



Serve-A-Thon Questions and Answers

What's new this year?

We're glad you asked! In response to suggestions from parents, teachers and students, we are excited to offer an abbreviated fundraising component of Serve-A-Thon this year to the month of October instead of the previous 8 weeks. In addition, we will continue with the changes introduced previously:

- *An easier service project schedule in October spread over 2 weeks.*
- *Funds raised will be counted towards a team (class) goal rather than an individual goal.*
- *Fundraising **team** (class) web pages will still be used and families are encouraged to send these to family & friends.*
- *Team prizes will be based on dollars raised, participation, class/school spirit, behavior and more!*
- *Team prizes will be awarded to teams (classes) rather than to individuals.*
- *Our theme is: Live Differently, Serve Differently, Give Differently.*

Why is ICS using Team (class) Fundraising pages?

ICS wants to offer you an opportunity to use most the advanced technology available to connect with your friends and families both locally and around the world. Our team fundraising web pages allow you the ease of sending information electronically to others about Serve-A-Thon. We offer you step-by-step instructions on how to use the fundraising pages. Your child's team webpage will be emailed to you. When you receive your child's team webpage it will be ready for you to email to family and friends or post on social media sites. Using this fundraising page should make it easier for sponsors to donate.

How secure are the webpages for Serve-A-Thon?

We understand that you may be concerned about the use of web pages for Serve-A-Thon. Every effort has been made to make the team fundraising pages secure. We will never place addresses, personal photographs, etc. on any page. The pages do not display the names of other students or amount donated. You are the only one who will decide if you want to email the page to family members and friends and to whom you want to send the page. If you are not comfortable emailing the webpage to others you may ask them to mail a check to the school noting the Class and Section (i.e. 2B) on the bottom portion of the check or you can send the postcards provided.

Why does ICS need to raise money and what will ICS do with the money raised through Serve-A-Thon?

Our goal for raising funds is to support Christian education here and around the world. In a practical way the money will help us meet our operating budget for this year. More than 90% of our operational cost is paid for through tuition, fees, and Immanuel Bible Church support. But every year we need to raise about \$275,000 for additional operating costs, special projects and tuition assistance. This money pays for many things including: workbooks, library books, student computers, annual academic testing, and other materials for fine arts. In addition, 10% of what we raise through Serve-A-Thon will be used to help our three partner Christian schools in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Why are you raising money by doing community service? Doesn't that change the focus of Character-In-Action to fundraising?

The role of the Character-In-Action Coordinator and Parent Service Team is to help us achieve meaningful and well-run service activities within the community. Their jobs will continue throughout the year, long after Serve-A-Thon has ended. Serve-A-Thon is only one event in the yearlong work of Character-In-Action.

Why are students being rewarded for serving in the community? Isn't building character something kids should practice without rewards?

Serve-A-Thon rewards are not given for serving in the community, as all of our students are involved in community service all year long (whether they enlist Serve-A-Thon sponsors or not.) The prizes are given to various classes for participation in the Serve-A-Thon fundraising, dollars raised, and school spirit. Because these are children, we believe it is fair and appropriate to reward them for helping our school. Class prize options include an indoor fun park at ICS, ice cream sundae party and dress down days. All awards are given as a class to encourage team work and cooperation.

How are Serve-A-Thon projects selected, and how is anyone helped by washing fire and emergency vehicles?

Our three goals for all ICS service projects are:

- *HANDS-ON: We want our students to be involved in doing projects with their own hands*
- *RELATIONAL: We want them to come into some kind of relational connection with those they are serving*
- *MORE THAN MATERIAL THINGS: We want our students to do something beyond the mere collection of money or material goods to give away (it may include this, but is not the sole goal). Serving others develops respect and is a demonstration of support to others. It is also a valuable doorway to opening relationships with those in our community, which we continue to build on all year.*

Why is 10% of the money raised being donated to schools in other countries? What is our relationship with these schools?

The schools we are helping through Serve-A-Thon are all Christian schools with whom we have a special relationship. They are located in India, Romania, and Rwanda. The administrators from each of these schools have spent time with us at ICS on several occasions, observing our school and sharing with us the work they are doing in their countries. For these administrators, Christian education is important because of political corruption, the aftermath of communism, or the ravages of the AIDS epidemic. These school administrators see Christian education as the hope for the future of their nation. Our school board has decided to make this a permanent goal in our fundraising budget.

Community service is great, but is there a danger of over-doing it? Doesn't it take away from academic time in the classroom?

ICS parents and volunteers work with administrative staff to plan and prepare for these community service activities. Most service projects take place monthly at each grade level, some even on weekends. Serve-A-Thon is the only service event that involves the entire school. We realize that we are a school with very specific academic goals, and we take these goals seriously. But we also recognize that we have specific spiritual goals that take us beyond the written curriculum. We believe Christian character development is about being "imitators" of Christ. The Scriptures tell us of the importance of being "doers of the word and not hearers only" (Luke 6:46-49 and James 1:22-25). We believe that becoming a "doer" is a matter of training by doing, not just a matter of hearing more teaching. Finding ways to do this effectively within a rigorous academic program will prepare our students not only to be leaders, but also to be servants.

How can volunteers get involved with Serve-A-Thon and Character- In-Action?

Serve-A-Thon is a kick-off event in the fall for the annual ICS character development program called "Character- In-Action." This program encourages students to serve others all year long in school-promoted activities. We are always looking for new ideas to develop community service locally and internationally. Friends in the community can help us make these connections and ICS parents can become involved by contacting the ICS Parent Service Team member for their child's grade level.