

VOL. 2 ISSUE 5 • SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

THE ICRS MINUTE

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY PRINCIPAL RUTHERFORD

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents:

ICRS is bustling with learning, collaboration, fun activities, and friendship. Thank you to all our volunteers, especially our recess duties and the parents who helped with Family Fun Night. You make ICRS the special place that it is!

We have a lot going on at school, so please take some time to read our news.

This week, I am including an article from Paul Dunn, head of our technology committee, about the Wait Until 8th Grade Smartphone Pledge [here](#).

Pet Blessing:

Please join us on the Feast of St. Francis for our first annual Pet Blessing!

Where: ICRS field – parents can park on 15th Street or in the church parking lot

When: Wednesday, October 4th, at 2:30 PM

What: bring your pets for a special prayer service and blessing

STEM Opportunity:

Please see the quick links section for information about an ICRS class being offered by Skagit Coding and Robotics Club. If 8-10 students in 2nd-5th grade register for the 4pm class on Thursdays, SCRC will transport students in their van from ICRS to the class in Burlington.

Partners in the Gospel:

This is the program that is reorganizing parishes all over the Archdiocese. Please go to <https://archseattle.org/partners/> for more information. Thankfully, the proposed configuration for the Skagit Valley Catholic churches is the same as what we have now. This is good



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

news for the church and the school. If you are interested, we encourage you to participate in listening sessions that will take place throughout the valley in the next couple weeks.

Wednesday Sept. 27 @ 7:00 p.m. Sacred Heart, La Conner (social hall)

Thursday Sept. 28 @ 7:00 p.m. Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sedro-Woolley (social hall)

Wednesday Oct. 4 @ 6:30 p.m. St. Charles, Burlington (social hall)

Thursday Oct. 5 @ 6:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception, Mount Vernon (church narthex)

-Sarah Rutherford

WAIT UNTIL 8TH SMARTPHONE PLEDGE

Dear ICRS Parents,

At Back to School Night and in a recent Principal's Newsletter I mentioned the "Wait Until 8th" pledge, a commitment that a group of parents can make together not to give their children a smartphone until at least 8th grade. I wanted to circle back with you to provide more information and encourage you to consider taking the pledge today.

We're all aware that smartphones are distracting and potentially dangerous for children, and that the negative impact of too much screen time, and especially the wrong kind of screen time, is hitting our kids hard. Playing outdoors, spending time with friends, reading books, and hanging out with family is happening a lot less to make room for unchaperoned social media and internet surfing, addictive apps, and binge watching YouTube.

The problem is that these devices are in widespread use in elementary and middle school because of unrealistic social pressure and expectations to have one. Parents often feel powerless in this uphill battle and need community support to help delay the presence of the smartphone in the classroom, socializing, and the family dinner table.

The Wait Until 8th pledge empowers parents to rally together to delay giving children a smartphone until at least 8th grade. **By banding together, this will decrease the pressure felt by kids and parents alike to get a smartphone.**

WE ARE LEARNERS





WAIT UNTIL 8TH (Cont.)

Please note that the pledge is for smartphones only! If you would like your child to have a basic phone that just calls and texts, you can still sign the pledge. A basic phone avoids many of the dangers and distractions of the smartphone, and [the Wait Until 8th website reviews several basic phones here](#).

A pledge becomes "active" once 10 or more families from a grade at a school sign up. This takes away the fear of being the only parent in the class that signs the pledge, because it only kicks in once at least 10 families sign from your grade. [Signing the pledge](#) only takes a couple minutes and is very easy.

To learn more, please visit www.waituntil8th.org or check out Wait Until 8th's [Instagram](#) account.

I recognize that every family's situation is different, and that taking the pledge may not be for everyone. ICRS is also committed to ensuring that our students have a rigorous education in the responsible use of technology, so that they can use it to advance and expand their opportunities, not have them limited by it. This isn't an anti-technology issue. It's about being intentional about when, how, and where we introduce technology into our kids' lives.

Thank you for considering this way that we can let our kids be kids a little longer!

Sincerely,
Paul Dunn

PRESCHOOL TEACHER POSITION OPEN

ICRS is hiring a half-time, preschool co-teacher starting in October. Qualified candidates will have a Washington State Early Childhood Education certificate. Please help us spread the word. For more details and to apply, visit our [website](#).

IMPORTANT DATES

September 28-29: 7th grade overnight trip to Baker Lake

October 1: Fulcrum application opens, \$35 fee waived by ICRS until Dec 1st - apply [here](#)

October 4: Pet blessing @ 2:30pm

October 6: 5th grade leads school mass @ 9:30am

October 12: NOON dismissal - teacher in service

October 13: NO SCHOOL - teacher retreat

SEPTEMBER'S PBIS AWARD RECEIPIENTS



ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

THANK YOU MS. STRAND

