

Highlights from the Hub:

Where the ICS Eagles Soar



Waiting for Superman

The state of education in New York is a controversial subject. The new documentary *Waiting for Superman* doesn't present a hopeful picture of education in our country as parents and children are shown waiting for "Superman" to come to fix it. Having grown up reading Superman comic books, I'm very familiar with his super powers. But I also grew up in a Redemptorist parish, so I know that Superman actually existed 200 years ago.

In 2011, we'll celebrate the 200th birthday of St. John Neumann, a Redemptorist priest and Bishop of Philadelphia. As Bishop of Philadelphia (1852-1860), he decided that a Catholic school in each parish was necessary for our country's new immigrants. He managed to

start 100 parish schools in his short time as Bishop.

Immaculate Conception School opened in 1854, and the Redemptorists came here in 1886 to find that another superhero, Mother Pauline van Mallinkrodt, had the same vision of educating poor immigrant children. *Waiting for Superman* presents charter schools as the promised land of education; many of their approaches to education mirror the genius of St. John Neumann and Blessed Pauline. Our children succeed where others fail, our children soar while others plod along.

Catholic Schools aren't waiting for Superman because our superheroes came almost 200 years ago and paved the way for a super education in the 21st century.

Fr. Frank Skelly, C.S.s.R.

Announcements

Upcoming Events

Dec. 16th at 6:30 pm:
ICS Christmas Concert

Jan. 31st – Feb. 4th:
Catholic Schools Week

March 3rd:
Career Day

ICS extends a warm welcome to our newest staff members:

Ms. Aliya Francis
Ms. Jennifer Fuentes
Ms. Julia Hartman
Mr. Jacob Santana
Ms. Kaitlyn St. Pierre

In an effort to make ICS "greener," we are converting to an electronic newsletter.

Please send us your email address by visiting www.ics151.org/alumni.html

Inside This Issue:

Literacy Enthusiasts	2
Columbia Partnership	2
School Improvements	2
Alumni Corner	2
ICS Treasure	3
Fruits and Veggies	3
Board Spotlight	3
Help Support ICS!	4

Sister Patrice Welcomes New Apprentice

Aliya Francis graduated from Lincoln University in 1997 with a degree in Biology and is now pursuing her Masters in School Building Leadership from St. John's University as part of the Curran Principal Academy. After 13 years of teaching at St. Charles Borromeo School, Aliya joined the Curran Principal Academy, hoping to prepare herself to help an even larger group of children. The Curran Principal Academy is also enabling Aliya to complete a one year Assistant Principal internship at ICS, and when she graduates from this program, she will have the credentials to become a principal. In addition to having a desire to share and enhance the curriculum and engage the children, Aliya also strives to build relationships with faculty, staff, students, parents, and the community. She states, "The difference from being a teacher with one class of students is that now I am able to interact with and impact all of the children. It is truly the greatest opportunity I could ask for."



Literacy Coach Sparks Enthusiasm

As a Literacy Consultant for the Cooke Center for Learning and Development, Judy Brodsky entered her fourth year as literacy coach at ICS. With a goal to support literacy instruction in reading and writing and better meet the needs of the students, Judy works closely with Sister Patrice to assess our students' needs each year. Judy then helps faculty members tailor their instruction to meet these needs. She states, "The eagerness children display in their writing, desire to share, and pride in their work is exciting. I have found that teachers are willing to try new initiatives, and students have become much more enthusiastic about their reading and writing."



Coach Judy with 4th graders & their writer's notebooks

Judy has helped ICS implement initiatives, including Book of the Month, Writer's Notebooks, Writing Workshop, Guided Reading, Poetry Day, and Word Walls. This year she also began school-wide Word of the Day, writing celebrations for all students, and Persuasive Reviews of books, restaurants, etc. "Coach Judy motivates me to read all the time and to write what I'm feeling. I still remember when she introduced us to acrostic poetry in 6th grade and my class fell in love," says 8th grader Elyssa.

Columbia University Partnership

Thanks to a successful partnership with the Columbia University Psychology Department, ICS has four School Psychology Interns for the 2010-2011 year. These interns work closely with our Guidance Counselor, Tanya Culver, to provide opportunities for emotional and social growth by administering psychoeducational testing, counseling students, assisting with crises, and developing intervention plans.

