

# Immaculate Heart ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2023  
VOL. 38, NO.3



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The Class of 2024 Junior Ring Ceremony was held on December 8, 2022.

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IHA presented *LOST GIRL* as its 2022 fall drama.

## Our Mission

Immaculate Heart Academy is a college preparatory high school in the Archdiocese of Newark which has as its purpose the complete education of young women. By both cultivating the traditional Christian values of the Roman Catholic Church and by upholding exceptional academic standards, IHA offers a unique educational experience for the young women in our community. Immaculate Heart Academy strives to develop every aspect of the individual by educating the mind, nurturing the spirit, and promoting a healthy lifestyle. By instilling in its students a sense of responsibility, confidence, justice, peace, and compassion, Immaculate Heart Academy prepares its students for life throughout the twenty-first century.

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Miss Kerry Carroll'04 presents a certificate to Hannah Hari'24 at this year's Honors Convocation.





Samantha Grella '26 and Angelina Escobinas '24 celebrate Big Sister/Little Sister Day.

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Friends support friends at the Fall Sports Signing. Standing, left to right, are Rose Cultraro '23, Keri Dahl '23, and Gracyn Pisa '23. Seated, left to right, are Maeve Sayre '23 and Grace Cassin '23.

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# Immaculate Heart ACADEMY

**PRESIDENT** Jason Schlereth  
**PRINCIPAL** Kerry Carroll '04  
**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Tara Hopfenspirger  
**CONTRIBUTORS:** Beth DiCiancia Garrigan '76 P'06 and Sarah Hill Frasure '07  
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Parents and Mrs. Maureen Layng, assistant principal for academics, join together at the Parent Welcome Reception held in September.



Rosie the Blue Eagle agrees with this year's STUCO theme, "It's Good to be Home at the Heart."





# President's Corner



Dear IHA community,

I hope everyone had a joyous and blessed Christmas season that left you refreshed for the year ahead! As we move into 2023, we reflect on the amazing memories and accomplishments of 2022 while looking forward to the opportunities the new year will bring.

We have officially hit the halfway point of the 2022-23 academic year, and our impressive young women and dedicated staff have continued to go above and beyond. Over the fall and winter, we were thrilled to return to traditions we love and missed sharing with our families and the greater community, such as our Fall Open Houses, Soaring Eagle Awards, Halloween festivities, the Junior Ring Ceremony, the Sacred Heart Christmas Visit, and more. Our shining stars again lit up the performing arts stage, and our fall athletes had an incredible season. Congratulations to the Varsity Soccer and Varsity Volleyball teams for both winning state championship titles on the same day! In addition, more than fifty of IHA's young women experienced the Mission

Trip for the first time this fall, as it was last held in 2018. They made us so proud doing what they do best—serving their communities and showing compassion for others.

As we embark on the second half of the school year, I know I can speak for everyone in saying that we are beyond excited to welcome Immaculate Heart Academy's Class of 2027 into the IHA family. With registration approaching on February 11, we cannot wait for them to officially join this special sisterhood.

May God bless us all in the coming year with more wonderful times together. I pray for a happy, healthy, and safe year for everyone, and look forward to seeing our Blue Eagles continue to soar.

Sincerely,

Jason Schlereth  
President

Eagle Ambassadors and Rosie the Blue Eagle impressed at the 2022 Fall Open Houses!





# Class of 2024 Junior Ring Ceremony

The Junior Ring Ceremony & Reception for IHA's Class of 2024 was held on the morning of December 8, 2022, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. A liturgy, presided by Msgr. Ron Rozniak, and ceremony took place in the gymnasium, with a reception for the juniors and their families following in the cafeteria. Thank you to the IHA administration; Ms. Ana Echeverría P'05, junior class moderator; the IHA Parents' Club; and IHA Campus Ministry for beautifully executing this special day for the members of the Class of 2024.



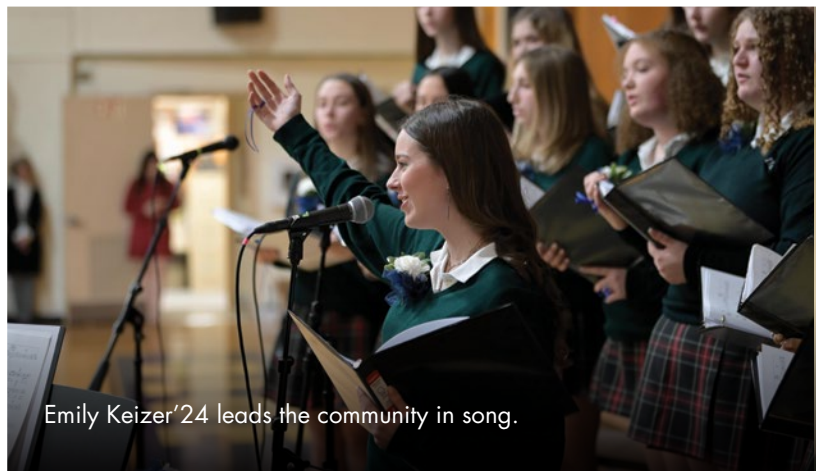
Msgr. Ron Rozniak blesses the Class of 2024 rings.



Casey Urban'24, Emily Sabino'24, Alexandra Barry'24, Molly Casey'24, Julia Haemmerle'24, Avangelia Emporellis'24, Abigail Gessner'24, Samantha McGee'24, Madeleine Sandt'24, Sophia DeFalco'24, and Angelina Fowler'24



Madyson Ayers'24, Sofia Giannella'24, Emily Caton'24, Madeline Manning'24, Stella Del Sordo'24, Giana Fontanetta'24, and Summer VanWyckhouse'24



Emily Keizer'24 leads the community in song.





Cassandra George'24 receives her class ring from Miss Kerry Carroll'04, principal.



Amber Luna'24 and Alexa Luna'24



Maeve Murray'24 and Isabella Falletta'24



Riley DeMicco'24, Kaitlyn Klaus'24, Lindsay Probst'24, and Caitlin Forshay'24



Olivia Battifarano'24 and Anvi Batra'24



Class of 2024 Student Council officers, Sophia Reina Ditchfield-Agboh'24, event planner; Giana Fontanetta'24, treasurer; Emily Magee'24, secretary; Sophie Morales'24, vice president; and Anna Gallucci'24, president





# IHA Presents *LOST GIRL*



Isabella Falletta'24, Hayden Bernstein (WRHS'24), Anthony Koleser (SJR'24), Nicholas Pantano (SJR'25), and RJ Buscher (SJR'24)

On the weekend of November 18-20, 2022, Immaculate Heart Academy proudly presented four performances of *LOST GIRL*. The cast and crew magnificently told the tale of what became of Wendy Darling after her adventures with Peter Pan. "After returning from Neverland, Wendy decides that she must find Peter in order to move on with her life. Along the way, she meets other girls who went to Neverland and learns she is not alone. A coming-of-age exploration of first love and lasting loss, *LOST GIRL* continues the story of J.M. Barrie's beloved character — the girl who had to grow up." (*The New Play Exchange*)

Isabella Falletta'24 brilliantly played Wendy Darling and Mary Hahn'24, Maeve Murray'24, and April Ramsey'23 portrayed Wendy, altered, in a different place and time as characters A, B, and C, respectively. The Adults, the ones who forgot, were played by Madeline Sullivan'24 as Mother,

Sophia Reina Ditchfield-Agboh'24



Isabella Falletta'24 and Liam Fahey (SJR'24)





The cast of *LOST GIRL* takes a final bow.



Madeline Sullivan'24 and Isabella Falletta'24



Sophia Cremona'24 as Detective, Brooke Rodriguez'25 as Therapist, and Madeline Heinimann'24 as Doctor. The Lost Boys, the ones who decided to grow up, included Slightly, played by Hayden Bernstein (WRHS'24); Toodles, played by RJ Buscher (SJR'24); Nibs, played by Anthony Koleser (SJR'24); and Curly, played by Nicholas Pantano (SJR'25). Michael Blum (SJR'24) was Boy, the first connection after Peter, and The Other Girls, the ones who went to Neverland, were played by Leila Holland'26 as Cora, Sophia Reina Ditchfield-Agboh'24 as Callie, and Megan McCarthy'25 as Krista. Katherine Ryan'25 was excellent as Nina, the one who got Peter to stay; Derek Wiener (PRHS'26) was the Male Swing/Ensemble; and Liam Fahey (SJR'24) was an exceptional Peter Pan.

IHA's coordinator of the performing arts, Ms. Taryn Tonelli'09, served as the director and producer with Emily Hernandez'18 as the assistant director and Kaitlyn DeMartini'23 as the student director. Fellow students, Arianna DeMarco'23, Angely Medina'25, Kristen Ohmacht'25, April Ramsey'23, Brooke Rodriguez'25, Kathrine Ryan'25, and Samantha Tauber'25, comprised the team of associate producers. Kara Ignacio'23 and Carolyn Sandt'23 implemented the spectacular sound design. Samantha Andersen'24 and Marisa Arone'24 acted as co-stage managers, along with assistant stage manager, Kristen Ohmacht'25. Katherine Ryan'25 led the stunning costume design with the help of seamstress, Ava Previzi'24, and in collaboration with wardrobe supervisors, Angely Medina'25, Samantha Landolfi'23, and Shoshana Thompson'25. Hair and makeup were executed by Katelyn Coughlan'23 and

Sophia Cremona'24, Maeve Murray'24, April Ramsey'23, and Mary Hahn'24



Olivia Pantano'25. The meticulous property design was done by April Ramsey'23 and dramaturgy by Samantha Tauber'25. Arianna DeMarco'23 and Brooke Rodriguez'25 promoted the show through social media and marketing, and the front of house crew included Angelina Escobinas'24, Kate Hujsa'26, and Livia Iuliano'24. The IHA Theatre Production class and the IHA National Art Honor Society executed the incredible lobby design. Alayna Bellevue'24 and Alyssa Mack'24 were members of the run crew, Hannah Grace Sengul'24 and Alyssa Torres'24 worked as spotlight operators, and Isabella Conde'23 and Brandon Karwoski (SJR'25) were lighting board operators.

The luminous Nikki Belenski served as *LOST GIRL*'s lighting designer, while Vincent Gunn brought scenes to life with his scenic design and technical direction, along with Joey Messina, the master electrician. Barrington Press printed playbills and Concert Audio provided the sound equipment.



Katherine Ryan'25 and Isabella Falletta'24

Thank you to Ms. Tonelli'09 and Mrs. Tara Hopfenspirger, director of communications & marketing, for their work on the playbill; IHA's Get Reel! Productions for filming the show; and Mike Hamlett Photography for the cast and crew headshots and photo coverage of the performances. Congratulations to the cast, crew, and production team on yet another outstanding IHA show!



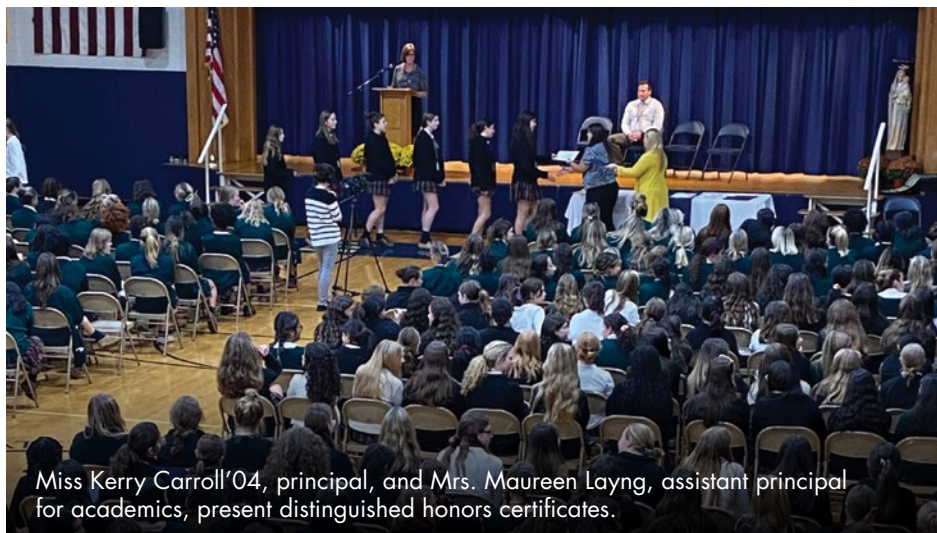
# 2022 Honors Convocation



2023 National Merit® Scholarship Program Commended Students, Katherine Deane'23, Emma Dillane'23, Lauren Grae'23, Noelle Haskell'23, Layla Libanan'23, Kate Menake'23, Meghan Minogue'23, and Johanna Murphy'23

Immaculate Heart Academy's Honors Convocation was held on the morning of Wednesday, September 28, 2022. Miss Kerry Carroll'04, principal, welcomed the IHA community and led the students and faculty with an opening prayer. Following Miss Carroll, Meghan Minogue'23, National Honor Society vice president, congratulated the student body on their hard work and encouraged them to continue to strive for academic success.

Accompanied by Mr. Jason Schlereth, president, and Mrs. Maureen Layng, assistant principal for academics, Mrs. Alice Rogers P'07, '09, '13, assistant principal of students, announced the sophomores, juniors, and seniors who earned Distinguished Honors and Honors for their work during the 2021-22 academic year. Distinguished Honors certificates were presented to fifty-six students who earned averages of 95% or better in both semesters, and Honors certificates were presented to two hundred eight students who earned averages of 90% or better in both semesters.



Miss Kerry Carroll'04, principal, and Mrs. Maureen Layng, assistant principal for academics, present distinguished honors certificates.



The University of Rochester Award recipients, Lauren Grae'23, Meghan Minogue'23, Kate Menake'23, and Marie Baldwin'23



Sophie Morales'24, the Spanish Academic Distinction Award recipient





Mrs. Layng then presented the following collegiate book awards to seniors in addition to The Promising Young Scientist Award and Academic Distinction awards to juniors:

### The University of Rochester's Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award

Meghan Minogue'23

### The University of Rochester's Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award

Kate Menake'23

### The University of Rochester's Xerox Award

Lauren Grae'23

### University of Rochester's George Eastman Young Leaders Award

Marie Baldwin'23

### The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Medalist Award

Emma Dillane'23

### The Promising Young Scientist Award

recognizes an outstanding junior who had the highest cumulative GPA in science and has expressed an interest in continuing her study of science at the university level.

Congratulations to this year's recipient, Adrianna Uykan'24.



Ella Crane'24 receives the Italian Academic Distinction Award from Miss Kerry Carroll'04, principal.

In recognition of the extraordinary rigors of our curriculum, it was essential to honor our juniors with in-house awards for academic distinction. These awards recognize students who have excelled in the following subject matters through a combination of academic excellence, superior skill, and genuine interest in the subject area.

