

# ANGEL NEWS

September 2009

Campus Newsletter-Corpus Christi, TX

Vol. 18 No. 1

INCARNATE WORD  
ACADEMY  
S I N C E 1 8 7 1

## The Human Face of God's Love

*by Marc Ortiz, Director of Campus Ministry*

“Inspired by the charism...of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament” are the words which begin the mission statement of Incarnate Word Academy. The charism of the Sisters, their gift to the world, is to “extend the Incarnation.” That means that they, in imitation of Christ, can be the human face of God’s love in our world today. Being inspired by that charism, IWA strives to help its students do the same. The gospels are filled with examples of how Christ seeks to serve the poor. It is what the Church calls the preferential option for the poor. If we are to be like Christ, the Incarnate Word, we must also have that same preferential option for the poor. The Church, in her wisdom, gives us concrete ways in which we can put this into action; they are called the works of mercy.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “the works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities” (CCC 2447). If the actions are to be charitable, they must be actions of love. These actions, then, of coming to our neighbor’s aid, are acts which allow us to be the human face of God’s love. We have many neighbors who are in either bodily or spiritual need, and sometimes both. To help us grow in love and to put love in action, we can focus on the works of mercy as outlined in the aforementioned paragraph of the CCC.

Each month of this academic calendar, IWA will focus on the various works of mercy. We will not only call them to mind, but we will also seek ways in which we can practice them. The works of mercy are divided into corporal (bodily) and spiritual works. The corporal works of mercy include feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, burying the dead, and giving shelter to the homeless. The spiritual works of mercy include praying for the living and the dead, comforting the afflicted, instructing the ignorant, counseling the doubtful, bearing wrongs patiently, and forgiving offenses willingly.

As we seek to live these works of mercy, we are ultimately seeking to help our community grow in love, both on an individual basis and as a community. It is in growing in love that we become more like God. When we conform ourselves more to His will, and put that will into action, we can live in the holiness to which each of us is called. Living in holiness requires us to allow God to live in us, and if He lives in us, then, and only then, can we be the human face of His love. Are we willing to be His love? That is our hope at IWA, and we will seek to do so through works of mercy, which are truly works of love.

### **IWA ANGEL NEWS -- Campus Newsletter -- Corpus Christi, TX**

This newsletter is published monthly and distributed to parents and friends of Incarnate Word Academy. Its purpose is to provide a means of communicating spiritual and liturgical messages, parenting education, campus-wide information, teacher/staff accomplishments, special events and future plans. Some articles have been contributed by faculty, administrators, parents and other friends of IWA.

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# CAMPUS NEWS

## The Priceless Value of Our Volunteers

by Sister Anna Marie Espinosa, IWA President

From before day one, there is a lot of action going on at IWA. Many activities across the campus have already blessed the lives of our students and enriched their academic, athletic and personal experience. It is the work and enthusiasm of our volunteers that contribute significantly to the success of these school events and to the very heart of our school spirit. Our talented staff is able to provide extra-curricular programs because of the faithful commitment of the many volunteers who support student organizations. The proceeds raised from our entertaining campus events benefit the mission of the school annually. The value of our volunteers is priceless.

With finesse and graciousness the officers of this year's PTO hosted our Welcome Back Social in the school cafeteria on August 13. The relaxing event is a wonderful opportunity for new parents to acquaint themselves with teachers and staff and with veteran families who know and understand who and what IWA is all about.

Even prior to the social, PTO officers were organized and ready, providing lunch for teachers and staff during in-service days or on a faculty meeting day. At the opening PTO meeting, officers presented their plans for the year's activities to support school spirit and contribute funds for the enhancement of the educational program.

Booster Club members were busy at work with the concession booth and the door for the freshmen volleyball round robin tournament and the Middle Level games.

IWA welcomed Chase Hilgenbrinck as keynote speaker at the IWA Athletic Prayer Breakfast. The event was planned by Marc Ortiz, Campus Minister, and sponsored by the Mission Effectiveness Committee and Booster Club.

The IWA School Board with its various committees has had its first meeting and continues to work for the visibility, viability and sustainability of the mission of IWA.

