

Wendy's Heisman Award

It is my pleasure to announce that Victoria Romano has been named a state finalist in the Wendy's Heisman Scholarship Program. This award is based on athletic prowess, academic excellence, and exhibited leadership skills. Victoria will attend a dinner in January in Jackson where those moving on to the next level in the competition will be announced. Congratulations, Victoria!

National Young Leaders Conference

OLA junior, Emily Vaughn, recently returned from a week in Washington where she attended the National Young Leaders Conference. She spent some time with Harriet Miers, President Bush's former Supreme Court nominee. She spent a day in Congress, sitting in Gene Taylor's seat in the House of Representatives. She also was able to visit the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, among others. I think it was a fabulous experience for Emily!

OLA Swimming

Not to be out-done by the OLA state volleyball champions, the OLA swimmers took to the pool several weeks ago and competed in the state meet. Swimmers, Samantha McLeod, Madeleine Loftus, Nikki Vaught, and Alyssa Walter set school records in the 200m medley relay and the 200m free relay. Alyssa set a NEW STATE RECORD of 2:08:64 in the 200m Individual Medley. She shaved over 2 seconds off the old state record, which she also held. Congratulations, Alyssa! Congratulations, swimmers!

Safety and Security

Like you, I have been reading about the recent rash of guns in schools in South Mississippi. Although I have little fear of such a thing happening at OLA, I think safety must be uppermost in all our minds. To that end, I have decided to secure all doors in Mercy and McAuley Halls immediately after school begins in the morning EXCEPT the front door, by the office. Thus, if you need to come to school, you need to use the Union Street door, by the main office. Also, the only door to Johnson Hall that will be left open is the door that leads to the parking lot. I'm afraid that this will inconvenience you some, but a little inconvenience is a small price to pay for safety.

Mother's Prayer Group

Do you know that we have a group of mothers and teachers that meet to pray for OLA, SSC, and Holy Trinity on the first Wednesday morning of every month? This month, the gathering is on Wednesday, December 6th, at 9:30 AM in OLA room 16. Prayer will last about 40 minutes. Please join us!

Financial Aid Workshop

OLA and SSC will jointly sponsor a college financial aid workshop at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, December 5th. This is a MUST meeting for all junior and senior parents who hope to apply for financial aid for their daughter's college education. I attended this meeting last year and it was full of wonderful hints as you walk with your daughter through the maze of the college admission and financial aid process. The meeting will be in the Resource Room at SSC.

Youth Legislature

Twenty-three young ladies from OLA participated in Youth Leg this year. Carly Johnson was named Outstanding Committee Chair; Ansley Blalock, Ashley Derenbecker and Carly Johnson were named Outstanding Representatives. OLA had five bills passed: Emily Vaughn and Lauren Poncet, Kathryn McDonald and Samantha McLeod, Carly Johnson and Madeline Vosbein, and the combined bills of Amber Favre, Jennifer Roy, Nikki Vaught, and Kaitlyn Stovall.

Cross Country

The OLA Cross Country team placed third in the state meet. Amelia Simpson and Lauren Seal received medals for being selected to the All-State Team (the top 14 runners in the state). The entire team finished in the top 40, out of 89 runners. Congratulations, Coach Hull. Congratulations, ladies!

MS State Band Clinic

Megan Gargiulo was selected for the MS State Band Clinic. The gathering will be in Tupelo from December 7-9. She is one of only French Horns selected for this event. Megan has also been selected for membership in the Long Beach Youth Commission. This is an advisory board of youth to the city council.