



Immaculate Conception Grade School

YEAR IN REVIEW | 2019 – 2020

Our Mission

As an educational ministry of Immaculate Conception Parish, we partner with parents to prepare students for lives as Catholic leaders.

As Christians empowered by the Holy Spirit, we focus on formation through prayer, message, concern, and service to community. We teach students to live a life that embodies these values, is centered in Christ, and strives for their greatest academic potential. They will experience a world around them rich in God's love.

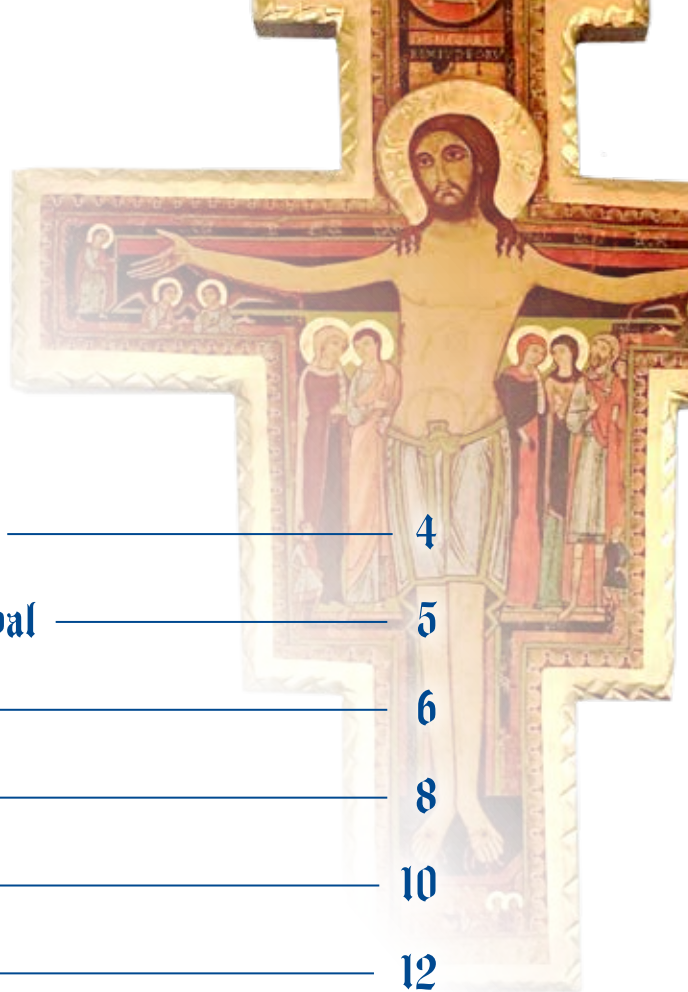


8th Grade Team Building at Lincoln Marsh



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“ Let’s talk about something from the past that can help you in your future. Until 1916, this parish was called, ‘St. Mary’s.’ I recently read a history of the parish and found a poem that all the early German students of Saint Mary’s school learned by heart. The poem reads:

**Where there is faith, there is love.
Where there is love, there is freedom.
Where there is freedom, there is God.
Where there is God, there is no further need.**

Just remember four words from that poem: faith, love, freedom, and God. If you live by those words, each and every one of you will be a distinguished graduate of Immaculate Conception Grade School.”

~ Tom Westhoff

A Message From Our Pastor



**Very Reverend
Thomas L. Paul,
V.F.**

Pastor
Immaculate
Conception Parish

Dear Immaculate Conception Grade School Family,

What a year has it been! The school year began in August with another great start. After much planning and hard work, the administration, faculty, and staff welcomed back the children to their school. One of the beautiful things about ICGS is that in many ways it is an extension of the homes that the children come from. While they are here in our classrooms, they form family units that may stay with them for the rest of their lives. Our graduates always comment on how difficult it is for them to leave, because their school is such an important part of their lives.

Soon after the first of the year, the news started coming about the issues related to the pandemic in some places of the world. Thankfully, our teachers and staff had decided to start getting ready for how to handle education if there was a need to do so away from the classrooms. Suddenly in March, word came that our schools were closing. At that time, we had no idea as to how long this would last. For a while, we thought that sometime in mid-April we would be back in session. As we began to realize that we had little control over the situation, it became a reality that there would be no classes for the rest of the school year.

The many disruptions in our daily routines that we all have faced during this time have been significant. The lives of the ICGS children certainly have been impacted with tremendous change. Even so, I think it is important to commend every effort made to create as much normalcy as possible during these days. Because our administration and teachers were ready to implement e-learning,

the progress of our program was far ahead of what was being done in most other schools. The education of the children no longer took place in our school building. It now occurred at their dining room and kitchen tables and in many other places in their homes. Numerous creative experiences also took place to help the learning process be enjoyable and not dull. Fortunately, parents and many others took on leadership roles in the oversight of the education of their children. These tasks were not always easy, but because of the collaboration between all involved, they were successful.

We look forward to what lies ahead! Because we are the IC family in the best of times and in the hardest of times, we unite together. Let us give thanks to God for the strength and blessings that we have received throughout this school year.

God's blessings to all of you!



Father Tom joins Pre-K 4 at the 8th Grade Boys vs. the Joliet Jammers Basketball Game

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION GRADE SCHOOL



Father Tom and ABC 7's, Tracy Butler
at the Toys for Tots Collection

A Message From Our Principal



**Mrs.
Cathy Linley**

*Principal
Immaculate Conception
Grade School*

“Don’t shine so that others can see you. Shine so that through you others can see HIM.”

