

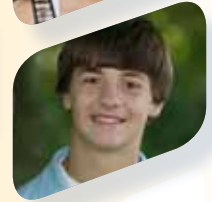


Proverbs 3:5-6



# Pathfinder

EXPLORING THE TRUTH WITH OUR HEAD, HEART, AND HANDS



## Shepherds in the Classroom

by Stephen Danish  
Administrator

There are two things you can always assume about sheep. One is that they will behave like sheep -- following after one another, sometimes wandering off, easily scattered and frightened. The other thing you can assume is that sheep need shepherds, because sheep are vulnerable and in constant need of care. Perhaps this is why Jesus chose sheep as one of His most powerful metaphors to describe His children, and why He chose the picture of a shepherd to describe not only Himself but all those who care for the sheep (1 Peter 2:25).

I have always found it curious that Christian schooling, which has had a long and rich history at the graduate and undergraduate levels, has not always been as equally embraced for lower education. I find this particularly interesting because I used to be a college instructor at a prominent Christian college and noticed that the students in my classes, had already formed much of their view about God and the world. But many of these students from strong Christian homes, demonstrated what I believe was a fairly secular worldview. This had a powerful influence on my eventual career decision to invest my life in lower education, where a child's view of God and the world is most greatly influenced and shaped.

There is an unfortunate pattern that we sometimes see in Christian education, where parents come to us late in their child's development, seeking the Christian school's help to address problems that were not dealt with earlier. This often stems from a low view of Christian education, thinking of it merely as a remedial option, only necessary if things really get bad. Some even feel that lower education should focus primarily on mastery of basic skills rather than spending valuable

school time on the integration of biblical truth into every area of learning.

But Jesus offers us a very different view, elevating both the stature of childhood and the potential of early Christian education. The fact is, Jesus told us that unless we accept the kingdom of God like little children, we cannot enter that kingdom (Mark 10:15). I believe we do not fully comprehend the powerful combination of childhood curiosity and childlike faith, a combination that has the potential to change the world and transform the future. Lower education is the perfect window of opportunity for establishing a child's values for life.

The really interesting thing about the shepherding metaphor is that some of these little sheep will grow up to become shepherds. They will become the ones who guide, shape and influence our society. The question is -- who will model for them those daily shepherding skills? Who will be the influencers for them at school, seven hours a day, five days a week, more than 1,000 hours a year? Who will walk with them through those constant daily lessons about life and truth, about God's Word and God's world? Sheep need shepherds every day, because for generations to come there will always be a need for new shepherds. ●



*"I believe we do not fully comprehend the powerful combination of childhood curiosity and childlike faith."*  
— S. Danish

# the WELCOME WAGONS circle every SUMMER

by Diane Carnahan  
Admissions Coordinator

*The Back-to-School picnic is a great opportunity to meet new friends.*



Being the “new kid on the block” is often the nature of our transient area. At ICS we do several things to help new families feel at home and equipped, but *the most important welcome comes from the ICS students and their families!*

Last spring Eric and Donna Christopherson enrolled their children at ICS, but they didn't have to wait until September to meet new friends. The children were assigned a “buddy” as part of our New Family Sponsor Program, where new students are partnered with current students of the same gender and age. Sam, 2nd grade, attended our summer basketball camp and met other boys in his class. Sarah, 8th grade, was welcomed by several families in Middle School with a special dinner and a bowling event where she met many friends. Donna said, “Everyone was patient and quick to answer the many questions we had as a new family. I think that all ICS parents and staff have been one big ‘Welcome Wagon’.”

We need sponsors for our new families every summer. If you would like to volunteer, contact Diane at [admissions@icsva.org](mailto:admissions@icsva.org).



*"Buddies" make friendships that last throughout the year.*



## Staff Spotlight

Valarie DiCarlo

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

I love being a part of the ICS family! It has been a busy year of adjustment, but it has been fun. I have two children who attend Immanuel and I like working at the same school that my children attend. I also enjoy helping coach JV girls' basketball and cross country. It is truly a privilege to teach at a Christian school where I can share my faith while teaching.



