



IWA Weekly Newsletter

November 13, 2020

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

COVID-19 POLICY UPDATE

Due to the increase of COVID-19 cases in our community, we feel it is necessary to update our COVID-19 policy for faculty, staff, or students exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms. This policy will remain in effect until further notice.

[Click here to review the revised COVID-19 policy.](#)

STRATEGIC PLANNING Update from Mr. Wisnor

Strategic Planning Update

Over the past several weeks, we have shared the strategic priorities that were developed as part of the strategic planning process. This week, we highlight the fourth and final priority, preserving the legacy of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word.

Strategic Priority #4: Preserving the Legacy of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word

We will build an environment where the spiritual teachings and guidance of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word are deeply integrated into the learning and community of Incarnate Word Academy.

Strategy 1: Continue to value and share the rich history of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Incarnate Word Academy by finding

creative ways to tell our story to all stakeholders

Strategy 2: Live the Gospel message through our students and school families by learning about and acting on the mission of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word

Strategy 3: Position and promote IWA as a premier Catholic academy that embodies Catholic values and tradition in every aspect of our identity

Strategy 4: Develop a master campus plan coordinated between Incarnate Word Academy and the Sisters of the Incarnate Word

WARRIOR TEACHER OF THE WEEK



WE ARE WARRIORS!

Wise
Accountable
Respectful
Resilient
Intellectual
Open-Hearted
Reverent
Service-Driven

This week's Warrior Teacher of the Week award goes to Mrs. Kara O'Rourke. You can often find Mrs. O'Rourke demonstrating the charism of being **Open-Hearted** as she gives of her time to help students throughout the week. She offers math help sessions, as well as facilitating our Math Counts club two days a week. In addition, she creates weekly Prep newsletters that are sent to our families. Mrs. O'Rourke's lessons for her students are engaging, thoughtful, and fun! Her students know that she wants what is best for them.

Congratulations to Warrior O'Rourke!

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM HOLIDAY CLOSURE

Due to the short Thanksgiving week, there will be no physical gift cards processed the week of November 23-27. If you have plans to do any holiday shopping with gift cards during the Thanksgiving week, please be sure to turn in those orders next Monday, November 16, to ensure delivery before the holiday.

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

from the desk of Principal Congelio

FIRST GRADERS HALL OF FAME!



First graders in Mrs. Flinn and Mrs. Schieferle's class have been working towards earning a spot of the Hall of Fame board! Recipients of this award are recognized on Fridays, and get the opportunity to hold onto a special stuffed friend throughout the day! These stuffed friends represent Christ-like qualities, such as: Listening Lion, Self Control Shark, Friendly Flamingo, Positive Puppy, Helpful Horse, and a couple others. Thank you to our first grade teachers for recognizing these qualities in our students!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Wednesday, November 18** - Grade 4 Mass, Room 108, Ms. Pavicic
 - **Wed., November 25 - Fri., November 27** - Thanksgiving break - NO SCHOOL
 - **Tuesday, December 1** - IWA Day of Giving!
 - **Wednesday, December 2** - Grade 3 Mass, Room 106, Ms. Grusenmeyer
 - **Friday, December 4** - Dress Down Day benefitting the IWA Fund
 - **Tues. December 8 - Thurs., December 10** - PTSU Santa Shop
 - **Tuesday, December 15** - Grade 3 Mass, Room 105, Ms. Biasiotta
 - **Friday, December 18** - Last day of school before Christmas break!
 - **Mon., December 21 - Fri., January 1** - Christmas break - NO SCHOOL
 - **Monday, January 4** - School resumes
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IWA DAY OF GIVING

Tuesday, December 1

The IWA Day of Giving, held on Giving Tuesday, is less than three weeks away! Please click on the photo below for a short video message from Sr. Elizabeth Cooper, as she shares why supporting Incarnate Word Academy is more important than ever!



EXTRACURRICULARS

IWA STUDENT AMBASSADOR CLUB

Grades 7 & 8

There will be an informational meeting for 7th and 8th grade students interested in joining the IWA Student Ambassador Club next Wednesday, November 18th, and Thursday, November 19th, at 7:30 a.m. in St. Joseph Hall. Students only need to attend ONE of the sessions. Students, please email Ms. Vacanti at kvacanti@incarnatewordacademy.org by Tuesday to let us know what day you will attend.

We look forward to another successful year of Student Ambassadors sharing what it means to be an IWA Warrior!

STEAM ELECTIVES

Grades 3-5 and 7-8

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for Mrs. Micheli's STEAM club offerings and Replay for Kids. These clubs will begin in December.

LUNCH MONITORS NEEDED

IWA is in need of Lunch and Recess Monitors. These are paid positions.

[Click here to email Mrs. Konopka in the Main Office!](#)

PTSU NEWS SEEKING NEW TREASURER

PTSU looking for a parent volunteer with finance experience to fill the PTSU Treasurer position. If interested, please send an email to ptsu_president@incarnatewordacademy.org by November 19, 2020.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

The PTSU Sunshine Committee will be coordinating ways to support, encourage, and celebrate members of the IWA Community. The Sunshine Committee can provide encouragement and assistance in times of need through well wishes or a meal train. Please [CLICK HERE](#), or access the form on Praxi under the PTSU resource tab, to let us know if we can support your family or a fellow IWA community member.



