

Our Lady of the Assumption School

2141 Walnut Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608 (916)489-8958

August 20, 2008



With Hands to Serve and Hearts to Love

Welcome to the 2008-09 school year! Another summer vacation has come and gone, and the OLA faculty and staff are excited to welcome you back to school. For our new families, I offer a special welcome! I pray that OLA will be a wonderful experience for you and your children, and that you will enjoy and appreciate our very special community.

I would also like to welcome our new staff members, including administrative assistant, Mrs. Carolyn Albers, parish and school maintenance manager, Mr. Earl Knight, eighth grade teacher, Mrs. Bernadette Smith, and PE teacher and athletic director Mr. Philip Tateishi. Mrs. Albers, Mr. Knight, Mrs. Smith, and Mr. Tateishi are excited to be a part of the OLA family, and we are delighted to have them.

You may have heard that our extension director position is open again. OLA is fortunate and thankful to have Mrs. Hill running the extension on an interim basis until the position is filled.

Find God in All Things

Two years ago our students were asked to give their hands to serve and their hearts to love; last year we asked them to follow Christ's footsteps; and this year we are asking them to find God in all things. Yes, "Find God in all Things" is our theme for the 2008-09 school year. As adults we know that it can be difficult to see God present in every situation we're in, in every moment we live, or in every person we encounter. But we hope to help your children rise to that challenge, encouraging them to see all of God's creation in a new way that will enable them grow stronger in their relationship with God and others, and taking us all one step closer to building God's kingdom here on Earth.

Accreditation

Last year, a team of educators from WCEA/WASC visited OLA, reviewed our program, and made a recommendation to WCEA/WASC for a term of accreditation for our school. This summer we heard back from WCEA/WASC, and I am pleased to announce that OLA School has been given a six year term of accreditation with a third year review. Our school and the Catholic School Department are delighted with this result. I thank our faculty, staff, students, parents, and parish for their support of our school and their contribution to our successful self-study and WCEA/WASC visitation.

Facilities Update

This summer a lot of renovations took place on campus. Our kindergarten and third grade classrooms have been completely remodeled. New tiles, carpets, cabinets, and bulletin boards have been installed, and both rooms have been repainted, including the ceiling tiles. They look great!

We have also gutted and remodeled the storage room near the kindergarten classroom. This new space will now be used as a resource and math room. The resource room is a welcomed addition to our school as we needed the extra instructional space.

Much needed water fountains were installed near the children's playground, and a new frame was put in around the playground. The old wood frame had deteriorated.

Alan Leatherby and parishioner Paul Read coordinated the projects this summer, and they have done outstanding work. Their expertise and commitment to our school have truly been a blessing. Our new maintenance manager, Earl Knight, worked with Mr. Leatherby and Mr. Read overseeing the project.

The school is indebted to Fr. Brendan and the parish for financing these projects. Over the last two years, Father Brendan and the parish have invested over \$200,000 in our school. Thank you Fr. Brendan and thank you OLA Parish!

Finally, two of our alumni who are boy scouts have also been busy this summer undertaking Eagle Scout projects on our campus. Michael Kyalwazi has refurbished the benches between the gym and the school offices. He has also ordered and will be installing this month new benches in the same area adjacent to the school office. TJ Friesen worked with Ruth Holewinski to create a map of the United States on our playground. We thank Michael, TJ, and Mrs. Holewinski for their contributions and service to OLA!

Eucharistic Ministers Wanted

The parish is inviting school parents to become Eucharistic ministers. Please consider this special opportunity to serve our Church and school. It is said that Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. As a Eucharistic minister you have the opportunity to share this special sacrament with the community. What a wonderful way to model your

faith to your children! Parents interested in becoming Eucharistic ministers (technically they are called extraordinary Eucharistic ministers) may sign up to serve at school Liturgies, parish Liturgies, or both. If you are interested please contact Deacon Michael Tateishi at 481-5115 or by e-mail at mktateishi@hotmail.com.

