

From the principal's desk: Tricia DeWitt

It is an exciting time in our school history as Immaculate Heart of Mary School celebrates our 50th anniversary in Catholic education. Thousands of adults today credit their success in life to the strong foundation they received as a student at IHM School.

Success is measured in many ways. Our honorary co-chairmen of our 50th anniversary steering committee, Dennis Kelly and Mike Messner, represent success in the business world and are outstanding reflections of our school mission statement. Dennis and Mike graduated in 1967 and were the second group of students who went from 1st through 8th grades at IHM. Currently Dennis is President and CEO of Zoo Atlanta and Mike Messner is a Partner with the Seminole Group in New York City. Both gentlemen have fond memories of their experience at IHM School and are grateful for the opportunity to have been guided under the expertise of the Grey Nuns who helped begin our school.

Through the years the nuns were replaced by lay teachers who have worked at a sacrificial pay in order to continue the good work the sisters began in 1958. Salaries have risen through the years but so has the total cost of educating students. We want to ensure that Catholic education is affordable to present and future families so other graduates can continue to make a positive contribution to the world.

It is difficult to place a true price on the value of an education especially when one considers the impact on the development of the whole child~ academically, spiritually, emotionally and physically. We hope as our community, alumni and stakeholders embrace our Homecoming Weekend, they will recognize the positive impact IHM School has made for the past 50 years and help us in our effort to keep our school vibrant for the next 50 years.

~Tricia DeWitt



this quarter

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Mark Your Calendar for Homecoming Weekend

APRIL 24-26, 2009

Homecoming Weekend includes three days of events meant to bring the IHM community together. We are especially excited about alumni coming home to IHM!

Homecoming Weekend begins with a Welcome Home Reception on Friday, April 24. We invite alumni and current parents, as well as all former and present members of the faculty and staff. The event will be held at IHM from 7-9pm and will include a silent auction, music and mingling. There will also be a special presentation from our current teachers. Because alcohol will be served, this event is only open to adults.

For our families, alumni and members of the IHM parish and school community, we are planning an exciting carnival on Saturday, April 25, from 11am - 4pm. The event includes food, music and children's rides on the backfield. Several activities are planned to bring IHM's past and present together. Alumni will be able to meet with other students based upon the years they attended IHM. We will have live music and entertainment throughout the day. The school and new church will also be open for tours throughout the day.

We conclude Homecoming Weekend on Sunday, April 26, at 11:00am with a special Mass of Celebration in honor of our alumni. The Mass will be held in the new church currently being completed.

Our society needs well-rounded, well-grounded and well-educated citizens lighting the world with the message of Christ. At IHM, that is our mission. We hope you will mark your calendar for the weekend of April 24 – 26 as we embrace our past and celebrate the future.

Special Alumni Event

IHM invites all alumni to a special Christmas event on Sunday, December 14. Join us in the IHM library at 6pm (right after the 5pm Mass) as Mrs. Wilson hosts the Alumni Holiday Reception!

Enjoy cookies, hot chocolate and time to catch up. Kindly, RSVP to Mrs. Wilson so we are sure to have enough for everyone: swilson@ihmschool.org



New Church Construction Progress

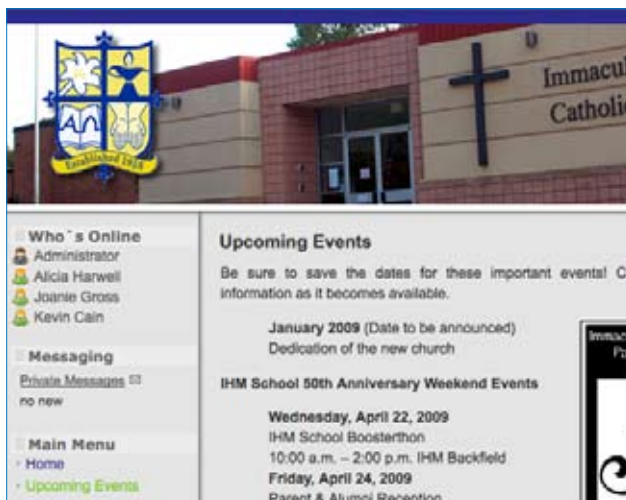
Progress continues on IHM's new sanctuary, which began construction in July 2007. The construction schedule has been revised to reflect an initial completion scheduled for mid-December. Following initial completion, it will take approximately one month to finish the inside touches. Many have donated items like the organ, altar, ambo, etc. The new church dedication ceremony with Archbishop Gregory is scheduled for Saturday, January 24, 2009.