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Purchase your gift cards for your teachers through the IWA Certificate Program!

Purchase gift cards for your child's teachers and let them choose where they want to shop through the IWA Certificate Program! Orders will be accepted now through December 14. Questions? Email the Certificate Program at certificates@incarnatewordacademy.org.

[Click here for the order form!](#)

Christmas Video for Regina Health Center

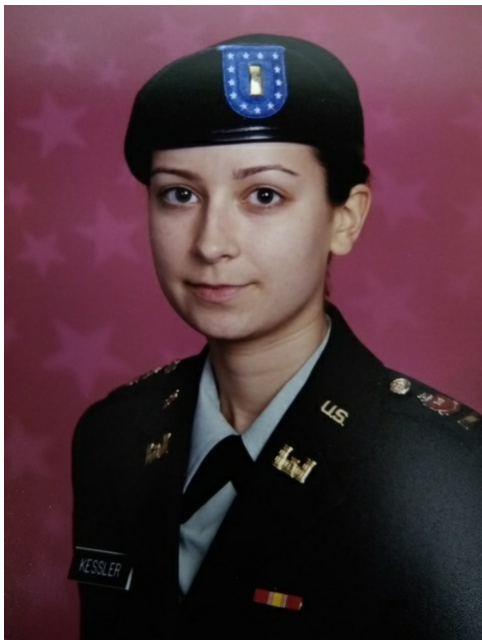
Before we know it, the holiday season will be upon us. Unfortunately, current circumstances prevent our IWA families from visiting the retired Sisters of IWA and the other residents at Regina Health Center during the holidays. We are asking for your help to put together a holiday video montage that the residents can watch in their rooms. Video ideas may include your family singing a holiday song, children playing holiday music or reciting a prayer, or an expression of your holiday wishes to the residents. If recorded on a mobile phone or tablet, please make sure videos are recorded horizontally. Videos should be no longer than 2-3 minutes. Sridevi Nalla has graciously offered to compile the videos together on a CD. *Please email your video to **reginaiwa2020@yahoo.com** by November 19th.*

If you have any questions, email Rose Fini at akron39@gmail.com.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

The Kessler Family

Christina '95, Steven '99, Erin '00



This week's [#ThrowbackThursday](#) alumni spotlight is a special one. In light of Veterans Day, we are featuring three alumni siblings from the Kessler family, all of whom served in the military and were deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Christina (Kessler) Sarson, IWA Class of 1995, attended Padua Franciscan High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources from The Ohio State University and earned a master's degree in Landscape Architecture from Chatham University. Christina served in the United States Army from 2004-2008 and was a member of the 9th Engineer Battalion, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and the 1st Infantry Division. Since departing from the service as a Captain, she now works as a Land Planner at Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., in Pennsylvania, and has two sons named Grant and Heath. She has fond memories of IWA and the Sisters, especially of Sr. Rosemarie Burke – then Sr. Damian – as a great teacher and mentor that inspired the best in her students.

Steven Kessler, IWA Class of 1999, attended Padua Franciscan High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Geneva College and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Cyber Security, also at Geneva College. Steven Served in the United States Marine Corps from 2003-2007. Since

departing from the service as a Corporal, he has worked as a Firearms Specialist at Dick's Sporting Goods and Field & Stream, and he recently relocated from Cleveland to Western Pennsylvania. Some of his favorite memories of IWA included Sr. Elizabeth's and Sr. Joan's classes, especially the songs Sr. Joan would sing throughout the day.

Erin (Kessler) Jones, IWA Class of 2000, attended Padua Franciscan High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in International relations from American Military University and is currently pursuing her MBA, also at American Military University. Erin served in the United States Marine Corps from 2004-2009, deploying three times to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Since departing from the service as a Sergeant, Erin has moved to Northern Virginia with her husband – also a marine – and owns an Information Technology company. Erin remembers celebrating St. Patrick's Day in Sr. Denise's class, the state capital competition in Sr. Elizabeth's class, Sr. Joan's amazing sense of humor, and the kindness extended to her, and to all students, every day by Sr. Margaret Mary.

On behalf of her siblings, Erin says that "IWA was an incredibly important part of our formative years, and we carry so many of the lessons we learned there with us today. Most importantly, we learned how to be kind, gracious, and selfless human beings. We are eternally grateful for the education, support, and guidance we received from the Sisters and staff at IWA."

Christina, Steven and Erin, thank you for your service, leadership, and sacrifice. We're so proud to call you Warriors!

Are you an IWA alumni? We'd love to feature you!

[Be sure to update us by clicking here!](#)

HIGH SCHOOL CORNER

Padua's first ever live-streamed radio play production of A Christmas Carol will perform this coming weekend, 11/13 and 11/14 at 7:30 p.m. It will be streamed from the Padua gym to paduafranciscan.com/live. It's been quite a challenge figuring out how to "do theater" this year, but we're very excited with what we've created and I know the students are too.

Please click on the ACAD Directory below for individual high school information regarding Open Houses, Testing, Shadow Visits and Financial Aid.

Association of Catholic Admission Directors

ACAD MEMBERSHIP SCHOOLS

2020-2021 Catholic High School Directory











Catholic Schools Transform Lives

