

Immanuel Christian



SECONDARY SCHOOL

March 30, 2021



Parent UPDATE

As we approach the Easter break, we thank-you for your patience and support as we transitioned to on-line learning these last few weeks. We look forward to having our students back in school after the break and are hopeful for no further disruptions to learning. In all of this, we acknowledge God's good plan and look to continue to support one another in love and kindness.

Easter Chapel

We will be sharing an Easter message with our students on Thursday, April 1st that will be part of our embedded devotional time. As April 1st is known within our culture as "April Fool's Day", we can reflect on how the death and resurrection of Jesus as being central of the gospel story is seen as "foolishness" to those whose hearts have not be touched by the mercy and forgiveness of Christ.

As we read in 1 Corinthians 1:18, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

The chapel video will be posted on our website on Thursday afternoon.

2021-2022 Returning/New Student Registrations

On **Wednesday, April 14** we welcome the registration of returning/new students to ICSS for the 2021-22 School Year. Registration will be completed using an online form and we will be including a link for Society forms to be completed as well. We hope that this process will be smooth and seamless for our school community to use. An email notice on the registration process will be sent to families two days prior on April 12.

ICSS High School Parent Orientation

Do you have a son or daughter entering Grade 9 or Grade 10 next year? Do you have a child currently in high school but want a better sense of what your child is working towards?

Transitioning to high school can bring about a lot of questions and wonderings as to how student programming looks towards high school diplomas and graduation from ICSS. Between semesters, course streams, credits, options, and co-curriculars, we want to give direction and provide opportunities for questions and answers.

Join us on **Tuesday, April 13 @ 7:00pm via ZOOM** for a high school parent orientation. While mainly geared towards incoming Grade 9 and 10 parents, all are welcome to attend and take part

A Zoom link for the meeting will be sent on the day prior to the meeting.

STAY CONNECTED
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**CALENDARS &
SCHEDULES**

2020-2021

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the **2020-2021 ICSS School Calendar**
[CLICK HERE](#) to access the **Week 1/2/3 Calendar**
[CLICK HERE](#) to access **Bell Schedule** (Regular and Early Dismissal)

Important Dates

Wednesday, March 31: Green Shirt Day
Thursday, April 1: Easter Chapel
April 2 – Good Friday
April 5-9 – Easter Break – No School
April 12 – PL Day – No School
April 14 – Early Dismissal @ 2:05
May 3-7 – Christian Education Week

2021-22 High School Student Course Selection

Beginning on **Thursday, April 15**, Students in Grade 9,10, and 11 will begin the process of course selection for the 2021-22 school year using PowerSchool to select their courses. In class that morning, students under the advisory of their teacher will reflect on strengths and goals, explore course streams, calculate earned credits and planned credits and gain a stronger understanding of graduation and diploma requirements.

Once ready and after discussions between parent and student have occurred, course selections will be made via PowerSchool and the course selection menu. Please understand that semester timetables have not been established yet and where courses will be offered in the timetable will be communicated in late May or early June.

More information on the course selection process will be sent to families after the Easter break.

Alberta Education Assurance Survey

Each year Alberta Education provides opportunity for parents to provide feedback pertaining to the schools their children attend. Formerly, known as the Accountability Pillars Survey, it has been renamed as the Alberta Education Assurance Survey. These surveys will be mailed to you from Alberta Education beginning on March 25. The closing date for submissions is April 23.

ICSS Addressing Diversity, Racism, and Justice

Earlier today, Lethbridge School Division communicated a statement that addressed racist driven interactions between high school students on social media last weekend. You can find this statement posted on our division and school website. While Immanuel students were not implicated in this incident, I do feel it is important to speak into this situation and address what is a significant cultural touchstone in our communities right now.

We would be naïve to think that Immanuel Christian Secondary School is immune to acts of racism, bullying or injustice. I am aware of students past and present that have stories of lived experience with racism and/or bullying at Immanuel that expressed itself as either overt or casual in classrooms or hallways. More so, these students, and by extension families, did not feel heard or supported and did not experience the love of a Christian community. There may be students and families that feel that way now.

Stories like these break my heart and remind me that there is still work to be done in creating a Christian school environment at Immanuel where **all** of our students and families experience welcome, safety and support. As a Christian community, we understand that in a fallen world and in our sinful nature we have a tendency towards selfish and sinful expressions of power. We use words, actions and worldviews to establish hierarchies of influence and power that counter a biblical understanding of how God created mankind and his call to love, unity and justice.

We are a people in process, under the transforming work of Christ, living between the already and the not yet. We are called to submit to the truth of God's Word, yielding to the Spirit. As a school we hold to these truths and will actively counteract words, actions and worldviews that undermine these shared principles:

1. Jesus is the author of diversity and in creation makes people beautifully different according to skin colour, ethnicity and body type. All things were made through him (John 1:1).
2. God created all humans *in his image* and *after his likeness* (Genesis 1:26-27). We have all been made *equally* in God's image.
3. Jesus calls people from every tribe, and language and nation to follow him (Revelation 7:9). The gospel is for everyone and there is place for all believers in Christian community. Heaven reflects this diversity.

Understanding then that we are a people in process and aim to be a community of grace, we will guide our students in proper biblical understandings of diversity, race and justice *while* holding our students accountable for words, actions, and choices that aim to demean or belittle fellow students due to race, ethnicity, mental ability, etc. This may look like corrective school discipline measures and/or restorative practices to promote healing and understanding. We acknowledge that sometimes our school will get this right, other times not, and we pray for grace, forgiveness and wisdom when we fall short.

As we live in community together, I welcome deep and meaningful conversations around these issues and invite you to provide feedback in ways that Immanuel Christian can better carry out our mission and vision.

Sincerely, Mr. Matthew Bekkering - Principal