**Social Studies:** Kiera Stevenson'24

**English:** Rose Martin'24

**Science:** Hannah Hart'24

**Communications:** Lily Schwedhelm'24

**Art:** Bryana Saenz'24

**Performing Arts:** Maeve Murray'24

**Physical Education:**

Meaghan Keating'24

**Spanish:** Sophie Morales'24

**French:** Elizabeth Ogden'24

**Italian:** Ella Crane'24

**Mathematics:** Ellie Kim'24

**Theology:** Casey McGrath'24

Finally, IHA is proud to have eight seniors who were named **Commended Students** in the **2023 National Merit® Scholarship Program**. Approximately thirty-four thousand Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended Students placed among the top fifty thousand students who entered the 2023 competition by taking the 2021 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).



Elizabeth Ogden'24 receives the French Academic Distinction Award from Miss Kerry Carroll'04, principal.



Addison Olsen'25 receives her Distinguished Honors certificate at the 2022 Honors Convocation.

### Congratulations to:

Katherine Deane'23

Emma Dillane'23

Lauren Grae'23

Noelle Haskell'23

Layla Libanan'23

Kate Menake'23

Meghan Minogue'23

Johanna Murphy'23



# Trunk or Treat and Halloween @theheart

IHA Campus Ministry hosted the school's first-ever Trunk or Treat event this October! More than one hundred trick-or-treaters visited the many trunks in IHA's parking lot for a spook-tacular time. Thank you to the Christian Service Board; the Campus Ministry Executive Board; Mrs. Sarah Shutrop, director of formation; and the many students and

parents who decorated their trunks and donated candy. Trunk or Treat was followed up by a fun outdoor Halloween celebration on Monday, October 31. As usual, students and staff members impressed with their creative and unique costumes to celebrate Halloween@theheart!



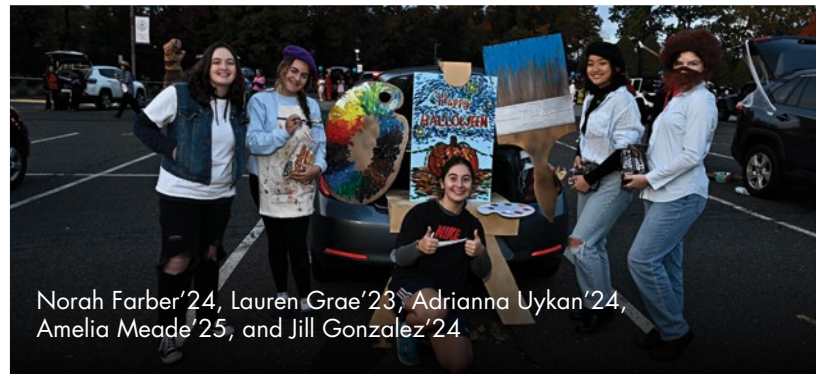
Natalia Maglicic'23 and Olivia Tacconi'23



Alicia Serrano'23, Faith Dalessandro'23, and Emma Dillane'23



Julia Gryzbowski'24, Lauren Hroncich'24, Alexa Piperato'24, Kate Gryzbowski'24, Kiera Vicini'23, Anais Aguero'23, and Kara Ignacio'23



Norah Farber'24, Lauren Grae'23, Adrianna Uykan'24, Amelia Meade'25, and Jill Gonzalez'24



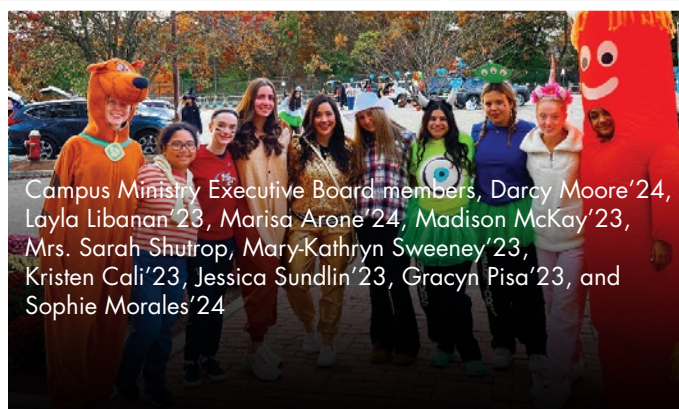
Olivia Toohey'23, Jessica Sundlin'23, Isabella Galan'23, and Julianna Gruber'24



Willow Thomas'23, Shoshana Thompson'25, and Kaitlyn DeMartini'23



Alexa Gentile'24 and Sophie Morales'24



Campus Ministry Executive Board members, Darcy Moore'24, Layla Libanan'23, Marisa Arone'24, Madison McKay'23, Mrs. Sarah Shutrop, Mary-Kathryn Sweeney'23, Kristen Cali'23, Jessica Sundlin'23, Gracyn Pisa'23, and Sophie Morales'24



Norah Homa'23 and Isabella Conde'23 with a friendly T-rex





Evangelina Savas'24, Charlotte Farcy'23, Gracyn Pisa'23, Mina Cocca'24, and Angelina Escobinas'24



Ava Sinocchi'26 and Ashley Sarkar'26



Riley Stocker'26 and Lily Filippazzo'26



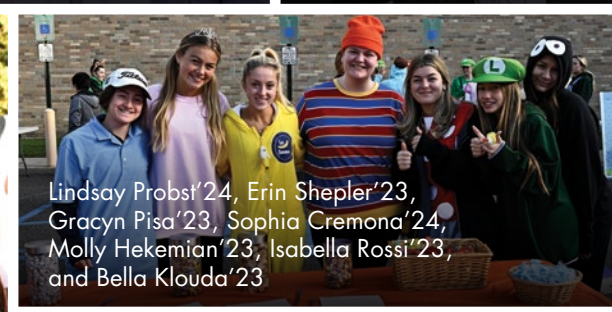
Madeline Heinimann'24, Mary Hahn'24, and Ava Previzi'24



Samantha McGee'24 and Riley Grieco'24



Victoria DeVirgilio'25 as the Grinch tried to steal Halloween!



Lindsay Probst'24, Erin Shepler'23, Gracyn Pisa'23, Sophia Cremona'24, Molly Hekemian'23, Isabella Rossi'23, and Bella Klouda'23



Angelina Parrino'24 and Isabella Parrino'24



The PerformingArts@theheart students serve cotton candy from their table during the Halloween celebration.



Alliana Campana'26, Christina Festa'26, Sophia Bertino'26, and Ava Ferrari'26



# Students Host Activity Fair

There is something for everyone at IHA! Students discovered and explored the variety of clubs, extracurriculars, and societies IHA has to offer at this year's Activity Fair on September 26, 2022.



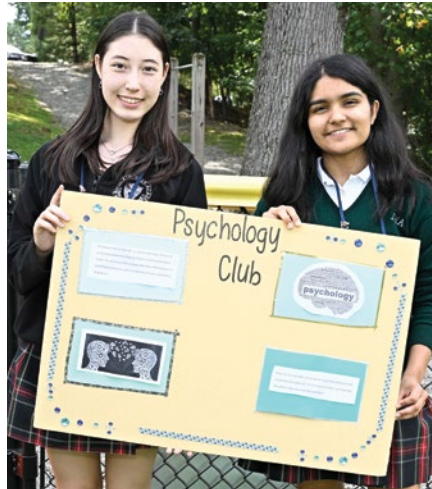
Ava DiMeo'23 and Rose Martin'24



Amber Estevez'23, Meghan Minogue'23, Katherine Grzybowski'24, and Faith Dalessandro'23



Erin Brunda'23, Adrianna Uykan'24, and Olivia Seitter'23



Ella Crane'24 and Anvi Batra'24



Cassandra George'24, Madyson Ayers'24, and Kiera Vicini'23



Students represent NAHS.



Alia Ureta'24 and Madison Klak'23



Ping Pong Club members at their first Activity Fair



Darcy Moore'24, Hannah Hart'24, Eleanor Quinn'24, and Emily Magee'24



# Big Sister/Little Sister Day

The rain couldn't keep the IHA family from celebrating one of its most beloved IHA traditions—Big Sister/Little Sister Day! Sisters decorated each other's lockers, exchanged gifts, and played a variety of games from volleyball and cornhole to Jenga, Twister, and more. Seniors and their sophomore sisters enjoyed sweet treats from Ice Cream Creations NJ, while juniors and their freshman sisters were treated to Glaze Donuts.

Thank you to all class moderators and class executive boards for making it a memorable day for everyone!



Kaitlyn DeMartini'23 and Carolyn Sandi'23



Sydney Kearney'24 and Aiva Reid'26

Seniors and sophomores played games in poster alley during Big Sister/Little Sister Day!



Jenna Ghiosay'23 and Penelope Fleming'25



Laila Fenyo'26, Sophia Reina Ditchfield-Agboh'24, Cavan Clancy'26, and Riley Longway'24



Cathryn Cunningham'23, Madeline Hayes'25, and Gabriella Capano'25



Ava Naszimento'23 and Isabella Asencio'23



Seniors and sophomores play Jenga.



Christina-Ann Augustin'23 and Marcelle Seckin'25



# AP<sup>®</sup> Scholars Recognized

An outstanding thirty-six students in the classes of 2022 and 2023 earned the designation of AP<sup>®</sup> Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the 2022 AP<sup>®</sup> Exams.

The College Board's Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup> Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for

successful performance on the end-of-course AP<sup>®</sup> Exams. Students took AP<sup>®</sup> Exams in May 2022. In order to be designated as an AP Scholar by the College Board, a student must earn a score of 3 or higher on the AP scale of 1-5.

Five students earned AP<sup>®</sup> Scholars with Distinction, ten were named AP<sup>®</sup> Scholars with Honor, and twenty-one students were designated AP<sup>®</sup> Scholars.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

### AP<sup>®</sup> Scholar with Distinction Award Recipients

*An average score of at least 3.5 on all AP<sup>®</sup> Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams:*

Grace Calianese'22  
Sarah Vella'22  
Sanaiya Villanueva'22  
Christiane Wahba'22  
Layla Libanan'23

### AP<sup>®</sup> Scholar with Honor Award Recipients

*An average score of at least 3.25 on all AP<sup>®</sup> Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams:*

Jessica Boyd'22  
Margaret Dillon'22  
Emma Hawryluk'22  
Riley McGovern'22  
Mackenna Olsen'22  
Lauren Plastina'22  
Margaux Yannacci'22  
Katherine Young'22  
Katherine Deane'23  
Johanna Murphy'23

### AP<sup>®</sup> Scholar Award Recipients

*A score of 3 or higher on three or more AP<sup>®</sup> Exams:*

Caitlin Croci'22  
Katherine Garbett'22  
Anna Gehres'22  
Rania Hart'22  
Brianna Kuchenmeister'22  
Madelyn Panebianco'22  
Gabrielle Park'22  
Heerali Patel'22  
Natalie Ronen'22  
Aniela Sanders'22  
Jenna Savino'22  
Lily Valentin'22  
Isabelle Villanueva'22  
Abigail Diehl'23  
Emma Dillane'23  
Lauren Grae'23  
Norah Homa'23  
Madison Klak'23  
Kate Menake'23  
Gracyn Pisa'23  
April Ramsey'23



# Seniors and Juniors Receive College Board Recognition

Congratulations to the following Immaculate Heart Academy students who received College Board recognition after scoring in the top 10% on the PSAT/NMSQT® in the fall of 2021.

## National Hispanic Recognition Program

Isabella Conde'23  
Natalia Maglicic'23  
Julia Arencibia'23  
Lauren Grae'23  
Isabella Pizzi'24  
Eileen Wynne'24

## National African American Recognition Program

Ariana Chen'23  
Isabella Conde'23  
Ella Bosse'24



Senior College Board recognition honorees, Ariana Chen'23, Isabella Conde'23, Lauren Grae'23, Natalia Maglicic'23, and Julia Arencibia'23



Junior College Board recognition honorees, Ella Bosse'24, Isabella Pizzi'24, and Eileen Wynne'24



# SCENE | Around IHA

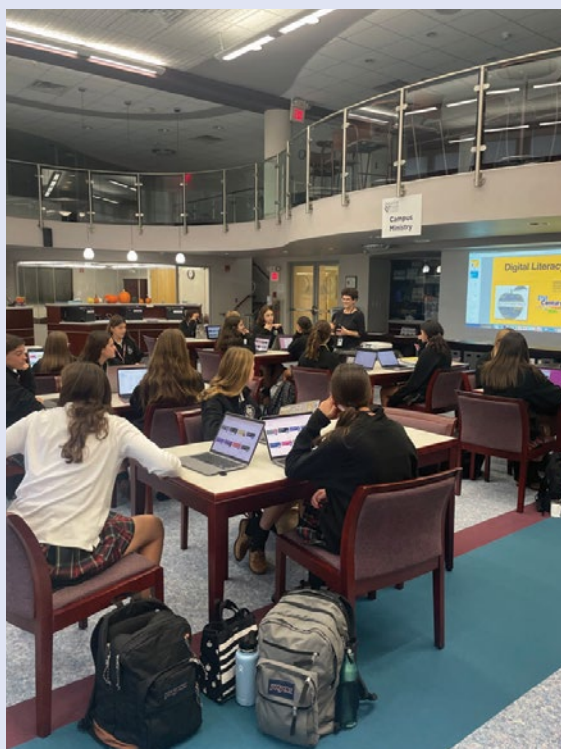


At this year's Rookie Camp, Ms. Ellen Donoghue '76, guidance counselor and Peer Mentor moderator, challenged the members of the Class of 2026 to learn the *IHA Alma Mater*. The first student who visited her office and sang the beloved school song for an audience of alumnae staff members would receive the contents of Ms. Donoghue's candy jar. Congratulations to Gabrielle Rivera '26 for accepting and successfully completing the challenge!

From left to right are Sarah Hill Frasure '07; Tara Tashjian Maka '02; Beth DiCiancia Garrigan '76 P'06; Gabrielle Rivera '26; Ellen Donoghue '76; Danielle Buldo '91; Michele Verrone '88 P'21, '24; and Lauren Rhein '09



Caitlin Fritz '23, Marie Baldwin '23, and Shaelyn Auer '23 pose with Deegan from Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs, who was accompanied by his handler, Linda Rupinski, during one of our monthly Therapy Dog visits. Ms. Ellen Donoghue '76, guidance counselor, implemented the therapy dog program to help relieve students' stress and anxiety.



This fall, all IHA freshmen and transfer students took part in a Digital Literacy training program with Mrs. Alice Nudelman, information management specialist and teacher. This course helps students become more comfortable using technology by exploring the skills needed to utilize the school-wide email program and file management, as well as provides assistance in navigating IHA's website, understanding Internet safety, and learning the essential tasks of Google Classroom, Google Docs, and Google Sheets.





The IHA community gathered together for a Celebration of the Rosary Prayer Service on October 25, 2022.



In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Immaculate Heart Academy's Spanish and Latin American Club and National Art Honor Society hosted a Frida Kahlo Art Exhibit this fall in IHA's main lobby. Hispanic Heritage Month is recognized from September 15 to October 15 each year. On October 5, 2022, the two IHA groups celebrated after school with music played by Lauren Grae'23, cake and other refreshments, and "Frida Trivia" to win prizes. They also hung large tapestries with Frida Kahlo artwork along with quotes and facts about her. The IHA Social Studies Department joined in the celebration with a display of notable Hispanic and Latinx figures. Pictured is Delilah Doda'23.



