



Immaculate Conception

V A N C O U V E R

Today, I will grow in knowledge, love of God and service to others.

Annual Report

2017/2018



Note from our Pastor

Dear Moms and Dads –The Lord give you Peace!

The Parish at Immaculate Conception has been journeying with moms, dads and their children for many generations – over 90 years! So many beautiful stories are shared from generation to generation between and among our parishioners, children, parents and faculty. I think we all know that we learn to travel well in life best when with family, friends and a community of grace. Isn't this the essence of Immaculate Conception!

Every year your 'little ones' become more sophisticated and skilled in language arts, problem solving and life skills but something equally powerful and beautiful is deepening within them—a devotion to all that is true, good and beautiful. The soul of your child is deepening and maturing because it is being formed within a circle of grace. The grace we 'behold' as we see how our children greet one another, study together, play, pray, express genuine concern and how they smile in delight just to be with family, teachers and faculty.

An AGM is a great moment for us all 'to pause' and 'appreciate' the depth of soul in our children and community. Along with the number crunching, make time to simply pause, be present and appreciate the essence of our lived experience at Immaculate!

In making time to simply pause, be present and appreciate, I am sure that we will all travel well into the future that God promises for each of our families, our school community and our Parish.

Peace and good!

Fr. Paul, ofm



Note from our Principal

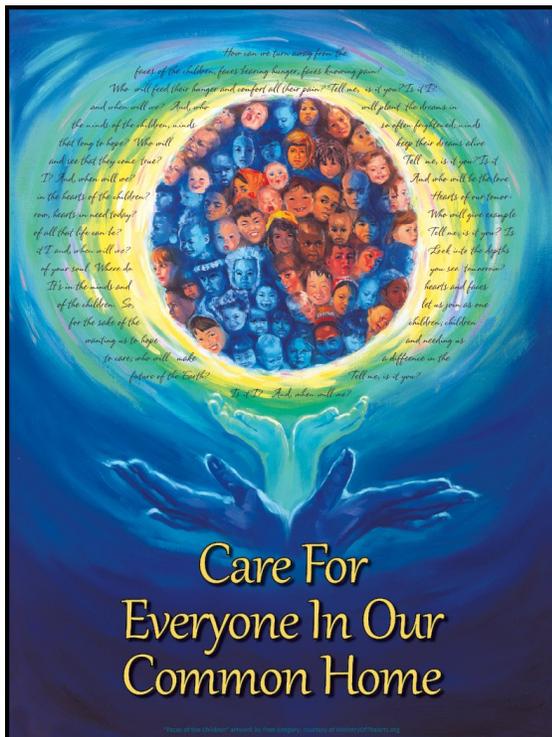
Building on last year's message from Pope Francis, our Catholic schools' theme for 2017-2018 calls us to "Care for Everyone in Our Common Home", and the students of Immaculate Conception School have been doing just that as they grow in knowledge, love of God and service to others. As we continue to implement the redesigned B.C. curriculum, teachers and students have been looking at learning in new and exciting ways. Students have also participated in a wide variety of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities in the areas of athletics, academics, and the arts.

Nurturing students' faith development permeates everything we do. Whether it is attending mass, preparing to receive the sacraments, or participating in events such as the Living Rosary, the Advent Paraliturg, or the Holy Thursday retreat, everyone at ICS recognizes that this dimension makes us truly special.

Our students continue to serve others in many ways, both within the school and in the wider community. Relationships are developed through buddy activities, peer helping, and interaction with the seniors of the parish. Various outreach projects throughout the year remind us how fortunate we are and that we are called to help those in need.

On behalf of the students and staff, I would like to thank the parent and parish communities for their continued support of our Little Blue School. We are all blessed to be part of this wonderful community.

Yours sincerely,
Colette Foran



Short note from the PEC Chair

This Annual Report is a summary of the key areas of our 2017/2018 work.

Our major focus this year was on updates and changes in anticipation of the seismic upgrade of our school building. Once the Seismic Committee had finalized its plans, we confirmed with them that we would be able to install our long-awaited intermediate play structure in the north east corner of the playground. We are presenting the children with three designs and asking them to choose the winning design. Plans are in place to have the structure installed in mid-September in time for back to school!

We (the PEC) do what we do for our children - and we could not do it without the support of the entire Parish and School community. We are very grateful for our Pastor, Father Paul, our Principal, Miss Foran, our dedicated teachers and staff; and, our committed parents and guardians.

