

# 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.*

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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 [mdyou@gtacs.org](mailto:mdyou@gtacs.org)*

## **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Sat. 3/13	6:00 Gladhander Bunko party
Sun. 3/14	<b><u>Daylight Savings Time</u></b> – Spring Ahead from 2:00 to 3:00am
Mon. 3/15	March Readathon starts/ends on March 19th
Wed. 3/17	8:15 – Mass – 3 <sup>rd</sup> gr - Stoudt 1:00 Irish Dancers <b><u>NO BUSING – NO SHUTTLES</u></b> –Parent transportation <b>both</b> ways
Fri. 3/19	Grub Day AR awards at lunch
Thur. 3/25	All Readathon sheets and pledges must be in
Fri. 3/26	<b><u>NO SCHOOL – START OF SPRING BREAK</u></b>
Fri. 6/11	8:15am 5 <sup>th</sup> gr. Farewell Mass

## **FROM THE PRINCIPAL:**

**He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards He was hungry"  
(Matthew 4 1-2)**

Our annual 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Signature Trip to Gleaners is on the horizon. I'm sure many of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents have seen information that has been sent home about the trip. However, I wanted to take a moment to share some information about the trip with all of our Immaculate Conception parents.

The Fifth Grade Signature Service trip to Second Harvest Gleaners Food Bank of West Michigan will take place on Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup>. The trip gives our students a chance to turn their faith into action in an environment outside of our local community. It is scheduled on a Saturday because this is a day when there are less people and no forklifts in the warehouse making it a much safer environment for our students.

Some Information about Gleaners:

- Gleaners is a regional nonprofit clearinghouse for saved, donated food on its way from the food industry to churches and charity agencies that assist needy people.
- The food they distribute comes from the surpluses of local and national food and grocery products companies.
- Through their seven warehouses, they serve 1,200+ food pantries, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, domestic violence shelters, rescue missions, and other charity agencies across 40 Michigan counties (the western third of the Lower Peninsula and entire Upper

Peninsula) who in turn provide that food aid to approximately 400,000 needy residents of West Michigan each year.

### **Other Items:**

- **O.M.:** Congratulations to our Odyssey of the Mind teams from Immaculate Conception who competed in the Regional Tournament this past Saturday. Thank you to the students and coaches who put a tremendous amount of time and effort into this event! Also, thank you to Kathleen Allard for being our school O.M. coordinator.
- **CONFERENCES:** On Thursday April 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday April 16<sup>th</sup> we have ½ days scheduled for conferences. Teachers will be scheduling a conference with you much like they did during fall conferences.
- **5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FAREWELL MASS:** Questions have come up regarding the end of year 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Farewell Mass. This Mass will take place on the last day of school (Friday June 11<sup>th</sup>). While this is certainly a special day, we ask that 5<sup>th</sup> grade students wear their regular uniform.
- **Sparty:** Thanks to everyone who made it possible for Sparty to visit our school on Wednesday for March is Reading Month. Thanks especially to Sparty for making the trip and spending time with us!

Peace, Mr. Matt Bauman

### **Important Parking Notice**

We've had some issues lately with the parking, the pick up, and the drop off behind the church and school. There are to be no cars parked or even waiting in the area between the school and church by the dumpsters. This area must remain clear as it the entrance to the food pantry. Additionally there are a lot of delivery trucks and vehicles that move through this area. It causes great danger and congestion to block this area by parking or waiting. We ask that you honor this request throughout the school day and even into the evening. The church and school work together on these issues, and it would be helpful to both of us if you'd help in this matter.

### **Feast Day of St. Patrick**

Next Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> is the Feast Day of St. Patrick. As part of this feast day we invite students to wear "green accents" with their uniform as part of the celebration of this day. Please note: students must still be in regular uniform pants and shirts... however, students are invited to add some green to their uniforms with buttons, hair ribbons, belts, socks, shoes, etc... Please keep in mind that we do have Mass on Wednesday, so we'd like any additions /accents to be kept modest and appropriate for Mass and school.

### **GRUB DAY!! March 19<sup>th</sup>**

The Fifth Grade Signature Service trip to **Second Harvest Gleaners Food Bank of West Michigan** will take place on Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup>. Next Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> we will collect money to donate to the Food Bank. Friday March 19<sup>th</sup> is also the Feast Day of St. Joseph so as part of this Grub Day we encourage students to wear something red

### Some Information about **Gleaners:**

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- Through their seven warehouses, they serve 1,200+ food pantries, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, domestic violence shelters, rescue missions, and other charity agencies across 40 Michigan counties (the western third of the Lower Peninsula and entire Upper Peninsula) who in turn provide that food aid to approximately 400,000 needy residents of West Michigan each year.
- In 2006, they distributed 19.28 million pounds of food and other goods, that's almost a million pounds every 19 days!

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade will donate their time and energy in working at the Food Bank and will also donate **ALL THE MONEY COLLECTED FROM OUR GRUB DAY** directly to Gleaners. Every \$430 we raise will be used to distribute food to 100 needy families. Last year, we raised approximately \$1000.