As mentioned above, some individual members of the parish have donated a specific item in honor or in memory of a loved one. Some items are still needed, if you, your family, or even groups of families would like to make a gift.

For more information on what items are still available and how to donate them, please contact Fr. Schillinger at 404-636-1418.



Sketch of stained glass image to be included in new church.



Have you ever wondered what happened to the kid who sat behind you in third grade and made car motor sounds all day? Or the girl who knocked you out of the spelling bee in eighth grade? What about the teacher who gave you your first detention? Or the one who believed in you and told you you could do it?

Well wonder no more.

The IHM alumni site (www.IHMalumni.org) has been created for you! We invite all alumni to get back in touch with all the wonderful people connected with IHM. That includes students, teachers, staff, priests, nuns- anyone.

All you have to do is go to www.IHMalumni.org and confirm your free membership. Then, you can create your own profile

(you have the option to upload pictures and share information about yourself). The site will allow you to get in touch with people from your past, rekindle old friendships and network!

The site includes class lists (organized by graduation year), as well as lists of past teachers, priests and nuns...how many faces can you still put to the names?

The site includes dates of IHM's upcoming events, allows you to send email messages to other members, and chat with other members that are online.

Here are some memories from IHM over the years:

Field Day – Climbing the gym

Join the IHM Alumni Website

Catch up with old classmates, hear about upcoming IHM events and post news about what's going on with you!

www.ihmalumni.org

rope – Mighty-Mite Football – Kickball – Cheerleading – Saddle Oxfords – All school Mass – Broncos – Out of uniform days – Falcons – Bombardment – "Rude Crude & Socially Unacceptable" – Nativity – Patrols – Rolling down the hill – Grass stains on uniforms – Cabin behind the gym – Bottom parking lot flooding – 4 Square – Little Debbie snacks – Cartons of milk – Silent Lunch – Plays – Give My Regards to Broadway – The Lion Witch and the Wardrobe – MASH – Lockers –

Several former teachers have signed up to attend the 50th Anniversary weekend already

Kathleen – Mrs. Rutenbur.

This Quarter's Teacher Spotlight: Elizabeth Elliot

Years of Service: In her 2nd year

Grade: 3rd

Elizabeth, a '97 IHM graduate, attended St. Pius X and received a full scholarship to Belmont Abbey College.

"Had you asked me years ago, when I was a student sitting in Mrs. Moody's 2nd grade class, if I would have been a teacher, the answer would have been yes."

Elizabeth brings many different backgrounds to her field. She worked as an admission counselor for her college and in the special events industry. After working in the education field in NC for 2 years, she moved back to Atlanta.

Elizabeth is currently finishing her Master of Arts in Teaching at Mercer and is set to graduate in December 2009. In her spare time, Elizabeth enjoys dancing, reading, traveling, writing, and



cooking.

"One of my favorite memories as a teacher at IHM was working with the kindergarteners last year. A little girl turned to me at our first school Mass and said 'Wow, Miss Elliott. Is this one of God's houses?' I answered with a smile and told her that it was. In bewilderment, she turned to me and said, 'God sure must have a lot of houses then!' It is moments like that, so sweet and so worthwhile that makes my job so meaningful." It is because of moments like that, and the wonderful close-knit family community that she teaches at I.H.M. "I believe in Catholic education and the values and teachings that we instill in the students at I.H.M. I know it taught my class to be great well-rounded individuals. My hope is I can continue that tradition with the next generation."

Find Elizabeth on www.ihmalumni.org



U P D A T E S

Laurie Auer Bryant '80

Laurie teaches kindergarten in Gwinnett County. She has two sons, Bryan 15 and Brandon 10.

Kevin Cain '81

Kevin has been married for 23 years to his high school sweetheart, Lisa. They have 2 children, Gregory 22 and Kendra 17. He works for Realstar Solutions and lives in Alpharetta. Kevin enjoys golf and tennis and is always looking for a playing partner!

