

# ***The Grapevine***

## ***Our Lady of Lourdes School...***

### ***Shaping our future one child at a time.***

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**May 2012**

Dear Our Lady of Lourdes Family and Friends,

It is so hard to believe that the school year is coming to an end. It seems like it was yesterday when I walked into the building using the big hand bell to announce the opening of the new 2011-2012 school year, and today the year is almost over. Time flies when we enjoy working for others. I would like to thank all the students and parents for such a successful year.

Your constant help and support is greatly appreciated. The 2011-2012 school year was unique for each one of us. Thanks to a generous donation from the Spanish Community, we were able to update our sound system in the auditorium. We also plan to install our new lockers in the eighth grade classroom this month. I would like to thank the Middle School students for their help and cooperation.

Thanks to Mr. Domingo and the Home School Association for your help and tireless work. Your effort is really appreciated.

Congratulations to the second grade students who received their First Holy Communion. Congratulations to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation as they are ready to start the new chapter in their lives. May God bless you.

I am proud to announce that the next school year is our Jubilee Year. September will mark 70 years since our first students walked in. We are in the process of planning for that special jubilee year. We are already preparing to make the year special and memorable.

In closing I would like to thank God, above all, for an excellent year. I have enjoyed the privilege of serving as Principal of Our Lady of Lourdes School and working with this wonderful faculty and staff, exceptional students and wonderful parents and community members. I am looking forward to many years of success for our school and students.

Have a Happy, Safe and Blessed Summer.

With my prayerful remembrance,  
Sister M. Elizabeth Halaj, LSIC  
Principal

Sr. Elizabeth and Tony Jones take a break from serving customers to pose with a McDonald's employee at OLOL's Cook's Night Off fundraiser.





CONGRATULATIONS to all our school families!!! Just by clipping BOXTOPS and shopping through BOXTOPS' Marketplace, you have earned \$1780.33 for OLOL this school year.

We surpassed last year's payout by \$236.37! This may all be due to Sr. Elizabeth's monthly raffle for BOXTOPS. Anyone who submits a BOXTOP collection sheet is automatically entered to win that month's prize. Be sure to check out the display by the trophy shelves and pick up your collection sheets there.

Why not help increase OLOL's collections by contacting 10 (or more) friends and family who are not already saving BOXTOPS and ask them to clip for OLOL? At 10¢ a piece, they really add up! Gather everyone's BOXTOPS over the summer and bring them in for our Back-to-School Collection in September 2012.

Also, remember TO WATCH FOR BONUS OFFERS FROM LOCAL STORES; they offer these as the summer progresses and parents gear up for "back to school" shopping. Look for pink BOXTOPS on items sold at office supply stores as you shop for September. Check [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) for information, deals, bonus sales and coupons.

Have a wonderful summer and KEEP CLIPPING BOXTOPS!!!

Yours for the children,

*Ann Marie Simons*

PS – Take advantage of Target's *Take Charge of Education* Program. Designate Our Lady of Lourdes as your school of choice and use your Target Red Card or Target VISA whenever you shop. It doesn't cost you a penny and OLOL reaps the rewards.



The committee is so excited to announce  
2012's new wheel of chance...

"WHAT'S In the BAG?" will offer the opportunity for winners to walk away with a "bag" of groceries. The committee asks OLOL families to check the weekly request for suggestions of products needed to create the prizes. We are looking for non-perishable foods in cans or jars, paper products, cleaning products, laundry supplies, health and beauty aids (HABA), etc. Why not watch local grocery ads and pick up an extra item or two each week? Please be sure to check expiration dates; they must be November 2012 or later. Containers are available in the school foyer and entrances of the church for immediate drop-off, and throughout the summer for your donations.

With everyone's generosity, our profits will be "in the bag"! Thank you, and Happy Shopping!



## Class Notes

### Pre-K

It seems impossible that the Pre-K School Year is coming to an end. It has been a real pleasure and I thank you for the opportunity to teach and work with your children. Your cooperation throughout the year has been outstanding, and I consider myself very fortunate to have such a great partnership with all my Pre-K parents.

The children have grown and grown! We continue to work hard and have lots of adventures in learning! We had so much fun doing projects and presenting them. Our presentation skills have become really good and we love to show them off!

Pre-K 4 can say the alphabet (and sing it too), we can print the entire alphabet, we can print from 0 to 25, and we can count to 100! We can add and subtract and we just started to learn to tell time (half-hours and hours only). Some of us are reading simple story books and Mrs. Pat is soooooo proud of us!

