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Visit our website for more information:

www.innercityschool.org

Upcoming Events

August 19th

All School Clean Up Day

August 22nd

Golf Tournament
Summer Fundraiser

August 30th

1st Day of School

September 25-29

Spirit Week

October 9th & 10th

ABEKA Conference

October 13th

Parent Open House

ICS Speech Meet

Costa Rica Missions

In June, the ICS 5th/6th Grade class, along with alumni and volunteers set out on an adventure to serve the less fortunate in Costa Rica. The team stayed at the L.A. Ranch with our host, Luis Artavia. The ranch was



beautiful and comfortable. The students first project was painting and cleaning the local Community Center in Santa Rita. Several days later, the team helped to cook and serve meals to the local slum families in the same community center. Other projects consisted of visiting the local slum school doing crafts and playing soccer with the students. A visit to a nursing (elderly) home allowed students not only to do crafts with residents, but play card games and sing karaoke. However, dancing with the residents was the big hit of the day. The highlight of our service was visiting the local slum in Santa Rita. Unfortunately, the very

children that our students met at the school a few days prior were living in conditions that Americans would consider unlivable. Our students were most gracious and generous. As we handed out groceries and items donated from the U.S., our hearts were



touched with compassion. One of our students took his shoes off his feet and gave to a boy with no shoes on. After debriefing the day, many of our students realized that the needed to be more grateful for what they have, as well as take care of their blessings, like clean clothes, shoes, running water, bathrooms and electricity. Many stated they needed to just keep their rooms clean, especially after

visiting homes in which an entire family lives in a 14 x 20 space with dirt floors. The



students at the slum school clothes were so clean and pressed, that you would not think they were living in such conditions. It's wasn't all work though. Students visited the beautiful La Paz Waterfall in the surrounding rain forest. We ended the trip with a day at the hot springs, a visit to a ranch with over 50 Macaws. Students fed and interacted with these beautiful birds. Feeding Iguana's and milking cows was also a once in a lifetime event for students. Thanks so much to everyone that donated money and items for Costa Rica. It was truly a life changing experience.



KAA Camp in Golden, Missouri

ICS students and summer program attendees went for the first time to Kids Across America (KAA) camp in Missouri over the 4th of July week. The camp is located in the Ozarks and provides a biblically based sports camp for urban children ages 9—18 years old in a beautiful wilderness setting. KAA also provides a week of relaxation and fun for the adults (Kaleos) that bring the students to camp. Upon arrival at camp, the counselors immediately whisk the children away, as the adults are free to engage in fun and relaxing activities. The varying sports activities encourage kids to be kids and have fun while overcoming their fears, and learning the truths found in God's word. Our students are still singing and doing actions to the songs and cheers learned at camp. They were so excited and want to come back to camp next year.



God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it.

Daniel Webster
1782-1852

BOARD

CORNER

My name is Randy Cordova, and

I serve on the Board of Directors of Inner City School as the Board Secretary. I'm almost a Denver native, born in Minneapolis but moved to Denver when I was six months old. Both of my parents are Colorado natives, so I guess I'm about as close to being a native as one can get without technically being one.

My connection with ICS started about 5 years ago when I was asked to sponsor a table at the gala. Even though I knew very little about the school, I sponsored a table. By the end of the gala, I was so excited about what the Lord is doing at ICS.

Our Future is Bright — contributed by Randy Cordova, Board Secretary

I'm sure it was He that lead me to sponsor a table, because several months later when Jacquie Graham asked if I would serve on the board, I eagerly accepted. God was preparing my heart to serve in that capacity. Since then I've seen firsthand all the good things going on at ICS – solid academics, raising up good citizens, preparing students for success, dedicated teachers and staff, wonderful students and their families, and of course teaching about Jesus and giving up His life for our salvation. What a great combination!

This doesn't mean that there aren't any challenges facing our school community. There are

always issues to deal with like raising adequate funds to meet our current budget, and how to expand that funding base in order to add to our current program. At times it can be frustrating, but that's when we remind ourselves that God is in control, and we can trust Him for the future of the school.

The Lord is doing wonderful things at ICS, and I'm so glad that He's enabled me to be a part of it.



