

Our Lady of the Assumption School

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January 29, 2008



With Hands to Serve and Hearts to Love



"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle."

--St. Francis of Assisi

Catholic Schools Week

This week, of course, is Catholic Schools Week, and the theme is *Catholic Schools Light the Way*. We kicked off Catholic Schools Week on Sunday at our 9:30 A.M. Mass and Open House. It was so nice to see such a great turnout by our community. The Mass was inspirational and excellently prepared by our eighth grade class and liturgical choir, all of the classrooms looked fabulous thanks to the hard work of our teachers, and quality student work was on display everywhere.

On Monday morning we gathered as a school in the gym and Father Brendan led the school in prayer. Each class went on stage and shared how they light the way in their own special way. All students were given glow bracelets as symbols of light. More activities are in place for the rest of the week and they are outlined in this bulletin. This is a week to celebrate and affirm Catholic education, OLA School, and our community. Please keep OLA in your prayers.

Mrs. Walsh and Mrs. Hill

Last Friday it was announced to the staff that our eighth grade teacher and vice principal Mrs. Walsh and our extension director Mrs. Hill will be retiring this year. Both have brought unsurpassed excellence and supreme dedication to their work at OLA, and they will be greatly missed. Needless to say, we will have a fitting tribute for them later in the spring.

With the retirement of Mrs. Walsh and Mrs. Hill, our school will be losing two exemplary educators. The school has begun the recruitment process and will work assertively and proactively to ensure that the best possible candidates are hired to fill their positions, and that our school maintains its high standard of excellence through the transition.

Second Grade Reconciliation

Last week our second graders received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Mrs. Nichols, Ms. Torres, Mrs. Harvey, and Mrs. Sax did a wonderful job of preparing our school and parish faith formation students for the sacrament. It was a joy to see our children experience the sacrament for the first time and to see their families with them at the ceremony. The children were composed and excited. Pictures of students and their families at First Reconciliation are on display in the front office. Mrs. Nichols has asked her second graders to write a reflection of their experiences. These reflections are included in today's bulletin for you to read. Enjoy!

New OLA Application Package

If you know of any families with children entering kindergarten or looking for a good Catholic School, please let them know about our great school and community. Applications are being accepted through March 14. Please pick up an application package in the office. Thanks to the excellent work of CSAC member Mary Thomson, we have a new and greatly improved application package.

God bless,

Robert Loue

Due This Week:

- Nothing is due this week

What to wear this Thursday: Thursday is Cougar Crew day. Students may wear their Cougar Crew t-shirt or hooded sweatshirt with their uniform bottoms.

What to wear this Friday: Friday is a regular uniform day.

This Week at OLA ~ Catholic Schools Week

Wednesday's theme~*Celebrating and Appreciating our Community:* We will be collecting breakfast food items for Wellspring. Please look at the enclosed flyer.

Thursday's theme~*Celebrating and Appreciating our Students:* This will be a "Cougar Crew" spirit day. At 2:15 p.m., there will be a rally in the gym and new student council representatives will be inducted into office.

Friday's theme~ *Celebrating and Appreciating our Teachers:* Friday is a minimum day. Grades 1-8 will attend school from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Both morning and afternoon kindergarten classes will attend school from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Third grade parents will provide lunch for the faculty.

Souper Bowl of Caring: As we enjoy the Super Bowl game, help us remember those who do not have even a bowl of soup to eat. Our student council members will be taking donations after Mass this Saturday and Sunday. All proceeds will benefit our St. Vincent de Paul food locker.

Next Week at OLA

Ash Wednesday Grades 3-8 will attend 8:00 a.m. Mass on Wednesday, February 6. Ashes will be brought to the classroom for grades K-2.

Food Drive Our annual Lenten Food Drive will start on Ash Wednesday. The match Mr. Love contest will start on February 14. See next Tuesday's bulletin for more details.

Parent Meeting There is a meeting for parents with children who will be celebrating their First Eucharist on Thursday, February 7, at 7:00 p.m.

SCRIP SCRIP orders are due by 8:00 a.m. on Friday, February 8.

Stations The Girl Scouts will be praying the stations of the cross for kids after school on Monday, February 11. Although this is sponsored by the Girl Scouts, this meditation is child-centered and is open to all children. This is a great way to start the Lenten season. Parents are welcome. Parents who are not attending may pick their children up from inside the church.

Bits and Pieces

Got Milk?: The Student Council will be giving out samples of powdered milk at lunch on Wednesday. This will give us all an opportunity to see what the alternative is for needy families who can't afford fresh milk. This will help remind us all what a great gift our Got Milk Money is for the needy in our community.

Book Swap: The God Squad's annual book swap will be held on Friday, February 7. You may now bring in your gently used books to the seventh grade classroom before school. For each book your child donates, he/she will get to select a different book. Leftover books will be sold for 25¢ each on Friday, February 8.

Christmas DVD: The OLA Christmas DVDs were sent home to families who ordered them last Tuesday. If you did not order, we will be accepting additional orders until February 1. Order forms are available in the office.

After School Pickup: For the safety of our students, we ask that you pick up only from the two designated pickup locations. Please do not ask your children to exit from the breezeway gate. We do not have any supervision present at that location; therefore, students are not allowed to exit through that gate.

OLA Information Night: In the bulletin two weeks ago, the date for Information Night was incorrectly typed as February 21. The correct date is February 12. Please correct that date on your calendars. Thank you.

Help Needed: Many of our parishioners bring in their Campbell's Soup labels and Boxtops for Education and put them in a donation box in the back of the church. Jill needs a volunteer to collect these items from the church and bring them to the school office. This would need to be done once a week. Please contact Jill if you are able to help with this.

