

Dear Parents,

8/2005

Summer greetings to all our families! We're pleased to have you as partners in this educational year. We want to assure you that we will do our best to help your child experience academic, social, emotional, and spiritual growth. More than ever, Catholic schools play a crucial role in society. We teach a set of beliefs and values that are a sustaining force for the day-in, day-out struggle against the problems in life. Immaculate is an environment that creates a strong social bond among students, faculty and administration. We strive to actively develop a sense of personal accountability and responsibility. This is a time of high expectations, hard work, good resolutions and a little bit of excitement. We look forward to greeting your children as they bring their youth, enthusiasm, and curiosity to us.

Our school opening begins on **Wednesday, September 7th for students in grades 5 to 8. There is no school on Wednesday for students in grades 1 to 4. Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> is the first day of school for students in grades 1 to 4. There is no school on Thursday for grades 5 to 8. On Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, school is in session for all students in grades 1 to 8. Each day is a FULL DAY.** Please be sure your children have a bag lunch and drink. Our Milk/Beverage preordered drinks are not in effect. Our Hot Lunch program begins in October. It is a commitment to nutrition and is a great benefit for your child. New legislation passed in June 2004 contains a mandate for all National School Lunch Program schools to have a "local wellness policy" in place by July 1, 2006. This policy will have to address all foods available on every school campus during the day; goals for nutrition education; goals for physical activity; and goals to promote student wellness in other school-based activities. We are fortunate to have one of our parents sit on the Archdiocesan board that will address these issues and develop realistic standards that are the best for our children. This year water is also included as an a la carte beverage so that the only "extra" order will be your pretzel order. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call the office or email me through SchoolNotes or our web page at [ischool@comcast.net](mailto:ischool@comcast.net).

School begins at 8:15 every morning and will end at 3:05. We may have to be flexible with the disrupted traffic patterns caused by the borough construction so be sure to build in some extra time for your child so that he/she is on time. We appreciate any adjustments to your schedule you have to make and hopefully, the end is near! Uniforms are to be worn beginning with the first day of school. Summer uniforms are allowed until Wednesday, November 2nd. On cooler days, uniform

sweaters and navy blue sweatpants for gym are worn. Please remember that our uniform suppliers are Flynn & O'Hara along with Rose Uniforms. Just a note of caution – please do not purchase backless or slide shoes. All the children walk up and down stairs numerous times each day and they can be hazardous.

Curriculum changes in our support materials this year include Scott Foresman Science © 2003 texts for Grade 2 which focus on Life, Physical, and Earth Science; Grade 3 and Grade 5 Scott Foresman – Addison Wesley Math © 2005; Grade 6 Houghton-Mifflin Spelling-Vocabulary © 2006; and Grade 6 Loyola Writing and Grammar © 2006. Grades 2-8 will all use a Vocabulary Workshop text published by Sadlier or Loyola. Ms. Helen McIlvane again will head a team of counselors to work with Grade 6 on Study Skills. We will continue with our Second Step program along with an added Conflict Resolution component presented by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit along with moving forward in the area of assessment as outlined in our Middle States reaccreditation goals from the spring of 2004.

In selecting our support texts for our curriculum programs, an important component in our selection process is the integration of technology with the program. To that end, we continue to improve the technology hardware and software accessible to students. Our ICS web page ([www.icsjenkintown.org](http://www.icsjenkintown.org).) will continue to be updated by our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to help keep you abreast of developments in all areas. When you return your emergency form, please be sure to include your e-mail address. We will be sending home a form in the first communication envelope where you will be asked to “opt in” if you want a hard copy of our weekly communication. Otherwise, you will receive our updated communications through our website.

This July we were awarded a Hands On Learning Grant from the state of Pennsylvania for \$10,000. Our project this year is titled “Why You Need a Handheld Computer” and it is a handheld project on Multi-Cultural Printmaking. This project will focus on an interdisciplinary study of the history and art of printmaking with the sixth grade class through the use of technology and classroom workshop studies. The main areas of concentration will be on the skills of reading, writing, and research. While this project will integrate the students' entire academic subject areas, emphasis will be heavy on the areas of Social Studies, Technology, English and Visual Arts. The purpose of these highly competitive grants is for the implementation of strategies for technology integration at the teacher and student levels to directly impact student performance, the primary purpose of Hands On Learning.

We have instituted some changes in our Music program this year. Choral practice will begin as usual on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> and will be all inclusive, i.e., Boys' Chorus, Choral, and A Capella Choir. Mrs. Germont-Risser (aka Miss D) will again direct and produce a musical but this year performers and stage crew will be limited to Grades 6, 7, and 8. Rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> and end on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The time will be from 3:15 to 5:00. We may have a few Friday rehearsals but only if they are absolutely necessary. The performance will take place on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 P.M. Choral practice will be suspended during this time and will resume on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> to prepare for the end of the year Fine Arts Festival on Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. We felt that this schedule would make it easier for students to make a serious commitment without being "torn" about prioritizing activities.

