

IA News

*The Official News Source for Immaculata Academy Parents & Students
Spring 2009 - Issue 3*

Students Raise \$800 for Coaches vs. Cancer



The JV and varsity basketball teams wore pink warm-up shirts to show their support for Coaches vs. Cancer.

Immaculata Academy's recent Coaches vs. Cancer fundraiser raised nearly \$800 for the American Cancer Society. The event, coordinated and organized by the Sports Marketing class at Immaculata, featured a 50/50 raffle, a half-court shot challenge, Chinese auction, and concessions. Students in the Sports Marketing class include **Brittany Troy, Jill Zak, Jen Tojek, Whitney Fielding, Mary Pivarunas and Megan Smith.** The class is taught by Immaculata teachers Darlene Winans and Laura Munson. The basketball game saw Nichols win a nail-biter over IA, 71-68.

IA Teachers to Attend Character Conference

In a continuing effort to promote positive character throughout the school, Immaculata will send its teachers to a day-long seminar featuring Dr. Michele Borba, author of the award-winning book, *Building Moral Intelligence.*

The conference is part of a three-day series sponsored by the Hamburg Character Council, Inc.

Dr. Borba's program shares research confirming that character can be learned, provides framework for teaching it, and shows simple no-cost ways to integrate moral intelligence builders into existing content, as well as school-wide.

We think the character initiative is a great program, says Jill Monaco, IA assistant principal and Character Council education committee member. It's important for our teachers to implement it in the classroom and foster positive character in our students.

The Character Conference will also feature a session on police dynamics and Character First! implementation by Steven Menzel, director of International Association of Character Communities.

The Character Council of Hamburg, Inc. exists to enrich the understanding of the benefits of good character and to facilitate the continual development and enhancement of character excellence for citizens throughout the community. For more information visit charactercouncilhamburg.org.



Character Council of Hamburg, Inc.
"Creating a Culture of Character"™

Upcoming Events

Spring Concert.....March 19
Parent Guild Meeting.....March 26
Dist. Speaker Series.....April 1
Mother-Daughter Social.....April 5
Spring Break.....April 9 - 19
Parent Guild Meeting.....April 23
Father-Daughter Dance.....April 25



Visit www.ImmaculataAcademy.com for current news, events, activities and more.

Principal's Corner



While the economy is not doing well, Immaculata Academy is. I go home at night and ask my son why and of course he says, "It's you mom" and I love him for that. I ask my husband, and he says, "It's you Lou" and I love him for that, but I say it still doesn't make up for forgetting Valentine's Day—and having your gallbladder out is no excuse. My parents say the same thing, but they're my parents, and they have to say that. I rack my brain to try to figure out what we're doing right, when financial times are so difficult and so many businesses and schools are struggling, and our enrollment is UP! I think the reason I can't place my

finger on our success or define it is because it consists of SO many people, and SO many big and little pieces: our constant addition of new technology; the way everyone smiles and is genuinely happy to be at work every day; the spirit and work of the girls; the way our cleaning and maintenance staff take pride in every piece of our building; our cafeteria ladies coming up with homemade and healthy lunches every day; the teachers' constant new ideas to improve and stay current; the cakes that Penny makes; the candy that Marie brings into the main office; the way Shirley greets everyone; the diligence of Barb in collecting tuition even when it's difficult; the true faith that is present every day and how when you walk into the chapel to sit with Jesus, there is always someone else already in there; the involvement of the Parent Guild, the parents, and the Board of Trustees; the support of the FSSJs; and all our hardworking other departments (PR, Athletics, Fine Arts, Nursing Staff, Alum, Institutional Advancement, Guidance, Administration) striving toward the same goal. So THANK YOU to each one of you for making this happen because Immaculata Academy is GREAT, and I can't think of any place I would rather be than right here right now. And that's because of YOU.

Mary Lou Stahl

Mary Lou Stahl

Humor & Wisdom

The only real mistake is the one from which we learn nothing.

- John Powell

The brain is a wonderful organ; it starts working the moment you get up in the morning, and does not stop until you get into the office.

