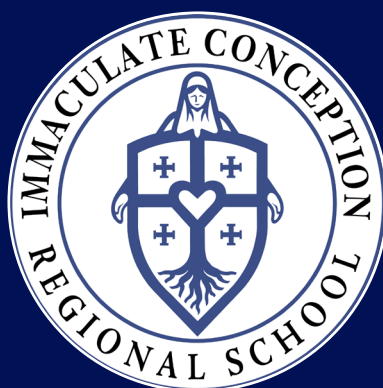


# ICRS LINKS

VOL. 1 Issue 1

February 2020



# A Message From The Principal

Hello ICRS Friends and Families,

Immaculate Conception Regional School continues 70-years of Catholic education in the Skagit Valley. The school still demonstrates excellent academics, a commitment to service and a strong Catholic identity steeped in rich traditions.



When I moved from San Francisco to the Skagit Valley in 2002, I left a very big family of seven siblings and 22 nieces and nephews, plus extended family. In my 18 years in the Skagit Valley, Immaculate Conception Regional School has become my local family. In fact, I tell the students they are all like grandchildren to me, all 192 of them. Everyday we are creating lasting relationships and fond memories through our traditions. Here are some of my favorite ICRS traditions. Perhaps, some of our alumni will think, "They are still doing that?"

- In 2014 we began the tradition of saints in attendance at the All Saints Day School Mass. Second graders process down the aisle dressed as their favorite saints. Their colorful costumes and sweet faces add to the joyous celebration of the Eucharist and speak to our Catholic identity.
- The Science (8th), Cultural Fair (7th), and Engineering (6th) Fair takes place in March where students show case their family histories and others show case their ingenuity and curiosity with science and engineering projects. This event attracts a packed house and gives me an opportunity to learn more about the students and be amazed by their creativity.
- During Catholic Schools Week, Thursday is dedicated to grandparents and seniors in our community. The children prepare a Mass celebrating grandparents and bestow a special blessing on them. The Booster Group then hosts a luncheon at St. Joseph Center complete with student entertainment, door prizes, and good desserts. This event brings the larger community together at ICRS and is filled with good cheer.
- My all-time favorite prayer service is the Stations of the Cross re-enacted by the 8th graders. Students solemnly follow the cross around the block to St. Joseph Center. There, the 8th graders lead the community through a prayerful re-enactment of Jesus' journey to Calvary. This is a powerful way to tell the story of Christ's love for us.
- At the end of the year, we host one of our wettest days, Field Day. Students, staff, parents and even grandparents join in fun and festivities. We begin with a hamburger lunch for all, then students gather in Family Groups led by 7th graders and participate in outdoor fun, such as sack races, tug-o-war, balloon tosses, dunk tank, etc. Toward the end of the day, the 8th graders compete in a friendly volleyball match against the staff. On rare occasions the students win! This is a fun day for all.

Do any of these ICRS traditions remind you of your experience at ICRS? Feel free to set up a personal tour and take a trip down memory lane.

Have a blessed year. Enjoy our new Alumni Newsletter.

In Christ's Peace,

Principal Rodrigues

**We Look forward to celebrating our  
wonderful traditions at our  
70th Anniversary Breakfast Gala  
later this May. More details coming soon!**



# Class Update

At Immaculate Conception Regional School, we educate and mold children academically and socially from pre-school through eighth grade while building the foundation for further education and career development. We also hope to build friendships and community that will last long after the days at ICRS come to an end. This can be seen in the lifelong relationships among many of our proud alumni.

We were thrilled to witness firsthand some of these special bonds this past summer when the class of 1969 celebrated their 50th reunion from "Immaculate Conception" as it was known in those days (it did not become a regional school until the 1990's). The attendees of the 1969 class reunion took a tour of the school and were able to see all that had changed in the past 50 years – and all that had not!



They traded many humorous stories and remembered interesting tidbits about the beloved staff. They thought of Sister Angela, also known as Sister Olivia; she was given the name of Saint Angela when she originally took vows but was able to use her given name after Vatican II. Father O'Brien was also remembered; they reminisced about the times they would send in the "sacrificial lamb" to figure out which confessional Father O'Brien was hearing, as apparently his penances were much more severe than the other priests.

This special reunion was put into motion by classmates Mike Spink, Mary Jane Brannan, and Colleen (Hulbert) Fisher. This was the third "official" reunion this class has organized; they had a reunion back in 1989 and then again in 1999. Though many of their former classmates have

since moved out of the Skagit Valley, many of them remain good friends throughout the years.

The class of 1969 graduated with 35 students. Of these students, 19 attended Mount Vernon High School; 6 ranked in the top 10 academically at MVHS and 2 would become Mount Vernon High School Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

Though the years have come and gone, the friendships made in the class of 1969 have endured!

If your class is organizing a reunion, or if you would like to visit the school and take a walk down memory lane, we welcome the opportunity to give you a tour! Contact the development office to arrange an individual or group tour by email at [bveltri@icrsweb.org](mailto:bveltri@icrsweb.org) or by phone 360-428-3912 x16. We hope to see you soon!





