



IWA Weekly Newsletter

October 16, 2020

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

IWA WELCOMES MILLIE



Incarnate Word Academy is pleased to welcome Millie to our school community. Millie is a miniature golden doodle training to be a therapy dog for schools. While she is still a bit rambunctious, she is full of love and anxious to meet the students, faculty, staff, and Sisters at IWA. She is a hypo-allergenic breed with great temperament and a lot of energy.

Millie lives with Mr. Wisnor's daughter, Breanna, and her husband, Andrew, in Carlisle Township. Breanna is a third grade teacher in Lorain County and Millie has experience working with her students. Millie specializes in supporting the emotional well-being of students and has nothing but love and affection for everybody she

meets.

Millie plans to attend school one day per week and the first official “Mondays with Millie” day will be Monday, October 19. Millie will also be traveling to meet some of our off campus learners beginning the week of October 26.

Please be sure to welcome Millie to our school community when you see her on Monday!

IWA STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Last year, our entire school community embarked on the strategic planning process to develop a clear path forward to preserve the legacy of Incarnate Word Academy as a premier Catholic academy. After months of research and discussions with school families, faculty, staff, alumni, and the Sisters, followed by a board retreat to review all of the data and develop the strategic priorities, we were ready to move forward with our plans; and then, we were faced with a global pandemic and the mandated move to online instruction to finish the 2019-20 school year.

Despite everything else going on, the strategic planning process continued quietly behind the scenes as we worked to balance the immediate demands of safely returning to school in August with the necessary implementation of long-term plans and strategies to continue to move IWA ahead as a leader in Catholic education. The guiding principles which framed our strategic planning process and serve as the foundation of who we are and what we do as a premier Catholic academy can be found here: [Guiding Principles](#).

Over the next four weeks, more detailed information about each of the four following strategic priorities will be provided in our newsletter:

Sustaining and Advancing Academic Excellence

We will strengthen our culture of academic excellence by establishing and investing in our teaching and learning priorities.

Nurturing the Personal Growth and Wellness of Every Student to Reach Their God-Given Potential

We will provide a safe, loving, and supportive environment focused on the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and social development of our students.

Building an Engaged Community

We will increase engagement of our school families, alums, donors, and the regional community by providing unique opportunities to connect with Incarnate Word Academy.

Preserving the Legacy of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word

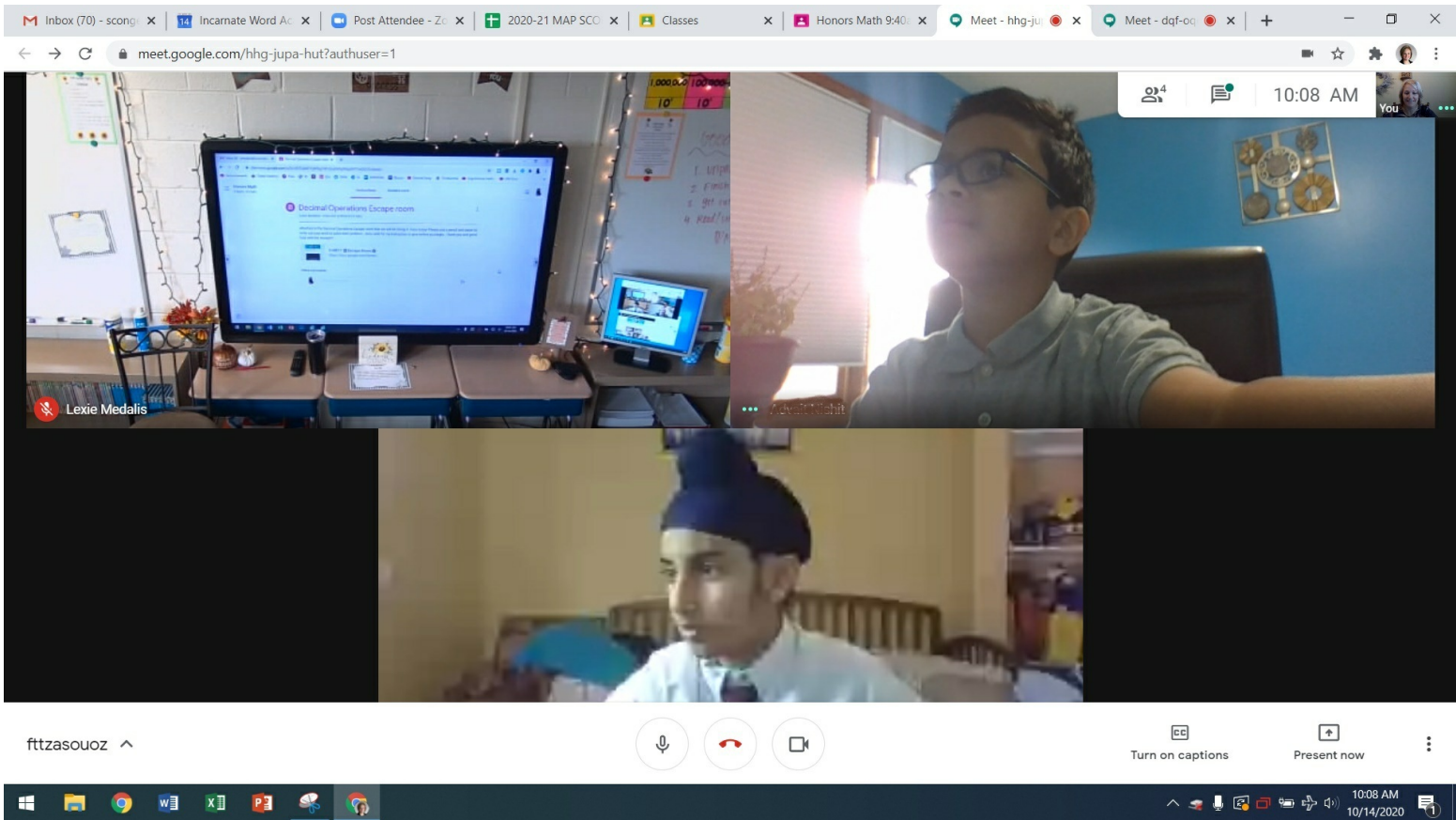
We will build an environment where the spiritual teachings and guidance of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word are deeply integrated into the learning and community of Incarnate Word Academy.