Billy Robinson

8<sup>th</sup> Grade History and Bible Teacher

I moved to Northern VA in 2006 and much has happened since that time. I am now married to Sarah, have a son named Noah, am working on a M.Div. at Reformed Theological Seminary, am a Chaplain Candidate in the U.S. Army and am teaching! I genuinely enjoy teaching at ICS and have great respect for the vision and passion of this school. I find myself passionate about ministering to the ICS students.





# You Are Invited...

*Art Gallery Opening & Fundraiser*  
**Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
**7:00 – 9:00 P.M.**

7:00 – 7:30 P.M.  
Gallery Opening & Appetizers

7:30 – 8:30 P.M.  
Program and Dessert

8:30 – 9:00 P.M.  
Gallery Viewing

**The Atrium at Immanuel**  
6911 Braddock Road, Springfield, VA 22151  
Attire: Business Dress

ICS...POINTING STUDENTS TO THE MASTER

## Art Gallery



by **Laura Tweed**  
*Director of Development*



**Pre-register online now** at  
[www.icsartgallery.com](http://www.icsartgallery.com) to  
automatically enter for this  
framed watercolor print!

**Art Gallery Chairpersons:**  
Congressman Mike Pence (R-IN)  
Karen Pence, ICS Art Teacher

### **Why does ICS need fundraisers?** **What about the Partnership Breakfast?**

Funds from this event are essential for educational materials, extra-curricular activities and staff salaries as tuition does not cover the full cost of a student's education. Every family benefits as gifts help keep tuition costs down. This year, the Art Gallery event will take the place of our annual Partnership Breakfast.

### **What should I expect at this event?**

You will see student art created during Art classes, photos taken during Photography class, and individual submissions from Middle School students. Guests will be offered delicious appetizers, and encouraged to view the art on display. A brief program will feature remarks from chairs Mike Pence and Karen Pence, as they reflect on the professional and personal experiences they have encountered at ICS. Guests will hear from Administrator Steve Danish and view a new video made by Alex Barker, an ICS graduate and current film professional. Near the end of the program, guests will

be asked to consider making a gift to support ICS; however, no one is pressured into giving and no gift is ever too small. The gallery art will not be auctioned.

### **Who is invited?**

The simple answer is everyone (though this event is designed for adults only). We invite current and former parents, grandparents, alumni, friends, relatives, business associates, community leaders—anyone who has a heart for Christian education. Secure a babysitter now so you don't miss out! If you are reading this, consider yourself invited! Space is limited, so please reserve your spot at [www.icsartgallery.com](http://www.icsartgallery.com) or call 703-941-1220. Guests who pre-register online will be automatically entered in a drawing to win a framed, watercolor print of the US Capitol by Karen Pence. Mike and Karen have generously donated this print and will be happy to add a personalized signature for the winner. ●

### **Can't make it to the Art Gallery Fundraiser?**

A self-guided open house is scheduled on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am – 1:00pm. Children are welcome. Please feel free to take your time wandering through the various displays.

### **Art Gallery Sponsors:**



GOVERNMENT  
SERVICES

**Sidekick**  
SPORTSWEAR



*First Graders enjoy harvesting the food they planted as Kindergarteners.*

**by Eleane McCoy**

*Primary Team Leader & Kindergarten Teacher*

As you walk into the school breezeway and look across to the courtyard you will notice a plot of land that looks like it is resting during the winter but there are big plans being made by little hands for the rest of the seasons!

ICS Kindergarten classes begin the year discussing God's creation and God's command to Adam and Eve to care for His garden. Kindergartners begin with a study of worms and care for these creatures that amend the ground and give us back a wonderful fertilizer. The classroom keeps a wormery throughout the year. The children learn the anatomy of a worm and feed them recycled food as they watch the worms grow, lay eggs and hatch. When spring comes, the worms will be added to the garden soil.

