



Growing leaders who turn
FAITH into ACTION.

NOVEMBER, 2017

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Oct 30- Nov 2- Book Fair
- Nov 1&2- School conferences
- Nov 2&3- No school
- Nov 10- End of 1st Trimester
- Nov 11- Rake Up Event (meet up 10am @ SI)
- Nov 13-17- Papa John's Family Night IN
- Nov 14- HSA Meeting at 7pm in Commons
- Nov 27- 6th grade SVDS Service Opportunity (5-8pm)
- Nov 22-24- No school- Happy Thanksgiving

*Visit our new website at stignatiusmeridian.org

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear St. Ignatius Catholic School Community,

It's November. The leaves are bright, the air is cool, and days are getting shorter. Many Americans use this month to remember to be thankful for our blessings, just as the first pilgrims gave thanks for a bountiful harvest in their new land.

Gratitude is celebrated by Americans this month, but it is also a core Christian trait, rooted deep in our tradition of faith. St. Paul writes to his followers, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 *Thesalonians* 5:18). Throughout St. Paul's epistles, he references gratitude, as in his opening line in his letter to the *Phillipians*, "I thank my God, always for you" (*Phillipians* 1:3).

St. Ignatius of Loyola considers gratitude the key to becoming aware of God's purpose for our lives. Gratitude is the second step of the Examen, the prayer that St. Ignatius' followers prayed each day (and that we pray at school with our students). "Give thanks to God our Lord for the benefits received." He writes in his explanation of performing the Examen. Furthermore, St. Ignatius recognizes that the opposite of gratitude-- ingratitude-- is a danger to our relationship with God, "for it is the failure to recognize the good things, the graces, and the gifts received. As such, it is the cause, beginning, and origin of all evil and sins."

You see, gratitude is more than just a tradition for the Thanksgiving table. Gratitude, we learn, has true transformative power. Look at Jesus, who first gives thanks to God before performing many of his most well-known miracles from the Gospels such as the Raising of Lazarus and the Feeding of the Five Thousand. Or look at the Last Supper where Jesus first offers thanks before breaking the bread. He prefaces these great miracles with a prayer of praise and thanks to God.

To be the recipient of gratitude is likewise transformational. Last week, I received a bag full of notes of thanks from our middle school students. "Thank you for being our principal!" many read, and "St. Ignatius is the best school I have ever been to!" Sitting down at the end of a full week, and feeling a little tired, I felt my heart rejuvenated. It was as if my very spirit was being charged up with each word our students had written. I entered into my weekend not feeling weary, but fully energized. Gratitude, in the small act of simple written words, had great power on my own spirit.

To live in gratitude has true transformational power in our lives. Jesus gave thanks to God, his father, repeatedly in the Gospels. Paul, weary and tired, begins his letters to his disciples with words of thanks. St. Ignatius etches gratitude into the key components of his spirituality. This month, I invite you, along with our staff and students, to follow the example of these leaders and practice gratitude in our own lives. Let us explore together what power and energy gratitude might bring to our own spirit, and to those around us.

Sincerely,

Andi Kane
Principal, St. Ignatius Catholic School

Academic Excellence • Faith Formation • Social Justice • Service • Strength of Community

Faculty: Chuck Stivison

Hometown: Boise, ID

Background: Mr. Stivison went to Bishop Kelly and the University of Idaho. Go Vandals!

Family: Mr. Stivison has been married to his amazing wife, Emily, for 3 years. They have a daughter who is 15 months old named Elyse.

