



Immaculate Conception/St. Joseph Newsletter

www.boscocatholic.org

January 14, 2021

The Bosco Catholic School System provides students and families with academic, spiritual, moral, and sacramental formation so that they are prepared to be faithful disciples who are the light of Christ in the world.

No Waterloo buses tomorrow, January 15.
Parents will need to provide transportation for their students. A Bosco bus will transfer to and from Raymond and to ABC.

No School Monday, January 18 - Professional Development Day

From Mrs. Schroeder....

During the last few weeks in science, the 5th grade students have designed a house that captured as much solar energy as possible. They acted just like engineers! They....

- * identified and learned to solve the problem
- * planned ways to solve the problem
- * made and tested a model
- * revised their design to make it better

In this challenge, students developed understanding about radiant energy, engineering design, calculating area, and adhering to a budget. They also practiced skills such as developing and using models, making claims based on evidence, and communicating technical information.



Ms. R's Counseling Corner

Just a reminder that all 5th-8th grade girls brought home a permission slip at the beginning of this week that needs to be turned in by Tuesday, January 19! Thank you to all that have turned them in already. Happy Thursday!
- Ms. R

Calling on our Families and Community Members!

As part of Catholic Schools Week, we will be celebrating vocations. We are looking for YOUR experiences! Whether you are a nurse, mechanic, astronaut, custodian, or business owner- we need you! We are looking for a variety of people interested in talking with our K-12 students about their careers. If you have any questions or would like to get further information please contact Shelby Douglas at 319-296-1089 or email at sdouglas@boscocatholic.org.

An information sheet/form regarding CSW Career Day went home with students last week.

Nurse's Notes

We will be participating in the SWITCH program again this year with our 4th and 5th graders. The program is through Iowa State Extension. It is a 12 week program with the focus being on healthy habits. The program includes DO weeks which is 1 hour of physical activity per day for our students (30 minutes for adults) with PE and recess included in this time. CHEW which is eating 5 servings of fruits and vegetables per day and VIEW which is less than 2 hours of recreational screen time per day. We are excited here at school to be a part of this program. This is our 3rd year. The children enjoy it. We have promoted physical activity, food tasting experiences and discussed alternatives to using a device or screen time. These are behaviors we can all adopt.

Marianne Hickey RN

PTO News

Our next PTO meeting will be held Tuesday, February 2 at 5:30pm in St Mary Center. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Middle School Coaches Needed

We are looking for a middle school Track and Baseball coach for this spring. Please contact Mr. Chicchelly with questions or to apply. bchicchelly@boscocatholic.org

***Please send all newsletter items to icsnewsletter@boscocatholic.org
by 8:00am on Wednesday, January 20.***

School Dumpsters

The dumpsters located at the north end of the Bosco parking lot are for SCHOOL USE ONLY. They are not open to the public for garbage or recycling.

Little Dons Girls Basketball Clinic

This free clinic is open to girls in grades 2-6. Girls will work on basketball skills with an emphasis on proper form, fundamentals, and learning rules of the game. Bring appropriate shoes and a water bottle. Clinic dates are: January 17, 24, 31 from 1:30-3:00pm in St. Mary Center gym.

Contact Crystal Frost (crystaleven@hotmail.com) or Jessica Steils (jess.Steils@gmail.com) with questions.

Attendance Reminder

Parents please call the school office before 7:30am if your child will be absent. If you call before 7:00am, please leave a message on voicemail.

St. Joseph Center (319) 233-5980

Immaculate Conception Center (319) 296-1089

If you have a planned absence, the K-5 and 6-8 Absence Request Forms can be found on our school website.

Link to form - <http://www.boscocatholic.org/vimages/shared/vnews/stories/55dcc0d507de3/Absence%20Request%20form.pdf>

School Bus Drivers Needed

The Bosco Catholic School System is looking for bus drivers for our morning and afternoon routes. For those interested in driving for activities we can arrange that too. If interested call 319-296-1692 or email Casey Redmond at credmond@boscocatholic.org.

If you purchase gift cards, please purchase them through our Scrip program. It is a win win!

