

Immaculate Conception School

Newsletter

January, 2010

505 E. North St. • Morris, IL 60450 • (815)942-4111 • <http://ics1.org>

SCHOOL UPDATES



The computers in the tech lab were dated. Many were as old as ten years. With this in mind, the goal for the current school year was to replace these computers with new ones. Many people have worked to promote and fund this project over the past year. Several new computers were purchased by the Parents' Club and by the Sports' Committee. Additional donations for computers came from Exelon, several grandparents, parents, Boy Scout Troop 469, and other friends of the school. An anonymous donation received shortly before Christmas has enabled us to complete this project. All of the computers in the tech lab are new, and every student in the lab will be provided with the most (for now anyway) up to date technology. The staff and students of I.C.S. are grateful to all those who so generously donated to make this possible.

There have been other improvements at I.C.S. during the past year. The teachers' use of Smart Boards has been implemented more completely. Also, the preschool classroom has been greatly enlarged and enhanced.

Despite the hard economic times, I.C.S. continues to improve its offerings. These improvements are usually made possible by the generosity of the many friends of the school. We continue to strive to provide the best possible Catholic education for our students. Your continued help and support are a very important factor in the ongoing success of the school.

Honoring Rosie Paulson

The Morris Community was truly saddened by the passing of Mrs. Rosie Paulson on December 30. For the past 35 years, she's served as a crossing guard helping students safely cross the streets at the corner of Division and North Streets. For many years, the students were from both I.C.S. and Center School. When Center School closed, Mrs. Paulson continued to help mainly the students from I.C.S.

The students loved Mrs. Paulson (or Rosie as many of them called her). She always had a kind word, a smile, and a laugh. In good weather, her trademark was her red motor scooter. Her upbeat personality always made passing her corner a good moment in a school day.

Mrs. Paulson took the safety of every student very seriously. Over the years, she called the school on a few occasions to report students that did not cross at her corner, but crossed in the middle of the street a couple of blocks to the north or south. The students may have been too far away for her to recognize, but she always had a description. We never failed to correct the students and they didn't attempt a similar crossing again.

Mrs. Paulson as well as her three sons are I.C.S. graduates. In addition, three of her grandchildren graduated from I.C.S. She was a regular at area sporting events and always showed up with a large bag of candy that she shared with all those sitting around her. Mrs. Paulson cheered for all of the players no matter which team or school they represented. She made sports a positive and fun experience.

Mrs. Rosie Paulson cheerfully watched out for the safety of literally hundreds of young people for many, many years. I am sure that she prevented injuries that would have happened had she not been there. Our school and the community at large have suffered a great loss. Mrs. Paulson was a cheerleader for and inspiration to all of us.

I.C.S. faculty members and the eighth grade class were present for Mrs. Paulson's funeral. Please say a little prayer in her honor next time you pass the corner of Division and North Streets. May God bless you for remembering this wonderful lady.



Alumni Information

Visit <http://ics1.org> and click the Alumni link to read about some of our former students. There is a survey posted if you wish to be included or change your information.

What a ride!

ICS Principal finishes RAGBRAI with his head held high

By Jeanne Millsap
Herald Correspondent

Kim DesLauriers, principal of Immaculate Conception School, had two main goals this year during the 442 mile RAGBRAI XXXVII bike ride across the state of Iowa.

He wanted to raise money for his school's Jim Feeny Scholarship Fund; and not to have to walk his bike across any stretches of the ride.

He achieved both goals. Thanks to the donations he received from supporters and well-wishers, he raised \$32,000 for ICS students whose families are having financial trouble this year. And he managed to stay pedaling on his bicycle even over the steepest of western Iowa's hills.

RAGBRAI stands for the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa. The cross-state ride began in 1973 by two of the Register newspaper's reporters. It is not a race, but a seven-day ride across the state from the Missouri River to the Mississippi River. Riders all begin in the same town each morning, then ride to the destination town to spend the night.

The RAGBRAI has bragging rights as the longest, largest, and oldest touring bicycle ride in the world.

"There were 18,000 bikes in this," DesLauriers said. "It was just unbelievable. It was like an enormous moving party. It was an incredible thing."

