

# IA News

The Official News Source for Immaculata Academy Parents & Students

## Fall 2008 - Issue 1



Dear IA family,

It is a wonderful time to be a part of Immaculata Academy! *Business First* just rated us #10 out of 128 high schools, which makes us the #1 private school in the southtowns! The school and campus is shining and growing, the teachers are wonderful and the first week was one of productivity, ideas, warmth and joy! We held our opening day assembly on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, followed by milk and cookies in the cafeteria (a new tradition),

followed by a shortened class schedule. We are finally breaking ground for our new digital/brick sign, which should arrive before the snow flies; we enjoyed a Parent Guild sponsored "Back to School" gathering at the school this Fall (thanks PG!), and we had an opportunity for parents to meet the faculty and staff on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The very talented cast has been chosen for Cinderella, and rehearsals began immediately. This month also welcomes our very first compilation newsletter, thanks to our PR guru, Steve Lingle.

Every day is filled with opportunities for your daughters to be involved. I urge you to treasure each busy day with them, because we all know how fast these four years will go. Take a breath and be in the moment! Thanks for your continued prayers and support for the very important work that we are all doing to raise kind and successful women leaders.

Peace and all good,

*Mary Lou Stahl*

Mrs. Stahl  
Principal

It's hard to believe we are beginning another school year already. After a quiet and very busy summer, I am thrilled to see and hear our halls full of laughter and excitement again with spirit week and prom plans already in full swing! It's no different in my 9<sup>th</sup> year than it was in my first year here. The energy here is resounding and contagious!

This is also an exciting year because we are beginning our reaccreditation process with the Middle States Association. Sr. Jean Marie Cherry and I are the internal coordinators for this, as we have been in the past. It is a time that we, as a faculty and staff, reflect and build on the goodness of Immaculata Academy. We create student achievement driven goals that are measurable; and we all follow through over a seven year period which includes semi-annual written reflections by in-house committees and a mid-point review by Middle States. The four goal areas we are focusing on are: Spiritual Life, Academics, Leadership, and Extracurricular Activities.

My suggestions for a smooth and problem free beginning that will last through the year:

- Read your daughter's handbooks with her. The Student & Parent Handbook and the Athletic Handbook are in her agenda that she received the first day of school in homeroom.
- Get involved! I hope your daughter will find many interests at IA, there are plenty of clubs and sports to choose from... something for everyone!
- Uniforms, uniforms, uniforms! The new uniform is a big hit with the girls, and the "old" ones are still looking good. Whichever uniform your daughter wears, please be sure it is being worn properly:  
Button down the button down collar, tie the tie, don't roll or hem the skirt.  
No colored t-shirts under the "old" and no t-shirts at all under the new (a white tank top is okay).

I wish you and your families an exciting year full of memories and laughter!

Peace and All Good,  
Jill Monaco  
Assistant Principal



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## 2008-09 SAT Test Dates and Registration Deadlines

**Fees:** Reasoning test \$45.00

Subject test \$20.00 basic registration fee; \$9.00/additional subject

Please go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) to register and obtain more information

2008-09 Test Dates	Test	U.S. Registration Deadlines*		International Registration Deadlines**	
		Regular	Late (a fee applies)	Early (International only)	Regular
October 4, 2008†	SAT & Subject Tests	September 9, 2008	September 16, 2008	August 26, 2008	September 9, 2008
November 1, 2008	SAT & Subject Tests	September 26, 2008	October 10, 2008	September 10, 2008	September 26, 2008
December 6, 2008	SAT & Subject Tests	November 5, 2008	November 18, 2008	October 15, 2008	November 5, 2008
January 24, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	December 26, 2008	January 6, 2009	December 3, 2008	December 26, 2008
March 14, 2009	SAT only	February 10, 2009	February 24, 2009	N/A	N/A
May 2, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	March 31, 2009	April 9, 2009	March 11, 2009	March 31, 2009
June 6, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	May 5, 2009	May 15, 2009	April 15, 2009	May 5, 2009

## 2008 – 2009 ACT Test Dates

**Fees:** ACT (no writing) \$31.00; ACT (plus writing) \$46.00

### In the United States, U.S. Territories, Puerto Rico, and Canada

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 13, 2008*	August 12, 2008	August 13 – 22, 2008
October 25, 2008	September 19, 2008	September 20 – October 3, 2008
December 13, 2008	November 7, 2008	November 8 – 20, 2008
February 7, 2009**	January 6, 2009	January 7 – 16, 2009
April 4, 2009	February 27, 2009	February 28 – March 13, 2009
June 13, 2009	May 8, 2009	May 9 – 22, 2009