# Spartan Links

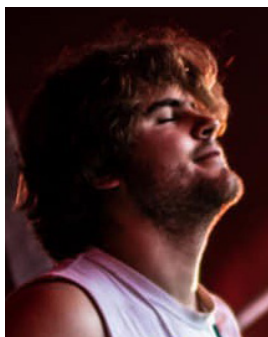
Do you have an ICRS alumni update you would like to share with us? Please let us know. Send information and pictures to [bveltri@icrsweb.org](mailto:bveltri@icrsweb.org)



**Connor FitzGerald '11**  
graduated Summa Cum Laude this past year from Santa Clara University with a 3.97 Cumulative GPA. He graduated with three degrees in four years: Physics, Math, and a Masters in Applied Mathematics. Currently he is attending UCSB in the Physics program working towards his PhD.



**Erik Lukner '12**  
completed his senior season playing football at Bucknell University this past fall. He is currently on the Bucknell wrestling team. He is majoring in anthropology and will graduate this spring.



**Zach Wheeler '11**  
performed at the Bellingham Arts and Music Festival this past year as a member of the band Cop Talk.



**Sierra Mierzeski '16**  
**Natalie Williams '16**  
will be starring in the META upcoming performance of Fame. Sierra will be playing the roll of Carmen and Natalie will be preforming as Iris.

## Service

An important practice at Immaculate Conception Regional School is the concept of Service Learning. At ICRS, "staff and parents are committed to preparing our students to live as citizens in service and leadership to their community." Each middle school student is required to complete five hours of community service

each trimester. By introducing service at a young age, we hope that ICRS students will make service part of their regular routine.

This summer we were pleased to see the ICRS service commitment in action. A new member of the alumni community, Jade Boyd (class of 2019), and her father, Jim Boyd, made the commitment to service by giving back to ICRS. Jade and her father proposed to do a service project together for the school that could make it look prettier and function better; they wanted to repaint the school playground and parking lot.

Jade spent most of her middle school service hours working for the local food bank. Occasionally she would work at ICRS spending time after school cleaning classrooms. In doing so, she realized how much work was really needed at the school. "My religion teacher, Mrs. Richlin, always motivated us to get involved. She would tell us that helping and serving others makes you feel good about yourself, and it makes you feel good to be able to help those in need," said Jade. "I always felt like I made a small difference on those days I volunteered at ICRS. My dad and I wanted to do something more," she added.



The Boyds purchased the paint for this project and donated all the extra to the school for future touchups. Jade and Jim spent over 120 hours painting the school playground and parking lot this past summer, including a new playground map. The map has been a popular recess option dating back to the days of Mrs. Webb, who would use the playground map to teach her students United States geography in conjunction with President Day each year. She taught from the 1950's to the late 1980's. Now, with the work of the Boyd family, the playground map will continue to be part of the ICRS curriculum for years to come.

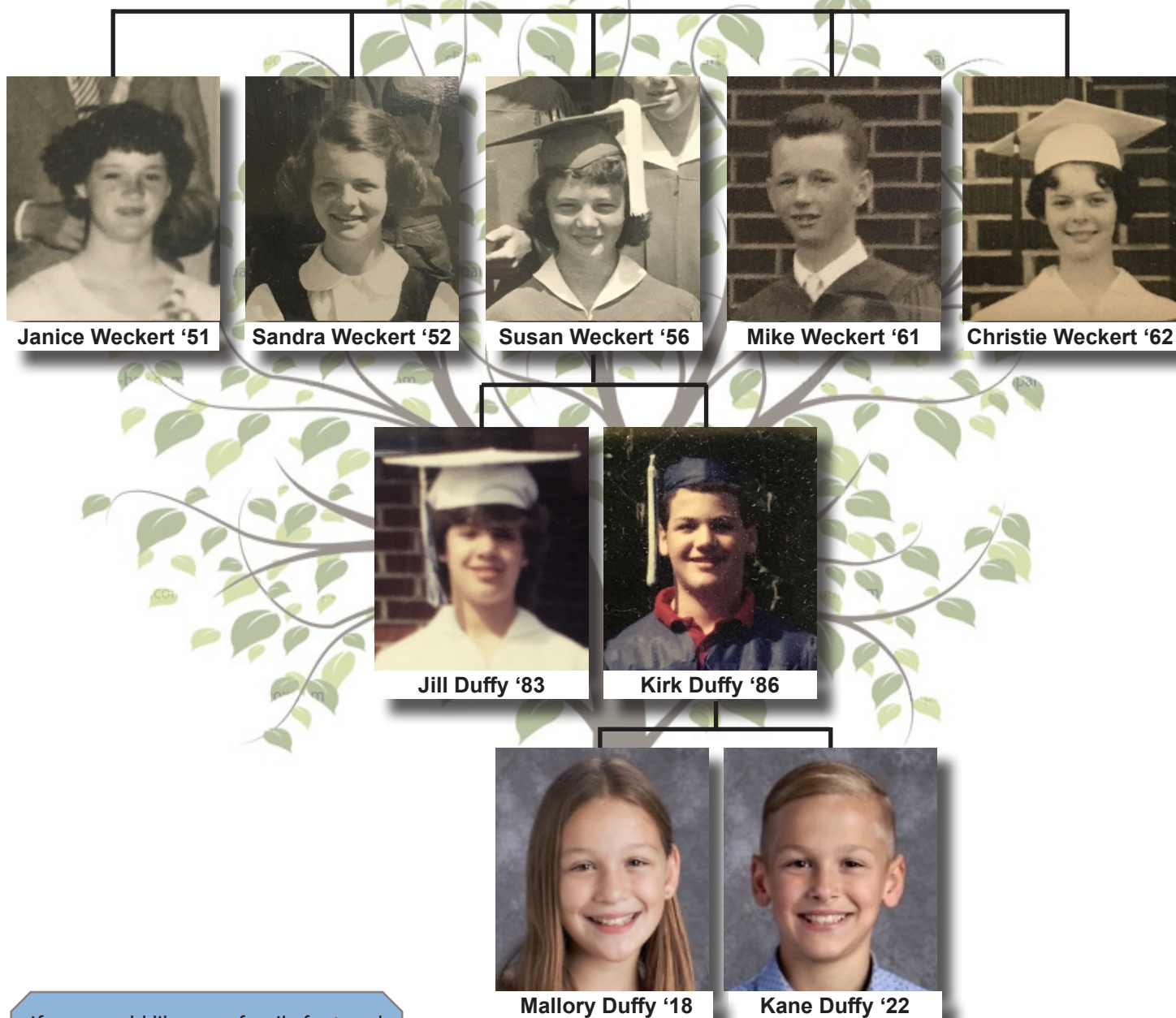
When asked if Jade could give any advice to our current students about serving and volunteering she said, "Find an area that needs help. No project is too big or too small, just jump in and help out! You will be glad you did." "Though this is my first painting project, I enjoyed volunteering with my dad. The best part was being able to sit back and admire a job well done together!" said Jade. We at ICRS could not agree more. Here's to a job well done, Boyd family!



