



His name was Joseph; her name was Mary. Poor and cold, alone and unknown, they trudged through the streets of Bethlehem, looking for a warm place to bed themselves and their unborn son. Finding an Inn, they knocked on the door and asked, “Sir, we are tired and alone. May we bed here tonight?” “That is not possible,” the innkeeper said as he quietly closed the door to keep out the bitter cold ...

The account of our Savior’s birth is a truly touching story. I keep thinking about the strong faith both Mary and Joseph had, being so young, cold and alone. How they trusted in God that their son would be born healthy and live to be the King of Kings!

Like the faith Mary and Joseph had in God, I have a strong faith in our Immaculate Conception community. Here, your children are loved and educated. I feel my most important role as principal is to help them grow closer to God. Do they sometimes feel I am “corny”? Certainly, they do! But I don’t mind – it’s teens being who teens are. But there is a goodness to our students, a goodness that allows them to think of others, a goodness that drives their daily motives. They do not want to let any of us down and how awesome is that! 45% of our student body (now 209) earned Honor Roll status in the first quarter of the year – amazing! I can’t wait to see what they do on the midterms!

I would like to announce and congratulate our student leaders. They are a special group who will accomplish many great things for themselves and our school.

Senior Class President – Ashanti Jackson-Smith

Senior Class Vice-President – Imani Burroughs

Junior Class President – Elijah Mustafa

Junior Class Vice-President – Bonnie Pulla

Sophomore Class President – Maniyah Kemp-Smith

Freshman Class President – Rhea Davis

Freshman Class Vice-President – Ashley Baker

Another great event was held here yesterday, January 16th. It was our Prayer Service to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Many , tudents participated, and the

students got the chance to hear the entire “I Have a Dream” speech. Our Advanced Choir did a great job, too. Well done, IC!

The scene above is a lot like today – cold and snowy. Yet, our students came to school bundled up against the cold. Thank you, parents, for getting our students here safely on a truly ugly morning!

Since we have added the three days we missed in early January to our second quarter, midterm exams will begin on January 25th and last for four school days. Freshmen, sophomores and juniors are asked to be in by 7:55am for a mandatory one-hour Study Hall. This Study Hall is “optional” for seniors. Students will then go to their first exam and then lunch, and then the second exam of the day. Dismissal on exam days will be at 1:30 – unless your child is taking an extended-time test. Kindly contact me with any questions or concerns you may have about midterm exams. After the midterms, we will begin the 3rd marking period on January 31st. Our celebration of CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK will be limited to Jan. 31st and Feb. 1st and 2nd. More will follow.

Giving up planned time off is difficult for everyone. Kindly remember that we no longer have Monday, Feb 19th off. Instead, we will be in to make up one of the days we lost earlier in January. The other two days will be made up by coming in on March 29th, Holy Thursday, and extending the year by one day in June. Again, please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. I sent out a revised calendar last week. If you did not get it, let me know.

I would like to switch gears and give a huge plug to our first-ever **TRICKY TRAY** being planned by our hard-working PTA. The event will take place on May 11st in Madonna Hall, our church basement. Donations of items for the baskets are needed – sooner rather than later. If you have something to give, kindly send it in with your child. Students received a flyer from the PTA yesterday to take home to you. I wonder how many made it home! Certainly, more info will follow shortly on this special event.

Acceptances to college are pouring in for our seniors, and they are awesome! Senior parents should be very proud of their children’s hard work. We have definitely seen an uptick in the quality of the schools to which the seniors are being accepted. Later on, we will publish a complete list. Also, the Financial Aid Night which was postponed from tonight will be rescheduled.

Service hours are due by the end of March. Is your child helping out in his/her elementary school or perhaps even in church? How about at a food pantry or senior citizens’ home??? There are endless possibilities out there for service. Senior parents should remember that the service hours are a graduation requirement. Please make sure your child has this under control.

I thank you for your continued trust in the work we do here at Immaculate. Our faculty and staff are tremendous! They care deeply and work hard. I pray you have a good January. Thank you and God bless you Mrs. Neves. Principal