The 2022 Christmas Art Show and Concert boasted the incredible talent of our visual and performing artists at IHA! The art show, hosted by IHA's National Art Honor Society, featured work by the student-artists in Art I, Art II, Advanced Painting and Drawing, 3-D Art, Digital Photography, Honors Studio, and AP Studio Art. The concert featured beautiful performances by the IHA Choral and Orchestral music ensembles, in addition to dancers, Kailyn Rejent'26, Adrianna Uykan'24, Maria Byrnes'23, and Clara Byrnes'26. Before the concert began, the winning ticket of our Gucci raffle was pulled; congratulations to the 2022 winner, Kathleen Kelleher'69!



# SCENE

## Around IHA



On November 4, 2022, IHA's Sunshine Committee hosted a social for faculty, staff, and former faculty. Phil Bernardi, who retired from IHA last year, performed hits from a variety of decades as guests enjoyed catching up and chatting about their time at the heart! From left to right are IHA alumnae faculty and former faculty members, Danielle Buldo'91; Alison Hill Curley'00; Sarah Hill Frasure'07; Lauren Rhein'09; Lia Kunnapas'09; Mary-Elizabeth Fuhrman Wren'01; Kelly Murphy'17; Ellen Donoghue'76; Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06; Sue Derrick Butler'64; and Lourdes Silva Sinkovitz'75 P'05, '10.



The IHA Business Club welcomed Tanya Dunbar, CPA, as a guest speaker at a club meeting this fall. She spoke to club members about careers in accounting, and students had the opportunity to learn and inquire about what a job in accounting might be like.



Ms. Shemayne Williams, physical education teacher, welcomed wellness coach and holistic nutritionist, Sarah Wragge of Sarah Wragge Wellness, to speak to her classes in mid-November. Mrs. Wragge spoke to IHA students about nutrition, reading food labels, and the SWW Method™. Mrs. Wragge is the sister-in-law of Annie Heissenbuttel'03.



# Powderpuff Tournament

Held to Meet the Needs of Families in Hospice

IHA Campus Ministry presented a Powderpuff Tournament for students on November 14, 2022. Proceeds from the class vs. class flag football tournament were collected to create care packages for families in hospice. The tournament was held in memory of Scott J. Kearns, beloved father of Mrs. Sarah Shutrop, director of formation, and Ms. Mollie Kearns, former IHA coach. Congratulations to the Class of 2023 for defeating the Class of 2025 in the final game!



The Class of 2026 Powderpuff team



Seniors impress at this year's tournament.



The Class of 2024 and Mrs. Layng



Madison McKay '23 and Mary-Kathryn Sweeney '23



The freshmen fight their hardest against the sophomores.



Julia Haemmerle '24



The Class of 2025 huddles up to make a plan.



Gabriella Shadek '25



# 2022 Blue Eagle Open



IHA's 2022 Blue Eagle Open was held on October 6 at Forest Hill Field Club. Thank you to our amazing sponsors, generous donors and vendors, dedicated volunteers and staff, and enthusiastic golfers for making IHA's golf outing a great success!

Big congratulations to all our raffle winners and top golfers:

## First Place

Brendan McGovern  
Colin McGovern  
Kevin Hill  
Phil Ubriaco

## Second Place

Christopher Heinimann P'24  
Joseph Murray P'24  
Patrick Applin P'20, '24  
Ryan Applin

## Third Place

Patrick Matts P'26  
John Alexander  
Len Mancini  
Ricky Carlucci

## Closest to the Pin (Men)

Ricky Carlucci

## Closest to the Pin (Women)

Sheila O'Halloran Kenny'78 P'15

## Longest Drive (Men)

Aaron Fishkin

## Longest Drive (Women)

Tammi Redd





Kara Ignacio'23, Samantha Raia'24, Olivia Morrison'23, and Erin Shepler'23 cheer on Rosie as she lines up her putt.



Steve Ferro, director of athletics; Paula Horne P'13, '15, '18, business and development associate; Isabella Del Bosco'25; Madisyn Falto'25; Lauren Rhein'09, director of admissions and golf coach; Marisa Flores'24; Greg McDonald, mathematics teacher; Steve Silver, basketball coach; and Bob Rhein P'09, golf coach



IHA Blue Eagle Open staff and volunteers run the registration tent.



Meryl Conte Clayton'75, Patsy Dugan'78, Meg McCrimlisk'78 P'26, and Therese Collins DeMarco'75



Tammi Redd and Sarah Hill Frasure'07



Ellen Dudas P'11, '13, '15; Tom Neumann P'14; Cathy Davey Corbett P'17; and Ray Corbett P'17



Greg Sigrist P'26 and Sarah Hill Frasure'07



Kevin Hill, Colin McGovern, Phil Ubriaco, and Brendan McGovern



Sarah Hill Frasure'07 delivers a prize to Tom Del Bosco P'25.



# SPORTS REPORT

Fall 2022 Sports

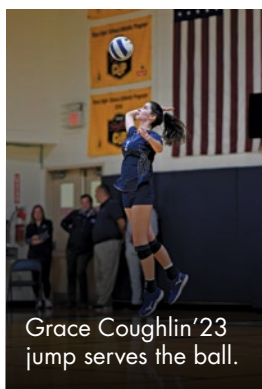
Brookelyn Talmadge '23







IHA Volleyball wins a trip to the state final!



Grace Coughlin'23 jump serves the ball.



Evelyn Roman'25 hits at the net.

## VOLLEYBALL

IHA Varsity Volleyball finished #1 in New Jersey, ranked first by NJ.com, northjersey.com, and NJPowerRanking.com. The team finished the season with a 29-1 overall record, and a 29-0 record in New Jersey. Immaculate Heart Academy won its fifth consecutive Jersey Classic and its second straight Livingston Tournament. The team won fourteen home matches this season, raising the consecutive home match winning streak to two hundred fourteen. This season marked IHA's eighth overall Bergen County title and sixteenth overall state title, with fourteen in Non-Public A and two in Group 4. As the perfect ending to a stellar season, NJ.com named IHA the Girls Volleyball Team of the Year and named Brookelyn Talmadge'23 the Girls Volleyball Player of the Year!

### Big North Conference All-League Honors First-Team

Kahlia Content'23, Grace Coughlin'23, Brookelyn Talmadge'23, Abigail Romero'24, Kalena Stavish'24, and Evelyn Roman'25

### Second-Team

Alexa Grigaliunas'23, Bryana Saenz'24, and Julia Sobilo'25

### Honorable Mention

Dylan Applin'24

### Big North United Team Sportsmanship Award Recipient

Big North United Coach of the Year  
Maria Nolan

### BCWCA All-County Honors

#### First-Team

Grace Coughlin'23, Brookelyn Talmadge'23, and Kalena Stavish'24

#### Second-Team

Abigail Romero'24 and Evelyn Roman'25

#### Third-Team

Kahlia Content'23

### northjersey.com All-North Jersey Honors First-Team

Grace Coughlin'23 and Brookelyn Talmadge'23

### Second-Team

Kalena Stavish'24

### NJ.com All-State Non-Public Honors

#### First-Team

Grace Coughlin'23, Brookelyn Talmadge'23, Abigail Romero'24, and Kalena Stavish'24

### NJ.com All-State Honors

#### First-Team

Grace Coughlin'23 and Brookelyn Talmadge'23

### Second-Team

Kalena Stavish'24

### Maxpreps All-American Honors

#### First-Team

Brookelyn Talmadge'23

### American Volleyball Coaches Association Regional Coach of the Year

Maria Nolan



# SOCCER



Varsity Soccer's season finished with a league title, a county final appearance, and a state championship win, culminating with a #5 ranking in the NJ.com poll, a #3 ranking in the northjersey.com poll, and a #15 national ranking in the Prep Soccer Fab 50 Ranking. Finishing the season 18-3, the Blue Eagles showed determination and perseverance in avenging two of the three losses the second time around. Alexandra Barry'24 led all of North Jersey with thirty-five goals, Caitlin Forshay'24 was the second leading scorer on the team with twelve goals and fourteen assists, and Daniella Osorio'23 led the team with fifteen assists. Goalkeeper, Noelle Haskell'23, made seventy-three saves during the season. Led by senior captains, Lindsay Ford'23, Jenna Ghiosay'23, Noelle Haskell'23, and Daniella Osorio'23, this impressive group won the state championship in thrilling fashion as they came back from trailing 3-1 with twelve minutes to go, eventually winning 4-3 in overtime.



Alexandra Barry'24



Lindsay Ford'23



### Big North Conference All-League Honors

#### First-Team

Cathryn Cunningham'23, Lindsay Ford'23, Noelle Haskell'23, Daniella Osorio'23, Alexandra Barry'24, Caitlin Forshay'24, and Samantha McGee'24

#### Second-Team

Stella Del Sordo'24, Lindsay Probst'24, Eileen Wynne'24, Madeline Hayes'25, and Ella Burkholder'26

#### Honorable Mention

Jenna Ghiosay'23

### Big North Patriot Division Sportsmanship Award Recipient

### Big North Patriot Division Coach of the Year

Eric Pfeifer

### BCWCA All-County Honors

#### First-Team

Cathryn Cunningham'23, Lindsay Ford'23, Daniella Osorio'23, Alexandra Barry'24, and Caitlin Forshay'24

#### Second-Team

Samantha McGee'24

#### Honorable Mention

Noelle Haskell'23

### northjersey.com All-North Jersey Honors

#### First-Team

Cathryn Cunningham'23, Daniella Osorio'23, and Alexandra Barry'24

#### Second-Team

Lindsay Ford'23 and Caitlin Forshay'24

### NJ.com All-State Non-Public Honors

#### First-Team

Cathryn Cunningham'23, Lindsay Ford'23, Noelle Haskell'23, and Alexandra Barry'24

#### Second-Team

Daniella Osorio'23 and Caitlin Forshay'24

### NJ.com All-State Honors

#### First-Team

Alexandra Barry'24

### New Jersey Girls Soccer Coaches Association (NJGSCA) Honors

Lindsay Ford'23 and Alexandra Barry'24

### NJGSCA North 1 Coach of the Year

Eric Pfeifer

### NJGSCA New Jersey Parochial/ Private School Coach of the Year

Eric Pfeifer

### United Soccer Coaches Girls Fall East All-Region Team

Alexandra Barry'24

### United Soccer Coaches 2022 Fall High School All-America Team

Alexandra Barry'24

## TENNIS

IHA Tennis finished its season with a winning record of 8-5. The team placed second in its division and twelfth overall in the Big North Conference. Four out of five of IHA's singles and doubles qualified for the second round during the county tournament, defeating other competitive opponents. The IHA Tennis players continued to show that heart and determination help to win matches!

Madison McKay'23



### Big North Conference All-League Honors

#### First-Team

Madison McKay'23, Caitlin Carr'24, Abigail Shotmeyer'24, and Jennifer Park'25

#### Second-Team

Josephine Amerio'23, Sophie Mendolia'23, and Gabrielle Mendolia'24

#### Honorable Mention

Gianna Joshua'23 and Brianna Mullahey'23

### Big North United Division Sportsmanship Award Recipient

### BCWCA All-County Honors

#### Third-Team

Josephine Amerio'23 and Sophie Mendolia'23



Sophie Mendolia'23, Madison McKay'23, and Josephine Amerio'23

Abigail Shotmeyer'24







## CROSS COUNTRY

The 2022 IHA Cross Country team had another successful season, finishing undefeated in the conference and winning the conference championships.

The team also went on to win the county group championships. Leanna Johnston'23 led the team with individual victories at both championship meets.

Leanna went on to take the overall title at the Bergen Meet of Champions, setting an IHA school record for Darlington!

### Big North Conference All-League Honors First-Team

Leanna Johnston'23, Meaghan Keating'24, Reagan Scarpelli'25, and Emily Wunsch'25

### Second-Team

Maura Hesler'24, Darcy Moore'24, and Anna Lynch'26

### BCWCA All-County Honors

#### First-Team

Leanna Johnston'23

### Honorable Mention

Meaghan Keating'24, Reagan Scarpelli'25, Marcelle Seckin'25, and Emily Wunsch'25

### northjersey.com All-North Jersey Honors

#### First-Team

Leanna Johnston'23

### NJ.com All-State Non-Public Honors

#### First-Team

Leanna Johnston'23

### NJ.com All-State Honors

#### Third-Team

Leanna Johnston'23



Leanna Johnston'23



Clodagh Moore'25



## FIELD HOCKEY

It was IHA Field Hockey's inaugural season, and the Immaculate Heart players worked extensively to learn the fundamentals of the game. The players' talent was impressive, ending the season 9-0-1. Coach Maria Sardis said she is very excited for next season and "for the amazing things this program and the girls are going to accomplish!"



The 2022-23 Field Hockey Team



IHA players are running out on a defensive corner.



Chloe Sedlak '26



Claire Chanfrau '26



Anna Gallucci '24

*Save the Date!*  
• IMMACULATE HEART ACADEMY'S 2023 •  
**BEEFSTEAK**  
*to benefit* **IHA**  
ATHLETICS

**SATURDAY APRIL 29 • 6:30 P.M.**  
IHA GYMNASIUM • 500 VAN EMBURGH AVE, TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, NJ





# DAY OF GIVING

## MARCH 8, 2023

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On March 8, International Women's Day, Immaculate Heart Academy will be hosting its annual Day of Giving.

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT IHA'S ANNUAL FUND OR YOUR DESIGNATED FUND OF CHOICE.**



## CAN'T WAIT UNTIL MARCH 8? DONATE TO THE ANNUAL FUND TODAY.

Please scan the QR code  
or visit [ihanj.com](http://ihanj.com) to  
make your gift today.



**AT IHA, EVERY DAY IS WOMEN'S DAY.**  
**We hope you are inspired to give back to our school  
where we encourage and empower young women every day.**

## THE 1960 SOCIETY

### KEEP IHA'S TRADITIONS ALIVE THROUGH PLANNED GIVING

The Immaculate Heart Academy 1960 Society was created to honor the spirit that has nurtured and sustained IHA for more than sixty years. The society recognizes those individuals who have thoughtfully included a gift to IHA in their estate plans through a will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or life-income gift such as a charitable gift annuity or remainder trust. Donors who choose planned giving can feel secure about the future of their loved ones, maintain control of assets for life, receive substantial tax benefits, and give more than they ever thought possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON IHA'S DAY OF GIVING, ANNUAL FUND, OR PLANNED GIVING,  
REACH OUT TO SARAH HILL FRASURE'07,  
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, AT [SFRASURE@IHANJ.COM](mailto:SFRASURE@IHANJ.COM).





# Class of 1972 Celebrates 50th Reunion



On September 24, 2022, members of the IHA Class of 1972 gathered at Ramsey Golf & Country Club to celebrate their 50th Reunion. A more intimate group gathered on Sunday, September 25 at IHA for a Memorial Mass & Brunch. Many thanks to reunion chairperson, Rickie Petersen Duncley'72, and the IHA Development Department for their hard work in planning this special jubilee reunion!



1972 Classmates gather together for brunch in IHA's information commons.



The Class of 1972 uniforms are displayed at the reunion luncheon.



Classmates place flowers in a vase for every 1972 alumna who has passed away.



