



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SCHOOL
2009 FASHION SHOW AND BOUTIQUE

BENEFITING ADVANCEMENT IN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

~ HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE ~

ST. MICHAEL'S HALL
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2009, 5PM-9PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2009, 10AM-6PM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2009, 9AM-3PM

~ CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION FUNDRAISER ~

ST. MICHAEL'S HALL
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2009, 5PM-9PM

\$15/PERSON - 2 GLASSES OF CHAMPAGNE & HORS D'OEUVRES
NO HOST BAR ALSO AVAILABLE

PREVIEW ART WALK 2009, HOLIDAY TABLE SETTING,
CHRISTMAS TREE RAFFLES
AND NATIVITY RAFFLES, AMONG OTHERS

~ FASHION SHOW LUNCHEON ~

PARISH CENTER
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2009, 11:45AM

LUNCHEON TICKET \$65-\$85 PER PERSON

~
FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
THE IHM SCHOOL OFFICE AT 650.593.4265
OR
EMAIL MARY CARBULLIDO AT M-CARBULLIDO@COMCAST.NET

Kick off the holiday season by joining us at the 5th annual IHM Fashion Show and Holiday Boutique fundraiser. Beginning with Champagne Reception fundraiser on Friday, November 20th, through the final day of our 3-day Holiday Boutique on Sunday, November 22nd, this weekend fundraiser has become an IHM community event that's not to be missed! There is something for everyone, and the entire community is welcome to join the festivities.

The fashion show and luncheon on Saturday, November 21st is wonderfully entertaining, featuring our students, teachers, parents and alumni. **This year, we have a special segment dedicated to IHM School alumni - you might see your fellow classmates on stage!** Bash Catering, owned and operated by an IHM family, caters the delicious plated lunch. Show and luncheon tickets are still available!

Come to the show and boutique and start your holiday shopping! Purchase raffle tickets to win a fully decorated Christmas Tree (delivered to your house), a beautiful nativity scene, and/or a complete holiday table setting for 8.

This fundraiser has become more profitable each year, and the funds raised directly benefit IHM academic programs. The entire event attendees include over 500 IHM families, parishioners, and community members. **For more information or to purchase luncheon or raffle tickets, contact the school office at 650.593.4265.**

Letter from the Principal

Dear IHM Alumni,

IHM continues to be a school that offers our students a wonderful education! We have incorporated more technology, Smart boards, into our classrooms. Students are greatly enjoying these interactive whiteboards. We continue to build character and emphasize how to be reflective of our lives. The new Discipline-to-Discipleship program is helping students learn to choose actions that embrace Christian values and build Christian character. All our community events continue to draw many alumni to drop by to visit, i.e., Blessing of the Animals, Halloween, Fashion Show, Grandparents Day, Christmas concert, and our Open House in January.

We would also like to thank all of those who have provided financial contributions. Your financial support of IHM is always appreciated. We always enjoy seeing our alumni; drop by to visit.

Blessings,
Ms. Sandra E. Larragoiti,
IHM Principal

Upcoming Events at IHM

- Fashion Show and Boutique, November 21
- Grandparents' Day, November 25
- Christmas Concert, December 17
- Open House, January 31

For information on any of the above call the school office or advancement office at 650.593.4265.

Reunions

We encourage you to have class reunions. Call us if you need help and we will be happy to assist you. St. Michael's Hall, depending on availability and time of year can be used as a gathering place. If you would like to act as chairperson for your class, please let us know.

Ways To Contact Us

- School Office: 650-593-4265
- Advancement Office: 650-593-4054
- School Office: ihmschool@ihmschoolbelmont.com
- Principal: slarragoiti@ihmschoolbelmont.com
- Advancement Director: mpurcell-brisken@ihmschoolbelmont.com

www.ihmschoolbelmont.com

Advancement Director's Corner

Dear Alumni,

Welcome to the new school year. This year IHM turns fifty-seven and I am proud to be part of this great establishment since 1983. Our new full day kindergarten is going well, students, teachers and parents seem to like this new change. We encourage those of you with young children who live in the area to consider IHM as your school of choice. IHM School has a long history of excellence and continues to keep abreast of new ideas to keep up with the fast pace of change in our world.

