



# The Principal's Pen

*"I will praise the name of God with song, And shall magnify Him with thanksgiving."*

*~Psalm 69:30*

NOVEMBER, 2011

## Prayer:

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home;  
For the wide sky and the blessed sun,  
For the salt sea and the running water,  
For the everlasting hills  
And the never-resting winds,  
For trees and the common grass underfoot.  
We thank you for our senses  
By which we hear the songs of birds,  
And see the splendor of the summer fields,  
And taste of the autumn fruits,  
And rejoice in the feel of the snow,  
And smell the breath of the spring.  
Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty;  
And save our souls from being so blind  
That we pass unseeing  
When even the common thorn bush  
Is aflame with your glory,  
O God our creator,  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

~ Walter Rauschenbusch

**Hooray for OLA:** "*Hooray for OLA*" is **Saturday Nov. 12th**, at Hollywood Casino. We will be celebrating 40 years of OLA and Catholic Education. If you would like to purchase tickets, please call Regina Gleber at 467-7048 ext. 16 for information, or check out the OLA website.

**All Saints' Day:** The Feast of All Saints is a holy day of the Church honoring all saints, known and unknown. While we have information about many saints, and we honor them on specific days, there are many unknown or unsung saints, who may have been forgotten, or never been specifically honored. On All Saints' Day, we celebrate these saints of the Lord, and ask for their prayers and intercessions. On Tuesday, November 1, SSC, OLA, and Holy Trinity will have a joint liturgy to celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints. Students should be in dress uniforms.

**Booster Club:** If your daughter is currently playing a sport, or planning on playing a sport for OLA this year, be sure to pay your booster club fee of \$150. This fee is used to purchase items such as uniforms, t-shirts, and letterman jackets. It also helps to pay for dinners, travel, and banquets. **Fees are due Nov. 1.** *If you have not paid the fee, your daughter may not be eligible to participate.* Be sure to check out the new Booster Club website; link can be found on the faculty directory page. The Booster Club will start selling promotional items this fall, and order forms will be available online. Thank you for your support of our OLA Crescents.

**Progress Reports:** Progress Reports will be mailed Tuesday, November 1 and Thursday, November 17 to the parents of those students who have D's or F's 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 x14) or Mrs. Kren (467-7048 x10). They can also forward a message to a teacher or connect you with voicemail.

**Youth Legislature:** This year we have 23 delegates, 6 officers, and 2 lobbyists in the OLA Youth Legislature Delegation. They will depart November 2 to travel to Jackson for the Youth Legislature Assembly.

**Homeless Night:** After the OLA Student Council found out that more than 1.3 million children are homeless at some time each year, the group has decided to raise awareness and make a difference in the community and in the Biloxi Diocese. The girls have decided to participate in the National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week (November 13-19). This is a national endeavor to promote education, action, and awareness about hunger and homelessness. Events include:

- Saturday, November 5, the students will be sponsoring a “Faces of Homelessness” Candlelight Prayer Service, awareness, and sleep out. The event will be held at Our Lady Academy Commons at 6 p.m. and wrap up (for those not participating in the sleep out) around 9 p.m.
- The candle light service will kick off the night and will include various stations for collecting items for the homeless, as well as collecting cash pledges/donations.
- There will be a station for canned food and a clothing drive held for adults who are seeking jobs but lack appropriate attire to interview. (ex., business suits, blouses, skirts, shirts, jackets, ties, and shoes, toys, etc.).
- The evening will end with volunteers (representing the homeless in Hancock County) staying over night on the courtyard. The volunteers will take pledges for how long they can remain outside. The evening will be spent quietly (no cell phones or any other electronics) and the event goes on rain or shine, although in case of inclement weather, participants can bring tarps.
- Other events include a “Homeless Awareness Campaign on Main,” Saturday, November 12 on Main Street in Bay St. Louis, a canned food drive and movie showing on Sunday, November 13 (admission is \$5 or 5 cans); food drives at all home athletic events, and a school wide letter writing campaign.
- See flyer attached

**Junior Class Fish Fry:** On November 8 the junior class is hosting a catfish dinner before the home basketball game. It will be catered and cost \$8.00. The profits will be going to offset the prom expenses. All juniors will be asked to sell 5 tickets, and they will be available this week.

**“A Night of Stars”:** The junior class will be sponsoring a dance November 11, in the OLA Commons, from 7pm-11:30pm. All proceeds will go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Don’t forget to come dressed like a celebrity (costumes must be appropriate or you will not be admitted).

**Government Field Trip:** On November 15, Mrs. Cuevas will be taking the seniors to the Gulfport Municipal Court to observe Judge Dunn-Burkes at work; they will witness court trials, arraignments, and probation violations. The class will also tour the Gulfport jail and Crime lab, and will meet with prosecutor and defense attorneys.