Jacqueline Cerruti Cassara'72 and Kathleen Corder Carlson'72



Rickie Petersen Duncley'72, Carole DeLauro Sobiechowski'72, and Carla Marcianti Householder'72



Members of the Class of 1972 remember their classmates who have passed at a Memorial Mass.



# DID YOU KNOW THAT...



IHA's own [Gabriella Shadek'25](#) won the 2022 Junior Home Run Derby at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. The derby, which kicked off MLB All-Star Week, boasted some of the best softball and baseball players in the country. Gabby, a catcher, beat out her competition in the 16U Softball age group with seventeen home runs in the first round and sixteen more in the championship round, leading her to be named the Junior Home Run Derby champion.

In July, the United States Marine Corps and the American Volleyball Coaches Association announced the [IHA Varsity Volleyball team](#) as one of more than twelve hundred collegiate and high school volleyball teams that has earned the 2022 USMC/AVCA Team Academic Award. The award, initiated in the 1992-93 academic year, honors volleyball teams that maintain a year-long grade-point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or 4.1 on a 5.0 scale.



On November 15, 2022, the [IHA Alumnae Book Club](#) discussed the fascinating alumna-authored book, *Carville's Cure: Leprosy, Stigma, and the Fight for Justice* by Pam Fessler'71.

[Mrs. Sarah Shutrop](#), director of formation, recently presented the integration of Bible literacy into a high school curriculum through her presentation entitled, "How to Use Venture: The Bible Timeline for High School within the USCCB Framework." Mrs. Shutrop shared with webinar attendees how she used the Ascension Press Bible Timeline® Learning System in her high school classroom.





On September 17, 2022, Ms. Shemayne Williams, IHA physical education teacher, met Dr. Bernice King at the Morehouse College vs. Howard University HBCU College Football Classic. “I had the privilege of providing concierge service to Dr. Bernice King, daughter of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during the HBCU College Football Classic at MetLife Stadium,” Ms. Williams said. “Dr. King is a graduate of Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia and currently the CEO of The King Center. It was an honor to spend the day with Dr. King, her family, and her fellow sisters of Spelman. Dr. King left me with lasting memories I will never forget. I promise I will continue to ‘Live the Dream!’”

IHA seniors enjoyed their final season as cheerleaders for both Bergen Catholic High School and St. Joseph Regional High School. From left to right in the bottom left photo are Bergen Catholic cheerleaders, Molly Nelson’23, Mackenzie Zajicek’23, Grace Gerhardtstein’23, Olivia Leyden’23, and Juliana Matina’23. From left to right in the bottom right photo are St. Joseph Regional cheerleaders, Elizabeth Cuffita’23, Maya Hickey’23, Darlena Makowka’23, Mikayla Nizza’23, and Margaux Yson’23.





# DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Ms. Marnie McGuirk, Ms. Allison Oblen, and Mrs. Lauren Tereshko attended a professional development session for science and religion teachers at Seton Hall University entitled *Science and Faith: Exploring the Relationship*. This Science and Religion Institute Day, held on November 4, 2022, “equips educators to be competent and effective communicators of the complementarity of faith and reason, science and religion.” The event is hosted by Seton Hall University’s Center for Catholic Studies in collaboration with the Science and Religion Initiative at the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame.



On December 7, 2022 IHA's [Christian Service Board](#) members and Santa were excited to spread Christmas cheer to the students of Sacred Heart School in Jersey City.

[Alexandra Barry'24](#) was named North Jersey Female Athlete of the Week on November 25, 2022—the final Female Athlete of the Week of the fall sports season. The article states, in part, “Barry scored twice in the Non-Public A final, including the Golden Goal, to lift the Blue Eagles to their second consecutive state championship. She led North Jersey with 35 goals this season.”



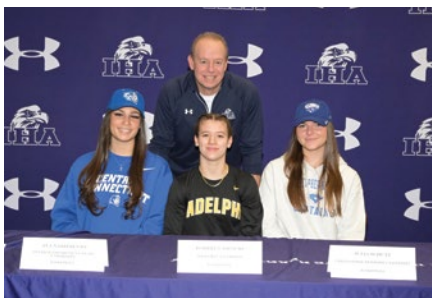
# Fall 2022 Sports Signing Boasts Twelve Senior Athletes



Congratulations to the twelve IHA Blue Eagle senior athletes who officially signed to their colleges and universities on the afternoon of November 17, 2022. From left to right in the group photo are **Isabella Asencio'23** (Adelphi University – Basketball), **Ava Naszimento'23** (Central Connecticut State University – Basketball), **Julia Schutz'23** (Christopher Newport University – Basketball), **Natalia LoCurto'23** (Lafayette College – Softball), **Leanna Johnston'23** (Columbia University – Cross Country and Track and Field), **Brookelyn Talmadge'23** (Bryant University – Volleyball), **Cathryn Cunningham'23** (Lehigh University – Soccer), **Lindsay Ford'23** (Sacred Heart University – Soccer), **Grace Cassin'23** (Bates College – Lacrosse), **Sophia Rowell'23** (Rutgers University-New Brunswick – Lacrosse), **Maeve Sayre'23** (Binghamton University – Lacrosse), and **Juliette Wittig'23** (Mercer University – Lacrosse).



Leanna Johnston'23 with her parents, Glenn and Leslie Johnston P'23; IHA Cross Country and Track & Field coaches; and Steve Ferro, athletic director



IHA Basketball coach, Steve Silver, with the three seniors signing to play basketball in college, Ava Naszimento'23, Isabella Asencio'23, and Julia Schutz'23

Sophia Rowell'23, Juliette Wittig'23, Maeve Sayre'23, and Grace Cassin'23 will all play lacrosse in college.



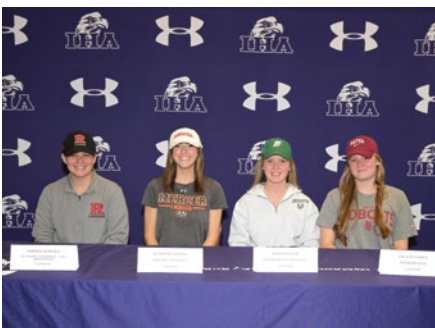
Natalia LoCurto'23 with her parents, Lorraine and Peter LoCurto P'23; her brother, Michael LoCurto; IHA Softball coach, Diana Fasano'00; and Steve Ferro, athletic director



Brookelyn Talmadge'23 with her parents, Tyrone and Medina George Talmadge P'23; Steve Ferro, athletic director; and Maria Nolan, IHA Volleyball coach



Standing, left to right, are Brianna Hayes'23, Madeline Hayes'25, Stella Del Sordo'24, Ella Burkholder'26, Jenna Ghiosay'23, Gracya Pisa'23, and Grace Cassin'23. Seated, left to right, are Lindsay Ford'23, Lindsay Probst'24, and Cathryn Cunningham'23.





# Quarter One Distinguished Scholars

Congratulations to the following students who have been named Distinguished Scholars by earning an average of 95 or better for the first quarter of the 2022-23 academic year:

## Freshmen

Emma Bossbaly  
Kathleen Brancato  
Veronica Brenner  
Mariana Builes  
Riley Cannon  
Elliott Daniels  
Gabriella DellaVolpe  
Isabella Duca  
Christina Festa  
Alana Flores  
Sofia Ghomi  
Ashlyn Gillespie  
Angela Giuliano  
Jaylene Hernandez  
Ella Kovalcik  
Sophia Kuzma  
Madison Les  
Danica Libanan  
Meghan Long  
Catalina Maglicic  
Roisin McLaughlin  
Anne Moore  
Etain Moore  
Katelyn Negrete  
Camila Pineros  
Mary Quinn  
Isabella Ragone  
Aiva Reid  
Gabrielle Rivera  
Grace Sciortino  
Ava Sinocchi  
Olivia Valente  
Ella Vrtis  
Kathryn Williamson  
Sophia Wilson  
Victoria Zalewski

## Sophomores

Ileana Asencio  
Madison Assanah  
Elizabeth Burgess  
Paige Burgess  
Lauren DeLuccia  
Caitlin Donovan  
Allison Egan  
Lana Langevin  
Lauren Mulry  
Emma Neyland  
Victoria Niziol  
Rachel Paton  
Kathleen Reck  
Rebecca Schutz  
Bergen Sollecito  
Sierra Tofts

## Juniors

Alexandra Barry  
Ella Bosse  
Caitlin Carr  
Angelica Cece  
Alyzza Chino  
Ella Crane  
Avangelia Emporellis  
Isabella Falletta  
Giana Fontanetta  
Ava Ghomi  
Riley Grieco  
Hannah Hart  
Meaghan Keating  
Ellie Kim  
Kaitlyn LeSuer  
Rose Martin  
Samantha McGee  
Casey McGrath  
Darcy Moore  
Gabriella Napolitano  
Elizabeth Ogden  
Isabella Pizzi

## Seniors

Jordyn Allen  
Katherine Deane  
Emma Dillane  
Shaye Disanza  
Charlotte Farcy  
Madeleine Gilson  
Noelle Haskell  
Madison Klak  
Layla Libanan  
Judith Mathew  
Chloe McLees  
Kate Menake  
Meghan Minogue  
Johanna Murphy  
Gracyn Pisa  
Layla Salaheldin  
Jessica Sundlin  
Mary-Kathryn Sweeney



# NHS Quarter One Awards

IHA's National Honor Society presents awards each quarter to students representing the four pillars of the society: service, leadership, scholarship, and character. For the first quarter of the 2022-23 academic year, congratulations are extended to:



Olivia Toohey'23, Carolyn Sandt'23, Katherine Deane'23, and Brookelyn Talmadge'23

## SERVICE

**Olivia Toohey'23:** Olivia has been dedicated to serving her community throughout her time at IHA. She serves the IHA community through Christian Service Board and by being a Eucharistic minister at school Masses. She is also a member of the IHA Lacrosse team, Future Doctors of America, and C.A.R.E. Olivia serves outside of IHA by leading the Our Lady of Mercy Big Sisters C.A.R.E. group, where she volunteers multiple times a week. Olivia's commitment to helping others is evident through her many acts of service.

## LEADERSHIP

**Carolyn Sandt'23:** When thinking of a person who exemplifies the qualities of a leader, Carrie is one of the first people that comes to mind. Not only is she a dedicated student, but she also steps up as a leader in many different activities at IHA. She is the president of the Photography Club, she assists with the sound at school Masses and theatre productions, and she has been a valuable member of IHA Soccer. Carrie is an outstanding student who inspires others to work hard and get involved in the school community.

## SCHOLARSHIP

**Katherine Deane'23:** Katherine excels academically as a member of the STEM@theheart program. She regularly contributes to and unreservedly participates in her AP classes. Along with keeping up with her studies, Katherine also makes time to assist and tutor other students. She is a member of Math League and Science National Honor Society, and she is a National Merit® Commended Student.

## CHARACTER

**Brookelyn Talmadge'23:** Brookelyn is a most definitely a positive influence on the IHA community. She effectively manages her time to not only get her work done and excel as a volleyball player, but also help others with their work. She is dedicated to helping others in the community and offers tutoring to underclassmen. Brookelyn is kind to everyone she meets and is always putting others first. She works hard at everything she does and never leaves anything unfinished.



# Mission@theheart Returns to IHA



Mrs. Sarah Shutrop, director of formation, leads the students in discussion.

After a four-year hiatus, IHA's Mission@theheart brought together fifty-five students on a November 2022 weekend for what has long been considered one of IHA's flagship cultural events. From Friday, November 18 through Sunday, November 20, the young women of IHA put their service-minded hearts into action.

Home base for this year's Mission Trip was Camp Vacamas in West Milford. Over the three-day trip, students served their communities by hosting a dance for Camp Acorn, a not-for-profit organization that serves children and adults with disabilities; coordinating Immaculate Heart Academy's much-loved Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner;

and attending a morning Midnight Run where they delivered food, toiletries, and other necessities to some of the homeless population in New York City. Woven throughout these service opportunities, IHA's young women were given time to write notes and create care packages for families with patients in hospice. On Saturday evening, the students joined together for Mass and participated in Eucharistic Adoration and Confession. The weekend ended with prayer, reflection, and a chance to share key take-aways from this year's Mission Trip.



Hannah Hart'24, Emily Magee'24, and Sydney Kearney'24 at the Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Dinner





Cassandra George'24, Abigail Bennett'26, and Lola Rose Projahn'25



IHA students dance with Camp Acorn residents.



Reese Polakowski'25 and Avery Connors'25

Mrs. Sarah Shutrop, director of formation, said the students who attend Mission@theheart often surface as some of our most empowered student-leaders upon their return. "This trip has truly transformed the high school experience for hundreds of girls over the last ten years. It was such a void in our school culture to have students who had never experienced it. I was so happy to be able to bring it back and to share it with such an incredible group."

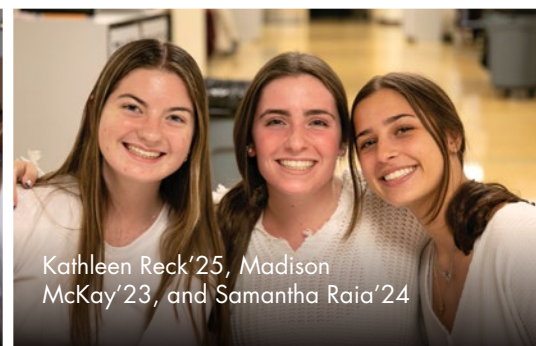
Mrs. Shutrop continued to say that it was evident the students felt truly grateful for the opportunity, as they have lost so many experiences in the last three years. "I always look forward to witnessing how they bring what they learned home to the heart and continue to make IHA an even more incredible place than it already is!"



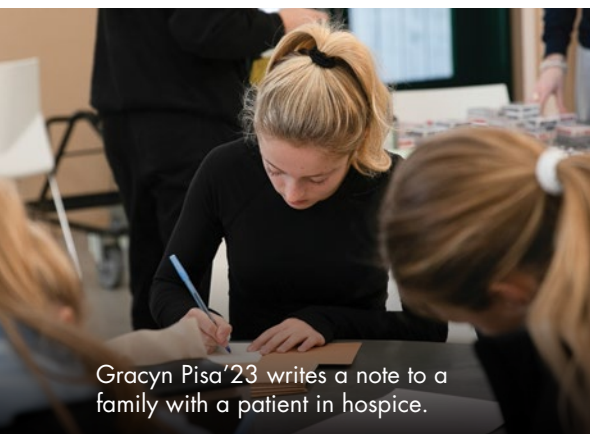
IHA students serve the homeless in New York City during a breakfast Midnight Run.



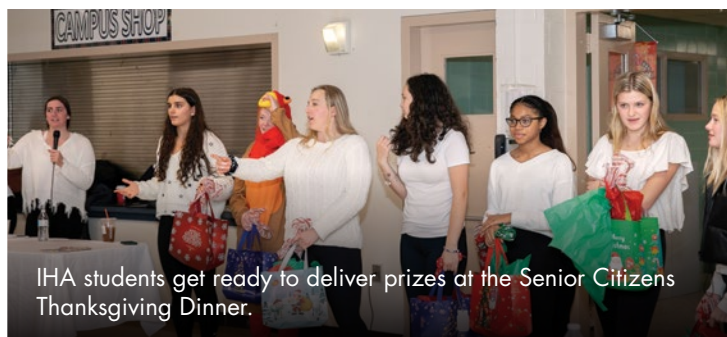
Students celebrated Mass together during the Mission Trip.