It is important to note that we have already implemented a number of key action steps outlined in our strategic plan; however, the plan will take 2-3 years to fully implement and will require the support of the entire IWA community.

As you review the specifics provided in the newsletter over the next several weeks, please let us know if there is a particular area of interest where you can help us put our strategic plan into action. The strategic plan was developed with the input of the entire IWA community, and it is essential that the entire IWA community play a key role in its implementation.

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Mrs. Congelio is an OC Learner!





Two weeks ago, I shared an email with the IWA community that one of my family members tested positive for Covid. Following the guidance from our Board of Health, we quarantined for 14 days. Fortunately, no one in my household developed serious symptoms. We were truly blessed.

With our school's new technology, I was able to attend meetings with our faculty and parents while remaining home. I also had the privilege of walking in the shoes of an OC Learner! I joined various Google Meets and had the opportunity to be a part of the classrooms virtually. One of my visits took me to Ms. Medalis's 5th grade honors math class and their Escape Room challenge. Students, working in pairs, used critical thinking skills to solve various expressions involving decimals. In order to escape, the students had to successfully solve problems to unlock several levels. The problems were progressively more challenging as they advanced levels.

What I enjoyed most was watching how successful the class operated, and how the students interacted with one another. Mrs. Medalis seamlessly placed the students into groups, regardless if a child was in person or at home. The students knew how to join virtual groups and even reminded Ms. Medalis to mute her speaker once they began to work. All of the students were on task, engaged, challenged, and having fun solving math expressions. Thank you, Ms. Medalis and her 5th grade honors math class for allowing me to be a part of your class as an OC Learner!

ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

Thank you to all parents for your communication as we transition to both in-person and off-campus instruction. Now, more than ever, your communication and partnership is essential.

We wanted to provide a few reminders on our updated attendance procedures:

Parents need to call the office when:

1. FTF or VR learner are going to be absent for the entire day
2. Face to face students going to be late or leaving early for appointments. ****FTF students are still required to be signed out by a parent at the school office before leaving.***
3. VR learners are logging in late or logging off for appointment

In the event you leave a message at 440-842-6818 ext. 305, please include the reason for the absence. The office will contact you if you do not report your child late/absent and a teacher reports the absence. Please do not email a teacher without including the office. The office notifies not only your child's homeroom teacher but also the special teachers of the absence.