The Pre-K 3 children are anxious to move up to Pre-K 4! They know their colors, counting to 25, shapes, alphabet, and quite a few of the letter sounds.

Both groups enjoy praying each day and saying The Pledge. We learned about presidents and had some interesting responses to who was our first president... Dean said "Adam and Eve," Jillian said "God," and Sasha said "St. Valentine." Life is fun in Pre-K!

We had lots of fun doing activities for the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School. Pre-K 3 made a big smiley face with 100 M&Ms, and Pre-K 4 made a trail of 100 cans of food. When we finished our activities, we gave all the cans to a local food pantry. Both groups brought in 100 Bixtops for Education and ended the 100<sup>th</sup> Day celebration by licking red, white and blue ice pops 100 times... boy, were our tongues cold!

During Lent, each day we brought in some loose change instead of an extra snack. We

were able to send \$75 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Science is always fun and we really had a great time learning about and growing our butterflies. Visit our website for pictures of us having fun later this month when we release them. We planted sunflowers, but we need to wait until late summer to see the beautiful flowers. Mrs. Pat promised to cut some and bring them to us in Kindergarten and keep some in the Pre-K classroom.

Music is always a blast! Thank you, Mrs. Shirman, for helping us develop our musical talents. WE LOVE THE CHICKEN DANCE!!! We have had fun in Computer and Gym classes, too. Thank you, Mrs. Florczak, for teaching us so much about a SYSTEM!!! Thank you, Mrs. Campbell, for all the fun games in Gym and especially when we had Gym outside. We love the MONKEY BARS!!!! Thank you to all the faculty and staff at OLOL for being there for us at all times! Thank you, Lauren, our college student, for coming each week and helping and playing with us. Of course, thank you, Sr. Elizabeth, for visiting our classroom and bringing us lots of great surprises. And a special thank you to our class mommies who always made our holidays special.

We had lots of fun during Catholic Schools Week... We even came to school in our PJs one day!

We were invited to participate in the May Crowning and Mass, and we feel so special. We are bringing in flowers for Mary the entire month of May and we put them in our classroom shrine to Mary.

We will also have a special celebration for our mommies and grandmas. We invited them to our classroom for story time and tea! It will be a beautiful moment in time!

In June we will have an end-of-the-year picnic with games and lots of good things to eat... Pre-K is busy to the end!

Now we are getting ready for our Stepping Up Celebration. We are working hard and having so much fun, too! We know you will love this day, but be sure to bring a tissue! Mrs. Pat and Miss Pat will definitely have them!!!!

### Pre-K and Kindergarten Important Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, June 5, 2012:

Pre-K Picnic

11:30am - 1:30pm

Tuesday, June 5, 2012:

LAST DAY of Pre-K 3

Wednesday, June 6, 2012:

Pre-K 4 Stepping Up Celebration

10:00am

Wednesday, June 6, 2012:

LAST DAY of Pre-K 4

Friday, June 8, 2012:

LAST DAY of Kindergarten

Sunday, June 10, 2012:

Kindergarten Graduation

3:00pm



### Kindergarten

We can't believe that school will be over soon ... only ten more weeks! Together we had a great time and learned many things. The Kindergarten students have finished thirteen letter books. They have been working on sight words, listening and reading comprehension, rhyming, spelling and how to read. In Math, the students made patterns, learned how to graph and have added up to number 15. They have enjoyed Religion and like to pray the Rosary, asking to pray for their families. During Lent we had Stations of the Cross. We talked about Jesus, how much He suffered and how much He loved us. We looked forward to Easter to celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead.

As part of our learning, we enjoyed various parties to celebrate holidays and birthdays, and a class trip. Many thanks to the Class Mothers, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Forbes and the other Mothers, for making our days in school special!

Our final event for this year is our GRADUATION! You are invited to celebrate with us on Sunday, June 10, at 3:00pm. You will enjoy seeing us as we perform our program "When I Grow Up," and graduate with real caps and gowns. After the program, please stay for our Graduation Party that our Class Mothers are working so hard to prepare.



Kindergarten students had fun with Mrs. Campbell's 100th Day of School activities in Gym class.



## **Grade 1**

The first graders were very excited to complete their first Terra Nova Test in March. They were focused and tried their best on the Reading/Language Arts and Math areas of the test.

As we complete our Reading Units, we like to show off our reading skills and entertain the younger members of our school community. So far we have read to Pre-K and plan to read to them again soon. We will also read with the Kindergarteners before they graduate.

