



KNIGHT TIMES

IC CATHOLIC PREP
ELMHURST, IL
WWW.ICCATHOLICPREP.ORG
2019-2020, VOLUME 1
DECEMBER 2019

ICCP

IC CATHOLIC PREP
THE SCHOOL FOR INDEPENDENT THINKERS

Inside this issue:

Holiday Features	2
Holiday Features	3
Sports Features	4



December Female Student of the Month

By: Ashley Zwolinski

On December 9, after the mass for the Immaculate Conception and the Academic Letter Ceremony, the IC Catholic Prep community honored the students of the month. The female November student of the month was sophomore Samantha Pantoja. Samantha exemplifies the traits that a model student should have. These include leadership, hard work, honesty, dedication, kindness, and overall being a well-rounded student. She explained how she had a clue it might have been her because she heard that she was nominated, but it still was a surprise when her name was announced. Samantha is involved in many activities for ICCP. She is a member of the guitar ensemble at the school and is a part of other clubs and sports. Samantha also shows that she is a very dedicated student of IC Catholic Prep by always being cheerful to her classmates and teachers and helping those around her. She also shows her commitment to her faith by volunteering as a hospitality minister at Mass. When asked what advice she would give to others working towards this achievement, especially students, she responded, "Be involved in as many school activities as you can and dedicate time for what is important." She also noted that being a part of many school activities gives you an opportunity to meet new people and manage your time well. Many people here at ICCP would agree that she makes the perfect candidate for the student of the month and represents our school community very well. Congratulations to Samantha on earning the Female Student of the Month Award!



December Male Student of the Month

By: Justin Hall

On Monday, December 9th, ICCP kicked off the school week with a Votive Mass in Honor of Mary with the addition of Academic Letter and Pin Distribution. After the mass, students were presented academic awards along with the November male and female students of the month. Senior, Carlos Bindert, was honored with the Male Student of the Month Award. When asked about how he felt when receiving this award, Carlos commented, "I felt like maybe I had done some of the requirements mentioned, but also that there are plenty of people at IC that deserve the award". Not only is Carlos a hard-working student but he is also very humble. Even when given this well-deserved award, he was thoughtful of others who he believed were deserving of this award as well. He is a member of multiple extracurricular activities such as engineering, robotics, ecology, yearbook, BPA, chess, and drama. Carlos does a lot of unnoticed work around the school like helping fix school computers, which Principal Schergen mentioned before giving the award. "When they were announcing who the student was I started to realize it was me and was really surprised since most of the things I do for the school tech support are typically behind the scenes or small request, not large projects like some of the other students who have received the award in the past," explained Carlos.

At the mass, it was clear his work and helpfulness were highly appreciated by the staff, as they talked about what he had done in the past month. Mr. Bindert did not do these good deeds for attention or for a chance to win this award; he simply did it out of the kindness of his heart and to help his school and fellow students. The Student of the Month Award wasn't even something he was really working for as he mentioned, "I wouldn't say it's a goal that I was working specifically towards, but that I was definitely glad to receive it and see that the work I do is appreciated by my students and faculty here at IC." A thank you from everyone at ICCP for Carlos' work and congratulations to Samantha Pantoja for winning female student of the month!

What is your favorite holiday tradition?



ICCP Freshman Jailen Johnson said “Every Christmas my parents invite my family over and we bake cookies and play games, which leads to me winning all of them”. most people have that kind of tradition but some have it in a unique kind of way.



ICCP Physics teacher Mr. Rossi said, “Every year I make gingerbread houses with my family.” No matter what, it appears essentially that every family has something that they do every year whether it is big or small it warms hearts and brings people together to be with one another.



ICCP Freshman PJ Wisnewski said, “Every year the day after Christmas our whole family goes out to dinner.” Christmas is a great time of the year just to be with the family and to all come together as one to enjoy the special holiday.

What is your favorite holiday memory?



Anthony Karsten from the freshman class said his favorite memory was, “when my family went to Florida for the holiday. Christmas night my brother had woken up me and my other younger brother in the middle of the night, to wake up to go look at their presents.”

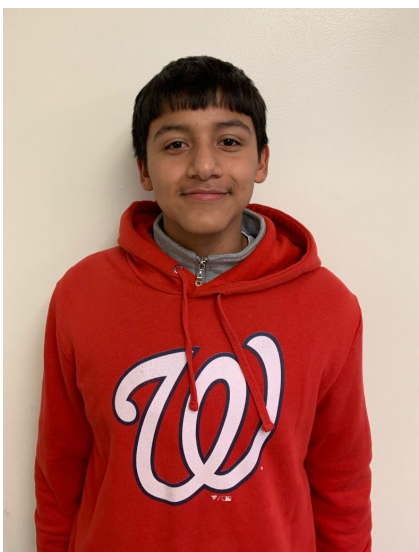


Mrs. Mascorro, Spanish teacher at ICCP said, “My favorite memory was celebrating a Hispanic tradition called Posadas, it starts December 16th and goes till December 24th. During this time my family would get together and pray the Rosary and would eat great tasting treats like tamales and Mexican hot chocolate, as well as play games like hitting a piñata.



