

FEBRUARY 2007 NEWSLETTER

Model UN

Last weekend, OLA had two young women who participated in the Model United Nations program in Jackson. Ansley Blalock organized our delegation and Sarah Bacot and Ashley Derenbecker represented OLA. This is the first time in many years that OLA has participated in Model UN. Sarah received an Outstanding Economic and Social Council Ambassador award; Ashley received an Outstanding General Assembly Ambassador award. Ashley and Sarah, representing the country of Saudi Arabia, each received Outstanding Native Dress awards; apparently, Ansley's mother lived in Saudi Arabia for a year and had several outfits from her time there that she gave to the girls. (Isn't it just like OLA? Our girls play "dress up" and win an award!) The girls also had their proposal for Saudi Arabia on human trafficking approved by the Assembly. Congratulations, Ashley and Sarah! Congratulations, Ansley!

The OLA first-ever Mock Trial team goes to competition on February 17th, and our junior Youth Legislature team heads to Jackson on February 15th. Good luck, ladies!

STAR Student

It is my pleasure to announce that Jessie Elizabeth Shifalo has been named the OLA STAR Student for 2006-2007. The STAR Student is the senior with the highest ACT score and a GPA of 3.5 or above. Each STAR Student is invited to select a teacher who has been instrumental in her academic life as her STAR Teacher. Jessie Elizabeth has selected Mrs. Julie Cranford for this honor. Congratulations, Jessie Elizabeth! Congratulations, Mrs. Cranford!

Senior Term Paper

Attention, Senior Parents: Do you know that the senior term paper for Mrs. Benvenuti is due before the Mardi Gras holidays? Do you know that the senior term paper is required for graduation? No term paper – no diploma! Do you know how your senior is coming with her paper? You might want to check, encourage, nag a little bit, and just generally stay on top of this most crucial paper! Many a senior has not graduated because of an incomplete or inferior paper. And Mrs. Benvenuti will not be swayed on this!

OLA Athletics

Congratulations, once again, to Ms. Elias and the OLA soccer team. For about the zillionth year, OLA is district champion. The march to Jackson and the state championship begins next week with South State Playoffs. Good luck, ladies!

Congratulations to Mrs. Collins and the OLA basketball team. The team has a record of 8-6, as of today. This is the first time in a long time that OLA has had a winning record in basketball this late in the season. Led by seniors, Jessie Elizabeth Shifalo, Madelyn Loftus, and Victoria Romano, the team has exceeded the expectations of lots of us. I couldn't be more proud of these young women! They have endured. They have persevered through adversity. They have silenced the critics (including myself at times). Well done, ladies! And good luck through the remainder of the season!

Registration for 2007-2008

Although it is only January, it is time to begin planning for the 2007-2008 academic year. You will be receiving registration information and Course Selection sheets in the next few weeks.

As you begin planning, know that tuition will increase next year. Like you, our property insurance jumped almost 700%. The day before the storm it was \$24,000; the Diocese just informed us that our bill next year will be \$136,000!

For 2007-2008, OLA tuition will be \$4650.00. The Registration Fee will remain \$300.00 and the Building Fee will remain \$250.00 per family. We plan to spread payments over eleven months, rather than the ten that we have been doing. This should reduce your monthly payment, but payments will begin in July.

OLA Class of 2013

Last Saturday, OLA tested 64 sixth graders who are seeking admission to OLA next year. This is the largest class we have seen in years! What a compliment to OLA! What a compliment to the OLA faculty! What a complement to our parents and young ladies! What a statement about the quality of our program and the quality of our graduates! Hooray for OLA!