



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*

Catholic Schools Week: The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2011, "Catholic Schools are A+ for America," celebrates the fact that Catholic schools are an added value ("a plus") for the nation. Because of their traditionally high academic standards and high graduation rates, all supported by strong moral values, Catholic schools and their graduates make a definite contribution to American society. This year, Catholic Schools Week will be January 30 through February 5. Thank you for your support of our Catholic Schools.

3rd Quarter Exams: Third quarter exams will begin Tuesday, March 1 and will conclude Friday, March 4. The exam schedule is not final, but it is possible that some days may have an early dismissal. Notices will be sent home with the students when the schedule is available.

Tuition: Tuition must be current for students to take their exams.

Mardi Gras Holidays: The school will not be in session from Monday, March 7 to Friday, March 11 for the Mardi Gras break. Classes will resume on Monday, March 14.

Registration for 2011-2012: Materials and information for registration will be sent home with the girls on Monday, February 21. Registration materials and the registration fee are due by Friday March 4. Please discuss course selection with your daughters. After March 14, the registration fee increases to \$350, and students may not be placed in their preferred courses. In some grades, enrollment may

be closed after March 14 because of class sizes. For those who pay tuition over 11 months, the tuition payment for March is reduced so that the sum of both registration and tuition will be the same as a regular monthly payment. The check for registration should be separate from the tuition check for the month.

Parent Information Meeting: Mrs. Goggins and Mrs. Emmel will host an information session for parents on Wednesday, February 23 at 6:30 in the OLA Commons. Topics will include planning a high school course of study, selecting courses to prepare for college entrance and scholarships, and description of elective choices. Parents and students are welcome.

40th Anniversary Kickoff Party: Save the Date—April 7! Thursday evening, April 7, we will have a party to start off the celebration of OLA's 40th year. The event will recognize something old (the rededication of the Mary Patricia Schmidt scholarship and plaque), something new (the dedication of the Crescent Courtyard), and something for the future (the drawing for the tuition raffle). If you would like to purchase tickets for the tuition raffle, please call Mrs. Gleber at 467-7048 x 16.

Star Student: Hanna Schloemer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Schloemer, has been named the Our Lady Academy STAR student for 2011. Each year, the Mississippi Economic Council's M.B. Swazey 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. Hanna has selected Mrs. Donna Bradbrook to be her STAR teacher.

Geography Bee: Savannah Necaise has won the school-level competition of the 23rd annual National Geographic Bee at Our Lady Academy. As a school winner, Savannah will now take a written test in Jackson. Second place winner was Cici Lamb, and third place was a tie between Kayleigh Aicklen and Rachel Smith.

Pepsi Students of the Month: Pepsi Students of the Month are chosen from each grade level for eight months of the year. Pepsi Students of the Year are chosen from those select students in May. This year we are using the Mercy Core Values of Catherine McAuley.

The December Core Value is "Academic Excellence." Faculty members were asked to look for the student who has enthusiasm for learning and knowledge of the subject matter. She should also exhibit dependability, trustworthiness, good character and good citizenship. Congratulations to the December "Pepsi Students of the Month": 7th grader Isabel Benjamin, 8th grader Isabella Cottone, 9th grader Taylor Huey, 10th grader Mary Margaret Gagnet, 11th grader Allison Ariatti, and 12th grader Whitney St. Mary. These students will receive a Pepsi T-shirt, a certificate, and will be eligible for the Pepsi Student of the Year Award in May.

ACE Competition: The nineteenth annual St. Stanislaus College Academic Competition for Excellence (A.C.E.) will be held on February 5. The event welcomes students from 5th, 6th, and 7th grades, each competing in one of four subject areas. Representing OLA will be: Emma Carter (Science), Aidan Farrish, (Science), Quinn Cottone (Math), Kaylie Hyde (Social Studies), Katherine Allen (English), and Sofia Aderer (English).

March for Life: Hundreds of thousands of pro-life demonstrators including 29 students from Our Lady Academy took to the frosty streets of Washington, DC January 24 for the annual March for

Life. The March marked the 38th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Burleson accompanied the students on the diocesan trip to Washington.

