YOU AGAIN for all the ways in which you help keep Catholic Education affordable for our families!

PLEASE DRIVE SLOWY ON OUR SCHOOL CAMPUS AT ALL TIMES!!!!

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SECURITY: Please assist us in keeping our campus safe by signing in and out at the school office. Do not allow people into the building in any of the entry areas. Everyone should enter the school through the front door. If you observe anything suspicious, please report to the school office immediately. Thanks so much!

SUPERVISION: Remember, per our handbook, that children must be supervised at all times while on our campus. A parent MUST be present when the child is not under the direct supervision of the school. This includes sporting events, extra-curricular activities, and when the children are on the playground. This is a safety issue. Please help us keep the children safe!

(OVER)

Catholic Schools Week

"Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service"

Friday, January 24: "Souper Bowl" kickoff (bring soup cans for the food pantry January 24-30.)
Prizes for the Souper Bowl: the class that brings the most cans gets an ice cream sandwich party. The individual who guesses the closest amount of cans gets a non-uniform day.

Monday, January 27: Color Day: students wear jeans and a shirt and accessories in the colors chosen for your class. **IMPORTANT: follow the school handbook guidelines for non-uniform day attire.**

8Th and Kindergarten – Purple
7th and 1st – Orange
6th and 3rd – Green
5th and 2nd – Yellow
4th and Pre-K – Blue

Tuesday, January 28: Head and Toe Day! (wear crazy socks, shoes, and hats.)

Wednesday, January 29: NO SCHOOL -- Bishop Olson's installation!

Thursday, January 30: School Mass uniforms. Staff Appreciation Day. Thank your teachers!
Guessing contest: try to guess our teachers' childhood dream jobs. The individual who gets the most right will receive a free lunch from the teacher of their choice.

Friday, January 31: Student Appreciation Day. Ice cream sandwiches at lunch. Jean and Spirit Day! (refer to handbook for jean guidelines)

(OVER)