

# Immaculate Conception † St. Joseph School Newsletter

[www.boscocatholic.org](http://www.boscocatholic.org)

January 6, 2022

With support from families, we respect and encourage students to reach their potential **Spiritually** by developing a strong relationship with Jesus and knowledge of His church, **Academically** by igniting learning, leadership and life skills, **Physically** by learning about and living healthy habits and **Socially** by becoming active members of the community who serve others as stewards of the Gospel so they are the light of Christ in the world.

## **JANUARY** Habit of the Month: **PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST**

- ★ Remember to attend Mass and grab a **children's bulletin!** (Have your child write his or her name on it and turn it in on Monday, or collect them and turn them in at the end of the month.)
- ★ Remember to discuss putting first things first as a family!
- ★ How is your child living "Habit 3: " Put First Things First" at home based on some of the key concepts we have been learning about this month?

### *Church Bulletins*

As part of our mission of developing students **spiritually, academically, physically, and socially**, we have been focused on the importance of attending Mass. Students are asked to turn in a bulletin from each weekend Mass he/she attends. **If attending Mass at IC or St. Joseph, please take only one church bulletin per family, grab one of the children's bulletin for your other students.** Turning in a bulletin gives students a chance to have Donuts with Mrs. Douglas.

### *From. Mrs. Knepper regarding piano lessons*

Throughout the school year I have been asked by several different families about piano lessons. My plan was to get settled into the school year and then start lessons. Well, it is now January. During the Christmas break, I thought a lot about how I could make piano lessons fit into my schedule and I came to the realization that it is just not the right time for me to add this to my schedule.

The good news is that during break I did talk to a teacher in Raymond who is actively looking for piano and/or voice students. I also know of a different music studio in Jesup that offers voice lessons only for ages 8 and up. If you are interested in piano and/or voice lessons for your child, please reach out to me [nknepper@boscocatholic.org](mailto:nknepper@boscocatholic.org) and I will send you the contact information.

### *From Ms. Johnson...*

Both of the third grade classes recently attended Museum School at the Grout Museum in Waterloo on Dec.6-Dec. 9.

The students had both an educational and enjoyable experience. The topics of study were prehistoric fossils, the Native Americans, Pioneers, Milling, simple machines, immigration, the assembly line, and Waterloo Black History. We also toured The Sullivan Brothers Museum and The Russell House Museum. The boys and girls were also able to experience what it was like to attend a one-room schoolhouse. I think they all realized that life at school today is maybe not as bad as they think it is compared to how strict things were back then. They also were thankful that they don't have to walk many miles to school and don't have to stand with their noses against the blackboard if they misbehaved. All in all, much learning and fun was had by both the students and the teachers.



Please send all newsletter items to [icsjnewsletter@boscocatholic.org](mailto:icsjnewsletter@boscocatholic.org)  
by 3:00pm on Wednesday, January 12.



**Welcome back to a New Year, 2022!** To be honest, sometimes I feel like we are in 2020 and it's the year that just never ends! Any of you ever feel that way?

Even though I feel that way at times, it does not, by any means, mean that things have been stagnant here at school...we have moved forward in so many ways!

