

INCARNATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL 11/5/2018 COUNCIL/COMMISSION REPORT
Leah Coghlan, Principal

SCHOOL STATISTICS AND DATA: Folders with pertinent information about enrollment history that helps the school plan for the future will be shared with the Education Commission, Parish Council, and the Finance Committee. Incarnation School currently has 885 students, which makes us the second largest elementary school in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

GRANT WINNERS: Congratulations to our winning teachers and staff! Incarnation submitted ten Innovative Teaching Grants; forty grants were submitted in total with sixteen schools participating. Of the ten grants, five were winners. Having so many teachers apply and win is phenomenal, and it will bring in almost \$2,000 that will go directly to our children through creative, research-based instruction. The Innovative Teaching Grants are sponsored by the Miami Valley Innovative Teaching Grant Program and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The grants are Religion, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), Reading, Social Studies or Arts related. Teachers and their program titles are listed below:

Teacher:	Archdiocesan Innovative Teaching Grant Title:
Gabrielle Gum & Cynthia Jecker	<i>Discovering Amazing Actions in Times of Oppression</i>
Carolyn Kepler	<i>It's All a 'Matter' of Arrangement</i>
Jessica Reed	<i>Christmas Around the World</i>
Teri Borton and Helen Ellis-Jauch	<i>3D Boat and Float Challenge</i>
Erin Anderson	<i>The WRITE Stuff</i>

EXCHANGE STUDENTS: Incarnation School is currently hosting two foreign exchange students, both eighth grade girls. One student is an Incarnation family friend and is visiting from Spain. The other exchange student is visiting from Guatemala and is living with a host family. There are many benefits to hosting foreign students, for both the host school and family and also for the student. The student gains knowledge of other cultures and countries, as well as improved confidence and maturity. The Incarnation students, teachers, and families are exposed to rich cultures and traditions through the experience. The student from Guatemala is part of an international exchange program called *Jump the World*. Please visit the [testimonials](#) site or [host family](#) site to learn more.

HIGH SCHOOL COFFEE SOCIAL: On Thursday, October 18, Incarnation hosted a coffee social with the four local Catholic high school principals: Mrs. Lourdes Lambert, Archbishop Alter; Mr. Matt Sableski, Carroll; Mr. John Marshall, Chaminade-Julienne; and Mr. Blaine Collison, Bishop Fenwick. These principals attended to talk about their respective schools and meet our parents. Parents came to hear the presentations, ask questions about the registration and admissions process, and compare our excellent Catholic High Schools. It was inspiring to see so many gathered together to discuss continuing Catholic education!

CONFERENCES: Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place on Wednesday, November 7th and Thursday, November 8th. Teachers meet with parents and students to discuss academics, classroom behavior, and goals for the remainder of the school year. The teachers spend a substantial amount of time preparing for the conferences. Conference forms are completed for each student, academic data is collected and analyzed, work samples are selected and organized, and possible goals are carefully considered. Please see the sample [conference form](#), as well as a [letter](#) which explains AIMSweb Universal Screening, one of the topics of discussion for the conferences.

SERVICE PROJECTS: Incarnation students and families have participated in a variety of service projects this fall. The students are excited to help others who are not as fortunate and blessed. These projects are organized by junior high leadership and service clubs and student-leaders, however the entire student body participates in the school-wide service opportunities.