****Requests for missing work/books are only being taken at the office after 3 consecutive days of being absent. After 3 days, a Doctor's note is also needed to return to face to face learning.***

Thank you for your continued partnership!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Week of Oct. 19-23** - Friendship Week
- **Wednesday, October 21** - Grade 6 Mass, Room 211, Dr. Klufas
- **Tuesday, October 27** - Grade 5 Mass, Room 101, Mrs. Hovanec-Davey
- **Friday, October 30** - End of 1st Quarter
- **Friday, October 30** - Halloween Dress Down Day! (Keep scrolling for details!)
- **Tuesday, November 3** - Election Day!
- **Wednesday, November 4** - Grade 5 Mass, Room 102, Ms. Medalis

FRIENDSHIP WEEK

October 19-23



Students, get ready for Friendship Week! This is a great opportunity to reflect on how we can live and love more like Christ.

To kick off friendship week, students and families are asked to consider donating new or gently used socks to the ‘Set Your Socks on Helping Others’ local campaign. A competition will take place between IWA and other area schools, to see who can collect the most socks that will be donated to homeless shelters within the greater Cleveland area.

Friendship Themed Days

Monday: Dress over your uniform in IWA Spirit Wear

Tuesday: Dress over your uniform in pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Wednesday: Dress over your uniform and wear clothes inside out and/or backwards

Thursday: Dress over your uniform with your favorite jersey or color of your favorite sports team. IWA spirit wear is also welcome!

Friday: DRESS DOWN in pajamas

COOL WEATHER REMINDERS

Please check that your children are properly dressed for the weather outside daily. **All students enjoy 20 minutes of outdoor recess and may not stay inside if they do not have a jacket or coat.**

Classroom temperatures will also fluctuate during the seasons. Solid maroon, gray and white sweaters are permitted for both boys and girls. Any IWA spirit wear sweatshirts are allowed to be worn to & from school or during outdoor recess; however, they must be taken off in school. The IWA gray or maroon fleece quarter-zip sweatshirt available through Schoolbelles is part of the dress code and may remain on throughout the day. Girls may wear solid maroon, gray and white tights. Please note tights may not be footless and socks may not be worn over tights.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



IWA is in need of parent volunteers to assist with our Certificate Program for the remainder of the school year. Hours are as follows: Mondays from 8 to 10 a.m., and Thursdays from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Hours may vary slightly based on the volume of orders for a given week. Please contact Heather Schmuhl at hschmuhl@incarnatewordacademy.org or at (440) 842-6818 ext. 304 if you are interested!

CYO WINTER SPORTS REGISTRATION

Basketball & Cheerleading

Registration for CYO Basketball and Cheerleading is now open! Basketball is open to students in Grades 3 - 8, while Cheerleading is open to Grades 6 - 8. The registration deadline is October 31.

[Click here to register!](#)

IWA FUND DRESS DOWN DAYS

Pay for the rest of the year by Oct. 30!

Thanks to all of you, we have raised nearly \$2,000 for the IWA Fund in just two dress down days - incredible! We are humbled by your generosity.

We also understand the ease of online payments, especially during these times, so **from now until October 30, pay \$30 in advance for the remaining seven Dress Down Days for the IWA Fund and get one dress down day free!**

To pay for the remainder of the year:

1. Log into your Parent Praxi Account
2. Click on the Online Forms Tab
3. Select the form "Dress Down IWA Fund - Year" form

Please note that you will need to complete this form for each student in your family. Once you submit the form for each student, you will be billed in your Praxi account.

HAPPINESS IS...



The students of IWA have been happy to be back either in person or online. Incarnate Word Academy is blessed with a lot to be happy about in 2020! Please help us fill our bulletin board with happiness by sending in a photo of what happiness means to you. These photos can be of family, friends, faith, pets, hobbies, or accomplishments. **Send these photos in attention: Ms. Vacanti.** Please label your

child's picture with his/her name and homeroom on the back. Thank you for sharing your happiness with the IWA community!

IWA VIRTUAL TOUR!

You can now visit IWA from the comfort and safety of your own home! Please click below to view our Virtual Tour, and please share this link with your family and friends.

[Click here for our Virtual Tour!](#)

PTSU NEWS

OLD WEST PUMPKIN FEST at the Rockin 'R Ranch TOMORROW, Oct. 17



The Incarnate Word
Academy PTSU invites you to join
us for a day of fall fun on
Saturday, October 17th, from
12:00 PM- 5:00 PM.

