

April Newsletter

Welcome, Class of 2013

This is the first of many monthly newsletters that the class of 2013 will be receiving from OLA. We hope you find them informative and uplifting! There is always lots of good news to share about OLA girls! Welcome to the OLA family, class of 2013!

Entrance Test, Class of 2013

As you all know, we require each perspective seventh grade student to take an Entrance Exam. We give the Metropolitan Achievement Test and receive grades in Reading, Math, and Language. It is NOT an easy test.

It is my pleasure to tell you that the class of 2013 “blew the top off” this test. As a whole, the average score was the 75.8thile. (Remember: this is not a percent, but a percentile; the average score in the entire nation is the 50thile.) This means that our average score was in the top 1/4th of the nation! Wow! I think OLA is in good hands for the foreseeable future! And I think Holy Trinity, St. Vincent de Paul, and Coast Episcopal are doing a SUPER job!

ACT Results, Class of 2006

Mrs. Emmel shared the ACT results for our seniors with me the other day. Every OLA senior took the ACT. This compares with about 70% of graduates in the state of MS. And if you want affirmation about the quality of the education that your daughter is receiving, just look at these scores:

	Eng.	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
OLA Average, 2006	25.4	21.8	24.8	23.2	23.9
National Average, 2006	20.6	20.8	21.4	20.9	21.1
MS average, 2006	19.1	18.0	19.1	18.7	18.8

Way to go, seniors! Way to go, OLA faculty! Way to go, OLA parents!
These scores are super!

Soccer News

As you all know, the state soccer trophy is back in the trophy case in our Commons, where it has been for seven of the last eight years. I commented on the state finals match in last month's newsletter.

Today, it is my privilege to announce to you that OLA placed three young women on the All-Coast team: Amanda Meyers, Amelia Simpson, and Caroline Eagan. Amanda was also named to the All-State team, and Ms Christi Elias was named Coach-of-the-Year for the Coast.

This is just "icing on the cake." Congratulations, Ladies. Congratulations, Christi!

Promote the Vote (PTV)

Mrs. Elise Deano, chair of the OLA Social Studies Department, challenged her students to take part in a statewide contest to "Promote the Vote," sponsored by the MS Secretary of State's Office. Winners each receive savings bonds valued at up to \$500.00. State winners from OLA include:

Art 10-12

1. Kristin Lennard
2. Erin Kergosien
3. Kaitlyn Bosley

Political Cartoon 10-12

1. Mary Nelson
2. Karli Renz
3. Amanda Meyers

Essay 7-9

2. Katherine Holland

Art 7- 9

1. Hannah Anderson

Video 10 - 12

1. Evan Cranford, Sam Goggins (SSC)
2. Nikki Vaught, Lexie Hahn, Caterina Tran
3. Sean Bradford, Chaz Singleton, Andre Romain (SSC)

Essay 10 - 12

1. Leah Tucker
2. Megan Chevis
3. Jessie Shifalo

I jokingly asked Mrs. Deano if her students were the only ones who submitted entries into this contest OR if her students were really that much better than the rest. Jenny Newton, Director of Education and Constituent Services for the Secretary of State, assured us that thousands of entries were submitted! Way to go, Mrs. Deano! Way to go, OLA/SSC history students!

Presidential Volunteer Service Award

Megan Chevis, a junior, has been honored for her exemplary volunteer service with a Presidential Volunteer Service Award. This award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who volunteer significant amounts of their time to serve their communities is presented by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program on behalf of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

Megan was recognized for her work assisting the staff of Marine Life Oceanarium and the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport in the rescue of dolphins and sea lions displaced during Katrina. Congratulations, Megan!

Tuition Assistance, 2007-2008

Packets for tuition assistance for 2007-2008 are available from Sister Anna Louise; just call the office and she will send you one, or you may pick one up in person from her at OLA. Anyone wishing aid needs to apply. Application may be made on-line or through the mail. Federal W2 forms for 2006 must be submitted with the application. The deadline for applying is April 17, 2007.

The information you submit remains confidential. FACTS, a tuition assistance firm with headquarters in Dallas, will be evaluating the information. They will send us a list of those qualifying for assistance; they will not give us any direct information from your application. A committee at OLA will then dispense the available funds. Final decisions should be made during May.

A Couple of "Tidbits":

OLA and SSC will continue to begin school at 8:30 AM for the 2007-2008 academic year. The school day will end at 3:30 PM.

The first day of school next year will be Thursday, August 9, 2007. (A full calendar will be sent to you as soon as it is finalized.)

Reminder: Chef's Fest, Sunday, March 25, OLA Commons