



The Charger Chronicles

Immaculate Conception School Parent Newsletter

December 1, 2017 • Volume 8 Issue 4

From the Principal

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your family had a wonderful Thanksgiving! As we turn our energy now to preparing for Christmas, we, as faithful Catholics, are reminded that we are in Advent season.

Advent (Latin for “Coming”) is a time of waiting and preparing for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

In and through Advent we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ multiple comings: Christ’s incarnation some 2,000 years ago, Christ’s presence in our midst today, and Christ’s glorious return at the end of time. One way we help ourselves and others “wait” during Advent is to make use of the season’s multiple symbols: the Advent Wreath, the Jesse Tree, and Las Posadas. Though the origins of the Advent Wreath predate Christianity, it is synonymous with Advent today. While we often focus on the candles and their colors, the real symbol of the wreaths are the lit flames. In this way, we proclaim and prepare for the coming of the light of the world, Jesus Christ. The wreath itself is in the shape of a circle, a symbol of God’s eternity. The green color speaks of life and health. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Traditionally, three of the candles are violet for the penitential character of the season. One, however, is rose or pink for the third week (Gaudete or “Rejoice” Sunday). Each morning we, as a school, light the Advent candle and together say an Advent prayer. We also read the Jesse Tree symbol and prayer for the day. Each classroom also has an Advent Wreath.

Let’s not allow the hustle and bustle of the holiday preparation to overshadow this faith filled time in which we prepare our hearts for Jesus. Think of what you and your family can do to prepare for the coming of Christ. How can we be more like Jesus? How can we become a light to others? You may want to write your thoughts as a prayer...

“Dear Lord, during Advent, I will prepare for your coming by ...going more slowly, by beginning each morning in prayer, by calling an old friend, by volunteering at a shelter, by spending time with a loved one, by being present to others, by listening more closely, by forgiving a wrong, by extending a hand in friendship...”

From our ICS family-faculty, staff and administration we wish you and your family a very Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

In Christ,
Kim DiMarco
Principal

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Wilda English, n.d.

God grant you the light of Christmas,
which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas,
which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas,
which is justice;
the belief in Christmas,
which is truth;
the all of Christmas,
which is Christ.

A Special Thanks

Thank you to Silvana Collins, ICS Advancement Director, and our Bayou Bash Committee: Shelly Benoit, Sarah Cuartas, Dawn Dufrene, Charla Dalton, Shelley DeGeorge, Courtney Gaudet, Ashley Hernandez, Tara LaFrance, Rachel Nash, Amanda Pitre, Lisa Reid, Jessyca Sulfted and Tania Weber for putting on our annual ICS Gala- The 2017 Bayou Bash. It was a great event that would not have been possible without the support of our generous sponsors:

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Christmas Holiday

December 22nd - January 7th

School resumes for the students on January 8, 2018. Father Jimmy, Mrs. DiMarco, and all the Faculty and Staff members of ICS wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Counselor Corner

Parenting is one of the most important, rewarding, and at times, challenging jobs we have! Each phase of a child's life has its joys and its struggles for both the child and the parent. As the ancient proverb states, "It takes a village to raise a child." Reaching out for support from your family, school, or community during the challenging times is one of the most helpful steps we can take when we are faced with a problem

we do not know how to address or when our previous efforts to address the problem have not resulted in the success we desired. In that context, I would like to remind you that the "Counselor's Corner" under the "Parent Resource" section of the ICS Home page contains helpful information regarding common parenting challenges via recommended books, websites, and agencies. It is always my goal to improve upon the resources which are there, so if you have recommendations on what could be added to make this page more beneficial, please let me know.

I would like to also emphasize parent conferences and consultations are an important part of my job. So, if you have specific concerns about your child, please give me a call or send me an email at s.davis@icschargers.org. My goal is to respond within 24-48 hours. I do not answer the phone when I am with a student or in a class, so please leave me a voice mail. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to work with you and your family!

Lastly, I would like to bring special attention to two programs which The Parenting Center at Children's Hospital is hosting during the month of December. Please call (504) 896-9591 to register if you are interested in either of these classes.