Join us at the Rockin 'R Ranch in Columbia Station where your family can enjoy a bonfire and private picnic area as well as hayrides to the pumpkin patch, pony rides, an animal petting farm, face painting, pumpkin painting a straw maze and more! ****Masks will be required at this event.***

Please plan to wear your favorite Incarnate Word Spirit Gear and remember to dress for the weather. If the ranch closes due to inclement weather, you will receive an email and we will proceed with our rain date of Sunday, October 25th.

We will be meeting with social distance in mind at pavilion B and C. A PTSU member will be found at Pavilion B and C between 12:00-2:30 to pass out wristbands for the event. If you arrive after 2:30 you can pick up your wristbands from the main ticket booth. You are welcome to come all day or plan to come and go as needed, just remember to keep your wristband.

Our group picnic tables and bonfire will be found in pavilion B and C. Feel free to bring a cooler with food and drinks to enjoy (no alcohol please) or you can bring cash to buy items from the food trucks on

site.

Sunshine Committee

PTSU is looking for volunteers to be part of the IWA PTSU Sunshine Committee. The Sunshine Committee will be planning and coordinating ways in which to support, encourage and celebrate members of the IWA Community when needed. The Sunshine Committee may also be contacted to provide encouragement and support in times of need through well wishes or a meal train.

[**Click here to sign up!**](#)

BOOKS & BUNDTS

Strongsville bakery ***Nothing Bundt Cakes*** is introducing a new and free reading program for students in Pre-school to 6th grade by offering a sweet way to encourage them to become enthusiastic young readers. Download and complete the attached reading tracking sheet. When the student brings in their completed Reading Tracker to the Strongsville bakery, they will receive a Free Bundtlet and a Completion Certificate. Students will be able to complete a Reading Tracker each month while the program is in effect.

[**Click here to print the Tracking Sheet!**](#)

PICTURE RETAKE DAY

Friday, October 23

Picture Retake Day is for the following reasons:

1. First time photos – Students (in school or off campus) that were absent or could not make the scheduled picture day in September.
2. Parent dissatisfaction - Parents wishing to have their student's picture retaken must return the original picture package to the school office by Friday, October 16th.
3. The returned package must be complete. If pictures are missing, the Retake Photos will not be processed.

[**For Off-campus Learners, please click here to sign up for Picture Retakes!**](#)

IWA EXTRACURRICULARS



LEGO University Day

Bring on the fun! Two new after school clubs will be offered at IWA. Students in grades K-2 can participate in LEGO University! This STREAM class allows students to work cooperatively as they design, build, and test engineering principles.

For grades 3-5, students can join our Lemonade Day Club! Students will learn about goal-setting, creating a business plan, giving a pitch, finding an investor, and more! This club will help students become business leaders, social advocates, community volunteers and forward-thinking citizens of tomorrow.

If your child is interested in either of these clubs, please [CLICK HERE](#) to help us determine class sizes and availability.

IWA SPELLING CLUB Boys & Girls in Grades 4-8

Do you wish to participate in Incarnate Word's Boys and Girls Spelling Club? The cost is \$10.00 and billed via your Praxi Account.

Practice times are:

- Thursday morning from 7:00 - 7:30 am for grades 4 and 5 (Room 103 or 104)
- Friday morning from 7:00- 7:30 am for grades 6 - 8 (Room 103 or 104)

Off-Campus learners will receive a Google Classroom invite via Google Meet for your schedule time.

[Click here to register!](#)

IWA's Spelling Bee Competition to be announced at a later date. Mrs. Rolle is the Spelling Club monitor for the Girls Spelling Club and Ms. Kaminski is the Spelling monitor for the Boys Spelling Club. For



additional information please contact Ms. Kaminski at ckaminski@incarnatewordacademy.org.

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Students in grades K-8, it's time to speak up! We are looking for students to join our newly formed Student Advisory Group. We are interested in hearing your thoughts on how to make IWA even better! You'll have the opportunity to meet with Mr. Wisnor, Mrs. Cicerchi, and Mrs. Congelio.



[Click here to register!](#)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Anthony Mangione '01



This week's alumni spotlight features Anthony Mangione, IWA Class of 2001!

After IWA, Anthony graduated from St. Ignatius High School. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Classics with minors in Pre-Medicine and Philosophy from Xavier University, followed by a Master of Arts in Architecture from the University of Cincinnati.

Anthony is currently serving on the IWA Board of Directors, is the Project Manager at United Architectural Metals, a building products manufacturer, and is also the Owner, Architect and General Contractor of AFM Design-Build, a residential custom homes and additions company.

