



LIONHEART

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF INTERMOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

—WINTER 2021—

A NOTE FROM MITCH

By Mitch Menning, head of school

New normal. Abundance of caution. Unprecedented times. Weird season. So many new catch phrases that when we hear them going forward will no doubt trigger memories of 2020 and all that has occurred in our world.

If I'm taking away anything from 2020, it is a renewed appreciation that I am not in control, and of course, God ultimately is. We expected to take our firstborn to college this fall. I did not expect to have my five remaining children at home with me for 20 days while we all recovered from testing positive for COVID. There are many things I was anticipating for this year, and many that surprised all of us.

As Head of School, I expected our school to continue to provide excellent Christ-centered education and was hopeful for continuing safe, in person, on campus learning all year. When we had to move our high school to distance learning for a period of two weeks, my expectations were met in that we were able to continue in our provision of quality education experiences through distance learning.

As we wrapped up 2020 and looked toward 2021 and years to come, I was filled with expectation for so many things about ICS. You may have heard me mention Teaching for Transformation (TfT) which we have been training for and anticipating greatly. The National Institute of Christian education says, "Christian Schools are about the transformation of students and teachers so that they might have the mind, heart and life of Christ - that is, to be Responsive Disciples." What if our graduates are indeed "Responsive Disciples," leaving ICS equipped with not just biblical knowledge but an understanding and passion for who God designed them to be and what impact they can have on His creation?

As you read through this newsletter, I hope you are blessed to realize not what's been lost in 2020 but that you see all that we've been able to do. The memories of 2020 are many. God held us through every one and I am confident that He will continue to do so without interruption!

LISTEN UP: ICS LION-CAST GOES LIVE!

Our middle and high school students had the opportunity to participate in a new elective offering this year: broadcasting. How this class came to be is an example of listening to and empowering our students. Eighth grader Klara Begg shared that offering broadcasting as an elective was originally her idea. During her seventh grade year, Mr. Hobbs brought in his podcasting equipment and, as part of their social studies class, they recorded small podcasts discussing history. Klara mentioned that it would be fun to have a designated class whose purpose would be to create a podcast for the entire school to listen to.

When the elective list came out over the summer, Klara originally didn't understand what broadcasting as a class was so she chose from other offerings. However, when school started and she realized it was indeed her idea come to life, she switched into Mr. Hobbs' broadcasting elective. This class breaks the students into groups and each group tackles a different assignment for the week's episode. The group's responsibilities include gathering sound bites for staff and student birthdays, athletic results and schedules, announcements and interviews with ICS employees. The scripts are completed on Friday and the podcast goes out the following Monday Now, the class is working on a radio play and has a 24/7 radio station called the Lions Radio Network.

When asked what one word Klara would use to describe her broadcasting class, she chose "COMPLICATED." It's a lot of moving pieces, but somehow they fit together in the end.

If you haven't checked out the Lion-Cast yet, tune in and listen on Apple Podcasts, iHeart Radio or Spotify and leave a review! To listen to the Lions Radio Network, visit our website's homepage, scroll down toward the bottom of the page and press play.



UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER DAY



LION-CAST RECORDING SET UP



MANILA TOURNAMENT CHAMPS



NEW VOLLEYBALL COACH ENCOURAGES PLAYERS TO DIG DEEP

Our volleyball program underwent some big changes this year as we welcomed Head Coach Kalani Gasper (Coach K). Coach K started his role in the volleyball program over the summer encouraging athletes to show up for practice and scrimmages before school had even started. Middle and high school volleyball players worked together gaining strength and skill as they prepared for their upcoming season.

Upon entering his new role as head coach, Coach K knew that this program had always been successful and he made it his goal to get the team to a higher level of competition, as well as raise the bar spiritually. He describes the ICS volleyball program as having been “always the bridesmaid, never the bride” and really wants to bring home a championship for these girls. Coach K realizes the team still has a lot to learn. This year, the ICS Lady Lions High School Volleyball Team made it to the semi-finals, ultimately losing the battle 3-1 and landing third place.

