

August 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope you are enjoying your summer. To think, that we will start school in a few weeks. Teachers are beginning to get their classrooms ready, books are coming in and you can feel the enthusiasm in the air.

School will begin on Tuesday, August 31 for Grades 1-8. Tuesday, August 31, Wednesday, September 1 and Thursday, September 2 will be half days, with dismissal at 11:30 a.m. **There are no busses during the first week of school (Aug. 31-Sept. 2) so please make arrangements for students to be picked up at 11:30 A.M.** Friday, Sept. 3 and Monday, September 6th the school will be closed for Labor Day. Full sessions will begin for the entire school on September 7th. "Kids Club" will also begin sessions on September 7 (2-5 p.m.) Please see the enclosed Tentative Calendar for more information.

There will be a mandatory parent meeting on Wednesday, August 25th at 6:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Each family will receive a packet that evening which will include all emergency forms and paperwork needed for the first day of school. You will receive the September Calendar and another hot lunch menu. (Please see below about our new program) **Please use the monthly calendars as your planner. The information will be more current.**

We will also be having a new full Hot Lunch Program beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 7th. PARENTS MUST ORDER BI-WEEKLY WEDNESDAY (the week before) IN ORDER TO RECEIVE MEALS SINCE ORDERS MUST BE CALLED INTO THE CATERER ON THURSDAY MORNING. THERE IS NO REFUND FOR PRE-ORDERED FOOD. IF A CHILD IS OUT, THERE IS NO REFUND ON PRE-ORDERED FOOD. TEACHERS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO ALERT PARENTS NOT TO ORDER FOOD ON FIELD TRIP DAYS WHEN STUDENTS WILL BE OUT. These meals follow all nutritional guidelines and requirements for the National School Lunch Program. The costs of the meals are \$2.85 (which includes milk). You may also order just milk. Please pay by check or money order. Please make checks payable to ICS.

The school day begins at 7:55 a.m. and ends at 1:55 p.m. PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHILD ON TIME FOR SCHOOL. Tardiness affects the child's learning process as well as interrupts the class in session.

Pre-K (age 3/4, 8:30-9:15 and Pre-K (age 4, 9:20-10:15) will hold an Open House on Wednesday, September 1. Kindergarten will also have an Open House on Wednesday, September 1, (10:20-11:20).

We have had several tuition payment calls. Please note that all families should have put down the \$200 deposit fee. For Pre-kindergarten families this will then leave a balance of \$90 per week for the school year. For K-8 families there is a 10-month payment plan. Most families have already submitted their July payment. Those who may have forgotten to send in payment, we have included July and August envelopes with this letter.

JUST A REMINDER: No student can return to ICS unless all tuition is paid in full from the previous year. Pam (our bookkeeper) has been in contact all summer with families who may have outstanding tuition. We, too, must pay our bills and regret we have to do this but we do not want to put families more in debt.

We ask each family to read the 2010-2011 Handbook which is located on our website...www.icslowell.com. If you do not have access to a computer, please let the school office know and we will run off a hard copy for you. All parents must sign a form stating they have read the handbook and will agree to follow the policies and procedures of the school.

Teachers will be notifying you of special class days such as music, gym, computer, Spanish, and art classes. **We are privileged to offer Spanish classes now to grades K-2. Students will receive a 30-minute class period.**

We have now outfitted grades 4-8 with new SMART Boards with projectors in their classrooms, as well as our new computer lab. The new lab is outfitted with 20 new computers, printers etc. Flooring was paid for by our the ICSPA (Immaculate Conception School Parent Association.)

All students in Grades K-8 now have new desks and chairs in their classroom. The ICS Development Committee paid for these desks and chairs. The Development Committee also paid \$25,000 for a new reading program in grades K-5. We thank the Development Committee for all they do for our school.

You will be receiving a volunteer form from ICSPA (Immaculate Conception School Parent Association). **We ask each family to donate their time to 1 activity.** Many hands make light work and if we all pitch in we will be able to make our school even better. Everyone's time is precious so that is why we ask each family to volunteer to help for 1 activity. If we don't hear from you, we will be calling you.

Also, this year we have signed up to join Honeywell Emergency Alert System. Each family is to give us emergency numbers where you may receive notifications in case

of school cancellations, important meetings or other related school emergencies. The fee for this program is included in your book fee.

Just a reminder that all students in grades K-8 should be working on their reading and math packets. Also, each student in grades PK-8 has a supply list. If you did not receive it, please call the school office.

If you have need for further assistance, please feel free to call the school office. Our August summer hours will be Tuesday-Thursday from 9:00-1:00 p.m. We will also be calling in for messages if you need anything.

Please enjoy the rest of your summer! God bless you all!

Sincerely,

Catherine Fiorino, Principal