School Improvements

A generous \$25,000 grant awarded by The Endowment for Inner-City Education has allowed ICS to repair several parts of the school building. During the summer, the roof was repaired, the main entrance was repainted, broken windows were replaced, and the girl's playground passageway was repaved. Our facilities are now safer than ever thanks to The Endowment for Inner-City Education!

The Alumni Corner

Michelle Centeno attended ICS from 3rd to 7th grade, leaving in September 1966 and moving to Rosedale Queens with her family. After ICS she attended Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary for 8th grade, then Andrew Jackson High School. She is currently pursuing her undergraduate degree through the SUNY Empire College online courses and is anticipating graduation within three years. Despite not being able to graduate with her ICS counterparts, the education she received at ICS has remained with her as she enters her fourth year as Director of Outreach for the office of the Bureau of Labor Law within NYC Comptroller John Liu's office.

Fondly recalling her time at ICS, Michelle shares, "We learned how to appreciate opera and poetry. We used to ride the subway to go see biblical movies, such as *The Ten Commandments*. I completed my confirmation at ICS when I was 10 years old and in 5th grade. I still have a picture where I'm standing with my parents outside of the church that day."

In an effort to give back, Michelle seeks creative ways to raise funds to benefit ICS, particularly its music program. "As a New York born and Puerto Rican female, I am grateful for who I am today and believe in giving back to where I came from. For that reason, I'd like ICS students to know to never give up. Keep the faith, pray, stay strong, believe it can happen, and it will."



ICS Treasure

Sister Regina Anhalt CSA is celebrating her 20th year teaching at ICS. Having received her BA in Elementary Education at Marian University in 1964, Sister Regina then proceeded to get her MA from Marygrove College in Early Childhood Education in 1972. Her first 10 years of teaching were in small Wisconsin farming communities. She then came to New York City and spent several years teaching at Our Lady Queen of Angels School. Sister Regina recalls, "It was there that I fell in love with inner-city children and knew I never wanted to be anywhere else."

When Sister Regina first joined ICS in 1990 to teach 3rd and 4th grade, she felt she had entered a space where students were happy, self-confident, and engaged in learning. "I still see all of this," Sister Regina shares, "but now I understand why the children are that way. My co-workers have energy, enthusiasm, and dedication beyond measure, and the children are learning what they see every day."

Sister Regina believes this school community is a deeply ingrained part of her life. "More than anything though, the children of ICS continue to bring me back to this special part of the South Bronx. Their indomitable spirit, curiosity, and desire to learn have made every year special." Sister Patrice appreciates Sister Regina's gentle spirit and says, "Her commitment is a blessing to the 1st graders who enter her classroom year after year at ICS. We are privileged to work along side such a caring and dedicated colleague."



Sister Regina & 1st grader Ariana

Fruits and Veggies Galore

ICS is proud to announce that it has been selected by the Child Nutrition Program of the Archdiocese of New York to participate in the USDA's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. This program provides Pre-K through 6th grade students with free fresh fruits and vegetables during the school day. The goal is to develop better health and diets for children while educating them on healthy eating habits. By encouraging nutritious snacking and increasing the number of fruits and vegetables available, children's experiences and diets will be expanded, thus impacting their present and future health. ICS students are excited and 1st grader Ryan exclaims, "We get to have pears today. They are so yummy!"



1st graders Zasmine, Ryan & Catherine

Advisory Board Member Spotlight

Thomas Rogers is the newest member of Immaculate Conception School's Advisory Board. Graduating from the University of Notre Dame in 1997 with a BBA in Finance, Thomas later attended Duke University and graduated with his MBA in 2005. Currently he is the Vice President of the Financial Institutions Group in the Investment Bank sector of Citigroup Global Markets Inc.

First learning of ICS through BoardAssist, a non-profit corporation that helps recruit board members for non-profit organizations, Thomas felt the school "was an institution with a lot of history in the community and a great opportunity for children." Believing strongly in the benefits of his own Catholic education, Thomas says, "I think a quality education is very valuable, especially at an early age as it sets the stage for success in life, both personally and professionally. I also think that if students see adults donating time and money to schools, it is concrete proof that education is highly valued."