**Reading Fair:** OLA will be holding a Reading Fair on November 16. **All projects are due on November 8**. Each student will make a presentation of her storyboard in English class. The judges thus far (we are still in need of two) are Anna Brannin, Millie Rutledge, Susan Genin, and Beth Benvenuti. The first, second, and third place winners in each category will advance to the Diocesan Reading Fair which will be held on December 7 at St. Patrick's High School. The Diocesan winners will advance to the regional level. First place winners in each category will advance to the State Reading Fair, which is scheduled in April.

**A.C.E.:** The following seventh graders will represent Our Lady Academy in the A.C.E. Competition: Mathilde Gagnet (Science), Natalie Favre (English), Alyssa Cascio (Science), Brooke Holley (Social Studies), Jordan Cruthirds (Math), and Emily Hollingsworth (Math). The competition will be held on Saturday, November 5.

**Red Cross Blood Drive:** In conjunction with the American Red Cross, the Student Council is sponsoring a blood drive here at the school gym on Thursday, November 17 from 12 noon-5pm. Students must be 16 years old and must weigh at least 110 pounds to donate. Parents and adults from the community are encouraged to participate and help save a life. Every minute of every day someone needs blood. That blood can come only from volunteer donors, someone like you who makes the choice to donate. There is no substitute for your donation.

**Spanish Classes:** From October 31 through November 2, all the Spanish classes will be celebrating El Dia de Los Muertos, with mask making, sugar skull decorating, fiestas, and an altar dedicated to the Faithfully Departed. On November 18 students in Mrs. Bartels' Spanish III class will travel to Mobile for the Mobile International Food Festival. While there, they will take part in cultural activities, consume lots of great food, and experience international bazaars and fun.

**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

**Thanksgiving Day Liturgy:** The Sophomore class is planning our liturgy for November 18. Students should wear dress uniforms. Parents are welcome to join us for the mass which will begin at 9:54 in OLG church.

**Thanksgiving Holidays:** On behalf of the entire faculty and staff of Our Lady Academy, I wish you and your families a safe and restful Thanksgiving holiday. We will be on holiday for the week of November 21-25. **School will resume at 8:20 on Monday, November 28.**

#### **Guidance News:**

- All OLA juniors will take the ASVAB in school on Tuesday, November 15. "The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery" is the most widely-used multiple-aptitude test battery in the world. As an aptitude test, the ASVAB measures your strengths, weaknesses, and potential for future success. The ASVAB also provides you with career information for various civilian and military occupations and is an indicator for success in future endeavors whether you choose to go to college, vocational school or a military career."
- Campus visits @OLA:
  - o Nov. 4: Loyola University
  - o Nov. 8: University of Alabama
  - o Nov. 9: University of Mississippi Croft Institute (Spanish III Classes)
  - o Nov. 18: Naval Academy
- Nov. 1 TIP Student registration due for SAT and ACT
- Nov. 4 ACT regular registration deadline for Dec. 10 testing
- Nov. 8 SAT regular registration deadline for Dec. 3 testing

**ACT Prep Class:** Mr. Mike Gemelli will offer an ACT Prep Course for the December test. The class will be held at OLA and will run Nov. 28-30 and Dec. 5-7. Interested parties must contact Ms. Emmel or Mr. Gemelli at [mgemelli@bwsd.org](mailto:mgemelli@bwsd.org) to register.

**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, and 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.

**6th Grade Lock-in:** The lock-in for 6th grade girls who are considering Our Lady Academy has been changed to December 16. 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.

**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 over Thanksgiving Break. 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 small 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 book clubs, 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.

**Important Dates:**

- November 1:** All Saints Day/Tri-School Mass (Dress Uniform)  
Booster Club Fee DUE  
Progress Reports
- November 2:** Youth Leg. Departs
- November 5:** "Faces of Homeless" Candlelight Prayer Service, food/clothing drives, and sleep out
- November 8:** Junior Class Fish Fry  
All Reading Fair projects due
- November 11:** Make-A-Wish Dance
- November 12:** "Homeless Awareness Campaign on Main," Main Street in Bay St. Louis  
"Hooray for OLA" at Hollywood Casino @ 6pm
- November 13:** Canned food drive and movie showing (admission is \$5 or 5 cans)
- November 15:** Government Field Trip  
A.C.E Competition  
ASVAB (juniors)
- November 16:** Reading Fair
- November 17:** Progress Reports  
Red Cross/Student Council Sponsored Blood Drive
- November 18:** Spanish III Field Trip  
Thanksgiving Day Liturgy
- November 21-25: Thanksgiving Holidays**
- November 28:** School will resume at 8:20
- November 30:** Geography Field Trip
- December 1:** 8th Grade Retreat
- December 16:** 6th Grade Lock-In 0.1

*"Do not get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up,  
for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time."  
- Galatians 6:9*