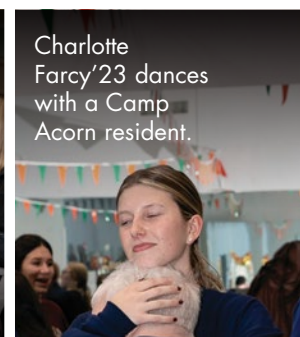
Kathleen Reck'25, Madison McKay'23, and Samantha Raia'24



Gracyn Pisa'23 writes a note to a family with a patient in hospice.



IHA students get ready to deliver prizes at the Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Dinner.



Charlotte Farcy'23 dances with a Camp Acorn resident.



Students hand out food, water, clothing, and toiletries to the homeless in New York City.



Mission Trip attendees bond at Camp Vacamas.



Madison McKay'23 and Erin Shepler'23





# Soaring to New Heights Donor Recognition & Dedication Ceremony

## Remembering Three Lasting Legacies at IHA



On October 25, 2022, Immaculate Heart Academy hosted its *Soaring to New Heights* Donor Recognition & Dedication Ceremony. After an opening prayer led by Mrs. Sarah Hill Frasure'07, director of development, the school's president, Mr. Jason Schlereth, welcomed guests to the special event.

The *Soaring to New Heights* campaign, which began in Winter 2018 and was completed in Winter 2020, was created to raise funds to upgrade and enhance the IHA athletic field complex, which includes the beautiful new turf field and spectators' patio. We were finally able to recognize those who supported the campaign, as well as celebrate and pay tribute to three individuals who made a huge impact on the IHA community: Anthony LaRezza, former coach; Jeff Carpenter P'12, '15; and Toni-Marie Verrone Hals'89, former faculty member.



The successful campaign and completion of IHA's renovated field complex were made possible by the supportive IHA community, including alumnae, parents, faculty, grandparents, and friends.

Mr. Jason Schlereth, IHA president, addresses guests.





At the recognition ceremony, Mr. Schlereth thanked a few specific major donor families whose names are included in a list of donors on a newly installed plaque on the exterior wall of the athletics field house:

**The Ben-Yishay Family** - Ari and Barbara, parents of Alexa Ben-Yishay'15  
**The Chernalis Family** - Anthony and Phyllis, grandparents of Alexandra Chernalis'14, Caitlin Buchanan'16, and Mikalynn Berger'16 and Mark and Catherine Chernalis, parents of Alexandra Chernalis'14 and Mikalynn Berger'16  
**The D'Amico Family** - Ted and Paula, parents of Danielle D'Amico'11  
**The Didio Family** - Thomas and Dianne, parents of Camille Didio'14  
**The White Family** - Ann and Tom, parents of Erin White Fallon'10, Mary Jane White'13, and Megan White'19  
**The Bertussi Family** - Thomas and Joan, parents of Julia Bertussi'18, Victoria Bertussi'19, and Isabelle Bertussi'25  
**The Plescia Family** - Mark and Laura, parents of Eden Plescia'20  
**The Family and Friends of Marisa Suarez'02**



Anthony and Rita Verrone P'88, '89, GP'21, '24; Lee Verrone; Madeline Manning'24; Michele Verrone'88 P'21, '24; Kathy Hals FF; Ian Hals; Thomas Hals; and Anthony Hals



Mrs. Alice Rogers, assistant principal of students; Mr. Jason Schlereth, president; Mrs. Maureen Layng, assistant principal for academics; and Miss Kerry Carroll'04, principal

Mr. Schlereth then recognized three individuals who have made a huge impact on the IHA community: Anthony, Jeff, and Toni-Marie. They are now forever memorialized in various locations in and around the field: Anthony's plaque on the entrance of the home dugout, Jeff's at the entrance of the path to the field, and Toni-Marie's on the stone wall beneath the flag poles.

To conclude the recognition and dedication ceremony, Mr. Schlereth thanked all guests, including the families and friends of Anthony, Jeff, and Toni-Marie, for attending the event and honoring the lasting and inspirational legacies the three have left behind. We continue to be eternally grateful to the generous donors who made IHA's *Soaring to New Heights* campaign a reality.



Lindsey Carpenter'15, Amanda Carpenter'12, Sonnie Carpenter, and Greg Carpenter honor their father and brother, the late Jeff Carpenter.



IHA Softball coach, Diana Fasano'00; members of the IHA Softball team; Allen LaRezza; and Joe LaRezza



Allen LaRezza and Joe LaRezza honor their brother, the late Anthony LaRezza.





# Welcoming New Parents

On September 15, 2022, the IHA Parents' Club hosted a Parent Welcome Reception for the parents of both the Class of 2026 and transfer students. It was a beautiful evening on Immaculate Heart Academy's front lawn to meet fellow parents and learn more from the school's administration, directors, and other parents.



Dan Flores P'24, '26; Stephanie Flores P'24, '26; Pete Hoxholli P'26; Artemisa Hoxholli P'26; and Stacy DeMicco P'21, '24, '25



Elli Wenzke P'26 and Patrick and Maria DeMarco P'21, '26



Daniela Nizza P'23



Jennifer Ferro Lessieu'89 P'26; Michael Haemmerle P'18, '26; SeraFina Rauti-Hujsa P'26; Christine Sifford Haemmerle'89 P'18, '26; and TJ Sullivan P'26



Patricia DePhillips P'18, '21, '26; and Mr. Jason Schlereth, IHA president



# Quarter One Soaring Eagle Awards Distributed

Immaculate Heart Academy Soaring Eagle Awards are presented quarterly to students who demonstrate excellence and work to the best of their ability in a particular subject area. Soaring Eagle Award recipients are more than students with an impressive GPA, they are students who have distinguished themselves by embodying the ideals of the IHA education. They are enthusiastic, compassionate, creative, and intelligent young women dedicated to personal and academic growth.

2022 Quarter One Soaring Eagle Award recipients celebrated their achievement with their families, nominating teachers, and the IHA administration at a special reception held on November 16, 2022 in IHA's Information Commons. After a welcome by Mr. Jason Schlereth, president, Miss Kerry Carroll'04, principal, presented Soaring Eagle Awards to the recipients.



Standing, from left to right, are Ella Bosse'24 (Mathematics - Mrs. Sue Dillane P'23); Chloe McLees'23 (Communications - Ms. Jessi Shaheen); Evelyn Roman'25 (English - Ms. Jessica Whelan'13); Eleanor Quinn'24 (Technology - Mrs. Theresa Seymour Dolan'95 P'26); Marie Baldwin'23 (Physical Education - Ms. Shemayne Williams); and Emma Hanlon'23 (World Languages - Ms. Ana Echeverría P'05).

Seated, from left to right, are Eileen Wynne'24 (Science - Mr. Steve Opremcak); Chloe Mazzola'24 (Theology - Mrs. Beth Mueller Szydluk'84 P'13, '18); and McKenna Carti'26 (Social Studies - Mr. Matthew Sartori). Not pictured is Madison Hawryluk'26 (Art - Mrs. Lisa Encke P'20).



Miss Kerry Carroll'04, principal, and Ella Bosse'24



Mr. Frank Mazzola P'21, '24; Mrs. Beth Mueller Szydluk'84 P'13, '18, theology teacher; Chloe Mazzola'24, and Michele Mazzola P'21, '24



Jon Hanlon P'23; Emma Hanlon'23; Ms. Ana Echeverría P'05, world languages teacher; and Mrs. Leonor Hanlon P'23



Ms. Jessica Whelan'13, English teacher; Evelyn Roman'25; and Mrs. Joannette Roman P'25, '26





# Class of 2026 Celebrates Freshman Day of Sisterhood

September 7, 2022 was an extra special day for members of our Class of 2026. Not only was it their first day at IHA, but it was also their class retreat, Freshman Day of Sisterhood!

This day, unique to the culture of IHA, serves to welcome the incoming freshman class to the IHA sisterhood, help them to meet their classmates, and encourage them to reflect on what they hope to gain from their IHA experience. Thank you to IHA Campus Ministry, STUCO, our Eagle Ambassadors, and additional student volunteers for welcoming our newest sisters the IHA way!



Christian Service Board seniors give advice to the freshmen.



Upperclassmen welcome members of the Class of 2026 on their first day at IHA.





Mrs. Maureen Layng, Mrs. Sarah Hill Frasure'07, Mrs. Emily Fernandez, and Ms. Lauren Rhein'09 speak on a panel about eliminating the culture of unhealthy competition among women.



Freshmen write letters to themselves that they will open as seniors.



Christian Service Board members help the freshmen craft the Class of 2026 mission statement.



Samantha Raia'24 speaks to members of the Class of 2026 about creating their mission statement.



# Mu Alpha Theta + SNHS Inductions



All newly inducted members of SNHS and Mu Alpha Theta

On the morning of December 2, 2022, fifteen new members were inducted into IHA's Mu Alpha Theta, the Mathematics National Honor Society, and forty-eight new members into the Science National Honor Society (SNHS). Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding academic accomplishments in mathematics and the sciences.

## Newly Inducted Mu Alpha Theta Members

*Mrs. Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11, Moderator*

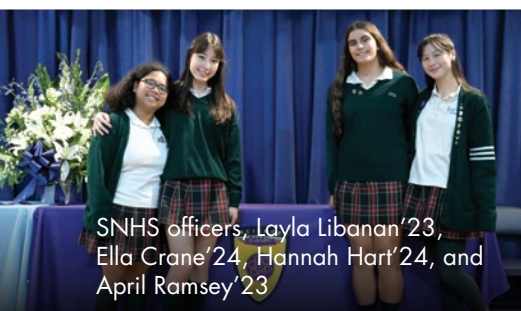
Madysen Ayers'24  
Ella Bosse'24  
Ariana Chen'23  
Natalie Coulter'23  
Ella Crane'24  
Lauren Dunnigan'23  
Giana Fontanetta'24  
Hannah Hart'24  
Ellie Kim'24  
Rose Martin'24  
Judith Mathew'23  
Isabella Pizzi'24  
Eleanor Quinn'24  
Adrianna Uykan'24  
Eileen Wynne'24

## Newly Inducted Science National Honor Society Members

*Mrs. Lauren Tereshko and Mrs. Angela Holuba Roberts'04, Moderators*

Julia Arencibia'23  
Olivia Tacconi'23  
Grace Coughlin'23  
Natalie Coulter'23  
Chloe McLees'23  
Mary-Kathryn Sweeney'23  
Alexandra Barry'24  
Madysen Ayers'24  
Anvi Batra'24  
Ella Bosse'24  
Caitlin Carr'24  
Emily Caton'24  
Mina Cocca'24  
Ella Crane'24  
Meghan Deane'24  
Natalie Deegan'24  
Victoria DellaCrocce'24  
Gianna DiMeglio'24  
Isabella Falletta'24  
Madison Fasolo'24  
Marisa Flores'24  
Karina Folwarski'24  
Giana Fontanetta'24  
Julia Grzybowski'24  
Hannah Hart'24  
Meaghan Keating'24  
Ellie Kim'24

Alexandra Kucharz'24  
Kaitlyn LeSuer'24  
Rachel Lyons'24  
Alyssa Mack'24  
Rose Martin'24  
Samantha McGee'24  
Darcy Moore'24  
Gabriella Napolitano'24  
Elizabeth Ogden'24  
Reagan Pace'24  
Angelina Parrino'24  
Isabella Pizzi'24  
Lindsay Probst'24  
Samantha Roberts'24  
Bryana Saenz'24  
Sophia Salewycz'24  
Lily Schwedhelm'24  
Kiera Stevenson'24  
Adrianna Uykan'24  
Marta Weglarz'24  
Eileen Wynne'24



SNHS officers, Layla Libanan'23, Ella Crane'24, Hannah Hart'24, and April Ramsey'23



Mu Alpha Theta officers, Ella Crane'24, Adrianna Uykan'24, Hannah Hart'24, Ellie Kim'24, and Rose Martin'24



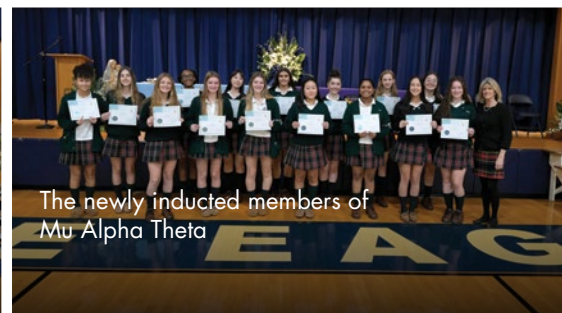
Judith Mathew'23 receives her certificate and pin from Mrs. Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11.



Sophia Salewycz'24 is inducted into the Science National Honor Society.



The newly inducted members of SNHS



The newly inducted members of Mu Alpha Theta



**IHA** Father/Daughter

# Sweetheart Dance

**Sunday, February 5, 2023 • 1-5 p.m.**  
**The Venetian, Garfield, NJ**

**Music:**  
N.I.C. Entertainment, LLC

**Photography:**  
Mike Hamlett

*Save the Date!*

**Sunday, March 5, 2023**

Doors Open 10:30 a.m.

12 p.m. Start

*Bags*  
and  
**BRUNCH**





# Holly Day Dance

On December 2, 2022, more than three hundred freshmen and sophomores and their dates danced the night away at IHA's Holly Day Dance!

Thank you to the members of the Student Council and STUCO moderator, Mrs. Alice Rogers P'07, '09, '13, assistant principal of students, for hosting the Holly Day Dance for the underclassmen. Big thanks to The Market Basket for catering the event, and Elite Rhythms Entertainment for DJing the dance.



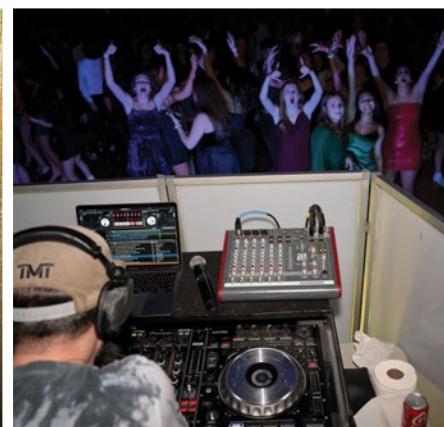
Gabe Orellana, Olivia Valente'26, Jack Silane, Kathleen Hahn'26, Kathleen Brancato'26, Matteo Bosco, Grace Colbert'26, and Jude Teter



Sophia Bertino'26 and Sophia Sigrist'26



Matthew Kim, Julia MacEwen'26, Kayla Rodriguez'26, Chase Cipollone, Ty Gasperino, and Keira Wymbs'26



Katelyn Mikros'25, Paige Burgess'25, Julia Petrie'25, Elizabeth Burgess'25, and Sierra Tofts'25



Kylie Bryan'26, Abigail Bennett'26, Chloe Sedlak'26, and Giana Catalano'26



Freshmen and sophomores danced the night away with their friends and dates!