Math-Science Competition: The largest and oldest academic competition for high schools in Mississippi is the annual Math & Science Tournament hosted by Mississippi College for thirty-six straight years. This is more than just a competition; winning students are also awarded Mississippi College academic scholarships. The tournament features both individual and team competition. Mrs. Cranford will accompany the OLA team of 5 seniors (Whitney St. Mary, Kendall McDonald, Callie McNally, Melissa Mitchell, and Hannah Wikoff), 4 juniors (Allison Ariatti, Meg Artigues, Reagan Huey, and Jungmin Jeon), and 2 sophomores (Sydney Gargiulo and Nikki Reeder) to the competition, leaving after school on February 2 and returning after the competition on February 3.

Entrance Interviews: Individual interviews for 6th grade girls who are interested in attending Our Lady Academy are scheduled for Wednesday night, February 2.

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

Junior Rings: Mr. John Evans of Herff Jones will meet with the juniors during the day on Tuesday, February 1 to tell them about their options for selecting and ordering Our Lady Academy Class Rings. He will return on Tuesday, February 8 at 8:00 AM to take orders.

Guidance News:

- **ACT/SAT:** College testing is nearly over for our current seniors. Only seniors who are trying to improve sub-tests scores or trying to get that last few points for scholarships will still be testing. This opens the way for younger students to start testing. Juniors and sophomores should take at least one college entrance exam before the end of the year. The remaining dates for this year are:

- o Feb 12 ACT (at OLA) only standby testing available

- o March 12 SAT—Feb 11 deadline
- o April 9 ACT (at SSC) —March 4 deadline
- o May 7 SAT—April 8 deadline
- o June 4 SAT—May 6 deadline
- o June 11 ACT—May 6 deadline

• **College financial aid:** Parents of seniors!!!! Applications for state and federal financial aid are now online. Federal forms can be viewed at www.fafsa.gov. Worksheets and information on how to apply for a PIN number have been given to your daughters. All students should apply for federal aid even if you feel your income level is too high to qualify. All federal low interest loans and work study programs are based on this federal application. If your daughter is planning to attend school in-state next year, you should also apply for state aid. Forms for this can be found at www.mississippi.edu and click on financial aid. All in-state schools award this grant whether it is public, private or a 2 year institution. Your daughters have been given information on these state grant programs. If you need further assistance, please contact Ms. Emmel at 467-7048 ext. 14.

• **Summer Programs:** Looking for something enriching and exciting for your daughters to do this summer? Check-out the OLA Website for a listing of summer opportunities which are available either online for further viewing or in the guidance office. The programs range from leadership to scuba diving. All interests and skills are listed. This list will be continually up-dated through the end of the school year.

Sports News:

• **JH Basketball:** The seventh grade basketball team completed their season last week. This was the first year most of those ten girls have played on an organized competitive team. They played very hard and really improved as the season progressed. Coach Spiers is really looking forward to working with this group to improve their skills. Congratulations on your improvement, girls.

• **Basketball:** The varsity basketball team's record is 14-5. Their district record stands at 8-1 and they are currently in first place for seeding in the district tournament. They have 3 district games left. They are working hard to accomplish their goal of a district championship and making it to south state. Congratulations on this accomplishment.

• **JH Soccer:** It has been a wonderful and satisfying year in junior high soccer. We sport an undefeated 11-0-2 record and the girls had a great time. We beat the following teams twice: Bay High, Long Beach, Gulfport, George County, & Pascagoula. We tied Ocean Springs twice and beat them once. We will also graduate some great 8th grade players into Coach Elias' JV & Varsity squads next year. Our 8th graders are Lexie Smith, Sofia Taconi, Abby Gollott, Georgia Williams, Tricia Williams, Lauren Lawhead, Savannah Necaie, & Kaitlyn Laurent. Returning next year will be Raegan Oberlies. Katelyn Barnes, Maggie Kowalski, Kaylee Hyde, Kelyn Bosley, Camille Lamb, Krista Boudin, & Victoria Power. These girls along with incoming 7th graders will make up our team next year. Coach Reboul had a great time with these fantastic representatives of OLA. You should be hearing their names for years to come. What a great group!

• **Soccer:** The OLA soccer team is DISTRICT CHAMPIONS!!!! The team hosted Cathedral Monday night in first round action, winning 9-0. The path to an unprecedented 9th state championship continues this Saturday (January 29) in second round action against Sacred Heart. The game begins at 3:00 at SSC stadium. Come enjoy the Saturday afternoon sunshine and help cheer our Crescents to victory!

• **Tennis:** We have selected our team and will begin daily scheduled practices Tuesday, February 1st at 3:45. They will last until at least 5:30, please make sure you are there to pick up your daughter.

• **Pre-season Track:** Practice will begin on Friday 14th. Happy Valentines Day!