~ C.S. Lewis

As we begin each new year, we embrace a theme for our Immaculate Conception Grade School community that will inspire, encourage, and remind us to walk through each day as people who make the ways of faith a priority. This year our focus was on “Letting our lives SHINE with God’s Truth, Beauty, and Goodness.” We used the hashtag, “#icgsshines” to reflect that theme. Our goal was to allow our thoughts, words, and actions to be permeated with God’s love so that His love would “shine” in the world around us. Teaching our children our Catholic values and giving them opportunities to exercise those values is the foundation for promoting God’s love in our world. Maintaining high expectations and calling ourselves to high standards is key to helping our children become the leaders of the future.

My heart fills with pride as I see God’s truth reflected in so many facets of our ICGS daily life. We listen to His Word proclaimed, discussed, and connected to our everyday lives. His truth shines through our students who are dedicated to prayer during our weekly Mass, our Rosary, our Stations of the Cross, and during classroom prayer time. God’s truth shines through in our students’ poems written about prayer and God’s love for all of us, in

their encouraging letters to members of our IC and Elmhurst communities, and in their essays exploring current social justice concerns. God’s teachings provide the beacon of unchanging truth that our children need.

God’s beauty surrounds and sometimes overwhelms me each day as I enter Immaculate Conception Grade School. The beauty of our staff and parents is so evident in the ways they give of themselves to ensure the very best for our children during these most formative years. God’s beauty shines brightly through these children as they build treasured friendships, develop compassionate hearts, identify their gifts from God, and share their joys and sorrows each day. I discovered very quickly this year that even a global pandemic is no match for the fortitude and beauty that shines through the children of Immaculate Conception Grade School.

The goodness of God, active and evident throughout our ICGS community is apparent in countless ways. I love watching our

students’ goodness shine through service projects (like our student ambassadors’ initiative to provide an opportunity for students to showcase their beloved pets in honor of St. Francis of Assisi), through quiet acts of kindness (like the generosity of a classmate who donated altar serving pay to a scholarship fund), and through the respect they show each other while building true families of faith. Within those faith families (comprised of students from 1st to 8th grade), I witness our older students share their own faith and goodness as they teach and model Jesus’ love with their younger family members. Finally, God’s goodness was overwhelmingly shown to our faculty and staff as we marveled at the 100+ cars that paraded by ICGS with waving families, balloons, and signs to end our school year.

I believe it is because we are a family rooted in faith, a faith that tells us that we can build God’s Kingdom by reflecting His truth, beauty, and goodness in the face of any challenge, that not even a global pandemic can stop us.



Marcia May Light the Knight Fun Run



School Board Highlights



Alina Cahill

School Board
President

It has been my great pleasure and honor to serve with my fellow board members on the ICGS School Board...

...My three years on the board have given me a great insight into the dedication and commitment of our ICGS administration, faculty, staff, parents, and coaches. The wonderful relationships between all these individuals makes ICGS a wonderful community. With the onset of the global pandemic, these last months have especially highlighted for me the reasons we send our children to ICGS. From the immediate and seamless start of e-learning to Zoom scavenger hunts to school car parades,

my appreciation and pride in our school and sense of family has deepened.

I would like to share some of the key areas with which the School Board, in partnership with ICGS administration, has been involved this year:

- ~ With funds from the 2018–2019 Annual Appeal a new Pre-K 3 space was renovated to accommodate a 5-day / week morning program and a new west side entrance was installed to enhance the safety of drop off in the Pre-K 4 room.
- ~ Initiated the steps to begin redesigning our school website for the 2021–2022 school year. With the unexpected technological needs brought on by the pandemic, our initial goal of a 2020–2021 deadline required adjustment and will provide additional time for a smooth reboot.
- ~ Worked with ICGS Parents' Club to design sponsorship and marketing strategies to better serve our community / businesses, restructure roles to meet evolving strategies, transition Kindergarten welcome sign initiative to Newcomers / Welcoming committee, and improve intergroup communications regarding budgetary needs of the school.
- ~ Attended Diocese of Joliet Catholic Schools Office meetings, parish Finance and Faith Formation Committee meetings, and ICGS Parents' Club meetings
- ~ Supported the Development Office in marketing strategies / enrollment recruitment and facilitated a new wine & cheese format
- ~ Marketed the "Empower Illinois" tuition tax credit program to parents interested in taking advantage of its tax benefits while providing an opportunity for families in need to receive an ICGS education
- ~ Conducted the 2019–2020 Annual Appeal to raise funds for the enhancement of the ICGS educational environment. A report on the success of this effort will be distributed in the fall.
- ~ Managed and concluded the ICGS Queen of Hearts Jackpot to raise funds and awareness for the ICGS Education Endowment Fund, which met its goal of \$1,000,000 earlier this year. Unfortunately, the unanticipated pandemic and global market fluctuations impacted the Endowment, which later fell below the goal and will continue to be a focus of the board. Once the goal is reestablished, the interest income can



Tom Dewbray on the Winning Night of the Queen of Hearts Jackpot

be used to offset inflationary increases, to retain quality teachers, and to provide tuition assistance to families in crisis.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow school board members for their dedication and willingness to share their talents, time, and passion for the benefit of our school. I would like to highlight our retiring members. Having served their 3 year terms, Amy Brandt and Robert Moore have positively impacted our initiatives and duties in countless ways, especially in developing our After-Care Program, managing our Queen of Hearts Jackpot, and serving on our Finance Committee. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Tom Dewbray, Past-President and retiring board member. His personal mentorship throughout the year, successful promotion of "Empower Illinois," ongoing leadership, and continued passion for board initiatives are truly appreciated.



