



. *State of the School*

Math Committee Update

For the last year, members of the Diocesan Math Curriculum committee have been working to revise the math curriculum. The new curriculum for grades K – 8 will be based on the Common Core curriculum which has been adopted by 48 states, including North Carolina. The new diocesan math curriculum will include everything in the Common Core as well as some topics which are not included. Teaching of the new curriculum will begin with the 2012 – 2013 school year. While the Diocesan Curriculum has not yet been published, the Common Core may be viewed at <http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards/mathematics>. Because students in the Diocese of Raleigh take the North Carolina End of Course Exam in Algebra I, the diocese will follow the North Carolina curriculum for that course.

Here at Immaculata, the math committee will work on the implementation of the new curriculum as well as ways in which we can improve and extend upon our math program.

Junior Historians

Junior Historians is a club for all interested students in grades 5-8 that meets monthly on Tuesdays from 3-4pm. Mrs. Rains and parent Patricia

Erickson lead the group. At the beginning of the year, the members elect officers and select topics for the rest of the year. Topics that have been covered in the past include an overview of Egyptian and Roman mythology, an overview of early and medieval European history, and World War II.

Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, September 20 in room 5A. Because Mrs. Rains has a commitment with her daughter at 4:30pm, students must be picked up promptly at 4pm or they will be sent to afterschool.

Hope to see you there!

H&SA News

The Ice Cream Social was a HUGE success, as everyone enjoyed seeing old friends, meeting their new teachers and enjoying ice cream!! What a wonderful way to start off the new school year!

The Back to School BBQ was cancelled due to a power outage thanks to Hurricane Irene. It has been rescheduled for Friday, September 23rd from 6:30p-8:30p. Tickets are still available either at the front office or by contacting Tonya at tsaleby@fmreality.com. If you previously purchased tickets, please email Tonya if you will be attending, so we can get a

catering count. We are looking forward to a fun night and hope to see everyone there!!!

A big welcome to our newest H&SA Board member, Bea Dippy, Treasurer. Bea has two children, Lorelei (4th grade) and Anneliese (2nd grade) and is the Brownie leader and Cookie Mom for Junior Troop. Welcome Bea!!!!

The Learning Center

The Learning Center at Immaculata is an afterschool study hall that is supervised by teachers and volunteer tutors. This year it will serve students in grades 5-8. It will be a silent study period and students will be asked to set goals that they hope to achieve by attending The Learning Center. These goals will be reviewed with the students periodically and students will be asked to reflect on how they have worked to achieve their goals.

The Learning Center will be held on most Monday's, Tuesday's and Thursday's from 2:55 – 3:40. We ask that students are promptly picked up at the door to The Learning Center at 3:40.

We have already sent home applications with students that have been recommended by teachers. If you would like to receive an application

IMMACULATA WAY OF LIFE

Respect God, self, and others ❖ Be a person of integrity ❖ Live a life of service ❖ Produce quality work

and make a parent recommendation that your child attend The Learning Center, please contact Mrs. Stutz at stutzj@icdurham.org

Last year The Learning Center was a huge success with over 100 students participating in it at different times. In order to keep the program running smoothly, we have made a few changes and added more structure to this study period.

We are very fortunate to again have several teachers (Mrs. Stutz, Mrs. Rains, Mrs. Weeks and maybe more...) volunteering their time in The Learning Center. We are also fortunate to have Duke students from the Catholic Center and tutors from America Reads and Counts working with our students during this time.

Please contact Mrs. Stutz with any questions about The Learning Center.

From Sra. Esposito (Middle School Spanish)

¡Hola!

Sexto grado: We just learned how to tell time the traditional way and also when using a digital clock. We are reviewing basic vocabulary, *tú vs usted* and subject pro-nouns. The students will be doing group projects for the Hispanic Heritage Celebration. Your child will be bringing home the guidelines sheet for you to sign.

Séptimo grado: We took a diagnostic assessment. It was their final exam from last year and as a whole the results were ¡Fantásticos! I am so proud of them! We are now starting Chapter 4 which introduces us to the irregular verb *Ir* and interrogatives. We are also reviewing places to go and the verb *jugar*. They watched a review pop version of "Get Your Conjugation Back" with *AR* verbs. We all en-

joyed it! The students have also started working on their group research for the Hispanic Heritage Celebration. Your child will be bringing home the guideline sheet for you to sign. We have been busy!