- **Coats for Kids:** The Junior Optimist Club collected over 60 coats this fall for local children who need warm garments during the cold winter months.
- **School Back-Packs and Supplies:** The sixth grade Junior Optimist Club members connected with a local charity to supply back-packs filled with supplies for local students in need. The timing of this collection coincided with the hurricanes that hit North Carolina and Florida. The back-packs and supplies collected were divided between local children and children in the hurricane impacted areas. 70 back-packs and many, many supplies were sent to children who needed them to help with continued learning.
- **Pink Day:** The junior high Merit Society hosted a Pink Day for breast cancer awareness. Students and school personnel wore pink and made a monetary donation to the cause. During recess, students could either have their hair braided or receive a temporary tattoo for \$1.00. The Merit Society collected \$2,500 for the National Breast Cancer Foundation.
- **Haunted Trail:** Seventh and eighth grade Junior Optimist Club partnered with the Washington-Centerville Parks District and other local Junior Optimist Clubs to stage three spooky areas of the Parks' annual Haunted Trail. The screams and shrieks from the attendees indicated that the horrifying costumes were a success!
- **Junior High Day of Service Retreat:** On Friday, October 5th, Mr. Danny Dunn and Ms. Michelle Jakoboski led the junior high students on a day-long retreat centered on the theme: *Why Should I serve?* Ms. Jakoboski sent me the following reflection:
 - The day began with the school mass and then a welcome by Mr. Dunn in the PAC lobby. Two speakers, Daniel O'Connell, Alter HS senior and Christen Aquino, Youth Minister at Immaculate Conception shared some stories of service and what it means in their lives.
 - The PAC was filled with service opportunities – seven in total and students were randomly assigned to three activities for the day. They had three sessions, one prior to lunch and two after, they joined in a reflection exercise as a group and then participated in a beautiful prayer service. The prayer service began with Mr. Dunn illustrating the effect of one person serving one time by dropping a

coin into a bowl and then he showed what a community of service continually serving sounds like by emptying a pitcher of coins into the bowl. The sound echoed throughout the lobby and the impact was visible on the students' faces. The prayer service continued with each student being sealed – head, hands, heart, and feet by junior high teachers: Mr. Dunn, Mrs. Berling, Mrs. Long and Mr. Razauskas. (Thanks Mr. R for kneeling to bless each pair of feet!) The service ended with the community of students singing “Lord I Need You”.

- Thanks to all the junior high teachers for their help and to some wonderful parents-Mrs. Girmann, Mrs. Schilens, Mrs. Klein, Mrs. Claiborne, Mrs. Snizik, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Boller, Mrs. Doepker, Mrs. Whiteley, Mrs. Girgis, Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Duplain, Mrs. Barnett, and Mrs. Denslow-Shenk.
- OUR SERVICE:
 - Learned about the St Vincent De Paul society and *made 123 St Vincent De Paul Handipacks with handwritten hopeful notes* to the neighbors who receive these packs of essentials – toilet tissue, tissues, toothpaste, soap – in home visits by our parish St Vincent De Paul members (7th and 8th Grade)
 - Made *41 cards* for children at Dayton Children’s Hospital and made *6 fleece blankets* for senior citizens (7th and 8th Grade)
 - Made *130 sets of St Therese beads* for parish 2nd Graders. *Wrote a personal note to each.* (8th Grade only)
 - Made *100 lunches for people experiencing homelessness or food insecurity in Dayton. Wrote a hopeful note for each.* (7th Grade only)
 - Made *50 casseroles for St Vincent De Paul shelter and House of Bread in Dayton.* (8th Grade only)
 - 15 of the casseroles were taken to House of Bread (they provide lunch 365 days/year). We dropped them off at lunchtime assuring the staff they were freezer-ready when suddenly the kitchen supervisor ran out saying, “I need them now, we have more people than hot food!” Twenty minutes later, our casseroles meant more people received a hot meal and not just salad and a sandwich. An example of the Holy Spirit at work for sure!
 - Began weaving *6 sleeping mats for people experiencing homelessness in Dayton.* (7th and 8th grade) PREP junior high students will finish them at their service retreat in February.
 - Cut out shoe pieces for *35 pairs of shoes for children in Uganda.* (7th and 8th Grade)
 - IMPORTANT NOTE: We need sponsors for each pair of shoes – \$10/pair! And we are still collecting jeans! Our goal is 50 pairs of shoes with PREP junior high cutting some in February.

Our hope is that the students experienced the joy of serving and have a better understanding that service is lifelong not done for a sacrament or school project. As Sean Callahan of Catholic Relief Services says, *"We help people because we are Catholic"*.

UPCOMING:

- **Turkey Trot: Incarnation School's first annual Turkey Trot - Monday, November 19**
- **8th grade students to Athenaeum in Cincinnati - Tuesday, November 20**
- **Grahn Mission Shoe Collection - Month of November**
- **Holiday Collection for deployed military personnel - Month of November**
- **Optimist Club to St. Leonard Center - Thursday, November 29**