



ICCS Theme of the Year:

"Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil."

Ephesians 6:11

***VIRTUE OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST:
Hospitality!***

St. Therese of Lisieux; "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Romans 12:13

July 21, 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to this new school year of *Grace and Growth* at Our Lady's School!! We hope your summer has been a time of renewal of body, mind, and spirit. We welcome all of our wonderful families and our staff, especially our new families and staff members. We are excited to begin another school year where we have the unique honor to assist you in your role of primary educators of your children in their religious, academic, social, physical, and creative development so they can grow to know, love, and serve God in this world and be the best they can be.

We continue Pope Francis' call to the Year of Mercy. It's been a troubling summer in so many ways, but we need to remember-- where evil exists, more grace prevails. It is the vision of Our Lady's School that these children will be our hope for a bright future. They can do this by shining their light, but we need strong families with a strong vision of how to light the way. We, as teachers and staff, are constantly focusing on BEST PRACTICES—those strategies that will result in a strong student who will become a person of faith as they embrace the tools to make a difference in the world. However, how many of us are constantly focusing on those BEST PRACTICES for developing and nurturing STRONG FAMILIES? The need is great, and the time is now. <http://www.catholicfamilyfaith.org/>

There are many reasons why we choose Catholic schools for our children in spite of the great sacrifices we make to do so. When it's all said and done, there's only one reason—we all want to learn how to get to heaven and bring as many people with us as we can! In this country especially, the fight for nurturing our children within a loving family and the fight for our religious freedom have been in the forefront, so we remain confident that our faith is something to be cherished and is worth fighting for, something that we have learned since the time Jesus Christ walked on the earth. He died for us and many, many martyrs have followed so that we can have the joy of faith that we have today.

Catholic schools continue to be a support to parents, the primary educators, in nurturing faith, academics, and service so that these children can seek holiness and heaven, the goal for all of us. We do this through prayer,



attending Sunday Mass together every week, through service, and through our daily thoughts, words, and deeds. As we work together in nurturing these young souls, we continue to be dedicated to the mission of Our Lady's School:

“Immaculate Conception Catholic School exists to provide a Christ-centered academic environment designed to promote the total development of the child by serving the mission of the Roman Catholic Church through the educational process.”

So put on your Armor of God, and let's get started in this new school year! Our faith has the Master Plan that will sustain us no matter what the world throws at us. It really wasn't the Three Little Pigs that taught us this great truth; it was Jesus as we see in the book of Matthew 7: 24-25:

“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.”

We begin with renewed dedication and fresh energy as we draw upon the centrality of the Eucharist to offer our best. Have a safe and blessed remainder of summer. See you soon!

In Him, Elaine Schad, ICCS Principal



Dean's Dispatch

Ten Summer Ideas for FUN and LEARNING!

The summer vacation is moving quickly, and I hope everyone has enjoyed summer fun and family time. We need to keep our children engaged in some learning activities over the summer months as well as the necessary “down time” that develops their creativity and allows their minds to wander and wonder!

Here are a few ideas that might get your creative juices flowing for the rest of the summer break! These are merely springboards to get YOU thinking. Enjoy and relish this family time; it passes way too quickly.

1. **INDOOR CAMPOUT...** It's way too hot to camp out but why not plan a family campout in the family room? Set up tents (can be card tables with sheets over them), pack some food, a deck of cards, sing some campfire songs and sleep out under the stars (ceiling fan!!!!)
2. **BE THEATRICAL ...** Any age child can create a puppet stage from a cardboard box... decorate it and make some puppets from paper bags, socks, old mittens! Perhaps visit the Public Library for some books of scripts or write your own. Put on a performance for the family! There is also always the famous “dress up” box for a live performance as well.
3. **MUSEUM TREASURE HUNT ...** Visit a museum you are familiar with and create a treasure hunt for your child before you visit. Depending on the age of your child it can include simple things like, find a meat eating dinosaur, or as complex as find a painting by a famous German painter. You can go online to find out about the present exhibits.
4. **FAMILY PUZZLE ...** Purchase one of those really big, difficult puzzles and designate a place in the house to work on it as a family. It may take weeks to finish but it develops so many important skills! The feeling of accomplishment when it's finished is worth the effort!
5. **KIDS COOK NITE ...** Let the kids plan, shop, and cook a meal! This involves a great many math and reading skills. The supervision involved depends on the ages of the children. Have several children? Each one can plan a course! Create a shopping list, cost of the food, following the recipe, planning so everything is done at the same time etc.
6. **FAMILY BOOK CLUB ...** How about the whole family read the same book (or have it read to them)? Perhaps a classic like Robinson Caruso would be a good choice. Assign the number of chapters to be completed by a certain date then meet as a family and discuss the book. Discuss the plot, characters, vocabulary etc. Then repeat the