When Coach K was hired as the volleyball coach, he understood that Mr. Menning and Mr. Drisdorn wanted the sports programs taken to a new level of excellence. Coach K realizes that excellence, as well as team building, happens on and off the court. He planned a day, early in the season, for the volleyball team to hand out donuts to the school. The purpose of this activity was to show appreciation to the student body, faculty and staff for supporting the volleyball program.

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN

Last fall our theater program put on a fantastic performance of “You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown”. Mrs. Tally, our theater director, felt it was time to do a varsity show with just the high school to showcase some of the great talent we have on campus. Choosing to do this show felt like the perfect, family-friendly fit.

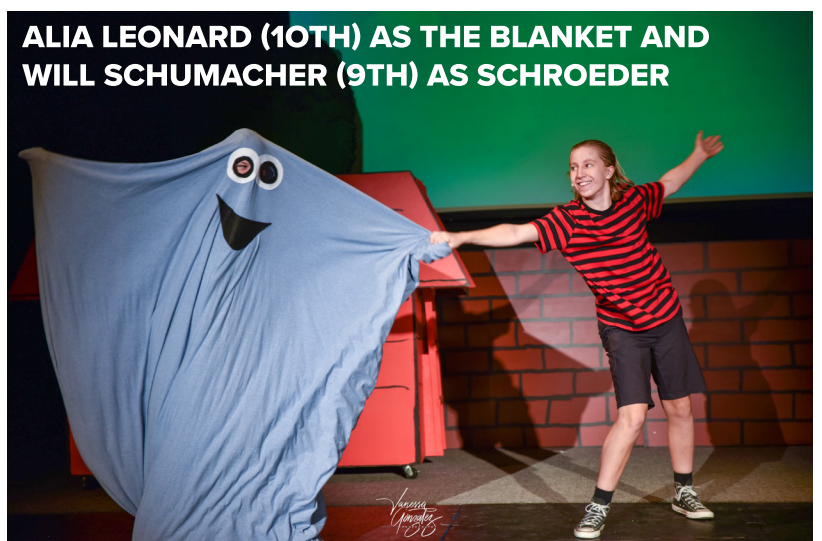
Mrs. Tally remarks that she felt like she’d been gifted her dream cast for this show. They were consistently hard working and well prepared; they acted as a much-needed dose of joy for our community.

As is typical for an ICS theater production, all of the shows were sold out! Those who secured spots in the audience witnessed the cast exploring their characters and finding funnier moments than Mrs. Tally had even planned. The cast also added things in a professional way and found moments of theater magic by fleshing out a character to add depth to the final production. Our theater kids were able to make strong choices on stage and bring a level of professionalism to the set that was appreciated and noticed by all.

Moving forward, Coach K hopes to have more participants on the volleyball teams and we are so glad he is here to stay! He has recently stepped into a bigger role here at ICS. What started as a part-time position as a volleyball coach, has now morphed into a full-time role as Athletic Coordinator and Bus Driver. This position organizes and communicates with various coaches, often acting as the bridge between athletes, parents, and coaches. Coach K is very excited to be in this role working full-time at ICS!

When asked to describe ICS in one word, Coach K chose “AMAZING.” He said his amazing experience started with the staff members who have always been so welcoming. The small student body is extremely personable and he enjoys knowing students of all grade levels, not just the high schoolers. Coach K has also been substitute teaching in various classes and is struck by the gift the students have in having the same teacher in some subjects from elementary school up through high school. He sees this as a great foundation to the students’ education and experience here at Intermountain Christian School.

Amelia Valente is a junior who has been playing volleyball for eight years. When reflecting on this most recent season, she used the word “REWARDING.” All of the hard work paid off, and she was grateful for a really awesome season. Playing under Coach K’s leadership was refreshing and exciting for her and the players happily welcomed the new dynamic he brought.