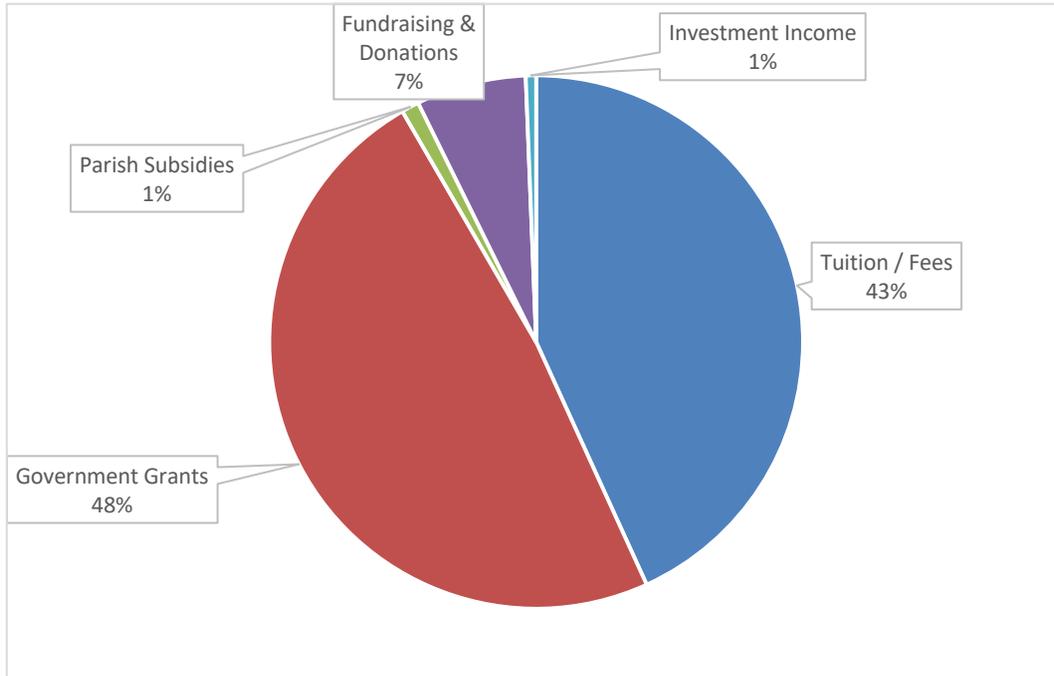
With much gratitude,
Christine Lee
Parish Education Committee, Chair

2016-2017 Statement of Operations

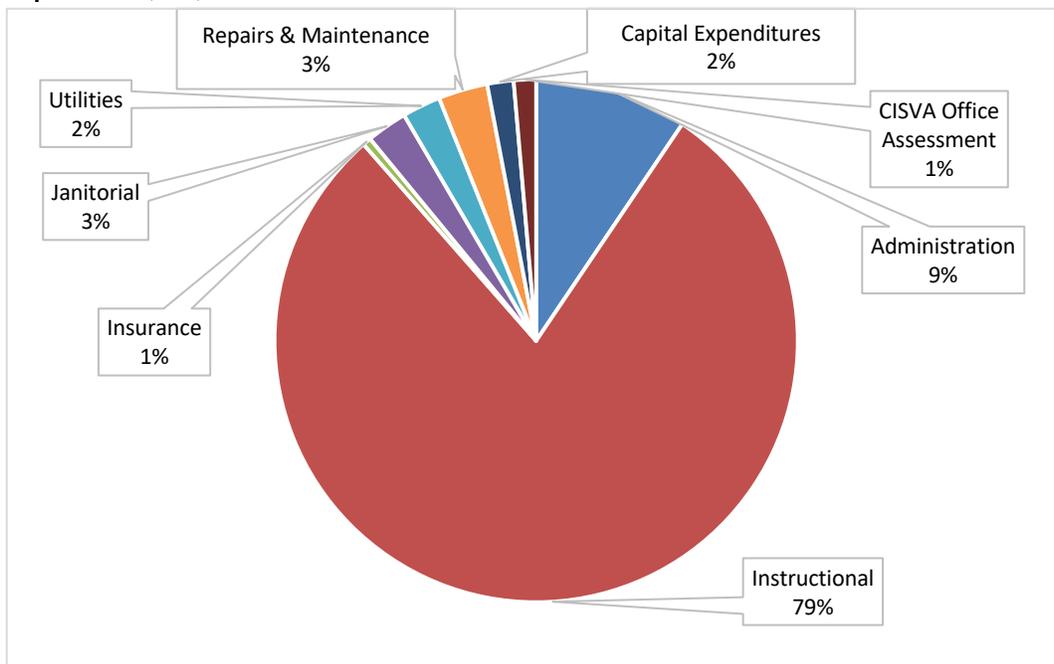
The charts below are based on audited 2016/2017* financials for the year ended June 30, 2017.

*Not the 2017/2018 school year as this report was published in April 2017.