assignment until the book is finished! The little ones can be read to and the older ones and adults read it themselves. Great family time and fun too!

7. CREATE ... Rainy day? Collect some “junk” lying around like a large box, paper towel tubes, empty cans and small boxes, foil, paper plates, etc. Put it all in the middle of the room with some markers, tape, glue, scissors and CREATE!!!! You may discover you have a budding engineer, architect, artist, or sculptor!
8. PICTURE THIS ... Purchase a cheap disposable camera, or allow your child to use your phone camera and have them spend some time taking pictures.... inside or out. Print these pictures and have your child create a scrapbook of their pictures commenting on each one, creating a frame around them, etc.
9. BOWLING??? ... How long has it been since you went bowling? (Years for me!) How much fun would a family bowling outing be? Great eye hand coordination as well as great math skills keeping score! Fun and learning as a family. Winner picks the ice cream parlor for a treat!
10. CHURCH VISIT ... Make it an adventure picking out a different parish to visit this Sunday. Do some research as a family and pick a church you have never been to. It may be the Cathedral or a small country church ... find out some history of the church/parish. Meet the priest after mass and tell him you are visiting and that you attend ICCS. It's good to experience Mass in other parishes. Take pictures to share!

God bless you all as we rest, recuperate, and regenerate in anticipation of another wonderful year at our Lady's School!

Paul D. Cuttica, Dean of Students

**MAKE SURE YOU ARE DOING YOUR IXL MATH!
GRADES 6-8: BE SURE YOU ARE DOING YOUR REQUIRED READING!
ALL GRADE LEVELS: KEEP READING!**



Hola!!

Cecy Miranda

ICCS Director of Hispanic Services

*Queridos Padres de Familia,
Es un placer darles la bienvenida al nuevo año escolar 2016-2017. Las vacaciones de verano se están terminando y pronto regresaremos al Colegio. No olviden que para lograr el éxito en la escuela, sus hijos necesitan de ustedes en casa. Una buena comunicación entre ustedes y el Colegio hará la diferencia en la educación de sus hijos. El asistir a la escuela diariamente, completar las tareas, ser puntuales, es indispensable, pero no olviden que también lo es el compartir diariamente las experiencias escolares con sus hijos,*

informarse si necesitan apoyo adicional en alguna materia y participar en las diferentes actividades que existen.

Para prepararse para un nuevo año escolar, platique con sus hijos acerca de las experiencias académicas del año pasado y pregúnteles que esperan para este año. Antes de entrar al Colegio es importante retomar los horarios de dormir, así será más fácil lidiar con el cambio de rutina, revise con detalle si el uniforme está completo así como los útiles escolares, y ayúdelo a revisar el reglamento escolar (usted recibió una copia cuando registró a su hijo/a por primera vez o puede leerlo en nuestra página web: <http://catholicschooldenton.org/handbooks.>)

Les comparto esta hermosa oración que encontré para iniciar con la bendición de Dios:

ORACION PARA INICIAR EL AÑO ESCOLAR:

Aquí estamos Señor, dispuestos a caminar de tu mano durante este año escolar que hoy pones en nuestras manos, para crecer en responsabilidad, en sabiduría, y sobre todo en fraternidad. Venimos con el corazón dispuesto a vivir como hermanos que siendo diferentes estamos unidos por un mismo ideal. Queremos avanzar a la luz de los Valores que tú mismo has colocado en nuestras manos. Ayúdanos a caminar en busca del conocimiento que nos permita valorarte cada día más.