Pre-K 3 loves their new classroom!

2019 ~ 2020 School Board Members



Tom Dewbray
Past President



Amy Brandt



Robert Moore



Carrie Pikulik



Marcie Wolbeck



Shauna Brueggen



Alexis Bolt



Andy Denekas

A special note of appreciation is extended to Katy Ahern. Having just retired from the School Board where she'd served as President, Katy lovingly agreed to serve an additional 2 years as Parents' Club President. Her dedication and passion for our school have no bounds, and we are blessed to have her as part of our community. Our amazing Parents' Club not only raises much needed funds, but more importantly, provides lasting friendship opportunities for our parents.

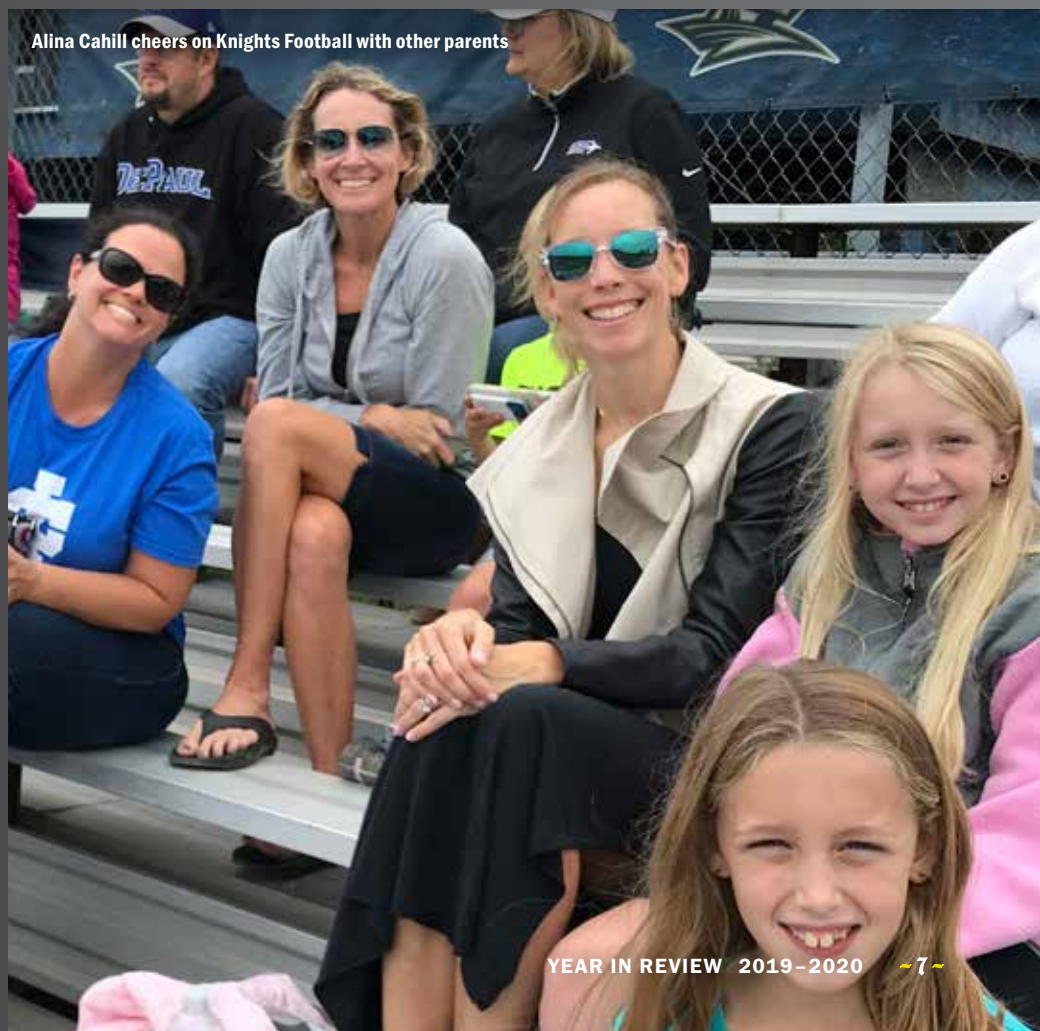
On behalf of the ICGS School Board, I would like to thank our priests, administration, teachers, staff, and parents for all the generous ways they contribute to the success of Immaculate Conception Grade School.

Finally, I would like to thank each and every parent for all the generous ways they support the mission of ICGS. Especially during this unprecedented time in our history, I have been amazed by the responsiveness and great lengths our teachers, staff, clergy, and families have gone to for the good of our children, school, parish, and Elmhurst community. We truly are all in this together.

We are IC!



New Pre-K 4 Entry for Safer Drop-off



Alina Cahill cheers on Knights Football with other parents

Parents' Club Highlights



Katy Ahern

*Parents' Club
President*

The ICGS Parents' Club – comprised of ALL of our parents – came together to yield tremendous results this year. We provided truly impressive financial support to the school and created many programs to enhance our children's educational experiences. During these unprecedented times due to COVID-19, our community came together

even stronger and supported our school, teachers, and each other in creative ways.