DesLauriers had an inauspicious time training for the RAGBRAI, though. He practiced by riding all over town, on the I & M Canal trail, over the river bridge, through Hatcher's Woods for its hills, and even at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

One day toward the end of June, though, something got caught between his wheel and the fork, bringing his bike to a complete stop and throwing him over the handlebars. He gashed his face pretty badly around his mouth and nose and had to have stitches, putting him out of commission for several days. But he healed up enough to make the long-anticipated trip to Iowa for the ride. DesLauriers said he was a little overwhelmed the first day when the magnitude of the ride dawned upon him.

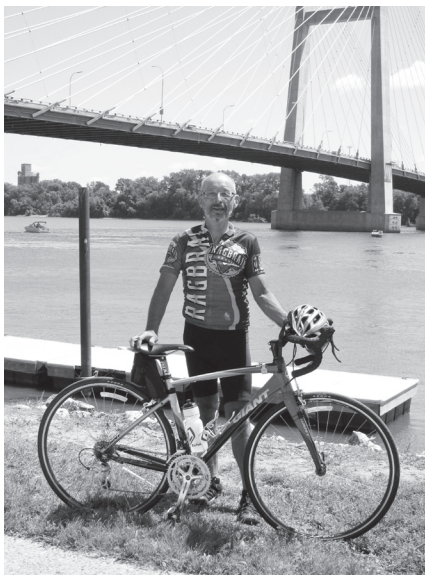
"You have to think to yourself, what have I gotten into?" he said. "But once you get on your bike, with 18,000 other riders around you, you can't turn and go the other way. Once you get started, you have to say well, I'm into it."

The first leg of the trip was in western Iowa, which DesLauriers said was very hilly.

"You're not used to the hills," he said. "The first time I went downhill, I thought, 'Man, oh man,'"

DesLauriers was coasting or even braking down the first hill, and then he saw that other more experienced riders were actually pedaling down the steep hills. He realized why when he started going uphill. You had to really get up speed to get up those hills, he said, and you did that on the downhill slopes.

As he took the hills one by one, he realized he wasn't too bad



on them. He never had to get off his bike and walk up, and he even did some passing on them. After the second day, he was a little stiff. Other than that, though, he said he seemed to handle things pretty well physically.

DesLauriers was going to camp in a tent at night, but his wife, Trudy, ended up going. She found motels in nearby towns. She would pick him up and take him to the motels at the end of each day, then back to the towns to start the next day.

On the ride, he would stop every 10 miles or so to stretch and to get something to drink. Farmers, boy scout troops, church groups and others would have stands set up that sold everything from water, lemonade, coffee and Gatorade to corn, chicken sandwiches, pancakes, pie, ice cream and smoothies.

DesLauriers said he ate mostly bananas and a lot of water and Gatorade. He like it when he found a Casey's where he could get a slice of pizza and a doughnut.

"I always found a place for a donut," he said.

It was a long week, but a very interesting one, he said. Riding every day got to be a little repetitive, but DesLauriers said he found the people fascinating. There were people from all over, he said. It was a whole study in human nature.

There were those who rode on a team for a cause, such as the LiveStrong Team and the Army Team. There was a man riding in tandem with his teenage handicapped son in front. There were cancer support groups and one man who rode with two large speakers on the back of his bike that played polka music the whole way. One woman strapped on a boom box that played Johnny Cash songs.

One team wore white clothes with big black spots. They were Team Cow. A man rode a recumbent bicycle that was shaped like a banana, and he wore a banana costume. DesLauriers' wife saw another man riding a 1941 one-speed Schwinn.

"I don't know how he made it up those hills," he said.

DesLauriers enjoyed meeting the townspeople. He met one 94-year-old man, Maurice Stamps, in one tiny Iowa town who was sitting watching the stream of bikes go by. Stamps was a World War II hero and had written three books about his experiences overseas. He used to be a school principal, like DesLauriers, and football coach.

"It was just a real adventure," he said.

DesLauriers wants to thank all those who donated to the cause.

"Jim Feeny loved the school, and he loved everything about Morris," DesLauriers said. "That people were so generous to this is an honor to Jim. I hope other people will be willing to do it with me next year. We need to move into something that will involve more people and continue the great spirit of Jim Feeny and of the school"

ICS Class of 2009

The graduation ceremony for the Class of 2009 of Immaculate Conception School was held during a 7 P.M. Liturgy on Friday, May 22nd. The graduates processed into the church to the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance" played by Mrs. Kim Struck. Father Richard Smith was the celebrant at the Mass. Deacon Bob Stansberry assisted him.