You are always welcome at IHM, drop by for a visit, take a tour and see for yourselves what we are about. Let us hear from you and tell us what is happening with you and your families. We love to hear from you so take a few minutes to connect with us.

Since the next newsletter will be in 2010, I take this opportunity to wish you a happy Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Best Regards,
Margaret Purcell-Brisken, Ed.D
Advancement Director

IHM Open House

On January 31, we will celebrate the beginning of Catholic Schools Week by hosting an Open House. The theme this year is "Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life". Catholic Schools provide a daily experience of faith and have high expectations for their students. In these challenging times, the theme also reminds parents that the dividends of a Catholic school education, students prepared in faith, knowledge, morals and discipline last a lifetime. There is no better way to invest in a child's future, or the future of our world.

Share The Gift of a Catholic Education

The following are ways for you to give back to your grade school:

Adopt-A-Student is a fund operated by the school to help students who can't afford full tuition or whose family might be suffering a temporary financial crisis.

Memorial Cards are used when a loved one passes away. The cards are available in the school office. When you use one of the cards, the person named on the card is entered in our memorial book on display in the front office. The enrolled are prayed for daily at Morning Prayer and at school masses. If you would like to have cards on hand we can mail them to you. Your donation in memory of the loved one enrolled will be greatly appreciated.

EScrip is a program that is easy to use. Visit www.escrip.com to register. Immaculate Heart of Mary School group ID is 137700972. There is no cost to you; the merchants you support will donate a certain percentage to IHM. This is a painless way to get dollars for our educational programs, and you can feel good for helping us in our important ministry of Catholic education.

Endowment Fund is a fund set up to ensure the future of our school. You can contribute to this fund at any time; just mark your check as "Endowment".

If you have any questions about any of these programs, call Margaret Purcell-Brisken for information. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.

Ms. Breanne Melconian

By Patrick V. Collins



She is homegrown, spirited and dedicated and it is her first year as a teacher at Immaculate Heart of Mary School. Is this new teacher truly “the new kid on the block or a return from the past?” Well, let’s find out and look into the rather unique story of our new Fifth Grade teacher, Ms. Breanne Melconian.

Breanne Melconian was raised here in Belmont, California, and attended Immaculate Heart of Mary School from Kindergarten through Eighth grade. She graduated from IHM in 1997 and went on to continue her education at San Mateo High School where she graduated four years later. Ms.

Melconian spent enormous amounts of time between her studies and sports while in high school. “I grew up with swimming in my blood,” she said. “My mom and aunt were swimmers,” Breanne said fondly. Her signature events were the 200 Meter Fly, 200 Meter Free, and the 500 Meter Free.

While attending San Mateo High School Breanne had very little time for anything other than swimming and academics. This sacrifice of time and perhaps traditional diversity in high school worked out very well for Breanne. She was offered a scholarship to Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, the largest Catholic University on the West Coast with traditions dating back to 1911. While at LMU, Ms. Melconian attained a Minor in Sociology, a Major in Communications, and a Masters in Elementary Education. Her eyes lit up while talking about LMU where she continued to swim, study, work, and volunteer.

While teaching swimming as an undergraduate it was suggested to her to persevere with other types of teaching. Breanne began teaching Pre-School at Saint Sebastian’s in West Los Angeles while in her first year of graduate studies and taught Fifth Grade during her second year of graduate school. Saint Sebastian’s was a small “close-knit” community that Breanne spoke very highly of. Nevertheless, was Breanne home?

Ms. Melconian had thoughts of returning to the Bay Area but would not entertain the idea without a job in place. She attended a job fair in San Francisco and was informed that Immaculate Heart of Mary was searching for teachers. Breanne sent in a resume to IHM Principal Miss Larragoiti and she was offered a job. Breanne could now come home; not just to Belmont, but also to the school she graduated from not so long ago. “Moving home was always the plan,” she said.

Ms. Melconian is currently Immaculate Heart of Mary School’s Fifth Grade teacher. “My class is fabulous, I adore them, and every day is new and exciting.” “I feel welcomed by the IHM community; it just took me some time to get accustomed to a new system.” “There is some comfort and confidence in knowing I’ve been here before,” she says.

Welcome home, Ms. Breanne Melconian!