Revenues \$1,854,261



Expenses \$1,733,798



Fundraising and Donations—gratitude to our Community

We want to highlight for all our families just how important fundraising is to our school. It's critical! Indeed, we rely on it to be able to deliver the excellent academic, sport and cultural programs that our students and families have come to expect. Our fundraising bridges the gap between our income from tuition and Provincial Grant monies to help fund school operations, enables us to support our many outreach projects, and help us build a strong and vibrant school community.

Fortunately, our ICS community is extremely generous in supporting our two major annual fundraising events, the School Walkathon and the Christmas Fair. This year we again experienced amazing success through the hard work of dedicated volunteers, who all gave so very much of their time to make sure that these events were successful. The Walkathon raised a fantastic \$28,330. Our Christmas Fair, with its raffle, silent auction, booths and activities on the day of the Fair, raised \$62,510 (net profit).

Each year, regardless of how much we raise at the Walkathon we donate to two catholic schools outside Canada. This year, we donated \$3500 to an elementary school program in Vietnam. We also donated \$3500 to the Sisters of Saint Ann for their Haitian schools. We have a special connection with the Sisters of Saint Ann, as this was the teaching order that first started our school.

A third, but very important, fundraiser is our Hot Lunch program. We offer hot lunch options on Wednesdays through the school year. The proceeds of this fundraiser enable the school to subsidize the cost of the Grade 7 Outdoor Education by 50%.

Occasionally the school also gratefully receives gifts and donations from sponsors, alumni, and families. In the last few years, these donations have contributed towards the purchase of computers, building the school garden, setting up a guitar program, providing additional enrichment opportunities for the students, school signage and upgrading the general facilities. The school is very grateful for the generous support from the school and parish community through the giving of time, talents, and financial resources. Thank you!



Outreach Projects at ICS

Giving (of time, talents and treasure) is a year-round endeavour at ICS—not just at Christmas. Throughout the year each grade works towards raising funds or goods for various charities, locally and globally.

The following have been (or will be) supported by students and their families in 2017/2018:

Agape Street Ministry

Books for Me

BC Children's Hospital

Chalice

Covenant House

Holy Childhood Association

Terry Fox Foundation

Saint Alban's Shower Program

Grounds & Maintenance

Grounds and Maintenance is an essential role of the PEC. In addition to the routine maintenance, this year we are finalizing plans for our intermediate play structure. Our current play structure is dedicated to primary grade use during recess times. We heard the need for a play area for our intermediate students and are at last able to move forward on this exciting and much anticipated project. In April, students will vote to select the winning design from three options. The site is located in the north-east corner of the playground, and the play structure will be installed in September!

Safety and Supervision

Following a few incidents and near misses, in February, we tasked a Traffic Safety Committee to make a traffic safety plan for drop off and pick up times. The plan and improved signage will be implemented in May. We very much appreciate your cooperation in improving student safety. Thank you to this Committee for its work in making it safer for our children.

This year we also hired a mid-day playground supervisor. With fewer parents available to volunteer for these mid-day shifts, this was a necessary change. Feedback from parents, students, and teachers has been extremely positive.

Seismic Upgrade Project

At ICS we are very fortunate in many ways. Our school building is well laid out with bright, spacious classrooms and, with the additional facilities available to our school in the Parish Centre, it satisfies our educational needs very well. However, it was constructed in 1953 and does require upgrading to bring it in line with today's seismic standards.

We are blessed to count among our parishioners several key individuals with the skills and willingness to take the lead on a seismic upgrade project for our school, in line with the guidelines and oversight laid out by the Archdiocese of Vancouver. We simply can't overstate the time and effort that the members of the Parish Seismic Committee have invested in this project; not to mention their professional expertise, which made this project a reality. We cannot thank them enough!

To date, the school's role in this project is as follows:

- 1) A financial contribution of \$400,000 from our savings which will help the Parish to secure financing for the project.
- 2) An adjustment to the school year to open a three-month window (mid-June to mid-September 2018) during which construction will take place.
- 3) Planning and executing the complete move out of the school building by June 15, 2018.
- 4) Re-locating the school office to the Parish Centre for the duration of the seismic upgrade.

We are grateful for the work of those who are coordinating the myriad of arrangements for the "Big Move." Teachers and parent volunteers have already begun the process of packing up office, classroom, and library materials. With so much to be moved and stored within such a short timeframe, professional movers will be contracted for the heavy lifting, but as anyone who has ever moved house knows, there is a tremendous amount of packing to be done.

We are also grateful to the parents within our current school community. We know that adjusting our school calendar to allow time for construction presents challenges for many of you. We appreciate your understanding and support of this necessary and important project.

Finally, we are grateful for the fundraising, prudence, and careful budgeting shown by the previous Parish Education Committees at ICS. Their work has enabled us to be in the position we are today, where the school community is able to assist the Parish in obtaining the financing for such a major project.