In the winter we plan our gardens for spring planting. We will grow plants from seeds and transplant them when the weather is warm and the plants are strong enough. This year we will have two types of gardens growing, an herbal garden that needs less sun and a vegetable garden that needs more sun. Throughout all the gardening, children are learning about words, computations, measurement, soil, weather, recycling, care for the earth and its animals and much, much more. It is a hands-on curriculum that teaches about the Living Curriculum! ●



*Kindergarten students learn how to take care of the resources God created.*

## ICS SISTER SCHOOLS

### A VISIT TO RWANDA



**by Bethany Drum**

*Former ICS Parent & Director of Women's Ministry at Immanuel Bible Church*

In late October of 2011, a team of women from Immanuel Christian School and Immanuel Bible Church traveled to Rwanda. These women participated in a Women's Conference, met and sang with street children, worshipped with women in a refugee city, massaged the hands of vulnerable women in a training/mentoring program and distributed gifts from ICS students to students at the Africa New Life School. Our team of 13 women included current and former ICS students and moms, ICS teachers and even the wife of an ICS board member.

In so many ways, our trip was about hope and trust – sharing the hope of the Everlasting Father and learning to trust more fully in this same Heavenly Father. ●







*Reprinted with permission from Praise! The Bless India Newsletter, Number 10, Fourth Quarter 2011, [www.blessindia.com](http://www.blessindia.com)*

At Immanuel Christian School in Springfield, Virginia, students are taught the biblical truth of being not only “hearers of the Word, but doers.” Administrator Steve Danish took this principle to heart when he encouraged the school to send a team to see, first-hand, what God is doing in India. They were led by Bless India board member, Pastor Nate Rehn. Steve’s son Jordan, a computer tech, joined the team along with elementary teachers Christi LeFevre and Meredith Phillips.

Immanuel supports three international schools through their Character in Action program. Each year the children raise money through their Serve-A-Thon and funds are divided among the three schools. Teachers invest time in educating their students on the countries and the people that they support. Their goal in visiting India was to make a personal connection with the school in Asia. They left on July 25th for two and a half weeks. They rode the buses to pick the children up from their huts, witnessed teaching in the classrooms, held teacher workshops, ate large plates of rice at mealtimes and worshiped God at their church services.

Steve writes, “Our trip was an incredible experience. I believe we fulfilled all our goals as a team to gain a better understanding of the ministry there and establish new connections for further communication with teachers and students in the school. It was a blessing to be a part of the life, learning and worship experiences of the resident students and to observe how the Mekalas [school founder] pour God’s love and truth into the lives of those children.”

Sometimes in chapel at Immanuel Christian School, the students sing their school hymn, *Let it be Said of Us*, with words which represent their school goal, “that the likeness of Jesus be through us made known.” It is exciting to see that they truly represent Christ’s heart for the world as they partner with classrooms far across the globe. ●

*“It was an honor to see the precious children and learn how they trust the Lord so completely!”  
– Meredith Phillips, ICS 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher*



# Mr. Pinkley's GREAT ADVENTURE

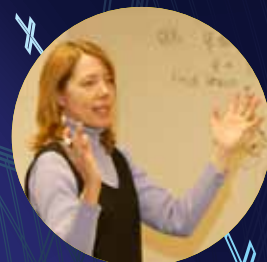
by Dale Pinkley  
*Assistant Administrator*

Moving into the role of Assistant Administrator has been a great adventure. When I reflect on how God has led me—developing leadership skills as a youth pastor, leading various mission trips and teaching in both Christian and public schools—I feel blessed to have a unique perspective that I hope will benefit ICS. I am excited about the privilege of working with so many students and their families and look forward to what God has in store for this school. ●



## Math Teachers Excited about Adding

by Nancy  
Ferrell  
*Middle School  
Math Teacher*



Chris Pate and Nancy Ferrell have been teaching math for many years; however, both teachers are more excited than usual about a new addition . . . due to a recent ICS School Board decision.

