



March 25, 2020

*Hail Mary, full of grace! The Lord is with you!*

Dear Immaculate Conception School Parents,

Today is a special day in our church and for Immaculate Conception School: *The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord*. It celebrates the appearance of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to tell her that she would be the Mother of Jesus. How blessed we are to have our stained glass window in our St. Gabriel the Archangel Chapel portraying this image! Since we all can't be together, we ask that you pray a rosary today and/or attend Mass online (Father Ben Rexroat is having online Adoration and Mass today at 4:45 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish on the Old Mission Peninsula. Visit their website to choose a way to watch it: <https://www.stjosephhc.org/>). In today's Gospel reading (Luke 1:26-38), the angel Gabriel reminds Mary to not be afraid. We can only imagine what Mary must have been feeling during this time of uncertainty.

We all have a feeling of uncertainty in our lives right now during this time in our world. Here we are the day before what is the official start of our spring break and it sure doesn't feel like the normal anticipation that we would have for this day. So much has changed in our world since we left school on March 13. The one thing that has not changed is our love for your children and commitment to their education. Our days are probably being spent much like yours with balancing our family lives with our work lives. One of us is homeschooling five children and the other has college and adult children at home helping them to navigate online learning and working from home.

Grade level teams have been holding virtual meetings with us and within their teams these past two days to help streamline information. We are so grateful to our amazing staff for their teamwork and creativity to organize learning plans and staying in touch with families. With the additional four more days of school being closed (April 6-9), we wanted to share some details of what we are doing to assist our students and families:

- **Online Learning Resources:**

There will be a spot on our website <https://gtacs.org/about/covid-19-resources/> that will house all of the information for our school. You can find it on the main page by clicking on the box labeled COVID-19 Info and Learning Resources. This is where each grade level will be posting information to assist you in continuing education from home for the next four days after spring break. Our teachers will be posting information to cover learning for April 6-9. In addition, you will also be able to watch morning announcements from us for those four school days. It will be a fun way to stay in touch with all of you. All of the online learning information will be ready to go on Monday, April 6. Not only will you find grade level information, but also science, enrichment and activities from our specials teachers.

- **End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period and Report Cards:**

Today marks the official end of our 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period; however, we are using March 13 as our end date. Since we won't be able to get the packets back on Monday, April 6, all work completed will go in the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period. Please hang onto your packets until we send more information about when and how to return them. Report cards will be emailed to parents on Thursday, April 9 from each of your children's teachers. Preschool will receive progress reports. Grades 4 and 5 will need to access the actual report card

on RenWeb; however, comments will be emailed to you. We will email our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents directions for accessing their child's report card through RenWeb on April 9.

- **March is Reading Month:**

Today also would have been a celebration of our "March is Reading Month" theme. In order to keep the reading and theme going over break, we have an online link on the website page where students can fill out a form each time they have completed their reading sheet. You will also see an interactive tally of how many books we have read. Can we hit the 28,000 book or chapter goal by March 31? Will the two of us still have to kiss a fish as promised? Time will tell! Read, read, read! (Special thanks to Librarian, Mrs. Wilson, for creating this google form and to her coding family for creating the tally page!)

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdKdMBKQGUJMvLKVtlvGfSD304fZaHCMKyBkoLdkHQtHEzQuA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdKdMBKQGUJMvLKVtlvGfSD304fZaHCMKyBkoLdkHQtHEzQuA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

- **Accelerated Reader**

Students in grades 2-5 can continue to take comprehension tests online at home using their same user name and password that they would use at school. This is normally only allowed at school for academic integrity. However, we want to give our students this opportunity to continue from home. The portal is now available seven days a week and at any time. If you see a message that says you can't take this quiz from home, you still can. We are unable to remove that message at this time. Here is the link for taking quizzes: <https://global-zone51.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/755848>

A few important reminders: only take quizzes on books you have recently read; the books should not be with you while you are taking the quiz; if a book was read to you, then the quiz may be read to you. It is important for parents to know what their children are reading as opening up this opportunity also might open up the possibility of students selecting books that are above their reading level or the content might not be appropriate for their age. Also, a friendly reminder that a movie doesn't have nearly as much detail as a book, so please don't try taking a quiz on a movie you have seen, but haven't read the book. The book is always better than the movie! If you have Accelerated Reader questions, contact Librarian, Margaret Wilson [mwilson@gtacs.org](mailto:mwilson@gtacs.org).

More information to come in the week ahead, but for now, we want you all to enjoy your spring break. Soak in some great family time during this time of uncertainty in our world. May your family stay healthy and may God bless our families. We look forward to when we are all back together again. Our prayers are with you and for all those on the front lines in this battle against Coronavirus. Mother Mary...pray for us.

God's peace to you,

Jessica Lesinski  
Principal

Maureen DeYoung  
Assistant Principal