**On October 15<sup>th</sup>** sophomores and juniors will be taking standardized tests. **Sophomores** will be taking the **PLAN**. As a “pre-ACT” test, **PLAN** is designed to predict success on the ACT. At the same time, it focuses attention on both career preparation and improving academic achievement. **Juniors will be taking the PSAT**. The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is a program co-sponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation. For many students, the PSAT/NMSQT is the first official step on the road to college. It assesses skills developed through years of study in a wide range of courses as well as through experiences outside the classroom.

The PSAT/NMSQT also provides all test-takers with access to My Road, the College Board’s online majors, college, and career exploration program to allow them to begin college and career planning. Students will be given more information on each of these tests as testing day comes closer.

## BEAR'S DEN ATHLETIC UPDATES

### X-Country

The girls are off to a fast start (pun intended), compiling a 3-0 MMA league record, along with some impressive finishes at invitationals. Early season highlights include a 6th place finish at the McQuaid Invite and being ranked 8th in the Section VI X-Country poll.

### Soccer

Varsity soccer has put together four shutout performances, on their way to a 6-4-1 overall record and 3-2-1 MMA league record. Highlights include winning the IA Tournament and back-to-back shutouts. **JV soccer** has compiled a 1-6-1 record, defeating MMA rival Mt. St. Mary's

### Volleyball

The Bears were off to one of their best starts in school history, opening the season with a 12-1 record, before losing a few matches, bringing their record to 12-5. They've knocked off division rivals Mt. Mercy and Holy Angels along the way.

**JV volleyball** is off to a 6-5 start, with key wins over Mt. Mercy and Nichols.

**Log on to [ImmaculataAcademy.com](http://ImmaculataAcademy.com) for daily sports scores and athletic info.**

## Mater Christi Award Gala Sets New Records

The chance to experience a Franciscan-based Catholic education just got brighter for girls who want to attend Immaculata Academy, the southtown's #1 private high school (*Business First*, 2008). Thanks to the generosity of community leaders and friends of the school, more than \$130,000 was raised at the annual Mater Christi Award Gala, October 2, at Michael's Banquet Facility. The proceeds benefit current and future students of Immaculata Academy through scholarships, tuition assistance and academic programs. A record 570+ community leaders, alumnae and friends attended the evening.

During the event, sponsored by Ogorek Wealth Management, LLC, the school honored individuals with its prestigious Mater Christi Award. This event annually celebrates Mary, the patroness of Immaculata Academy and recognizes those whose lives exemplify the meaning of outstanding persona commitment and contribution to Catholic education and the community. The year's recipients included Debra A. Colley 'IA, Dan Gernatt, Jr., Karen Karalus Karamanoukian 'IA, and Dr. & Mrs. Peter and Mary Ann Starkey.

“The record setting attendance and donations raised by this year’s event displays the community’s commitment to Immaculata Academy,” said Sister Lynne Anne Schimminger FSSJ, president of Immaculata Academy. “So many of our students have benefited from this event and the support of an entire community. The Academy is truly grateful.”

# Guidance Department

**Edline** is a communication tool which allows information about school events, activities, and assignments to be posted online. This is where you can find information regarding all academic aspects of IA! You can access Edline through our homepage [www.ImmaculataAcademy.com](http://www.ImmaculataAcademy.com). The bottom link is for Edline. In order to be able to log in and have access to all this great information, you need to use an activation code. All parents and students have been issued an activation code. If you need a new activation code or can not remember your password, please email [shorab@immaculataacademy.com](mailto:shorab@immaculataacademy.com).

## Seniors:

- Should be narrowing college choices.
- Check Edline regularly for upcoming college representative visits; students must sign up outside of Mrs. Weiss's room in order to be excused from class; check out the college website prior to the visit so you will be prepared with questions – this is their first impression of you!
- Attend open houses- visit the colleges that you are seriously considering.
- **Completed College Application packets are due in Guidance by November 1<sup>st</sup>.** All application packets must include the application checklist which are available in Mrs. Wiatrowski's room, (senior English and AP English), the Guidance office or can be downloaded from Edline. Students have been met with and have been made aware of these guidelines. Please see Edline for more information.

