

Christmas 2011

Dear Immaculate Conception School Community,

I wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and a happy, prosperous New Year!

As we near the year's end and I reflect back, I am pleased to report students are actively engaged in learning, our faculty and staff are effectively carrying out their ministries, our building is in good repair, and our financial situation is healthy. We are eagerly and joyfully about the work that God has put before us, that is, educating children in Catholic Christian values, providing a high quality academic program and developing the awareness and empathy of our students for the needs of all people.

This year, we were able to award a record amount of financial aid. Many of our families have benefitted from this increased aid in these difficult economic times. Once again our eighth graders have completed their applications to area high schools. We are all excitedly awaiting the news of where our students will be headed. The faculty continues to be immersed in an in-depth self-study which is part of the accreditation process for New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Our accreditation visit will take place in the fall. This exercise promises to make our school even a better place to learn and grow.

We are most grateful to our families and benefactors who, through their generous financial support and gift of time, have made it possible for our school to continue to flourish. Our PTO has generously supported the enrichment programs which are essential to the vibrancy of our school. The community support we have received from such organizations as the IC Alumni Association, the Knights of Columbus, The IC Class of 1957, in the name of Sr. Virginia Bauer, NAID, the Richard Dennett Memorial Fund, and many other donors who have made contributions, allow us to fund scholarships and expand our programs. We are grateful to our families and benefactors.

We have recently seen the strong community spirit which is the hallmark of ICS demonstrated by the extraordinary cooperation and volunteerism in the planning and execution of the North Pole Express fundraiser. Many thanks to our generous sponsors led by Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank, Matter Communications, and the Institution for Savings.

Finally, I am very pleased to announce that Mr. Curt Gerrish, CEO of Rochester Electronics, is partnering with IC in an exciting technology project. Mr. Gerrish has generously offered to fund a pilot program for iPads in the classroom. This program will be rolled out in the fall of 2012. We are very grateful for Mr. Gerrish's continued support of our school.

May you be blessed with peace and hope as you celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with those you love!

In Him,

Mary Reardon

Principal