

From the Heart



St. Nicholas School,
Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy,
and Immaculate Heart of Mary School Alumni Newsletter

Commitment & Dedication Rooted in Deep Faith Instilled at IHMS

Every day, facing COVID-19 challenges is what Patricia is living. As the Executive Director, Provincial Drug Program for Manitoba Health, she is working behind the scenes in the fight to help save Manitobans.

This all-consuming commitment as a civil servant for the past 14 years, is possible because of where she came from, how she was formed and influenced throughout her life. Besides the example of her hard-working, immigrant parents, Patricia believes that she can handle her daily life because of the values instilled in her from IHMS.

Looking back at her time at the school (1983-89), she has fond memories of the kindness and warmth shared by people like Mr. Bailey who would greet her and let her into the school on those early mornings (sometimes before 7 a.m.). There were no before and after school programs, just a warm place in the back corridor to hang out until other students arrived so you could go play outside. She recalls how the teachers would go way beyond just teaching a class. They did whatever was needed to ensure they were getting the best education possible. What still impresses her to this day were the Sisters. Their nurturing commitment to each student was a living example of their vow of poverty and service to others no matter what.



Patricia (Pavletic) Caetano treasured all that was given to her during her time at IHMS. The nurturing, diverse community of the school gave her the confidence she needed to work hard to achieve her doctorate in Pharmaco-epidemiology and health services reach. Upon completion of her education, Trish had many opportunities but she chose a civil servant position because she is drawn to the idea of service to the community.

IHMS was such an influence in Patricia's life, that the day she came home from the hospital after giving birth to a daughter, Patricia emailed Sister Anne Pidskalny to find out when she should register Viana. Sister sent her a congratulatory message immediately and said she had a bit of time.

Viana is now in grade 7 at IHMS embracing experiences similar to her mother's. Patricia can see the protection and care that the school gives to each student. She can see how comfortable and confident Viana has become. The choice of having her daughter at the same school, surrounded by the same values that she believes in is reassuring that this was the right decision.

This year has pushed us all beyond our comfort zones including the IHMS community. Patricia's heart goes out to what the teachers and staff have had to endure. First of all, the pivot to pick up virtual learning back in the Spring, to adjusting to a new normal in the classroom. May God continue to bless them in all that they are doing.

As Patricia continues to do what she can in her capacity during this pandemic she wanted to leave you with a message....*"Wash your hands, wear a mask, and stay home. Have faith in the health care system and the decision-makers. Pray for them. So many are working non-stop to ensure the health and safety of all Manitobans."*



Patricia—Grade 6



Viana —Grade 6

The Lord Has Led Them Our Way

Adapting to change, or living a new normal has become common in our vocabulary this year. It is used especially when we talk about adjusting to daily life with work, family and especially school. Since the spring IHMS has endured many changes due to COVID-19. Changes to daily routines, such as which door to enter when, which cohort is doing what and where, and how students are being educated, in school and remotely. A fairly significant change has also occurred among our teaching staff. A couple of our long-standing IHMS teachers made the decision to retire earlier in the spring. Others made the decision to step away from their teaching career during the summer months. Teachers that were perhaps a part of your experience at IHMS. We are tremendously thankful for the tenure and commitment to service of **Mr. Dan Dram, Mrs. Edith Halayda, Mrs. Sharon Naurocki and Mrs. Anne Wdowiak.**

The leadership of IHMS is very grateful to welcome seven new teachers and an Administrative Assistant.



Front Row L-R: Anastasia Slota, Charna Shewchuk **Middle Row** : Artem Popov, Iryna Khomitska
Back Row : Mike Stoyko, Olena Kharchenko, Sergii Obraztsov, Sandra Copp

Charna Shewchuk - *Kindergarten*

As alumnae of Christ the King School and St. Mary's Academy, my educational years has been in the Catholic school system. I worked as the Pre-Kindergarten instructor at another Catholic school. From there I began coaching volleyball and basketball and learned of IHMS. 7 years later, I switched roles and worked as an Educational Assistant doing a short term at IHMS in 2015. Following my graduation from University in 2020, IHMS was the first place I looked and am grateful I am able to be back in a different role. This year has been great, all things considered. I am fortunate to have a small class and ample space to keep everyone distanced and safe. The children are adjusting to our "new normal" and find that this year, although a little different, is still providing the authentic kindergarten experience we all remember.

