



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF OUR LADY ACADEMY

"No occupation should withdraw our minds from God. Our whole life should be a continual act of praise and prayer."—

Catherine McAuley

Thanksgiving Holidays: On behalf of Sr. Jackie and Sr. Elisa and the entire faculty and staff of Our Lady Academy, I wish you and your families a safe and restful Thanksgiving holiday. School will resume at 8:30 on Monday, November 30.

Advent Prayer Service and Reconciliation: 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 coming of the Christ-child. In recognition of the season, the faculty and students will participate in an Advent Prayer Service during exam week. We also anticipate having a Reconciliation service during the Advent season.

Drop Off and Pick Up: Presently people are coming from both Union and Beach Blvd. to drop off and pick up students, and it becomes a bottleneck with four lanes of cars going in opposite directions. Please enter the church parking lot from Beach Blvd. only. Make two lines of cars between the rectory and the church and exit onto Union Street. Please be especially vigilant of students as they exit and enter the drop-off area. I recognize that it has been confusing this year and last year with the road closures and different procedures, but this should be the final version. (I hope!)

Absence Procedures: If your daughter will need to leave school early, please send a note with her on the day of the early dismissal so that we can put her name on a list for the teachers. That way, the teacher is aware that she is excused and will not need to check with the office when she is not in class. If your daughter is absent for the whole day, please call the office to report her absence to Mrs. Kren. You will still need to send a written note when she returns to school.

Lunch: Just for your information, the dessert line at lunch is sometimes quite long, and I'm not always sure that the money you're sending for lunch is being used for lunch! We do have lunch cards available in the office. The cards cost \$20 and they can be used for 5 lunches with milk and 3 desserts. The meals and desserts do not have to be used in a single week.

Band Concert: The SSC Regiment will present its annual Christmas program on Thursday, December 3 at 6:30 pm in the new SSC Dining Hall. Come enjoy an evening of music performed by these outstanding young men and women under the direction of Mr. Stephen Abadie.

Faculty In-Service: On Friday, December 4, school will dismiss at 1:47 for a faculty meeting and workshop.

Art Show and Musical Performance: Please join us Wednesday, December 9 in the OLA Commons for a showcase of our artists and performers. The show will begin at 6:00 pm. Refreshments will be served.

Progress Reports: Progress Reports will be mailed Thursday, December 3 to the parents of those students who have Ds or Fs in classes. You can stay informed about your daughter's performance in her classes by logging into the PowerSchool Student Information System. If you need assistance with logging in, please do not hesitate to call Mrs. Emmel (467-7048 x 14) or Mrs. Kren (467-7048 x 10). They can also forward a message to a teacher or connect you with voicemail.

Semester Exams: First semester exams will begin on Tuesday, December 15 and will last through Friday, December 18. Specific dates for exams and early dismissals have not been set. Please check the website in early December for more specific information.

Student Directory: Student directories with bright pink covers were distributed to all students. A limited number of additional directories are available in the office for \$3.

6th Grade Lock-in: The lock-in for 6th grade girls who are considering Our Lady Academy is set for December 11. The sixth graders from Holy Trinity, St. Vincent de Paul, and Coast Episcopal 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.

Youth Legislature: Mrs. Regina Gleber and Mrs. Elise Deano took 15 delegates and 5 officers to Jackson for the annual Youth Legislature Assembly. Out of 11 bills written by the delegation, one bill, written by Helen Kyriakoudes and Katelyn Thornhill, was signed into law by the Youth Governor, Zander Romano (SSC). Samantha Spiers was selected by the advisors as the Outstanding Lobbyist for the session, and Melissa Blalock and Katy Barlow were recognized as Outstanding Senators. Elected and appointed officers for the next year include OLA students Kendall McDonald (First Lady), Virginia Comer (Senate Sergeant-at-Arms), Katy Barlow (Secretary of the Senate), Samantha Spiers (Executive Secretary), Melissa Blalock (Asst. Secretary of the Senate), and Stephanie Burnison (Asst. Senate Messenger). We also extend congratulations to the SSC delegation. SSC students elected to office include Brent Murphy (Youth Governor), Ryan Weitzel (Speaker of the House), Patrick Stovall (President Pro Tempore), and Alec Szczechowski (Speaker Pro Tempore). We are proud of both delegations.