Involvement Matters — contributed by Aquila Jordan

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Involvement Matters and You Make the Difference

My favorite place to be on a weekday is visiting students at Inner City School and volunteering with staff and teachers to enhance academic achievement, raise funds, or do office work. Last year, I was privileged to spend almost a year with an amazing group of kids who attended the ICS Summer Program and the upcoming school year. Who can resist the smiling faces of preschool, pre-K and kindergartners when they watch the penguins being fed at the Denver Zoo or make giant bubbles at the Children's Museum? Despite the attitude of preteens, the 5th and 6th graders are actually very funny and quite inquisitive (when they want to be) when they are thousands of miles away from home helping others in need in Costa Rica. After a year of being involved in Inner City School, I am reminded of the difference parents and volunteers can make in the life a child (even someone else's). I get it, most of our plates are not only full, but overflowing; our schedules are so tight they're cutting off blood flow and our to-do lists are endless. The last thing any of us truly wants to do is commit to another project, group, or organization. But there's one area where we shouldn't cut corners or make excuses: investing in our children. The ongoing social,

academic, and emotional success of our kids relies heavily on the amazing network of parents, guardians, and community volunteers. You might think you don't have anything to offer, or that someone else is better fit to volunteer their time, but there are so many ways to get involved and support quality education.



Top 5 Reasons YOU Matter:
It Takes a Village: As the saying goes, children benefit from the diversity of moms, dads, grandparents, friends, and volunteers who invest time, money and energy into their education. Instead of the same five volunteers always going to the meetings, planning the events, executing the fundraisers, counting the money, and cleaning up other people's messes, a group of diverse volunteers prevents burn-out and support.
A Little Goes a Long Way: Every volunteer minute counts. We're thankful to the working parents who take home toys to disinfect in the

bathtub overnight or volunteer on their day off to help clean the school or go on a field trip. Every two hours of volunteering you provide supports teachers who need a break.

Everyone Has Something to Offer: Parents and community volunteers can serve many different roles in the educational process: home teachers, advocates for children, volunteers, fundraisers, boosters and decision-makers. If you have an artistic talent, musical gifting, story reading or great craft skills, you have something kids need.

Your Child Will Benefit: Anne Henderson and Nancy Berla summed it up in their book *A New Generation of Evidence: The Family Is Critical to Student Achievement*. Existing research shows that "when parents are involved in their children's education at home, they do better in school. And when parents are involved in school, children go farther in school and the schools they go to are better."

You'll Feel Good: While this is not the reason to volunteer, it is definitely a benefit. When you are involved in a child's education, you will know that you are helping kids learn, grow and develop. Even if you don't see the immediate benefit of volunteering, you will feel great knowing you made a difference in the life of a child.

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree..
Poems are made by
fools like me
But only god
can make a tree

Joyce Kilmer
American Poet

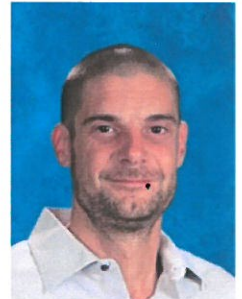
Finding My Place — contributed by Jason Thompson

TEACHER CORNER

Last summer while on vacation in Steamboat Springs, I received a phone call from Ms. Graham that officially changed my career. It was a big moment. A year ago I had been a practicing attorney hoping to change to teaching. Now, I was ready to transition to my role as a teacher. Whether in the courtroom or in the classroom you're dealing with people. It's important to be tactful, aware of who you're talking to and how to talk to them. You need to be able to communicate clearly and thoughtfully and persuade people to do what's right—and that's what I'm trying to do every day—convince people that doing

the right things are important! It is my desire to use language and my faith to help the people that drew me to law school in the first place. So why did I leave the law profession? There isn't a simple answer, but I'll say that it helps to think of it less as forsaking one career and more as joining another. Several factors were involved, however, the tipping point was the inability to actively incorporate and express my faith in my law practice. The greatest blessing I've received from this transition is the ability to share my love of the Lord and what Christ has done in my life with students.

When I first came to ICS, I was really impressed with the sense of community. After a year as a new staff member, my opinion hasn't changed. ICS has been very good about taking care of me. Across the board, I have incredible coworkers. Overall, I'm excited and really feel like I've found my place.