FIRST Lego League

OLA is looking to field a team for the FIRST Lego League, an exciting and fun global robotics program that develops in students aged 9 to 14 an enthusiasm for discovery, science, and technology. The team will make a robot out of Legos, program it, and have it perform tasks in a field made by the team. Teams compete against one another in the FIRST Lego League. FIRST is an acronym that stands for For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.

This after-school program will provide our students a chance to use science and technology to become better critical thinkers and problem solvers (Schoolwide Learning Expectation 2D). OLA is looking for parents interested in coaching a team and students interested in participating. The ideal number for a team is between six and seven students. If the interest among students is really big, more teams can be formed, provided each team has found a parent to coach it, and the team can raise the funds (approximately \$700 per team) to field the team.

Team registration takes place between now and late September. Only a limited amount of teams can register, and registrations typically fill before the deadline, so interested teams need to register early.

In order to form teams, we will need coaches. Parents who are interested in coaching, please contact Mr. Love by Friday, August 29. A coaches meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 3 at 5:30.

For more information, please read the "First Lego League: The Basics" handout included in this bulletin.

Messaging System

OLA School has contracted with the *Alert Now Rapid Communications Service* to provide our families an emergency messaging system that contacts parents by phone, cell phone, e-mail, and text message in the event of an emergency on campus. This system can also be used for non-emergency messages (sent only by the school) such as notifications of minimum days or reminders of events such as the Fall Gathering. Both Jesuit and St. Francis High Schools use *Alert Now*. The system will be up and running some time this fall.

PTG

As always our PTG has been busy this summer preparing for the many events that are coming up this fall. PTG President Augusta Brothers has planned a few new great events this school year, including our Back to School Celebration on Saturday, August 30, Family Movie Night on Saturday, November 15, and Family Bingo night on Friday, February 28. We will have more information about those events as they draw closer. And, of course, we also look forward to another fun and successful Auction on October 18.

Back-to-School Night

Finally, our Back-to-School Night takes place this Thursday at 6:00 P.M. We hope to see all of you there! Wishing you all the best for a great 2008-09 school year!

God bless,

Robert Love

Due This Week and Next:

- All textbooks must be covered the first evening they are sent home with students. Please only use fabric and paper covers. Please do not use covers with adhesives.
- Your first tuition payment was due on August 1. A statement is enclosed in this bulletin envelope if the school has not yet received your payment.
- If you have not already done so, please turn in your Emergency Form. It is critical to the safety of your student that we have this information on hand right from the first day of school.
- Your miscellaneous expense worksheet and driver information should be turned in as soon as possible.
- September lunch order forms and checks payable to "Happy Lunches" are due in the office by noon on Friday, August 22.
- Parent/Student Handbook signature forms (blue) are due to homeroom teachers by Friday, August 29. Parents and all students must review the handbook and sign the form. For your convenience all revisions to the 2008-2009 handbook are indicated by bold, italic type.
- If you would like your child to be able to walk or bicycle to or from school, you must turn in the signed walking pass permission form.

What to wear this Friday: We will be celebrating a school Liturgy this Friday at 11:00 AM. Girls, please wear your jumpers or skirts.

This Week at OLA

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| Minimum Days | The students in grades 1-8 will be attending school from 8:00 a.m.– noon, Wednesday through Friday. Kindergarten parents, please refer to your kindergarten calendar for which days your child will attend. You may wish to send a snack to school with your child on minimum days. |
| Back to School | Tomorrow night, August 21, will be our annual Back-to-School Night. All parents are encouraged to attend this informative and fun evening. Please see the enclosed flyer for details. |
| School Liturgy | Friday, August 22, we will be celebrating a Back-to-School Liturgy prepared by our faculty and staff. Families and friends are welcome to join us in the church at 11:00 a.m. |
| Walking Passes | Students who will be leaving campus without a parent escort must have a current ('08-'09) walking pass. Permission forms are enclosed in the bulletin envelopes of families with 7th and 8th grade students. Any other family who would like their child(ren) to be issued a walking pass may pick up a permission form in the school office. |
| Uniform Closet | Gently used uniforms will be available for purchase in the school office this week. Stop by any time between 7:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. |