Danny Friend presented the first reading, and Gabby Bonic read the second reading. The intercessions were read by Maggie Roth, Jason Matteson, and Colin Finnegan. Emily Burich and Brandon Durkin carried and covered the altar with the cloth the class made for their First Communion Mass when they were in second grade. Gift bearers at the presentation were Reese Sobol, Brenna Feeney, Jake Capko, Drew Aldrich and Annie Wilson. Principal, Mr. Kim DesLauriers, presented the graduates to those present and Father Smith awarded them their diplomas. Mrs. Pat Kolotka, president of the ICS School Board, assisted him. Mr. Paul Crisman, representative of American Legion Post #294, presented the American Legion Awards to Craig Claire and Madison Rodgers.

Mr. DesLauriers presented American Citizenship Awards to Jake Capko, Jackie DesLauriers, Danny Friend, Kendall Korte, Alex Magers, Mike Roed, Maggie Roth, Reese Sobol, and Annie Wilson. Kade Bashor, Jake Capko, Craig Claire, Tim Gile, Kendall Korte, Alex Magers, Rachel Neuhalfen, Sean Phillips, Madison Rodgers, and Maggie Roth received the President's Education Award for having maintained at least a 3.5 GPA and scoring in the 85th percentile on standardized tests their seventh and eighth grade years.

Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics certificates were presented to those with the highest math average in each of the two math groups. Kate Keegan received it for the pre-algebra group and Rachel Neuhalfen for the algebra group. Certificates were presented to Steve Bielecki and Brogan Connor for having perfect attendance their eighth grade year, to Jason Matteson for being present every day in eighth grade and only missing four days of

school the other seven years, and Jackie DesLauriers for having perfect attendance every year she attended Immaculate Conception School. The President's Physical Fitness Award was presented to Jason Matteson.

Mr. DesLauriers recognized the members of the class who had been on the honor roll. These students were Drew Aldrich, Kade Bashor, Steve Bielecki, Ryan Borgstrom, Jake Capko, Craig Claire, Brogan Connor, Jake Crowther, Jackie DesLauriers, Brandon Durkin, Brenna Feeney, Danny Friend, Madeline Funk, Tim Gile, Brian Henry, Kate Keegan, Kendall Korte, Grace Kumor, Alex Magers, Jason Matteson, Carly Mickelson, Rachel Neuhalfen, Christian Niewinski, Talia Persico, Sean Phillips, Madison Rodgers, Mike Roed, Maggie Roth, Reese Sobol, Mason Soper, Logan Steffes, Nick Verchimak and Annie Wilson.



In his remarks, Mr. DesLauriers recognized the twenty families of the class of 2009 who will no longer have a child attending Immaculate Conception school. He also reminded those in attendance that this is the largest class to graduate from ICS.

Mass servers were Molli Aldrich and Kate Friend. Ushers were Ian Bashor, Jana Capko, Justin Crowther, Bridget Gile, Chris Gualandi, Sarah Roth, and Griffin Sobol. They are brothers and sisters of members of the graduating class. Cantors for the Mass were Erica Gualandi, Grace Kumor, Claudia Morera, Carly Mickelson, Madison Rodgers, and Maggie Roth.

Member of the ICS Class of 2009 are Drew Aldrich, Kade Bashor, Steven Bielecki, Gabrielle Bonic, Ryan Borgstrom, Emily Burich, Jake Capko, Craig Claire, Brogan Connor, Jacob Crowther, Jacqueline Ellis DesLauriers, Brandon Durkin, Brenna Feeney, Colin Finnegan, Daniel Friend, Madeline Marie Funk, Timothy Gile, Erica Nicole Gualandi, Brian Allan Henry, Katharine Keegan, Kendall Korte, Grace Kumor, Philip Kumor, Alexander Magers, Jason Matteson, Carly Mickelson, Anthonee Monson, Claudia Lucia Morera, Rachel Neuhalfen, Christian Niewinski, Benjamin Ortiz, Talia Persico, Sean Phillips, Madison Rodgers, Michael Roed, Maggie Marie Roth, Sheldon Reese Sobol II, Mason Soper, Logan James Steffes, Nicholas John Verchimak, Andrea Wilson.

Catholic Schools Week: Catholic Schools - Dividends for Life

Immaculate Conception School will be joining other Catholic schools throughout the United States in celebrating Catholic Schools Week beginning on January 30. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools - Dividends for Life". The theme will be incorporated into the week's events at I.C.S. An emphasis will be placed on the future benefits of the current sacrifices being made for a Catholic education at I.C.S.