Michael Asselta, Alana Flores'26, Isabelle Santos'26, and James Melia



# Faculty Christmas Party

## Celebrating two IHA Retirees

On the evening of December 8, 2022, the faculty and staff of IHA gathered together at The Brick House in Wyckoff to celebrate the Christmas Season. At the event, the staff also recognized and celebrated the retirements of Mrs. Patricia Conaton P'88, '98 and Mrs. Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06.

Ms. Ellen Donoghue'76, guidance counselor and long-time friend and colleague of Beth, shared her memories of their friendship and complimented her as genuine, authentic, and sincere. "Beth DiCiancia Garrigan is the real deal," Ellen said. "Thank you for your dedication and service to IHA, enjoy retirement, and I wish you well. It has been my honor to be your colleague and my privilege to be your friend." Read more about Beth's retirement on page 50.

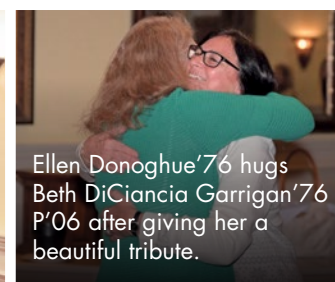
Although we recognized her remarkable dedication to IHA for almost thirty years, unfortunately, Pat Conaton could not attend the Christmas Party. Read more about her retirement from IHA on page 48.



Kathleen DiCiancia Powers'65; Kevin Garrigan; Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06; Danielle Garrigan'06; Carol DiCiancia Kaufmann'81 P'08; and Toni Kaufmann Cardona'08



Dale Quinn Murphy'76, Valerie Gradel Keenan'76 P'14, Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06, and Ellen Donoghue'76



Ellen Donoghue'76 hugs Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06 after giving her a beautiful tribute.



Brenda Coppola P'09; Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06; Paula Horne P'13, '15, '18; and Sarah Hill Frasure'07



Standing, left to right, are Mr. Steve Opremcak; Mrs. Kerri Sheehan P'20, '24; Ms. Shemayne Williams; and Ms. Patrizia Tersigni P'14. Seated, left to right, are Mrs. Alice Nudelman, Mr. Gary Trotter, Mr. George Hotz, Mrs. Jacklyn Kruk, and Ms. Allison Oblen.



Cheers! Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06 celebrates with family and friends after her retirement speech.



Standing, left to right, are Mrs. Cindy Sopelsa P'07, '08, '14; Mrs. Lorraine Mongelli P'94; and Ms. Megan Moser. Seated, left to right, are Ms. Jessi Shaheen, Mrs. Emily Fernandez, Mrs. Lisa Encke P'20; and Mr. Joe Martorano P'09.



# Bidding Farewell to Pat Conaton P'88, '98

## Beloved School Nurse Embarks on Retirement



After dedicating a total of almost three decades of her life to Immaculate Heart Academy, the school's beloved and compassionate school nurse, Mrs. Patricia Conaton, C.S.N., R.N. P'88, '98, has embarked on her next journey—retirement. Pat retired from IHA at the end of September 2022.

In addition to tending to the physical and emotional wellbeing of thousands of students and staff members through IHA's Health Office day after day, Pat has also made a name for herself in the IHA community as an active alumnae parent, a devout Catholic, a supportive colleague, and a faithful friend. Other impressive titles she holds include wife to Dan Conaton; mother to Sean, Erin'88, and Meghan'98; and grandmother "Cook" to William, Norah, Cathleen, Charlotte, Graham, and Tessa. Pat was also recognized as an honoree at the President's Gala in 2017.

“Pat has been a mentor to so many, an advocate for her students, and a friend to all,” he said. “As the mother of two graduates and the IHA nurse for almost thirty years, Pat is a treasured member of our family and will continue to be for a long time to come.”

— Mr. Jason Schlereth, IHA president

After receiving a bachelor's degree in nursing from Georgetown University, Pat completed graduate courses in education and school health at Seton Hall University. She is a New Jersey state-certified school nurse and a member of both the National and State Associations of School Nurses. She is a charter member of the state's special interest group for private and parochial schools. With this esteemed background, Pat has devoted her career to working with children and young adults.

Since 1989, she has committed herself to the health and wellness of IHA women, helping students and parents to address everyday issues and develop tools for lifelong wellness. Pat said she has wholeheartedly loved her job and the environment in which she cared for the IHA community. “I love the nurturing family spirit that reinforces our ongoing efforts to help everyone, especially our students, strive to recognize, value, develop, and share the unique gifts each of us received from God,” she reflected.

Pat also said there are many things she already misses about working at Immaculate Heart Academy.

“I miss the daily greetings and interactions with all my colleagues,” she said. “The daily ‘Good Morning. How are you?’ was more than a routine courtesy. It was a sincere and personal ‘I care about you and how are you doing.’ I miss the happy sound of the students chatting and laughing. I miss the sense of anticipation and professional preparation as I walked through the door each day never knowing what the day would bring and what skills I might have to use.”

Pat's faith is the foundation of her life, family, and work. She has answered the call to service in her parish, serving as a member of and volunteer in a host of diverse ministries. From liturgical ministries to individual work in fellow parishioners' homes, all of her volunteer efforts are focused on building community and meeting others' needs. Mrs. Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06, a colleague and friend of Pat for the





Pat and Dan Conaton P'88, '98

“I have had the pleasure and privilege of working with a select group of skilled caring administrators, educators, and colleagues who nurtured my professional growth and provided me with years of joy and support. I am indebted to and grateful for each one of them. My years at IHA were filled with professional growth that was encouraged and supported by my colleagues.”

— Mrs. Pat Conaton P'88, '98

“I am honored to call her my friend, lunch companion, and colleague and have had the privilege of working with her for so many years. To be leaving IHA at the same time is fate, and I wish her the very best of good health and much happiness in her retirement. Congratulations on a wonderful career!”

— Mrs. Beth DiCiancia  
Garrigan'76 P'06

had the privilege of working with her for so many years,” Beth continued. “To be leaving IHA at the same time is fate, and I wish her the very best of good health and much happiness in her retirement. Congratulations on a wonderful career!”

As Pat approached her official retirement date this fall and worked closely with the new school nurse, Mrs. Nicole Keller St-Onge'06, B.S.N., R.N., she said she spent a good amount of time in personal and professional reflection. Two themes were ever-present throughout that reflection: gratitude and growth. “Gratitude to Pat Molloy and Sr. Ellen for hiring me to serve as IHA’s school nurse and for the opportunity to be part of a vibrant, caring community that was my second family,” she said. “I have had the pleasure and privilege of working with a select group of skilled caring administrators, educators, and colleagues who nurtured my professional growth and provided me with years of joy and support. I am indebted to and grateful for each one of them. My years at IHA were filled with professional growth that was encouraged and supported by my colleagues.”

Mr. Jason Schlereth, IHA president, said that Pat has served the IHA community as so much more than the school nurse. “Pat has been a mentor to so many, an advocate for her students, and a friend



to all,” he said. “As the mother of two graduates and the IHA nurse for almost thirty years, Pat is a treasured member of our family and will continue to be for a long time to come.”

With her newfound free time, Pat said she looks forward to participating in more of her grandchildren’s events. She also hopes to take additional courses in school nursing and education, and will enjoy having the time for more service opportunities. “I’m sure to be found puttering around our garden beds and, if Dan is to be believed, singing while I work,” she said. “While the specifics may change, I realize I’m still a work in progress. My hope is to keep growing, learning, and being of service.”

last two decades who also retired from IHA this winter, said “warm-hearted, compassionate, and nurse extraordinaire are just a few words that sum up Pat Conaton.”

“I am honored to call her my friend, lunch companion, and colleague and have



# IHA Mainstay, Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06, Retires

Director of Alumnae Engagement and Special Events  
Leaves Alma Mater after 21 Years



**M**rs. Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06, director of alumnae engagement and special events, has announced her retirement after devoting more than two decades of her professional career to Immaculate Heart Academy. Her final day at IHA was December 31, 2022.

Beth's journey at IHA began well before she became an employee. She stepped onto the Immaculate Heart campus as a freshman fifty years ago this past September. After four incredible and successful years embracing the full Immaculate Heart Academy experience as an IHA Blue Devil, Beth graduated as a member of the Class of 1976. During IHA's 13th Annual Commencement Exercises that year, she was honored with the coveted IHA Award for consistently demonstrating the characteristics expected of an IHA student. Thirty years

later, her daughter, Danielle Garrigan'06, received the same prestigious award. Her two sisters and niece are also proud Immaculate Heart alumnae.

Beth's love and passion for what became her second home was evident and instantaneous, so much so that she was drawn back to work at her alma mater in February 2001. She began as a part time employee working in the Development Office while also assisting the Admissions Department, selling school uniform shirts, and working to connect her fellow alumnae with the school.

In 2010, she became the director of alumnae engagement and special events, a position in which she has demonstrated daily her loyalty for and commitment to IHA. Since that time, Beth has single-handedly led countless successful and memorable events each year for Immaculate Heart Academy. In addition, she has established, cultivated, and maintained relationships with her ten thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine alumnae sisters.

Mr. Jason Schlereth, IHA president, shared that Beth has done a tremendous job over the last twenty-one years as the director of the alumnae and special events departments.

"As an alumna herself, as well as the mother of an IHA alumna, Beth has been able to form unique and special bonds with so many of our graduates," he continued. "She truly understands what the IHA sisterhood is all about and has worked tirelessly to help grow those bonds. We will miss her steadfast dedication, well-loved events, and



Ellen Donoghue'76, Dale Quinn Murphy'76, Nancy Barone'76, and Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06

go-with-the-flow personality. While we wish her the best of luck in her retirement, we know that she will always be a special part of the IHA community!"

Ms. Linda Chelotti'76, Social Studies Department chairperson and classmate, colleague, and long-time friend of Beth, noted that "Beth Garrigan is simply the heart and soul of IHA—always has been, always will be. A friend for fifty years, it is an honor to have stood by this amazing woman who, firmly rooted in the founding principles of the school, gave her all to ensure that strong, young women expand their minds, find their voices, and embrace their power. IHA will not be the same without Beth. May she continue to 'go forward with courage to do all that is noble and loyal and true.'"

Beth, a self-proclaimed "people person," said her favorite thing about working at her alma mater has been interacting with students, parents, and alumnae. "The interactions with all the constituents, especially my fellow alumnae, are what I will miss the most," she said. "I am both honored and humbled to be a part of this incredible community."

Ms. Ellen Donoghue'76, guidance counselor, met Beth in Mrs. Magdalen





Beth poses in front of her future alma mater as a young child, visiting the school when her sister, Kathy, attended.

Pratt's homeroom in September of 1972, the Home Economics room that is now Ellen's office. "Donoghue sitting right next to DiCiancia," she remembered. "We compared schedules and became fast friends. She asked me if I played basketball for CYO and even when I said no, she still wanted to be my friend! Who knew then that fifty years later, while the friendship was guaranteed, we would also be colleagues at our beloved alma mater?"

Ellen pointed out how Beth's "rolodex knowledge of names and faces" is unparalleled. "Beth believes in 'friend-raising'...and is good at it," she said. "When she meets people, she is genuine. She cares deeply about relationships and understands the power of the personal touch. While she, like we all did, utilized Zoom during the pandemic, Beth knows that connecting with people is essential for the wellbeing of our school. When you meet her, she remembers your name and details about your life. She is aware of the power of networking. Recognizing the vast experience in our alumnae, Beth connects the older alumnae with the younger. It is a gift."

Ms. Patricia Molloy, former IHA president, has known Beth for more than fifty years. "When I taught Beth Garrigan, then DiCiancia, in seventh grade at St. Anastasia School, I knew she was a very special, loving, and talented young woman," she said. "I was thrilled when she chose IHA as her high school. What a blessing Beth has been to IHA after all these years. No one has been more dedicated, hard-working, and professional than Beth. Our IHA family won't be the same without her smiling face every morning. I will miss you, Beth!"

As she geared up for her retirement this winter, Beth expressed her gratitude to the administrators, faculty, staff, and

“When times will have passed and  
cares may o’ertake us  
Then all that you stand for will never forsake us  
There’s none on this earth with you can compare  
For you gave us a mem’ry faithful and fair.”

— IHA Alma Mater



Beth and her daughter, Danielle Garrigan'06

volunteers that she has had the honor of working with closely over the last two decades. "After more than twenty years of working days, nights, and weekends and giving my all, it is simply just time," she continued. "Now, having another alumna in the Advancement Office, I am confident things will continue to grow in the right direction. I hope I have served the IHA community well, and I hope everyone keeps in touch."

After all of the time, treasure, and talent Beth has given to Immaculate Heart Academy, a place she has long considered her second home, she is looking forward to dedicating more time to her family and other passions. "I believe I still have a lot to offer, so I will be looking to volunteer my time that I now have," she explained. "Florida will be my second home now." In a farewell to her dear friend, Ellen echoes how her colleagues and the IHA alumnae community all feel—to say she will be missed is an understatement.



Beth and Ellen at 2006 Graduation

"Thank you for your service to IHA," she said. "Your allegiance to 'The Academy' is irreplaceable. From classmate to colleague, it has been my honor to be on the journey with you. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement."

Beth said she hopes her legacy will be continued by "remembering that all alumnae are an important part of Immaculate Heart Academy, from the first graduating class to the last."

“When times will have passed and  
cares may o’ertake us  
Then all that you stand for will  
never forsake us  
There’s none on this earth with  
you can compare  
For you gave us a mem’ry faithful  
and fair.”

— IHA Alma Mater

Beth, your IHA family, past and present, wishes you a relaxing, wonderful, healthy, and happy retirement. After fifty years as a loyal and unwavering supporter of the Immaculate Heart Academy community, please know you will always have a home at the heart.





# CLASS notes

## '64, '67, '72, '74, '77 '69



It is with sadness that we announce that **Kathleen Bradley Hennessy Martucci'67** passed away on October 14, 2022. Pictured are cousins and fellow IHA graduates together at a 2009 family wedding.

Front row, left to right, are **Patricia Sivals'64**, the late **Kathleen Bradley Hennessy Martucci'67**, and **Maureen Connelly Russell'72**.

Back row, left to right, are Linda Connelly, **Jane Connelly Sweeney'77**, Ann Magee Fagan, and **Bridget Schaetzle Schindo'74**. Not pictured is cousin, **Mary Ellen Sivals'81**.

See Kathleen's In Memoriam listing on page 62.

**Michele Abita** writes, "I started working full-time immediately after leaving IHA in 1969 and earned my Business Administration B.S. degree from Montclair State in 1993. I moved to Minneapolis in 1994, married Richard Hagen in 2004, and live in Bloomington, Minnesota. I have two adult stepchildren and three grandchildren: Alexa (16), Elle (7), and Ray (4). I recently retired from General Mills after more than twenty-three years of employment. IHA is fondly remembered as the foundation for my happy personal life and successful fifty-three-year working career."

**Mary Alice McGinley Noonan** is happily retired and lives, with the exception of the winter season, at the Jersey shore.

