

Notes from Mrs. Greco  
March 15, 2007

*IMPORTANT CALENDAR CHANGE TO NOTE:*

We are changing our registration dates for current families for the school year 2007-2008. ALL registrations (new and current families) will take place during the last week in March (March 26-30). Our new families will be placed on a waiting list in order to give priority to current families. This change is being made in order to present new tuition rates at our March 21<sup>st</sup> Home & School meeting at 7:00pm. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. The information presented will explain the tuition structure and rates.

Congratulations to Regan O'Connell who is a recipient of a Neumann Scholarship which is a one-half tuition four-year scholarship to an Archdiocesan high school. This year 800 students were eligible for the Neumann Scholars Program and 710 sat for the challenging examination on January 27, 2007. Regan's dedication to scholarship resulted in her outstanding performance on this test. We are proud to count her as one of our own!

In an effort to continue to be proactive to insure a peace filled atmosphere at Immaculate, we are adding the following programs to our weekly Second Step program. This year grades 7 & 8 will have a one day workshop on Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The workshop is led by a team of counselors and includes discussion and activities designed to help children understand themselves and their relationship to their communities. The goal of the program is that the children will understand that all persons that they meet have something important to offer and contribute and therefore are entitled to respect. An important concept presented is that prejudging or rash judgments interfere with appreciating the diversity of another's assets, talents and strengths. Next year counselors will conduct a monthly program intended to prepare students for the transition from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to high school. At the beginning of next year, the entire student body will participate in the Olweus Anti-bullying program which is a nationally recognized program for its effectiveness in addressing both overt and subtle bullying behaviors. Again,

this is a program where teachers are trained and assisted by counselors. The Olweus program is a two-year program.

We extend our condolences and ask your prayers for the O'Neill and O'Hara families. Mr. O'Neill's stepfather and Mrs. O'Hara's (our 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher) brother, Joseph, died this past week.

The weather may still play a few winter tricks on us BUT if we do not use our last snow day, it will be scheduled on Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> is already scheduled as a Faculty Meeting day. We hope that knowing this possibility helps with your planning.

Report Cards go home today. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. One trimester remains in the school year.

Information was sent home via the classroom for grades 3 & 4 for our pilot Book Club program which will meet on Mondays after school for 4 weeks.

Parents of students in grades 6, 7, 8 - don't forget Jr. Fest. Visit [www.oyya.org](http://www.oyya.org) for registration information --- registration deadline is March 30.

Information is included today to introduce you to the Mobile Dentist/Smile Program. Mobile Dentists' team set up a mini-dental office in our building and will provide, as indicated, dental examinations, cleanings, fluoride treatments, sealants and check up x-rays. The children who return completed permission forms may receive some or all of the above services. Mobile Dentists provides grants to families who require full financial assistance and subsidized fees for those who need financial aid. Forms must be returned by 4/24/2007.

Save the date for our Home & School Mother/Son Bowling day scheduled for Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Spring outfits, Lenten meals, Easter goodies, vacations - all have something in common: *SCRIP!* Don't forget to buy your scrip available in the rectory or you can order through school.

Girl Scouts are sending cookies for our troops overseas on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in donating should contact Julie Hill at 215-887-8966 or [frauhill86@aol.com](mailto:frauhill86@aol.com).

Don't forget our paper drive. We're inching closer to our 6 ton goal but not close enough. If everyone saved the Sunday papers and brought them to the yellow and green Abitibi bin behind the rectory we would make our GOAL! Please help! Thanks for saving a tree and raising money for the parish!

The deadline for filling out BLOCS applications for financial aid is quickly approaching. BLOCS applications for financial aid are online at our website or at your request, we will send an application home to you. Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS) is the official state-approved Scholarship Organization for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. As such, BLOCS is able to accept Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) contributions for our schools. There is a substantial tax break (up to 90%) for businesses who donate through BLOCS. Additionally, the application is how Immaculate as a parish determines financial aid awards. Even if you do not receive an award through BLOCS, you may be eligible for financial aid through the parish. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY FRIDAY, MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>. We do not award financial aid from the parish unless you have filled out a BLOCS application so you are encouraged to do so.

Please check your envelope or the website for these important items of communication:

April menus & 3 envelopes.  
Career Day flyer.  
BLOCS Application is online.  
IU Launch Into Literacy flyer.