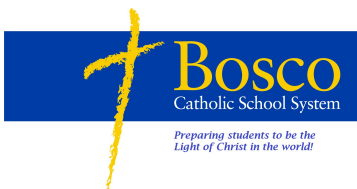
- We are in our third year of implementing Leader in Me (and seeing the growth in staff and students is amazing)
- We have now fully implemented a school wide (PK-8) positive behavior plan.
- We have continually increased Faith activities in our school. One of the biggest improvements is the implementation of "Faith Buddies"
- We have prioritized social/emotional learning by hiring a full time school counselor who teaches SEL to all grade levels, k-8, as well as sees individual students and small groups of students.
- We have prioritized building a strong foundation for learning to read by implementing Slingerland and adding in a phonological awareness curriculum called Heggerty.
- We have prioritized improving instructional strategies by having an Instructional Coach (Emily Ownby)
- We began a teacher mentoring program, overseen by our Instructional Coach
- Through our System Teams, we have increased the capacity of our staff to:
  - Collect both formative and summative assessments, analyze the data, and make data-driven instructional decisions
  - Identify students with either academic or social/emotional needs and problem solve through our Student Success Team
  - Provide structured and systematic instruction of the Leader in Me principles
  - Develop and implement multiple Faith building opportunities for our kids
- We have multiple groups of parents that work behind the scenes to improve our school
  - The PTO-an amazing group that supports our teachers
  - The Fun Run committee that works to help us raise money AND supports the morale of our teachers
  - The many parents that support our kids in band by getting the to practices/performances and helping in the concession stand
  - The many parents that support our MS athletics by getting their kids to practices/games and helping in the concession stand
  - The many parents and community members that coach and/or support the Archery team/program
  - The many parents and community members that coach and/or support the DB trap team (Yes, MS students can participate in this program)
  - The many parents that work to build recreation programs for baseball, softball, volleyball, wrestling, and basketball so that our kids learn the fundamentals at an early age
  - The Lego League lead by Karen Thoma and assisted this year by Kurt and Ann Schmitz (various parents have helped throughout the years)
  - The many parents that lead Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops
  - The many parents that involve the kids with 4H
  - A St. Joseph playground committee that is made up of staff and parents
  - And likely others that I don't even know!

So even though it can sometimes feel like we're stuck in 2020, with a little time to pause and reflect, it's easy to see that we are not and have been systematically moving forward to keep our school strong.

And, none of it could have happened without strong teachers and strong support from our families!

May 2022 bring all of us a sense of inspired hope for a brighter future!

Best wishes,  
Mrs. Douglas



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**IC 319-296-1089 † SJ 319-233-5980 † Fax 319-296-3847**

### ***A word about Winter Weather***

I am sure some of you may wonder why schools around us call for a two hour late start and we don't.

Well, there are many factors but the primary reason is busing. A majority of our students in grades K-8 (108 to be exact) are transported to and from school on a Waterloo school bus. We are very fortunate to have this as an option for our students. The UNFORTUNATE part is that while they are mandated to provide us with transportation, they are not mandated to provide us with transportation if we choose a late start or an early out and they do not. Further, if they choose to call an early out or late start (such as they did on that windy day in December), we have to also call them.

It has been a long standing policy of the Waterloo schools to RARELY call school off or call late start/early outs. This puts us in a somewhat precarious situation when making decisions for BCSS, especially because our school day starts so early! Each weather situation is unique and we make the call based on what the particular scenario is. For example, today's scenario did not really have any road condition implications. So- do we force the families of 108 kids into a situation where they have to find alternative transportation or do we just get the kids to school? Not to mention the ripple effect to all families having to find care for their school age children for those two hours in the morning.

It would take too long to go into each scenario but I wanted to give you some context if you have wondered why we do or don't call a late start or early out when other smaller districts do.

Please know that safety is always our focus when making our decisions. And safety does not always mean that students are safer at home for two hours in the morning. Many times, that forces families to have to load their kids up and transport them to a different location anyway.

Lastly, please know that it is ALWAYS YOUR CHOICE for your child(ren). If we do not call a late start, early out, or cancel school and you do not agree, you are always able to decide that for your family. It will never be an unexcused tardy or absence and our teachers will work with your child to get caught up on missed work just as they would for any other excused absence.

### ***529 Plan Information for Paying K-12 Tuition***

As many are in the midst of their end-of-year tax planning, you may consider setting up a [529 plan for K-12 tuition](#) if you haven't done so already. Information provided by Iowa ACE 529 Plans for [K-12 Tuition flyer](#)

### ***Nurse's Notes***

This month's Leader in Me habit is Put First Things First. This means to me spending time on things that are important. As we start the new year it is common to set goals. Think about what goals you have for your health in the coming months. Put First Things First. That might mean taking time to exercise if you are making that a goal. Meal planning and meal preparation may be one of the goals. Making that happen takes planning. Putting First Thing First means we set priorities, make a schedule and follow a plan. We can put our health goals into action by making them a priority, setting our schedule and then following through. Marianne Hickey RN

### ***Catholic Schools Week- January 30-February 5, 2022***

We are in need of donated materials for our annual service projects during Catholic Schools Week.