Que en cada página que investiguemos, podamos descubrir tu grandeza y tu generosidad.

Que en cada rincón de nuestra Escuela sintamos tu presencia que nos invita a la unidad y la fraternidad.

Danos la gracia de respetarnos sin desconocer que las diferencias constituyen nuestra riqueza y nos permiten valorar la individualidad en cada uno de nuestros compañeros.

Señor, que nuestra alegría sea auténtica y sincera y que sepamos vivir en solidaridad cuando algún compañero pase por un momento difícil.

Que podamos ser testimonio de verdad y sinceridad, y que la mentira nunca tenga cabida en nuestras aulas.

Te pedimos que los maestros preparen su lección de cada día con amor y responsabilidad. Ilumina el entendimiento de los estudiantes para que crezcan cada día en la verdadera sabiduría.

Señor te pedimos que guíes y acompañes nuestros pasos cuando vamos de camino; aleja de nosotros cualquier peligro que pueda dañarnos en el cuerpo o en el alma.

Danos la gracia de ser fieles al proyecto de nuestra institución y que cada día de este año escolar sea un espacio para hacer el bien, y un escalón para acercarnos a Ti. Bendícenos y protégenos...Amen.

Estaré a su disposición en las Oficinas de la Escuela para cualquier duda que tengan o ayuda que necesiten.

*Que este año que empezamos sea de muchas bendiciones para todos,
Cecy Miranda*

NEWS YOU CAN USE!!!

IMPORTANT: ALL IMMUNIZATIONS MUST BE UP TO DATE IN ORDER FOR A CHILD TO ATTEND SCHOOL ON THE FIRST DAY WITH PROOF SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE PER DIOCESAN AND STATE OF TEXAS HEALTH POLICIES. PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION.

Virtue of the Month: HOSPITALITY!

In addition to our central theme of the year, Our Lady's School is proud to feature a Virtue of the Month. Our staff members focus on this virtue throughout the month, and we ask you, as partners, to reinforce each virtue within your family. August's virtue of **HOSPITALITY** reminds us of the importance to be "other-focused" and to respond in a loving way to our neighbor as Christ calls us to do.



FOLLOW IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL ON FACEBOOK!!!

ICCS has an active Facebook site which will be updated throughout the school year. It is listed as (Official) so you will know it is the official site of the school. Become a fan of Our Lady's School on Facebook!!! Log on to the



Immaculate Conception Catholic School and Facebook site and click "Like"!! In addition, the area parishes served by the school have active Facebook sites, so be sure to keep up with your parish as well!

**BE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY FAMILY E-MAILS
FROM OUR LADY'S SCHOOL!**

Be sure that you have a valid e-mail or e-mails listed in our electronic gradebook and communication vehicle called FAST DIRECT. It is important to check these e-mails either weekly through your own e-mail or as they are posted on the school website. There are items that are sent via e-mail that are time- sensitive and may not always be sent home in hard copy. Please contact the school office if you have questions or are not receiving emails.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING FACULTY! We enthusiastically welcome our new and returning staff members who put their hearts and hands into this mission of Immaculate Conception Catholic School. *Please join us at all of our Masses and special prayer services throughout the year!!* We are thrilled to have so many of our veteran staff members returning to bring their expertise and love to the children. We welcome Caren Guajardo as fifth grade teacher and Cindi Clopton as Upper School Language Arts teacher.

**THE SCHOOL OFFICE WILL BE OPEN 9 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS THROUGH JULY.**

DAILY OFFICE HOURS BEGIN MONDAY, AUG. 1, FROM 8 A.M. TO 3:45 P.M.

*(**Statements will be e-mailed. Please contact Bookkeeper Diane White in the school office if you have questions.**)*

SCHOOL BEGINS MONDAY, AUGUST 15, AT 8 A.M.!! DOORS OPEN AT 7:45 A.M....NOON DISMISSAL...NO EXTENDED CARE...

