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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF OUR LADY ACADEMY

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*"The only action God requires of us for all his favors is a return of love."—Catherine McAuley*

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**Retreat Schedule:** *"The Saints, who know the value of spiritual exercises, considered a retreat as one of the most special graces in the treasury of God; and many of them now in glory...owe their state of bliss to a well made retreat."* - Catherine McAuley Each class at OLA leaves the Campus for time away to be on retreat. All of the retreats offer time for each class to get to know themselves in a more meaningful way, to learn more about each other and to gain a deeper relationship with God. The scheduled retreat dates for the 2009-2010 year are

- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade—October 21
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade—December 2
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade—February 10
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade—March 30
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade—January 28-29
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade—October 29-30

**Guidance News:**

- All OLA sophomores and juniors will take the PSAT (administered during school hours) on October 14. Mrs. Emmel will provide more details to the students as the date approaches.
- 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.

**Duke University TIP students:**

Congratulations to the 18 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who have been selected to participate in the Duke Talent Identification Program. Duke TIP's 7th Grade Talent Search identifies academically talented 7th graders based on standardized test scores achieved while attending elementary or middle school. Candidates are then invited to take the SAT or the ACT as 7th graders, which allows them greater insight into their academic abilities. In addition, they gain access to valuable benefits and resources for gifted students. The following OLA students were selected: Kayleigh Aicklen, Gloria Carneiro, Brittany Corder, Isabella Cottone, Jamie Cox, Amelia DeMetz, Emma Holland, Katy Hotard, Madison Huey, Megan Krynen, Lauren Lawhead, Emily McGinity, Savannah Necaie, Sarah Rimmer, Caroline St. Paul, Emma Welch, Georgia Williams, and Patricia Williams.

**AP Scholars:** The AP Program offers several AP Scholar Awards to recognize high school students who have demonstrated college-level achievement through AP courses and exams. In addition to receiving an award certificate, this achievement is acknowledged on any AP Score Report that is sent to colleges the following fall. The AP Scholar Award is granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams. OLA '09 graduates who received this award were Sarah Bacot and Kathleen McKissack. The AP Scholar with Honor Award is granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP

Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. '09 graduate Rachel Courtault received this award.

**Mercy Day Thank You!** A very special thank you to Mary Beth Baker and all the moms who made our Mercy Day such a lovely event. Mary Beth says, as she offers her overwhelming gratitude to the team, she "can see each smiling face and feel the enthusiasm and excitement in the heart of each mom. They are an awesome team and (she) can't wait to work with them again!" One of the highlights of the treats was a delicious and beautiful cake donated by *Sweet Stuff* in Biloxi. We add a very special thank you to your daughters. They behaved so graciously at the tea and really enjoyed themselves. But, the most gratifying part of the event was watching them graciously join in the clean up, even putting away all the tables and chairs! What an amazing group of young ladies you parents have reared!!!

Thank you!

### **Sports News**

**Booster Club Raffle:** The OLA Athletic Department has begun its annual fundraiser. Each family should have received a booklet of raffle tickets. Please have your child sell her booklet of tickets and return the stubs and money to Coach Elias or the front office as soon as possible.

**Soccer Tryouts:** Soccer tryouts will be held October 19th from 4 - 6 at the Seminary soccer fields. All students in the 7th and 8th grade will be eligible to be selected for the Junior High, Junior Varsity, or Varsity soccer team. All students in 9th - 12th grade will be eligible for Junior Varsity or Varsity. There will be a brief parent meeting at 4p.m. at the field before tryouts begin.

**Cross Country news:** The OLA cross country team is off to a great start. We have placed 6 runners in the "Under 20:00 Club", and 11 runners have set new personal records. Competing against 2A-6A schools, the team finished 2nd in the East Central Invitational Meet and 1<sup>st</sup> in the Pascagoula Invitational Meet.

**Volleyball news:** The varsity team is having another banner year and as of today they stand at 22-8. Our Crescents have won their division for the 10th consecutive year. The team is led by seniors Kirsty Schmitt and Mischa Tice. Juniors are Callie McNally, Erin Gibson, Kelly McLeod and Renee Hotard. Sophomores are Blake Stefano, Christy Parnell, Caroline Collins and Reagan Huey. Kirsty and Callie are atop the South Mississippi kill list with 354 and 226 respectively. Blake leads all setters with 520 assists. Erin is our top point producer with 169. The JV is also very impressive as these youngsters have completed a sweep of all Mississippi teams they have played and have compiled a 13-2 record thus far. We also have a fun group playing on the 9<sup>th</sup> grade team and another large group competing at the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade level. They are doing just fine and they are all having a blast. At that age everything is so much more fun!

**Swim news:** The OLA swim team is off to a wonderful start. The girls have defeated 5 of their 6 opponents this season with the only loss to 5A Biloxi High School. The girls have already qualified for state in the 400 free relay and the 200 free relay. We are looking forward to many more wins as the season continues.

**Sailing:** Senior Katherine Santa Cruz is crewing in the U.S. Men's Sailing Championships at Bay-Waveland Yacht Club (the team is allowed to have one woman crewmember). The championship consists of 10 races in a 4 day period. The winner of the competition is awarded the prestigious Mallory Cup.