Not everyone has the opportunity to be a volunteer for IWA. But all of us can be aware of and be grateful for the invaluable service and amazing leadership offered generously for the good of our children. Striving in earnest to encourage our children to reach for the stars, we believe that they are children of God called to holiness and wholeness. Learning in the classroom, in the playground, on the court, on the field, is blessed bountifully because of the partnership we share with you.

## A Great Start

by Connie F. Cadena, Executive Director of Advancement

The 2009-2010 Annual Giving Campaign efforts have begun. Our advancement goals have been unveiled and we are actively seeking participation from all parents, alumni, grandparents, past parents, and friends. This year's Annual Fund, with a total dollar goal of \$400,000, will enable us to continue to advance our mission. A successful campaign will provide resources that provide critical funding for our financial aid program, program enhancements and special programs that improve the quality of education and student life on campus, and solely supports the end-of-the year bonus awarded to our teachers and staff.

Each year the advancement team is privileged to visit with parents during registration. These one-on-one visits offer a great opportunity for us to share our campaign priorities and invite participation. I am pleased to report that \$57,289 was raised in commitments! A big thank you to those who have come aboard early and helped us launch our campaign.

To ensure a successful campaign, it is vital everyone have facts about our advancement plans. Annual appeal packets have been mailed to our parents and we will invite participation from our grandparents, past parents, and friends. Presentations have been made at the PTO meetings. In addition, progress reports and commitment forms will be provided in our monthly newsletter.

Our alumni continue to be instrumental in providing a significant amount toward our campaign goal. The annual appeal was mailed to alumni and a nationwide phonathon has been conducted. To date, the alumni have raised \$90,000 in commitments!

A total of \$147,289 (37% of our total goal) has been raised! We are well on our way to another successful campaign. Every gift does make a difference and your participation is needed. The collective power of giving by each of you – our parents, board members, alumni, faculty/staff, grandparents, past parents and friends - makes an impact that will lead IWA to new heights and will motivate others in the community to support our school. Please join us today.

### School Board Directors 2009-2010

E. Brent Bottom, *Chair*  
Kathryn Green, *Chair-Emeritus*  
Mike Lippincott, *Vice-Chair*  
Dr. Paxton J. Longwell, *Treasurer*

Sr. Michelle M. Kuntscher, *Superior Gen.*  
Sr. Maria Elizabeth Brehony  
Dr. Christine L. Canterbury Cory  
Tom Carlisle

Joe Cocco  
Barry Clark  
Rod Martin  
Ralph Meyer

Sr. Anne Brigid Schlegel  
Kim Seger  
Sr. Anna Marie Espinosa, *Staff*

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# ELEMENTARY LEVEL NEWS

## Welcome

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year. May God grant many blessings to each student, parent, teacher, staff, and administrator during this school year. We are having a Mass offered for your intentions.

This year we welcome 215 families and 299 students.

## Faculty and Staff In-service

Our Incarnate Word Academy Campus in-service began with Mass at the Convent Chapel on July 30. Fr. Richard Gonzalez gave a soul-stirring homily that brought joy to our hearts as we opened the new school year.

On-campus technology inser-vices were attended by traditional staff on July 31 and by Montessori staff on August 3. Both traditional and Montessori staff attended Smart Board training on August 4.

The Diocese of Corpus Christi held a spiritual development day for teachers and staff on August 5. The theme for the day, *Blessed Are You - The Catholic School Teacher Today* was presented by Fr. Dan Estes.

On August 6, The Diocesan professional development day included an in-service for teachers grades 1 to 5 titled *Brain-Based Teaching Strategies to Improve Student Achievement*. The workshop was presented by Dr. Lou Whitaker. The in-service for teachers of students age 3 to 5, *The Superkids Reading Program*, was presented by Joye Sanchez.

*Weeding Your Library and More*, a presentation for librarians, was attended by Mrs. Rhonda Mumme. The workshop was presented by Jane Longoria and Connie

Burkart. Mrs. Anna Quezada and Mrs. Brenda Pena, Physical Education Teachers and Coaches, attended presentations of *Breaking the Monotony: Engaging Activities to Improve Participation*, conducted by Dr. Randy Bonnette and *Play Like a Champion* conducted by Mr. Steve Wilems.

## New Faculty And Staff

We are happy to announce the appointment of Blanca Herrera Cummins as Montessori Coordinator. Mrs. Cummins brings a wealth of experience to the Montessori program, holding a Master of Science with a major in Elementary education. She also has experience in copy-writing, coordinating community outreach, and in directing volunteer service for schools.

