

Immaculate Conception † St. Joseph School Newsletter

www.boscocatholic.org

December 8, 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.



Congratulations to Mrs. Knepper and the K-5 students on an amazing Christmas concert last evening. What a wonderful way to get into the holiday spirit.

First Reconciliation Parent Meeting

Parents of 2nd graders who will be receiving First Reconciliation this year are asked to attend a meeting on Wednesday, December 14 from 6:15-6:45pm in Mrs. Monaghan's Room 105.

Christmas Concert - Wednesday, December 14

The middle school choir, high school choir, percussion ensemble and concert band will present their Christmas Concert in the Don Bosco Gym at 7:00 PM. A variety of holiday music will be presented by all the groups for your holiday enjoyment. A bake sale of yummy home baked treats will be available for your donation. Come out and enjoy music that will put you in that festive mood!

Children's Liturgy Sunday, December 11

The Liturgy of the Word for children will cover the Sunday Gospel at a level children can understand and enjoy. We strengthen this with discussion, prayers, activities and end with a light snack. Our Children's Liturgy Program is for children ages 3 to 6. This takes place the second Sunday of every month. Children may be dropped off at St. Mary Center 15 minutes before the 10:00 Mass at Immaculate Conception Church.

If through out the school year you need to make updates (address, phone #, e-mail address, emergency contact info, medical/medication info) please log into PowerSchool to make the changes. The school will be notified of the updates made. We ask that each student have a minimum of 3 contacts listed.

STO Tax Credit News

There's still time to make a contribution to the Archdiocese of Dubuque's STO (Student Tuition Organization). 2022 STO tax credits are only available until December 31! Donating to the Our Faith School Tuition Organization will help qualifying Catholic school families with tuition assistance while you will receive a 75% STO tax credit. With the tax credit, the impact of your donation is multiplied. Here's how it works: When you donate \$2,000, you will receive a \$1,500 Iowa income tax credit, making your final net investment only \$500. Your \$500 donation is multiplied 4x, making STO tuition support available for Catholic school families. Please contact Development Director Chris Kangas at 319-296-1692 ckangas@boscocatholic.org or Deacon Brian Zeman, the Archdiocese STO director at stodir@dbqarch.org 563-556-2580 x296 or visit the STO website directly at their link: Our Faith STO - Dubuque, IA

Nurse's Notes

This is a hard time of year. There are a lot of activities that are going on that involve food. We are doing a "Maintain Don't Gain" at school again this year. Focusing on our habits may help promote wellness. Some of the rewards for developing new habits and finding healthy goals include improving your health. Maintaining or reaching your ideal weight helps your overall health. Studies have shown that losing just 10% of your body weight can reverse some health conditions. You will find that you feel better about yourself. You can actually feel stronger. This may be physical but there are also mental rewards. Being in control leads to strength. Having more energy is also a benefit of developing new habits. Lastly, you may inspire others to change. Leading by example is something we talk about here at school on a regular basis. What habits can you start to improve your health today? Marianne Hickey RN



Please send all newsletter articles to icsjnewsletter@boscocatholic.org by 3:00pm on Wednesday, December 14.



From Mrs. Olson...

What a wonderful time of year! Tuesday St. Nick visited us at school and we talked about his history. We celebrated each week of advent since coming back from Thanksgiving Break, taking a moment to get together with the other classes on our floor and share a prayer is a joyful experience. To top off our week last night was our Winter Concert..these are only a few of the things going on here at school. Our time in the classroom is full of learning experiences that help us grow. From what your children share (and my own experiences) this is a very busy time of year. This is why I enjoy teaching our third **Leader in Me Habit ... *Put First Things First!*** There is always a sense of rush that can become relentless during this season, but we must remember to take our time to focus on the things we value most. In fourth grade we have been discussing how to prioritize (and realizing that this may look different for everyone). Last month with our second habit...*Begin With the End in Mind* we talked about focusing on what matters most, setting goals and making a plan. I can't wait to dig further into our third habit, don't forget to check in with your child(ren) and see what they are learning and how they are applying it to their life outside of school!



ABC News

Please be sure all ABC payments are paid in full by December 21 to be included in your 2022 tax statement.

Tuition Tax Credit

If you would like tuition payments to be credited to the 2022 calendar year for tax purposes, please have payments to the high school office by Wednesday, December 28.

