



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF OUR LADY ACADEMY

"In silence and quiet the devout soul becomes familiar with God."—Catherine McAuley

Important Drop-off/Pick-up Information:

Construction will begin Monday, February 28 on the Adoration Chapel for Our Lady of the Gulf Parish. The building will be built in the parking lot behind the rectory. The contractor will leave a drive open between Fr. Tracey's residence and the new building, but only one car can pass through at a time. Please enter the pick-up/drop-off line at the beach entrance and exit onto Union Street.

3rd Quarter Exams: Third quarter exams begin Monday, February 28 and will conclude Friday, March 4.

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.

Spiritual Nourishment for Lent: How is it possible that the Son of God "learned obedience through what he suffered" (Hebrews 5:8)? How does Jesus' death upon the cross save us from our sins? How can our own lives be a participation in Christ's passion? What is the authentically Catholic way to view human desire and its purification? Dr. Gregory Vall of Ave Maria University will give a talk based on Sacred Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. A Catholic biblical scholar and theologian, Dr. Vall is associate professor of theology at Ave Maria University. He has published numerous scholarly and popular articles and recently completed a book on the letters of St. Ignatius of Antioch. Dr. Vall will speak at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in

Picayune on Friday, March 11 at 7:00 PM.

Registration for 2011-2012: Materials and information for registration were sent home with the girls on Monday, February 21. Please discuss course selection with your daughters. The re-registration form, the financial agreement, course selection, and the \$300 registration fee are due March 15. After March 15, 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 15 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-Teacher Conferences: School will dismiss at 1:47 on Friday, March 18 for 3rd quarter conferences. Teachers from SSC and OLA will be available to meet with parents from 2:00 to 4:00.

Bus Service: OLA and SSC will continue to offer bus service in the 2011-2012 school year for transportation to and from school each day. Routes will include Picayune, Diamondhead, Long Beach and Pass Christian. A flyer with information about the bus service was included in the registration packet given to your daughter. The cost of the bus service from Diamondhead is incorrect on the flyer. The correct price is \$100 per month.

Stanford Testing: 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students will take the Stanford Achievement Test at school March 28 through March 30. These tests provide information that helps the school improve instruction and that determines placement in certain classes. Timely attendance, breakfast, and a good night's sleep will help her do her best on these tests.

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 Schmitt 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.

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 January Core Value is "Compassion." Compassion is defined as a sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it. Synonyms for compassion are: sympathy, charity, clemency, grace, mercy, benevolence, humaneness, and humanity. Compassion at OLA might include reaching out to others, helping others in need, or helping to relieve pain or distress. Congratulations to the January "Pepsi Students of the Month": 7th grader Lobar Niolet, 8th grader Kayleigh Aicklen, 9th grader Lizzie Black, 10th grader Ava Wolf, 11th grader Kolleen Aicklen, and 12th grader Callie McNally. 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.) was held on February 5. Students from 5th, 6th, and 7th grades competed in one of four subject areas. Representing OLA were: Emma Carter (Science), Aidan Farrish, (Science), Quinn Cottone (Math), Kaylie Hyde (Social Studies), Katherine Allen (English), and Sofia Aderer (English). Emma was awarded the 3rd place trophy in Science.

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 she 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 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

- 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.

Upcoming events:

- April 2-6—Cheer tryouts
- April 8—4th annual Father-Daughter Crawfish Boil
- April 15—Intramurals
- May 2—May Crowning/Ring Ceremony