

## INCARNATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL REPORT: May 2019

*Leah Coghlan, Principal*  
(for the June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 meeting)

I believe strongly in expressing gratitude and giving thanks for the gifts, talents, and efforts shared by others. Gratitude is at the center of a strong culture and community; it is good to feel appreciated and recognized.

As the end of the school year looms, and the beginning of summer break is on the horizon, I have been contemplating the days that have gone by in the 2018-2019 school year. It has been an incredible journey which would not have been possible without the invaluable contributions of many members of the Incarnation family.

Padre Martinez, a Peruvian Jesuit, believed that gratitude is so highly fitting as a response to God's generosity that he trained himself to say *Deo gratias* (thanks be to God) 400 times a day, and he encouraged others to do the same. While I am working to thank God just a few times a day, I am inspired to extend my thanks to others through this school report.

- ***Thank you*** to Incarnation Parish.
  - The support you give the school, through prayer requests or time and talent offerings or financial contributions, is vital to the ongoing success of the school. When I am asked why Incarnation School remains a vibrant Catholic school when other are in decline, my immediate reply is that an interested, involved, supportive parish makes all the difference. Incarnation School would be a much different school without your support, and I am beyond grateful for the incredible Parish community.
- ***Thank you*** to the leadership of Incarnation Parish.
  - Fr. Pat and Fr. Smith: your patience and willingness to partake in existing traditions has been a blessing. Your guidance, advice, and insight has been a God-send. Your presence within the school, taking time to be present when you have so many demands on your schedules already, has been appreciated more than you know.
  - Parish Council and Education Commission: your support and creative thinking has been instrumental in envisioning new pathways for the school. Thank you for your Monday evenings and email dialogue.
- ***Thank you*** to the parents of Incarnation School.
  - You trust the faculty and staff with your precious children every day. You trust us to protect them, educate them, and love them in your absence. This faith and trust is humbling.

- **Thank you** to the students of Incarnation School.
  - Your job is to learn, to be kind, to be respectful, and to be responsible. Even when you hit a bump in the road, you learn from these experiences and try harder. Each year is an adventure and you live life to the fullest.
- **Thank you** to the faculty of Incarnation School.
  - You work so hard each and every day of the school year and then continue to plan and work over the summer break. You plan creative lessons and activities, grade countless papers, attend workshops or classes to better yourselves, and mediate conflicts between students. You work professionally with each other, plan conferences, ask for help when challenged by a tough situation, and create memorable experiences for the students. I am in awe of your dedication to Catholic education – thank you.
- **Thank you** to the staff of Incarnation School.
  - You are often working behind the scenes within the school. You keep things running smoothly, take a load off the teachers, and organize, organize, organize. You answer the phone with welcoming attitudes, greet and supervise the students with a smile, and work diligently to help out in so many various ways. You are the heart of the school – thank you.
- **Thank you** to the Incarnation School PTO.
  - From the events to the fundraising, your presence within the school is deeply felt. You create opportunities for fellowship and invest in the betterment of the school classrooms. The scholarships create possibilities for students to continue their Catholic education beyond elementary school, and the monetary support for teachers is crucial to the beginning of the school year classroom organization. Not many schools are blessed with such a devoted and motivated PTO – thank you!
- **Thank you** to the many, many volunteers of Incarnation School.
  - The gifts and talents that are shared with our students and teachers are immeasurable and invaluable. Service and volunteerism are an absolute must for Catholic education and service is at the core of Catholic discipleship. Incarnation School’s volunteers are truly walking in the footsteps of Jesus. Thank you to all of our incredible volunteers – you lead by example and pave the path for many young and growing volunteers to follow your initiative.

***“Remember the past with gratitude. Live the present with enthusiasm. Look forward to the future with confidence.” –St. John Paul II***

As I look to the 2019-2020 school year and begin planning for the many moments and events, my heart overflows with gratitude for all of the blessings of this past year. God is good; thanks be to God! *Deo gratias, Deo gratias, Deo gratias!*