

Our Lady of the Assumption School

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February 5, 2008



With Hands to Serve and Hearts to Love

Catholic Schools Week Recap

Catholic Schools Week was sensational. Thanks to the great work of our teachers, students, student council, and parents our school was able to celebrate and affirm the Catholic education received here at OLA School in ways that were fun, spirited, and meaningful. As I mentioned in last week's bulletin, the opening Liturgy on Sunday was phenomenal, and we had a great assembly the following Monday to kick off the theme, *Catholic Schools Light the Way*. On Wednesday students brought in bags of food for the Wellspring Women's Center in Sacramento. Thanks to the generosity of our families, we were able to fill up two trucks with food! Watching the kids bring their bags to the trucks was really neat. By loading the bags themselves, they were able to see the magnitude of their generosity. Wellspring was blown away by the size of the donation, and they expressed great appreciation to our families. On Thursday we celebrated our students, and we ended the day with a very spirited pep rally in which our newly elected student council representatives were inducted into office and our basketball teams were introduced to the student body. Mr. Sunderman, Mrs. Coffman, and the student council did a great job organizing the rally; the gym was as spirited and as loud as I've ever seen and heard it. Then on Friday, the school celebrated and appreciated our teachers. Our students and parents sent in flowers, goodies, and thoughtfully written notes of appreciation. The school was a veritable floral shop with all the flowers. Thank you, students and parents, for your gracious out-pouring of love and appreciation.

Finally, on behalf of the entire staff, thank you PTG for organizing an amazing "random acts of appreciation" week for our staff. Each day the PTG had something special for the teachers: bagels, cream cheese, and coffee on Monday, nuts and cookies on Tuesday, apple pie and apples on Wednesday, Starbucks coffee orders and deliveries on Thursday, and the flowers and notes on Friday. We all felt much appreciated, and we want you to know that we appreciate you! Thank you!

St. Joseph's School

As I mentioned in my bulletin letter two weeks ago, OLA families donated a total of \$814.25 to St. Joseph's School. The principal of St. Joseph's replied with a very nice letter that has been included in the bulletin. Reflecting back on our community's response to the St. Joseph's tragedy and last week's Wellspring drive, I am heartened to see profound evidence once again that we are realizing our School Mission Statement, particularly the last sentence of it that says, "Our mission is to set patterns of thought and behavior that bring forth truly Christian responses to life situations and an awareness of his/her responsibility to God, to others, and to oneself."

Curriculum Articulation Update

This past Friday, our teachers began their work with math articulation. After completing our WCEA/WASC Self Study, our staff set a goal for curriculum articulation from grade level to grade level. This year, in addition to mapping our social studies curriculum, we are taking a critical look at our math program from kindergarten through 8th grade. Each teacher is tracking specific areas in their curriculum where student achievement can be improved and those areas are being shared, discussed, and targeted. By the end of this school year our staff will set an action plan to help our students improve in their mastery of the math standards and targeted concepts and skills. The staff will also identify the common vocabulary used from grade to grade and develop a plan to ensure it is consistently used by each teacher and understood by each student. Articulation will improve the delivery of instruction in every classroom and help our staff work collaboratively to ensure the best possible instruction for our students.

OLA Information Night

If you know of any families with children entering kindergarten or looking for a good Catholic School, please let them know about OLA Information Night. This takes place on Tuesday, February 12, at 7:00 P.M. in St. John's Hall. This event will offer prospective families a unique opportunity to learn about the school from members of our faculty, staff, and administration.

Lent

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season. We will have a school Mass that day at 10:00. Parents are invited to join us and receive their ashes at that time.

Lent is a time of prayer, penance, charity, and sacrifice. It offers us all a special opportunity to let go of the baggage that takes us away from God and return to Him in prayer, contemplation, and fellowship. I pray that this Lent you will find peace in your Lenten journey and that you will strengthen your relationship with God, self, and others.

Peace,

Robert Love

Due This Week:

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

What to wear this Friday: Friday is a regular uniform day. Members of the **second grade Brownie troop** may wear their vests with the school uniform.

This Week at OLA

- Ash Wednesday ALL students will attend Mass at 10:00 a.m.
- 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.
- Dance The 1st Annual OLA Father-Daughter dance will be held this **Saturday, February 9th, from 6-9 p.m. in the OLA Gym**. Dads and girls, put on your dancin' shoes and get ready to boogie!
- 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.

Next Week at OLA

- OLA Info Night Please invite any prospective families you know to attend our OLA Information Night on Tuesday, February 12, at 7:00 p.m. in St. John's Hall. There will be a brief presentation by teachers and a question and answer session.
- Field Trips Wednesday, February 13, is a busy field trip day. Fourth Grade will visit the Governor's Mansion and seventh grade will visit the California Museum.
- Liturgy There will be a school Mass celebrating St. Valentine on Thursday, February 14, at 9:30 a.m. This Mass will be prepared by our first grade class. Everyone is welcome to join us.
- Long Weekend There will be no school on Friday, February 15, due to a staff retreat. There will be no school on Monday, February 18, in honor of Presidents' Day. Enjoy your long weekend!

Thank You

Thank you to Michael and Winnie Kyalwazi and Cafe Le Monde for providing the coffee at last Sunday's Open House. The delicious coffee was the perfect compliment to the cold winter's morning. Thank you so much!

Thank you third grade parents for providing such a wonderful lunch for the faculty and staff last Friday. Everyone enjoyed it tremendously.

Bits and Pieces

Book Swap: The God Squad's annual book swap will be held on Thursday, 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.

Don't miss it!! Thousands of used books along with videos, DVDs, audios, CDs, and children's games will be sold at incredibly low prices at OLA's 11th Annual Book Sale on February 9 and 10. The hours are Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. And Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in St. John's Hall. This popular book sale offers all kinds of hardback and paperback titles in every category imaginable and includes current releases as well as possible collector editions. Since parishioners and friends of the parish generously donate different books every year, each sale is a new opportunity to inexpensively add to your home's library. The parish Ladies Council sponsors the book sale and all proceeds go toward the Council's charitable works in Carmichael and Sacramento.

Kudos

The New York Giants weren't the only winner this weekend. Congratulations to the first place winner of the Texas Hold'em Tournament, Jim Mellas. Thank you to all the players. Your enthusiasm made for a very fun evening.

A Message from St. Joseph School

Dear OLA Families,

Thank you for your outpouring of support and prayers after the recent storm destroyed a wing of our school. You and your school have provided us with a living example of Christ among us and with us. It is with deep appreciation that we thank you for the monetary donation of \$834.25 to Saint Joseph Parish School in our time of need. Your kind words of support and prayers have sustained us.

The 2008 theme for Catholic Schools Week this year is "Catholic Schools Light the Way." The theme focuses on the leadership that Catholic Schools provide to our nation, producing graduates who light the way to a brighter future for all humankind. The theme also highlights the spiritual foundation of Catholic schools, for we are on "The way," The slogan, "Catholic Schools Light the Way," reminds us that we are called to "light the way" to the kingdom for others even as we walk "the way" of discipleship and grow in faith ourselves.

Our Lady of the Assumption School is a testament to what Catholic Schools are doing and how they are producing men and women of faith and leadership. Please extend our thanks and appreciation to the students, parents, teachers and staff for the generous donation and assistance to St. Joseph Parish School in our time of need.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Patricia A. Peterson
Principal