Anastasia Slota - *Grade 5*

I choose to work at IHMS, to stay connected within the Ukrainian Catholic community. I received my education certificate in 2019 and currently teach Grade 5. The most hopeful thing since I joined the school in January has been witnessing the students, eagerness to learn, as well as, there desire to stay connected with their cultures and faith.

Mike Stoyko ('83) - *Science*

I am delighted to have the opportunity to be a part of the team. Having attended grades 4 - 9 many years ago, the building has a familiarity that brings back fond days. The staff are friendly, supportive, and great to work with making my transition to my new workplace quite seamless. I applied to IHMS when my contract position teaching mathematics to international students from India and China at the U of M was put on hold due to Covid-19. I really believe that a students' K-8 education is an important milestone in their early development to learn new things, make good friends, and enjoy the whole experience. My hope is for all students and staff to stay safe from this dreadful pandemic and remain positive while we all get through this school year.

Olena Kharchenko - *Music*

It was important for me to be a part of Christian school community. I chose to join IHMS because a lot of children of my friends attend this educational institution, and I heard great reviews about the school. Prior to coming to Canada, I worked as a music teacher at Novopecherska School in Kiev, Ukraine. I am very excited to prepare for the Christmas online concert.

Introducing Our New Staff

Artem Popov - Grade 7 & French

I made the decision to work at IHMS because I had heard many positive comments about the staff, friendly ambience, and strong community spirit. It was something new for me to work at a Catholic school. Having graduated from the B.Ed program at the University of Saint-Boniface, I taught French immersion classes at Prairie Mountain Elementary school in Swan Lake, MB. This summer, we moved from Morden to Winnipeg. The most hopeful thing I discovered at IHMS is the parents' commitment to a high quality education and their focus on students' success.

Olryna Khomitska - Grade 1

In September my family was transferred from Rosburn, MB where my husband served as the priest for the Ukrainian Catholic Parish District over the past ten years. During this time, I worked as a substitute teacher in Rosburn and Waywayseecappo Elementary Schools. This past year, 2019-20, I was the Kindergarten teacher at Waywayseecappo Community School. I must share with you, that it has been my dream job to work at a Catholic School. That dream came true when I was invited to join the educational team at IHMS. The staff are so helpful, understanding and professional. The students are respectful and eager to learn. I am so thankful for the opportunity to work at IHMS where we can teach about God, are able to pray together daily and participate in monthly Divine Liturgy as a school family. Finally, it's wonderful to see a new generation learn about the Ukrainian language and our many rich and meaningful traditions. I count myself truly blessed to be here at IHMS.

Sergii Obratsov - Grade 4

I have chosen to work at IHMS because I want to teach students how to reach their goals in life and instill Christian values. The use of God's principles to guide our instruction will lead to excellence both academically and spiritually in the lives of our children. I have also joined the team because it is a Ukrainian school. I have a strong connection with Ukraine, so my students have a unique opportunity to learn about Ukraine's history, culture, and modern life firsthand. I was born in Khmelnytskyi Oblast in Ukraine and graduated from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv in 2011. My family has been living in Canada since 2013. After I received my teacher license in Canada, I had taught in the English-Ukrainian Bilingual Program at Happy Thought School (Lord Selkirk School Division). In my opinion, St. Paul's words "In Christ, we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others" (**Romans 12:5**). We all are different, but at IHMS I can feel a welcoming environment that genuinely care about everyone.

Sandra Copp ('91) - Administrative Assistant

I am happy to be back at IHMS! I was a student here from Kindergarten to Grade 9 (1981-1991). Two of my three children have graduated from IHMS ('17 & '19) and my youngest is in her final year. It is crazy to think that my children have been taught by the same teachers that I have been taught by and now I am working along side of so many familiar faces. Our time at IHMS never really ends...because of the roots we plant, we are continually connected to this community built on faith. I am grateful for our IHMS family and am truly blessed to be a part of the school in this new way!