GOLF TOURNAMENT SUMMER FUNDRAISER



Chris Harris and Ms. Graham
Denver Broncos

Typically, during the summer months donations are minimal. You are invited to ICS Inaugural Summer Golf Tournament to help ICS get off to a good start for the 2017-2018 school year. If unable to attend, please consider a donation.

TOURNAMENT DETAILS

Where: Plum Creek Golf Club, 331 Players Club Dr., Castle Rock, CO

When: Tuesday, August 22, 2017; 7:00 a.m. Warm Up
8:00 a.m. Shot Gun Start

Cost: \$100 per player (Cart, Driving Range, Trivia Contest
\$175 Hole Sponsorship (One Golf Spot; Signage;
Participate in Vendor only \$100 Shoot Out.

Contact: Jason Thompson at 720.231.8006 or jathmpsn@gmail.com

Consider sponsoring a student's tuition with a monthly commitment of \$100—\$500

A Hidden Treasure—contributed by Angel Robinson



Nobody can truly understand the joys or fears of being a parent, until you are blessed with a little bundle to raise and care for the rest of your life. Children should come with an instruction manual, beginning with the first day they leave the hospital. The instinct to protect your baby starts within minutes of locking the car seat carrier in place and pulling into traffic. All of these thoughts that probably never entered into your mind are now playing over and over in your head and you begin to ask God, "Father are you sure I'm the right person for this job?"

"What type of school should I look for?" "How can I keep them protected?" "What if I'm not a good mother?" These were the questions I asked, repeatedly! I couldn't answer these questions myself, I had to put all of my trust in God and believe that He would guide all of my decisions for my son, Remy.

Education is a top priority for me. However, over the years I had heard and even seen the decline of our public education, and was definitely fearful of placing my child into these environments. I felt them to be unsafe, extremely anti-religious, and the quality of education or lack of education was alarming. In my heart, I knew the only type of education I wanted for my child was a solid Christian Education. When I first started looking for a school, my church did have a school and Remy attended the school for First Grade. Unfortunately, due to lack of funding, the school did not reopen the following year. I grew concerned about where I would send him, until a co-worker of mine told me about Inner City School. I contacted Ms. Graham and came in for a parent interview. I knew just from our conversation that God had led me to ICS and this was where my son was supposed to be.

ICS would not be the school it is today, without the leadership of Ms. Graham and the staff. The love, compassion, Godly nature, and spirit of each staff member, is the reason I call ICS a hidden blessing. I thank God everyday for this school and for not only the education my son received, but also for the biblical teachings that were instilled in him, consistently throughout his time. He is now leaving ICS and moving on to 7th grade. I am confident that he will be successful in all he does because of the foundation he has received at ICS. I'm so thankful.

PARENT CORNER



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Making a Difference for 23 Years—contributed by Gary Oakley, ICS Founder



Is it possible that the Inner-City School is in our 23rd year? We are blessed to have a staff and a director who have always been focused in the same direction, that of improving the lives of children. In reflecting on

the factors that have enabled us to survive for over 20 years I would like to look at the “mysterious” events that enable survival. Let us take a peek back into history and consider the courage, steadfastness and faith that enabled survival of culture. Somehow the English survived the Roman invasion in the year 48, the English and the Scots survived the Viking raids in the 8th century. In 1588, the Spanish sent their armada to attack England to avenge King Henry’s treatment of their queen, Katharine of Aragon. The Moors had just been defeated and were relegated to the lowest status in Spain and the pulling of the ores on the heavy Spanish galleons was one. After the Spanish defeat by Sir Francis Drake at Plymouth, they sailed around the West

coast of Ireland. A storm came up and 200 ships crashed on the coast and a few thousand Moors descended on the Irish, but eventually the Irish survived the Muslim invasion. They did not accept the barbaric ways of their invaders, but instead they converted them. What a true testimony of Christianity in action.

I see our school in a similar position in the inner-city; bringing knowledge, responsibility, culture, and order into the lives of so many children.

Thanks to our staff, Mrs. Graham, Board of Directors, and also to all of our many volunteers and contributors who support our school, and make it possible to serve this community. We are making a difference in the lives of children.



Gary and Joanne Oakley

Four things to learn in life:

To think clearly without hurry or confusion;

To love everybody sincerely;

To act in everything with the highest motives;

To trust God unhesitatingly.

Helen Keller
1880-1968