

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE ... JULY 2018



Dear Parents, Students, Alumni, Board of Trustees and Prospective Students,

The picture above is one of the many reasons why I love being the principal of Immaculate Conception High School! Just 10 days ago, I put out a call for volunteers to help at this past weekend's parish feast and more than a dozen students responded, showed up and helped make the feast a success! This is so typical of our students – wanting to help others and being willing to have some fun along the way. Bravo to Brianna Mateo, Khairi Russo and Angel Clavijo, all rising juniors, pictured above. Several other students also worked. Way to go, IC!

There is so much news to report that I am using the bullet points below to explain them:

- Mr. Patrick Dyer has been appointed to the position of Vice-President for Advancement. Mr. Dyer's office is now located in the Den, but his extension remains #14. Mr. Dyer has been instrumental in the fund-raising success of our school; working closely with Mrs. Honohan will help even more with those efforts. Mr. Dyer will continue working with the student busing, and you can expect that info by email later this week. Well done, Mr. Dyer!
- Mr. Michael Seeback, formerly our Academic Dean, has been promoted to Assistant Principal. Mr. Seeback's office is now located on the first floor, near the Main Office. He will continue to handle all academic issues and work closely with our new teachers. His phone extension remains #20.
- New to our building is Mr. John D. Fogarty who will teach our freshmen and sophomores in the "Intro to Tech" cycle course. Mr. Fogarty also handles our

- website and all of the Advancement Team's tech needs. This year, he will also assist our faculty with their tech concerns.
- My role remains basically the same with one small change. Instead of opening the school at 7am (Mr Seeback will now do that), my hours have changed to 9am-5:30pm. Our Administrative Team – Mr. Seeback, Ms. Badillo and Mr. Horan – will handle the school/student needs from 7-9am. I enjoy being principal for many reasons, and my new schedule will allow me to interact more with parents after school hours. During that after-school window, I will handle some of the business obligations of the school, especially when it comes to hiring repair companies and so on.
 - Ms. Badillo will continue the fabulous work she does with our incoming freshmen and our transfers into grades 10, 11 and 12. She will also teach our new elective in Creative Writing and the Honors English for our sophs.
 - We also welcomed a new Head Coach for our girls' basketball program – Mr. Joseph Whalen. Mr. Whalen comes to us with legendary success. The girls are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead for this program. Let's go, Lady Lions!
 - I am super-pleased to report that Mrs. Melanie Franco, mother of junior Khairi Russo, has stepped up and volunteered to chair our PTA. As you may know, our PTA has developed into a real force and they held their first Tricky Tray this past May. All of the proceeds of the event – app. \$15,000 – were given directly to the school to help with the expense of the 30 new lockers that will be installed soon and the additional Chromebooks. Bravo to Mrs. Victoria Gary, our outgoing chair, on a job very well done!
 - I am projecting a student body of about 230 which is a growth of just over 100 students since I arrived in 2015. We are so excited that Immaculate is “on the map.” In fact, I am expanding the faculty again this year with the hire of three new teachers – Spanish, English and Religion. I will introduce them in my August message to you.

Another reason I love working at ICBS is the fabulous faculty we have. We are so very blessed! Having served in two other high schools, I proudly told Cardinal Tobin when I met him in late May that this faculty **is the best one I have ever worked with!** Sure, we all have ups and downs, but I have never seen so many people go so far out of their way so often for their students. I also want to mention the hard work and loyal support of our Board of Trustees. They are rarely heralded for the behind-the-scenes work they do, but they have been and remain an extremely important part of the ICBS story. Thank you, Trustees!

I want to thank all of the parents who sacrifice so much to send their children to ICBS. Your loyalty to our school is phenomenal! I appreciate your on-time tuition payments which help us keep things flowing smoothly. For the record, tuition is due on the 5th of every month. Please try not to incur late fees (\$40) as these fees go directly to SMART, not to ICBS. Kindly address any issues as quickly as possible by contacting Mrs. Gaspar at x. 15 or SMART directly.

Again, for the record, tuition for the 18-19 school year is \$8900. There is a \$50 admin fee from SMART which was charged to your account in July. The \$50 Chromebook insurance fee is the **only fee we collect here in school**. That is due on the day your child receives his/her Chromebook (mid-September). The senior graduation fee is \$225 and it is spread over the senior tuition payments September-May. Remember, graduation is set for Sunday, June 2nd!

The financial success of our school is based on a few factors: careful spending, on-time tuition payments and 100% cooperation in our two major fund-raisers. All parents are asked to participate in both of those events. The first will be our Boston Cake Sale and the brochures will be distributed at Back-to-School Night on September 19th. The second will take place in February-March. If you do not participate, you will have to pay the \$350 yourself. Don't let that happen to you! Failure to pay this fee can prevent your child from attending class trips, taking exams, attending prom and graduation. Any questions, please feel free to contact me.

While we are still working on the opening details, the calendar below is firm:

- August 23rd, Freshman Orientation 9-11:30am, casual clothes
- August 28th, New Parent Orientation 6:30pm
- August 28th, 29th, 30th & Sept. 4th ... Faculty Professional Days
- Sept. 5th ... Freshmen in 8am-12pm, in uniform
- Sept. 6th ... All students in 8am-12pm, in uniform
- Sept. 7th ... All students in 8am-12pm
- Sept. 10th First full day of school with lunches and 2:30 dismissal

Because Mr. Seebach and I are still working on the schedule, Power School is not accessible. We will advise you when it is open and students can view their schedules.

SUMMER READING AND THE CORRESPONDING ASSIGNMENTS ARE A MUST!

Kindly check the opening page of the website.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome our new parents, both our freshman parents (the Class of 2022) and the parents of our transfer students. I so look forward to meeting you on August 28th! I value the trust you have placed in us, and I am always available to assist you in any way I can. My phone extension is 30 and my email is mneves@ichspride.org.

May God continue to bless you and your family. May you find it in your heart to pray for those less fortunate, particularly those parents who have been separated from their children over the past few months. And may God continue to bless the faith community, the family known as "Immaculate Conception High School"!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Neves

Michele R. Neves

Principal