We welcome our new staff member: **Ms. Kelly Bennett**. Ms. Bennett will be teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade. She is Catholic school educated and a graduate of Villanova University. Ms. Bennett is currently completing her Master's Degree at Gwynedd-Mercy College. Ms. Bennett comes to us from St. Dorothy School in Drexel Hill where she was the Grade 5-6 teacher. Before St. Dorothy's, she was the Grade 5-6 teacher at St. John of the Cross. Her teaching experience also includes two years as a substitute teacher and four years as a Social Worker/Tutor at Carson Valley School. We look forward to having Ms. Bennett as part of the Immaculate community.

We are grateful to Home & School for supporting us in so many ways. Look for our NEW Cherrydale Sale, Back to School Night, and our Pancake Breakfast in September. Then on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, our parish auction/social, "Tis the Season" takes place. Your help is always appreciated. We depended a great deal on your support last year to make needed capital improvements and our moving forward with our academic goals often depends on our having the necessary funds in place.

As always, we thank you for your support and for welcoming all of us into your children's lives,

Pastor: Reverend Monsignor John J. Conahan

Pastoral Associate: Mrs. Deborah Brown

Principal: Mrs. Diane Greco

Kindergarten: Mrs. Leslie Overmier

Kindergarten Aide: Mrs. Veronica Parkes

Grade 1: Ms. Noelle Gola

Grade 2: Mrs. Margaret Cooney

Grade 3: Mrs. Margaret Pulicari

Grade 4: Mrs. Rita O'Hara

Grade 5: Ms. Kelly Bennett  
 Grade 6: Ms. Catherine Mamrol  
 Grade 7: Ms. Megan McHugh  
 Grade 8: Mrs. Georgina Hagarty  
 Art & Computer: Mrs. Teresa Heinz  
 Band: Mr. Alexander Schmauk  
 Piano: Mrs. Melia Repko-Schmauk  
 Honors Math: Ms. Carrie Chirillo  
 Library & Grade 6 Math: Mrs. Teresa Zygala  
 Liturgical Music: Mrs. Stephanie Twohig  
 Music: Mrs. Denise Germont-Risser  
 P.E: Ms. Kathleen Lauletta  
 Secretary: Mrs. Mary Zeccardi  
 Secretary: Mrs. Mary Beth Albrecht  
 Custodian: Mr. Joseph Mooney  
 Intermediate Unit Staff:  
     Reading & Math: Mrs. Marge Ruppel  
     Speech: Ms. Randi Chud  
     Counselor: Mrs. Eileen Ford  
     Psychologist: Mr. Jeff Bellos

## KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION DAY FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2005

During the time assigned for your kindergartner you remain with him/her as all of you become acquainted with one another in Mrs. Overmier's and Mrs. Parkes' classroom. Please report according to the schedule below:

### 8:45 - 9:30

Suzanna Cantwell  
 John Patrick Judge  
 Courtney O'Connell  
 Nicholas Smith  
 James Sullivan

### 9:30 - 10:15

Tyler Cantwell  
 Steven Kozlowski  
 Teagan O'Hara  
 Vicheata Soth  
 Elizabeth Wescott

### 10:15 - 11:00

Joseph Cawley  
 Michael McGettigan  
 Kayla Schultz  
 Leah Tollett  
 Jake Zenak

Regular Kindergarten classes as well as the optional Extended Kindergarten Session (12:00 to 3:05) will begin on Monday, September 12th at 8:15. Dismissal for kindergarten will be at 12:00 from the back door of school. Extended Kindergarten Session children will dismiss with the rest of the school at 3:05. The projected fee schedule for the Extended Session is enclosed.

\*\*\*NOTES\*\*\*NOTES\*\*\*NOTES\*\*\*NOTES\*\*\*NOTES\*\*\*NOTES\*\*\*

--Just a reminder, please remember that in addition to jumpers & kilts, uniform **pants, shorts, and skorts** are to be purchased from our uniform suppliers. The quality and appearance is obvious. It is our uniform code. Uniforms are checked periodically during the school year and infractions are issued for students who are not in compliance. Shoes with soles that don't leave black marks on the floor are a plus in keeping our building clean. Your continued support is appreciated. White sneakers are allowed only with shorts or skorts.

--Please call the office if you would like to be a **Lunchtime Aides or Substitute Lunchtime Aide**. This is a paid position and an important part of your child's day. Please call the office if you are able to help or have any questions.

--Our **Library Birthday Book program** will continue this year. Look for more information in September. Our Book Fair will take place in the fall and we plan to have it open on the weekend again this year.

PLEASE READ THE ENCLOSED INFORMATION. IT'S IMPORTANT! BE SURE TO CHECK BOTH SIDES.

God bless,  
Mrs. Greco