Volunteer Hall of Fame Nominations Wanted

The Bosco Catholic School PTO is looking for 2023 Volunteer Hall of Fame nominations. The individual(s) will be recognized at the Catholic Schools Week Mass. We ask that you submit nominations by December 23 to Jessica Steils (jess.steils@gmail.com) or Leah Reiter (lschmit2000@yahoo.com). Please provide a write-up/list of the volunteer activity for the nominee as to why they are deserving of this award. We have so many wonderful volunteers in this community please consider nominating someone!

Amazon Smiles

Another easy Win Win! AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the Amazon Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Shop Amazon Smile instead of Amazon and designate Bosco Catholic School System as your charitable organization. Use your same user sign in and password as you presently used but sign in to www.smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com. Once you sign in, you can select your charitable organization, Bosco Catholic School System.

COF Christmas Party

The Catholic Order of Foresters youth members Christmas party will be held Sunday, December 18 in St. Mary Center starting at 5:30pm. Santa will arrive around 5:45pm. Each child will receive a bag of goodies and may visit with Santa.

Weather Related Closings General Information

For school closings due to bad weather, Bosco Catholic School System follows Waterloo Public School, but will occasionally call it on their own as well.

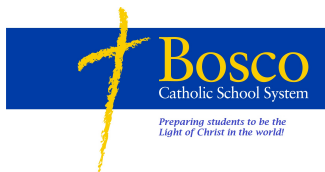
In the case of a two hour late start due to weather, there will be no morning preschool and no morning activities.

In the case of an early dismissal due to weather, ABC will be closed for the afternoon, unless school closes for a high temperature day.

You will receive a call from SwiftReach. You may also watch KWVL or KCRG, or check their websites.

Christmas Break

Christmas break is December 22-January 2. School will dismiss at the regular time on Wednesday, Dec. 21. Classes resume Tuesday, Jan. 3. The school offices will be closed for the Christmas break.



**Bosco Catholic School System † PO Box 256 † Gilbertville, IA 50634
IC 319-296-1089 † SJ 319-233-5980**



St. Joseph Preschool
PO Box 158
Raymond, IA 50667
Phone (319) 233-5980

Immaculate Conception School
PO Box 256
Gilbertville, IA 50634
Phone (319) 296-1089

Don Bosco High School
PO Box 106
Gilbertville, IA 50634
Phone (319) 296-1692

Dear Bosco Families,

Education Savings Accounts will empower parents to choose the best and most suitable education for their children, regardless of economic standing. The Catholic bishops of Iowa have issued a new statement in support of an ESA proposal, saying this “innovative idea would further level the playing field for parents who lack the resources to choose freely their children’s education setting or who are struggling to keep their children in the school of their choice.”

To assist in supporting school choice and ESAs in Iowa, please:

- Read the [Iowa Catholic Conference statement](#)
- Take 30 seconds to sign the online petition asking Gov. Reynolds and the Legislature to offer Education Savings Accounts at www.votervoice.net/icc/home.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Douglas



Statement on Education Savings Accounts December 2022

Parents are the ones primarily responsible for the education of their children. We believe Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) are a tool that would empower parents across our state to choose the best and most suitable education for their children, regardless of economic standing. ESAs would allow parents who choose not to enroll their children in a public school to receive a deposit of public funds into a savings account set up by the state. This money could be used by parents for K-12 tuition and fees.

The Iowa Catholic Conference, with the support of thousands of Iowans, asks the legislature to enact an ESA program during the 2023 legislative session. This innovative idea would further level the playing field for parents who lack the resources to choose freely their children's education setting or who are struggling to keep their children in the school of their choice.

Iowans agree that access to a quality education is important. But there are some who ask: why should taxpayers pay for education outside of a public school?

In fact, state law already makes many provisions for parental choice. Current examples include state-funded preschool, the School Tuition Organization program, the Tuition Tax Credit and "open enrollment" for public school parents. We also have direct ways of funding private education, such as the Iowa Tuition Grant Program for students attending private colleges. Moreover, private school students receive the benefit of public support for textbooks, transportation, and meal programs. These efforts support parents and students and help level the playing field. ESAs are another effort of the same kind.

Nonpublic schools are a long-standing stabilizing force in communities and make a distinctive contribution to the common good. We believe nonpublic schools are among the best anti-poverty programs, offering a first-rate education, enduring moral truth, and discipline that speak to the development of the whole person. Research has shown that robust parental choice in education results in improved academic outcomes both for public schools in general and for student-participants.