Parent Participation—spirit of community

Parent participation is a cornerstone of our strong, vibrant community, and one of the main reasons that our school has so many programs, given its size. Active participation provides positive role modelling for our students, teaching them the value of helping others, as in our motto "service to others". Most importantly, parent participation makes enrollment at ICS a family affair.

The Parent Participation Program is an integral part in the operation of our school. The aim of the program is to create a spirit of community among families and staff as we work together to provide the best education for our students.

There are countless opportunities for families to participate in our school community. Examples of these opportunities include ongoing activities such as playground supervision, being a garden buddy or a class parent, baking, helping at the Christmas Fair, Walkathon, Sports Day—and much, much more...

This year we continued to streamline the Parent Participation Program to make it run more smoothly and increase parent participation opportunities. We reviewed and made adjustments to the special events assigned to each grade. We aim to match families' talents with the school's needs and we will continue to solicit input from families to make this program even stronger. We are continuing to use Signup.com for signing up for participation opportunities and for logging completed hours.

The parent participation requirement is 40 hours per family per year, yet most families go above and beyond! This highlights one of our key strengths as a community, and we can't thank you enough. Because our parent participation program is so critical to ICS, we have committed to reviewing the program as part of our strategic planning process. We want to ensure that we create sustainable opportunities for parent involvement for all school families.

Extra-curricular programs

Basketball
Badminton
Chess Club
Choir
Cross-country Running
Marian Prayer Group
Math Challenge Club
Newspaper Club
Track and Field
Volleyball

Co-curricular / Enrichment

Author Visits*
Coding
Cross-country Skiing
Garden Buddies (Grade 4)
Geering Up*
Hip Hop*
Indoor Planting (Grades K-3)
Speech Arts
Spirit Day
Sports Day
Tae Kwon Do*

*This program was funded by a Community Gaming Grant which is administered by the Parent Support Group.



2017/18 PEC Members

Elected and appointed PEC members for the 2017/2018 school year are:

Christine Lee, Chair

Laura Williams, Vice-Chair

Laura Soeller, Treasurer

Lesley Jackson, CISVA Delegate & Strategy

Calvin Leong, Secretary

Bosco Li, Grounds & Maintenance

Grace Wright, Member at Large

Strategic Planning

This year, we continued work on the short, medium and long term supporting projects for the three key strategic imperatives identified in our strategic plan. We met our goal of completing at least one short term project in each of the following areas:

- Catholicity
- Parent Participation
- Marketing

About the Parish Education Committee

Together with our Pastor and Principal, the Parish Education Committee (PEC) is responsible for the running of the school.

- The Pastor is responsible for faith development and is the Archbishop's Representative.
- The Principal is responsible for the administration and educational component of the school community.
- The PEC is responsible for the business operations of the school and for ensuring that the policies of the CISVA are followed in the school; it prepares the budget for the operation and maintenance of the school, ensures the school maintains accurate records, oversees the day-to-day operations of the school (including grounds and infrastructure maintenance) and hires teachers and staff with the approval of the Pastor, and more. (ref: CISVA Policy No. 110)

The PEC does not work in isolation. ICS is one of 46 parochial schools within the Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese (CISVA). The CISVA governs both elementary and high schools within the Catholic schools in Vancouver. The PEC makes decisions and sets policy to govern the school, providing these decisions fall within the CISVA Board's policies and regulations.

The PEC is composed of active members of Immaculate Conception Parish (not necessarily parents of students) and the Pastor. Members serve two year terms (up to a maximum of four terms).

The PEC meets once a month with the Pastor, the Principal and a representative from the teaching staff. Meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway and are kept in a binder in the school office. Parents are always welcome to join the meeting as observers. If parents wish to present an issue of concern to the PEC, they may do so with seven-day written notice to the Chair.



Farewell, Au Revoir

We wish all our 2018 graduating students the very best for the future and pray that they will carry our school's motto in their hearts always: ***"Today I will grow in knowledge, love of God and service to others."***

Saying goodbye to an entire class of students, many of whom have been at our school since Kindergarten, is bittersweet. We wish you many wonderful years of growth and learning in the high schools you have chosen, and we will pray for your success. However, we will miss you and extend an invitation to return from time to time to let us know how you are doing. You may have left our school, but you will always have a home at ICS!

After much thoughtful reflection, applications and entrance exams, our graduates have chosen their high school path. We are pleased and proud of all of them! ICS graduates will be starting Grade 8 this fall at numerous high schools around the city:

- Crofton House School
- Little Flower Academy
- Lord Byng Secondary
- Magee SPARTS Program
- Point Grey Secondary
- Prince of Wales Secondary
- St. Patrick's Secondary
- Vancouver College
- West Point Grey Academy
- York House School

Along with graduating students, we are also saying goodbye to several families that are also "graduating" from ICS this year. We will miss you! Your contributions over the years have been invaluable and we are truly grateful for all you have done for ICS.





Immaculate Conception

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