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, WILL BE THE FIRST FULL DAY OF SCHOOL. MORNING EXTENDED CARE WILL BE OFFERED AT 7 A.M. AND FROM 3:20 TO 6 P.M. DAILY FOR THOSE WHO ARE REGISTERED FOR EXTENDED CARE.

--CARPOOL INFORMATION: Call the school office if you would like carpool information. We will do our best to help coordinate carpool requests via e-mail or through the website.

VISIT OUR SPIRIT SHOP

PRE-SCHOOL UNIFORMS...POLOS...SPIRIT SHIRTS...P. E. UNIFORMS...MORE!!!!

Thursday, August 4	10:00 a.m. – Noon
Wednesday, August 10	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (New Parent Orientation-PreK and Kingergarten Orientation)
Thursday, August 11	6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Meet the Teacher Night)
Friday, August 12	9 a.m. – Noon (Upper School Orientation)

****NOTE: ALL PRE-K AND P. E. ITEMS MUST BE PURCHASED FROM THE SPIRIT SHOP**
SUPPORT THE SPIRIT SHOP!!! ALL PROFITS BENEFIT OUR LADY'S SCHOOL***

--AUGUST: Volleyball practice begins for our Upper School girls' program under the direction of Athletic Coordinator Kristina Briones and Coach Andres Rocha. **\$75 Sports Fee Is Due!! Upper School students participating in sports must have a**

completed physical DATED JUNE 1 OR AFTER before they will be allowed to begin practice. We have a full slate of games scheduled. The sports calendar will be posted on the school website.

--**AUGUST 9-12:** ICCS Staff In-Service and Workdays. **FOOD FOR IN-SERVICE:** Our hard-working staff members will be in professional training and will be getting their rooms prepared for the arrival of the children. *If you'd like to provide breakfast snacks, a light lunch such as sub sandwiches, or desserts on one of those days, call the school office at 940-381-1155 or e-mail iccsoffice@gmail.com and let us know what you can do to help.* This would count for two volunteer hours. Thanks! **NOTE: ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST BE CERTIFIED AND CURRENT IN KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE.**

--**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, IS OUR NEW FAMILY WELCOME, PRE-SCHOOL, AND KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION!!** Our Home and School Association (HSA), our parent association in which all families are automatic members, is hosting an orientation for our new families from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the ICCS gym. Pre-School Orientation will begin at 9:30 a.m. Kindergarten Orientation will begin at 10 a.m. We hope to answer any questions our new families may have about everything from our Early Childhood Program to how to purchase used uniforms. Breakfast snacks will be provided. Welcome!

--**THURSDAY, AUGUST 11: MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT:** This come-and-go session will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Please come through the gym entrance. Light refreshments will be available in the gym.

--**FRIDAY, AUGUST 12: UPPER SCHOOL PARENT-STUDENT ORIENTATION AND REGISTRATION: 9 to 10:30 a.m.** in the gym and Upper School Rooms for students in grades 6-8. There will be a brief general information session beginning at 9 a.m. in the gym. Upper School teachers will be available to answer parent questions. Students will have a chance to meet their teachers, sign up for classes, pick up their books, be assigned lockers, and ask questions. At least one parent is encouraged to be in attendance if possible.

--**MONDAY, AUGUST 15:** First day of school. Doors open at 7:45 a.m. **THIS WILL BE A NOON DISMISSAL.** No Extended Care on this day. There will be a Teacher Inservice in the afternoon.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16: Full Day of School Doors open at 7:45 a.m. Dismissal is at 3:05 p.m. Extended Care will be offered. Morning and Afternoon Extended Day will be available beginning on this day from 7 to 7:45 a.m. and from 3:20 to 6 p.m. **If you will be using Extended Day services, you must be registered for Extended. Form is included in this mailing.**

--**FRIDAY, AUGUST 19:** First Brown Envelope goes home with the students. Our Brown Envelope is the official communication vehicle for our school and goes home on a monthly basis.

--**SATURDAY, AUGUST 20:** ICCS Advisory Council will begin the new school year with its annual retreat meeting.