New fleece to make blankets for Project Linus: they are single layered blankets so we would prefer patterned fleece over solid colors. The blankets are for children. Please don't pre-cut because we have specific directions on how to cut the fringe. There are two sizes needed for the project: 36 inches by 36 inches or 40 inches by 60 inches.

Old towels, t-shirts, and blankets to be made into chew toys for the Cedar Bend Humane Society, Buchanan County Humane Society, and River Bend Rescue Sanctuary.

Drop off or send items to school.

### ***Subs Needed***

Do you have a Bachelor's Degree, Associate's Degree, OR have you completed 60 hours of college credit?

If so, you could become an **authorized substitute teacher!**

For more information, click on the link below. IT'S A VERY SHORT COURSE!!! 10 hours online and 10 hours meeting via zoom!

[Substitute Authorization – AEA Remote Learning Courses](#)

### ***STO FACTS Application Information***

The FACTS online application for STO opened on January 1 and the deadline to apply is April 15. In addition to completing the application, parents will need to upload their 2021 federal tax return along with any other required schedules or tax documentation. Families who applied last year should receive an email that the 22-23 application has opened. See flyer below.

- The online FACTS application for STO award consideration can be found at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>.
- Families applied through FACTS last year, will use your same user name and password.

# Congratulations to our December Donut Winners!

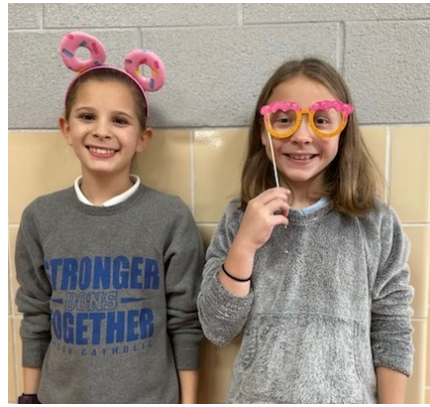
K-2: Jack Zimmerman, Raelynn Perry

3-5: Morgan Thome, Katie Schaefer

6-8: Mya Bauwens, Audrey Thome

Staff: Lucky Mrs. Zimmerman, Mr. Armbruster, and Ms. Schroeder

REMEMBER: #GoToMass





**Our Faith STO**  
a school tuition organization

## 22-23 Tuition Assistance Application Process

Deadline for application & submitting 2021 federal tax returns is **April 15, 2022**.

### *Step 1: Apply Now*

Complete one FACTS application per family at [online.factsmgt.com/aid](https://online.factsmgt.com/aid).

### *Step 2: Upload 2021 Federal Tax Return*

Include your entire federal tax return and all schedules.

If you are not required to complete 2021 federal taxes, upload nontaxable income documentation.

### *Step 3: Application Fee*

Pay \$36.00 fee per family before submitting the FACTS application.

### *Step 4: Seek Assistance*

*For questions about the application:*

Call FACTS Helpline at 866-315-9262.

Monday–Thursday 7:30am to 7:00pm and Friday 7:30am to 5:00pm.

*For help with uploading documents or other assistance completing the application:*

Contact your school office.

*For more information about the application process and eligibility requirements:*

Go to [ourfaithsto.org/faqs-for-parents](https://ourfaithsto.org/faqs-for-parents).

### *Step 5: Receive Notification*

Qualifying families will receive notification of STO awards by May 20th.

### *Step 6: Local Tuition Assistance*

If you need additional tuition assistance beyond STO or miss the April 15th priority deadline, you should still complete the STO application and reach out to your school about any additional local tuition assistance options.