

# IC CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MSAA 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.*

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*Deadline for submissions to this newsletter is Thursday @ 11:00 am*

*Please e-mail information for IC to Colleen Sweeney at [csween@gtacs.org](mailto:csween@gtacs.org)*

*Please send information for system-wide distribution to [mdeyou@gtacs.org](mailto:mdeyou@gtacs.org)*

## **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Fri. 2/26	6:00-9:00 PTC outing – Glacier Glow
Wed. 3/2	8:15 Mass – 4 <sup>th</sup> gr Anderson
	5:30 pm Open House @ SFHS
Sat. 3/6	4:00 – 7:00 pm - St. Francis Church – Spaghetti dinner for Glaza family

## **FROM THE PRINCIPAL:**

**--The Difference Is Prayer--**

We are now over a week into the Lenten season. This is a very important time for our Church and therefore for our school. It is a time to continually remember that “We are dust, and unto dust we shall return.” What is most important about this statement is that it is rooted in humility, the gateway to all other virtues. Humility is the loving acceptance that God’s will is first at all times, and that His love is what makes us whole. This reminder was visible on all of the foreheads of our children when they received their ashes on Ash Wednesday. The ashen marks of Christ signify that our time on earth is brief compared with the eternity that we will share with God and all the saints. It is my prayer that these forty days prepare our hearts for the sorrow of Good Friday and then the joy of the great baptismal feast of Easter.

I mentioned it last week, but it is worth repeating: Please be aware of this year’s open house incentive program. You should have been e-mailed a letter from Mike Buell which included a flyer for ways to save on your tuition next year by encouraging new families to attend one of our “Open Houses” or “Grade Level Transition Events” for parents. We had our first open house this past Monday and have two more scheduled on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup>. They all start at 5:30 in the St. Francis Dining Hall.

This past Tuesday the teaching staff finished our discussion on this year’s book (*Annual Growth and Catch Up Growth*). As the title states, this book is focused on the idea of student growth and catch-up growth in the area of reading. It spurred great discussion about how GTACS can continue to improve in the area of reading instruction, but it also reassured us that we currently have a great deal of practices in place that are centered around good and sound teaching. At GTACS we are committed to providing the best education for each individual child. By using a battery of assessments, our teachers can identify exactly where students are and adjust their teaching accordingly—catering to the needs of each student. Currently we use the Measures of Academic Progress test from NWEA, Aims Web, and various other tools to help gauge instruction for each of our students. We are truly blessed to have teachers who are focused on academic excellence while keeping their eyes and hearts on Christ.

Peace,

Mr. Matt Bauman

### **Odyssey of the Mind**

We'd like to wish all of our students who will be participating in the Regional Odyssey of the Mind Competition on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at TC East Middle School **Good Luck!** Be sure to do your best. We'll be thinking about you and praying for you. For those of you who may be interested in watching them, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade team's problem is Food Court and they will be competing at 10:35 am. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade team's problem is Nature Trails, and they compete at 11:15am

**Lunch times:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade 10:40 – 11:30, 3rd grade 11:15 – 12:05, 4th grade 11:50 – 12:40

Please be our guest for lunch on the day you volunteer. **IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO SERVE ON YOUR APPOINTED DAY AND UNABLE TO GET YOUR OWN SUB, PLEASE LET US KNOW BEFORE THE DAY SO THAT WE WILL BE MORE SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING A SUB. IT IS ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT TO SUPERVISE THE FOOTBALL GAMES AND THE ACTIVITY ON THE SNOW HILLS AT THE SAME TIME. WE REALLY NEED AT LEAST TWO PEOPLE OUTSIDE. THANK YOU!**

### **LUNCH/PLAYGROUND DUTY**

Mon. 3/1	Thompson, Robertson, Skillman
Tues. 3/2	Valleau, M. Anderson, Passinault
Wed 3/3	Hughes, Bradfield, Grombala
Thurs 3/4	Argue, Scerbak, Gronek
Fri. 3/5	Carroll, Grozenski, Miller

### **COUNSELING LESSIONS**

**Fourth grade** lessons will be starting the 1<sup>st</sup> week in March. The topics are:

Week 1 – Danger of second hand smoke

Week 2 – Why not alcohol

Week 3 – Advertising and Drugs

Mrs. Kayla Thomas from Catholic Human Services will begin the lessons in **5th grade** after Spring break. If you would like to review any of the lessons, please contact Ms. Stendel or Mr. Bauman.

**GLACIER GLOW** February 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 9:00pm. \_An evening of fun at Timber Ridge. A flyer went home with your student on Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Thanks for your Generosity** A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated food items during Catholic Schools Week for the Father Fred Foundation. IC collected a whopping 1220 non-perishable food items! The folks at the Father Fred Foundation are so appreciative of your generosity. Know that you are making a difference for needy people in our area. This contribution also counted towards our quest for the \$5,000 first place prize for the PTC in the Grand Traverse Mall's My School is Cool contest, earning 67,450 points for Holy Angels.

Awesome job!

**We Can Do It!** We are off to a great start in the mall's My School is Cool contest. After losing to three other local grade schools last fall, we are determined to win the \$5,000 prize this semester. Even though Holy Angels is technically the school that is competing, all of GTACS is encouraged to participate, as the money will be distributed evenly among Holy Angels, IC, and SEAS. IC's allotment will be used to completely upgrade our side door facing Division Street,

including new siding, paint, and landscaping. Please save and send in all mall receipts, including Target, dated Feb. 1st through the end of May. Next Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Feb. 23 - 25 are triple point days, so receipts dated these days can really help us out! Thanks for your support as we strive to be #1 this semester!

**Last call for Crystal Mountain!**

Friday February 26th will be the last ski date that include lessons.

Friday March 5th will be the last ski date for single trip ticket purchase-no lessons included.

School program season pass holders can enjoy skiing the remaining Fridays through out March.

Any questions, email [skigtacs@charter.net](mailto:skigtacs@charter.net) or call Mark & Jerri Gabriel 929-3911

**LIBRARY NEWS:** This week in library, students were given the Beach Bums Reading Program poster, instructions and a bookmark. Please help your child find a good spot to post this and help them record the books they read. The Beach Bums and Fifth Third Bank have made this program even more family friendly this year. Students have an opportunity to earn two free ticket vouchers good for any night during their 2010 season and a voucher for a free soda! Posters are due on **April 16<sup>th</sup> - with a parent signature on the bottom.**

Any questions? Just email [mwilso@gtacs.org](mailto:mwilso@gtacs.org).

**GLACIER GLOW, February 26th 6-9pm**, for our first annual GTACS Glacier Glow hosted by the PTC!! Join us for a fun filled evening for the whole family at Timber Ridge Recreation Park, with games, food, snow sports, sledding, bon fires and great company! An informational flyer was sent home last week!