

OUR
LADY OF
GRACE

OLG Gazette

December 2011

Our Lady of Grace School Newsletter
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The month of December is one of my favorite times of the year. While this month can be hectic and crazy, the activities that contribute to this craziness are filled with good intentions for other people. We will spend these coming days shopping, baking, cooking, decorating, wrapping, and doing a thousand other things to get ready for December 24th and 25th. Our intent at the end of each item on our very long check list will bring joy to others. Someone will love opening the gift you give them, someone else will enjoy the delicious cookies or dinner you make, while others will smile at the bright decorations at each house they drive past.

While we think of the many preparations we have to make, it makes me think of how things must have been for the Blessed Mother leading up to the birth of our Lord. In the middle of preparing to have a new baby, which takes much planning, she unexpectedly had to travel a great distance to Bethlehem for a census. Upon arriving there, she and Joseph had to look for a place to stay and have a child, food, and water. Their planning during this time may have been different than ours, but it was no less hectic or crazy. All of the activity leading up to the birth we now celebrate on December 25th was filled with good intentions for other people.

All of the planning and preparation Mary and Joseph made for the birth of Jesus was for our good. Their planning gave us a Savior whose every action was to save us from sin and death. Just as we are exhausted from the many things on our list to accomplish before Christmas are done to give our families a joyous celebration, everything that Mary and Joseph did was to give us the Son of God who would give us a joyous celebration with His father in heaven.

While I don't want to add one more item to anyone's To Do List, I do hope that part of the list is remembering to spend time praying, attending Mass, reading the Bible, and lighting the Advent Wreath with your families. As we plan for Christmas Day, we do not want forget to take time to strengthen our relationship with God during Advent. By strengthening our relationship, it will only make our Christmas Celebrations even more blessed and merry.

The faculty and staff of Our Lady of Grace School wish you and your families a joyous Christmas and a New Year filled with good health and many blessings.

Miss Lindsay Pfister



THE MISSION OF OUR LADY OF GRACE SCHOOL

The Mission of Our Lady of Grace School is to provide each child, through instruction and example, with a foundation of Gospel values, service to the community, and academic excellence in order to foster a spirit of hopefulness and goodwill to others.

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LOOK WHAT HAPPENED IN NOVEMBER...

First 9 Weeks Assembly

At the end of each 9 weeks we acknowledge students for achievement in academics, athletics, extra-curricular activities, service, and character. Our first 9 weeks honor roll recipients in grades 7 and 8 are:

Grade 8 - Matthew Bissert, Justin Brandwein, Gianni Fera, Madison Halligan, Carlie Hetland, Colleen Horgan, Mia Massetti, Maura Musiol, Luke Radzanowski, Rachel Restivo, JR Rutkauskas, Noah Satler, Matthew Thomas, Noah Trainor, Samantha Vanek, Brennon Westover, and Ellese White.

Grade 7 - Anna Graeb, Matthew Klim, Andrew Musial, Marissa Parissi, Taylor Riley, Joelle Sinatra, Grant Temple, Hannah Thornton, and Jordan Underwood.

St. Dominic Savio Award for character was awarded to: Peyton Rounsfull (grades K-2), Megan Debski (grades 3-5), and Lauren Ranalli (grades 6-8).

Annual Food Pantry Collection

The students of OLG collected over 1,300 food items for the Our Lady of Grace St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.



3rd Grade Saints

After researching and reporting on a saint, the students in 3rd grade either dressed up or wore a symbol representing their saint when they participated in the All Saints Day school Mass on November 1.

1st Grade Veteran's Day Prayer Service

Our 1st graders honored our Veteran's with a prayer service that included beautiful readings and music.



Honors Band

Congratulations to 7th grader Marissa Parissi for being chosen to participate in the Diocese of Pittsburgh Honors Band.



Technology

When returning from Thanksgiving vacation, our students on the third floor were surprised to find SMART Boards (interactive whiteboards) installed in all of the classrooms. Our goal is to have one of these boards installed in every classroom by the start of the 2012 school year.



Guardian Angel Activity

After attending Mass, but before heading to Thanksgiving vacation, the students worked with their Guardian Angels to problem solve and construct a Thanksgiving Parade float. Using a shoebox and different items, the students created works of art that they paraded through the gym.

Who are Guardian Angels?

Every year older students are paired with their angels. For example, 8th graders are paired with a Kindergartners. Throughout the school year, the older students and angel will do different activities together. Some of things the students may do together are go to church and participate in a themed activity, such as building the Thanksgiving Parade Floats or decorating pumpkins for Halloween. When the older students see their angels in the halls they often say hi or wave to them. Our younger students love having an older student as their friend and they look up to them.

