

# IC CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MNSAA SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION 08



## Back to School 2011

### Special points of interest:

- We will begin the school year on Tuesday, Sept. 6. Students will be greeted outside at 7:40 a.m. It is a full day of school.
- Our Ice Cream Social will be held on Thursday, Sept. 8 at 6:00 p.m. This will begin in the church. Students and families will then visit their classrooms. Please join us.
- School begins at 7:50 a.m. and ends at 2:40 p.m. Morning supervision begins at 7:30 a.m. and after school supervision ends at 3:05 daily.
- Bussing will be available the first week of school.

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## From the Desk of the IC Principal, Matthew Bauman

Dear IC Parents,

On Monday, August 15, we celebrate the *Feast of the Assumption of Mary*. This is the day on which we celebrate our belief that the Blessed Virgin Mary, at the end of her earthly life, "was assumed both body and soul into heaven." Our belief in the Assumption stems from our belief in the Immaculate Conception. Because Mary was preserved from sin, she was not bound to experience the consequences of sin and thereby death. Her assumption was significant for many reasons, but above all, it was a participation in her Son's resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of all the members of the body of Christ.

We should keep in mind that the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that following Mary's assumption she, "continues in heaven to exercise her maternal role on behalf of the members of Christ" (CCC 975). Therefore, all Catholics share in a special devotion

as part of our worship, but because of its name, our school — *Immaculate Conception Elementary* — shares in a special devotion to Our Lady.

With that in mind and as the school year approaches, we implore Mary's help and seek her intercession. Under her watchful care we pray that our teachers and staff continue to be professional and Christ-centered. We pray for a high level of commitment to providing an outstanding educational experience rooted in and founded on Christ. We pray that our students have a successful year and reach their greatest spiritual and academic potential.

What a wonderful thing it is to be able to open a school year by speaking about our faith, about Jesus and Mary, and by praying for our students and staff. It brings me great joy and thanks to be part of a Catholic School system. Thank you for making the commitment to a Christ-Centered education and entrusting your children to us.

While we are all excited for a new school year, we are also well aware of the value of summer days, so please continue to enjoy the beautiful weather that God has blessed us with.

In the meantime, we will be praying for your children by name. I look forward to seeing you all again this fall and can't wait to meet those of you that I don't know yet. Please take peace in knowing that your students will soon walk through our doors into the special protection of Our Lady and into the welcoming arms of a staff that truly loves Catholic education and understands God's call to serve in this unique ministry.

If you have questions as we prepare for the school year, feel free to call (947-1252) or e-mail [mbauman@gtacs.org](mailto:mbauman@gtacs.org).

In Christ,

Mr. Matthew Bauman

### STAFF CHANGES

**The following staff members retired from our building at the end of last school year:**

- Mrs. Patsy Keipper (3<sup>rd</sup> grade), Ms. Mary Conroy (4<sup>th</sup> grade), and Mrs. Jeana Paquet (5<sup>th</sup> grade) all retired at the conclusion of this past school year. Mrs. Colleen Sweeney, our secretary, has announced that she will be retiring in December. Mr. Buell, our Superintendent, reminds us: "The lives that these women have touched through their education careers cannot be measured. Their work ethic and love of children, combined with their strong faith have left an eternal imprint on Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools. Thank you seems inadequate for their years of service as educators like these are the core of a school system."

**The following changes took place in our school over the summer:**

- Megan Glynn has been named the new principal at Lake Leelanau Saint Mary. Mrs. Glynn will be missed at Immaculate Conception, but we certainly look forward to working with her at a Diocesan level.
- Mrs. Maria Elshaw will join our 5<sup>th</sup> grade team at Immaculate Conception to fill the open position created by Megan's departure. We are excited for Maria to join the teaching staff at Immaculate Conception and look forward to the love of faith and academics that she will bring to our school.
- Mrs. Lori Meddaugh left 1<sup>st</sup> grade and moved to our 4<sup>th</sup> grade team. We are thankful for Lori's flexibility and openness to move to a different grade level and know her love of education will be a gift to her new 4<sup>th</sup> grade class.
- Our new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher is Miss Erin Wolff. Miss Wolff is a native to the Traverse City area and recently completed her teaching degree from Grand Valley State University. She is excited to share her energy and enthusiasm for education with her new students, parents, and fellow staff members.
- In addition to Mrs. Meddaugh moving to 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Mrs. Kim Meachum will be moving from half-time 4<sup>th</sup> grade to full-time 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Her teaching partner, Mrs. Kelly Daciuk, will be moving from part-time 4<sup>th</sup> grade to part-time math support in our building. This addition of math support will be an asset to the school.
- Filling an opening at 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be Mrs. Jessica Kerfoot. Mrs. Kerfoot previously taught middle school when she lived in Ohio. GTACS already holds a special place in her heart as her three boys attend Holy Angels. She is pleased to be part of the staff at Immaculate Conception and share her love of faith and academics.