Through our fundraising efforts throughout the year, we raised more than \$277,000! We contributed \$115,000 to cover ICGS operating expenses which helps keep tuition lower. We donated \$65,000 for teacher bonuses (which includes generous donations to the Teacher Appreciation Fund); \$20,000 to the Annual Appeal; almost \$20,000 for tuition assistance, and \$10,000 for the Endowment Fund.

Our Parents' Club dedicated many hours and funds to a wide range of activities for the children including the Halloween Hoedown, school play, classroom activities, fine arts,

dance class, Destination Imagination, year-round Teacher Appreciation programs, Cardio Club, enrichment programs, and much more! Parents also led several programs for our families: a mentoring program for new families, the Back to School Ice Cream Social, school supplies program, IC Scrip, prayer group, spirit wear, uniform exchange, website support, and more.

COVID-19 created new challenges for our community. Our parents organized birthday car parades for classmates, created masks for essential workers, videos, virtual graduations, made special deliveries to students, and much more! While our 8th graders didn't experience the traditional, very special

graduation events our Parents' Club usually hosts, our administration and teachers provided a proper virtual send-off–delivered right to their homes! One thing is true, our 8th graders developed new strengths: the ability to overcome adversity, resilience, and patience. God bless them as they enter high school and continue to make us proud.

I am honored to be a part of a very special organization, and proud of our accomplishments.

Thank you to Father Tom, Mrs. Linley, our faculty and staff, and our incredible parents for your support!





Mom & Son Prom



Christmas Tree Lot Setup

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION GRADE SCHOOL



1900 Club Golf Outing

YEAR IN REVIEW 2019-2020

Academic Highlights

At Immaculate Conception Grade School we have a reputation for setting high academic standards from the earliest stages.

We place a heavy emphasis on developing self-discipline, time management, and practice skills so that our students are well-prepared for high school. Year after year, high school administrators reach out to express their appreciation for how well prepared they find our graduates. We realize however, that not every student is the same. For that reason, we provide different levels of instruction within our grades, along with the aid of Reading and Math Specialists. With these resources, we can meet the needs of all our students, whether they need additional help or to be challenged. Our curriculum is aligned with the learning standards of both the Diocese of Joliet and the State of Illinois. Additionally, we have been accredited by AdvancED, the world's largest school accrediting agency.

The following standardized tests and benchmarks were utilized this year:

Kindergarten – 1st Grade
Illinois Snapshot of Early Literacy (ISEL)

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade
Reading & Math Easy Computer-Based Measures (CBMs)*

1st – 7th Grades
Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)*

3rd – 7th Grades
~ Northwest Evaluation Association for Math, Reading, and Language Arts (MAP)*
~ Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)*
* Completed in fall / not completed in spring due to COVID-19

5th Grade
ACRE Test

7th Grade
U.S. Constitution Test

8th Grade
~ IL Constitution Test and High School Placement
~ Northwest Evaluation for Math, Reading, and Language Arts (MAP) (Completed in both fall & spring)
~ ACRE Test



2nd Graders Use their Smartboard During Math

Academic Competitions

Illinois Junior Academy of Science
13 ICGS 7th Graders competed at the Illinois Jr. Academy of Science Region II Fair at the University of St. Francis in Joliet.

The following are their excellent regional fair results:

Gold	4
Silver	3
Bronze	1

Several ICGS students were not able to present their projects at the virtual regional fair but were given participation awards for qualifying.

“As we get ready to say ‘so long’ to ICGS, our family is incredibly grateful to the teachers and administrators for all they’ve given to our family these past 12 years! We couldn’t have asked for a better school and faith community for our family to be a part of; or for a better start to our girls’ academic lives. Thank you!”

Stacey & Scott Bogumil

Parents



3rd Graders Show their Animal Habitat Dioramas to Kindergarten

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION GRADE SCHOOL



Pre-K 4 learns about how our appearance may be different but inside we are all the same (in honor of MLK Day).

5th Grade Worm
Compost Lab



Kindergarten Art Class

2019 IC Catholic Prep Math Contest

- ~ Overall 2nd Place Finish
- ~ Individual 3rd Place Finish
- ~ 7th Grade: One Individual Top 10% Finish
- ~ 8th Grade: Three Individual Top 20% Finishes

2019 Fenwick Math Contest

Individual 4th Place Finish

2020 Elmhurst Fire Department

“Learn Not to Burn” Poster Contest
Overall City of Elmhurst Contest Winner

*The Illinois State Science Fair
was cancelled due to COVID-19.*

Academic Scholarship

*A number of our 8th grade students were
awarded high school scholarships including:*

- ~ Captain William Cronin Scholarship to IC Catholic Prep
- ~ IC Catholic Prep Entrance Exam Scholarship (2)
- ~ IC Catholic Prep Math Contest Scholarship (2)
- ~ Kazma Family Scholarship to IC Catholic Prep (2)
- ~ Fenwick Lawless Scholarship (2)
- ~ Nazareth Academy Unity Scholarship



8th Grade Lincoln Marsh Team Building



4th Grade Learns About Human Body Systems

E-Learning Highlights

On March 14th, it was announced that Immaculate Conception Grade School would be closed due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

In preparation for E-learning, the ICGS administration sent students home with textbooks, workbooks and, if necessary, Chromebook computers. In the weeks leading up to the school's closing, administrators and faculty members began making preparations to pivot to e-learning. Resources were explored and shared among teachers on a daily basis. On Tuesday, March 17, students officially transitioned to this new format of learning from home. We could not be prouder of how well our entire school community adjusted to this massive change. Because at ICGS we place a heavy emphasis on independent study and work, time management, and homework reinforcement, this transition went more smoothly than we could have hoped.