Mary Pat Warner Martin '82

Mary Pat graduated with a Masters in Social Work (MSW) in 1991 and a Masters in the Art of Teaching (MAT) in 2007. She is currently a guidance counselor at IHM. Mary Pat and her husband of nearly 18 years, James, live in Atlanta. They have 4 children, Colin 14 attends St. Pius, and Carol Beth 11, Mary Grace 9, Jamie Rose 7 attend IHM. Mary Pat enjoys running and just finished the Marine Corp Marathon in Washington, DC on Oct. 26th.

Julie Auer Brandon '83

Julie has been a General Manager for California Pizza Kitchen restaurants for 8 years. She is currently the GM at the Atlantic Station location. She and her husband Patrick live in Tucker and are expecting their first child in March.

Christy Auer Schwartz '85

Christy is a full time mom and lives in Tucker with her husband Brian. They have two sons, Aidan 4 and Eric 2. (photo below)



Kimberlea Oakes Elliott '90

Kimberlea and her husband Joel live in Loganville. Kimberlea is a full time mom and cares for her three children: Emily 9, Molly 6, and toddler Ethen James.

Greg Warner '90

Greg works for Time/Warner Retail Sales and Marketing. He has been with the company for nine years and lives in East Atlanta.

Danielle Cavallaro '92

Danielle recently graduated with a Masters degree in Speech-Language Pathology from University of Colorado in Boulder, CO. She is currently working in the Denver City School System as a Speech-Language Pathologist for children who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Sarah Auer Kaliner '92

Sarah is a tax accountant for an accounting firm in Dunwoody. She is currently pursuing her CPA license. Sarah and her husband, Frank, live in Tucker.

E N G A G E M E N T S

Kristin Vari '97 & John Dooley '97

Kristin and John are engaged to be married on May 30th, 2009 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Atlanta. (photo below)



W E D D I N G S

Katie Andrews Shell '94

Katie and her husband, Leon, were married on March 29, 2008 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Katie works as an Interior Designer with GTRI at Georgia Tech. Katie & Leon live in Marietta. (photo below)



B A B I E S

Jenny Andrews DuBose '89

Jenny and her husband Mike and son Michael 7 and John 4 welcomed a new baby boy, Benjamin Ryan, to their family. He was born on October 11th.

Corey Parhalo Franzen '92

Corey graduated from Florida State University with a degree in Early Childhood Education and teaches 2nd grade. Corey and her husband, Jason, live in Tampa, Florida. Corey gave birth to their first child, Savannah Joy, on September 17th 2008.

We'd like to hear from you!

Have any news to share? What's going on in your life? New job? Married? Just moved? Please send your alumni update to Alicia Adan Harwell '92 at alicia.harwell@yahoo.com Please include any pictures you'd like to share, as well.



Throughout the Years at IHM...



Upcoming Events

December 7th

Advent Bake Sale
After 9:00am Mass
At IHM School

December 14th

Alumni Holiday Reception
6:00pm (after 5:00pm Mass)
In IHM Library

January 25th

Open House
3:00 - 5:00pm at IHM School

February 26th - March 6th

Book Fair in IHM Library

April 5th

Palm Sunday
Holy Week begins

April 22nd

Boosterthon FunRun
IHM School

April 24th

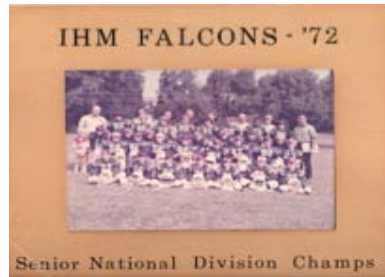
Alumni Reception
7:00pm at IHM School

April 25th

School & Parish Carnival
11am - 4pm on IHM Back Field

April 26th

11am Alumni Mass
At IHM Church



We'd like to hear from you!

Please forward contact info to:
alumniservices@ihmschool.org

Have a Facebook page? Join our group "IHM Catholic School, Atlanta, GA, Alumni Network". Nearly 400 alumni have already joined!

Any alumni updates for the alumni updates newsletter page can be emailed to:
alicia.harwell@yahoo.com

We are organizing the publication of a commemorative book about Immaculate Heart of Mary School. If you have pictures that could be useful for this book, please bring them by IHM, or email a copy to Cindy Palmer at mtnclimbers5@comcast.net

If you would like to be a sponsor of the 50th Anniversary Weekend events, please contact Caroline Nappo at 404-642-2940 or cnappo@comcast.net

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