Octavo grado: We started off the year with a diagnostic assessment. It was their final exam from last year. Wow! As a whole the results were ¡Fabulosos! They will all be formally assessed on the same material for the review section. However, assignments are varying due to what they individually need to review. *Octavo grado* also watched the pop version of "Get Your Conjugation Back" with *AR* verbs. Wow! They really got into it! Some of them even printed out the lyrics – which means they are most likely planning a concert. I can't wait to see and listen to it! This year I am teaming up with Mrs. Korelich the Technology teacher for the 8th grade Hispanic Heritage Celebration project. They will individually create a travel brochure for their assigned Latin American Country. Your child will be bringing home a guideline sheet for you to sign. By the end of the year we will be able to speak in the present, simple future and past tenses. ¡Olé!

Durham Bulls

Education Days at the Durham Bulls Athletic Park are back for 2012! There are two exciting games to attend: Wednesday April 11th and Wednesday May 2nd. Games are at 11:05am. Education Day provides elementary and middle school students the opportunity to learn outside of a classroom setting. Free North Carolina approved curriculum is offered to all teachers. Interactive learning stations on the concourse are available for students and teachers to enjoy. Additionally, selected students will have the opportunity to interview Durham

Bulls' players about the importance of education and participate in on-field promotions. For more information contact Brian Simorka, Manager, Group Ticket Sales, Durham Bulls Baseball Club at 919-687-6513 or bsimorka@durhambulls.com

Fall Fundraiser

Save the date for Immaculata's 11th Fall Fundraiser, "Escape to Fantasy Island!" October 22 at 6:30 PM at the Emily K. This is our school's biggest fundraiser and one you don't want to miss. Local band "Puritan Rodeo", featuring our own Mr. Latimer, will be performing LIVE. Immaculata Parent and Chef Tim Lyons, owner of Blu Seafood and Bar, (bluseafoodandbar.com) will be preparing and serving a whole pig, Luau style. We'll be offering hand crafted, locally made beer courtesy of ICS Alumni Parents Dave and Beth Hollister and Bull City Burger and Brewery (bullcityburgerandbrewery.com). And, since we will be on "Fantasy Island" you can dress however you choose – fantasy costume, dress up, or dress down. Also this year, we have a special opportunity for those who would like to volunteer. Contact Sherri Roche at roches@icdurham.org to volunteer or find out more.

Music News

Music organizations at Immaculata have had a great start! Over fifty students are participating in choir, junior choir and orchestra this fall. Our band program continues to grow by leaps and bounds, with almost 40 students signed up for the fall semester! We appreciate all these students and parents who commit to these organizations and make time for these rehearsals in the midst of their very busy schedules. We are looking forward to a terrific year!

From Mrs. Beauchaine, Resource Teacher

Each month I will have an article, or an excerpt from an article regarding gifted students, enrichment, and creativity. This month's excerpt is from *How to Grow up Creatively Gifted*:

- Don't be afraid to "fall in love" with something and pursue it with intensity. (You will do best what you like to do most.)
- Know, understand, take pride in, practice, develop, use, exploit, and enjoy your greatest strengths.
- Learn to free yourself from the expectations of others and to walk away from the games they try to impose on you.
- Free yourself to "play your own game" in such a way as to make good use of your gifts.
- Find a great teacher or mentor who will help you.
- Don't waste a lot of expensive, unproductive energy trying to be well rounded. (Don't try to do everything; do what you can do well and what you love.)
- Learn the skills of interdependence. (Learn to depend upon one another, giving freely of your greatest strengths and most intense loves.)

Compiled from Torrance, Murdock, & Fletcher, 1996.

Noticias de la clase de Español-Spanish class news- Señora Peña

Spanish classes with PreK-5th grade are going great. The students are awesome and very smart. We are working on learning new prayers, the calendar and a new song. Please practice at home with your child using the handouts that were sent in the Friday folder. After this, we are going to start learning and/or reviewing

new vocabulary. Please check my web page for details of what is happening with each class. I also offer free help for students in 2-5th grade on Wednesdays at 7:30 in the Spanish classroom (6B homeroom upstairs). Please send your child with a note giving your permission to attend free tutoring. Email me at penar@icdurham.org if you have questions. ! Gracias! !Que Dios les bendiga! May God bless you!

Media Center Information

The goal of the library literature program is to foster development of lifelong readers. Throughout the year, students in grades PreK-5 are introduced to a variety of literary genres by well known authors and illustrators. Students in PreK and Kindergarten are allowed to check out one book which goes back to their classroom (In January, Kindergarten students may check out a book to take home). Grades 1-5 are allowed to check out 1 book to take home; middle school students may check out 2 books. All students are welcome to come before school to return and check out a new book.

