

IC CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MNSAA SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION 08



MISSION STATEMENT: *Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools are dedicated to providing a Catholic educational quality for all families willing to enter into a partnership to develop each child to his or her fullest spiritual and academic potential.*

Upcoming Events:

- 1/11 Mass at 8:15 a.m.
Mrs. Peter's Class
- 1/14 KFC Free Throw contest
- 1/16 School Geographic Bee at 1:00 in Gym
- 1/18 Mass at 8:15 a.m.
Mr. Beckwith's Class
- 1/20 Grub Day / Half Day- 11:00 dismissal **Parent Pick Up/** End of the 2nd quarter.
- 1/26 Report Cards go home
- 1/27 5th grade Raffle/ Popcorn Day
- 1/28-2/3 Catholic Schools Week

Monthly Beatitude

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown
mercy.

Our Prayers Are With...

- Lydia Schluter as she recovers from surgery.
- Our GTACS Family as we start a new year may we grow in our desire for a closer relationship with Christ.



Published January 6, 2012

Deadline for submissions to this newsletter is Thursday @ 11:00 a.m.

Please email information for the Immaculate Conception newsletter to Denise Krueger at dkrueg@gtacs.org

Please email information for system-wide distribution to Cathy Nelson at cnelson@gtacs.org

Repeat items are in italicized text.

From the Principal:

Ordinary Time begins next week with the joy of Christmas lingering in our hearts. As we know, Ordinary Time is a time of year that the Church does not celebrate a specific mystery of Christ. Rather, especially on Sundays, they are devoted to the mystery of Christ in all fullness (General Norms, 43). January, February, and March are also a wonderful time of the year academically. It is a time in the school year when some of the best teaching and learning is accomplished.

I pray that all of our families had a wonderful Christmas Break and great first week back to school. It's nice to see all the smiling faces back in the building. As I sat in classrooms over this past week, I continue to marvel at the high quality of teaching and learning that takes place on a daily basis at Immaculate Conception. Besides moving into Ordinary time next week we also begin the winter benchmarking for the Aims Web assessment, which assesses reading fluency and comprehension. This winter benchmarking will help guide our instruction and the teaching of our students in the subject of reading—just another tool that our teachers have to help your children grow.

End of the Quarter: The second quarter has moved along quickly and is ending on Friday the 20th. The teachers and Mrs. Krueger will be hard at work preparing report cards which are scheduled to go home on Thursday the 26th. Take note that the 20th is a ½ day for students with parent pick up.

School Masses: As most of you know our school Masses are on Wednesdays at 8:15. All ARE WELCOME... we'd love to have you join us. (Note: we do not have school Mass on February 1st because we will have an All System Mass on Friday the 3rd for Catholic Schools Week).

Peace,

Winter Weather Attire

The snow has finally arrived. Winter weather attire (boots, gloves, hats, and jackets) is required to go outside for recess. We also require that students have a pair of shoes to wear inside the building because the wet boots will be left outside the classroom. Snow pants are not required unless your student plans to go on the snow hill (which most do).

Attention All 3rd and 4th Grade Boys and Girls!

The St Francis basketball camp starts Saturday December 7th at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Middle School from 9:00-10:00 a.m. for 3rd and 4th graders. Camp will run for five consecutive Saturdays. More information will be available at the first practice. For more information call Coach Haske, at (231) 946-8038.

Parent Lunch Duty Schedule week of 1/9-13/2012.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Rita Thompson	Helen Alfaro	William Fournier	Theresa Kerry	Carol Weber
Ashley Frederick	Jacob Andrews	Seeda Riddell	James Rehmann	Brennan Nickodemus
Madeline Hodges	Annie Lamie	Peter Smith	Benjamin Thelan	Finnagan Ritchie

If you cannot make your day please find a replacement or send \$15 to the IC office to hire a sub with at least 24 hour notice. The schedule for the entire year is posted on the GTACS website for your convenience. **Lunch Times** are 5th grade 11:05am-11:45am, 3rd grade 11:40am-12:20pm, 4th grade 12:15pm-12:55pm.

National Vocations Awareness Week

Next week is National Vocations Awareness Week. It is important that we say thank you to our priests and seminarians and keep them formally, regularly, and consistently in our prayers. Yesterday, we were happy to have a visit from one of our Seminarians, Sean Farkas. We are very thankful that he was willing to spend the entire day with us and visit each and every classroom. He related his journey to the priesthood and encouraged our children to allow God to guide them to their future vocation. The students and teachers enjoyed having Sean in our building, and they commented on the fact that he not only seemed like a regular guy but he also projected holiness. It will be a great joy for GTACS when one of our young men or women enters religious life.

National Geographic Bee at IC

Monday, January 16, at 1:00 in the IC Gym we will have twenty-six 4th and 5th graders participating in our school's 4th annual Geographic Bee to determine the winner and runner-up of our School Bee. Family and friends are invited to come and support the following students who qualified for the School Bee: Peter Beard, Isabelle Beckwith, Jonathon Boehmer, Aidan Bramer, Henry Carroll, Olivia Donahue, Tommy Gallagher, Wade Gerberding, Thomas Hardy, Madeline Hodges, Lauren Horning, Brandon Hugard, Anna Joseph, Claire Kalajian, Luke Krcmarik, Hope Kurtz, Isaac Laucky, Evan McGee, Ben Mueller, Anne Marie Myler, Sean Navin, Kyle Rose, Christine Scerbak, Joe Thuente, Sam Tocco, and Melanie Weber.

General geographic knowledge will be tested. Everyone can test their knowledge of geography with the exciting GeoBee Challenge, an online geography quiz at www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee, which poses 10 new questions a day, or by downloading the GeoBee Challenge app for iPhones, iPods, and iPads. Keep reading about other countries and looking at those maps!

Tom's Receipts Due

Please gather up your saved Tom's receipts dated October, November, and December 2011 and send them in with your child. The deadline to turn them in to school is next Wednesday, January 11th. We receive 1% cash back for every receipt submitted. Let's beat our mark of \$250 of free money received last quarter! Thanks for your participation.

Box Tops for Education

The Box Tops for Education people are introducing a new way to earn cash for schools. Simply go online to boxtops4education.com and register yourself as a supporter of Immaculate Conception. Then choose what activities you'd like to do, such as watch a video clip or take a short survey. Box Tops will electronically be added to IC's total! Please keep saving your regular Box Tops at home until further notice. We will have another heated contest between schools in the spring!

PTC - Catholic Schools Week

January 28 - February 3rd

We are still looking for car line assistance during Catholic Schools Week. Anyone that would like to give our teachers a much deserved break from car line can email Michelle Art at michelle.artz@gmail.com. We need help with car line before and after school. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Rosary Group

We would like to start a parent Rosary group at our school this year. We have reserved a time right before our school Mass on Wednesday in the church. It would be great if there was a group of parents who were interested in meeting before Mass to pray the rosary. If you are a parent who is interested in organizing and leading this, please let Mr. Bauman know (mbauman@GTACS.org or 947-1252).

HAPPY NEW YEAR