Passion Project: St. Ignatius Run/Walk Program

FOCUS ON FACULTY MEET CHUCK STIVISON, PRE-K-8TH PE

What part of education are you most passionate about? *"I am most passionate about getting the students healthy. Getting them active and keeping them active for the rest of their life."*

What drew you to St. Ignatius Catholic School? *"I am so excited to be here at St. Ignatius where we believe in educating the entire child. We try and focus on all aspects not just education. I am looking forward to the programs that I can bring to this school to help keep students active."*

Why did you become a teacher? *"I have always enjoyed working with youth. While I was going to school, I worked with military children running summer camps overseas. Creating programs and fun summer activities for youth was so enjoyable that I changed my major to Physical Education. I am so excited that I not only get to teach here at St. Ignatius but I also get to help coordinator our youth sports."*

If you had a free day with absolutely nothing scheduled what would you do? *"If I had a free day with nothing scheduled, I would spend time with my daughter at the park. Watching her grow and play. Being a father has been an incredible experience."*

SUPPORT SERVICES SEGMENT- A message from Mrs. Z:

- October was a busy month with lots of activity! We participated in Red Ribbon week October 23 – 27, and Mrs. Johnson and I taught lessons in every K-8th grade class about the importance of staying drug free and making healthy choices for our bodies. Hopefully, your students came home and continued those discussions.

On October 21, we had our first big school event; The World Harvest Festival! I was so amazed and impressed by the amount of thought and work that went into making this event possible. What a wonderful celebration of the diversity within our community, which in turn is a fantastic way to support our mission of forming kids for others.

- Participating in this remarkable event caused me to reflect on the important topic of teaching inclusion and tolerance. A significant part of our Ignatian spirituality includes a call to find God in all things. We also remind our students daily that in order to stay on The Path of St. Ignatius, they must strive to be reverent, which we describe as having a deep respect and awe for God that extends to all people, creatures, and the earth.

As I was doing some research on the topic, I came across a wonderful article about a small Jesuit school in Harlem that is dedicated to educating a diverse population. I was struck by something the principal, Daniel Perez, was quoted as saying:

- "I have an issue with the word *tolerance*. We strive to embrace others, not just tolerate cultural differences. Tolerance is a minimum standard of how we can function. There has to be a sense of kinship and friendship. We have to love each other as children of God. The word *tolerance* sets the bar too low."

As parents, you can encourage the development of this mindset of embracing differences by setting the example for your children through:

1. **Modeling.** Discussing the importance of embracing differences and treating others with respect is important, but it's not enough. Your actions, words, and attitudes are what your children will emulate.
2. **Acknowledging differences.** It is important to celebrate the many ways people are different. It is also important to be honest about times, both historical and current, when people have been mistreated because of their differences. Encourage your children to identify their own uniqueness, and discuss how others may perceive them. After discussing differences, finding similarities becomes a more powerful exercise.
3. **Providing feedback.** If your children speak or act in a way that is not showing reverence towards another person or group, talk to them. Simply commanding them to stop is not enough. It is important to investigate and find out if there is a misconception or idea behind the words or actions that needs to be challenged. On the other hand, be sure to praise and encourage your children for showing love, kindness, respect, and empathy for others.
4. **Looking for teachable moments.** Many everyday activities can serve as a springboard for discussion. School-age children learn more when lessons involve relevant, real-life examples.

Great Things Happening!

St. Ignatius Catholic School is truly committed to growing the whole child-- Mind, Body & Spirit. This month we have so many examples of what St. Ignatius students are working on outside the classroom!

Making Healthy Choices- The St. Ignatius run/walk club is off to a great start! Our run/walk program is happening every morning from 8:10-8:25 on the Path. Every student has a QR code and when students run a lap, we scan it with the iPad. Mr. Stivison keeps track of how many laps students run throughout the year. Students will receive prizes for participation in the program. Parents can also do laps with their child using their teachers QR code so that their classroom gets more laps. Even Meridian Mayor Tammy de Weerd stopped by to participate!



Appreciating the Arts- Our first performing arts concert was a big hit! The concert included performances by Grades 1-3, the Music Performance Class (Grades 7th/8th) & the Dance Class (Grades 7th/8th). Great job students and teachers—Jeanetta Asbury and Marianne Corn. We are so thankful that our students have an opportunity to create and perform.



MONDAY ASSEMBLY!

