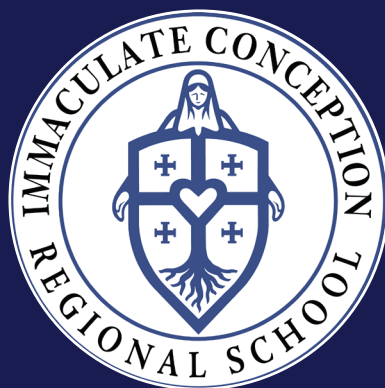


ICRS LINKS

VOL. 3 Issue 1

April 2022



A Message From The Principal

Dear ICRS Friends and Families,

Welcome to the third issue of Immaculate Conception Regional School's Alumni Links. My theme for this issue is journeying together as a community.

Journeys can be adventurous or scary. I embarked upon a new journey last June with a cancer diagnosis. At first, the road was scary because there were many unknowns and I felt alone. However, when my chemo treatments started, family, friends, school parents, teachers, staff, and students reached out to support and accompany me. In September, a school family sent pictures of all the boys in the family with shaved heads to be in solidarity with me. In the fall, ICRS 6th graders walked to my house to deliver cards and pray a decade of the Rosary with me. In December, 7th and 8th graders sang Christmas carols in my yard and delivered cards from every student with well wishes, artwork and prayers. The meals, cards, flowers, gifts, prayers, and, most importantly, the companionship, were a big part of my healing. I was so touched by the kindness of school community, family and friends. God knew I needed Him, and he sent me the ICRS community.



My family and school community accompanied me on my journey. We ventured in a large group, much like Mother Mary, Jesus and St. Joseph did when the Jewish people made pilgrimages to Jerusalem for special festivals. Along the way, we laughed, we cried, we shaved our heads, we prayed, we ate well and we played cards. My community held me up when I needed them most and helped to make my journey joyful. The journey morphed from being scary to being filled with the spirit of God and love, filled with hope, love and laughter. Thank you all for your prayers and accompaniment. I am on the road to recovery. Friends and family are most certainly God's way of taking care of us.

My experience highlights the Catholic school community, done well, even during a pandemic. This spring, I look forward to hosting several community events, including our Jog-A-Thon fundraiser taking place on Friday, April 22, Alumni Mass and Breakfast Gala scheduled for Friday, May 20 as well as whole school Masses and prayer services—Stations of the Cross (April 15) and May Crowning and Rosary (May 6). You are invited join us and to reconnect. We all need a community to embrace or be embraced by. Our human nature is to connect with others and to belong. Immaculate Conception Regional School looks forward to reconnecting with you in our community.

Peace and Joy,

Principal Rodrigues

DO YOU HAVE SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN?

Enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year is now underway.

Spaces are available in PreK through 8th grade.

Please contact the development office to schedule a tour and visit our website ICRSweb.org to complete an application.

CONTINUE THE FAMILY TRADITION AT ICRS!

Alumni Staff

ICRS has been blessed this school year with several alumni serving on our staff. Allison Brooks '04, Daniela Barriga '18, Egann Willis '16, Issac Periera, Lilianna Sustaita '17 and Sarah Rutherford '80 have all been instrumental in supporting our students this year.



Daniela Barriga

Daniela started in January working as the PreK extended care aide in the afternoons. She looks forward to ending her day playing with the children, whether it be on the playground or leading arts and craft projects in the classroom. "I just love being back seeing all my favorite teachers and being around the preschoolers is just awesome! I love it!"

The newest members to join the ICRS team are Daniela Barriga and Lili Sustaita. Even though they haven't been here long, they both fill vital roles to keep our excellent programs running smoothly and have been solid additions to the staff.

Daniela joined the ICRS staff in February as a full-time classroom aide and helps students from Kindergarten through 8th grade. Lili enjoys being back at ICRS and is amazed at how much has changed since she graduated just 5 short years ago. "The library is now where the cafeteria used to be and we have a tank full of fish in the main hallway! The 8th graders were little kids when I left and it's awesome to see how they've grown and matured."

Lili joined the ICRS staff in February as a full-time classroom aide and helps students from Kindergarten through 8th grade. Lili enjoys being



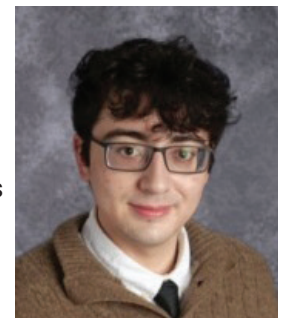
Lili Sustaita



Egann Willis

Egann Willis returned for a second year to help as an upper school aide and has recently taken on the role of long term PE sub while Mrs. Van Selus is on maternity leave. This has been a perfect fit for Egann, who wants to be a PE teacher. Egann also helps with recess and lunch duty so it's safe to say we will miss him when he goes to college!