PTG NEWS

“ INTRODUCTIONS ”

Hi everyone. My name is Susan Musial and I am the new PTG President. Last month you heard from Kerrin Hetland who humorously called herself the “Slacker Mom”. Well if Kerrin is the Slacker Mom . . . I’m the Old Mom! My husband, Bob, and I moved to Scott Township 17 years ago and joined Our Lady of Grace Parish. We’ve been parishioners for 17 years and OLG school parents for 16 years. We have four children: Abigail, Emily, Elizabeth and Andrew. Abbey, Em and Lizzie are all graduates of OLG. Abbey is now in her last year at Washington and Jefferson College and Emily is in her second year at Washington and Jefferson. Lizzie is a sophomore at Chartiers Valley and Andrew is in 7th grade at OLG. You can see we are all over the place educationally!

Bob and I have volunteered in various positions for the school and church and we just recently completed a four year term as Presidents of the OLG Athletic Association. About now you might be asking yourself “Susan, why do you want to take on another responsibility? You could coast out of OLG. . . your last child is in the 7th grade . . . stay under the radar . . . just get through the middle school years with your only son.” Well, I asked myself that too!

Here’s the answer . . . we love OLG. Our children have received a stellar education in a faith-filled, caring environment. Our daughters who have graduated from OLG have been successful in high school and in college. The teachers who taught the girls at OLG still ask me how they are doing. They ask Andrew to see homecoming or prom pictures and believe me he just loves sharing those! The families at OLG are also part of the equation. We have met so many wonderful people who also love this school and parish. We’ve worked with so many of you at the pasta dinner or sweetheart’s dance or gym clean-up, etc. OLG School is such a wonderful place for all of these reasons: the faculty, the staff, the principal, the families, the students, and our pastor. How can anyone resist being part of such a great place?

Miss Pfister is the third principal I’ve had the pleasure and honor of working with. So, I am very much looking forward to working with her again and I am very much looking forward to working with the rest of the PTG members: Sharon Chiodo, Kerrin Hetland, Lauren Sukal, Patty Underwood and Maureen Golupski. As I recently wrote to Miss Pfister and the PTG officers, school is near and dear to my heart. I’ve been a teacher with the Pittsburgh Public Schools for 26 years. (Remember what I said about being old?) Even after 26 years I still love my calling.

So as I get my feet wet in this new endeavor think about also volunteering for something new. Kerrin listed many opportunities in last month’s Gazette article or you can contact any PTG officer for suggestions. I’ve been around but I still realize I have more things to learn, so please wish me well! I already know I owe Denise O’Neil an enormous thank you for heading up the Santa Shop. Denise has opened my eyes recently to how many people are real life elves for our children. Thank you Denise!

In closing, I would like to wish all of you a blessed and peaceful Christmas with your families and friends.

P.S. Let’s see if it is possible to teach an old dog new tricks!

President: Susan Musial, scmusial@comcast.net
Vice President: Sharon Chiodo, 412-276-4827
Secretary: Kerrin Hetland, ptgsecretary@olgscoot.net
Treasurer: Lauren Sukal, 412-429-8897, laurensukal@gmail.com
Enrichment Committee Chair: Patty Underwood

TIP OFF

NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Basketball: Our basketball teams have started their regular seasons this past weekend, December 3rd, 4th and 5th, with games continuing throughout February. This Saturday, December 10 and Sunday, December 11 the following teams have home games: 12/10 JV Girls at 3:45pm; Varsity Girls at 5:00pm; JV boys at 6:30pm; Varsity boys at 8:00pm. On Sunday, December 11, the 5th and 6th grade prep teams begin play with the Boys starting at 2:00pm and the Girls following at 3:00pm. Please plan on attending the games and showing support for our young athletes.

Basketball Season Pass: Regular season basketball passes are available for purchase. The price for full season family passes has dropped from \$50 last year to \$30 for the 2011-2012 season. Gate prices for individual games are as follows: \$3/adult, \$2/child, and \$7/per family. Passes are available at the gate, or by contacting Joyce Walsh.

Fundraising: OLGAA is sponsoring a 12 Days of Christmas Raffle. All families whose children participate in sports were given a block of 10 tickets to sell. The raffle runs from December 24th, to January 4th. Please get your tickets turned in to Mr. Welch as soon as possible.

Tiger Clinic: Tiger Clinic starts Jan. 7th, 2012, 8am-9:30am for pre-school, kindergarten, and 1st grade; and 9:30am-11:00am for 2nd and 3rd graders. Please check mail day for the flyer. Checks made out to OLGAA are due by Dec. 14th.

We are also sponsoring a delicious pasta dinner with our own Iron Chef, Jeff Radzanowski. This year the pasta dinner will take place on Saturday January 28th, as the kick-off to Catholic Schools Week. Look for tickets and more information in January.