The following are some of the highlights of our ICGS community's period of E-learning from March 17 – May 29:

- ~ Livestreamed ICGS Friday masses with virtual student cantor participation



5th Grade Virtual Poetry Tea

- ~ School-wide Rosaries, Music Ministry Sing-A-Longs, and IC Parish Adoration
- ~ Daily messages from Mrs. Linley including, "Where is Mrs. Linley?" game & Easter Challenge window art contest
- ~ Weekly encouragement & coping strategies from Karen Proctor, our social worker
- ~ Videos, notes, posters, and cards of gratitude, encouragement, and birthday wishes
- ~ Engaging e-learning opportunities and personalized support for students
- ~ Virtual events including kindergarten graduation, virtual "Poetry Teas," "Flat Mrs. Caper" project, travel by car art display, scavenger hunt, Pre-K 4 graduation video, fort building challenge, Bingo, and more
- ~ 8th grade science class guest speakers on Zoom including scientists from NASA and SpaceX, and an animal rights attorney
- ~ Virtual May Crowning, Ribbon Mass, in-person special deliveries to honor our 8th grade graduates, and daily spotlights of all 8th graders via social media and email
- ~ Student Council "Cheer Up" video and "Knight Banner" newsletter quarantine activities
- ~ Classmate birthday parades
- ~ Classroom Zoom meetings and lunch gatherings
- ~ Record contributions by parents to the Teacher Appreciation Fund which enabled the Parents' Club to supplement our teacher bonuses and provide an additional \$65,000 to the teachers
- ~ Created outdoor signage to recognize community essential workers and our 2020 graduates
- ~ End-of-year family car parade (more than 100 families in attendance) with teachers and administration lined up in front of the school



8th Grade Graduate Social Media Spotlight



Students Celebrate May Crowning at Home

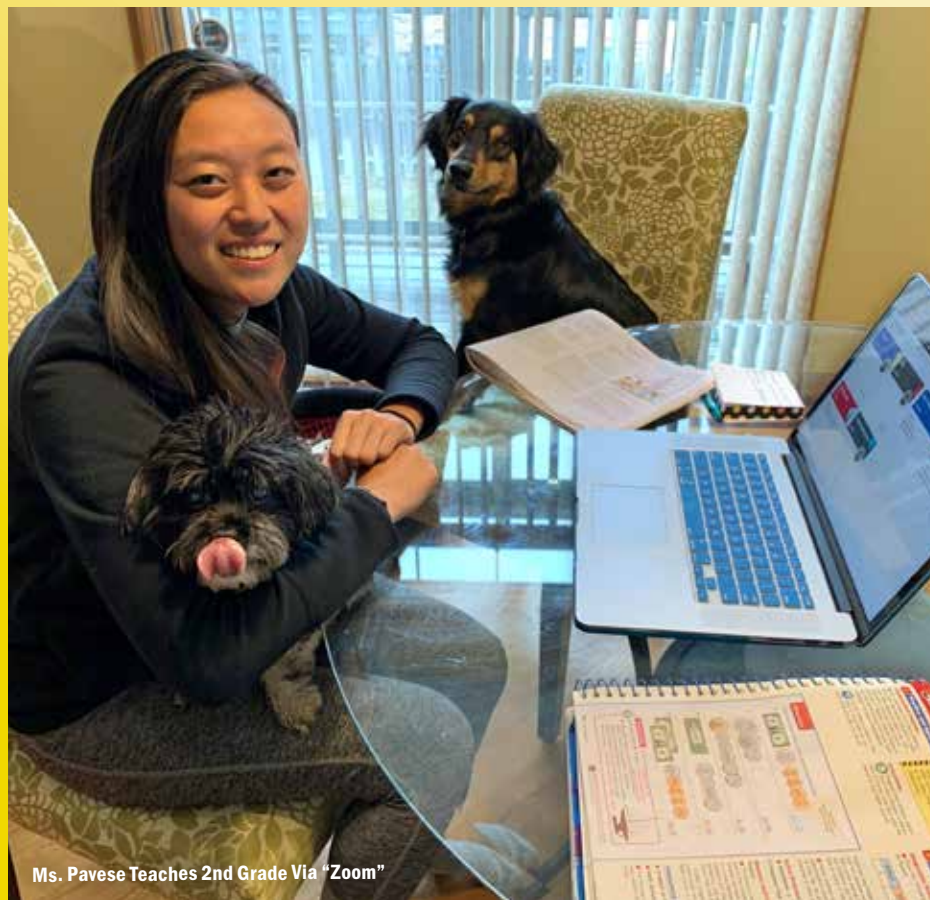


4th Grade Sound & Pitch Science Experiment





Kindergarten Printing Practice



Ms. Pavese Teaches 2nd Grade Via "Zoom"

“ We miss the physical connection with teachers and friends but are grateful for the Herculean efforts to keep us virtually connected in spirit and learning. ICGS teachers are truly amazing – our kids love you like family.”

Shauna Brueggen

Parent

End-of-the-Year Car Parade



Catholic Faith in Action

"Faith in action is love and love in action is service."

~ Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Our ICGS students, as they grow in their Catholic faith, understand that the Eucharist and their daily prayer life should embolden them to be people of action. Our older students, who serve as the heads of Faith Families, understand their role as leaders for the younger students. Throughout the year, our school community initiates and takes part in a variety of outreach activities to serve those in need. Even though our year together at school was cut short due to the Coronavirus, the following are just some of the service projects our students participated in this year:

~ Raised funds for World Food Awareness Day, a global movement to eliminate hunger

- ~ Made "no sew" blankets for DuPage PADS
- ~ Christmas caroled for seniors at Park Place Senior Living
- ~ Made cards of encouragement for alumni serving in the military
- ~ Collected toys for the ABC 7 News & U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots drive
- ~ In lieu of Christmas parties, several older grades participated in service projects to benefit the less fortunate. One grade adopted a family that frequents the IC Food Pantry and provided Christmas gifts for them.
- ~ Held a hockey jersey day to express solidarity with a local youth hockey player who was seriously injured in a game



Catholic Schools Week Food Collection for IC Food Pantry

All Saints Day Mass



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION GRADE SCHOOL

YEAR IN REVIEW 2019-2020 ~14~

- ~ Wrapped silverware and made placemats for Grace Café
- ~ Made window displays to spread the joy of the Resurrection at Easter
- ~ Made posters for school to emphasize the importance of recycling and protecting the earth
- ~ Collected donated Girl Scout cookies to stock the IC Food Pantry
- ~ Made cards of gratitude for the Elmhurst Police & Fire Departments
- ~ Collected cans of soup (Souper Bowl Collection) for the IC Food Pantry
- ~ Collected and wrapped socks for DuPage PADS
- ~ Raised Lenten funds for the rebuilding of St. Mary's Mission Church (on the closed reservation of the Ojibwe Native People)
- ~ Collected Thanksgiving food items at the Thanksgiving Feast for donation to the IC Food Pantry
- ~ Collected food items during Catholic Schools Week for donation to the IC Food Pantry
- ~ Christmas caroled and decorated yards for families in our community suffering hardship
- ~ Prayed weekly Rosary for the sick & suffering in our community
- ~ Created video messages for a parent who is stationed abroad with the U.S. military

Service Spotlight

Olivia Nybo

Class of 2021



ICGS 7th grader, Olivia Nybo was diagnosed with Type I Diabetes in 2nd grade.

This year, before Thanksgiving, she received permission from

Mrs. Linley to visit classrooms to educate students and answer questions about Type I Diabetes symptoms, treatment, and how insulin works in the body.

Upon returning from Thanksgiving break, she was called down to Mrs. Linley's

office. The principal told her that the classroom presentations had made an incredible impact. The parents of a 3rd grade student had notified the principal that, when their daughter came home with Olivia's handout, they decided to take her into the doctor because she was experiencing the symptoms listed on the handout. She was quickly diagnosed with Type I Diabetes. *Olivia's reaction?*

“ As I've gotten older, I realize now that God knew I could help others who are struggling with Type I Diabetes. He knew I could make a difference.”

ABC 7 & the U.S. Marines' Toys for Tots Toy Drive



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION GRADE SCHOOL

2nd Grade Brownies Christmas Carol for Park Place Seniors



Athletic Highlights

IC-VIS Cross Country

8th Grade Girls

- ~ SPL (Suburban Parochial League) 1st Place

6th Grade Girls

- ~ 5th in 2A IESA State Championship

Football

Varsity Boys

- ~ SPL Championship 2nd Place

Volleyball

6 Girls (B)

- ~ SPL 3rd Place

7 Girls (A)

- ~ SPL 2nd Place & Championship Runner-Up

7 Girls (B)

- ~ SPL 1st Place
(*Undefeated*)

8 Girls (A)

- ~ SPL 2nd Place & Championship Runner-Up

8 Girls (B)

- ~ SPL 3rd Place

Basketball

6 Girls (A)

- ~ SPL 2nd Place & Championship Runner-Up

6 Girls (B)

- ~ SPL 1st Place & Champions
(*Undefeated*)

7 Girls (A)

- ~ SPL 1st Place & Champions

7 Girls (B)

- ~ SPL 1st Place & Champions
(*Undefeated*)

8 Girls (A)

- ~ SPL 1st Place, Champions & Churchville Tournament Champions
(*Undefeated*)

6 Boys (A)

- ~ SPL 3rd Place

7 Boys (A)

- ~ SPL 1st Place, Champions & Sts. Peter & Paul Tournament Champions
(*Undefeated*)

7 Boys (B-1)

- ~ SPL 2nd Place

7 Boys (B-2)

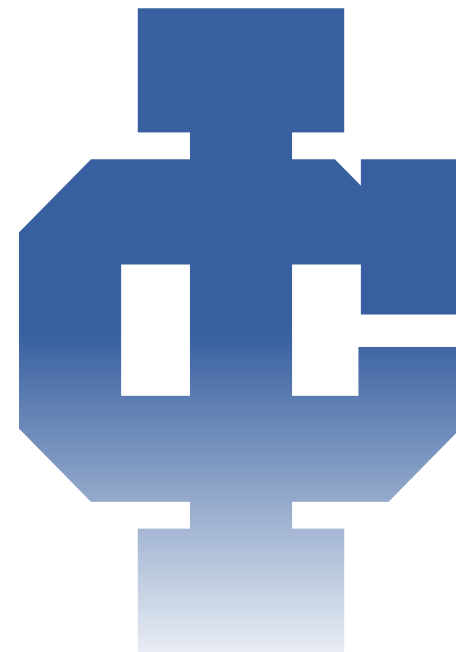
- ~ SPL 3rd Place

8 Boys (A)

- ~ SPL 1st Place, Champions & Churchville Tournament Champions
(*Undefeated*)