### Dates To Remember

**8/22/11**

School Offices Open  
School Supply Lists posted at IC (they are also available on our website)

**8/31/11**

Class lists posted at IC by 8:00 a.m.

**9/2/11**

School offices closed

**9/6/11**

First Day of School (Full Day)

**9/8/11:** IC Open House and Ice Cream Social 6:30 p.m. starting in the Church.

**9/9/11:** All System Mass at Saint Francis High School  
Please drop your child off starting at 7:20 a.m. We will gather in Kohler Auditorium.

Be sure to check out the Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures for Immaculate Conception on our website!

[http://www.gtacs.org/ic\\_dropoff.php](http://www.gtacs.org/ic_dropoff.php)

This is especially important if this is your first child to attend IC.

## 3rd Grade Information

Our 3rd grade teaching team is comprised of:

- **Mrs. Janine Winkler**  
Room 101
- **Mrs. Heidi Stoudt**  
Room 102
- **Miss Erin Wolff**  
Room 103

We are anxious to welcome our 3rd graders to their new school.

These students receive great support as they become more independent learners and read across the different curriculum areas. There is a saying that is used at GTACS: "At Holy Angels, we teach our students to read, so that when they come to IC they can read to learn." Students enjoy the extra challenges from not only their math and language arts areas, but their science and social studies, as well.

Religion is taught throughout the day with prayer and faith woven into all aspects of the curriculum.



## 4th Grade Information

Our 4th grade teaching team is comprised of:

- **Mrs. Lori Meddaugh**  
Room 208
- **Miss Jan Cleland**  
Room 209
- **Mrs. Kim Meachum**  
Room 210
- **Mrs. Lea Ann Anderson**  
Room 211

Fourth grade is an exciting year as the social studies curriculum focuses around Michigan history. Students will be learning interesting facts about the Great Lake State in which we live, and take part in some great field trips.

This is also the grade level during which students begin to use a hard cover math book

and start copying their problems out of a textbook for homework instead of using a worksheet.

Increased student responsibility becomes a strong emphasis for students and good organizational skills are important.

## 5th Grade Information

Our 5th grade teaching team is comprised of:

- **Mrs. Colleen Peters**  
Room 201
- **Mrs. Jessica Kerfoot**  
Room 202
- **Mr. Ben Beckwith**  
Room 203
- **Mrs. Maria Elshaw**  
Room 104

Our 5th grade students embark on a new year as being the leaders of our school.

This theme will be constantly reinforced, as their peers in the lower grades look up to them. These students also can experience leadership by becoming involved in our "K Kids Club", which is a form of student council, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. At this

grade level, we also begin switching classes for math only. This enables students to get a taste of middle school when they will switch for all subject areas.

Christian service will also be reinforced with a trip to Grand Rapids to help at the Feeding America Food Pantry in May.

## Additional Faculty Members and Classes

- **Mrs. Julie Forlenza, P.E.**  
All grades attend P.E. class twice a week for 30 minutes.
- **Mrs. Donna Brakel, Art**  
All grades attend once a week for 45 minutes.
- **Mrs. Margaret Wilson, Library**  
All grades attend library once a week for 30 minutes.
- **Spanish—Rosetta Stone**  
All grades attend once a week for 30 minutes.
- **Mrs. Holly Olszewski—Music**  
3rd & 4th grades attend once a week for 30 minutes.
- **Mrs. Cress Smith—Band**  
5th grade students attend twice a week for 45 minutes.
- **Mrs. Carol Johnson**  
**Keyboarding**  
This is a before-school elective opportunity for 4th and 5th grade students.
- **Ms. Jennifer Newman—**  
**St. Bridget Reading**  
Designed for students who may need extra academic support in reading.
- **Mrs. Kelly Daciuk—**  
**St. Bridget Math Support**
- **Mrs. Kathleen Allard—**  
**St. Thomas Aquinas Math**  
Designed for students who need additional academic challenges in Math.
- **Mrs. Laura Seward—**  
**St. Thomas Aquinas**  
**Language Arts**  
Designed for students who need additional academic challenges in Language Arts.

## 5th Grade Band Information

Our 5th grade students have the opportunity to play in our band. Our band director, Mrs. Cress Smith, will meet with students twice a week during the school day. Mrs. Smith is our band director for grades 5-12. There will be a parent meeting for all interested 5th grade students and families scheduled in mid- to late- September; please keep an eye out for that date in a future IC Connec-

tion. Students will be fitted for musical instruments at that time and rental plans will be discussed. This is a great way to introduce students to an instrument. Our 5th grade band will perform at various concerts throughout the year. Band students will need to wear black pants or skirts and white shirts for their concerts. Mrs. Smith will have more infor-

mation available at the parent meeting.

We do encourage that all 5th grade students enroll in band to start the school year and try it for at least a semester. Students will be permitted to "drop band" only at the end of a marking period and will need written parent permission.

## Extracurricular Activities

Students at IC have the option of participating in organized sports through the school. Students who participate must keep in mind that they are representing not only themselves, but their school, their community, their church, their parents and their team.

