



The Principal's Pen

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home." ~Edith Sitwell

DECEMBER, 2011

Prayer:

Sing a song of Christmas,
A stocking full of toys,
A day of great excitement
For little girls and boys.

And grown-ups to enjoy the day,
(or so we like to think)
Carols, crackers, Christmas trees,
As well as food and drink.

What is it that we celebrate,
At this time every year?
That brightens up December days
With such good will and cheer?

Two thousand years and more ago
In distant Palestine,
A little baby boy was born,
Both human and divine.

He called himself "the Son of Man"
While he was here on earth,
But Mary knew it was God's Son
To whom she'd given birth.

He grew up as a normal boy
In body, soul and mind,
Except that those who knew him best
No trace of sin could find.

The time came for him to complete
His Father's great design,
To make a full atonement for
Our sins, both yours and mine.

What greater love than this can be,
That on that faithful day,
He paid the debt he did not owe,
We owed but could not pay.

~John Eddison

Welcome Back: We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday, full of good food, good company, and lots of rest. Christmas break is just around the corner, but for the next three weeks, it is time, students, to buckle down and get ready for semester exams.

OLA Thank You: The faculty, staff, and student body would like to extend a special thank you (although late) to Mr. Thornhill for his donation during the Mercy Day festivities. Mr. Thornhill generously provided the snowballs that we all enjoyed so much. Your contribution was greatly appreciated.

One Book, One School, One Community: We here at OLA are striving to increase reading awareness among our students. In an effort to involve families, faculty, staff, and students together in school events, we are asking each household to purchase a copy of The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch. Everyone in our School Community is asked to read the book between the Thanksgiving and New Year's holidays. During the third quarter, students will be discussing the book in many of their classrooms as well as their sisterhoods. Likewise, the faculty will participate in open dialogue about the book and the author's impact on his students and children.

We are also looking for volunteers to host/organize book club meetings in which family members and community individuals can join together to read and discuss the book. If you are interested in hosting or organizing a book club, please feel free to contact the main office. It is our hope that a love for reading and the discussion of this amazing book can extend not only to our students, but to the surrounding community as well.

If you missed the Nov. 18 deadline to order your copy of The Last Lecture, through OLA, we will be extending the date until Wednesday, Nov. 30. Bay Books will also be selling the book for the special price of \$15 in the store.

Youth Leg: Twenty-five delegates, four officers, two lobbyists and two weary advisors traveled to Jackson on Wednesday, Nov. 2 for some heavy debating. OLA had five bills that made it to the Youth Governor's desk, but none were signed into law. OLA did manage to have one bill on the Youth Governor's Platform. The bill was written by Alicia Gates and Claudia Caplinger, unfortunately the bill failed in House Chamber.

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We returned from Jackson with some Outstanding Legislators. Being recognized as Outstanding Representatives were Amy Love and Claire Burkes; Outstanding Senators were Jami McCarroll and Balius Lee; Outstanding Committee Chair was Harley Miller; and Outstanding Lobbyist was Caroline Collins.

Our elected officers for the next session for 2011-2012 are Lt. Governor, Mary Margaret Gagnet and Speaker of the House, Ava Maria Wolf.

Blood Drive: In the spirit of the season, the OLA Student Council partnered with the American Red Cross for a "Thanks for Giving" Blood Drive on Nov. 17. The drive collected 49 units of blood which will be used to help save lives here on the Gulf Coast. Thank you to all parents, students, faculty members, and community volunteers that helped the OLA Student Council reach its goal.

Geography Field Trip: On November 30 the freshman class will be visiting the Exploreum Museum in Mobile, AL to learn about Australia. The class will be attending an Imax film-- "Australia. Land beyond Time" and viewing the Kangaroo Kraze exhibit that includes live animals, outback survival skills, ancient Aboriginal music, and art.

8th Grade Retreat: The 8th grade class will have their annual retreat at St. Claire during regular school hours on Thursday, December 1. The girls will be given information concerning dress and items to bring.

Diocesan Reading Fair: The winners of the OLA Reading Fair are as follows:

Fiction Category: 1st Sarah Rose Haggerty, 2nd Abby Koons, and 3rd Theresa Crowe;

Fiction/Non Fiction: 1st Maggie Koenig, 2nd Claire Lundgren, and 3rd Morgan Ulrich;

Non-Fiction Category: 1st Jordan Cruthirds, 2nd Laura Grace Ritten, and 3rd Betty Clark.