ESAs are also a relatively inexpensive and efficient means to support parents and children. We estimate that for no more than an additional five percent of the current government spending on K-12 education, the state could offer comprehensive choice in education for all nonpublic school students. This would empower parents (no less than schools) to make decisions about their children's education more freely with more certainty as they plan for the future.

From mutual solidarity and our shared commitment to the common good, all Iowans should be committed to providing real choice in education, not only for those with the means to choose, but for all. For example, an Iowa family wrote the following:

“We have chosen Catholic education for our kids and are extremely happy. Our kids are thriving in the system not only through their faith life, but with the rigorous academic curriculum that our school provides. We will soon have three kids in high school which adds much financial stress to our family. We do everything we can to decrease the tuition. We have sacrificed so much so our kids can be part of such an amazing system. Our kids have worked many hours through the work-study program to decrease some of the tuition costs and we are active in fundraising through our parish. But that is just not enough. That is why we are such strong supporters of the ESA. The ESA would make such a difference and alleviate so much financial burden for our family.”

More than 25 years ago, we warned that parents of school age children were finding it more and more difficult to pay school tuition and still make ends meet. Even more so, this is the case today. The state should respect and support the right of parents to choose the most appropriate education for their children and, as far as possible, make such choosing fair and unimpeded. Education Savings Accounts will help give parents the freedom to make a real choice in education.



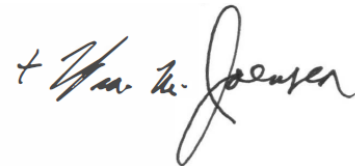
Most Rev. Michael Jackels
Archbishop of Dubuque



Most Rev. Thomas Zinkula
Bishop of Davenport



Most Rev. R. Walker Nickless
Bishop of Sioux City



Most Rev. William Joensen
Bishop of Des Moines

BCSS mission statement starts with, "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..." We encourage our families to attend Mass together.

Congratulations to our November Donuts with Father Diehm and Mrs. Douglas Winners!

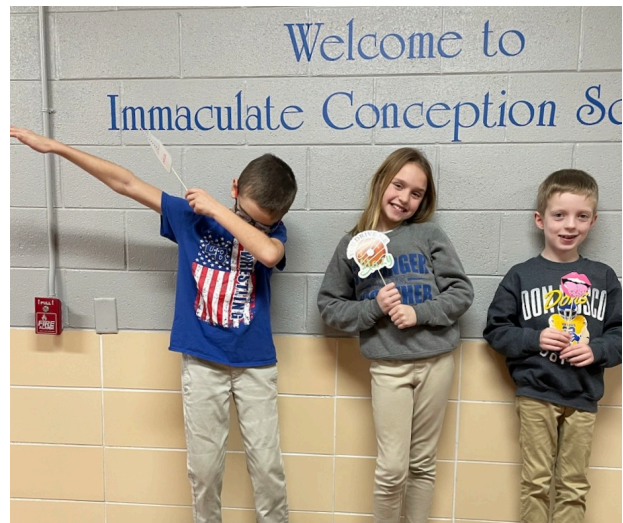
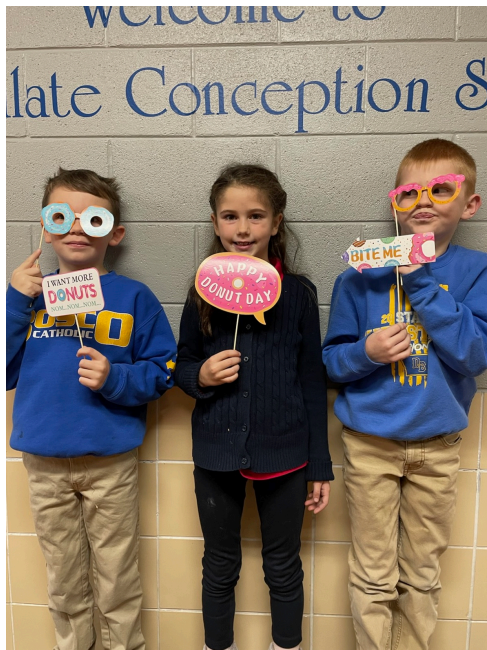
K-2: Drew Steils, Coral Brustkern, Graham Schares

3-5: Louis Reiter, Adalyn Isley, Jack Zimmerman

6-8: Boston Frost, Rachel Knepper, Ryan Steils



REMEMBER: #GoToMass





Leader in Me

Our habit for the month of November was **Begin With the End in Mind**. During the month we focused on setting goals and following through with those goals. The leaders are being recognized for having a vision, commitment, and purpose. Two leaders in each of our four units have been chosen.



