

# Principal's Message

March 7, 2010

Dear Families:

From Wednesday through Friday I attended the annual principal's retreat. This year's theme focused on the necessity for hope in our lives in this most difficult of times. Most of us refer to this historical era as the perfect storm...too many issues colliding at the same moment in time. As children of God we continue to believe that with His grace we will come out of this stronger in faith and resolve, recognizing the role that He must play in our lives. Only He knows the challenges facing each of us for they are many and varied. But, we all know that we must acknowledge His direction in our lives and we must remain committed to following Him on the journey. He is in fact our only hope and He will both guide and protect us as we endeavor to do His will, as it is done in heaven.



Classroom News:

- Kindergarten celebrated 100 Days in 100 ways. Then, lo and behold, they acquired 100 marbles in their good behavior jar so they had a fun classroom party. As sweet as those students are, I'm surprised they don't have 100 marbles every week!!
- First grade recognized Dr. Seuss' birthday on the morning news by telling everyone interesting facts about this prolific writer. Then they shared green eggs and ham with their seventh grade buddies all the while wearing Dr. Seuss hats. What a great birthday party for first grade and Dr. Seuss!
- Second grade told me they are learning all about the orbit of the moon and sun around the earth. Also in the hallway, they have the most beautifully printed stories about George Washington or Abe Lincoln. This class works on each project with attention to detail and takes pride in their work.
- Third graders were busy with language arts work when I visited but they really wanted to talk about the new home for the hermit crabs. The cage is made of glass so the children are tickled that Patrick (and anyone who looks like him) cannot climb out of the new home.
- Fourth and fifth graders wrote welcoming notes to the guests of this week's rotating shelter. Can we even imagine how they must feel knowing that local churches pray for them and take care of their corporal needs? On Friday we will make brown-bagged lunches for 40 guests, thanks to your generous donations.
- Sixth grade has created Christ the King pennants that hang in the hallway. On the back of each pennant the children explain the significance of each symbol they drew.
- Seventh grade author studies fill the walls outside their classroom. Each one is stunning and as artistic as the class has always been. Also, Mrs. Kadel presented Science Fair certificates to the top five students who performed extraordinarily well in the use of scientific method, classroom presentation, backdrop design, inventive model, and performance for judges at the science fair. Students included Allison Ferwer, Kevin Bedwell, Preston Kist, Anna Smith, and Joshua Porte. Congratulations!

- Eighth grade students hosted a speaker from Door of Hope. This program concentrates on respect for one's body as a temple of the Holy Spirit. Instilling respect for oneself will always lead to respect for others and a clear understanding of appropriate relationships as the children date and interact socially.

The parish offers two faith formation opportunities. On Sunday night at 7:00 p.m. Father Stanislaw conducts the School of Prayer at ICC. At 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center Awakening Faith sessions will be held for the next 3 Tuesdays. Please refer to the parish website for further info.

On Monday morning at 10:00 a.m. grades 2-8 will experience the sacrament of Reconciliation. The children are always very peaceful as we take this time to listen to Jesus during this special time.

Thursday at 11:00 a.m. the doors will open for the Special Person's Lunch for second grade. The children are so excited to spend time with their favorite people...you!

Last Monday night 13 ICS supporters met to review our Strategic Plan and discuss what we have learned through our Partners in Mission workshops. There were so many great ideas brought to the floor that rejuvenated all of us. One of the most popular plans is to investigate the possibility of a pre-school here at ICS. Since space is the issue we will study ways to increase space. We are convinced that a pre-school would be appreciated and profitable. The original planning committee had recommended the pre-school for our Middle States report. We undertake the study with Father Joe's blessing.

Progress reports will be distributed on Friday. It is unbelievable that 2/3 of the school year has been completed. Also a reminder that we will be open on Thursday, April 1 (no kiddin'), Thursday, April 8 and Friday, April 9 for snow make-up. There may be more if weather warrants.

Next week we will begin writing mailers for the upcoming Race for Education. Think about family and friends who will respond favorably to this initiative for the eventually all students will be the winners in this race!

LORD, GIVE ME UNDERSTANDING AND THE GRACE  
TO LIVE UP TO THIS UNDERSTANDING.

God bless you,

*Mrs. Kirkwood*