Issac Periera, who attended ICRS from PreK through 7th grade, has been working at ICRS for 3 years. He began supporting Miss Sue in extended care and now manages our school lunch program. He also serves as a recess duty, so you can often see him out on the playground. Isaac enjoys his work at ICRS saying "I feel nostalgic seeing all my previous teachers and being able to interact with them on a daily basis." He mentioned "it's also nice to work with ICRS peers like Egann."



Isaac Pereira



Allison Brooks

Allison Brooks, while not new to the ICRS staff, stepped up from kindergarten aide to assume the role of lead Kindergarten teacher after longtime and beloved teacher, Colleen Wade's retirement. Allison has done a tremendous job in this new role, moving into the position mid year, and has made the transition extremely smooth for the kindergarten class. "ICRS is in my blood - my grandmother taught here, my mom and uncles graduated from here and I've established lifelong friendships from attending. ICRS is my community!" Allison loves teaching kindergarten and says "the children at ICRS are special, they are excited to learn and that makes my job so rewarding."

Along with Allison, Sarah Rutherford is a veteran on the ICRS staff.

Sarah started her career at ICRS roughly 15 years ago when her children were young students at the school and she is currently teaching 7th grade. One of the main things Sarah enjoys about teaching at ICRS is "the freedom to be creative." The project based learning opportunities that are part of the curriculum at ICRS allow students to gain exposure to practical situations and apply principals they've learned in the classroom to real world. Sarah also values the ability to bring faith into teaching. For example, "when I teach Social Studies, the students and I can bring morals and values into the analysis of events which aides in students' spiritual development." In addition to her love for teaching, Sarah enjoys the comradery between the staff and appreciates the support she receives from the community.



Sarah Rutherford

Thank you Allison, Daniela, Egann, Issac, Lilianna and Sarah for sharing your time and talents with us. We are blessed with so many wonderful alums on our staff.

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 ekohlhaas@icrsweb.org

Wise Words from a Living Saint By: Gwen Rodrigues

I received a letter at school from Father William Treacy. He gave me a personal invitation to come and visit him. Needless to say, I called him immediately and set up a time to visit. Bev Dimock, mother of Dallas '06, Lauren '08, Blake '10 and Abby '12, joined me. (Bev is our new school bookkeeper.)

Father William Treacy is a living Saint in the Skagit Valley. His missionary work is to build bridges within communities, to bring peace and love to the world, and most importantly to see the divine image in each and every person.

Father Tracy was ordained on June 18, 1944 in Maynooth County, Ireland. In February 1945, Fr. Treacy was granted permission to serve in Seattle. He joined the Archdiocese of Seattle as a diocesan priest and has been serving in this area for 78 years.

In 1960 Fr. Treacy met Rabbi Levine at which time they began a partnership co-hosting a weekly television show, Challenge, on KOMO on Sunday evenings. The program focused on bringing people of different faiths together and ran for 14 years with 400,000 viewers weekly.

In 1966, Rabbi Levine invited Fr. Treacy to drive to Mount Vernon with him. "On the way he outlined a vision for me [Fr. Treacy]. First, with the help of friends, he wished to purchase a 300-acre dairy farm and rent out space to different churches. He hoped [to]...provide opportunities to 'get the young people out of their ghettos and to become acquainted.'" (Phelan, p. 12) The place was called Camp Brotherhood and was envisioned as an interfaith center serving the community in the Pacific Northwest. Set in the beautiful Skagit Valley, Camp Brotherhood provided young people a place to meet others who were different from them, get to know each other personally, play together, pray together and eat together, to remove factions between groups so they could see each other as brothers and sisters. "Once you see others as your brother or sister, you can have sympathy and compassion for them."

The success of Camp Brotherhood spread worldwide. Study groups from India, Northern Ireland, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and the Congo observed how Camp Brotherhood fostered "real peace" among groups typically at odds. The Camp became a model for peacemaking worldwide. In 2009, a delegation of visitors from Pakistan and Afghanistan had visited the Pentagon then visited Camp Brotherhood. They commented that "real peace doesn't happen when officials talk to each other, but when people connect at the grass roots....When asked what was the most helpful aspect of their visit here, the member of the Afghani Parliament stated, "The love. It is clear that everything here [Camp Brotherhood] is done with love, and we feel it from the heart." (Phelan, p.13)

Hatred and war are only propagated when one group of people sees another group of people as less than human. Camp Brotherhood and the vision of Rabbi Levine and Fr. Treacy taught the world how real peace starts, that is, by connecting with the humanity of one another.

