

*We give You glory, thanks and praise
Bless our work and guide our ways*

August 10, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Once again it is time to turn our attention to the beginning of a new school year. What an exciting time it is! I am happy to be here as the principal of Immaculate Conception School and appreciate your many warm welcomes. My heart has always been in education. My early education began in Chicago at St. Bonaventure School and continued at Alvernia High School. Catholic education has been a very significant part of my life including my undergraduate and graduate programs. I received my B.A. in mathematics from DePaul University, my M. A. in guidance and counseling from Northwestern University, an A.B.D. in curriculum and administration from Loyola University, and my doctorate in Leadership Studies from The University of San Diego. My experience includes many years as teacher and administrator in Catholic and public schools. In Catholic Schools I have served as elementary and high school teacher, K-8 principal and high school assistant principal. In Illinois public high schools I have served as dean of students and teacher of mathematics and aeronautics. Here in California I have served as mathematics teacher at South Hills High School and as new teacher support provider and facilitator of change in curriculum and articulation in middle and high school mathematics.

My experience in education overflowed into the field of aviation. How exciting it was to learn about the applications of mathematics while earning my private and commercial pilot's licenses and my instrument and ground instructor ratings! For several years I also taught a course in the evening to prepare folks for the FAA written exam for the private pilot's license.

Now is the time to focus on doing God's work here at Immaculate Conception School. Your child's best interests and quality Catholic education are number one at ICS. I am here for you and your student. Feel free to come in and visit. If the principal's office never was your favorite spot on campus there is always Starbucks, the Coffee Bean, your front porch, or another place of your choosing!

Many of you already know that the four-week summer session in July was a wonderful experience for fifty students and their teachers. Each day began with prayer and music followed by intervention and enrichment in reading and math. God and Country was the theme for the closing student program. Our field trip to the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels was both enriching and exciting. Students were given age-specific tours, and IC students were altar servers and gift bearers during the noon Mass. By the way, that was also the day of the earthquake! We were in good hands.

You are invited to bring emergency backpacks and classroom supplies (not individual student supplies) to the classrooms on Wednesday, August 27 between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Clearly mark both with the student's name.

The September lunch menu with order form is included as well as the PTO flyer with raffle tickets and detailed instructions about Monte Carlo Night.

I look forward to seeing you on September 10 at the PTO Meeting and Back-to-School Night. The updated school calendar will be available that evening with a guide to viewing and downloading the Parent Handbook from the school website www.icsmonrovia.org.

What an exciting time of year to share with you and your family!

May God's Blessing and Peace fill your hearts as together we do His Work.

Patricia A. Taepke, Ed.D
Principal