Catholic Schools Week will begin on Saturday, January 30 with a Free Throw Contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and Immaculate Conception School. The contest will be held in the Dr. Connor Gym and is open to all area students between the ages of 10 and 14. Age is determined by the student's age on January 1, 2010. Boys will shoot at 9:00 A.M. followed by girls at 10:00 A.M. There is no entry fee. Certificates will be awarded to all contestants and plaques will be presented to winners in each category.

Catholics Come Home will be the emphasis on January 30 and 31. All I.C.S. families are urged to participate at the Masses that weekend and to bring a guest. There will be an open house following the Masses in the St. Angela Room and throughout the school. The open house will feature a display of science projects done by I.C.S. seventh graders as well as many academic projects done by I.C.S. students from preschool through eighth grade. Students, parents, and all other friends of the school are cordially invited. Refreshments will be served by the I.C.S. Parents Club.

Parents are invited to visit the school on Monday between 8:05 and 9:50 A.M. The activities will begin with a prayer service at 8:05 A.M. in the Dr. Connor Gym. The prayer service will emphasize the value of a Catholic education at I.C.S. The prayer service will be followed by classroom visitation. Refreshments will be available for parents in the St. Angela Room that day.

On Tuesday, upper grade students will be paired with lower grade students for a reading project in which the older students will read books to the younger ones. The school spelling bee will also be held on Tuesday at 3:00 P.M. in the Father Karpowicz Library.

A student from each of grades four through eight will compete to determine the school's representative in the Grundy/Kendall Regional Spelling Bee that will be held on February 20. Mrs. Maureen Keegan will be a guest at the school on Wednesday, February 3. Mrs. Keegan is a former I.C.S. faculty member. She has written and published a book entitled "The Wedding of Q and U". She will make presentations to groups of students detailing the process of authorship as well as the importance of setting goals and following dreams. Her presentations will be made to preschool, K through 2, 3 through 5, and 6 through 8. The upper grade presentation will take place in the afternoon.

On Wednesday, the school will again sponsor "We Care Wednesday". Students are asked to bring change from home to be given to help We Care with its mission of helping area residents who are experiencing hard times. The school community will celebrate Spirit Day on Thursday. Students are asked to wear school colors and several spirit building activities will take place. The day's events will begin with a prayer service at 8:05 A.M. in the Dr. Connor Gym. Upper grade students will join lower grade students for lunch that day.

I.C.S. teachers will be honored on Friday of Catholic Schools Week with a special lunch provided by the I.C.S. Parents Club. I.C.S. students will participate in Mass on Friday at 8:15 A.M. Immaculate Conception Pastor, Father Richard Smith, will be the celebrant of the Mass. His homily will emphasize the theme of Catholic Schools Week.

I.C.S. families and friends are invited to a family night on Friday from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. in the St. Angela Room. There will be games, refreshments, and prizes. There will be no charge for participation.

Immaculate Conception School has a student enrollment of 220. Immaculate Conception Parish has a tremendous commitment to the ministry of its Catholic school. The Parish's commitment, the hard work of its teachers and parents, and the support of the community help provide excellence in Catholic education for I.C.S. students.

Annual Appeal

Many of our alumni members received their Catholic education at I.C.S. when there was either no tuition or the tuition fees were minimal. Immaculate Conception School continues to thrive despite the downturn in the economy and today's high costs. This year, a parish family with one child attending I.C.S. on a full time basis is paying \$3,109. A family of four pays \$5668. Several of our families are currently unable to pay all or part of their tuition and fees. Immaculate Conception School exists to provide the highest possible quality Catholic education to all its students. Catholic education at I.C.S. should never be available only to the wealthy.

In order to fill budget gaps, I.C.S. continues to rely on the generosity of its current and former families, its alumni, and its many other friends. The Annual School Appeal begins on January 30 and 31. Your generous response to this appeal is very important to the school's continued success. If you are currently a member of Immaculate Conception Parish, you will find a School Collection envelope in your envelope packet. Your donation may be sent to the school or placed in the weekly offering collection.

If you do not have an envelope for your donation, you may wish to use the enclosed envelope. If you wish to make your donation in honor or memory of a loved one, please indicate that by using the bottom of this appeal. The Annual Appeal is a wonderful opportunity for our many alumni members to help current I.C.S. families. May God bless you for your consideration of this appeal.

Name _____ Donation Amount \$ _____

In honor or memory of _____