

INCARNATION SCHOOL 8/27/2017 COUNCIL/COMMISSION REPORT

Leah Coghlan, Principal

BACK TO SCHOOL

Incarnation School opened its doors for the 61st year on August 16th! Our first all-school Mass was on Friday, August 17th and hearing the children's voices raised so joyfully in song and praise was a moment missed during the summer months. Father Smith challenged the students, faculty, parents, and parishioners to focus growing in their faith for this school year.

OPEN HOUSE

Open House was a great success with many happy faces and wonderful presentations by our Grade Level Teams and our Intervention Specialists. There were two different Open Houses this year: Early Childhood Orientation on August 9 and the whole school Open House on August 12. Representatives from the PTO presented information about all of the activities that they plan for families and to help the school. Mrs. Terbay and I reinforced the commitment to the Parish that *we continue to have a faith-filled, successful Catholic school*, and we also shared how much we appreciate the support, the guidance, and the love we receive from our parishioners! Parents were also thanked for choosing to send their children to Incarnation and trusting the personnel with their precious children.

GRATITUDE

Thank you is not enough for **Rob Theewis, James Bond, and Marion Greene** for the work completed at the school over the summer months. The cafeteria received a face-lift with new paint on the walls and contrasting trim, as well as beautiful, energy-efficient ceiling lights. These new lights are 40% brighter and turn on with the flip of a switch – no more delays as the lights warm-up. There was new artwork hung, the playground was resealed and painted, and so much more.

Incarnation School's PTO and Crusader Club generously provided funds for landscaping in the Outdoor Classroom, completing this multi-year improvement to the school. We were also able to purchase new desks and chairs for first, second, third, and fourth grade classrooms (400 of each for sixteen classrooms). Thank you PTO and Crusader Club.

Thank you Incarnation community for assisting with assembling the desks and moving the furniture to the classrooms. A semi full of new classroom furniture arrived August 18 at 8:00am; without our amazing community, these desks and chairs would not have been placed in the rooms in time for classes on Monday.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Jessica Reed, Erin Anderson, and Erin Maly** developed a PlusPortals training session for our new teachers – this is fondly called *Tech Bootcamp*. It introduces all of our technology platforms to our new teachers and allows any existing teachers the opportunity to review programs, if needed.
- On Friday, August 10th, Father Smith celebrated morning Mass and welcomed the faculty and staff back to a new school year. The school personnel moved to the parish center following Mass for a continental breakfast and meeting. Various school policies were reviewed and the challenge to 'Fall Forward' was issued. Deputy Gary Fulwiler and Deputy Brian Burke spent time with the faculty and staff to review ALICE protocol.
- Monday, August 13th's PD was varied for the teachers' classroom practices and subjects. A representative from McGraw-Hill worked with the math teachers in the morning, and in the afternoon, presentations concerning STEM, technology, and accreditation were brought to the teachers by teachers who had attended workshops or other professional development opportunities.
- On Tuesday, August 14th, two experts presented workshop-style information to the teachers. Beth Collins spoke about the mental health problems that are more and more common in

children. She is a local counselor who specializes in treating anxiety and depression in children and adolescents and has additional experience with ADHD, behavioral issues, family conflicts, OCD, and various other aspects of mental health. Beth had strategies that teachers could use in the classroom. Kai Shemsu provided information about autism spectrum disorders. There are more and more children who are entering school with 'quirky' behaviors, and while they may never be formally diagnosed, they must be taught with love and patience. Kai is an expert in spectrum disorders and spoke about the various aspects of the spectrum while offering practical strategies.

CHANGES TO OUR COMMUNITY!

With a school as large as Incarnation, there are always faculty and staff changes, and this year is no different! We welcome NEW teachers and new staff to several grade levels. Thanks to our team leaders and mentors for providing the guiding hands to the new personnel for our community.

- **Mrs. Jenni Brown** joins the early childhood team as Incarnation's new preschool teacher. Jenni has taught both kindergarten and preschool and has lived in three states. She has three children and loves the Packers!
- **Ms. Madison MacArthur** is Incarnation's new first grade teacher. Madison is not new to Incarnation; she worked with Laura Lekan and Angie Ireton while student teaching. Madison attended UD and was raised in Michigan. She is excited to join the first grade team and looks forward to an outstanding year!
- **Mrs. Meg Martin** is a familiar face due to her long-term guest teaching role last year. Meg joins the Incarnation faculty full-time this year as a third grade teacher. She has four children and taught them how to make perfect omelets this summer with good success! Meg is thrilled to join the third grade team and looks forward to a great year.
- **Ms. Audrey Lanzotti** will join our fourth grade team and also has previous experience at Incarnation. She was part of Jessica Reed's second grade classroom as a student teacher last year. Audrey is a UD alum and is excited to join the fourth grade team and hopes it will be a memorable year for her students.
- **Ms. Colleen Hirko** joins the sixth grade team and will teach science and reading. Colleen is a Bowling Green graduate and has taught for three years. She taught fourth grade previously but is excited to teach the older students in sixth grade. Colleen loves Cleveland sports and enjoys travel, as well.

SCHOOL CULTURE

The culture of a school consists primarily of the underlying values and beliefs that teachers and administrators hold about teaching and learning. Culture is also composed of traditions and ceremonies schools hold to build community and reinforce their values. In a school with a positive culture, there is a transparency within the school and a general awareness of others. Values that support professional development of teachers, a sense of responsibility for student learning, and a positive, caring atmosphere do not just exist, but they are embraced. Incarnation teachers meet weekly in grade level groups and monthly in larger departmental families. These meetings focus on successes, constructive problem solving, and planning for the upcoming week. Samples of minutes and lesson plans from the kindergarten's weekly meeting are attached.

OCSAA

We received full accreditation last year and are in year two of implementing our goals. The [Catholic Identity goal](#) will continue to foster contemplative prayer, while looking closely at traditional Catholic prayers. Students will learn about the history and meaning behind these common prayers. The

[Academic Improvement goal](#) continues to address number sense but adds a layer of complexity with data analysis. Both goals are imbedded above for your review and convenience.

ENROLLMENT 2018

We continue to be one of the largest schools (both elementary and high school) in the Archdiocese and a huge reason for that is our tremendous teachers and staff! We have 63 new families and current enrollment is 882; enrollment continues with new students being accepted where space permits. A final enrollment number will not be available until the first of October (State mandated enrollment reporting dates). **Mrs. Kim Shields**, school registrar, will be preparing an enrollment report that will be presented at the November meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- New Student Lunch will be August 30 and August 31. **Mary Pierce**, School Counselor, organizes this fun-filled pizza lunch with 1st through 8th grade new students and their 'buddies'. It is an excellent way for these new students to be further welcomed to the school and made to feel special, while touching base that friendships are being forged.
- The PTO Spaghetti Dinner is Sunday, September 23. The school families come together and share a delicious dinner provided by Mama DiSalvos. There will be a photo booth, balloon artist, and snow cones on the playground.
- Grandparent/Special Guest Bingo is Monday, September 24. This much anticipated annual event has three sessions of bingo and grandparents/special guests from near and far gather with their Incarnation students for fun! Special callers from Alter and The University of Dayton have visited in past years, and Rudy Flyer will certainly be making an appearance again, as well!