### **WINTER CLOTHING NOTICE**

For the past week we have been blessed with some much needed relief from the snow and cold. With this “spring-like-weather” we tend to have students that stop bringing their winter gear (boots, hats, gloves, etc...). In last week’s newsletter we asked that you continue to send your child to school with the necessary winter attire—thank you for helping with that. We are seeing the possibility of snow and cold in the forecast, so please continue to send your students with the proper attire. It is easier to take it off or not wear it if need be, than to have students at school without the correct clothing in a snow storm. Secondly, this is the time of year when the playground transitions from snow to ice to mud. Wearing boots outside and then changing into shoes helps keep our school snow and mud free. Thanks for your understanding. We will send out a notice when winter clothing is no longer required.

**LOST AND FOUND** The collection is seriously large!! In the remaining two weeks before break, please, please check for missing hats, gloves, uniform pants and shirts some are middle school items, jackets, sweatshirts, jeans, water bottles and bake sale containers. After Spring Break all items will disappear – unmatched gloves to the circular file and the rest to charity, or to the used uniform sale.

**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. 3/15	Nickodemus, Hitchens, Kurtz
Tues. 3/16	Valleau, Johnson, Hathaway
Wed 3/17	Hughes, Szczepanski, Sherwin
Thurs 3/18	Argue, Stoudt, D. Bixby
Fri. 3/19	Carroll, Cvengros, Joseph

### **Join IC Praise Choir's "Lent Me a Song"**

We buried the Alleluia on Ash Wednesday, and we are storing up a whole load of praise for our Redeemer throughout this Lent that we can spend in song throughout the Easter season! We will rehearse on Wednesday, March 24 and Wednesday, April 28 from 2:50-3:30 in the Music Room. We will lead music at two Tuesday prayer services and perform at the Festival of the Arts on May 4<sup>th</sup>. At this time, we will continue to celebrate mass with all of the students singing as part of the congregation rather than separating into the choir and the congregation. If you are interested in a two-month commitment to lead praise music at our Tuesday prayer services and GTACS Festival of the Arts, please fill out the form your child received this week and return it to Mrs. Winkler by Friday, March 19.

**News from the Library:** Our March Readathon will run from Monday, March 15 – Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Help your child get those reading muscles ready and start thinking about who will pledge them to read more. Classes that meet their goal of reading minutes will get to enjoy some cozy reading time in the library with hot cocoa and marshmallows. All proceeds go toward book and Accelerated Reader test and prize purchases for the library. Readathon forms went home this week.

**4th, 5th and 6th Grade Track..** our first practice will be April 6, Tuesday from 3:15 to 4:45 at SEAS. Practices will be Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for now. Practice days will change once the track meets begin. Please wear sweatpants and sweatshirts, as it gets windy at SEAS. Drop off and pick up at SEAS is at the north side of the school building, facing the track. If practice needs to be cancelled there will be an announcement at the schools by 2pm. We have 2 weeks of practice and then the meets will begin the week of April 19. More on this later.

Also, this will be my last year coaching at this level and I would like to invite anyone interested in taking over next year to come and help out this season so you will be well informed for next season. I will be happy to go over all of the information with you. Any questions, please call me at 231 206-1201. Thanks, Lee Ann Bullough

**YEARBOOK–** Dear Parents, If your child participated in a team sport or a school activity (i.e. Odyssey of the Mind) and have your team pictures I would love to use them in the yearbook. Please submit them to me via email at [sstend@gtacs.org](mailto:sstend@gtacs.org), on a flash drive, cd or pictures in an envelope. I will return any flash drives and non digital pictures after I have scanned the pictures. Pictures need to be submitted by March 24<sup>th</sup>. Thank you. Ms. Stendel

### **COUNSELING LESSIONS**

**Fourth grade** lessons will be in March. The topics are: 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.

### **Box Tops Contest -- (Advance Notice)**

During the month of April, Holy Angels and IC are again going to compete to see which school can bring in the most Box Tops for Education. Asking co-workers now to start collecting for your child is a great way to get a leg-up on the competition! If you would like an official Box Tops collection bin (made of cardboard; about the size of large coffee mug) for use in your workplace, e-mail Bridget Thuente at [bthuente@yahoo.com](mailto:bthuente@yahoo.com) with your child's name, grade, and teacher's name, and I'll send one home with your child. There are also a few in the office. Stay tuned for more details on the contest

**Munson kids club** is offering a spring break camp for kids. Flexible hourly scheduling is available. Even if you are not currently enrolled, you can enroll just for this camp. Sign up deadline is Monday March 15th. The kids club is located at 402 9th St. Please call Brigid Wilson at 935-7990 for more information.

**Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader**...If you are interested in keeping your child's reading skills fresh over the summer months and/or would like to see improvement in their reading skills - sign up for summer tutoring with Jennifer Newman, St. Bridget Reading Teacher at I.C. If you would like more info or would like to sign up please contact Miss Newman at 995-8470 or at [jnewma@gtacs.org](mailto:jnewma@gtacs.org) to sign up. Orton Gillingham tutoring is also available

**Used Book Drive** to benefit GTACS' libraries and G.T. Area Literacy Council.

Through Tuesday, April 13th we will be collecting used books, vhs tapes, and dvds. The GTACS' libraries will have first picks, and the remaining will be donated to the G.T. Area Council, which we will earn 100 points per item for, helping us retain first place in the My School's Cool competition. There is a drop box in the lobby outside the office.