Some of his favorite IWA memories include running out of the “milk cooler” back doors for recess, playing Capture the Flag in gym class, Mrs. Kutz’s mystery studies, and the “I Am” reports when Anthony was Sam Clemens, a.k.a. Mark Twain. A memory that still sticks with him to this day is Sr. Elizabeth’s Math Song. Anthony says, “I can still remember most of it, and often recite it to my wife when she asks!”

Anthony, we're so glad to have you back at IWA and serving on the Board of Directors!

[If you're an IWA alumni, please CLICK HERE to let us know where you are and what you're up to!](#)

ALUMNI NEWS

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Benjamin Barnes, IWA Class of 1977, of North Royalton, OH. Benjamin passed away on September 25, 2020, at the age of 56. Benjamin went on to attend North Royalton High School and Baldwin-Wallace College. Please keep Benjamin and his family, especially his sisters Karina Barnes Johnson '79, Maria Barnes '80, and Gemma Barnes Abels '81, in your prayers.

HIGH SCHOOL CORNER

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



Magnificat High School: Magnificat's Academic Scholarship Exam is Thursday, October 27, from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Accommodations are available for the October 10 exam. If your daughter requires accommodations, she must register at least one week before the test date. Historically, students who score 90 or higher on the HSPT exam will be invited to apply for an Academic Scholarship, depending on the number of test-takers. The deadline for scholarship applications and FACTS application is Thursday, November 19. [Register here for a personal, student-led, family tour for 8th grade students](#)

[and 2 parents.](#)

St. Ignatius High School: Due to irregular schedules during the 2020-2021 school year and our priority of supporting the health and wellness of our community, we have made the decision to modify our day-long shadow experience to an hour-long personalized family tour during a regular school day. [Tours offered through December 10 - Register here.](#)

Saint Joseph Academy's Fall Open House: Sunday, October 18, 12-6 p.m.

For the health and safety of your family and our community, there is a limited number of attendees permitted per family. Attendees include one prospective student with up to two accompanying adults. Unfortunately, walk-ins will not be permitted.

Fall Open House registration is available at www.sja1890.org/admission/visit

Padua Franciscan High School- Offering a LSS Program which includes the following: Learning Disabilities Program, Autism Program, Speech-language services, and SEGO/Accommodation Plan services. Padua has services that meet the needs of students identified having a Specific Learning Disability, Other Health Impairments – Minor, Autism, and Speech/Language Impairment.

[Click here to access a flyer that describes their LSS Program.](#)

Holy Name High School - If you are still looking to visit Holy Name in person, you may schedule a Private Family Tour. Any questions? Please contact the Admissions Office at 440-886-0300 ext. 100 or 116 or email Rachel Shurtleff, Director of Admissions, at rshurtleff@holynamehs.com.

St. Edward High School - St. Edward has three remaining dates for the Open Houses for 8th Graders - Monday, October 19 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Sunday, October 25 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., and Monday, November 2 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. [Click here to register.](#)

All 8th Grade students considering St. Edward High School are invited to take the Admission Test at St. Edward. Admission Test results are considered in both admissions decisions and in course placement.

Students who wish to be considered for merit-based scholarships MUST take one of these Admission Tests: Saturday, October 17 at 9:00 a.m. (extended time testing offered), Wednesday, October 21 at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, October 31 at 9:00 a.m. (extended time testing offered), Wednesday, November 4 at 5:30 p.m. [Click here to register.](#)

Join St. Edward High School for a Basketball Academy for boys and girls in grades 4-8. [Click here for more information.](#)

HALLOWEEN DRESS DOWN or IN YOUR HALLOWEEN COSTUME! Friday, October 30



On Friday, October 30th, students are permitted to Dress Down in Halloween colors while following the IWA Dress Down guidelines, OR they are permitted to wear a Halloween Costume to school!

Students are Not Permitted to:

1. Wear masks
2. Carry Weapons or weapon-like items
3. Wear bloody or gory costumes
4. Spray Paint any part of their hair
5. Wear any inappropriate or offensive costume
6. Wear any costume that is not modest
7. Wear excessive make-up

LOOKING FOR PART-TIME

WORK?

IWA is currently looking for Substitute Teachers, Lunch and Recess Monitors, and Extended Day staff. We have part-time positions and substitute opportunities. These are all paid positions. Please contact Mrs. Cicerchi at **jcicerchi@incarnatewordacademy.org** if you are interested.



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