Track & Field

Season cancelled



Varsity Football Recognition Day

“ My favorite 8th grade memory was playing IC basketball. With each practice and game we grew closer and created an unbreakable bond that I'll cherish forever. Having our classmates come and support us at our games really showed our IC spirit. Winning the championship three years in a row is a memory *I'll never forget!*”

Amalia Dray

Class of 2020



8th Grade Girls (A) 3-Time Basketball Champs



5th Grade Volleyball



7th Grade Boys (A) Basketball Champs

Extracurricular Highlights

At ICGS the interests and talents of our students are varied.

We try to provide a myriad of creative outlets and clubs with our own teachers serving as moderators for most of these activities. This helps to build valuable mentor relationships outside of the classroom.

The following are some of the extracurricular activities in which our students participated this year:

- ~ Altar Serving
- ~ Art Club
- ~ Band

- ~ Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts
- ~ Chess Club
- ~ Choir
- ~ Destination Imagination (all 3 teams competed at Regionals and qualified for State)
 - ~ 4th Grade Team (The Cool Chili Peppers) placed 1st in Elementary Level Improv
 - ~ 5th Grade Team (DI Hexeteers) placed 2nd in Elementary Level Improv
 - ~ 7th Grade Team (The Motorized Strollers) placed 1st in Middle Level Improv
- ~ Drama Club
- ~ High School Entrance Exam Prep
- ~ Junior High Dance Class
- ~ Math Minds
- ~ Safety Patrol
- ~ Science Club
- ~ Spring Musical
- ~ Student Ambassadors
- ~ Student Government
- ~ Tech Club
- ~ Yearbook



"Shrek the Musical"



“ Although there were so many beautiful memories, the play was probably my favorite, both for all the laughs we had and because it was a time that I felt we really began to bond as a class.”



Marguerite DiMarco

Played Fiona in "Shrek the Musical"



Student Council Officers & Reps



Student Ambassadors' Virtual Pet Parade in Honor of St. Francis of Assisi



4th Grade Destination Imagination Team

Alumni Highlights

Our members of the Class of 2016 will head to various colleges and universities in the fall.

Several have also chosen unique paths including playing USPHL Junior Hockey with the Minnesota Mullets while attending college online, and attending Cosmetology school.

The following are some of the accolades of this class:

National Merit Commended Scholars	3
Illinois State Scholars	17

Colleges to be Attended by the Class of 2016:

University of Illinois (Urbana / Champaign) (4)
 Boston University
 Ohio State University (2)
 University of Iowa (4)
 Michigan State University
 University of Dayton (5)
 George Washington University
 John Carroll University
 Vanderbilt University
 Purdue University
 University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
 Bradley University
 Arizona State University
 University of Notre Dame (3)
 Santa Clara University (3)
 Miami University of Ohio (3)
 Le Moyne College
 Fordham University
 Hardin-Simmons University
 University of Nebraska
 Indiana University (2)
 University of Wisconsin-Stout
 University of Arizona

Class of 2016 alumni, **Tommy Sloan, Annie Guinan, Rachel Simonides, Ryan Wojtalewicz, and Francesca Capannari** were awarded IC Catholic Prep's highest academic honor, the Monsignor Plunkett Distinguished Scholar Award. Tommy will attend Michigan State University, Annie will attend the University of Notre Dame, Rachel will attend the University of Iowa, Ryan will attend the University of Dayton, and Francesca will attend the University of Notre Dame.

Patrick Guinan (Class of 2012), Jimmy Kenneally (Class of 2013), and Ryan Kenneally (Class of 2015) participated in the U.S. Naval Academy's "Sprint" football program last fall. Jimmy was selected to be a team captain for the 2020 football season.

Abby Dronen (Class of 2009) earned her white coat from the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing at Loyola University, as she pledged herself to the nursing profession. Abby completed her undergraduate studies at Saint Louis University.



Patrick Guinan, Jimmy Kenneally, & Ryan Kenneally



Abby Dronen with her parents, Melissa and Mark

Three members of the **Class of 2016**, **Will Ahern, Clark Davis, and Michael Kapsch**, were named National Merit Commended Scholars. Will will attend the University of Illinois (Urbana), Clark will attend Vanderbilt University, and Michael will attend the University of Notre Dame.

Lauren (Class of 2017) and Grant Schleiter (Class of 2019) once again organized a local "Pedal Power" bike collection in Elmhurst. This charitable effort seeks to collect and refurbish bikes for low income, high achieving students in Chicago Public Schools. This year the Schleiter's collection netted more than 65 bikes which were tuned up by Stemple's Bike Shop and donated to students at the Cesar Chavez Multicultural Academy in Chicago.



Lauren & Grant Schleiter

Allison Hutchinson (Class of 2009) earned her master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology at Northwestern University. Allison attended Saint Louis University for her undergraduate studies.



