

VOL. 2 ISSUE 15 • MARCH 7, 2024

# THE ICRS MINUTE

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY PRINCIPAL RUTHERFORD

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents:

This week, you will notice a new look to ICRS report cards. We strive to create our report cards that are informative records of student progress. One thing you will notice is the new set of boxes that indicate levels of support that students at ICRS receive. I want to take a minute to explain special services at ICRS.

First, our goal is to meet each child's individual needs. Teachers call this differentiation or Response to Intervention RtI. Teachers make accommodations and modifications based on children's cognitive and emotional needs. Some children get challenge work, while others get extra help or shortened assignments. We are blessed to have Mr. Hollick, Mrs. Whitaker, Mrs. Cardenas, Ms. Morgan, Mrs. Espinoza, and Mrs. Keck who support students in and outside of class. In addition, students in 4th-8th grades may be asked to go to Homework Help after school. This is based on teacher recommendations. We also have students who get reading support from Mrs. Keck and Mrs. Espinoza after school.

An ISP is the private school equivalent of an IEP (Individualized Learning Plan) for a child who qualifies for special education services. This is a legally binding document that we create with the help of the Mount Vernon School District. ICRS currently has seven students with ISPs. A 504 Plan is sometimes appropriate for a student who does not qualify for an ISP/IEP, but has special learning needs. ICRS carefully monitors students based on MAP scores, classroom assessments, and teacher observations. We update our Response to Intervention RtI spreadsheet monthly at PLC meetings on Wednesday mornings. Teachers collaborate to determine the best way to respond to each child's needs. This might include shortening assignments, preferential seating, giving more time for tests, or



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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

adjusting the reading level of texts.

On this report card, most parents will see NO marked in the special needs boxes. If you see YES, this should not be a surprise to you. But, as always, please contact your teacher if you have questions.

We have one change to the 2024-25 school calendar that went out last week. There will be no school on Oct. 14, but there will be school on Oct. 18th. Please see the updated calendar in quick links section.

I have loved meeting with many parents at our annual check-in. I hope to meet with every parent in the school. Your meeting counts as one volunteer hour. Catholic parents who meet with me by April 1st will be eligible for the in-parish tuition rate. Please see the quick links section to sign up for a meeting.

Volunteer hours for the 23-24 school year are due May 1st. If you need help earning hours, we have a long list of volunteer opportunities. Please email [volunteer@icrsweb.org](mailto:volunteer@icrsweb.org) for more information.

I have included information in the quick links section about the possibility of a Catholic high school serving Skagit, Island, and Whatcom counties. Please give it a read.

-Sarah Rutherford

## IMPORTANT DATES

**March 6:** report cards go home today

**March 7-8: NO SCHOOL** - Parent Teacher Conferences/Teacher In-Service

**March 8:** Cabrini film showing in Burlington

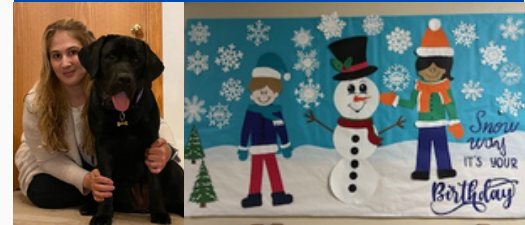
**March 13 & 14:** Lenten Reconciliation Services

**March 13:** Science, Engineering, and Cultural Fair at 6:00 in St. Joe's

**March 17:** 8th grade parent meeting - get all the inside news about high school. 6:30 in the library.

**March 22:** Tiny Forest Tree Planting; We will begin with a blessing at 9:00 a.m. in the field

**March 29:** Stations of the Cross led by the 8th grade, 2:15 in St. Joe's



A special thank you to Crista Hudson for decorating our birthday board each month. We appreciate your creativity and making the board look so festive. We are recruiting a new volunteer to take Crista's place when her son graduates this spring. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Oropesa.