Other new faculty and staff this year include Mrs. Sarah Smith, second grade teacher; Ms. Rebecca Grady, third grade teacher; Mrs. Stephanie Bottom, fourth grade enrichment teacher; Mrs. Jana Shockley, fifth grade teacher; Mrs. Susie Martin, Art, and Mrs. Lydia Garcia, teacher aide to Sr. Elizabeth Close. Mrs. Dianne Raska has returned to us as counselor and has been added as fifth grade enrichment teacher.

## 2009-2010 Gospel Values

This school year, we are focusing on some of the Works of Mercy as outlined in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Works of Mercy are "charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbors in their bodily and spiritual needs." (CCC2447)

## New Changes

For the 2009-2010 school year the following changes have taken place:


There are two third grade classes. Mrs. Laura McCracken (3A) and Ms. Rebecca Grady (3B).

Mrs. Mary Jo Nolen will be the fourth grade teacher along with Mrs. Stephanie Bottom as an enrichment co-teacher. The fourth grade class will be evenly divided, three days a week rotating between Mrs. Nolen teaching Math and Science and Mrs. Bottom teaching Language Arts (English, Vocabulary, Spelling and Creative Writing).

The fifth grade class will be divided with Mrs. Jana Shockley as the teacher along with Mrs. Dianne Raska as an enrichment co-teacher. Mrs. Shockley will teach students Math and Science and Mrs. Raska will teach Language Arts (English, Vocabulary, Spelling and Creative Writing) three days a week.

Mr. Hector Rubio will teach Art to students in grades K5 to 5 traditional, and grades 1 to 3 Montessori. Mrs. Susie Martin will be teaching Art to five year old students in M1, M2 and M3, and to fourth and fifth grade students in MES1.

These new appointments continue to further IWA's progress in enriching student curriculum.



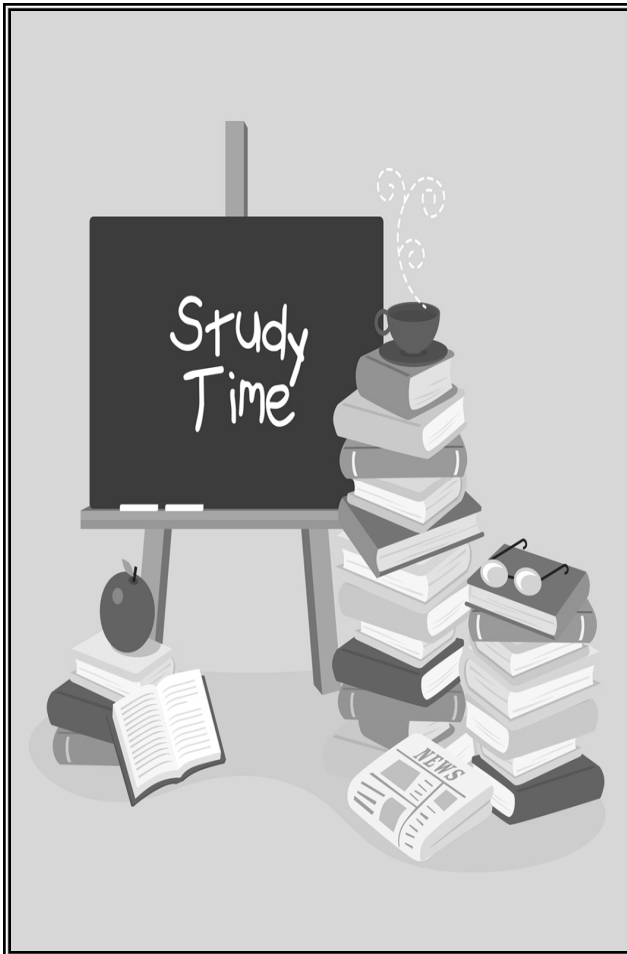
Gospel Value  
for  
September:  
*Clothe  
the Naked*

# September Events 2009

## ELEMENTARY LEVEL

- 2 Mass, 8:30 a.m., Convent Chapel
- 4 Pledge, Prayer and Birthday Song, 8 a.m.  
Faculty Meeting, Noon Dismissal
- 7 **Labor Day, No School**
- 9 Mass, 8:30 a.m., Convent Chapel
- 10 Class Group Pictures
- 14-25 Stanford 10 Testing, Grades 1-5
- 16 Mass, 8:30 a.m., Convent Chapel
- 23 Mass, 8:30 a.m., Convent Chapel
- 30 Mass, 8:30 a.m., Convent Chapel