Next Week at OLA

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| School Schedule | Next week will be a full week of school. Kindergartners will attend either 8:00-11:00 a.m. or 11:45-2:45 p.m. Students in grades 1-8 will attend 8:00 a.m.-2:45 p.m. Extension hours are 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |
| SCRIP | The first SCRIP order is due by 8:00 a.m. on Friday, August 29. |
| Lunches | Hot lunch does not begin until Tuesday, September 2. Please remember to pack a lunch and drink for your child(ren) this week. |

Bits and Pieces

School Bulletin: Every Tuesday you will be receiving this bulletin envelope which contains important school-related information. Please remove and read the contents, sign and date the envelope, and return it to school with your oldest student the next day (Wednesday). The bulletins are also available online.

Calendar: In the back of your handbook you will find a copy of the one-page school calendar. Due to the number of changes that occur to the calendar every month a full calendar will not be sent home. You will receive an updated monthly calendar at the end of each month. The full school calendar is available for viewing on the web site.

Parent-teacher conferences will be held November 24, 25 and 26. Please do not make vacation plans during those days.

Morning Bells: The morning bell will ring at 7:55 a.m., indicating that it is time for grades 1-6 to line up on the playground and be escorted by their teachers to their classrooms. Kindergarten students may be escorted to their classroom by their parents. The bell will ring again at 8:00 a.m. signaling the start of class. Students are expected to be in their classrooms and in their seats at 8:00 a.m. Those who arrive late must report to the office with a note from their parent or accompanied by their parent for a tardy slip. The 7th and 8th grade students are encouraged to be in their seats and ready to begin at 7:45 a.m.

Afternoon Bells: School is dismissed when the bell rings at 2:45 p.m. Teachers are assigned to monitor the exit gates until 3:00 p.m. followed by commitments to tutor, proctor detention, conference with parents, etc. The school bell will ring at 2:55 signaling that it's time for families to head for the exit gates so the teachers may lock up at 3:00 and proceed with their afternoon responsibilities.

Medication: If you would like Mrs. Albers to help administer medication to your child(ren), please complete the enclosed Medication Permission Form and return it to school with the medication. **MEDICATION MAY NEVER BE SELF-ADMINISTERED AT SCHOOL.**

Label your child's clothes: Please take a moment to label your child's clothes. Clothes with names in them that reach the lost and found can be returned to you. Clothes without names are truly lost.

Parking Lot Instructions: Please take the time to carefully review pages 9 and 10 of the handbook concerning proper parking lot procedures. It is important to the safety of all our students that special care is taken to drive slowly in the parking lot and to follow the guidelines in the handbook.

Extension News

After school care is available to all children who attend OLA. We have many different ways of paying for our services, so feel free to stop by or call with questions. We are looking forward to another school year. We have both returning and new staff. Jacqueline Muller (formerly Roeszler) is returning as our AM Kindercare provider. Daniela Romo is also returning as an afternoon care provider and will be joined by two new afternoon care providers, Emily Beck and Carolyn Layman. Mrs. Couch, Mrs. Hagens, and Ms. Yarbrough will both share the duties of supervising the study hall for all first through eighth grade students.

AUCTION UPDATE

Once again, the biggest fundraiser of the school year is right around the corner. "Island Fever" will hit on October 18, 2008! Auction chairs, Debra O'Gara and Lynn Sweeney, will be keeping you informed of all auction updates and information through flyers that will be included in the Tuesday bulletin envelopes. Auction information will no longer be included in the weekly bulletin. Please be sure to read the auction fliers when enclosed.