## Juniors:

- Begin researching colleges; Check Edline for upcoming visits and sign up outside Mrs. Weiss' room.
- Attend open houses (check Edline for upcoming dates).
- Research majors that are of interest ([collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com)).
- Get involved! Colleges look at what you do in and out of your classes - Join clubs and volunteer your time.
- Register to take the June SAT here at IA!

### Useful Websites

[www.edline.net](http://www.edline.net)  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)  
[www.fafsa.org](http://www.fafsa.org)  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

## College Connection Tuesday

Each Tuesday from 2:15 - 3:30, students may sign up for assistance with all aspects of preparing for college. Mrs. Horab & Ms. Bokman will be available to help students - freshman to seniors. It's never too late to start planning! Listen for announcements - sign up sheets are posted outside the guidance department and Room 153.



## Mark Your Calendars...

October 9.....Parent Guild Meeting  
October 15.....Distinguished Speaker Series  
October 10, 13.....No School  
October 18.....Monte Carlo Night  
November 8.....IA Trekkers, Christmas Shopping Trip  
November 11.....No School  
November 21-23.....*Cinderella* Musical  
November 26-28.....No School  
November 24.....National Honors Society Induction

## Check us out online...

For more information on these events or other school activities, visit us online at [www.ImmaculataAcademy.com](http://www.ImmaculataAcademy.com). The site is updated daily with sports scores, student news, school activities & events, and much more. You can also now purchase tickets to school events through our web site!

## *Time Management*

There are only so many hours in a day, week, and a term. You cannot change the number of hours, but you can decide how to best use them. To be successful in school, you must carefully manage your study time. Here are some strategies for doing this:

At the beginning of a term, prepare a Term Calendar, and update it regularly.

**Here is what to do to prepare a Term Calendar:**

- Record your school assignments with their due dates and your scheduled tests
- Record your planned school activities
- Record your known out-of-school activities

Each Sunday before a school week, prepare a Weekly Schedule. Update it as the week goes on. Here is what to do to prepare a Weekly Schedule:

- Record your daily classes
- Enter things to be done for the coming week from your Term Calendar
- Review your class notes from the previous week to see if you need to add any school activities
- Add any out-of-school activities in which you will be involved during the week
- Be sure to include times for completing assignments, working on projects, and studying for tests. These times may be during the school day, right after school, evenings and weekends.

Each evening before a school day, prepare a Daily Organizer for the next day. Place a check mark next to each thing to do as you accomplish it. Here is what to do to prepare a Daily Organizer:

- Enter the things to do for the coming day from your weekly schedule
- Enter the things that still need to be accomplished from your Daily Organizer from the previous day
- Review your class notes for the day just completed to see if you need to add any school activities. Add any out-of-school activities in which you will be involved in the next day.

**\*\* IA gave students agenda books ... use them!! \*\***

### **Golden Rule Scholarship Fund**

A new scholarship fund has been established at Immaculata Academy by alumna and current IA nurse, Bonnie Lindstrom, who is also an independent consultant for Mary Kay Cosmetics.

The **Golden Rule Scholarship** will be awarded annually to upperclassmen with a minimum 80% GPA, who exhibit good christian qualities, and best define the Golden Rule; Do unto others, as you would want done unto yourself. The award will also be based on the principles of Mary Kay Ash, founder of Mary Kay Cosmetics; God first, family second, and career third. To raise money for the scholarship fund, Ms. Lindstrom is designating 20% of the proceeds from sales on her web site, until December 19. To purchase items and help fund this worthwhile scholarship, visit [www.marykay.com/bonnielindstrom](http://www.marykay.com/bonnielindstrom). You may also contact Bonnie at 649-9361.

Thanks in advance for your support of Immaculata Academy.

### **Women of Grace Study Group Forming**

A Women of Grace study group is forming at Immaculata. The group, based on Johnette Benkovic's book, *Full of Grace*, is open to all IA students, moms and faculty, and will tentatively meet on Friday nights or Sunday afternoons.

Throughout the United States and around the world, women are coming together to celebrate the great gift of authentic femininity. They are discovering the special grace of their gender and the awesome mission God has entrusted to them. Through dynamic presentations, stimulating curricula, and lively discussions, study group participants experience the transformation that only comes through Jesus Christ.

Anyone interested in becoming a part of the study group can e mail Susan Pivarunas at [apivey1@hotmail.com](mailto:apivey1@hotmail.com). Further information can be found at [www.womenofgrace.com/curriculum.htm](http://www.womenofgrace.com/curriculum.htm).