**October 5-9 Fall Break**



## MIDDLE LEVEL

- 4 Mass, 11:00 a.m., Convent Chapel; Noon dismissal
- 7 **Labor Day, No School**
- 9 Progress reports issued
- 9-11,15 Stanford Testing
- 11 Mass, 9:30 a.m., DC
- 16-18 Vision, hearing & spinal screening
- 18 Mass, 9:30 a.m., DC
- 25 Mass, 9:30 a.m., DC
- 24-Oct 2 First Quarter Exams
- 26 Math Exam review 9-11 a.m., Kenedy Math & Science Building

**October 5-9 Fall Break**

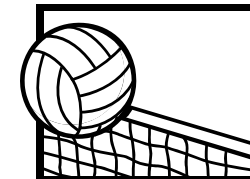


## September Birthdays

Maria Crawford	Sept 2	ML
Stephanie Myers	Sept 2	HS
Joe Hernandez	Sept 3	HS
Dottie Garcia	Sept 5	EL
Mary Jo Nolen	Sept 12	EL
Sergio Gonzalez	Sept 13	ML
Sr. Martha Ann Snapka	Sept 13	AC
Lilly Samaniego	Sept 15	ML
Paul Jimenez	Sept 16	GR
Ruben Limas	Sept 16	EL
Gerry Thomson	Sept 16	CO
Josie Alanis	Sept 17	MO
Sr. Marian Bradley	Sept 20	MO
Dan Shea	Sept 22	HS
Rhonda Mumme	Sept 29	EL

## HIGH SCHOOL

- 4 Faculty Meeting, Noon Dismissal
- 7 **Labor Day, No School**
- 10 College & Financial Aid Night, 6:30 p.m.,  
HS Cafeteria
- 12 Blood Drive, 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Academy Sports  
& Outdoors  
"Out for Blood" Fun Run & Walk, 6 a.m., Cole Park
- MORP Dance, 8:00 p.m. to midnight, DC
- 15 Vision, hearing & spinal screening
- 16 Picture Day, 8:30 a.m., Gunning Gym,
- 27 Athletic Booster Club Golf Tourney, 1pm, Newport  
Dunes
- 29 Quarterly Exams, 7th & 3rd period, 8:30 a.m. to  
noon
- 29 Quarterly Exams, 5th & 2nd period, 8:30 a.m. to  
noon
- 1-Oct Quarterly Exams, 6th & 4th period, 8:30 a.m. to  
noon
- 2-Oct Quarterly Exams, 8th & 1st period, 8:30 a.m. to  
noon



### HS Girls' Volleyball Schedule

- 1 IWA @ Banquete, 5:00/6:00/7:00 p.m.
- 4 Riviera @ IWA, 5:00/6:00/7:00 p.m.
- 5 S.A. Christian @ IWA, noon/1:00/2:00 p.m.
- 8 St. Joseph @ IWA, 5:00/6:00/7:00 p.m.
- 11 IWA @ Refugio, 5:00 p.m.
- 12 IWA @ San Marcos Baptist, 1:00/2:00 p.m.
- 15 Karnes City @ IWA, 5:00/6:00/7:00 p.m.
- 18 IWA @ Annapolis Christian, 5:00/6:00 p.m.
- 22 John Paul II @ IWA, 5:00/6:00/7:00 p.m.
- 25 IWA @ Texas Military, 6:00/7:00 p.m.
- 26 IWA @ S.A. Christian, noon/1:00/2:00 p.m.
- 28 IWA @ St. Joseph, 5:00/6:00/7:00 p.m.