<https://www.boscocatholic.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/Giving%7CSCRIP>

Booster Club Quilt Raffle

The 2 beautiful quilts made & donated to the Booster Club by Mrs. Amy Youngblut & her Mother will be finding their new home during Catholic Schools Week (1/31-2/5)!

Ticket will be available for purchase at the following locations:

- Farmers State Bank, Gilbertville location, where the quilts will be displayed!
- Friday, Jan. 15, at the high school basketball games.
- Thursday, Jan. 28, at the high school wrestling meet.
- DB office - please see LeighAnne Schares.

Ticket Prices: 1 ticket/\$5 OR 3 tickets/\$10.

Thank you for supporting the Booster Club!

Reminder

When sending money/checks to the office, please put it in an envelope marked with a first & last name and what it is for.

Colder Weather

Whenever possible all K-5 students will spend some time outdoors, so please be sure they have coats, hats, mittens, snow pants and boots.

ABC students need to be prepared to spend time outdoors as well.

Please label your student's sweatshirts, coat, hat, snow pants, gloves, mittens, lunchbox, etc.

Looking for a way to earn some extra money while also helping your school? Substitute teaching could be the answer!!

Given the ongoing need for substitute teachers, the state has made some adjustments to securing your substitute teaching license.

If you have a bachelor's degree, associate's degree, or 60 hours of college credit you can take the brief, 20 hour, substitute authorization course and become a substitute teacher!

Please click on the following link to find out more information about some upcoming class offerings, some of which are virtual.

[Substitute Authorization Classes](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Shelby Douglas sdouglas@boscocatholic.org or Casey Redmond at credmond@boscocatholic.org.

Thank you for considering this opportunity! What a great Win-Win for you and for our school.

Easy Ways to Help Immaculate Conception-St. Joseph School. Parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors can support our school by:

Buying Scrip: buy it often!

Recycling Pop Cans: Collection Box located on the north end of Don Bosco Catholic High School. Watch the How to Recycle video found on our website.

Box Tops for Education: Download the Box Tops app and scan your store receipt.

Hy-Vee Cash 4 Students: Save your Hy-Vee cash register receipts. Hy-Vee donates \$1 for every \$250 in receipts collected!

Voracious Reading builds better readers!

As part of our continual improvement process, we collect data to help us improve. Sometimes the data is anecdotal meaning that it is not quantifiable rather it is based on observations and conversations.

An observation that we have made in the past 2.5 years is that we need to do more to build voracious readers. What is a voracious reader? Someone who reads A LOT! Why do we want our kids reading a lot?? The research shows that the more kids read the better readers they become translating into better learners overall! It's really no different than any activity that you want to get better at or become proficient in hence the saying "practice makes perfect"!

Research also continues to support that kids need to be reading actual books more than reading on devices or scan reading which is the type of reading that we do when we scroll through articles on the internet or the reading associated with social media.

We are very blessed with a well stocked library, ample teacher/classroom libraries, and teachers willing to get books for kids from other libraries or sources as needed.

Our staff does a great job of teaching kids how to read and inspiring them to want to read but as stellar as they are at that, we still have a need to get kids reading more actual books.

Mrs. Zimmerman, our Middle School ELA teacher for grades 6-8 wrote a grant to secure funds from the PTO for a program called Accelerated Reader (AR). The PTO generously supported the majority of the cost of this program. Between the PTO contributions and monies from our instructional materials account, we were able to purchase enough subscriptions for our 2nd-8th grades students. **A parent letter about AR can be read online here [Accelerated Reader Parent Letter](#)**

How will AR help us in our goal to get kids reading more books? Great question! One of the obstacles to ensuring kids are actually reading books is that a teacher simply cannot know the ins and outs of all of the books their students are reading making it difficult to be able to conference with every student about every book he or she is reading. Accelerated Reader has quizzes for thousands of books that will allow kids to take a quiz to see how they did with comprehending and recalling information from the book.