Liam Enright

Liam Enright (Class of 2016) was recognized as a York High School 4-year, 3-sport athlete (football, wrestling, water polo) and will play football in the fall at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Ali Deatsch (Class of 2001), who completed her undergraduate studies at Elon University (while playing volleyball), earned her PhD in Physics from the University of Notre Dame. In addition, she was married to Zach Lipp in Madison, Wisconsin in February.

Quinn Gaughan (Class of 2012), who graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 2020 with a degree in Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering, played four years at linebacker for the CMU Tartans and earned All-Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) first team distinction for the 2019 season.



Sienna Skarda with Sarah Rose

In the fall, alumni, **Gavin Wegner (Class of 2007)**, **Deirdre Gillette (Class of 2007)**, **Ava Meurer (Class of 2019)**, and **Grant Schleiter (Class of 2019)** joined a panel of ICGS administrators and faculty for an informational wine and cheese gathering for prospective parents. Each of these alumni participants shared their insights about the value of their ICGS education.

During the fall, ICGS volleyball player, **Sienna Skarda** travelled to Milwaukee to watch the Marquette women's volleyball team play. After the game, she had an opportunity to meet **Sarah Rose (Class of 2013)**, who is a setter for the Golden Eagles. **Mackenzie Moorman (Class of 2015)**, a Business major at the University of South Carolina, is an outside hitter for the Gamecocks' women's volleyball program.



Ms. Jill VanderHye with her former students from left to right, Olivia Slavin, Annie Guinan, Rachel Simonides, Bella Leslie, Francesca Capannari, & Olivia Palumbo

2020 ICGS Distinguished Graduate Award



Sue & Tom Westhoff with Principal, Mrs. Cathy Linley

On Friday January 31, the 2020 ICGS Distinguished Graduate Award was presented to **Tom and Sue Westhoff**. Both Tom and Sue, as well as their daughter, Charlotte Westhoff Faris, attended IC Grade School and IC High School.

The Westhoff's are the quintessential example of people who hear God's call to serve and answer that call on a daily basis. Daily Mass attendees, they have been active IC parishioners throughout the years, participating in the choir, art and environment committee, school boards, and in Waterleaf, a Pro-life women's center that provides free pregnancy and counseling services. In addition, Tom and Sue have served as foster parents to 17 babies over the years.

Student Council President's Reflection

Looking back at my past nine years at ICGS, I realize how much each and every member of our faculty, staff, clergy, and administration did for us.

They were always there behind us as we moved up in the grades. So on behalf of the Class of 2020, I would like to give a massive thank you to those who challenged, cheered for, and guided us. Being at IC was a journey with countless memories along the way: highs and lows on court and field, chances to shine on stage, competitions like DI and science fair, field trips to the Museum of Science and Industry and Lincoln Marsh, everyday memories of joking around at lunch and having fun at recess, and, of course, Friday morning Mass.

We went from uncertain preschoolers and kindergarteners to faith family leaders. Our class welcomed many new members along the way and supported classmates who lost beloved family members. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the Class of 2020 missed out on some of the typical eighth grade celebrations or experienced them in a modified format.

However, we will go on to high school with great memories, lifelong friendships, and the ICGS values of faith, family, and academic excellence. Life is full of challenges and good and bad surprises, but our journey at ICGS has taught us to work hard, serve others, support one another, and to always turn to God.

We are IC!

Charlie Phillips

Student Council President (Class of 2020)

Charlie Phillips in Kindergarten Art Class in 2011



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION GRADE SCHOOL



Charlie Phillips with Parents Troy & Megan at the Drive-Up May Crowning



Robert and Liz Moore with their Son, John

“As the Moore family closes out our twelve years of experience in educating and spiritually enriching our children at ICGS, I thought it would be appropriate to share some thoughts of reflection and appreciation for those years.

Liz and I made the decision to send Brian and John to IC as soon as Brian finished preschool. It was a decision based on community and Christian faith, and was in no way a negative slant toward the other school options in Elmhurst. That being said, in addition to developing and

nurturing a relationship with God, it was very important that our children developed a sense conscience and empathy in forming and managing relationships in their young lives. Again, those goals could have been pursued elsewhere, but we chose IC.

So what happened? Thinking about it metaphorically, it was the perfect pot of stew. The sustenance of a hearty education and work ethic, combined with the healthy contributions of a spiritual atmosphere that always reminded the boys that there is a larger, truly loving being with us in Jesus to be there for us no matter what life brings upon us. Throw in some terrific athletic competition and exposure to performing arts to spice things up, and I would say the meal was a success. Both John and Brian

are not only prepared spiritually for their next steps in life, but are also armed with a sense of accomplishment and pride that will continue to fuel them moving forward. Our boys looked forward each and every year to returning to IC for the excitement of a new year, new challenges and the continuation of wonderful relationships. We will miss that come September.

ICGS also helped the boys develop a real sense of leadership and example in all of their experiences outside IC. Liz and I made a point of involving the boys in teams and activities that forced interaction outside the IC community, and both John and Brian always made us proud with their sense of compassion and enthusiasm in all different surroundings and situations. The ICGS

experience was a perfect recipe for us in preparing our boys to not only approach the world as true Christians, but also to see the world for what it has to offer and to be open to the thoughts and needs of others as they move on with their lives.

Thank you so much for all you have done to care for and support John and Brian during these very formative and important years. We will always consider ourselves as part of IC!!”

Robert Moore

ICGS Parent



Immaculate Conception Grade School

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