ICCP Freshman Liz Closterides, she said “My favorite memory was one Christmas my sister asked Santa Claus for a new baby sister and my mom on Christmas day told my whole family she was pregnant.”

What is your favorite Christmas Treat?



ICCP Freshman Sebastian Benitez doesn't eat the traditional holiday foods. The student said he eats pozole, tamales and his favorite, tacos. “We usually eat when the whole family is at my Grandmas around 5 or 6 o'clock.” Christmas is celebrated all around the world with different foods and treats.



ICCP's Social Studies teacher Mr. Doherty spoke on what he eats on the holidays: “It depends, Christmas Eve I get steak and lobster and my aunt makes a nice casserole.” He even talked about what he eats on Christmas day. He has breakfast quiche, with eggs, cheese, and some type of breakfast meat.



ICCP Freshman Ashley Zwolinski spoke about her favorite holiday treats and traditions: “My mom and I make a specific kind of Polish bread with the same family recipe for special occasions. We use the same bowl that my grandmother used to use. This usually takes the whole day to prepare.”

Editorial: Catching the Black Friday Deals

By: Koby Reed

Black Friday has been a tradition going on in America for a very long time. For instance, the term “Black Friday” first came about during the crash of the U.S. Gold Market on September 24, 1889. This has nothing to do with shopping deals but it has a significant impact on the value of money going forward. In today’s world, Black Friday is the day after Thanksgiving. On this day, stores drop their prices to get more business and customers for the holidays. Black Friday is extremely convenient for both the seller and the buyers since it is the start of the upcoming Christmas season. This shopping experience acts as an opportunity to find potential Christmas items at reduced prices rather than paying full price at later times. 2019 was a big year for stores online. According to USA Today, shoppers during the Black Friday weekend spent around roughly 7.2 billion dollars on Friday alone. The website states, “In 2019, consumers showed their willingness to travel for a good deal and blended their physical shopping with digital payments via mobile wallets... Online shopping pulled in a record \$7.2 billion on Friday, according to Salesforce, which tracks online spending. That’s a 14% growth over last year.” The percentage went up by 14%, which is a significant increase from previous years. Ultimately, Black Friday is a tradition that doesn’t seem like it’s leaving American culture anytime soon. It gives great opportunities for businesses to make money and gives people the satisfaction of getting an item that they desire for a good price.



What holiday activities do you like to do?

By: Maria Marsico



Katie Marsico ~ ICCP Class of 1998: “As a child I enjoyed watching Christmas movies, visiting Santa, and putting up the Christmas tree.”



Ms. Recchia ~ ICCP English Teacher: “For Christmas, my family and I partake in many holiday activities. We go to the Brookfield Zoo Lights, see a production of *A Christmas Carol* at Drury Lane, cut down and decorate our Christmas tree, bake Christmas cookies, go ice skating, watch Christmas movies and drink hot chocolate.”

Dr. Seuss’ *The Grinch*: A New Take on a Holiday Classic

By: Vaughan Murray

The 2018 film *Dr. Seuss’ The Grinch* is the third adaptation of Dr. Seuss’ classic Christmas story *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* The film follows the book’s plot very closely and does little to stray from it. The story follows the titular Grinch as he spends his days dreading the coming of Christmas and resenting the “Who’s” of Whoville for celebrating it. The Grinch hates Christmas so much, that he eventually decides to steal all of the Who’s Christmas trees and presents from their houses disguised as Santa Claus. However, the Grinch has a change of heart about Christmas once he hears all of the people of Whoville gleefully celebrating Christmas despite the fact that he stole their presents. Moved by his newfound compassion, the Grinch returns all of the Who’s trees and presents, and the story happily ends with the Grinch being invited to a Christmas dinner at the house of Cindy Lou Who.

Dr. Seuss’ The Grinch features several interesting deviations from the original story. For instance, as opposed to being completely mean-spirited, this iteration of the Grinch shows kindness to others (mostly to his dog, Max). Similarly, in the film, Cindy Lou Who’s wish for Christmas is that her mother’s workload will be lightened. This addition to the story makes Cindy Lou Who a more interesting and developed character in contrast to the book. In addition to the changes from the source material, *The Grinch* features beautiful computer generated animation that evokes Dr. Seuss’ illustrations while also creating something new. The Grinch has plenty of jokes and slapstick, which are sure to delight old and young viewers. Overall, *The Grinch* is a good film for those that are looking for something new to view this holiday season.



Lady Knights Start Strong!