Kudos

Congratulations to the following OLA students and alumni who took first place in their age groups at the council level Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest on January 20th: Brian Jones, Ashley Kyalwazi, Davey Bloom, Beverly Kyalwazi, Dominic Ricci, and Michael Kyalwazi(Jesuit). These students will go on to compete in the regional contests on Feb. 16th. Great Job Cougars!!

Last weekend the 6th grade girls' team played in St. Philomene's basketball tournament. Alexa Griggs was named to the all tournament team. Congratulations Alexa!

The OLA Girls' Varsity Comp team is now 2-0 in our division after beating Holy Trinity. On a belated note, Missy Riehl was named to the all tourney team in the Christian Bros. tournament and Katelynn Langley was named to the all tourney team in the St. Philomene's tournament.

Congratulations to the JV Comp Boys Basketball Team. The Boys won the St. Philomene's Tournament and brought home a shiny blue trophy for the Cougar Trophy Case. Great Job Boys!!

Texas Hold'em Tournament

Those of you who signed up for the Texas Hold'em Tournament at the auction should have received a save-the-date flyer a couple of weeks ago. If you believe you signed up but did not receive a flyer in the bulletin envelope, please call Jill in the office.

The big evening is this Friday, February 1, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. We will be serving bratwurst and beer and lots of great snacks and desserts. The winner of each table will receive a fun prize and compete for the grand prize. The grand prize is two tickets to the Kings game on March 14. These tickets are in section 102, row ee. Yes, these are center court tickets just eight rows up from the court and are valued at \$380.00! A parking pass is included. We look forward to seeing you this Friday.

First Reconciliation ~ Reflections from Second Grade

"I was kind of afraid. I liked it and felt good before. Father Renier was really funny." ~Cole Andre

"I felt a little bit scared, excited and everything. I got to hold the candle by myself when it was on fire. It was really cool!" ~Maggie Bishcel

"I was really nervous a little bit. It feels really good to know God will forgive me. I really liked the part where I lit up the candle." ~Katherine Borg

"I was happy that God forgave me and that now I don't need to worry anymore. I was kind of nervous, but I felt better after." ~Lauren Brothers

"I felt better once I came out of the reconciliation room. My sister felt better for me, too. I feel a lot better that God forgave me." ~Luke Chandler

"I like the part when Holly lit my candle. I was scared to go in Father Brendan's office. I felt good after I did it." ~Victoria Cimino

"When I first came out I felt much better. I was proud of myself." ~Melina Davis

"Father blessed me by putting his hand on my head and saying a prayer. I felt like my plate was clean because all my sins were taken away." ~Casey Gilles

"I feel good. It was really short. I felt special because it was my first reconciliation." ~Danielle Giorgi

"I felt good after I was done. It didn't take that long. I feel happy that God forgave me." ~Natalie Giorgi

"I was nervous when it was time to go in. I am surprised because it wasn't as scary as I thought it would be. I lit my candle at home and showed everybody. I felt much better after." ~Grace Hause

"I was kind of nervous before I started. It felt good after I did it. I liked when my candle was lit. It was fun. The room looked cool! I liked being second in line. I saw someone that was not in my class." ~Marianne Hayes

"I felt excited. I was surprised that we were going to light our candles. I would like to do it again. I was really happy that's why I giggled." ~Madeline Heintz

"I feel that God forgave me and that He loves me. I was surprised that I was the first one to get reconciliation. I had fun!" ~Lauren Lukwicz

“It was fun. I was surprised to see how Fr. Renier was happy to see me. Casey and I looked at the same book.” ~Will Roberts

“I felt good after I said sorry to my brother. It was really exciting and fun. ~Casey Honaker

“I feel much better than I did before. Father gave me a special blessing.”~Rob Ellison

“It was fun to be with my friends. And Fr. Renier’s line was pretty long. And it was cool how we were lighting our candles.” ~Grace Manley

“I was nervous at first, but then when I got out, I felt good because I got to play with my friends. It was really fun. The music was awesome.” ~Darci Phenix

“I was kind of scared. I was kind of happy after. I was surprised we got to light the candles.” ~Hailey Malone

“I felt a lot better. I got big hugs from my mom and dad. My mom and dad let me pick out something for a treat. I had a donut.” ~Tom Agos

“Father asked me a lot of questions. It was a lot of fun. I got my picture taken.” ~Scott Tooley

“It was fun. I was shy at first. Father asked me if I had a brother or sister. My mom lit the candle for me.” ~Chris Waraas

“My whole family came, even my Mama and Papa. I felt special. We lit the candle and it was fun.” ~David Ryan

“I liked the part when we got to light the candle. I changed sides to go to Fr. Brendan. My Grandma and Grandpa came.” ~A. J. DeCristoforo

“I was nervous at first. And after I felt better. I saw my neighbor James there.” ~Finlay Thomson

“I had fun. It was exciting. I didn’t expect to be passing the flame.” ~Aislinn Reilly

“First I was nervous. Then it started to become really, really fun. Then when I told Father all the bad stuff, I felt better. I liked reading the book in church and talking with my friends quietly.” ~Jaden Fong

“I went to dinner after Reconciliation to an adult restaurant. I felt so excited!” ~Caroline McIntire

“It was really nice because I got to go into Father’s reconciliation room. When I was done I was really happy. Afterwards I had ice cream with some of my friends.” ~Sarah Phenix

“I felt the same after. It surprised me that God forgave me.” ~Matthew Sweeny

“It was fun. And it was nice to see my friends there, too. It is fun wearing fancy clothes. I was happy when I was done.” ~Jennifer Hall

“I was excited. And I was scared at first. I was surprised that I got to light my candle. Father Renier’s line was short, and I didn’t have to wait. I got to read a really nice Bible and I got a really nice rosary.” ~Holly Coffman