# September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> EL: Mass, 8:30 a.m. Convent Chapel	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> EL/ML/HS: See events calendar	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> <b>Labor Day</b>  <b>No School</b>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> EL: Mass, 8:30 a.m., Convent Chapel ML: Progress reports Stanford Testing	<i>10</i> EL: Class Group pictures ML: Stanford Testing	<i>11</i> ML: Mass, 9:30 a.m., DC; Stanford Testing	<i>12</i> HS: MORP Dance, DC, 8 p.m.-12 a.m.  See events calendar
<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> EL: Stanford Testing begins	<i>15</i> ML: Stanford Testing HS: Vision, hearing & spinal screening	<i>16</i> ML: Vision, hearing & spinal screening HS: Picture Day, 8:30 a.m., Gym,	<i>17</i> ML: Vision, hearing & spinal screening	<i>18</i> ML: Mass, 9:30 a.m., DC; Vision, hearing & spinal screening	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> EL: Mass, 8:30 a.m. Convent Chapel	<i>24</i> ML: Quarter Exams begin	<i>25</i> ML: Mass, 9:30 a.m., DC	<i>26</i> ML: Math Exam Review 9-11 a.m.
<i>27</i> HS: Athletic Booster Club Golf Tourney, 1 p.m., Newport Dunes	<i>28</i> ML: Exams	<i>29</i> ML: Exams	<i>30</i> EL: Mass, 8:30 a.m., Convent Chapel ML: Exams	<i>Oct 1</i> ML: Exams	<i>Oct 2</i> ML: Exams	
		HS: Quarter Exams, 8:30 a.m. to noon, Noon Dismissal				

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# MIDDLE LEVEL NEWS

## Principal's Corner

Welcome to the Incarnate Word Academy Middle Level for the 2009-2010 school year. This newsletter is the first of several that will give us an opportunity to inform you about the many exciting activities taking place here.

The students and staff attended their first Mass in the Dougherty Center with Father Zehr of St. Patrick's Church presiding.

It was a beautiful celebration and helped us close the first week of school. The students appreciated the Mass, as was evident by their participation and attention. Mass is held each Friday, with a few exceptions throughout the year. We will inform you of any changes as they occur.

This year several new teachers have joined the fine IWA Middle Level staff and have made an immediate impact on our staff and students. Joining our team are: **Massie Mazhoun** (Science & Math), **Benjamin Nye** (Religion), **Elizabeth O'Connell** (Communications Applications and Theatre Arts), **Stephanie Solis** (Wellness, Cardio, & Coaching), **Bridget Loya** (Cardio & Coaching), and **Amanda Garcia** (Coaching)

With God's blessing and your involvement, we will provide many excellent experiences for our students. The staff and I are committed to improving every aspect of school life at the middle level. The focus is still on the mathematics and science as our new building continues to grow.

# Welcome Back!

## New Math and Science Building

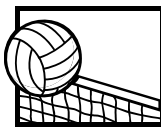
The Kenedy Math and Science building is up and running full speed ahead! All of the teachers and students are enjoying their new environment.

## Stanford Achievement

Middle Level students will take the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT) instead of the Metropolitan Achievement Test (MAT) on September 9-11 & 15. As in the past, the seventh grade students will also take the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test.

Studies have repeatedly shown that when students are well-rested and have a nutritious breakfast they score higher on tests. Therefore, please make sure your child gets plenty of sleep and has a nutritious breakfast before coming to school on these testing days.

## Tournament Dates



- Volleyball Tournament  
Sept 17-19
- 7th grade Basketball Tournament  
November 19-21
- 8th grade Basketball Tournament  
December 3-5

If you would like to volunteer for these tournaments, please contact Mr. Sergio Gonzalez at ext. 138 or Mrs. Crissie Suarez at ext. 113.

## Angel Athletics

The middle level program has begun its athletic season with conditioning and participation in cross-country. Our student athletes hope for a great year and are looking forward to many victories.

Our coaching staff is as follows:

### Boys

#### **Sergio Gonzalez (ext. 138)**

Athletic Coordinator

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Red Team

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball White Team

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Cross-Country

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Track

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Red Team

#### **Donny Patterson (ext. 146)**

Cross Country

Track

Beach to Bay

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Track

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Red Team

#### **Oscar Esparza**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball White Team

#### **Benjamin Nye**

7th grade Boys Basketball

### Girls

#### **Stephanie Solis (ext. 146)**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Volleyball

7th & 8th Grade Track

6th Grade Basketball

#### **Bridget Loya**

7th Grade Girls Volleyball

7th Grade Girls Basketball

7th & 8th Grade Track

#### **Amanda Garcia**

7th Grade Girls Volleyball

7th Grade Girls Basketball

7th & 8th Grade Track

#### **Elizabeth O'Connell**

6th Grade Girls Volleyball

#### **Gary Pendarvis (ext. 137)**

7th & 8th Grade Girls Softball

# HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

## PTO / College Financial Aid Night

Mrs. Mitzi Witt, HS counselor and the PTO will host its annual College Financial Aid Night in the HS cafeteria on Thursday, Sept. 10 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

## Increased Enrollment

IWA High School has felt the effects of an increase in enrollment this year boasting 92 freshmen, 82 sophomores, 64 juniors, and 78 seniors.

