

INCARNATION SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S 11/7/2016 COMMISSION REPORT

Cheryl Reichel, Principal

OVERVIEW OF REPORT: 1) *Grant Winners: IT Grants and MacGrants = \$5,000 for curriculum advancements in our classrooms!* 2) *Conferences: Behind the scenes work helps children and parents, and it is impressive.* 3) *Building a Great Teaching Team: What does it take to have excellent teachers such as those found in the classrooms of Incarnation School?*

Grant Winners!

Congratulations to our winning teachers and staff! Having so many teachers apply and win is phenomenal, and it will bring in almost \$5,000 that will go directly to our children through *innovative instruction*. The Innovative Teaching Grants which are sponsored by the Miami Valley Innovative Teaching Grant Program and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, and the MacGrants are sponsored by the Centerville McDonald's franchises. **Thanks to both of these organizations for sponsoring these incentives.** All of the grants are STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) or Reading/English related. Teachers and their program titles are listed below:

TEACHER

1. Erin Yacovoni & Ellen Miller
2. Jessica Reed
3. Erin Anderson
4. Linda Bruns & Paula Paprocki
5. Amy Schreier & Jessica Reed
6. Kathryn Gallagher

ARCHDIOCESAN INNOVATIVE TEACHING GRANT TITLE

- "On Air!"
- "Listen to Reading"
- "You've Got That Write!"
- "Rays and Praise"
- "Bring Ruby Bridges to My School!"
- "Making the Invisible Tangible: Super Heroes or Engineer?"

TEACHER

1. Erin Anderson (6th grade)
2. Mindi Craft (4th grade)
3. Kristi Erickson (Physical Education, 4-8)
4. Kathryn "Katie" Gallagher (2nd grade)
5. Jessica Reed (2nd grade)
6. Patti Woeste (Tech. Integration 3-8)

MacGRANT TITLE

- "Flying High with Ancient China"
- "Let's Make Clean Water!"
- "Pickleball Fun"
- "Center Me Up, Scottie"
- "Snapshot in the Classroom"
- "Coding and Lovin' It!"

Please note that the MAC Grant Winning Teachers, will receive their awards on 11/10 at the Ray & Joan Kroc Center.

REPORT CARDS and CONFERENCES: Parents and Teachers had the opportunity to meet and discuss the progress of the children we are serving in our Catholic school. Teachers put much effort into preparing for conferences which occurred last week on 11/2 & 11/3. The goal is to provide a good overview for each child's spiritual and academic experience for parents. A sample form (developed by third grade teacher, *Mrs. Jenn Frazee*) demonstrates how teachers summarize grades and standardized scores for parents. Parents are able to access grades from PlusPortals, our online data system, throughout the quarter. Classroom grading is enhanced by standardized tests that allow parents to understand how their child is progressing. Universal Screening tests are given each September, January, and May, and they help to provide a clear, data-based picture of each child's progress throughout the school year. The Iowa Test of Basic Skills and the CogAt (both standardized tests are based on national norms) are also a good tool to discuss how each child compares with other similar-aged children nationally. Conference suggestions were provided for families via email, and they were also in iNews. Teachers are also provided with an outline of suggestions for the most effective conferences. Both of these documents as well and the sample Conference Worksheet are attached.

God bless Incarnation's parents and teachers for their commitment to our children, to our parish, and to their own vocation as mentors and protectors of our children.

BUILDING A GREAT TEACHING TEAM

The strength of Incarnation School lies within the total community support. Our priests, parents, teachers, administrators, staff, and parishioners work in solidarity to provide the best education for Incarnation's children. With all of us working together to promote the faith formation and education of our children, little can go awry. At the core of the excellent curricular program are the teachers, and the expectations of Incarnation teachers are rewardingly encompassing.

When new teachers join our community, they are each assigned a mentor, and the teacher-mentor and new teacher work closely together for two to four years. Mentors and teacher-leaders go into classrooms to provide expertise and guidance for the new teachers as a part of our professional development program and State required licensing program.

If you have ever had the opportunity to teach in an elementary classroom or observe a teacher in action, you know that teaching is more than a daily performance. Quite a few hours go into the preparation, and after the presentation, there is time for reflections, corrections, and adjustments to create an even better lesson for the next time. After all of this, evenings are filled with parent communication and grading, and then the cycle begins again!

A Master Teacher creates a classroom where teaching looks so easy that anyone observing the classes would think the work is effortless. The teacher glides across the classroom floor with deceptive ease, and like a great dancer, the hours of work behind the final product are hidden by the classical presentation. God bless our teachers!

ATTACHMENTS:

Academic Analysis for Conferences (Mrs. Frazee)

Conferences: Teachers

Conferences: Families