As with any production, every aspect of theater is vital to the success of a show. Our behind the scenes crew was complete with forward-thinking problem solvers. Mrs. Tally said, "By the final show it felt like a simpatico ballet as far as the effortlessness of being on stage because of everything that was happening backstage." She was so impressed with the cleanliness and tightness of the show. She also stated, "This was the most cohesive show I have been a part of at ICS so far! I had a vision and my cast and crew succeeded it and made it better. You were a delight to work with, you brought me happiness every time you took the stage."

CAST OF "YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN"



TAYLOR LITTLE (12TH) AS SALLY BROWN



INTERGENERATIONAL PROJECT

By Miss Potter, third grade faculty

For more than fifteen years, elementary students from Intermountain Christian School have participated in an intergenerational project with the residents of Rocky Mountain Care Center in Murray. The cooperative partnership began when the mother and father-in-law of our former 1st grade teacher, Hildred Abee, resided at the care center. She would bring her class in at Christmas to sing of Jesus' birth. The activities director at RMCC noticed how much joy the residents exuded when the kids were there and asked ICS if we would consider sending a class each month to participate in activities that spanned the generations. Who were we to turn down such a great idea? And so began each classes' annual trip to enjoy being the hands and feet of Jesus for the residents who lived at Rocky Mountain Care Center.

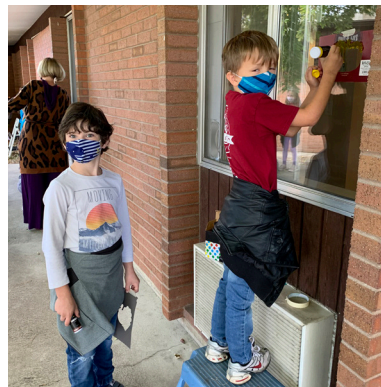
Throughout the years the activities have been many and the love has been poured out on the elderly in a variety of ways. We have wheeled them from station to station to participate in carnival-like games, created crafts with and for them, played Bingo, frosted cookies, and sat politely when they have fallen asleep during our visit. We have even had an ICS family adopt a particular resident there and continue monthly visits on their own.

A favorite story of mine involves a time when third graders were helping with a craft that required frosting to be used as "glue" for other candy pieces. One fine gentleman, under the care of an ever so attentive 3rd grade girl, preferred to lick the frosting off the knife instead of completing the craft. Oh the look of shock and disbelief that came over her face upon seeing a grown up do that! I met that gaze of dismay with these words, "You know you would do the exact same thing if you could! He has earned this privilege." Her pink cheeks and big smile told me that I was right.

The students have learned much from this partnership over the years. They have learned that sometimes the aged can tell you amazing stories, and sometimes you just need to nod and listen. Sometimes a complete stranger just needs someone to hold his or her hand and be there. Sometimes you get to watch adults do unexpected things

like lick frosting off of a knife when most adults would tell you no. But one thing I know for sure is our ICS elementary kids have as Leviticus 19:32 says, "You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man."

With COVID-19 presenting great challenges for our annual visits to Rocky Mountain Care Center, we have needed to get creative. These pictures below go to prove you can be outside and share the love of Jesus with those inside!



MISS POTTER'S 3RD GRADE CLASS

NEW SEASON, NEW ROLE

By Mr. Johnson, operations director

I started out my tenure at ICS as the high school physics and math teacher. When the Operations Director position opened, I was very excited to throw my hat into the ring. God gave me the opportunity to step into this new role, just before COVID-19 shook up the entire world. For me, this meant that the job I signed up for immediately required flexibility and leadership in ways I couldn't have imagined before March 2020.

My job has shifted from what was typically required of this position, to nearly 60% of my responsibilities being COVID management or a direct result of the pandemic. We have needed to be exceedingly flexible and adaptable as it seems like every week has brought a new set of rules. Even so, ICS has continually seen God's favor in this season. Over the summer, ICS received Payroll Protection Program funds which allowed us to free up additional tuition assistance to families that had been negatively impacted by COVID. We also received funding through the Granite School District to upgrade our technology and create a distance learning platform for quarantined families.

