

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

A bi-monthly newsletter brought to you by Principal Rodrigues



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Missoula Children's Theater. This year's play, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, is scheduled for the week of May 2nd, with performances on the 6th and 7th. We are moving forward, hoping that we showcase a theater production this year.

Laura Fisher has spearheaded the Missoula Children's Theater (MCT) at ICRS since its inception. She's ready to pass the baton and is seeking another parent volunteer to take over this much loved extracurricular activity. The volunteer will quickly meet their hours. Laura will help set the new lead up for success. It's a fantastic program to run and the kids love it. Contact Laura Fisher if this is your cup of tea.

Thank you Knights. The Mount Vernon Knights of Columbus donated the Picture Missals to each 2nd and 3rd grader for school Mass. Thank you, Knights, for your generosity.

Grace in the Time of COVID. As a cradle Catholic, I have known *grace* to mean "a gift from God". I'm noticing that the definition of grace takes on a new meaning during COVID as heard in the statement, "show grace." In this context *grace* means show mercy, show kindness, be patient and understanding. If this is a new definition of grace, then I ask on behalf of my staff, to please show grace to them. They are working hard to love and care for your children and provide continuous in-person instruction. We can all use a little grace.

UPCOMING EVENTS: FEBRUARY



01/30-02/04, Catholic Schools Week

MONDAYS: 8:45am, Scrip orders due
TUESDAYS: Spirit Day (students can wear spirit day shirts)
WEDNESDAYS: 9:25am LATE START
FRIDAYS: 12pm, Scrip orders ready for pick up.

- 1/29 and 1/30, Weekend. Parish appreciation. Students who wear their uniform to Mass get free dress on Monday.
- 1/31, Monday. Parent Appreciation.
- 2/1, Tuesday. Community Appreciation.
- 2/2, Wednesday. Teacher Appreciation.
- 2/3, Thursday. School Mass honoring Grandparents (evens, 4th Grade leads).
- 2/4, Friday. Student appreciation. Free dress and treat.
- PK and K Virtual Open House planned as well. Details to follow.

2/11, Friday, Early Dismissal, Regional Curriculum Day

2/14, Valentines Day

2/16, 4:45 Finance meeting, 6:15 Commission meeting

2/18, Friday, School Mass

2/21, Presidents Day Holiday

2/26, School Auction

2022 Auction Updates



You're invited to the school's biggest fundraiser "Under the Big Top," our 40th Annual Auction. Registration is now open for the virtual auction here: <https://icrsweb.ejoinme.org/ICRSAuction2022> . Bidding on silent auction items begins Feb. 22.

COVID UPDATES: Reporting Positive Cases of COVID



ICRS follows the guidance of the governor, the local Dept of Health (DOH) and the Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) to provide a safe learning environment for students and staff and is committed to providing school in-person, five days a week. Guidance flexes with new information related to COVID. ICRS will continue a layered approach to support a safe learning environment. Below is more guidance for reporting positive COVID cases to the school.

Showing Symptoms. Any student or staff who reports COVID-19-like symptoms must be immediately isolated from others and sent home and referred to diagnostic testing as soon as feasible, regardless of vaccination status. ([WA DOH 1/7/22, p. 11](#)) Parents can call the school to set up an appointment for a COVID test.

COVID Positive. If your child tests positive for COVID, parents must inform the school ([email the office](#)) and I have to report to the DOH. The DOH asks a series of questions to determine infectious dates and "freedom date" or the date a student can return to school. When a student has a confirmed case of COVID, parents, please fill out this [ICRS COVID questionnaire](#). Your responses will remain private and confidential and inform next steps.

If there is a case of COVID in your household and isolating the person with COVID is not possible, please quarantine your students (vaccinated or not) at home as well. This new variant affects vaccinated and non-vaccinated persons. Students who have had a positive case of COVID in the past 90 days, verified by the DOH, do not have to quarantine.

Outbreak. Following the [WA DOH](#) definition of an "outbreak" within a classroom, ICRS will pivot to remote learning for five days for the single classroom. Testing will be offered on the morning of the return date. Students who test negative can return to in-person learning. Students who have had a positive case of COVID in the past 90 days, verified by the DOH, can return to in-person learning. Others will have to continue quarantining until Day 10.

We understand that these rules are complicated and detailed. Our intention is to balance safety and the need to be in school. Please contact Principal Rodrigues if you have any questions.

The best way to protect against COVID is to get vaccinated and to stay home if you are sick. The school policy is that a student has to be free of symptoms for 24 hours, without medication, prior to returning to school (assuming symptoms are not part of an ongoing medical condition).

Please submit your questions to admissions@icrsweb.org