## Summer Improvements

The high school has been blessed with funding for the following improvements:

- six SMART boards
- thirty new library books, both fiction and non-fiction were added to the library book collection.
- resurfacing of the gym floor

## Welcome New Faculty

The high school welcomes the following new faculty members:

**Amber Benjamin** (Athletics), **Searcy Campbell** (English), **Nancy Cerda** (Spanish), **Jessica Everhart** (Criminal Justice/Athletics), **Lauren Ibarra** (Spanish), **Stephanie Myers** (Theatre Arts), **Nicole Sears** (Mathematics/Science), **Ashley Stark** (Admin. Asst./Athletics)

## Rummage Sale

The HS Academic Booster Club Annual Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, October 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the Alameda Street parking lot. Proceeds from the sale will be used to fund the academic letterman jackets. Donations are being accepted; please contact Mr. Lugaresi at ext 129.

## School Pictures

Don't forget that student and staff pictures will be taken on Wednesday, September 16. Be on the look out for the picture order forms.

## MORP Dance

The senior class will be hosting the MORP dance on Saturday, September 12 from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Dougherty Center. This dance is held annually to help raise funds for the junior/senior prom.

## 17th Annual 5K Run and Blood Drive

How about a 5K Run? Coastal Bend Blood Center's "**Out for Blood**" **Fun Run 5K, 2M Walk** will be held September 12, 2009 at Cole Park. Check-in will be at 6 a.m. and warm up will begin at 6:45 a.m. Fun Run will begin at 7:00 a.m. with the Fun Walk beginning at 7:10 a.m.

For more information, please call or visit their website:

[www.coastalbendbloodcenter.org](http://www.coastalbendbloodcenter.org).

**Blood Drive**  
September 12  
Academy Sports & Outdoors  
5001 S. Padre Island Drive  
11:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.

## Reception of Sacraments

Attention parents of students in 9th & 10th grades: Do you want your child to receive Confirmation at your home parish? If so, you must contact your home parish up to three years before your child is scheduled to receive the sacraments. Your home parish has specific meetings, activities and requirements that must be met prior to the student receiving a sacrament.

*Catholic School attendance does not fulfill these requirements.*

Confirmation in our diocese normally takes place during the spring of the 10th grade year. Please contact your home parish as soon as possible.

## Exam Schedule

The last four days of the grading period are scheduled as exam days. On these days, the regular school day schedule is modified. The first exam of the day is scheduled from 8:30-10:00 a.m. followed by a 25 minute break. The last exam of the day is scheduled from 10:30 a.m.-noon. On these days, students are dismissed after the second exam.

Sept. 29: 7th & 3rd period exams

Sept. 30: 5th & 2nd period exams

Oct. 1: 6th & 4th period exams

Oct. 2: 8th & 1st period exams

Payment or arrangements regarding outstanding tuition and/or fees must be received and/or confirmed by the Business Office ten days prior to exams.

*Fall Break*

*October 5-9*

*Students return on October 12.*

# INCARNATE WORD ACADEMY

***“Where the tradition of faith becomes the legacy of tomorrow.”***

## Marketing News

*By Colette Rye, Director of Marketing*

### **Registration 2009 Spirit Drawing Congratulations to:**

Patrick Ficenec	Abbey Shockley
Haven Cruz	Madeline Brown
Jacob Clark	Meredith Sico
Jake Hearne	Jessica Troche
Megan Acuna	Remy Huston
Taylor Vanleeuwen	Alyssa Gentry
Katie Skrobarczyk	Angelica Reyes
Dodie Heredia	Maddy Aboud

If you have not yet received your IWA Spirit Prizes, please come by the  
Communications Offices  
Or  
contact Colette Rye @ 883-0857 ext. 106

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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ACADEMY

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