In the midst of all this uncertainty we have still had lots of successes and we have continued to grow our programs. We are super excited about offering continuous enrollment for all of our families. Our teachers are partnering with our community to develop new engaging curriculum. We are upgrading our classroom furniture, developing plans for building expansion, and laying the groundwork for new and exciting summer program opportunities. Even more incredibly, God saw fit to bless us with the most giving toward our Annual Fund in ICS history.

I love what I get to do at ICS. This season has been difficult for so many in so many ways and I am unbelievably thankful that ICS can be a place where Christian families in the Salt Lake Valley can feel safe and cared for. All of the ICS staff continues to work together as a team with the goal remaining to provide excellence in Christ-centered learning. What we do here matters!



"MY TIME IN QUARANTINE"

By Darcie Hughes, 11th grader

I turned 16 in September. The day after, I was quarantined. We were in Chapel signing posters when Mrs. Buckley walked to where I was sitting and said to come with her. I wasn't too nervous, but I figured something must be wrong because she had never done this before. I was right. Mrs. Buckley gathered the rest of the soccer girls who were at the last game and told us to follow her into the hallway. Now, we were scared. Mrs. Buckley said that we were all exposed to COVID and that we had to leave school as soon as possible. I went home and felt a little overwhelmed, so I emailed my teachers asking what we were supposed to do in quarantine.

My first day home in quarantine, I slept in, but my dad woke me up at 9:00am to ask if I had a Zoom call. I didn't think so, but I checked my computer and realized I did! I hurried to log on and the other people in the Zoom call welcomed me. After class, I explained to my teacher that I didn't know there was a Zoom. She sympathized and let me copy down the notes I missed.

My favorite quarantine assignment was what we did in Government. Mr. Hobbs was having students read sections of our textbook out loud. We couldn't hear students reading through the computer on his desk, so I asked if he would carry his computer around to let us hear. He did this, and while I'm sure it looked ridiculous and felt silly, it really helped distance learners hear the students well. ICS now has cameras in the classrooms that have fixed this issue and teachers no longer have to walk around the room for activities similar to this one. Later that week, I slept through some of my science activity (whoops!) and also took a memory test in Government. We had a substitute teacher, and he had to repeat the last sentence every time it was our turn to fill in the word. This distance learning week and a half was unpredictable, but I got through it by being adaptable and willing to take the extra mile to try to understand the material we were going through. Also, the teachers all gained knowledge and experience about teaching online, so they were more prepared for when the second, larger quarantine happened among



the students.

The high school distance learning adventure for my second time going online now, was better organized and manageable. Teachers were prepared for distance learning, so it was the students who had to keep up. We had to do lots of worksheets, videos, and reading, which got a little tedious after a while, but at least we knew what we were supposed to be doing. The last time I had to do distance learning, I knew when my Zoom calls were and what homework I had to do. I had the entire day to do the homework, so I had more freedom than I've ever had at school. I even built a snowman during school hours! Distance learning can be lonely at times, so you just have to think positively and note that even though you aren't at school, you can still talk with people.

THE MOSER FAMILY'S LION STORY

By Lynlee Moser, ICS mom

ICS has been an answer to our prayers! Our family moved to Utah last year as church planters and community developers for the network of churches we serve alongside. As we have navigated through a season of learning more about the mission field we have been called to, a deep desire has grown within us for our son, Cooper, to experience a solid network of friends and mentors that can help support, encourage and nurture his faith journey.

Recently, the opportunity came for us to explore the possibility of joining the ICS community. When we arrived for a campus tour, we were immediately welcomed with staff members who communicated a clear message that our family was welcomed and valued. While we were certainly impressed with the facilities, the quality of education, and the many educational and extracurricular opportunities that would be available for our son, this was not what impressed us most. What impressed us most was the clear sense of community that was at the core of ICS' identity. As we walked out of the doors of ICS after our campus tour we knew that we were not simply choosing a school for our son, we were choosing a community that our family could be intricately involved in. We feel so blessed to now be a part of the ICS community!

Thanks for the opportunity to share a little of our story and excitement in joining the ICS community!

For more Lion Stories visit www.intermountainchristian.org/stories or look out for our bi-weekly Wednesday posts on ICS' Facebook and Instagram (@intermountainchristianschool)!