What an honor it was for the first graders to accompany the weeping women in the Living Stations of the Cross! This participation made a great impact on the children in understanding the Passion of Our Lord.

Our class enjoyed working on three fun Science projects this past month. We grew grass to represent the silly hair of a leprechaun. We drew and labeled the parts of our own eyes. In recognition of eating healthy and having a balanced diet, we completed a MY PLATE project, the new symbol replacing the Food Pyramid.

The end of May will be very busy for us. On Tuesday, May 22nd, we will hold the 8th annual *You Raise Me Up-A Celebration of Mothers*, to honor Our Blessed Mother Mary, and our mothers and grandmothers. It is a very special celebration and takes much preparation. The class is working hard to do their best.

As a treat for working so hard this year, the class will be attending the annual class trip to Jenkinson's Aquarium in Pt. Pleasant Beach on Wednesday, May 23rd. We hope for beautiful weather. Look for pictures of some of these activities on the school web site and Mrs. Brickman's Photo Album.

## **Grade 2**

We did it! First, we signed up for the Writing Contest about Solar Power which was organized by the Celebrating New Jersey Organization. Next, we studied hard about solar power and green energy. Then we worked in groups and wrote a 21 verse-song about solar power. Finally, we sang the song; we recorded it and sent the video clip to the Board of Writing Contest and we waited to hear the results.

When the message arrived that we were selected, we were very happy and excited to perform our song in front of all the audience at Kean University. We want to say thank you to Mrs. Florczak for helping us to work on the technology part. We also want to express our gratitude to Sr. Elizabeth who made our trip to Kean. Thank you so much, because it was a very interesting experience and we had a lot of fun.

Now we are waiting for our award -- a science assembly for the whole school. We learned that if we work hard, we really can do anything, and we are very proud of that!



## **Grade 4**

The Fourth Grade can not believe this year is coming so quickly to an end! We have been so busy completing so many things. In Math, we worked on adding subtracting, multiplying and even dividing fractions. Our class has been working so hard to get a 100% on our Do Now problems. Our whole class succeeded. Ms. Duffy had promised to cartwheel around the room. After several unsuccessful attempts, she gave us an ice cream sundae party instead. YUMMY! We just began a unit on geometry, another one of Ms. Duffy's favorite topics. In Language Arts, we have been studying the different parts of speech. We go to Writing Road Map every week. Our scores have been getting better each time we go. In Our Social Studies class, we covered the Civil War and its causes. Ms. Duffy always says that Social Studies is like a row of dominoes. If you take out a piece, everything else will change. We have been using the Smart Board to watch video clips on Brain Pop about the war. We read about Harriet Tubman and her bravery. We just finished reading the play, "Blame It On the Wolf." We are talking about possibly putting the play on for the younger grades. It sounds like so much fun! Finally in Religion, we are studying the Ten Commandments. We have read many parables and studied different saints. We do Bible searches looking for information on the Gospels. There are only a few weeks left for us to continue growing spiritually and intellectually. We can't wait to see what else we will learn this year.

## **Grade 5**

The students in Grade 5 celebrated their D.A.R.E. graduation with Sergeant Petry and other law officials during the month of April. Sergeant Petry arranged for a pizza party celebration to recognize the students and their dedication. Congratulations to all the essay and poster winners!

|                              | <b>D.A.R.E.<br/>Essay</b> | <b>D.A.R.E.<br/>Poster</b> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>  | Clara<br>Melvin           | Roxana<br>Maroun           |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>  | Seamus<br>D'Angiolillo    | Valerie<br>Hinojosa        |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>  | Valerie<br>Hinojosa       | Molly<br>Balsamo           |
| <b>Honorable<br/>Mention</b> | Molly<br>Balsamo          | Sara<br>Balsamo            |

In the classroom, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade is exploring several reading selections, practicing their spelling skills, perfecting their penmanship, decoding parts of speech, and writing numerous verses of poetry types to include in a personal portfolio. We journey to Writing Road Map in the computer lab weekly to continue progressing through the writing process. We will continue to work through the fourth and final essay for our class until the end of the year.

In Math, we have progressed through whole number and decimal operations, word problems, order of operations, and division concepts. We are continuing to build our fraction concepts prior to exploring percents and the geometry of figures. We frequently work together to solve cooperative learning projects and present the results to the class.