GROWING UP FOR GIRLS (9 - 12 YEARS) UPTOWN

12/5/2017 (6:30 PM - 8:30 PM)

Practical information about female anatomy, what happens during puberty, body image, menstruation and hygiene is presented in an informal, fun and hands-on manner. Girls attend with their mother or care giver. \$20 per child. Children's Hospital Auditorium

FOCUS ON CHILDREN DIVORCE PROGRAM UPTOWN.

12/13/2017 (6:00 PM - 8:00 PM)

A nationally acclaimed program to help divorcing parents lessen the impact of separation and divorce on their children. The importance of co-parenting skills is stressed. This course meets court requirements with certificate of attendance. Facilitated by a Parenting Center staff member. One-time class, \$25.

Delinquent Tuition

As per the Archdiocesan and ICS school policy, all tuition and fees must be up to date by Thursday, December 21st, in order to continue attending ICS when school resumes on January 8, 2018.

Santa Claus is coming to ICS

Wear your PJ's and join us for food, frolic and fun Friday, December 15th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Admission is \$10.00 per child and adults are free. Activities include: train rides, inflatable slide, making reindeer food, playing in the snow and singing Christmas Carols.

First Friday and Eucharistic Adoration

Every First Friday of the month our church offers the opportunity to participate in Eucharistic Adoration. Mass is celebrated at 8 a.m. At the end of the mass, the Blessed Sacrament is placed in a monstrance and set on the altar for all to adore in silent prayer. Consider attending mass at 8 a.m. and spending some time in silent prayer after bringing your children to school. Try it and you will see your spiritual life grow. Life can be quite challenging; we cannot do it alone. Jesus is waiting for you. Come spend some time with him.

SGA

The SGA, along with Mrs. Gauthé, went to City Park to decorate Immaculate Conception's Christmas tree. Please look for it if you attend Christmas in the Oaks.



Thank you

A huge thank you to everyone who supported ICS for the Crescent City Fall Classic. We won 1st place for the **FOURTH** year in a row and a \$3,000 cash grant.



Jr. Pelicans Dance Clinic

The Junior Pelicans are hosting a dance clinic for girls ages 5-12 on December 10th. The girls will learn a dance from the Pelicans Dance team. Registration includes a cute uniform and they will get to perform during a game. To register go to www.pelsgroups.com/jrdance.

Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) Qualifiers

We would like to recognize the students who have qualified to participate in the 2017 Duke University Talent Identification Program's 7th Grade Talent Search.

Duke TIP is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving academically gifted and talented students. Duke TIP works with students, their families, and educators to identify, challenge, engage, and help students reach their highest potential. Now in its thirty-seventh year, the 7th Grade Talent Search identifies bright seventh graders based on standardized test scores achieved while attending elementary or middle school. Candidates are invited to take the ACT or the SAT college entrance exams as seventh graders, which allows them greater insight into their academic abilities. In addition, they gain valuable benefits and have access to unique resources for gifted students. The following students have qualified to participate this year: Giancarlo Casalegno, Colin Crespo, Olivia Ferrari, Aimee Guillory, Aiden Merritt, Camryn Orgeron, Dan Vu and Mackenzie Wood.

Smoothie King

Our next Smoothie King fundraiser will be Light & Fluffy. The ingredients are banana, strawberry, orange, water and ice. \$3.00 **cash** money is due December 12th by 3:00pm. The smoothies will be delivered December 14th. Thank you!

2016-2017 Yearbooks

We still have some yearbooks from the 2016-2017 school year available. If you are interested in

purchasing one, please send \$22.00 to the office.
Thank you!

ICPops

IC Pops Meeting
Thursday, December 21st
7:00pm in the Cafeteria



Speech Team

The Charger Speech Team sent 13 participants to the Carmel Classic Speech and Debate Tournament. Malea Acklin was the Middle School Dramatic Performance Champion. In Poetry Reading, Demi Weber captured 3rd place and Mikayla Pugh took home 2nd place. The Charger orators dominated the Prose Reading category with Susana Cuartas in 6th place, Addison Monaghan in 4th place, Skylar Roy in 3rd place and Yelmary Aguilar taking 2nd place. Also participating was Austin Gonzales, Roland Kindell, Kirsteen Massey, Shawn Nedd, and Andrea Siguenza. Congratulations to the students for their time and effort!