Once again we will be hosting a Sweethearts Dance to be held on February 11th. The Dance last year was such a success and so much fun for those who attended, we hope to see everyone there this year for a really great night of music, dancing and an all-around good time.

Thank you Jeff and Lisa Radzanowski for your work on the pasta dinner; and thank you, Susan Musial, for helping to coordinate it, and for chairing the Sweethearts Dance. We appreciate all your hard work.

We would like to thank all those who participated in the square dance last month. Whether you attended with your families, donated baked goods, or simply gave a cash donation to the effort, it all came together very nicely and a good time was had by all. A special thank you to Laurie Temple who led us all in a great line dance (all except for Tony Novelli, who apparently was doing his own unique thing) and to her loving husband Bryan who brought the guest of honor. Can't wait to see all those pictures taken with "The Duke". It was great fun and we couldn't have done any of it without your help and support.

Anyone interested in getting any "Tigerwear" for friends or family should contact Jody Centore and place an order. She offers a great selection of shirts, jackets, sweatshirts, pullovers, blankets and "sew" much more, all embroidered with OLG logos. You can reach Jody at www.sew-mm.com, info@sew-mm.com, or by calling 412-745-5727.

The next meeting for the OLGAA is scheduled for December 6th at 7:30pm in the upper room of the church. All are welcome to attend. We would love to hear your fundraising ideas.

Athletic Director: Tom Welch, 412-279-6611, tomawelch@comcast.net

Athletic Association Officers:

President: Paul Trusialek, 412-260-4092, ptrusialek@comcast.net

Vice Presidents: Renee & Dan Thornton, 412-278-1580, mithorn7@hotmail.com, dannyt512@comcast.net

Secretary: Bill Sater, wdsater@verizon.net

Treasurer: Joyce Walsh, 412-278-1597



OUR LADY OF GRACE SCHOOL DECEMBER BASKETBALL SCHEDULES

BOYS

VARSITY

12/3 2:15pm @ St. Thomas More
12/10 7:45pm vs. St. Bernard
12/12 7:45pm @ Holy Trinity
12/17 7:45pm vs. St. Elizabeth
12/21 7:45pm @ St. Malachy

JUNIOR VARSITY

12/3 1:00pm @ St. Thomas More
12/10 6:30pm vs. St. Bernard
12/12 6:30pm @ Holy Trinity
12/17 6:30pm vs. St. Elizabeth
12/21 6:30pm @ St. Malachy

JV DEVELOPMENTAL

12/4 2:00pm vs. St. Philip
12/11 2:00pm vs. St. Gabriel White
12/18 2:00pm vs. St. Margaret

4TH GRADE DEVELOPMENTAL

12/3 2:00pm vs. St. Anne
12/10 10:00am @ St. Bernard Gold
12/17 2:00pm vs. St. Margaret Blue

GIRLS

VARSITY

12/2 7:45pm @ St. Benedict the Moor
12/4 3:30pm @ St. Teresa
12/10 5:00pm vs. JFK

JUNIOR VARSITY

12/2 6:30pm @ St. Benedict the Moor
12/10 3:45pm vs. JFK

JV DEVELOPMENTAL

12/2 6:30pm @ BLSMMA
12/11 3:00pm vs. St. Philip
12/17 6:00pm @ St. Gabriel
12/18 3:00pm vs. St. Bernard

4TH GRADE DEVELOPMENTAL

12/3 12:30pm vs. JFK Green
12/10 12:00pm @ St. Margaret
12/17 12:30pm vs. Holy Trinity



OLG AUCTION

We are in full planning mode for the the 2012 auction 'An American Tribute'. Our next meeting is scheduled on Monday, December 12th, 7pm at La Bella Bean - all are welcome! This is a really fun way to get involved and meet some great people. And don't forget to pick up an item to donate while you are Christmas shopping.

Want to know how you can help make our largest fundraiser a success?

1. Donate an item to the auction - popular items in the past were:

- +Trips - if you have a timeshare, can you donate a week?
- +Certificates to restaurants, hotels, events
- +Sports tickets and items - signed items bring in the most money
- +TVs, appliances
- + Unique items - gourmet dinner at your house, a chance to meet someone famous (if you have a connection let us know)

2. Plan on attending and let you family and friends know. Invitations will be going out at the end of January.

3. Buy items and raffle tickets at the auction or before. Watch mail day for details.

4. Place an ad for you business or buy a tribute in our program. Please ask your workplace if they can place an ad in our program.

We hope to see you there. It's a really fun night.

If you cannot make the meeting but would like to help, please contact Chrissy Debski at 412-257-3743 or e-mail christinadebski@hotmail.com.



MARKET DAY

Thank you for all of your Market Day orders!

