

I-TEAM INSIGHTS

Vol 1, No 1

A Newsletter for the Partnering Schools of

February, 2012

Immaculate Conception (Jenkintown) and Saint Luke the Evangelist (Glenside)

CALENDAR

- Jan 24** I-Team meeting at SLS
- Jan 25** Schools closed - Archdiocesan meeting for administrators and faculty regarding process for interviewing and hiring principal and faculty
- Jan 30** I-Team Meeting at SLS
- Jan 31** County-wide meeting at Archbishop Carroll High School (*I-Team reps attend*)
- Feb 6-10** On-line "Letter of Interest" survey
- Feb 9** I-Team Meeting at ICS
- Feb 10-17** On-line name survey
- Feb 21** County-wide meeting at Archbishop Carroll High School (*I-Team reps attend*)
- Mar 13** County-wide meeting at Archbishop Carroll High School (*I-Team reps attend*)
- Mar 25** **Open House** for new Regional School on Saint Luke campus / **School Registration begins**
- Sept** **Regional School Opens**

Meet the "I-TEAM"

As directed by the Office of Catholic Education, our "Implementation Team" for our Regionalization effort consists of twelve members, six each from both Immaculate Conception School (ICS) and Saint Luke School (SLS). Members include:

Msgr. David Diamond (ICS) *Pastor*
Father Joseph Brandt (SLS) *Parochial Administrator*
Dr. Diane Greco (ICS) *Principal*
Sister William Adele, SSJ (SLS) *Principal*
David Bauer (ICS) *Business Manager*
Deacon Tom Croke (SLS) *Business Manager*

Jim Donahue (SLS)
Mimi Furletti (ICS)
Bob Loughney (ICS)
Genevieve Lynch (SLS)
Stanley (Stas) Majkut (ICS)
Beth Stieritz (SLS)

Sr. Patricia Healey, IHM *Facilitator*

From the Meeting Table

... Thoughts from the I-Team

Dear Parents, Parishioners, Alumni, and Friends,

On January 6, 2012, the "Blue Ribbon Commission" in conjunction with the Office of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia released their report on their findings after their year-long study of Archdiocesan Catholic Elementary and High Schools. As a result of the recommendations of this Commission, Saint Luke the Evangelist School (Glenside) will regionalize with Immaculate Conception School (Jenkintown), and the new Regional School will open in September, 2012 at the Saint Luke campus in Glenside. In all, over 80 Elementary Schools across the Archdiocese were affected by the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission.

*In the weeks following this announcement, both schools have worked quickly to ready themselves for the many changes that are going to take place on a very tight timeline. An "Implementation Team" (I-TEAM) has been appointed by the pastors and principals of both schools to lead the communities through the process of Regionalization. We, the I-Team, have been charged with a list of tasks to move this process forward, which include touring the Glenside site, preparing a process to surface possible names for the new school, and setting a calendar for ongoing meetings. After each team meeting, information and/or decisions will be communicated to both school communities simultaneously through this "I-Team Insights" newsletter. We are proud to present this first issue of **I-Team Insights**, and hope that this report will be an effective tool in communicating our progress to you as we move forward in the Regionalization process. Questions, comments and feedback on items included in **I-Team Insights** may be directed by e-mail to Iteamfeedback@hotmail.com. You have our assurance that we will work tirelessly as a cohesive Team to achieve results that are in the best interests of our school families, a new regional school, and for Catholic Education.*

The "I-Team"

We Hope ... We Fear ...

The I-Team meeting on January 24 was the first time representatives from both school communities came together to begin the work of a merger. In order to get a sense of the feelings of the group, I-Team members were asked to express their hopes and fears for this Regionalization. Some of the results are included below:

We hope that ...

- Two amazing communities can come together to form the best possible school
- Parents and Parishioners embrace the true meaning of the Catholic Church and be “on the same page” through this change
- The regionalization process across the Archdiocese may preserve and improve Catholic Education
- Both school communities can see past their geographical boundaries (Jenkintown/Glenside) and blend together as one school community
- All of the wonderful “intangibles” in each school community may flourish in the new school
- Our Local Catholic Church recovers from the trauma it has faced, and emerge stronger and better
- Both school communities may embrace this regionalization as a change for a better future

We fear that ...

- We will lose our autonomy and sense of ownership
- We will lose our identity / “social capital”
- We will lose our feeling of “closeness”, both geographically and as a school community
- The Regionalization timeline is too tight
- School mergers will cause people to leave Catholic Schools ... for good
- Each school community may not feel equally represented through the process
- If this “doesn’t work”, we will have to go through another merger years down the road
- Resentment towards the Archdiocese will increase

What’s a “Review Process”?