**Would you like to be featured in IHA's Class Notes?**

Please send your life update to Mrs. Tara Hopfenspirger, director of communications & marketing, at [thopfenspirger@ihanj.com](mailto:thopfenspirger@ihanj.com). Visit [ihanj.com](http://ihanj.com) to view our IHA Newsletter Content Guidelines.



# '74, '06

Caitlin Seymour'06 writes, "We live in a small world for sure! I just moved down to southern Delaware and did a late-night grocery run. In the parking lot, a lady approached me because of what I was wearing (IHA Lacrosse gear) and because she had overheard my rewards phone number starting with a 201 area code. Susan Ciccarella-Goidell'74 is now my IHA sister down here! Very cool things are happening in the IHA family these days."



Susan Ciccarella-Goidell'74 and Caitlin Seymour'06

# '74, '97, '06



Three IHA alumnae joined together at the national Osteopathic Physician Leadership Association House of Delegates meeting this past July. From left to right are Geraldine O'Shea'74, DO; Julieanne Sees'97, DO; and Andrea DeSimone'06, DO.

Dr. O'Shea is in a private practice in northern California, devoted to Internal Medicine for women. She works with her husband, Mark E. Eastman, DO, OB GYN, and is currently on the Board of Trustees of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Immediate Past Chair of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME). Dr. Sees is a Fellow of Osteopathic Medicine at the National Academy of Medicine in Washington, D.C., an associate professor with

dual fellowship training in pediatric orthopaedics and neuro-orthopaedic surgery, and is currently on the Board of Trustees of the AOA along with Dr. O'Shea. Dr. Sees additionally serves on the Board of Directors of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopaedics, Board of Directors of the American Osteopathic Foundation, President of the Delaware State Osteopathic Medical Society, and Immediate Past President of the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine Board of Governors. Dr. DeSimone is the Chair of Psychiatry at Bayhealth Medical Center in Dover, Delaware., and was one of four delegates representing Delaware, along with Dr. Sees, at the AOA House of Delegates.

# '75

Susan Anlian Ketigian, an OR nurse, traveled to Ukraine in September 2022 on a mission with Healing the Children

Northeast, which collaborated with the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. She cared for those devastatingly injured in the war, including both civilians and adults from the military. In emails Susan sent to her family while she was away, she wrote, "The Ukrainian people have tremendous heart and strength. They are fighting for their homeland and freedom with everything they have. They are also warm and so appreciative of the efforts of our team and of the United States. It was an honor for me to be a part of this mission. It was completely different than anything I have ever done and my experience there and the people I have met will remain so very special to me." Susan was inducted into IHA's Hall of Fame Class of 2018 under the Merit category for her work with Healing the Children.

# '76, '15, '18, '19

IHA was well represented at the 2022 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade! The *Boss Baby* balloon handlers included, top row, left to right, Sarah Horne'18, Dale Quinn Murphy'76, Ellen Donoghue'76 F, and Gabriella Cali'19. Front row, left to right, are Paula Horne P'13, '15, '18, F; Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06, F; Maggie Horne'15; Roe Cali P'12, '15, '19, '23, F; and Victoria Cali'15.





'84

Cathy Howath writes, "My husband and I just celebrated our first anniversary in June! I was a gray-haired first-time bride, but so worth the wait to find my best friend and soulmate. Marriage is such a beautiful gift from God. My sister, Janie Howath Murphy '82, was my matron of honor, Laura Hayden Daniels '86 was one of my bridesmaids, and close friend and former IHA faculty member, Christy Dellapenta Murrell '95, came all the way from west Texas. The IHA sisterhood was well represented!"

'85

Susan Gelnaw Boyle and her husband of thirty years currently reside in Northern Virginia – their sixteenth move! Susan's husband has served in the US Army for thirty years and they have three children: Jack, 23, a 2021 graduate of the United States Military Academy who currently serves in the US Army; Ally, 21, a student at NYU Tisch; and Kelly, 20, a junior at UVM.

'87

Jacqueline Linares, Jackie Galano Woods, Beth Anne Gilfillan DeMarco, and Rosemarie Paniscotti

Kuchenmeister gathered for a mini reunion at Portobello's in Oakland on November 3, 2022.



Clockwise from upper left are Rosemarie Paniscotti Kuchenmeister '87 P'16, '22; Jackie Galano Woods '87 P'22; Jacqueline Linares '87 P'23; and Beth Anne Gilfillan DeMarco '87.

'93, '03

Mariann Smith Odierno '93 P'25 and Lisa Odierno '03 ran the Jersey Shore Half Marathon on October 2, 2022 to raise money for Colitis awareness and research.



'94

Stephanie Dolce has started a new business called *Just Brew It Gourmet Coffee*

(justbrewitgourmetcoffee.com).

In addition to her new business endeavor, Stephanie has also rebranded her social media company in order to coach businesses on how to utilize social media platforms, as well as create content for them. She also coaches high school students on the proper way to set up and use a LinkedIn account.

'95

Alexis Starke welcomed Evelyn Leigh on January 24, 2022. Evelyn joins sisters, Clara, 11, and Shannon, 9, and brother, Dermot, 6. Alexis teaches art in Piermont, New York.

Arist, Alyssa Monks, was featured in her first solo exhibition, *Be Perfectly Still, A Retrospective*, at San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) in California from August 27 through November 13, 2022. This was Alyssa's first museum retrospective, which included the most diverse survey of her work to date, spanning fifteen years of painting.

'96

Betsy Jacob is currently living in the Bay Area in Northern California working as both a Program Manager at Google and as a realtor. She says she is "thankful for all the blessings in life and always grateful for the education I received at IHA which has prepped me in life!"

Lisa Vettoso was featured in the Holiday 2022 edition of *Wayne Magazine* as an arts educator and founder of Aspire Performing Arts Center in Wayne. "A dancer as a child, she discovered theater as a senior at Immaculate Heart Academy in Bergen County, and was active in theater groups at Villanova University," the article said.

'98

Lindsay Griffiths writes, "In the last year, not only have I continued to navigate leading a global company (one of the top two percent of law firm networks in the world) through a pandemic, but we were awarded Global Law Firm Network of the Year by The Lawyer European Legal Awards in December 2021. I ran my second marathon in Berlin in September 2021, and I'm now training for my third and fourth (Chicago and Boston, respectively). In April of 2021, I lost my beloved dog, Barney, at twelve, who was a joy to everyone who knew him, and in



August, I found out that my best friend had Stage III breast cancer at thirty-six. I agreed to help her manage that remotely (she lives in Minnesota) and thanks to her amazing team of doctors at the Mayo Clinic, following six rounds of chemo, a double mastectomy, and five weeks of daily radiation, she is now on maintenance treatment. Through life's ups and downs, I've had an incredible support network, including a couple of IHA alumnae, **Becky Elwood Delgado '98** and **Megan Murdock Boyd '98**, who I became friends with after my time at IHA, and thanks to Facebook."

**'99** **Meghan Vitti** is a featured artist at Bloomingdale's in the Mall at Short Hills. Bloomingdale's celebrated its 150th anniversary this past September 10, 2022 and asked Meghan to live-paint a mural that represents Bloomingdale's history. She used her creativity to walk guests through the store's journey with iconic images and bold colors. You can find this mural on the first-floor escalator wall near the men's department.



Meghan Vitti '99

**Eileen Connors Boh** obtained her Louisiana State Real Estate License during the summer of 2021 and is now a realtor with McEnery Residential in New Orleans.

**Danielle DeCristoforo** recently launched a new business, in addition to teaching high school math. "I am an educator and certified life coach whose true passion in life has become all things 'mom,'" she writes. "I help new moms with children ages 0-5 who are struggling with feeling lost and lonely put meaning back into their lives by rediscovering their values, passions, and goals. Whether you are feeling lonely, overwhelmed, disorganized, in a rut, or simply not like yourself, I can work with you, one-on-one, to get you back on track and be the mom you were always meant to be." To learn more, visit [www.danielledecristoforo.com](http://www.danielledecristoforo.com) or find her on Instagram @danielle.decristoforo.

**'02** **Nicole Imbriale Gioules** writes, "I am living in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts and my husband and I are anesthesiologists at UMass in Worcester. We have four children, Matthew, Daniel, Addison, and Cora. They go to St. Mary's School in Shrewsbury. We are busy to say the least."

**'04** **Robin Ficarella Lyon** was married in 2021 with two IHA classmates, bridesmaid **Kerri Moloughney '04** and **Alex Saïtes '04**, in attendance. Robin also began working for NASCAR as the Event Marketing Manager for Stewart-Haas Racing. "Each weekend, I travel to the NASCAR race and plan the events for all of our sponsors and high-level partners, including Mobil 1, Anheuser-Busch, and Subway," she writes.

**Jonelyn Planillo-Pachay** welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Sara Rae, into the world on March 29, 2022. Sara Rae weighed 6 lbs, 8 oz and measured 20 inches long and is the first grandchild on Jonelyn's side of the family.

**'05** **Monique Kim** is living her dream as a working actor with a role in a Blumhouse horror movie called *THEY/THEM*, streaming on Peacock. The movie stars Kevin Bacon and is written/directed by Academy Award nominee, John Logan.

**Kate Hill Vinchot** and her husband, John, welcomed a baby boy, Joseph Thomas, on Saturday, October 15, 2022 at 8:22 a.m. Joey weighed 6 lbs, 8 oz and measured 19 3/4 inches long. Big brother, Johnny, was thrilled to welcome him home!



Joseph Thomas Vinchot

**'06** **Alexis Layman Mraz** writes, "My husband and I welcomed our son, Maxwell James, in October of 2020, just two months after I began my Assistant Professorship at The College of New Jersey. We love being a family of three and watching Max learn and grow. I have been truly enjoying my work at TCNJ. It is a real joy to teach and work with students while also pursuing research I am passionate about. I was recently awarded an NSF grant to study Legionella growth and persistence in premise plumbing systems. I am extremely grateful for my education at IHA and the teachers who instilled a love of STEM, particularly Mr. Millard, Mr. Mac, Mr. Herold, Mrs. Adamo, and Ms. Fritsche."



**'07** Lisa Ungemach Fontana and her husband, Dominic, welcomed a baby girl, Zelda Elizabeth, on May 18, 2022.

Meaghan Rogers Hill and her husband, Kevin, welcomed Madelyn Lucy Hill on October 15, 2022 at 9:04 a.m. Madelyn weighed 5 lbs, 13 oz and measured 18.5 inches long, and is the granddaughter of Alice Rogers P'07, '09, '13, assistant principal of students, and the niece of Kristen Rogers Bohling'09 and Caroline Rogers'13.



Madelyn Lucy Hill

**'08** Amanda Costa Turner and her husband, Joseph, welcomed Gabriella Rose Turner on January 13, 2022 at 5:52 p.m. Gabriella weighed 6 lbs, 12.5 oz and measured 20 inches long.

Margaret Senor Van Blarcom married Tyler Van Blarcom on October 1, 2022 at Sablewood in Schoharie, New York. From left to right are her IHA family, Kathleen Donohue Wright'07, Sara Brennan'08, Amy Kearns Tweddell'08, Margaret Senor Van Blarcom'08, Margaret Meyers Blake'08, Brooke Turco, Julianna Griego'08, and Ms. Shemayne Williams, IHA physical education teacher.



**'09** Alessandra Santamaria is engaged to her now fiancé, Patrick Oczkos, who proposed on April 24, 2022 "in the most beautiful setting at Holland Ridge Farms, amongst millions of tulips."

Katie Thompson Cassidy and her husband, Brian, welcomed a baby boy, Shane Brian Cassidy, on September 9, 2022. Shane weighed 7 lbs, 6 oz and measured 19 inches long. Katie writes, "He is the sweetest blessing and so cuddly!"

Chelsea Sica writes, "My album, 'Pheromones' was released on all streaming platforms on November 4, 2022. I also have a music video for the title track that was released in the fall. During my four years at IHA, I was in all the IHA, St. Joe's, and Don Bosco musicals. My love for music and musical theatre continued as I went on to study musical theatre at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City and now I've found myself here, releasing my own original music. My website is [www.chelseasica.com](http://www.chelseasica.com) and my Instagram is @chelseasica. I hope to start performing around the city in 2023!"

**'09** Kristen Rogers Bohling and her husband, Connor, welcomed Clare Kathleen Bohling on September 30, 2022 at 4:16 a.m. Clare weighed 8 lbs and measured 21 inches long, and was the first grandchild of Alice Rogers P'07, '09, '13, assistant principal of students, and the niece of Meaghan Rogers Hill'07 and Caroline Rogers'13.



Clare Kathleen Bohling



Kerry McNulty and Sarah Pagano are all smiles on November 6, 2022 after Sarah finished the TCS New York City Marathon in 2:35:03, fewer than 12 minutes behind the female winner of the race.



**'14** Maria Economou married Thomas DiDomizio on October 1, 2022 at Ss. Nicholas, Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Roseland, New Jersey. Their reception followed at Park Avenue Club in Florham Park. Maria's bridesmaids included Danielle Daouphars'14, Victoria Lieto'14, and Alexis Mendez'14. Maria and Thomas are very happy to have been surrounded by so much love, as family and friends witnessed their happily ever after.



**'12** Regan Cronin writes, "In May, I graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Master's of Science in Nursing and a specialty in oncology. I became a board-certified Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner in early July, and will begin practicing in early October at Duke University Health in their Breast Oncology clinic. I also recently received my first degree black belt in to-shin do (a Japanese martial art)! It's been a busy year and I cannot wait to begin the next chapter of my career."

**'13** Jessica Sperber is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University. She is studying the effects of socioeconomic status and stress on brain development in young children. Jessica is also engaged to be married in September of 2023.

An IHA alumnae group supported and celebrated their fellow sister, Marisa Carlson'13, as she ran the TCS New York City Marathon on November 6, 2022. From left to right are Ashley Agnello'13, Hailey Vogt'13, Marisa Carlson'13, Emily Horne Peterson'13, Liz Hynes'13, and Maggie Horne'15.



**'14** Madison Dabakian'14 and Lauren Grae'23 met by chance at The Bergen County Axe Throwing League. Their IHA connection brought them together as friends instantly.



Lauren Grae'23 and Madison Dabakian'14



'14

**Abigail Martin** is a sound technician in the Broadway musical megahit, *Hamilton*. In a *Pascack Press* newspaper article, it is noted,

"Immaculate Heart Academy is where Abbie discovered her passion for the technical side of theatre. She went on to Montclair State University and received a degree in design and technology for theatre with a concentration in sound."

'15

**Julia Ciravolo** completed culinary school and began an externship in August 2022 at Le Bernardin in New York City.

**Heather O'Rourke** graduated from New York Medical College with her Doctorate in Physical Therapy and is now officially a physical therapist!

**Amanda LoBianco** became engaged to Nicholas Colombo on December 31, 2021 in Lake Placid, New York. The couple is planning their wedding for September 3, 2023 in New Hampshire. Amanda is the daughter of Mrs. Martha LoBianco, IHA world language teacher.



**Sabrina Santamaria** graduated from Seton Hall University School of Law with a J.D. and is set to take the BAR exam this year. She is currently a law clerk for Bergen County Courthouse.

'16

**Julie Weismiller** is a Registered Nurse at Englewood Hospital and Medical Center on a cardiac ICU stepdown unit. She also acts as a preceptor, training new nurses and a charge nurse, responsible for the entire unit.