K-2:
Brexton Weber
Bennett DeLong

3-5:
Tessa Corbin
Connor Short

6-8:
Scarlett Reiter
Cambrie Yoder

9-12:
Adam Blakeman
Cali Weber



Advent: Week 3

This week is the third week of Advent. The pink (rose) candle symbolizes joy. This is why priests are seen wearing rose/pink at Mass. The third Sunday of Advent is often referred to as Gaudete Sunday. It is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced through the birth of Jesus our Savior.

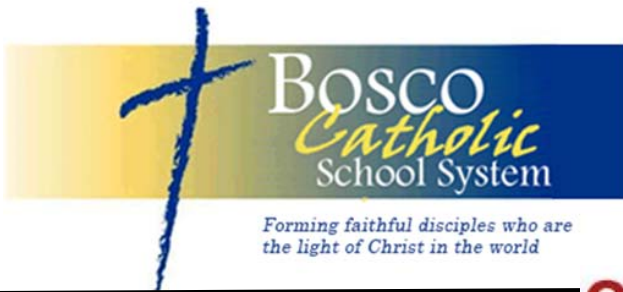
Challenge:

-Take some time to reflect on what brings you joy in your life.

-Pray and thank God for these blessings.

Go to Mass on Sunday





Quick & Easy ways to support the Bosco Catholic School System



Casey's Rewards Cash for Classrooms

Cash for Classrooms supports teachers through cash donations to schools for the things they need most. Members can turn their points into Cash for Classroom donations that is directed specifically to the school of their choice.

Office DEPOT OfficeMax

Give Back To Schools

<https://www.officedepot.com/cm/school-supplies/give-back>

Make a purchase of qualifying school supplies, provide your school ID and your school will receive 5% back in credits for FREE supplies

School ID: 70028239

Pop Can Recycling

Collection Site is located on the North end of Don Bosco Catholic High School



Coca Cola Give:

Download the Coke app or sign into <https://us.coca-cola.com/give>

Donate to your local school. Search by zip (50634) and select **IMMAC CONCEPTION-ST JOSEPH**



Hy-Vee Cash 4 students:

Save your Hy-Vee cash register receipts and turn them into school. Hy-Vee donates \$1 for every \$250 in receipts collected!



Amazon Smile: AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices & shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop with AmazonSmile 0.5% of the purchase price on eligible products is donated to the charitable organization of your choice!

HOW MUCH IS MY CODE WORTH?

SEE HOW WE REACHED THESE VALUES

35-PACK	\$0.38	12-PACK	\$0.15	20 OZ	\$0.05
32-PACK	\$0.38	8-PACK	\$0.12	24 OZ	\$0.05
30-PACK	\$0.38	6-PACK	\$0.08	1 LITER	\$0.05
28-PACK	\$0.38	12 OZ	\$0.05	1.25 LITER	\$0.05
24-PACK	\$0.30	12.5 OZ	\$0.05	1.5 LITER	\$0.05
20-PACK	\$0.27	14 OZ	\$0.05	2 LITER	\$0.05
18-PACK	\$0.23	16 OZ	\$0.05	2.5 LITER	\$0.05
15-PACK	\$0.23	0.5 LITER	\$0.05	50 OZ	\$0.05

THE OLD BOX TOPS CLIPS



Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production, but may continue to be found on many products throughout the store. You can still clip them and send them to school.

Every valid Box Tops clip is worth 10¢ for your school. Make sure each one has a clearly visible product acronym and expiration date.

**All valid Box Tops clips submitted per the Program Rules by a Coordinator(s) of an eligible, enrolled school(s) will be honored.*

THE NEW BOX TOPS LABELS



Eventually the Box Tops program will become digital-only. Participating brands are starting to change their packaging from a traditional Box Tops clip to the new Box Tops label.

If you see this label, use the new Box Tops app to scan your receipt. **Box Tops are still worth 10¢ for your school.** The app will find participating products purchased at any store and instantly add cash to your school's earnings online.