

IC CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MHSAA 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.

Published December 21, 2011

*Deadline for submissions to this newsletter is Thursday @ 11:00 am
Please e-mail information for IC to Colleen Sweeney at csween@gtacs.org
Please send information for system-wide distribution to cnelson@gtacs.org*

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed. 12/2	7:00 pm Band concert
Tues. 01/03	School Resumes
Wed. 1/4	8:15 Mass – Staff

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Difference is Prayer

During the past four weeks of Advent we have been preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. That preparation will soon come to an end as we begin our Christmas celebration. “Jesus was born in a humble stable, into a poor family. Simple shepherds were the first witnesses to this event. In this poverty, heaven’s glory was made manifest. The Church never tires of singing the “glory of this night” (C.C.C., 525). As we celebrate on Christmas Day, let us be reminded that this is only the start of our celebration! The Christmas season is celebrated through the Solemnity of the Baptism of our Lord on Monday, January 9th—after which we will once again begin Ordinary Time. Let us go into our break today eagerly anticipating the celebration of the birth of Jesus and the upcoming Christmas season. I pray that each of you has a restful and blessed Christmas Break. School resumes on Tuesday January 3rd.

When school resumes on the 3rd, you will be greeted by a different face in our school office and a different voice on our school phone for the first time in many years. Mrs. Denise Krueger comes over from Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton to take Ms. Colleen Sweeney’s place as she enters into retirement. I speak for everyone in our building, when I say that we are sad to see Ms. Sweeney go; she knows the ins and outs, the inner workings, the smallest details, and the largest details of our school building; she handles the sick, the crying, and the sniffing; she is a “mother” to the teachers and staff; she got me “trained” as a first year principal who was so fortunate to have a veteran secretary in place when I started; parents rely on her to pass on messages, deliver medicine, and answer all their questions.

We are so thankful for the time that Ms. Sweeney has spent at Immaculate Conception—our building is a better place because of her. While she will certainly be missed, let me be clear—I’m also very happy for her and wish her the best. Ms. Sweeney really enjoys traveling—we pray that she is able to travel a lot while also stopping back at IC from time to time.

As she departs, please join me in welcoming Mrs. Krueger over from Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. We are blessed to welcome in someone with her experience and knowledge of a GTACS office. Please pray for Ms. Sweeney in her retirement and Mrs. Krueger in her transition.

Thank You: I'd like to thank everyone for all your kind words and prayers for the birth of our newest son Jacob Allan. We are excited to enjoy Christmas this year with Mikey and Jake keeping us especially busy. My wife and baby Jake are doing great. Thanks again for thinking of s and praying for us. Also, a thank you for all of the wonderful Christmas gifyour received from many of you and your families. God Bless you!

Advent Pageant: Yesterday our parents, relatives, and friends poured into the gym as our children performed our Advent Pageant. Thank you to all the teachers and students and specifically to Mrs. Julie Forlenza, Mrs. Jessica Kerfoot, and Miss Jan Cleland, Mrs. Heidi Stoudt who helped organize the pageant. Further, I would like to thank the talented pianist Mrs. Heidi Mueller who accompanied our students.

5th-12th Grade Band Concert: The band concert takes places tonight in the Saint Francis Gym. The concert begins at 7:00. Good luck to all of our 5th grade band members.

Upcoming:

- **Sunday January 1st** is the Feast of the Solemnity of Mary.
- School resumes on **Tuesday January 3rd**.
- On **Friday January 6th** the Student Led Credit Union is open. Students may make deposits and workers should bring their money magic t-shirts.
- **Friday January 20th** is a Grub Day for our local Right to Life office. It is ½ day and that ends the 2nd quarter. Report cards will go home the following Thursday (January 26th).
- Our Christmas Celebration comes to an end on **Monday January 9th** and we return to Ordinary Time.

Peace,



Mr. Matthew Bauman

Good-bye It is with a whole basketful of emotions that I bid you farewell. I have been here at Immaculate Conception for nine and a half years and before that in the office of St. Francis High School for eight years. In those seventeen and a half years, I have experienced extreme joys and happiness, and shared in deep sorrows and loss. I am now enjoying children of students I had at the high school, or children of families I have known when I was raising my own family forty years ago!

I will always be grateful for the interaction I have enjoyed with the hundreds of students here. The early morning waves, smiles, hugs and working through the hurts will be a long time memory. I have no idea how many band-aids I have applied, how much Super-sorb (throw up stuff) I have sprinkled or how many icebags I have filled. I do know from Mr. Gorney (former principal) that 30 trips to the cafeteria and back for ice equal a mile! I was always offered a birthday treat and goodies from classroom parties. It seems that I was included in so many events. There have been countless wishes of good luck and congratulations by phone, e-mail and in person from you. I truly appreciate your kindness and caring for me. It is really overwhelming to be so appreciated!