There is no question that school life is very different this year. Earlier in the Fall we appealed to you to support our **Back to School Campaign**. We are still in need of financial help for technology upgrades and resources to make sure that teachers have what they need and no student is left behind. You can still make a gift now online at www.ihms.mb.ca.

Currently, 27 alumni parents have their children attending IHMS.

Do you have children that are of school age?

Please keep IHMS as a school option when making your choice. Immaculate Heart offers:

- IHM Lubov Nursery School (Sadochok) for 2, 3 and 4 year olds;
- a full time Kindergarten Program for 5 year olds;
- Grades One to Eight (full time);
- instruction infused with spiritual development;
- instruction in English, Ukrainian and French;
- a strong music/performing arts program;
- an accomplished athletics program;
- state of the art technology and much more!!

For more enrollment information please visit the 'admissions' link at www.ihms.mb.ca or call the school office at 204-582-5698.

We would love to give you a personal (COVID safe!) tour.

Thank you to our Newsletter Sponsor:



Thank you to our alumni who contributed to this issue. If you have news or stories you would like to share, please contact:



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Bundles of Joy & Hopefulness



My wife Nadia Panas and I recently welcomed our daughter Emilia in July. I am currently working as a construction lawyer in Regina, and Nadia is completing her social work degree at the University of Regina. We are enjoying walks with Emilia and video calls with grand-

parents in Winnipeg and Lviv.

Andrew Konopelny ('07)

In August our family welcomed a precious gift - a baby boy! We look forward to Nikolas one day joining the IHMS family. In the meantime, his sisters Anna and Alicia happily attend IHMS. It warms our hearts, everyday, listening to the stories that our girls bring home from school. There is a saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." and it truly feels like we are sending our children everyday to the "village" to develop intellectually, spiritually and socially! Currently, I am at home with Nikolas, but am looking forward to going back to IHMS as Administrative Assistant / EA. In the meantime, I'm still playing an active role in the school as Treasurer of the Parents' Guild, as well as teaching Catechism at our Parish of St. Basil's UGCC. God has blessed our family with many gifts and I truly enjoy giving back to the community that raised me!



Lesia (Pograniczny) Wozny ('98)

We feel blessed to expand our family - William Paul Chabluk was born August 31 2020, weighing in at 6lbs 14oz. Having a baby during these uncertain times makes us further appreciate the support and love of friends and family!

Johanna (Washchshyn) ('01) & Mikhas Chabluk('02)



Poppy Grace Josette Lozynyc was born early in the morning on August 26, 2020 weighing 8lbs 11oz. Poppy is the first child for parents Matt and Kaylyn, and they feel their life is complete with this new addition to their family.

Matt Lozynyc ('02)



On behalf of IHMS and Lubov SSMI Foundation we welcome Matt to our staff team at the Foundation Office. Matt will begin his new Communications/Marketing Position on January 4, 2021. Stay tuned to see Matt's creative work in future Alumni Newsletter issues.

On Saturday, August 15, 2020, I fulfilled my life-long dream of becoming a priest in the Ukrainian Catholic Church when I was ordained to the Holy Priesthood at my home parish of Holy Eucharist in Winnipeg. I attended IHMS from Kindergarten to Grade 8, graduating in 2005, prior to attending Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute. Both schools were integral in my formation and journey to the priesthood. I was always active in church



related events at IHMS and within the Archeparchy of Winnipeg including serving as an altar server for 6 years and singing in the choir since Grade 1. One memory that was a great privilege was greeting the late Patriarch Lubomyr during his visit to IHMS. Through all of this and my education at IHMS, my vocation continued to grow and be encouraged by not only staff and students but especially by the many Sisters Servants that I met and grew to know throughout my life.

Today, along with my wife Sophia, and two children Benjamin and Gabriella we are now living in Rossburn, MB where I serve as a pastor for 12 parishes in the Rossburn Pastoral District.



Fr. Jay Korban ('05)