From Coach

It has been a great beginning to the school year. So far, we have gone over all the rules in class and moved on to fun games like Wacky Relay and the parachute for the primary division. 3rd – 8th has done the Wacky Relay and they will move on to working on quickness, speed, endurance and strength.

The big thing in gym to start the year is the uniform situation. I have told each child what they can wear and what they cannot wear in P.E. class. I have told the kids that they must order the proper clothes if they want to

participate in class. I have also told them if they have ordered the clothes and they have not come in yet to just have their parents write a note and they will be able to play. As of Sept. 5th no child has sat out of P.E. because of uniform and no child will sit out the week of Sept. 9th. Starting Sept. 12th any child that does not have either the proper gym clothes or a note from a parent letting me know they have ordered the clothes will sit out of class. I do not want to sit anyone out so please have your child properly dressed for class. I am looking forward to a great year.

From the Art Room

Art classes are beginning wonderful projects of which some will be chosen to go to the State Fair in October.

Teaching and Parenting with Love and Logic

How would you like to help your child make better decisions and learn from natural consequences before the stakes get too high? Are you interested in eliminating power struggles with your Middle Schooler? Join Immaculata's teachers and staff in learning to implement the principles of the Love and Logic discipline program this year! Developed initially as a program for parents, Love and Logic was created by Jim Fay and David Funk, former teachers and administrators, and Foster W. Cline, a psychiatrist. Surprisingly easy to learn and implement, it is based upon decades of research and family and classroom experiences.

The staff will be working with nine skills that are based on five research-based principles that:

1. Preserve and enhance the child's self-concept;

2. Teach children how to own and solve the problems they create;
3. Share the control and decision-making;
4. Combine consequences with high levels of empathy and warmth; and
5. Build the adult-child relationship (Fay 2007).

We will be sharing information about these skills in future newsletters and invite you to try them at home, thus building a home-school partnership for this discipline model. We'll ask you to share your successes with us as well as give us challenges to figure out in the "Love and Logic" way.

The first skill we'll be implementing is "Neutralizing Student Arguing." Arguing wastes instructional time, can intensify the problem, and can ruin respectful relationships and result in pointless, destructive power struggles. What's a teacher (or parent) to do? Try some one-liners and remain calm! Here are some classic Love and Logic lines:

"I respect you too much to argue";
 "I'll listen when your voice is calm";
 "I know";
 "Probably so";
 "I bet it feels that way";
 "That's an option."

Choose or create a line that works for you, say it in a calm, genuine, respectful manner, and simply repeat it during the conversation. Trust us – it works! The power struggle is defused if we're not drawn into it. Let us know how this works for you and your family!

The Eagle Express

The Eagle Express, Immaculata's school newspaper, is about to start for a new school year! If you are in fifth through eighth grade, please

consider becoming a part of our team of journalists! We will have our first meeting after school in the Computer Lab on Thursday, September 22. We meet each week from 3pm to 4pm. If students are not going to Afterschool, parents must pick up their children in the Computer Lab promptly at 4pm. Most work is completed during our weekly meetings. There will be occasional assignments to cover school events and to interview teachers and students. If you cannot make each meeting due to sports or other commitments but are still interested in contributing, assignments may be worked on outside of our meetings. Questions? Contact Julie Roberts (robertsj@icdurham.org), Patricia Erickson (ericksonp@icdurham.org), or Cindy Rains (rainsc@icdurham.org).

Also, the Eagle Express is in need of someone who can help us with the layout of the newspaper. If you are at all interested in helping us with this job, please contact Julie Roberts.

Welcome to Technology

We are off to a great start in technology this year. Middle School students are working on an Anti-Cyberbully campaign. They will be designing posters that will be on display throughout the school at the end of September. All teachers will integrate technology into their classrooms using Promethean Boards, the Technology Lab and our 2 new mobile laptop labs (coming in October). New Promethean boards have been installed in 2nd and 3rd Grade and technology professional development for teachers has already begun.

In addition, we have teamed up with Atomic Learning to provide our Immaculata families and students access to technology tutorials on software such as MS Office, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Google Docs, Open

Office, Garage Band, etc. Please visit www.atomiclearning.com, login (username: *icsparent* and password: *ics100*). Check out everything Atomic Learning has to offer.