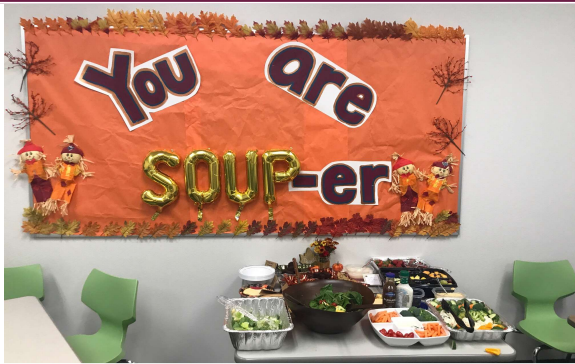


In addition to our school wide prayers each morning, and our all school Mass on Thursdays, our student body comes together each Monday morning to pray, reflect, and prepare our minds, bodies and spirits for the week ahead. This is a special time during which we read the gospel together and discuss our spiritual and emotional goals for the week, including kindness, generosity, unity and community. We also prepare our bodies with yoga exercises and join together our community.

This weekly assembly is confidently lead by our 8th grade leadership team- the Sentinels. But students from all grades have had a chance to become involved (see below picture of students helping act out the week's gospel reading).

What a great way to start each week at St. Ignatius Catholic School!





THANK YOU, PARENTS!

Thank you to the St. Ignatius Catholic School HSA and our kindergarten parents for the wonderful soup and salad lunch you prepared for our staff this month! We are so blessed to be supported by this amazing parent community. Thank you!

-The St. Ignatius Staff

HSA UPDATES-

Dear St. Ignatius Parents,

All 12 of the HSA committees are in full swing building our community and raising funds for our school. Here are some highlights of what your HSA has been up to this past month:

- Our 4th graders hosted the September St. Vincent de Paul Service Dinner. Great Job!
- We collected used eclipse glasses to send to low income schools in South America and Asia for STEM education. Thanks to our Service Coordinators for sponsoring this!
- Our Room Parents and Room Parent Coordinators hosted our first Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, "Lettuce Grow Together". It was a hit with the staff!
- We had a fun time supporting our Bishop Kelly Knights at a Tailgate Party hosted by our Hospitality Committee. Go team!
- Family Night Out at Blaze Pizza was a great success. We raised \$195.00!
- We now have 6 Boys Y-Basketball teams up and running. Thank you to our Sports Coordinator!

We also hosted our first annual World Harvest Festival and the event was a resounding success! The evening was a blast, with Kids Continent games from around the globe to international music and dance every square inch of the space was filled with fun. It was so wonderful to see so many of our families and parishioners come together to support our school and build our community. Thank you to all who took part in this awesome event!

Those who came were able to sample chili from 9 cook-off competitors and dishes from 10 international food competitors; it was delicious! Lauren Chatterton took the prize for the chili cook-off and Jacqueline Kavila had the best international food dish with her chicken curry from Kenya. Congratulations ladies! Thank you to everyone who came out and competed to win these highly coveted titles!

We don't yet have our final numbers on how much was raised by the World Harvest Festival but we do know that we exceeded our goal. Thank you to all of the raffle and dessert donors, food competitors and countless volunteers. Every single one of you made a difference and contributed to the success of this event. An extra special thanks to Joe Isanga and Laureen Komma for chairing the event. All of the time, energy and talent you gave to our World Harvest Festival is so appreciated!

Please remember, all are welcome to attend our monthly HSA meetings. I encourage everyone to please join us for a glass of wine and an appetizer at our next meeting on Tuesday November 14th at 7:00pm in the School Commons.

God Bless,

Hillary Smith

St. Ignatius Catholic School HSA President, hsa@stignatiusmeridian.org

FALL FUN AT ST. IGNATIUS!

Our pre-school and kindergarten students had fun times this month visiting the pumpkin patch and having a pumpkin patch STAY-cation.



HAPPY FALL!



FAMILIES ON FIRE

At Holy Apostles Catholic Church and St. Ignatius Catholic School, we are constantly reminding our students and children that God is all around us- in everything we do and in all we celebrate. We remind our students and youth to look for God in all things, and find ways to see and encounter God in both special and common ways. We would like to start partnering with families to offer ideas that might help you infuse faith into more aspects of your daily lives, routines, and celebrations.