In Science, we are investigating "Cycles of Matter" in several forms. Students will learn about the water cycle, the carbon cycle, the nitrogen cycle, and the recycling of organic matter such as trees. We will also be participating in the New Jersey 2012 Recycling Poetry Contest.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade Religion class recently finished examining the parts of the Mass and the proper responses during Mass. In the next couple of months we will dedicate our studies into the dynamics of "Family Life". We will discuss how our attitudes and virtues bring us together as a family in faith.



## **Grades 6-8**

### **Religion (Mrs. Gleason)**

Jesus Christ has Risen! ALLELUIA!!!

The students presented the Living Stations of the Cross during Holy Week. Their presentation was so very moving and I am extremely proud of each and every one of them. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders were exceptional in portraying the major roles. The choir consisted of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders and the singing was beautiful.

Mrs. Dolan was a big help with choreographing all the movements and facial expressions. I could not have organized this without her help. Also I would like to thank Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Welsh for volunteering their time to work on this presentation.

The students would like to share some of their memories of the Living Stations of the Cross:

- \* The cross and the whip breaking
- \* Sammy (Pontius Pilate) sprinting across the stage as the curtain opened.
- \* Jesus (Angel) hitting Eder (soldier) with the cross
- \* Andrea (soldier) accidentally hitting Angel's (Jesus) foot with the hammer
- \* Being able to portray Jesus, Mary, Mary Magdalene, John, Veronica, Simon and others in the play
- \* Angel's awesome acting
- \* When Jesus (Angel) and Mary (Amanda) touched hands at the end.
- \* Walking Mary to meet Jesus as the end of the play
- \* Angel's saying, "I'm in character, Mrs. 'G'" when he was asked if he was ok
- \* Angel's face and hand movements during the final song



### **Social Studies (Mrs. Gleason)**

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders just finished studying about the Cold War and are looking forward to a chapter about the how the US prospered during the 50s and 60s. I am going to share with them some old TV shows and let them listen to Rock and Roll! They will also learn about "Baby Boomers." It should be a relaxing chapter and NO WARS!

The class would like to thank Mrs. Bea for telling us about how her parents survived the Holocaust. Fr. Dario sat in on the presentation and we all were moved by her story.

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade the class has just started studying the Civil War. They are learning about how each side prepared for battle and how it tore our country apart.

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders are learning about the Ancient Romans. I feel so blessed that I was able to visit Rome and will share pictures with them.

Have a wonderful summer and see you in September.

### **On-going Restaurant Fundraisers:**

**Wendy's, Ryders Lane, Milltown**  
Every Tuesday in May, 5-8pm

**Hailey's Harp & Pub, Main Street, Metuchen**  
Every Wednesday, All day

[http://www.ololschoolnj.org/HHAP\\_Gen\\_031](http://www.ololschoolnj.org/HHAP_Gen_031)



**Math (Mrs. Vattelana)**

The Sixth Graders are mastering their first experiences with Pre-Algebra concepts and moving on to Classifying Lines and Angles.

The Seventh Graders are actively matching stories to graphs based on content and reversing the process to create an original story that includes a graph. We are also continuing to understand and write equations for the next phase of math we will be facing in Eighth Grade.

The Eighth Graders are winding down the school year with a mixture of Stem-and-Leaf Plots, Box-and-Whisker Plots and Histograms to visually recap their journey through the year.

**Science (Mrs. Vattelana)**

In Science class, the 6<sup>th</sup> graders have been studying Earthquakes and Safety tips while moving onto the topic of different types of landforms found on earth such as: Folded, Upwarped, Fault-block, and Volcanic Mountains.

Seventh grade Science class has deepened our understanding of Reproduction which defined for us the Stages of Development and After Birth through Adulthood. We were able to research the topic of "Rites of Passage" where we uncovered a variety of celebrations people all over the world participate in to mark the movement from childhood to adulthood.

In eighth grade Science class, the students are discovering how scientists find out about things they can't see; describing subatomic particles; and identifying the structure of the Nuclear Atom.

**From OLOL's website:**

*The students in our middle school have been mothering six donated chicken eggs to learn about the experience of hatchlings and the process of birth. Over the past month we have been incubating the chicken eggs, waiting for the blessed day of their arrival. The first joined us on May 3rd and several others have hatched since. We began our project with a presentation by our resident chicken experts, both of the Sixth Grade, who shared with us many valuable facts related to the rearing of the chicklets along with a how to care for the chickens once they mature to adulthood. The students of the middle school are excited to hold the chickens and want to have a contest to name the chicks. What name do you suggest for the chickens? After the birth of our chickens we will have them in school for about a week. After their stay, they will go live a happy, healthy life on a chicken farm.*





## **Word Literacy (Mrs. Oman)**

### **Develop your child's writing**

For generations, parents have read bedtime stories to their children to help them develop language and vocabulary. But writing is as fundamental to a child's development as reading.