Pepsi Students of the Month: Pepsi Students of the Month are chosen from each grade level for eight months of the year, and Pepsi Students of the Year are chosen from those select students in May. Students are recognized by the faculty for one or more of the following: character (OLA role model), academics (achievement, class participation), athletic involvement, leadership (responsibility, school spirit), and service (generosity). The Pepsi students of the month of October were: 7th grader Emma Holland, 8th grader Sarah Schloemer, 9th grader Anna Taconi, 10th grader Emily McDermott, 11th grader Hannah Wilkoff, and 12th grader Ashton LaRosa. These students received a Pepsi T-shirt, a certificate, and will be eligible for the Pepsi Student of the Year Award in May.

Service Projects:

- On Field Day, the students created over 100 turkey decorations from pine cones. Mrs. Munger delivered these to Notre Dame Retirement Home and Dunbar Village in Bay St. Louis. Other students made 36 personal hygiene bags for Christmas gifts from donated hotel-size soaps, shampoos, etc.
- The Thanksgiving Food Drive netted over 500 food items which were delivered to the Hancock County Food Pantry by the sophomore class.
- Campus Ministry Representative visited the new St. Gerard Community Outreach in Waveland to deliver baby clothes and other items. While there, they heard a presentation about the works of Catholic Social Service by Jennifer Myers Williams (OLA '95), head of CSS in the Diocese of Biloxi.

- Officers of the 8th grade class accompanied Mrs. Bradbrook to the Waveland Animal Shelter to deliver pet food and other supplies. (See pictures on the website!)

Yearbook Ads: Parents, a reminder that ad pages to remember or honor a student in this year's yearbook are going quickly. If you plan to buy an ad, please contact Mrs. Bartels at extension 37 ASAP to reserve your space. Completed ads are not due till February, but reservations should be made now.

Guidance News:

- During the year, colleges send representatives to our campus to meet with students and to answer questions. Please encourage your junior and senior daughters to visit with these representatives during lunch—time and place are announced at school.
- The deadline for many college and scholarship applications is December 1. Seniors who are applying for college should check deadlines and submit materials in a timely manner.
- The registration deadline for the January 23, 2010 SAT is December 15, 2009.

Cross Country State Champions: On Saturday, November 7 at Choctaw Trails in Clinton, the OLA cross country team capped its successful 2009 season with its first 2A State Championship. In a field of 42 runners representing eight schools, 8th grader Lindsay Raybourn finished first on the 4 km course with a time of 17:14.6. In 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places were 7th grader Sofia Taconi at 17:27.5, 11th grader Denise Powell at 17:34.8, and 9th grader Anna Taconi at 17:43.3. In 10th place was 8th grader Brittany Laurent with a time of 19:00.7. These five runners combined to give OLA its winning team score. They also were selected to the 2A Girls All State Team. Also competing were 9th grader Savannah Matthews and 7th grader Emma Welch who finished 15th and 17th respectively, with times of 19:28.8 and 19:39.7. Team alternates Emma Holland, Abi Simpson, and Jenny Byrne ran the course unofficially, between races, with respective times of 19:38, 20:44, and 21:18. A significant addition to the team this year was Coach Darren Raybourn, the father of Lindsay Raybourn, who, with assistance from long time coach Harry Hull, ran most of the team's practices. In the last 22 years, OLA has finished second at state at least 10 times. This is the first year our ladies finished number one!

*The Faculty and Staff wish everyone a
Happy Thanksgiving!*