-- **TUESDAY, AUGUST 30:** Parent-Teacher Meetings for grades Kindergarten through Fifth grades. This is for parents only. A meeting in the gym will be held followed by parents going to classrooms where teachers will answer questions.

--**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31:** Parent-Teacher Meetings for grades 6-8. We will be following a similar format as the Tuesday meeting with a general meeting in the gym. Parents only please. More information to come.

--**SUPPLY LIST: REAMS OF PAPER:** To keep our copying costs down, we are requesting that each student bring two reams of white copy paper and one ream of colored paper. Please consider doing this anytime during the year to help the school save money!! Classroom teachers will issue additional supply lists for generic items such as tissues, paper, etc., as needed throughout the year. Thanks!

--**WISH LISTS: Teacher wish lists will be posted outside classrooms.**

SCHOOL UNIFORMS: There are some used uniforms available at the school for purchase during office hours, parent orientation sessions, and during Meet-the-Teacher Night on Aug. 11. **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL SHOE REQUIREMENTS FOR 2016-2017:** We continue to be sensitive to the economy and helping to keep down costs. The shoe requirements for 2016-2017 are the same as last year. Shoes must be either the preferred shoe as listed in the Parker School Uniform brochure or a non-marking tennis shoe that is **ALL BLACK OR ALL WHITE ONLY. ...NO EXCEPTIONS.** **NOTE: There may be no extraneous colors on the shoes of any sort.** While the preferred model shoes may be purchased at outlets other than Parker, the prices are very competitive. The shoes may also be ordered online. Please call Parker if you have questions. Preschool: Please refer to your preschool information regarding Preschool uniforms. **NOTE ABOUT UPPER SCHOOL SWEATERS:** Again, being sensitive to the economy, students in grades 6-8 may wear either their lower school sweater or the Upper School Varsity sweater for 2016-2017.

--**LUNCHES:** Hot Lunch, catered by Las Lomas Taqueria (<http://famcarlos.wix.com/las-lomas-taqueria>), will be offered M-F beginning Monday, Aug. 17, for those who purchase. Otherwise, children will be asked to bring their lunches through Friday, Aug. 26. Beginning September 2, hot lunches will be offered on MWF, with Chicken Strip Lunches offered every Tuesday, beginning Tuesday, Sept. 1. Pizza Day will be offered every Thursday beginning Sept. 3. Menus will be in our first Brown Envelope!! Please contact the school office if you have any questions.

--**EXTENDED CARE:** ICCS offers extended care from 7 to 7:45 a.m. and from 3:20 to 6 p.m. for registered students. Registration forms are in this mailing. ****Children in morning Extended Day must be brought into the building and signed in by a parent.****

--**LAST MINUTE PAPERWORK MUST BE ON FILE WITH OUR SCHOOL OFFICE:** Please make sure you have all immunizations up to date, birth certificates on file, and any other paperwork as required by the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth.

--**SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT SCHOOL MASS DAYS:** Unless there are special exceptions such as Holy Days, Ash Wednesday, etc., the school community will go to Mass every Thursday at 8:15 a.m. **STUDENTS SHOULD ALWAYS WEAR DRESS UNIFORM FOR SCHOOL MASS.** (See handbook for dress requirements)!!!

--STRING ENRICHMENT CLASSES: We are once again thrilled that Mrs. Delta Holl will offer stringed orchestra classes to students in grades 4-8. This is an additional charge. Please contact Mrs. Holl or the school office if you would like more information.

SAVE THE DATE!!

**WELCOME BACK FAMILY PICNIC
SPONSORED BY THE ICCS HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
(NEED DATE) FROM 6 TO 8 P.M. ON THE WEST PLAYGROUND OF THE SCHOOL
(IN THE GYM IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER)**

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE OFTEN FOR THE LATEST!! Please log on to:
www.catholicschooldenton.org for the detailed calendar, weekly emails, and more!**

--SAVE THE DATE!! ICCS AUCTION- SATURDAY, MARCH 4, ICCS GYM!!!