Deadline for internet orders is **Monday, December 5th by 11pm.**

Pickup is in Miller Pavillion (gym) from 10am-11am on **Saturday, December 10th.**

If you can't pickup your order, please call Cheryl Cannon at (412)257-4303 to arrange for your order to be held in the freezer.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Cannon.

BOOKS DONATED TO OUR LIBRARY

IN CELEBRATION OF BIRTHDAYS:

- 📖 Annie Walsh, Erixon Brothers: The Case of the Case of Mistaken Identity
- 📖 Jimmy Walsh, The Crossing
- 📖 Billy O'Connell, Mockingjay
- 📖 Vyla Tomachesky, Amanda Pig and the Really Hot Day & Hurray for Amanda and Her Alligator
- 📖 Sean Dougherty, Winter's Tail: How One Little Dolphin Learned to Swim Again
- 📖 Aubrey Hetland, The Case of the Bizarre Bouquets
- 📖 Jackson Hetland, Disasters
- 📖 Katelyn Campbell, Grim and Bear It

IN MEMORY OF:

- 📖 Joseph Robert Young, brother of Mrs. Amy Fallert; Scrambled States of America Talent Show donated by Tony & Christine Rzeczkowski
- 📖 Joseph Quercia, grandfather of Carlie Hetland; Will and the Battle of Gettysburg donated by Scott & Kerrin Hetland & Family
- 📖 Gerard "Pat" Malarkey, father of Mrs. Mary Lou Reicoff; Free Throw donated by Thad, Kristen, Katelyn & T.J. Campbell
- 📖 Timothy J. Skelley, uncle of Joel Skelley;
The Fastest Game on Two Feet donated by Alan & Kristina Popey
The Day Roy Riegels Ran the Wrong Way donated by Dave, Susan & Lauren Ranalli

IN THANKSGIVING FOR OUR MANY BLESSINGS:

- 📖 Let's Do Nothing donated by Jase Smith & Family

IN APPRECIATION:

- 📖 Alexis Zarnick, for collecting books for the Oncology Department at Children's Hospital; Storyteller donated by Scott & Kerrin Hetland & Family
- 📖 Cornelius Walker (Korean War Veteran) - for your service to our country; Shark vs. Train donated by Michael, Vincent, Joshua & Sarah Centore
- 📖 Gene Centore (Korean War Veteran) - for your service to our country; War to End All Wars donated by Michael, Vincent, Joshua & Sarah Centore
- 📖 Anthony Centore (Iraq War Veteran) - for your service to our country; Candy Bomber: The Story of Berlin's Airlift "Chocolate Pilot" donated by Michael, Vincent, Joshua & Sarah Centore

To donate a book to the library, send a note or email to Mrs. Popey with the reason you are donating the book (birthday, memorial, celebration, honoring someone, etc.), amount you would like to spend and if you would like a certain type of book. Mrs. Popey will let you know the cost. Send your check to Mrs. Popey made out to OLG and she will order the book. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Popey at kpopey@olascott.net.

TIGER PRIDE

Thank you to the following Cafeteria Volunteers for helping to feed our children:

Ed Biagetti	Eileen Bittner	Jackie Callahan
Kristen Campbell	Maria Collavo	Yvonne DeLong
Joni DiBello	Fran Dougherty	Megan Duca
Mary Margaret Everett	Aliaia Ferrie	Tatiana Galante
Mo Golupski	Gina Johnston	Renee Kuzel
Connie Maida	Laurie Maziarz	Eve Minutello
Carol Mongelli	Mike Mongelli	Lisa Novelli
Denise O'Neill	Ellen Papuga	Jackie Phillips
Janet Pipilo	Lisa Pipilo	Alan Popey
Laurie Santoro	Philly Sysak	Laura Tanzos
Suzette Torrence	MJ Whalen	Bernice Witt

and a special thank you to **Cheryl Cannon** for coordinating the Cafeteria Volunteers!

Thank you to the following Scholastic Book Fair Volunteers:

Brenna Albert	Lin Bayer	Jaci Brandwein
Kristen Campbell	Cheryl Cannon	Mary Margaret Everett
Rogelio Galante	Peggy Halligan	Kerrin Hetland
Carla Isoldi	Sheri Kenawell	Kara Klaus
Laurie Maziarz	Denise O'Neill	Ellen Papuga
Lisa Pipilo	Antonella Polk	Kim Sherman
James Walsh	Joyce Walsh	

and thank you to the following 8th graders for helping out:
Noah Trainor, Lauren Ranalli, Billy O'Connell & J.R. Rutkauskas

and a special thank you to **Tatiana Galante** for doing a magnificent job of coordinating the Book Fair!

Behind every
successful
school is a
pride of
volunteers.

