



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF OUR LADY ACADEMY

"May God bless and animate you with His own divine spirit, that you may prove it is Jesus Christ you love and serve with your whole heart."--Catherine McAuley

March for Life: This year, Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Burleson and approximately 53 OLA students and parents participated in the diocesan trip to Washington for the annual March for Life. 210 students and adults from the Biloxi Diocese were on the trip. Despite a long, storm-plagued trip to Washington in a bus and a long, late-starting trip back home, the travelers considered it a worthwhile experience.

Geography Bee: Kaitlyn Laurent has won the annual Geography Bee for Our Lady Academy. After completing the qualifying test, Kaitlyn will represent OLA in the state competition. Congratulations to our finalists: Kaitlyn Laurent—1st place and Ashlyn Fletcher—2nd place.

STAR Student: Hannah Anderson has been named STAR student. Each year, the Mississippi Economic Council's M.B. Swayze Foundation honors top high school seniors from across the state. The S.T.A.R. Student program recognizes high school seniors who have the highest ACT scores in their schools. The scholarships and awards are provided through the Kelly Gene Cook, Sr. Charitable Foundation, Inc. Hannah has selected Mrs. Julie Cranford to be her STAR teacher.

Entrance Interviews: Individual interviews for 6th grade girls who are interested in attending Our Lady Academy are scheduled for Tuesday night, February 9.

Yearbook: LAST CALL!! There are only a few pages left! 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 April, but reservations should be made now.

Pepsi Students of the Month: The Pepsi students of the month of December were: 7th grader Amelia Demetz, 8th grader Balius Lee, 9th grader Camille Kergosien, 10th grader Darby Raybourn, 11th grader Virginia Comer, and 12th grader Sarah Haas. These students received a Pepsi T-shirt, a certificate, and will be eligible for the Pepsi Student of the Year Award in May.

Sports News: The winter sports programs are in full swing, rapidly approaching their respective season conclusions.

- The basketball team has an impressive record of 9-8 so far in their season. They have won 2 district games this year. They also look forward to their district tournament on February 8 with a goal of reaching South State. They are led by juniors Sherri Airhart, Callie McNally, and Denise Powell, sophomores Reagan Huey and Kristin Morel, and freshman Aija Baker, Franny Favre, Deanna Garrard, and Katy McNally. Come out and support them in their 2 final home games on Tuesday, February 2 against Sacred Heart and on Friday, February 5 against Lumberton. Both games will begin at 5:00.

- The soccer team is having another successful season. They have captured their 13 straight, 16th overall District Championship and will once again make a run into the state playoffs. This year's team spotlights one senior, Mischa Tice. Along with Mischa, the team is led by Juniors Ashley Libys and Emily Sramek on offense and anchored by Junior defender Erin Gibson. The Crescents head into playoffs with their eye on the goal, another state championship to add to the unprecedented 7 State Titles.

Faculty In-Service: On Friday, February 5, school will dismiss at 1:47 for a faculty meeting and workshop.

Progress Reports: Progress Reports were mailed Wednesday, January 27 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 x10). They can also forward a message to a teacher or connect you with voicemail.

Guidance News:

- If your senior daughter receives notification of a scholarship for college (even if she does not plan to attend that college), please send the notice to Mrs. Emmel so that your daughter can be recognized at Senior Awards Night.
- The following test dates are available for the ACT and SAT. It is highly recommended that sophomores and juniors sit for one of these tests.
 - o The registration deadline for the April 10, 2010 ACT is March 5, 2010.
 - o The registration deadline for the June 12, 2010 ACT is May 7, 2010.
 - o The registration deadline for the March 13, 2010 SAT is February 10, 2010.
 - o The registration deadline for the May 1, 2010 SAT is March 31, 2010.

Mike Meyers, Coach of the Year: Volleyball coach, Mike Meyers, has been selected Coach of the Year for the State of Mississippi by the National Federation of State High School Associations. Mike is a great asset to OLA and to the girls he coaches both for his outstanding ability to draw out the athletic talents in his players and for his unequalled ability to draw out what's best in them as young women. Thank you, Mike, for the many hours you have devoted to Our Lady Academy.

Change in Date for May Crowning/Ring Ceremony: Due to a conflict with the national test dates for the AP exam, the May Crowning/Ring Ceremony date has been moved to Monday, May 3 at 10:00 AM.

Pre-Season Track Meeting for Parents and Athletes: Coach Darren Raybourn will meet with parents and athletes on Wednesday, February 3 to present and answer questions about the coming track season.

Junior Rings: Mr. John Evans of Herff Jones will meet with the juniors during the day on Monday, February 8 to tell them about their options for selecting and ordering Our Lady Academy Class Rings. He will return on Thursday, February 11 at 8:00 AM to take orders.

9th Retreat: The Freshman class will have their annual retreat in the Community Center during regular school hours on Wednesday, February 10.

Mardi Gras Holidays: The school will not be in session from Monday, February 15 to Friday, February 19 for the Mardi Gras break. We will have classes on Monday, February 22. SSC will not have classes on February 22. (Recall that OLA was out of school on Tuesday, August 11 for the Diocesan Mass.)

Haiti Relief and Canned Food Drive: As a school-wide service project for Catholic Schools Week (January 31-February 6), the Campus Ministry is sponsoring a canned food drive to benefit St. Gerrard Food Pantry. On Friday, February 5, students who bring in 3 cans of food (for the food pantry) or \$3 (to be donated to the organization that sponsors Louverture Cleary School) will be allowed to wear Saints colors (Black and Gold) or Colts colors (Blue and White) with jeans in good repair or other long pants. The usual free dress restrictions apply: must wear socks and shoes, no suggestive messages on clothing, not too tight or too short. If you are interested in donating to the Haitian Relief effort, please send your donation to the school office. Make checks payable to Our Lady Academy with Haiti Relief on the memo line. We will gather the money into one lump sum and forward the full amount to The Haitian Project, Inc., a Catholic Mission which supports and operates Louverture Cleary School. The Haitian Project is a well-established organization, founded in the 1980s.