As children's vocabularies grow, help them practice using new words by writing notes to each other and talking about new words. Reading aloud is a great way to teach kids grammar and other structures of writing. Try all genres: poetry, non-fiction, even picture books. Create the ideal writing environment for your aspiring writer. Following this simple guide makes Language Arts just a continuation of what has been going on at home instead of something foreign.

*"The task of a writer consists of being able to make something out of an idea."  
~ Thomas Mann*

### **Hey kids, get some sleep!**

Kids have always wanted to stay up late. You're probably familiar with the glow of some sort of electronic device. When we were kids, it was a big deal to have a TV in our bedroom. Today we have children whose whole existence is technology-oriented. All of this is disturbing their sleep. This technology overload combined with the growing popularity of caffeine energy drinks, is having serious consequences on children's sleep.

Most kids use a least one form of technology in their bedroom before going to bed. Keeping the television, computer and any other electronic device out of your child's bedroom is central to making sleep a priority. They want to answer one more e-mail, or check Facebook again, or play one more round of a video game, and it can be very hard to step away. Set up a place in your house other than in a bedroom for electronics. The bedroom should be reserved for sleep.

Set a cut-off time of noon to give the body enough time to metabolize caffeine so that bedtime sleep will not be affected. A consistent bedtime routine is just as important. The hour before bedtime should be reserved for a quiet relaxing activity to help your child wind down. Reading is a good bedtime activity.

Set a rule that all computers, phones and other devices are turned off at least an hour before bedtime. Try to set lights out for no later than 10 p.m. Be a good role model. It's not enough to set rules for your children about sleep and technology. Parents need to follow them, too.

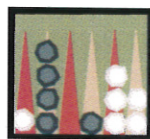


## **Club Notes**

**You are kindly reminded that dismissal time from Clubs is 2:45pm. Please be sure to pick your child up on time.** If you are going to be late, please notify the office; otherwise your child will be placed in Aftercare at 2:50.

### **Indoor/Outdoor Club**

Please keep the Indoor/Outdoor Club in mind this summer as you pass by garage sales and flea markets. We are looking for games that are in good to new condition and not missing any pieces. Several parents and grandparents have donated games throughout the year and we appreciate all donations.



Any donations of playing balls such as a basketball, soccer ball or kickball will also be appreciated.



## Student Council News

The Student Council plays a very important role in school. Its members help share students' ideas, interests, and concerns with the teachers and principal. They help the students raise funds for school-wide projects. Being on Student Council is something that will help students become responsible and active members of the community.

Representatives:

- Attend after school meetings once a week.
- Meet with classmates to discuss ideas and concerns.
- Work at special events.
- Serve as positive role models to other students.

Their classmates elect Student Council representatives. Students in grades 4 through 7 may decide to run for Student Council.

### 2011-12 OLOL Student Council

President - Hayley Haar

Vice President - Amanda Pavlis

Treasurer - Lauren Diehm

Secretary - Bridget Dempsey

Commissioner of Safety - Ryan Jones

Commissioner of Liturgy - Finn Payer

Class Representatives:

5th grade - Valerie Hinojosa

6th grade - Yanaris Reyes

7th grade - none

8th grade - Amanda Dias



*8<sup>th</sup> Grade student Hayley Haar crowns the Blessed Mother.*

## Good New\$ from GoodSearch

LOL supporters continue to earn funds for school just by browsing the web at GoodSearch.com and shopping online through GoodShop.com.

GoodSearch is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates 50% of its revenue, about a penny per search, to registered charities. GoodShop is an online shopping mall with more than 1,300 affiliated retailers including Amazon, Target, Toys R Us, Staples, eBay, Best Buy and Apple; a percentage of each purchase (up to 20%!) is donated to registered charities.

Why not help OLOL benefit from GoodSearch and GoodShop? With Christmas just around the corner, your online shopping can earn cash for our school. Simply visit the websites and select **Our Lady of Lourdes School – Milltown** as your cause. Then search or shop to your heart's content... GoodSearch and GoodShop will do the rest.

Be sure to visit GoodDining ([www.goodsearch.com/gooddining](http://www.goodsearch.com/gooddining)), where you can earn up to 6% just by dining at over 10,000 restaurants. Fundraising has never been so easy or so yummy!