Alumni Tidbits

By Larry Firpo

If you attended IHM in the 70's or 80's you went to school with one of the Cooper brothers. Charles and Clare Cooper had 6 boys with all of the boy's initials as CEC. Coincidentally, Charles and Clare celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in April of 2009. Listed below are the Coopers, from oldest to the youngest:

Cliff Cooper 1974 - After graduating from Carlmont in 1978, Cliff worked for Kinney Shoes for almost 20 years. He worked for Nordstrom for 2 years and after that moved on to Pacific Bell as a cable splicer. In January of 2007, he and his wife moved to Sparks, Nevada, and is currently working for the phone company in Nevada as a Loop Electronics Coordinator. He and his wife Dawn, have 2 children, Ryan, 21, and Breanne 19. Some of Cliff's memories of IHM are that of Miss Paul and Father Kenny doing confession.

Chris Cooper 1975 - Lives in Belmont married with 2 kids, Nick 18 and Lisa 16. He is still working in hardware.

Chuck Cooper 1977- Currently lives in Concord working as an Operation Manager for Sierra Pacific Tours. Chuck is married with 4 children: Colin 22 (who served a tour of duty in Iraq), Kevin, 20, who is living with Charles and Clare, daughters Riley, 16, and Vicky, 8. Chuck's memories of IHM are helping his Dad with the Melodrama, the 8th grade play Christmas Carol, and helping his mom on Tuesdays with hot dogs for the snack bar.

Craig Cooper 1979 - Shortly after graduating from Serra in 1983, Craig joined the Army and served some time in Germany. Motivated to obtain a college degree, Craig graduated from San Jose State in the field of packaging engineering in 1995. That same year Craig married Laurie at IHM in July with fellow IHM alum Rob Stillwell as his best man. Craig, Laurie, and their 4 children Josh, 12, Cassidy, 10 and twins Cody and Kennedy 4, live in Roseville. Craig currently works for Restoration Hardware as their corporate packaging engineer. Craig is still close with several IHM classmates. Every January he, John Kohnke, and Jim Riley meet for lunch to celebrate their birthdays and this year he and Chris Mazas visited Mike Grote in Austin, Texas. Craig still remembers Miss Paul actually giving praise to him for being the only member of their class to be on the track team and also remembers the time their 8th grade boys basketball team celebrated their victory over Notre Dame.

Curt Cooper 1983 - After graduating from Carlmont in 1987, Curt attended and graduated from Universal Technical Institute in 1989. Shortly thereafter, Curt was hired by Crown Lift Trucks and has worked for them ever since. He currently is living in the Pocket area of Sacramento with his wife Carolyn and their 4-year-old daughter, Phoebe. Like several of his brothers, Curt remembers working with his dad doing the lighting for the Melodrama. Another event he remembers (or sort of) is attending an Ash Wednesday mass and fainting from the incense.

Colin Cooper 1984 - After graduating from Serra, Colin obtained his Bachelors degree in Radio and TV from San Francisco State where he has applied this to his current position as the Business Manager to 4 stations in the Sacramento area. Colin married his wife Shelley at IHM in 1996 and they have 2 children Caitlin 8, and Carson 3 and live in Roseville. Colin is very involved in his parish, St. Clare's in Roseville, where he serves as a Lector and as a 3rd Degree Knight of Columbus. Colin has several stories of IHM including the time Jim Barr (the former San Francisco Giants pitcher) came and visited IHM. Colin also remembers helping his mom on Tuesdays for hot dogs as well as bringing a hot dog every Tuesday to Sister Jacinta in the old Parish Hall.

Help us locate Alumni

IHM School

1000 Alameda de las Pulgas
Belmont, CA 94002

Principal: Ms. Sandra
E. Larragoiti

Pastor: Fr. Stephen
Howell

IN TOUCH is published
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IHM: Dr. Margaret
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If you know of someone who is not receiving IN TOUCH, please send us his or her name and address.

Name (please include maiden name) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Would you like your email address published? _____ Year graduated _____

Alumni directory information is released only in response to legitimate alumni requests. Directory information is never given to private, profit-making organizations. If for some reason you request that designated information should NOT be released, please submit your request in writing to the Immaculate Heart of Mary School.

News for the next issue of IN TOUCH:

IHM SCHOOL

1040 Alameda de las Pulgas
Belmont, CA 94002

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