These students will be competing in the Diocesan Reading Fair on Wednesday, December 7 at St. Patrick's High School. Good luck girls.

6th Grade Lock-in: The lock-in for 6th grade girls who are considering Our Lady Academy has been changed to December 16 from 6 pm until 9 am Saturday, December 17. The sixth graders from Holy Trinity, St. Vincent de Paul, Coast Episcopal, and Westminster Academy automatically receive invitations. However, if you know a sixth grade girl at another school who would be a good candidate for OLA, please call Mrs. Gleber at extension 16 with her name and address.

Yearbook: Yearbook is selling ad pages to honor seniors as well as underclassmen. The number of pages is strictly limited, and it is first come first served. If you would like more information, please call Mrs. Bartels at 467-7048 x37.

OLA reconciliation: OLA students will participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday, December 6, during religion class.

Immaculate Conception Mass: On Thursday, December 8, the students and faculty of Holy Trinity, OLA, and SSC will come together to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Dress uniforms are required, and the school will follow an AM schedule.

Semester Exams: First Semester Exams will begin on Thursday, December 15 and will last through Tuesday, December 20. Specific dates for exams and early dismissals have not been set. Please be considerate of our exam schedule. We understand that vacation times are important; however, trying to accommodate every student that needs a special schedule for her exams adds an enormous amount of pressure and additional stress to our teachers and to fellow students. Please check the website in early December.

Advent Prayer Service: When we return from the Thanksgiving break, we will be in the advent season of the church calendar, a season of reflection and prayer, and anticipation of the Christ-child. In recognition of the season, the faculty and students will participate in an Advent Prayer Service on Monday, December 19.

OLA/SSC Bus Service: Due to the expressed interest of several OLA and St. Stanislaus parents, SSC is looking into running a new bus route which will accommodate more individuals. If you are interested in bus service, please contact Sr. Jackie at ext. 17.

Basketball: The OLA basketball game scheduled for Dec. 19 with Pass High has been changed to Dec. 20 at 4:00 because of exams.

Guidance News: Important Dates

ACT: December 10 Test Date: Only late registration available through Nov. 18
February 11 Test Date: Regular Registration Available through Jan. 13

SAT: December 3 Test Date: Only late registration available through Nov. 20
January 28 Test Date: Regular registration available through Dec. 30

Deadline, Deadlines, Deadlines!!! Deadlines are fast approaching for scholarship applications. Seniors should know the deadlines for scholarships for all the colleges to which they are applying. Every college has different deadlines. Many priority deadlines start now and continue until early spring. Students must be aware that deadlines are hard--miss them and you miss out on scholarship money. Take the time to look up all of your daughter's deadlines, and be sure that all necessary documents are submitted by those dates. Contact the guidance office, if you have any questions.

School Tip: Homework is important. Not only does homework enhance new skills and concepts for which there isn't time in the classroom, it's your opportunity to become involved in your teen's learning. Motivating teens (and many times, yourself) to do homework is challenging. To help, keep some simple ideas in mind:

- **Set a schedule and post it.** Set a regular time for homework, create an actual schedule, post it where everyone in the family can see it, and stick to it.

- **Choose the right environment.** Find a place within your home where you can concentrate, away from distractions like television, radio or computer games. It can be the dining room table or an actual home office space. Set and enforce appropriate rules for homework time.

- **Keep plenty of supplies on hand.** Be prepared with writing paper, a ruler, a stapler, a dictionary and a thesaurus within reach. For projects, keep on hand poster paper, paint, and anything else your child might need so as to avoid any last-minute dashes to the store.

- **Don't use homework as punishment.** It should be treated as an opportunity to learn rather than given a negative connotation.

- **Lead by example.** During homework time, be available to work with your child. Take advantage of the time to learn a new skill for yourself, whether by checking out a how-to book from the library or taking a course from your area community college so you can learn a new skill, too.

The U.S. Office of Education Research and Improvement points out that those children who spend more time on homework, on average, do better in school than those who spend less time. Those benefits increase with higher grade levels, making your high school student's motivation even more important.