- Robert Frost

The secret of life is honesty and fair dealing. If you can fake that, you've got it made.

- Groucho Marx

A master can tell you what he expects of you. A teacher, though, awakens your own expectations.

- Patricia Neal

I'll be long gone before some smart person ever figures out what happened inside this Oval Office.

- George W. Bush

Spend An Evening With Your Daughter

Enjoy an evening of dinner, dancing, and quality time with your daughter at Immaculata's annual Father-Daughter Dance, Saturday, April 25, 6-10 p.m., at LaGalleria Restaurant, 3923 Southwestern Blvd., Orchard Park.

This year's theme is Butter-y Kisses. Tickets are \$25 and include dinner and dancing. Have more than one daughter at IA? Purchase two tickets and get one half price! Tickets can be purchased online at ImmaculataAcademy.com or by calling Deacon Robb Ciezki at 649-6161 ext. 126.

BEAR'S DEN ATHLETICS

Basketball Bowling

After receiving the #1 seed in the ANYSAIS State Tournament, IA won their opening round matchup vs. #8 Poly Prep, 52-28, before falling in the semi-finals, 56-53, to #4 Staten Island Academy.

The Bears finished the season with a 16-6 record, including a six-game winning streak in December, after opening the season by winning the West Seneca Tournament, with wins over Class AA schools W.S. West and Orchard Park.

The JV Bears finished the season with a 9-8 record.

The varsity Bears finished strong this season, placing second at All-Catholic Championships and closing out the regular season with convincing wins over Holy Angels and Mt. St. Marys. Freshman Liz Szpara was named 2nd Team All-Catholic.

The JV Bears compiled an impressive 40-8 record on the season, winning the Monsignor Martin League Championship.

Athletic updates on at www.ImmaculataAcademy.com

Guidance Department

2009-10 Course Scheduling

We will begin meeting with all students to review the course choices for next school year. Students will be issued a pass in homeroom for their scheduled time to meet. Students who are absent will automatically be rescheduled for another time. Only students who have submitted the course request form will be scheduled for an appointment. If you have not yet turned in your form please do so ASAP.

Seniors

If you have not yet completed the **FAFSA**, you should complete it ASAP at www.fafsa.ed.gov

Please bring copies of all acceptance letters and any scholarships awarded to the guidance office.

Scholarship opportunities are posted on Edline.com and are made available in Mrs. Wiatrowski's room; please take the time to complete the applications you are eligible for. Many opportunities are missed!

Sophomores

Students received their individual score reports for the **PLAN Test** that was given in October. Please ask your daughter to share these results with you. Results of the PLAN Test provide a fair estimate of how well they will score on the **ACT**. They are encouraged to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses, making necessary improvements to increase their score.

Students should keep an eye out for the return of **Counselor Connection** in the upcoming weeks. Students will log onto www.nycareerzone.org, a New York State web site dedicated to career exploration. Counselor Connection will meet Tuesdays after school. While attendance is optional, it is highly encouraged!

Juniors

Will be attending the **National College Fair** at the Buffalo Convention Center on March 17th from 11:00-1:00. Students have been given permission slips and pre-registration information for this event. Evening informational sessions are also available and will run for two sessions on Tuesday, March 17th from 7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. and 7:40 p.m. - 8:10 p.m. Sessions include: ACT/SAT Testing, Financial Aid 101, College Athletics, The Right College and Transfer Opportunities. More information can be found at www.nationalcollegefairs.org.

On February 24th, juniors were administered a practice SAT test compliments of Kaplan. Students will be receiving individual feedback in the mail within the next two weeks. FREE practice questions can be found at www.collegeboard.com.

Students PSAT results were discussed with them during English class. All students should have received a copy of the results in the mail with the last progress report.

Freshmen

- **Counselor Connection** is not just for the Upperclassmen. It is never too early to explore your interests and career options! See Mrs. Horab or Miss Bokman for more information.



Europe 2010

IA will be traveling to Paris, the Riviera and Barcelona in April 2010. There are limited spaces available. Prices increase as of April 1st - Students who register by March 31st will have the \$95 registration fee waived. Please contact Mrs. Horab if you have any questions.