Each classroom teacher will be working to develop how he/she will "roll out" AR in their classroom. One of the awesome things about AR is the point system associated with the book quizzes. Why is that awesome? Because it's a great way to tie in with our Leader in Me program which includes goal setting. Our teachers will be able to work with our students on setting appropriate AR point goals which means that the kids will have to be reading more.

Please know that AR is supplementing our reading instruction; it is not supplanting it. We will monitor how it is being used to ensure that it is positively supporting our goal to build voracious readers!

Middle School Parents:

We are so fortunate to be able to provide One-to-One devices for our Middle School Students. That has been highlighted more this year than in any other year given the pandemic.

The students each having a device is awesome as it allows the kids to have some ownership over the device and their use of it for school. As with many “good things”, there are also some drawbacks to each student having his or her own device. The major drawback is the “at their fingertips” temptation to go onto the internet and look at things that are not school related or to play games. Some of them get very clever and try to argue that the games are “educational” or that they are learning valuable information from the youtube videos they are watching.

I get it! As an adult, I have found myself losing time in my life by being drawn into “rabbit holes” on either my phone or computer. Today, for instance, I was looking for some research on reading and found myself clicking on a totally different article and getting lost in it! Sure- it was related to my job and I learned about VPR (Varied Practice Reading) and I can’t wait to look into that more but the bottom line is that by jumping into that rabbit hole and spending 10 minutes reading that article put me off schedule for getting the task I was supposed to be doing done. I have to be mindful EVERY DAY about the internet because I have found myself being pulled into it. I have to make a conscious effort to stay on task as well as limit my screen time playing “Redecor”...a crafty little gaming app that sucks you in because you get to compete with other people for the best room design.

How much our students use their iPads (remember I am speaking “in general”) for things not related to their actual school work has really been weighing on my heart. Some of them have become so addicted that they even have their iPads out while changing classes so they can just “play” or “watch” a little more. Reflecting on how hard it is for me to keep myself in check to use electronic devices wisely has only heightened my desire to “crack down” on iPad use in middle school. It’s that “tough love” that we must put in place to protect our children from the perils of internet addiction.

Our Acceptable Use Policy and Mobile Device Agreements that each parent and student had to sign clearly defines how the iPads can be used. During professional development this coming Monday, the middle school staff and I will be meeting to create a brief “iPad use expectations” and clearly defined consequences for iPad infractions. It will not be different from the above named documents, it will just be more succinct so that we are all on the same page and consistently enforcing the consequences.

We will be sending this document home with the kids on Tuesday, January 19 and it will need to be signed by both parent and student.

Tragically, internet addiction is a real thing. Ironically, there is an online internet addiction quiz you can take <https://www.psycom.net/internet-addiction-test-quiz>. I took it and was at moderate risk for internet addiction! You may find it interesting to take yourself and as you're doing so, think about how you would answer the question about each of your children. As I reflected earlier, I am consciously aware of how easy it is for me to get lost on my phone or the internet and if it takes that much of an effort as an adult, just imagine how hard it must be for kids!

Thank you for your support in our efforts in helping to curb internet use!!

Mrs. Douglas



As we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, we are excited to announce some *NEW OFFERINGS* for the 2021-2022 school year!

It's time to **RESERVE** your child's **spot** in our 3 year old, 4 year old, or kindergarten program

OR, if you know of someone who has a 3 year old, 4 year old, or kindergartner, please let us know or share this form with them!

Our after school program (ABC) will be available for all 3 and 4 year olds enrolled in our full day classes. ABC is open to PK-5 students.

Grade in 2021-2022: (circle one)

Kindergarten

Preschool 4 yr old

Preschool 3 yr old

Please circle the **4 year old** option you are interested in:

M-F 7:30-2:15

M-W-F 7:30-2:15

M-W-F 7:30-10:30

Please circle the **3 year old** option you are interested in:

M-F 7:30-2:15

M-W-F 7:30-2:15

M-W-F 7:30-10:30

T & Th 7:30-2:15

T & Th 7:30-10:30

Child's Name: _____ Male Female (circle one)

Child's Date of Birth: _____

Parents Name: _____

Address, PO Box, City, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Catholic Non-Catholic (circle one) Parish registered: _____