REFLECTION: NOVEMBER-COMMUNION OF SAINTS

The Communion of Saints is extremely powerful. So powerful, we mention the term in our Creed. The Church has always honored the faithful departed and strongly encourages their remembrance. This is apparent in the celebration of Halloween, also known as, All Hallows Eve! The holiday has been overshadowed by scary witches and evil creatures over time. Some are surprised to know that Halloween is actually a preparation for the Catholic feast of All Saints and followed by All Souls. The three go hand in hand. During the month of November, we call to mind our connection with those who have died. Here are some suggestions for families to recognize their union to those in Heaven.

1. Story Time: Many families have stories of those who have died coming to the aid of family members. For example, Fr. Len tells the story of his grandmother who days before she died said that she could see her deceased sister. Then the day his grandmother died, she said her deceased husband, Len, was there. She kept repeating, "Len is here" as she died. Many families have similar stories that could be shared during this month. How has your family experienced the closeness and presence of a deceased loved one? Take time this month to share certain instances where you or other members have encountered your departed ones here on earth.
2. Prayer Time: Praying for everyone, living or dead, is a strong Christian practice. Your family can incorporate praying for the dead with your grace before and after meals. An example is, "Bless us Oh Lord, and these Thy gifts which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ our Lord and we want to pray for Grandma Felicity, Amen". This can also encourage your family in knowing that when you pray for the deceased, they in return, pray for you.
3. Simple Reminders: We are visual people. Place pictures and/or names of your ancestors in a special place with candles. This will help your family recall your loved ones. On November 2nd, the Feast of All Souls' Day, there is a candle Mass at Holy Apostles where candles to remember past family members are blessed. You can participate in the special mass and the candles can then be used at home throughout the month.
4. Friends in High Places: The Saints of the Church are such a treasure! You can take some time this month to research different saints and their lives. Can't make up your mind on a saint? Have one choose you! As a family, go to <http://saintsnamegenerator.com/> and enjoy learning about all the amazing men and women who are waiting for you to call on them.

"I want to spend my heaven in doing good on earth"

- St. Therese of Lisieux

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY THIS MONTH

Family Night IN with Papa John's Pizza! Nov 13-17, if you mention you are from St. Ignatius, ANY Treasure Valley Papa John's will give 20% of proceeds back to the school. They will also give a 20% discount to all customers from SI. No flyer is needed, just a mention that it is for SI.

Holy Apostles Rake-up Event- St. Ignatius will be raking up yards for Holy Apostles parishioners with physical limitations this month. Event is Saturday, November 11 (meet at the school at 10am). Sign up at <https://signup.com/group/976612102086>.

Check it Out! This month explore our new website @ www.stignatiusmeridian.org! We hope that parents will find it useful for accessing all of the documents, sites, information that you need as a St. Ignatius parent. We hope you find it useful and that it will also serve as a window for others into our great school community.

St. Ignatius Catholic School
6300 N. Meridian Rd
Meridian ID 83642
208-888-4759

www.stignatiusmeridian.org

Connect with us!
Facebook: [stignatiuscatholicsschool](https://www.facebook.com/stignatiuscatholicsschool)
Twitter: [@stignatiusid](https://twitter.com/stignatiusid)
Instagram: [stignatiusmeridian](https://www.instagram.com/stignatiusmeridian)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Strength of community is one of the cornerstone philosophies of St. Ignatius Catholic School community! A vibrant community gives children strong roots to grow and develop. We encourage all families to participate in our many social, service and volunteer endeavors to help us build and strengthen the St. Ignatius family.

WORLD HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our first big community wide event, the World Harvest Festival, was an amazing success and a great representation of this wonderful, inclusive and diverse community that is growing every day. A huge thank you to Joe Isanga, Lauren Komma and Hillary Smith for their leadership, all of the WHF committee members and chairs, and the many volunteers that helped make this night possible. And thank you to all who attended and supported this wonderful community event.



St. Ignatius School Mission

St. Ignatius is a Christ-centered Catholic school committed to the Ignatian traditions of academic excellence and teaching students to live their Catholic faith through service and the promotion of justice. Our community - school, families, parish - seeks to inspire students to reach their potential, to act with initiative and integrity, and to engage the world as a place where God can be found in all things.