

# Our Lady of the Assumption School

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

September 23, 2008



## With Hands to Serve and Hearts to Love

Many families wonder what happens at school on those minimum days after their children leave campus, and they wonder why OLA has so many minimum days. I will try and answer that here. The four types of business that take place on our minimum days and staff development days are 1) administrative, 2) staff development, 3) curriculum planning, and 4) spiritual renewal.

At our staff meetings, which take place on the first Friday of the month, we take care of important administrative matters that range from standardized testing to planning Catholic Schools Week to assigning and organizing school liturgies and Masses. That is just to name a few. This is where the bulk of our collective school planning gets done. On the other minimum days and staff development days our staff collaborates in grade level meetings (k-2, 3-5, 6-8), maps curriculum, and receives training on new methods or programs of instruction. Once a year the staff also "sharpens the saw" (to borrow from Stephen Covey) by participating in a full day spiritual retreat that is directed by a religious.

These minimum days and staff development days are necessary to effectively carry out our mission and meet our goals, which are a product of the accreditation process. The five main goals that our school has set for the next six years for WASC are:

1. Develop or adopt schoolwide rubrics to assess writing and speaking skills
2. Put into place formal articulation to improve curriculum and instruction (This includes curriculum mapping.)
3. Schedule and implement capital improvements and school maintenance on an ongoing basis
4. Develop a plan for professional development in current evidenced-based learning which will effectively meet the needs of all students
5. Design and implement a process for assessment of the Schoolwide Learning Expectations

None of these goals can be met without the investment of considerable time, research, collaboration, and training. The minimum days and staff development days that we have put on our calendar provide our faculty and staff with the important time we need to effectively meet our goals. Of course, the staff also meets outside of those minimum days to work on the goals we have set. The field of education has become a complex endeavor for all involved. But at the same time, educators are becoming more informed and effective because of the time they give to research, collaboration, and professional development.

God bless,

*Robert Love*

\* \* \* \* \*  
 \* **THANK YOU** \*  
 \* Thank you so much to our eighth grade parents for providing a wonderful lunch for \*  
 \* faculty and staff on Friday, September 19. It was delicious and very much \*  
 \* appreciated! \*  
 \* Don't forget to pick up your bowls, trays, etc. in the office. Thank you. \*  
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## This Week at OLA

- Field Trip The fourth grade class will be spending the night at the Sacramento Zoo on Thursday, September 25.
- Lunch Orders Lunch orders are due by Friday, September 26.
- Standardized Testing This is the week of Standardized Testing for grades 2 through 8. Due to the increase in the number of tests to be administered, it is possible testing could continue through September 30. Thank you for not scheduling appointments during this time.

## Next Week at OLA

- Sacrament Meeting A meeting for all parents of students receiving sacraments (2nd and 8th grades) will be held on Tuesday, September 30, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. This will be a brief meeting with an emphasis on ways we can share our faith with our children. Please plan on attending and being part of your child's continued journey!! Questions, please call Joyce or Kimberly in the Faith Formation Office at 488-4626.
- School Liturgy The third grade will prepare a Liturgy in honor of St. Therese of the Little Flower on Wednesday, October 1, at 9:30 a.m. All parents and teachers are welcome and encouraged to come.
- A Visit From Champ Champ will be delivering October birthday treats on Wednesday, October 1. "Got Milk" money will be collected from each classroom at that time. If your class needs a "Got Milk" container, please let Mr. Sunderman or Mrs. Coffman know.
- PTG Meeting A PTG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 2, at 1:00 p.m. in the meeting room.
- OLA Skate Day All OLA students are invited to come and skate at Foothill Skate on Friday, October 3. Private skating for OLA students will be from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person, which includes skate rental. Make your minimum day play-date at Foothill Skate! Foothill Skate is located at 4700 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento. See you there!
- PTG Fall Gathering The PTG Fall Fathering will be on Wednesday, October 8. See the enclosed flier for details. Please RSVP by filling out the information on the bottom of the flier by Friday, October 3.
- Liturgy Choir The OLA Liturgical and Bell Choir will be at the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, October 4. Please come and enjoy the beautiful music and Mass.
- A Day Off! There is no school on Monday, October 6, due to teacher inservice. Enjoy!

## Bits and Pieces

### IT'S OFFICIAL

Uniform shorts can be worn all year long!!

- Entertainment Book Please be sure to return payment or any unsold Entertainment Books. There are extra books in the office for sale. The sale will end October 1. All books must be accounted for at that time.
- Parish Renewal Coming soon to OLA. . .a photo directory!!! Our new parish directory will tell the story of our parish: our members, leaders, activities and ministries. This important tool will strengthen the bond we share in our parish. Please note our parish photo sessions are October 21 through November 1. Tuesdays-Friday from noon until 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is a simple click away to register for a LifeTouch photo session at [www.olaparish.net](http://www.olaparish.net). All photos will be taken at OLA in Seaton Hall. If you can help volunteer for a few hours, please contact Susanne Burns at (916) 487-6365.
- Open House **Christian Brothers High School** will be hosting their annual Open House on Sunday, October 5, 2008, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Christian Brothers High School, 4315 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Sacramento. For more information, please call 733-3690.
- Jesuit High School** will be hosting the annual Open House for all prospective students and their parents on Sunday, October 5, 2008, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Families may learn about the admissions process, tour the campus, pick up an information packet, and speak with faculty and program directors.
- St. Francis High School** will be hosting their annual Open House on Sunday, October 12, 2008, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Francis High School, 5900 Elvas Avenue, Sacramento. The open house is for all prospective students and their families. No reservations needed. For more information, please contact the Admissions Office at 452-3641, ext. 240. Please join us for an informative and entertaining afternoon!
- OLA Spirit Gear Order forms for OLA Spirit Gear are included in today's bulletin envelope. The T-shirts are worn by the Little Dribblers basketball teams (Grades 1 through 4). If your child plans on playing basketball, you will need to order a T-shirt at this time. These shirts are also worn for "Cougar Crew" spirit days. Hooded sweatshirts are also available. Please see the enclosed flier for details. Shirts and sweatshirts are produced based on what we order. Sorry, but no late orders will be processed. Don't delay!
- Parish Assembly **Make your dreams for OLA a reality—participate in the upcoming Parish Assembly.** Have you ever said, "Why don't we do this . . . at OLA? Now is YOUR opportunity to make your dreams for OLA a reality by working with others who share a passion for our church community. Mark your calendars **for the OLA Parish Assembly on Sunday, October 26, from noon to 4:00 p.m.** in the School Gym. A delicious lunch will be served. This exciting parish-wide event is your opportunity to hear from fellow parishioners and school parents about the work underway to enhance our social, liturgical and service ministries. As each renewal Committee presents their goals and action steps, the members of our faith community will be invited to discuss and ratify their plans. This is a great opportunity to join as a faith community, spend time together in fellowship and get energized about the future of our parish. Sign up after Mass this weekend!