Tuition: Parents, please be aware that, in order for your daughter to take her semester exams, **tuition must be up to date.** Please contact Mrs. Kay Warren, ext. 11, with any questions.

Important Dates:

Nov. 30: Geography Field Trip (Freshman Class)

Dec. 1: 8th grade Retreat

Dec. 6: OLA Reconciliation

Dec. 7: Diocesan Reading Fair

Dec. 8: Immaculate Conception Mass (AM Schedule, **DRESS UNIFORMS**)

Dec. 15-20: Semester Exams

Dec. 16-17: 6th Grade Lock-In (6 pm-9 am)

Dec. 19: Advent Prayer Service (AM Schedule)

Dec. 20: 12:00 Dismissal

Dec. 20-Jan. 3: Christmas and New Year's Break

A Look Ahead:

Jan 4: Classes Resume

Jan. 13: Parent-Teacher Conferences (Schedule #4, dismissal @ 1:50)

Jan. 21: Entrance Exam for new students (9 am-12 pm)

*"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant:
If we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."*

~Anne Bradstreet

Tiffany Lindmark

Tiffany Lindmark
Principal

Advent Reflection

Important things are worth waiting for.

We wait to be born.

We wait to die.

We wait for the sun to rise each morning and set each evening.

We wait for inspiration when we have difficult decisions to make.

We wait for sanity when all seems chaotic.

We wait for friendships to blossom.

We wait for love to envelop us.

We wait for wisdom, for wisdom comes only with experience.

Jesus, too, must be awaited.

He is awaited in history.

He is awaited by the prophets who foretold of his coming.

He is awaited by John the Baptist who heralded his arrival.

He is awaited by Mary, for nine long months.

He is awaited by Joseph, by the Magi, by Simeon, by the Jewish people.

He is awaited by us, the People of God.

Advent is a time of waiting. It is a time of preparation. It is a time of anticipation. What kind of preparations are we making as we look toward Christmas? Certainly, our preparations include shopping, wrapping presents, hanging decorations, putting up a tree, cooking Christmas dinner. Some of us will be planning for houseguests; some will be planning travels. But, do our preparations also include time for reflection on the true meaning of Christmas?

Do our preparations include prayer?

Do our preparations include something for the less fortunate?

Do our preparations include a time of gratitude to God for all his gifts?

The faculty and staff of OLA wish each member of the OLA school community a happy, holy, peaceful Christmas and a New Year filled with wonderful surprises and good fortune. May our God bless each of us in a special way during this most special of seasons.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to a member of the OLA faculty or staff, positioned at the bottom right of the page.



Our Lady Academy

December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
**17 th -Emergency Make-up Day				1 8th Grade Retreat Jr. High Basketball at Pass Christian 4pm (V) Basketball vs St. Patrick 5pm	2 Detention 3:30-4:30 Kairos Retreat Soccer Brooke Welch Tournament, TBA	3 Kairos Retreat Soccer Brooke Welch Tournament, TBA
4	5 Jr. High Basketball at Bay Jr. High 4pm (V) Basketball @ Christian Collegiate Academy 5pm	6 OLA Reconciliation Jr. Youth Leg. Information Meeting 3:35	7 Diocesan Reading Fair	8 AM Schedule—Mass of the Immaculate Conception (JV) Soccer @ Bay High 6:00 Jr. High Basketball at PRC 4:30pm (V) Basketball at Green County 5pm	9 Detention 3:30-4:30 (JV/V) Soccer vs Resurrection 6:7:30 (V) Basketball at Sumarall 5pm	10 ACT
11	12 (V) Basketball vs Collins 4:30pm	13 (V) Soccer vs Oak Grove 6pm	14	15 SEMESTER EXAMS	16 6th grade Lock-In 6pm SEMESTER EXAMS (V) Soccer vs St. Patrick 6pm (V) Basketball at West Marion 5pm	17 Saturday School 9AM-12Pm 6th grade Lock-In ends 9am
18	19 AM Schedule—Advent Prayer Service SEMESTER EXAMS	20 12:00 Dismissal SEMESTER EXAMS (V) Basketball at Pass Christian, 4:00pm	21 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS BEGIN	22 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	23 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	24
25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	27 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	28 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	29 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	30 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	31