I have been especially touched by comments from parents relating what their children said about me at home. Some of the current students have already expressed regret to their younger siblings that they would not have me as a secretary. Another new third grader told his anxious

mother last fall not to worry because Ms. Sweeney would take care of him. He had been tagging along in the previous years when his older sister was here and knew me. I have also been a substitute grandmother to those who have out of town/state grandparents. Another student delivered the Scout popcorn that I ordered and said it was a gift of thanks for “putting up with him and his brother”! I assure it was not a matter of “putting up” with anyone, just an adventure filled journey!! If I have offended any of you during my time here, it definitely was not intentional, and I sincerely apologize and hope you can forgive me. You will be in my thoughts, heart and prayers. God Bless You.

My next journey takes me on a cross country road trip down to South Carolina, west to Nevada, south to Arizona, and back east through Texas, Louisiana to Florida and then back home by February 20th. I will have my cell phone and notebook with me, so you can e-mail me at tccolleensweeney@aol.com Thank you again Love and Prayers, Colleen Sweeney

Lunch Times

5th grade 11:05am-11:45am, 3rd grade 11:40am-12:20pm, 4th grade 12:15pm-12:55pm. If you are unable to serve your assigned time, please make a trade with someone. If you are unable to do this, please notify the office in advance and send in \$15.00 to cover a sub. THANK YOU!

LUNCH/PLAYGROUND DUTY

Mon. 1/2 NO School
Tues. 1/3
Wed. 1/4
Thurs. 1/5
Fri. 1/6

STUDENT DIRECTORIES 2011-2012 are here, in the office for purchase - \$5.00 each. There is also an insert for the incorrect last page.

Band Parents, This is just a reminder that the 5-12 Christmas Collage Concert is Wednesday, December 21. The performance will take place at the St. Francis Gym and begin at 7:00. The format of the concert will be a collage concert in that the bands will all be simultaneously set-up and listening to each other. All groups are expected to wear concert uniforms. Members of the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade bands should wear black pants/skirts and a white collared shirt. High School Band members will wear concert tuxedos & dresses. Yes, students may wear “elf hats” or “Santa hats”. The entire performance should conclude at approximately 8:15.

All students report at 6:30 - Fifth Grade students will be meeting in the front of Kohler Auditorium, 7th & 8th Grade Band in the back of Kohler Auditorium, 6th Band in the SF photography room (SF basement) & H.S Band in the SF Band room.

All students have been asked to stay at the conclusion of the concert to “tear-down” the gym – all equipment must be returned and stored in the SF Band room for Christmas vacation.

PLEASE STAY AND HELP CLEAN!!

Looking forward to seeing you at the concert! Please feel free to call or e-mail any questions. Cress H. Smith

Box Tops Collecting Tip!

The holidays make a perfect time to ask far-away relatives to save Box Tops for your child.

Children find great joy in receiving envelopes in the mail filled with Box Tops from loved ones, as we all know that every Box Top helps our school, 10 cents at a time. You should have received a template letter for your child to fill out and give to a relative or family friend to inform them about our Box Tops program here at Immaculate Conception. Encourage your child pass

them out, making more copies if needed. Thanks for your continued support, and keep saving those Box Tops for our spring competition!

Vocations Join us as we celebrate Vocations in the Diocese of Gaylord on Saturday, January 7 at St. Mary Cathedral in Gaylord. Coinciding with the Feast of Epiphany, this year's event will begin with Mass celebrated at 5:00 by Bishop Hebda and followed by a "12th Night"-themed buffet dinner. Fr. Francis Partridge will be the keynote speaker. Another highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the Vocations Recognition Awards. This year's recipients include: Joel and Mary Beth Myler and family of Traverse City; Rev. Edwin Thome and the Parishioners of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Traverse City; and all of The Knights of Columbus of the Diocese of Gaylord. Special entertainment and time to meet and greet our seminarians is also being planned. Everyone is invited. There is no cost to attend, but a freewill offering to offset the cost of the meal will be accepted. Space is limited so advance reservations are required. Leave a message for Susan Roundy at the Diocese at 989.732.5147 or send your reservation via e-mail to sroundy@dioceseofgaylord.org no later than January 4

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 - 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 for 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).

FESTIVAL OF TRAINS is taking place from now until January 1st, and we have coupons for \$2.00 off a child's admission bringing the cost for a 4-17 year old to \$2.00. Pick them up in the office if you would like to go.

Dear Parents, I am offering a chance for 4th and 5th graders at I.C to have an **after school computer class**. This class will run two days a week for one nine week period. There will be two segments: Computers 1 and Computers 2. Holding this class will also depend on the number of students interested in joining. The class will start directly following school and run until 3:40. The cost will be \$50.00 per student per segment. **If you are interested in this class please fill**