By: Gia Gaudio

The Lady Knights Varsity Basketball team has had a great start to their season, as they are 6-3 with a 3-1 record in conference. With a new coach Mr. Fisher, the new Business teacher at ICCP, the girls have adjusted well to the change and are working hard. They lost their first game against Lisle on November 19th and their fourth game against Lemont on November 26th. The Lady Knights also placed 5th in the ICCP Thanksgiving Invite, which took place from November 22nd-27th. Learning from these games, they put in a lot of effort at practice every day and came out with their first conference win on December 3rd against St. Edward. This then led to the next game against St. Francis on December 5th. After these past two games, Coach Fisher responded to what he thinks has contributed to wins the girls have scored so far: "I've



been pleased with this team since day one. We're seeing progress each and every day and their willingness to learn new things. Their defense is a big part, as we're holding teams to 30-40 points and these last games the offense has been clicking and the players are working hard." Senior captain, Hannah Johnson, also commented on how the team is doing so

far in their season: "Just an overall cooperative and competitive spirit where we help each other and are driven. But more specifically, defense and aggression have been a major part in our games." After these two great team wins, the Knights fell short to Aurora Central Catholic on December 10th. Learning from this, they came back strong on Thursday, December 12th to beat Bishop McNamara. The girls are ready to start another great winning streak!

Knights Start Strong

By: Dominico Gaudio

Boys and girls basketball season has gotten off to a quick start as practices began on November 11, 2019. As of Friday, December 7th, the program is 17-1. The IC Catholic Prep Freshman boys team is 4-0 with two wins over Montini and Chicago Christian. In both games, the team has controlled and shined as they sit on top of the conference after the wins. The Freshmen have a new coach who is also the math teacher, Mr. Cosentino. He is not the only new coach, Senior teacher, Mr. Nichin, and his brother are the new Sophomore coaches with an outstanding 7-0 record and 1-0 in conference. Their non-conference record came with a Thanksgiving Tournament win down in Coal City. They played against Peotone, Manteno, Beecher, and Morris with convincing wins over all of them.

The Sophomore team is not the only team to win the Coaler Invite as the Varsity team won as well. Varsity played the exact same teams throughout the tournament and came out with the same results. However, they did suffer their first loss of the season on December 7th, at Chicago Christian, and now they sit at 6-1 with a 0-1 record in conference. After the game, John Hilgart commented on how he would sum up the season so far: "Our offense has progressed a lot from last year and we are starting to play as a team to possess the ball on offense and on defense. We have to work on talking more for side-defense but overall it is a good season." Many of the players agree with John but also think there is a lot more to play for and more important games to play down the road. Everyone is looking forward to a hard-fought season and a very successful one too.



ICCP Wrestling

By: Allan Stohl

On December 5th, the Knights wrestled in their first Metro Suburban Conference Tri meet against Westmont and Riverside-Brookfield. The Knights who competed are Finn Barney, Saul Trejo, Nick Renteria, Mikey DiBenedetto, Brandon Navarro, Joe Marzano, Jaden Mims, Joe Scott, and Isaiah Gonzalez. The Knights faced Westmont first and brought hope for the team defeating them 47-24. With pins from Brandon, Nick, Marzano, Saul, Isaiah, and Scott along with an eighteen to five tech fall victory for Marzano, a fifteen to three victory for Joe Scott and a much-needed forfeit win for Koby Reed, the knights were able to topple the odds and win the meet. The Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association (IWCOA) ranked Brandon Navarro number six in the entire state of Illinois. Also, Joseph Scott III and Nick Renteria who were honorable mentions for their weight classes. With the team splitting up this weekend, Allan Stohl, Koby Reed, and Fernando Rodriguez will represent ICCP at the Chicago Hope Academy tournament. The rest of the team will be at the team tournament down in Plano. With both tournaments going on, I can promise you one thing: you do not want to take your eyes off of this team. The team is made up of the strongest and most determined young men, as well as prepared coaches that will help bring the team success over and over again. The head coach, Kevin Sliva, has coached the team for four years. He is assisted by Corey Stanley and Matthew Mulvahil of Iowa, and Randall Spaulding of Byron High School. I see this team making a giant impact on the entire sport of wrestling. Corey Stanley once said, "Set your goals high, and crush them!" Good luck to the Wrestling team in their upcoming tournaments!

Upcoming Events At ICCP

December 17th-20th: Final Exams

December 21st-January 6th- Winter Break

January 6th-ICCP Faculty Institute Day- No School for Students

January 7th- ICCP Classes Resume

Newspaper Staff

Featured Writers

Dominico Gaudio	Jacob Sloan
Gia Gaudio	Allan Stohl
Justin Hall	Nicholas Zaroni
Maria Marsico	Ashley Zwolinski
Vaughan Murray	

Editors

Peyton Carmicheal

Moderator

Ms. Recchia