Immaculate Conception School requested that their information be reviewed by the Blue Ribbon Commission and that process began on Thursday, January 26th. During the review, selected representatives of the Blue Ribbon Commission present the data used in making the decision to partner St. Luke and Immaculate Conception. Immaculate Conception, as the school requesting the review, then corrects or completes data entries and updates statistics to demonstrate the current status of the parish and school. The Blue Ribbon Commission submits the review information with their comments to Archbishop Chaput with the projected date for a final decision by the Archbishop slated for February 15th. It is important to note that while the requested review takes place, our I-Team efforts along the track of merging/partnering will continue due to the compressed timeline for merging. More information about the Review/Appeal process is available on the Archdiocesan “Faith in the Future” website:

www.faithinthefuture.com/blue-ribbon/appeals

Important Websites

Be sure to check out our partnering schools’ and Archdiocesan websites to keep abreast of additional information on the Regionalization Process across the Archdiocese:

www.faithinthefuture.com

(Archdiocesan website for Regionalization information)

www.icsjenkintown.org

(Immaculate Conception School website)

www.saintlukeschool.org

(Saint Luke School website)

But what about

... Principal and Faculty Selection?

This month, the process for selecting the principal for our new Regional School will begin. The Search Committee includes the pastors from each school and representatives from the Office of Catholic Education. Following the hiring of the principal, the selection of faculty and staff will begin. Joint interviews will take place with the new principal and the pastors. New faculty members for the school will then be announced. Information will be forthcoming as to the date of these announcements as soon as it becomes available.

... this “Letter of Interest”?

As part of guidance offered to Implementation Teams across the Archdiocese by the Office of Catholic Education, a “Letter of Interest” is suggested. Current school families in both schools would be asked to consider and sign such a letter, indicating their “interest” in enrolling their children in the new Regional School for the 2012-2013 school year. Results of this letter would assist Teams in planning for the following year in terms of faculty and staffing, class sizes, and tuition.

Our Team feels that it is a bit early in the process to ask for such a letter to be signed. Instead, we have created an on-line survey that current school parents will be asked to respond to, which will ask pertinent questions relating to families’ interest in enrolling under given conditions and scenarios.

This “Interest Survey” will be available on-line beginning February 6 through February 10. All school families will receive log-on information via e-mail communication by February 6.

... our New School Name?

The Regionalization Process effectively results in a ***new school*** opening on the Glenside campus in September, 2012. As a result, our school and parish communities are responsible for the selection of a new school name. In January, both of our school communities were invited to submit suggestions for a new name. From these submissions, pastors and principals from ICS and SLS narrowed the list to twelve. Beginning ***Friday, February 10th***, all school and parish families will be again invited to voice opinions on our school name, and will be invited to participate in an on-line survey to rank *your* top three favorites.

The on-line survey will be open from February 10th through February 17th.

SURVEY LOG-ON INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE E-MAILED TO SCHOOL FAMILIES BY FEBRUARY 10, AND WILL BE PUBLISHED IN CHURCH BULLETINS AND POSTED ON SLS AND ICS WEBSITES THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 11.

Sometime after February 17th the top three names will again be on line for your consideration. All families will have one more chance to indicate their preference.

I-Team Insights will be published on a regular basis, as often as necessary to report on the ongoing progress of our Regionalization efforts. It may be necessary, however, to immediately communicate items of a time-sensitive nature to our current school families as we move along in the process.. The letter below was e-mailed to both school communities on January 26, and is re-printed here for informational purposes.

January 26, 2012

Dear Families of Immaculate Conception School and Saint Luke School,

We are pleased to report that the "Implementation Team" for our Regionalization effort, consisting of twelve members, six each from both Immaculate Conception School (ICS) and Saint Luke School (SLS), gathered for our first official meeting on Tuesday, January 24. The meeting took place at 12 PM in the St. Joseph the Worker Conference Room at Saint Luke School. As you are aware, this Team is charged with directing and coordinating the efforts of both of our school communities as we move ahead towards our merger. Members of the team include:

Msgr. David Diamond (ICS) *Pastor*
Father Joseph Brandt (SLS) *Parochial Administrator*
Dr. Diane Greco (ICS) *Principal*
Sister William Adele, SSJ (SLS) *Principal*
David Bauer (ICS) *Business Manager*
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Bob Loughney (ICS)
Genevieve Lynch (SLS)
Stanley (Stas) Majkut (ICS)
Beth Stieritz (SLS)

As you are aware, Immaculate Conception School has made the decision to request that their information be reviewed by the Blue Ribbon Commission, and that process will begin on Thursday, January 26. It is important to note that while the requested review takes place, our effort along the track of merging/partnering will continue because the time line is so tight. This communication, as well as subsequent messages, aims to provide information and transparency on all of our efforts.

The Team will meet again on **Monday evening, January 30th**. Important topics on the agenda for this next meeting will include compilation of suggestions received for our new School Name, a walk-through by the Team of the physical plant and grounds of Saint Luke School, and a discussion of the design and content of a formal newsletter that will be created and distributed to all families on a regular basis throughout the Regionalization process. On **Tuesday evening, January 31st**, Msgr. Diamond, Fr. Brandt, Dr. Greco, Sister William Adele, and one lay Team representative from each school will take all of our findings and progress to date to a county-wide meeting at Archbishop Carroll High School.

Look for our next Team communication in the days following the county-wide meeting on January 31st. As mentioned above, the communication will be in the form of a Team newsletter, and will be updated regularly with pertinent information and developments.

"The Implementation Team"