

INCARNATION SCHOOL
5705 W. 127th Street
Palos Heights, IL 60463
Phone: 708-385-6250 Fax: 708-597-0588
Where Faith and Knowledge Meet



August 26, 2008

Dear Incarnation Families,

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year. I am so pleased to be returning to Incarnation this year! Everything does seem a little easier the second time around. The faculty and staff have worked hard preparing for your children. The following is some information that you need to get off to a great start:

- **SUMMER TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS:** Due to some technological issues that we were experiencing last year, we decided to rewire our entire system. In addition, we have added some wireless connections to allow teachers to access both the Internet and our network from the new laptops we purchased for them out of their professional growth funds. Their old laptops are now going to be placed into the classrooms for student use and will replace those units that were not compatible with current software.
- **SCIENCE LAB:** We have also converted the Art/Spanish Room into a Science Lab. Tables and stools were purchased from a Health and Safety Block Grant that we received from the State of Illinois last year. Most of our science equipment was moved into this room so there is easy access to these materials. This room will now be available for all grade levels to use (on Wednesdays and Thursdays) to conduct scientific discovery and experiments.
- **NEW STAFF:** Please help welcome **Mr. Connelly**, our new 7th Grade Homeroom/Jr. High Math Teacher; **Señora Cunnea**, our new K-3 Spanish Teacher; and **Mrs. Marzalik** our new Art Teacher.

Mr. Connelly comes to us from St. Ailbe School in Chicago where he taught Jr. High Math, Religion and Language Arts. In addition, Mr. Connelly is the Freshman Football Coach and Assistant Boys and Girls Track Coach at Shepard High School.

Señora Cunnea is happy to be rejoining the faculty of Incarnation. She had previously taught 2nd Grade. **Señora Cunnea** has studied Spanish in both High School and College and will help build a foundation of basic Spanish vocabulary for our primary grades.

Mrs. Marzalik is currently the part time Art Teacher at St. Cyril and Methodius in Lemont. She has been an employee of the Archdiocese of Chicago for many years getting her start as an instructional aide at St. Patricia in Hickory Hills. Mrs. Marzalik brings to us many years of experience and much knowledge of Art and Art history.

- **TEACHER INSERVICES:** We had some very productive meetings and opportunities for professional growth last week with our teachers and staff. Some of the topics include: **Praying with Children** sponsored by Loyola Press; a **Team Building** exercise with parishioner Kay Hohn; a **Microsoft Excel Workshop** presented by the Technology Director from St. John Fischer; **A Review of Data** (Terra Nova test results and classroom visits) to help improve the quality of our instruction; **A Bullying Workshop**; and a class on **Language Acquisition and Current Brain Research** presented by Drina Madden and Dr. Nowinski from the Neuropsychological C.H.I.L.D. Foundation. As professional educators we know that the more we increase our knowledge the better we are able to serve your children.

- **NEW GYM SCHEDULE:** Gym will be on **Wednesdays for Grades K, 1, 2, 3 and 4;** and on **Thursdays for Grades 5, 6, 7 and 8.** On these days students should wear their gym uniforms to school. We felt that the younger kids were missing out on too many gym classes when they were scheduled on Monday with all the days off we have built into our calendar.
- **CALENDAR NOTES:** Please consult the September calendar enclosed in the envelope for important dates and times. Please note that there will be an **EARLY DISMISSAL on Friday, August 29 with NO AFTERNOON EXTENDED DAY offered.** Also, there is **NO SCHOOL on Monday, September 1st** in observance of Labor Day
- **LUNCHROOM RULES:** Children in Grades K-8 were given a Lunchroom Rules contract today by his/her homeroom teacher to sign and return to school. Your signature is also required. Please cover the expectations of appropriate lunchtime behavior with your child(ren) and return this form no later than **Friday, September 5th.** We would like to make lunchtime a pleasant, enjoyable, and safe experience for all of our students.
- **FINANCIAL AID:** Financial aid forms are now available in the rectory and the school office. Note these forms must be submitted by **September 22** to be considered.
- **THANK YOU:** A special thanks to the **Mothers' Club Board** for providing the teachers and staff with a delicious array of culinary delights during our faculty meetings last week. Thanks too for the start up funds for our teachers and providing the fellowship for our PreK – Kindergarten open house. We appreciate your dedication and hard work to make Incarnation School a better place!
- **ALL SCHOOL MASS:** Please join us for our opening school liturgy prepared by the 6th Grade on **Thursday, September 11, 2008.** We will be honoring the men and women who dedicate their lives to serving and protecting our country. All Firefighters, Police Officers, members of the Armed Forces and veterans are welcome and will receive a special blessing after mass.
- **PEACEMAKERS MEETING:** Please join us for a Peacemakers meeting on **Thursday, September 4th at 7:00 pm** in the school. We will be discussing the results of the **Bullying Surveys** we conducted last spring. All are welcome!
- **TIPS FOR THE NEW YEAR:** Starting back to school can be quite an adjustment for children after a summer of relaxed bedtimes and responsibilities. Here are some ideas to make that transition smoother:
 1. Get your child back into a routine. Set aside a consistent and regular time for homework and try to readjust sleeping and eating times from the summer back to the school schedule.
 2. Read all information coming home from both the administration and your child's teacher. Be aware of expectations as well as classroom policies and procedures.
 3. Make your concerns known as soon as possible. Contact your child's teacher right away if there is something you think we should know to help make the year a successful one.
 4. Talk with your child. Ask them how the school year is going and if they need any help. Be patient with them as the transition the first few weeks can be somewhat challenging.

We are happy to be partners in education with you this year. Let's do all we can to make it a great year for the children!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Maria Hawk
Principal

We have committed the Golden Rule to memory; let us now commit it to life. Edwin Markham