While teachers everywhere strive to meet the needs of students, it takes finances and manpower to do so. This year, Algebra I, typically an 8<sup>th</sup> grade option, will now be offered as a 7<sup>th</sup> grade option. Geometry will then be offered to 8<sup>th</sup> graders in order to meet the needs of highly capable math students. Students will earn high school credits for these classes. This expansion comes as ICS continues to evaluate new opportunities to meet the needs of students. Definitely exciting additions! ●



(Top)  
Mrs. Ferrell has  
been a math  
teacher at ICS  
for seven years.

(Above / Right)  
Algebra teacher,  
Mrs. Pate, helps  
students grasp new  
Math concepts.





# YES, It Is Rocket Science!

Rocket



(Above) Students learn about rocket design and function as they work together to build their rockets.

(Right) Club Sponsors, Mrs. Crabtree and Miss Lake, review the students' design plans.

by Marty Crabtree

Enrichment Resource Coordinator

In a new and exciting program at ICS, students from seventh and eighth grades have been meeting since September to plan, assemble and launch their own rocket. As part of the Explorers Enrichment Program, Rocketry Club is designed to give middle school students the opportunity to learn first-hand the principles of rocketry and participate in the Team America Rocket Challenge. TARC is a nationwide competition which brings together student teams from across the country that have built and tested their own rockets with the final competition taking place in May, in Great Meadows, Virginia.

In order to achieve success, students must design the various parts of the rocket body, employ precise assembly techniques, use a computer program to run a flight simulation, maintain data on rocket performance, and complete test flights prior to the graded flight for TARC officials. The rocket body must conform to TARC standards, reach a specific altitude, have a specific flight time, and carry a payload of two raw eggs which must return to earth unbroken.

Nine students have been working together since the first Rocketry Club meeting in September to learn the practical, scientific and engineering skills needed for rocket assembly. The ICS team includes eighth graders Natalie Jones, Esther Kim, Emma Yergat, Michael Patel, and Travis Lake, and seventh graders Tommy Ritter, Calvin McPheeters, Adrian Michael, and Grant Luisi. Each of these students has a vital role in the rocket assembly and testing as they have become experts on their individual parts of the project. Assisted by faculty advisor Sarah Lake and club sponsor Steve Welch, the team has built practice rockets, spent time reading technical specifications and flight rules, and viewed TARC videos on rocket assembly to prepare for the competition. These students are learning valuable skills and knowledge that will help them succeed in future science, technology, engineering, and mathematical endeavors. ●

Learn more about this event at [www.rocketcontest.org](http://www.rocketcontest.org)

Pathfinder

is a publication of



Editor: Tammy Shondelmyer

Photography: Steve Danish,

Laura Tweed, Jordan Danish

Graphic Design: Lisa Gleeson

Illustrations: iStockphoto

Questions or Comments?

Please e-mail:

[editor@immanuelchristian.net](mailto:editor@immanuelchristian.net)

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ICS is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. To support ICS with monetary gifts send to Immanuel Christian School, 6915 Braddock Road, Springfield, VA 22151. You can also support ICS through CFC #74453.



*A Ministry of Immanuel Bible Church*  
 6911 Braddock Road  
 Springfield, VA 22151  
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**2012-2013  
 ENROLLMENT**  
*in progress now!*



*For daily updates  
 of student activities!*

*All School  
 Serve-A-Thon*



*Kindergarten  
 Thanksgiving Feast*

*7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 Boys Varsity  
 Soccer*



**Proverbs 3:5-6**  
 Trust in the **LORD** with all your heart  
 and do not lean on your own  
 understanding. In all your ways  
 acknowledge Him, and He will make  
 your **PATHS** straight. ●

*All School  
 Serve-A-Thon*



*7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>  
 Grade  
 Girls  
 Varsity  
 Basketball*



*2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
 Fossil Hunt*



*3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
 Indian Festival*



*8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 Wilderness Retreat*



*All School  
 Grandparent's Day*



*All School  
 Serve-A-Thon*



EXPLORING THE TRUTH WITH OUR HEAD, HEART, AND HANDS