# ICRS Family Tree

Showcasing Generations of ICRS Families

## *Weckert/Duffy Family Tree*



If you would like your family featured on the ICRS Family Tree, and your family has more than one generation of ICRS alumni, please let us know. Send information and pictures to [bveltri@icrsweb.org](mailto:bveltri@icrsweb.org)



# Endowment

Since its inception in the mid 1980s, the Immaculate Conception Regional School's endowment has had an impact on every student and family that has wandered the halls of our school. The ICRS endowment provides financial security for the school, keeps tuition affordable, aids program improvements and teacher compensation, and provides student tuition assistance. This year, thanks to a generous gift from an ICRS supporter, the ICRS endowment will add another fund to help in supporting our school.

The school endowment was created in 1986 by then ICS principal Sister Angela McCarthy, who has been described by former board members as being a great business woman and visionary. She had the foresight to see not only the need for a school endowment, but the opportunity to create parishioner support for ICRS by creating such a fund.

The endowment began with a total of \$6,420 that Sister McCarthy had pulled together from what she called her "extras" or "stash." She had been saving money from parishioners who would slip her a check now and then for ICS. After 34 years, this "stash" has grown to just over \$2.8 million. Much of this growth was due in part to two very large land contributions. The first in 1990, the old Burnnett Building in downtown Mount Vernon, and the second in 1994, which consisted of 34 acres of farmland in the Skagit Valley.



**Sister Angela McCarthy**  
**ICRS Principal 1982-1994**

In 1988 Sister McCarthy pulled together the first Endowment Advisory Council. Those first members were Ken Christianson, Earl Angevine (deceased), Mike Spink, Mike Meeuwsen, Dave Lang, and Sister McCarthy herself. Today the ICRS endowment is managed by the ICRS Endowment Board, which is made up of volunteers of past and present ICRS parents. While this volunteer group has seen members come and go over the past 30 years, the one constant has been the group's steadfast stewardship to continue to help ICRS and its families.

Through strategic investments of the money and then providing the school with the interest from these funds, the ICRS endowment is able to provide financial support for the school and tuition assistance for students.

With the addition of the generous legacy gift provided by Marie A. Kunferman, today the account is comprised of 9 primary funds as follows:

- High School Fund
- Irene Schumacher Scholarship
- Jack Brandmeir Scholarship
- Main Endowment Fund
- Marie A. Kunferman Tuition Assistance Endowment
- Sports Fund
- The Scholarship Fund
- Transportation Capital Fund
- Transportation Operations Fund

If you are interested in creating a legacy fund or making a donation to the ICRS endowment, please contact the development office at 360-428-3912 x16. Your generosity and the generosity of those who have come before truly provide ICRS with the resources necessary to offer premier Catholic education to students in Skagit, North Snohomish, and Island Counties.

## \$500,000

**from endowment has been used toward the ICRS  
general operating budget in the last five years.  
This fund benefits all school families**

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