Science News

Science at Immaculata is always exciting, but this year we have great timing as well. Both PreK and 7th grade are studying weather, seasons, and the atmosphere and, as you know, Mother Nature has been providing us with incredible examples to witness. I'm sure the 6th grade can't wait until 2nd quarter when we study earthquakes. Our current first grade has seen the fruits of their labors from Kindergarten. Zinnia seeds they planted last year have grown to be beautiful, tall flowers that one student brought in to show his classmates. All of middle school is just starting on their science fair, choosing an experimental question with care, while other grades are starting to get their feet wet. We are excited about this school year and what is to come in the world of science exploration at Immaculata.

From ICS Parent Karyn Rahn

I am excited to invite all of you to come see Samantha (8th grade) perform the role of "Puck" in A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Neuse Little Theatre in Smithfield, NC (www.neuselittletheatre.org). The show runs on the following dates:

Friday, September 9 (8 PM)
 Saturday, September 10 (8 PM)
 Sunday, September 11 (3 PM)
 Friday, September 16 (8 PM)
 Saturday, September 17 (8 PM)

Tickets are \$12 if reserved in advance (\$14 at the door), but this is a small venue, so I really encourage you to

reserve tickets ahead of time. You can reserve tickets by calling 919-934-1873. The theatre accepts cash only (you just pay when you get to the theatre).

Also, you can reach me at rahn0001@gmail.com or on my cell at 919-724-2814 to let me know if you plan to come to the show so I can be sure to look for you!

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

From Lynn Worthington

Faith Filled Families Rescheduled: My apologies to those who tried to gather for Faith Filled Families on Sept. 6. Please try again on Sept. 20th. We will meet right after whole school Mass in St. Luke trailer – directly across from the Worship Space. If you do not feel you can give the full hour to this sharing time come anyway! Your contributions will bless us all.

Prayer of the Month: Confiteor correction. Please note that the copy of the Confiteor we sent home last Friday had two errors! My sincere apologies for not catching this before distribution, but we are sending a corrected copy home this week with students in grades 3 to 8. We greatly appreciate your support at home in helping the children to learn these prayers by heart!

mizlyn@bellsouth.net

CECIL

ICS's Committee for Exceptional Children and Integrative Learning (CECIL) is planning for a great year of speakers and projects devoted to helping our kids, teachers and fami-

lies grow in our ICS learning environment.

We have formed an Advisory Group made up of teachers, parent-professionals and an occupational therapist to help us move along in our goals for this year. Welcome to the members of the CECIL Advisory Group: Jana Clever (1B), Scott Jones (4B), Beth Newton; Kelly Anthony; Stephanie Parken, OT; and Kaaren Haldeman.

Please check the link on the ICS homepage for information about upcoming talks and projects. The first talk will be held at ICS in September and will address parent-teacher relationships.

We are currently seeking volunteers who sew to help with making weighted blankets and foam-filled pillows for kids with sensory integration needs. Many thanks and we look forward to another great year!

Please email Kaaren Haldeman at kaargav@earthlink.net with any questions and/or if you would like to join the CECIL group.

Eating locally and the Three R's

Last year the Environmental Club began work on adding edible plants to the courtyard. We added a few garden beds for vegetables and sunflowers and planted a dwarf apple tree with the Teacher Appreciation Committee. This year we hope to add blueberry bushes and more garden beds. We will also work to change and improve school practices regarding the three R's - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Meetings start next week. Talk to Mr. Schwankl if you are interested.

Lego Fun

Students in the third and fourth grade will have the opportunity during class and recess to work as young scientists, engineers, and mathematicians. Students are encouraged to build and program a working lego model and then use the model for different purposes, depending upon the theme of the activity and its focused subject matter in science, technology, mathematics, or language.

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/13: K-5 Prayer Service (led by 5A)

9/15-16 Middle School Retreat

9/16: Friday Morning Prayer (led by 4B)

9/20: All School Mass (led by 6B)

9/21: Picture Day

9/23: Friday Morning Prayer (led by 3B)

9/23: A&R with Student Council inductions

9/26-30: IOWA & COGAT Testing for Grades 6-8

9/27: Grades 6-8 Mass (led by 6A)

9/30: Friday Morning Prayer (led by 6B)

SPORTS

all Boys Soccer & Girls Volleyball Games start at 4:15

9/13 v. Cathedral: soccer-away, volleyball-home

9/14 v. Our Lady of Lourdes: soccer-home, volleyball-home

9/19 v. Nativity: soccer-home, no volleyball

9/20 v. The Franciscan School: soccer-away, volleyball-away

9/22 v. St. Michael's: soccer-away, volleyball-away

9/27 v. St. Raphael: soccer-home, volleyball-home

9/29 v. St. Thomas More: soccer-away, volleyball-away