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# THE ICRS MINUTE

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY PRINCIPAL RUTHERFORD

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents:

**Conferences:** Thank you for being involved and supportive parents. Together, we are creating a place where children are KIND, FAITHFUL LEARNERS. If you haven't already done so, please complete the [post-conference survey](#). We are always looking for ways to improve communication and support your children.

**Snow days:** If there is snow, we will decide by 6:00 AM whether to cancel school or have a two-hour late start. We will notify you via email and text by 6:15 AM. We will also notify the local TV stations. If we have a late start, there will be no AM extended care. ICRS families come from a vast geographic area, and we will make our decision based on the conditions in Mt. Vernon. If it is unsafe for you to drive your children to school, please stay home. Contact the office and your child will have an excused absence. Students will still need to make up missed work.

**Discipline:** At ICRS, we follow the example of Christ and practice restorative justice. When children are involved in a discipline issue, our focus is teaching responsibility and accountability, healing hurts, and repairing harm. An essential aspect of creating a respectful and positive environment is for children to learn the skill of telling others to stop doing something that is not okay. Teachers are working to help your child learn to say, "Not now," "I don't like that", "Stop", or whatever works for them in the moment. Please help us teach children to expect respect for themselves and others. If a child is involved in a conflict, first they should communicate to the other child what they want, then, if necessary, they should report to a recess duty or teacher. If your child is still upset about a discipline issue, please communicate with the teacher first, ask for clarification, assume good intentions, and remember that you do not see the entire picture. I understand that these issues can be loaded with emotion, as we all want our children to be happy and



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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

safe. However, conflict and misunderstandings will happen, and it is our role as adults to teach children how to respond to conflict in productive, respectful ways. Teaching children skills for addressing uncomfortable situations sets them up for future success. And please remember that for the privacy of all students, we do not share details about discipline issues with the wider community.

**Intent to Return Forms:** Intent to Return forms will be emailed to all families in December from SchoolAdmin. Please complete these promptly because the intent to return form allows our admin staff to begin creating an accurate class list for each grade. We currently have four full classes with waiting lists. Enrollment opens for new families on March 1st.

**Tiny Forest Update:** ICRS students and faculty are working with the Skagit Conservation Core to create our Tiny Forest. Thanks to the Roozens for donating soil and to Dean Youngquist for spreading it. Yesterday, middle school students measured the plots and Nick Kunz from the SCC demonstrated how to measure a plot using a drone. We are excited to combine math, engineering, ecology, history, and biology as we create our forest.

**Upcoming Events:** The Santa Breakfast is this Sunday, December 3rd, and we need both parent volunteers as well as 7th/8th grade students. We also need parents to help with lunch and recess duty on Friday, December 8th, for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Please sign up [here](#).

-Sarah Rutherford

## IMPORTANT DATES

**November 30:** 7th/8th grade tree planting; boys basketball game at Bayview

**December 1st:** Advent prayer service; 1st, 2nd, & 6th grade to The Nutcracker - McIntyre Hall; Fulcrum application fee waiver deadline

**December 3:** Santa Breakfast 9am-1pm @ St. Joe's, walk over to the Book Fair library and get your Christmas shopping done.

**December 3-7:** Scholastic Book Fair in the Library

**December 8:** Feast of the Immaculate Conception - mass @ 9:30am

Thank you to our wreath  
volunteers for sorting  
orders and assisting with  
pick up!

KRISTA SQUIBB  
KAITLYN JANICKI  
JERI CHAVEZ  
CAITLIN COLLINS TAIPALE  
JILLIAN OWENS  
STEPHANIE GILDNES