We have also been blessed with outstanding parent volunteers to coach our Odyssey of the Mind teams, as well as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. All of our students are invited to participate in the IC Praise Choir, which meets twice a week after school. These students sing at our weekly Masses, as well as at the Festival of Arts in May. Watch for our weekly newsletter called the IC Connection to learn more about extracurricular opportunities for your children!

A letter will also be sent home from our 4th-8th grade Athletic Director, Mrs. Julie Forlenza, detailing sports information in the near future.

### Point of interest

School handbooks will be sent home the first week of school. It is important that you read the handbook and return the acknowledgment form in the back of the handbook.

### Lunch program

Our chef-prepared, healthy school lunch is \$3 per day this year. A reminder that lunch is not included in your student's tuition at Immaculate Conception. You may begin funding your child's lunch account at any time.

Checks (to GTACS) can be mailed to Karen Spencer, Dining Services, 123 E. 11th Street, TC, MI 49684. We are also blessed with a great lunch program — thank you to everyone who works hard to provide our students a wonderful lunch.

Our weekly Mass is  
on **Wednesdays**  
(same as last year) at  
8:15 a.m. at  
Immaculate  
Conception Church.  
Please join us!  
The school will also  
meet on various  
occasions for prayer  
services and to pray  
the Rosary.

*What material food produces in our bodily life,  
Holy Communion wonderfully achieves in our spiritual life. (CCC, 1392).*

## Bus Information

TCAPS will not be printing bus routes in the Record Eagle as they have done in the past. Instead, each household will receive a postcard one week before school starts. Last year, TCAPS did have some technical troubles and non-public schools did not receive their cards. They have assured us they have rectified this issue so be looking for the information to arrive near the end of August. Should you have questions regarding your child's route after you have received your postcard or if you do not receive a postcard but have signed up for neighborhood bussing, please call TCAPS Transportation at 933-1933. If your child is riding the bus to or from school, please attach a tag or label to his/her backpack with the route numbers.

## All System Mass

There will be an All System Mass on Friday, September 9 at 8:30 a.m. in the St. Francis Gym. This is a wonderful time to gather our K-12 students to celebrate God's word and receive the Eucharist. All are invited and encouraged to attend this Mass. Students should be dropped off at the St. Francis/Holy Angels site that morning and report to the Kohler Auditorium until Mass begins. Their teachers will be there waiting for them.

## First Day of School

The first day of school, Tuesday, September 6 is a full day; TCAPS does provide bussing to and from school that day. Teachers will be on the playground at 7:40 a.m. to greet students.

## School Uniform Policy

We've made school uniform guidelines available through a link you will find in your e-mail. Be sure to check it out.

## School Supply Lists

School supply lists will be posted on the doors of IC starting Monday August 22nd (they are also available as links in this email and on our website). Class lists will be posted on the front doors on Wednesday, August 31 by 8:00 am.

*“Because  
she  
belonged to  
Christ,  
Mary, our queen,  
is raised on high,  
a great sign  
for all  
who believe.”*

## Fifth Grade Math Placements

During the first few weeks of school, our 5th grade teachers will spend time discussing and organizing an appropriate and effective way to divide students into math ability groups. The goal of these groups is to instruct each student at his or her instructional level to ensure optimal growth in math skills.

Our mission statement demands that we “develop each child to his or her fullest spiritual and academic potential;” therefore, it is essential that we divide our students, your children, into groups.

Keep an eye out early in the school year for a letter that details this process in greater depth and also lets you know who your student's math teacher will be. Any member of the fifth grade team would be delighted to further explain the process and program with you.

## NWEA MAP Testing

As many of you know, the MAP test is a computerized, adaptive testing instrument used with students in grades 2 to 8 in the areas of reading, language usage, mathematics and science. It is designed to provide two key measures to students and their educators: It identifies student instructional levels relative to a defined Learning Continuum, and it measures student academic growth over time. As such, it has great potential to directly affect instruction and student achievement.

Because the tests are adaptive and individualized, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. MAP tests give us detailed, accurate information about your child's growth. We are then able to focus on every child's individual growth and achievement. Partnering to help all children learn, parents and teachers can have a profound positive effect on the academic achievement.

We have data from all the students who took the test last spring. In addition, all 3rd grade students and all new students will take the test this fall. Using this data we will be able to better suit instruction to each child and also use it to ensure and measure annual growth.

We will let you know of the testing schedule through the school newsletter early this fall.

## After-School Care

We will continue to offer our after school child care program at Immaculate Conception, which is coordinated by Munson Childcare Services. Parents who are intending to use this program need to register their children by contacting Brigid Wilson at 935-7990 (bwilson@mhc.net). Child care will NOT be available on the first day of school, but will start on Wednesday, September 7. Munson representatives will be here on Tuesday, September 6 to register students. Registration packets are also available in the Business Office or in our IC office. The program runs daily from 2:40 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. downstairs in the school social hall.