'17

**Kaitlin Gallagher** was hired at Saks Fifth Avenue in October 2021 in Influence Marketing. She works with celebrities, top talent, industry notables, and influencers to support the Saks initiatives on social and the brand ambassador program. Kaitlin also leads Saks Social Club events, giftings, and beauty for social. Kaitlin writes, "I have connected with some incredible men and women, and am looking forward to continuing my career and network at Saks! Hope to visit IHA soon!"



**Danielle Daouphars** announces her engagement to Jedrick Tranate who proposed while on vacation in Oschensee, Switzerland.



**Regine Thimothee** was named to the dean's list at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) for the Spring 2022 semester. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in web and mobile computing. RIT's 137th academic convocation celebration was held in May and featured remarks by Kimberly Bryant, founder of the nonprofit organization Black Girls CODE.

**'18** **Haley Dowd** graduated summa cum laude from University of Miami's Business School in 2022. She currently works for EY in their Strategy and Transactions Group in New York City.

**Sarah Persico** graduated with honors from the University of South Carolina in May and currently attends Columbus School of Law at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.



Sarah Persico '18

**Lisa Ferioli** graduated with a B.A. degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University's Metropolitan Campus in May 2022.



**Sarah Horne, Megan Rice, Sarah McLoughlin, and Alaina Harris** joined together for a Class of 2018 mini reunion at the New York Giants game on November 20, 2022.

**Erin Palermo** was among the sixty-two members of The University of Scranton's undergraduate Class of 2022 honored for academic excellence, service, or both at a Class Night ceremony on May 20. Erin, recipient of the Excellence in Health Promotion Award, earned a bachelor's degree in health promotion with a minor in psychology. She served as president of Eta Sigma Gamma Honor Society, secretary of the Health Promotion Club, and interned at The Wright Center. Erin will pursue a Master of Science degree in occupational therapy at Seton Hall University.

**Isabella Roselli** received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hamilton College on May 22, 2022. An archaeology major, Isabella graduated with departmental honors in archaeology and completed a thesis titled "The Organization and Tools of Domestic Food Preparation at the Tilcayete Sites Oaxaca, Mexico."

**'19** **Rebecca Nadler** writes, "I am a senior at University of Pennsylvania and was recently accepted to submatriculate to complete a master's degree in biology within my undergraduate years! My thesis will focus on my research in Dr. Robert Vonderheide's laboratory, where I am characterizing a novel immunotherapy for pancreatic cancer patients. I wouldn't be here today without the IHA STEM program!"

**Emily Primavera** was recently inducted into the Alpha Sigma Nu Honor Society, the Jesuit honor society founded in 1915, at College of the Holy Cross. Emily is one of thirty-four new inductees this year who exemplify the society's values of excellence in scholarship, loyalty, and service. Selection to Alpha Sigma Nu is one of the highest honors that can be given on a Jesuit campus.

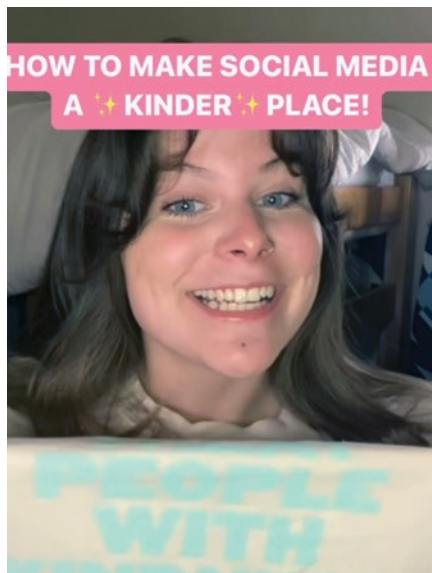


**'20** Mikela Florio, a Susquehanna University junior women's soccer player, earned Landmark Conference Women's Soccer Offensive Player of the Week honors on September 20, 2022. Mikela played a pivotal role in two shutout victories for women's soccer that week, scoring in both games. This was Mikela's first time garnering Landmark Conference Player of the Week honors, and was also named River Hawk of the Week concurrently.

Nicole Krumrei was named to the dean's list for the Spring 2022 semester at the University of Vermont. She is majoring in English with a double minor in German and gender, sexuality, and women's studies.

**'21** Mariel Persico is in her sophomore year at Villanova after achieving dean's list with a perfect 4.0 for both semesters during her freshman year.

Olivia DeMartini was recently hired as a content creator on Instagram for @halfthestory. The company's mission is to help teens and young girls to manage their relationship with social media and technology. Her first video was posted on World Kindness Day, November 13, 2022



**'22** Sinead Gilmartin was among the fifteen elite members of The University of Scranton's Class of 2026 who entered its Magis Honors Program in STEM. The program combines the development of STEM knowledge and research techniques with programming to further the students' understanding of the impact science has on society. Additionally, Sinead was among the twenty-seven elite members of the university's Class of 2026 who enrolled in its Frank P. Corcione Business Honors Program. Students in this program undergo four years of honors studies in the areas of economics, entrepreneurship, operations management, accounting, finance, international business, marketing, and management, as well as a series of personal development extracurricular activities in the areas of service and career building. Sinead is majoring in accounting.

# SAVE THE DATES

## Class of 1973 50th Reunion

### Sept. 23 & 24, 2023

#### Reunion Luncheon

**Saturday, September 23, 2023 | 12-4 p.m.**

*Ramsey Golf & Country Club*

#### Memorial Mass & Brunch

**Sunday, September 24, 2023 | 10:30 a.m.**

*Mass in IHA's Sisters' Chapel with brunch immediately following in the Information Commons*



# Remembering Former Faculty Member, Dr. Patricia Burke



Dr. Patricia Burke

**D**r. Patricia Burke, former IHA faculty member, passed away on October 21, 2022. Dr. Burke was well-loved among both the staff and students, as she inspired so many over her long tenure at IHA.

Always a strong advocate of education, Dr. Burke attained a master's degree in English Literature from Seton Hall University and her doctorate of English Literature from St. John's University. She was first hired at IHA as a Religious Studies teacher in 1979, but she quickly moved to the English Department where she stayed until her retirement in 2008. She spent her entire adult life in the teaching profession and shared her love of English literature with her many students for close to three decades.

Mrs. Lorraine Mongelli P'94, communications support specialist and former English teacher, said Dr. Burke was "a sweetheart, a pussycat, a softy... and if any of her students read this, they would totally disagree. She always had this stern exterior, which belied her true personality. She was wickedly funny with a clever sarcasm that could crack up a room. She was self-deprecating and always claimed it was because she was an April Fool's Day baby!"

A strong proponent of women's rights, Dr. Burke tried to teach her students the importance of equal rights for all. She was a huge sports fan, especially of basketball and softball, being a former player herself. Lorraine went on to say, "Burky, as Clare Puccio Gebhardt '66, former faculty member, would call her, was the quintessential Christian woman; a woman who was humble, loving, kind, and generous. Generous of heart, generous of spirit, generous of soul. She

“Losing her is a heavy loss to me personally and, I believe, to today's society. Her tolerance, decency, and civility should be the light for all our paths and a guide to our humanity.”

— Mrs. Lorraine Mongelli P'94, communications support specialist

did not preach the gospel; she lived the gospel. She was as quick to apologize as to forgive.”

Michael Burke, one of Dr. Burke's seven siblings, shared a story he included in his eulogy at the gravesite with the family. "I spoke about how over the years, meeting former students of Patti, I expected them to tell me how inflexible, stern, and hard she was as a teacher," he said. "Almost universally, I received the opposite. The response was usually, 'she was fair, fun, and she challenged us to be better students.' One former student told me, 'Dr. Burke taught me the love of reading that I still have today.' That is pretty impactful. The IHA community was a big part of her life and I thank you all for giving her a second family."

In a quote in the 2008 yearbook commemorating her retirement, Dr. Burke wrote, "It's been wonderful. I enjoy teaching the students. They're hardworking and cooperative. I love all the aspects of this school. I have enjoyed working with the faculty. It's been a great experience."

After she retired from IHA, Dr. Burke planned to head south, but changed

her mind and decided to stay in her Hackensack apartment building, which also housed many single, working mothers. "Pat soon discovered that there was a real need for some babysitting for children who returned home from school before mom did," Lorraine remembered. "Accepting no payment and desiring none, Pat welcomed the children into her small apartment, buying toys for the little ones to play with and helping the older ones with their homework. Each August, she would purchase their school supplies, whatever was required as well as a few extra treats. She did all this on her meager pension."

Lorraine concluded by saying that Pat was not about exterior or showy things, but rather she was about people. And that giving, loving person is how she will always be remembered. "Everyone was a neighbor, everyone was a friend, everyone was to be loved and respected as a child of God," she said. "Her spiritual blanket covered everyone she met. Losing her is a heavy loss to me personally and, I believe, to today's society. Her tolerance, decency, and civility should be the light for all our paths and a guide to our humanity."

Find Dr. Burke's In Memoriam listing on page 62.



# IN MEMORIAM

Your prayers are requested for the following members of the Immaculate Heart Academy community who recently passed away:

**Laura Flatley Lacey, Class of 1980**

July 26, 2020

**Kathleen Bradley Hennessy Martucci, Class of 1967**

October 14, 2022

*Cousin of Patricia Sivals'64, Maureen Connelly Russell'72, Bridget Schaezle Schindo'74, Jane Connelly Sweeney'77, and Mary Ellen Sivals'81*

**Allison Kaprowski, Class of 1996**

November 17, 2022

**Anne Scanlan McCrory, Class of 1967**

December 16, 2022

**Carole Basso**

July 22, 2022

*Former faculty member and wife of the late Ralph Basso, former faculty member*

**Ann Anderson**

August 6, 2022

*Mother of Eileen Anderson Gerke'76 and Patricia Anderson Miller'79, grandmother of Elizabeth Gerke'05, and former IHA cafeteria staff member*

**Ralph Mondare**

August 18, 2022

*Husband of the late former faculty member, Beatrice Mondare P'91, '94, GP'25; father of Catherine Mondare Donovan'91 and Mary Mondare Mercadante'94, and grandfather of Caitlin Donovan'25*

**William Morrow**

August 19, 2022

*Husband of Catherine Cavanaugh Morrow'74*

**Marilyn Farina**

August 20, 2022

*Long-time friend of IHA*

**Robert Mansfield**

September 3, 2022

*Father of faculty member, Darla Addabbo P'07, and grandfather of Darlayne Addabbo'07 and Rayna Addabbo'07*

**John McNulty**

September 10, 2022

*Uncle and godfather of faculty member, Jackie Kruk*

**Dolores "Dee" Butler**

September 22, 2022

*Former staff member, mother of the late Susan Butler Smith'85, and grandmother of Jessica Krakowski Brown'05, Julie Butler'08, and Jaclyn Krakowski'10*

**Helen McDonald**

September 23, 2022

*Mother of faculty member, Greg McDonald*

**Robert M. Belisonzi**

October 9, 2022

*Father of Jenna Belisonzi Papaz'01*

**Agnes Partel Newton**

October 10, 2022

*Mother of Mary Ellen Partel Vitti'73, Jane Partel Azzolino'76, and Kathryn Partel Argitis'83 and grandmother of Meghan Vitti'99 and Tara Azzolino'07*

**Ralph Molé**

October 17, 2022

*Husband of the late Sandra D'Alfonso Molé'68*

**Dr. Patricia Burke**

October 21, 2022

*Former faculty member*

**Gemma Olliges**

November 7, 2022

*Mother of Doreen Olliges Ellinwood'89*

**Thomas Hynes**

November 14, 2022

*Father of Kathleen Hynes'05 and Colleen Hynes'12*

**Frank Bednarek**

November 26, 2022

*Father of Jennifer Bednarek, faculty member*

**Mark Conniff**

November 29, 2022

*Brother of Deborah Suta, former faculty member*

**Rita Cordova**

December 5, 2022

*Mother of Samantha Cordova Sanderson'03*

**Marie McDonough**

December 13, 2022

*Mother of Patrice McDonough, former faculty member and former Consultative Board member*

**Peter Weber**

December 13, 2022

*Brother of Sue Adamo, faculty member*

**Sr. Lucille Durso, CSJP**

December 17, 2022

*Former faculty member*

**Joan Garrigan**

December 17, 2022

*Mother-in-law of Beth DiCiancia Garrigan'76 P'06, former faculty member, and grandmother of Danielle Garrigan'06*

**Angela Streicher**

December 17, 2022

*Mother of Mary Streicher'74 and Paula Streicher Stern'77*





THE ADMINISTRATION OF  
IMMACULATE HEART ACADEMY  
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO  
HONOR AND CELEBRATE

*Ms. Patricia Molloy*

FOR HER FORTY-EIGHT YEARS  
OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO IHA

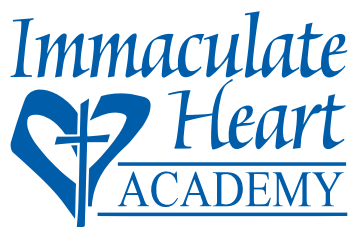
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12 - 4 P.M.

– SEASONS –

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If this is not you, or if your daughter no longer lives at home, please reach out to Sarah Hill Frasure '07, director of development, at 201.445.6800, ext. 185 or sfrasure@ihanj.com with updated information.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN  
26

## Accepted Students Night

Accepted members of IHA's Class of 2027 are invited to take a final look at the school before deciding if they will be making their home at the heart.

FEB  
05

## Father/Daughter Sweetheart Dance

**1-5 p.m., The Venetian, Garfield**  
Current students and all IHA alumnae are invited to dance the night away with their dads at IHA's Father/Daughter Sweetheart Dance!

FEB  
11

## Registration Day

Members of the Class of 2027 fill out enrollment paperwork, purchase uniforms, and take the English Placement Examination.

MAR  
05

## Bags & Brunch

**Doors open at 10:30 a.m., 12 p.m. start, IHA Gymnasium**  
BYO brunch items; guests are invited to try their luck at winning a variety of designer handbags.

MAR  
24-26

## Spring Musical – *Xanadu*

**7:30 p.m. on Friday, 2 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday**

IHA will present the Tony Award-nominated, hilarious, roller skating, musical adventure about following your dreams despite the limitations others set for you. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.performingartsattheheart.com](http://www.performingartsattheheart.com).

APR  
02

## Honoring and Celebrating Patricia Molloy

**12-4 p.m., Seasons, Township of Washington**

We are thrilled to honor and celebrate Ms. Patricia Molloy for her forty-eight years of dedicated service to IHA.

APR  
26

## Spring Concert & Arts Festival

**7 p.m., Main Lobby and PAC**

Families and friends are invited to view our student-artists' work and enjoy performances by our vocal ensembles and orchestra.

APR  
27

## Spring Info Session

**6:30 p.m.**

Meet staff and students, check out the state-of-the-art building, and learn more about why you may belong @theheart.

APR  
29

## IHA Beefsteak

**6:30 p.m., IHA Gymnasium**

Celebrate and support IHA Athletics with a delicious beefsteak dinner and tons of chances to win fantastic raffle prizes!