Fr. Treacy's message to ICRS: "Respect each other. Care for each other. See each other as brothers and sisters. Remember, we are all part of one big human family."

Happy 103rd Birthday to Fr. Treacy on May 31.

Sources:

Phelan, John (compiled by). 2021. *The Path Least Taken: The Life and Reflections of Fr. William Treacy Over His Seventy-Six Year Ministry in America*. Walsh Printers Roscrea Co. Tipperary, Ireland. Rodrigues, Gwen. April 14, 2022. Interview with Fr. William Treacy



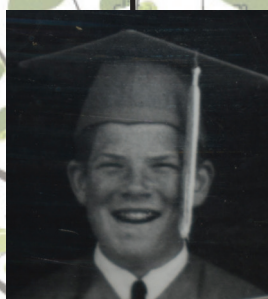
ICRS Family Tree

Showcasing Generations of ICRS Families

Christianson Family Tree



Mark Christianson '65



Ken Christianson '66



Patricia Christianson '67



David Christianson '69



Jeffrey Christianson '94



Jay Christianson '96



Stacey Christianson '99



Eric Christianson '04



Bayla Christianson '31

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 ekohlhaas@icrsweb.org

ICRS Class of 2018

The ICRS Class of 2018 will graduate from high school this year and we would like to highlight their accomplishments. Please join us in congratulating their successes, college acceptances and their plans for the future.

Carolina Oropeza has been accepted to Washington State University, Western Washington University, Seattle University and the University of Washington. She has decided to follow her older sister (Fernanda '16) and will attend the University of Washington in the fall. Carolina plans to pursue a degree in business.



Carolina Oropeza



Mallory Duffy

Mallory Duffy has been accepted into Washington State University's top 10 percentile academics program for the fall of 2022 and has received a scholarship. She plans to study Kinesiology and is looking forward to college, joining a sorority, participating in athletics and possibly studying abroad. Mallory would like to thank all the teachers at ICRS who helped contribute to her success.

Sean Cowan will attend Gonzaga University in the fall and has been awarded the Trustee Merit Scholarship. He is interested in applied math and pre-med.



Sean Cowan



Kyle McLaughlin

Kyle McLaughlin has been accepted at Washington State University and the University of Washington, but has decided to attend Gonzaga University in the fall. He plans on pursuing an undergraduate degree in accounting and a masters degree in finance. Gonzaga's program will allow him to graduate with both degrees in 5 years. Kyle also received a \$100,000 merit scholarship from Gonzaga.

Sammy and Joey Mentel have both been accepted to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland and are planning to attend. The Naval Academy is the most competitive of the service academies in terms of admissions, so to receive two offers of appointment in the same family is truly a great accomplishment. Sammy and Joey are interested in studying aeronautical engineering.



Sammy and Joey Mentel

Giving Back

This winter, Alex Norman (class of 2020) returned to ICRS to volunteer his time by helping Mr. Hansen clean up garbage around the school property and clean the walkways and parking lot. Alex recounted on his time volunteering "it brought me great joy to be back at ICRS. ICRS meant a lot to me, it taught me so much about being responsible and prepared me for the future. Helping out at the school made me think about the schools' values and it made me focus on being a good student. ICRS was a big influence in my life, it was where I learned math, writing, science, and other subjects, but most importantly it taught me to be a student, volunteer, and friend. Volunteering at ICRS was an amazing experience, and being able to give back to the school that gave me so much and taught me so much is just so gratifying and heartwarming."



Alex Norman '20

Thank you Alex for giving back to ICRS and God bless you.

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January 2021 -March 2022

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Svend and Caitlin Svendsen
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Kati Annis
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Kate Hudock
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Linde Husk
Susan Husk
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Jessica Lynch
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Mary McGoffin
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Runnisha McNamee
Debbie Melnyk
Melissa Brook Metrokas
Kelly Miceli

Linda Mierzeski
Susan Minor
Mary Moa-Walsh
Ciara Moses
John Nicol
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Jacque Nybo
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Malana Orsborn
Kalena Osborn
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Do you know an alumni who is not on our mailing list?
Please email ekohlhaas@icrsweb.org to update contact information.