FINANCIAL LITERACY CLASS PARTNERS WITH ICS SPONSOR OUTPOST ADVISORS

By Mark Parrett, ICS dad and board member

When ICS' Dean of Academics Denise Buckley reached out to me and asked if I might be able to provide any thoughts on a financial literacy class for our high schoolers, I blurted out, "Can my firm develop a class with you from the ground up?" Thankfully she excused my gushing enthusiasm and the class has been a success so far this year.

As an ICS board member, I love that biblical values and a Christian worldview are being instilled into my children daily. Of course, Christian education is a lot more than Bible class and chapel; it's applying that worldview to all aspects of learning. I believe that financial literacy, (getting really good at handling money the way God describes), is among the best things we can train our kids in if we're going to create "Kingdom bringers" (if you'll allow a kind of awkward but kind of awesome phrase). And how could Bible-based financial literacy be meaningful to our children, exactly? Here are a few great reasons why:



- Our children will carefully consider how their giving dollars can bless others...over and above lusting after whatever gizmo is the hot Christmas gift idea.
- Our children will live out a multigenerational approach to saving, investing, and building wealth...as opposed to seeking instant pleasure with their money.

- Our children will understand saving and investing as a function of personal responsibility...instead of crossing their fingers and assuming someone else will take care of them.
- Our children will become the wise stewards described in Luke 12:42...and not the lazy servant of Matthew 25:26 (etc, etc.).

I'm proud and grateful for the opportunity given to me and my firm to write (and sometimes teach!) a biblical curriculum for ICS that doesn't stop at, "don't drown in debt!," but goes into such things as, "diversify your investments" (Ecclesiastes 11:1-2) and, "leave an inheritance for your children's children" (Proverbs 13:22). We're also excited to give them practical tools like how to look for a great summer job, how to think of paying for college, and how to create a sustainable budget. We think God's perspective on money is fascinating, equips for confident leadership, and creates multigenerational vision in Christian families.

It's pretty exciting stuff for me: I work with families every day who lament not growing up with the kind of sound financial understanding that our children are receiving at ICS. "If only I'd been wise from the start!" is something we've all thought about in various parts of our lives...but I see it most starkly in the realm of finance. This knowledge is fantastic stuff for people of all ages, of course, but investing the knowledge into our children will pay the largest possible dividends. (See what I did there? Nerdy financial planner joke.)

Mark Parrett is a father to Kyla (5th grade), Esther (1st grade) and Sloane (future lion) and a husband to Amelia. He is also an ICS board member and principal at Outpost Advisors, a financial planning firm and ICS sponsor company.

FINAL THOUGHTS FROM THE FRONT OFFICE

In 2021 and beyond, our Admissions and Marketing team is striving to, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Though these seem like three impossible commands, as we pursue obedience this next year, our team is learning to abide and trust in Him to work through us as a team, school, and community! May we rejoice in all things, pray over all circumstances and give thanks to the Sustainer for providing and walking alongside us every step of the journey!



EXPIRATION DATE: APRIL 23, 2021

INTERMOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ROAR STORE COUPON

REDEEM FOR
50% OFF ANY
ONE ITEM*

*EXCLUDING MUGS

ICS' ROAR STORE IS LOCATED IN THE FRONT OFFICE

CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT EXCITEMENT



Beginning this year, we are moving to a Continuous Enrollment policy. In short, that means you won't have to go through that tedious and annoying process of completing re-enrollment every year.

All-in-all, if you choose to continue with us and re-enroll, this process should take less than 2 minutes! Just enough time to click a link and sign a document!

Visit vimeo.com/500645710 to watch a short video from our Operations Director Matt Johnson giving a quick update on more of what to expect!



INTERMOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

FREE DRINK MUST BE OF
EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED JUST DOWN THE HILL
FROM ICS

ICS IS A CHRIST-CENTERED LEARNING COMMUNITY THAT EQUIPS AND INSPIRES STUDENTS TO THRIVE IN GOD'S WORLD.

