



OLL May Newsletter

www.omahaourladyoflourdes.com

These are busy, but exciting, times at Our Lady of Lourdes School. Thank you to everyone who helped to make our recent spaghetti benefit such a success. A final tabulation of money raised will be coming home soon. But besides the money that was given, there was such a feeling of community at the event and there were so many people that stepped forward to volunteer, donate, or offer to help in some way. We had teachers, spouses, parents, students, alumni, friends, neighbors, and parishioners all working together. Many parents have stopped in to say they could feel a sense of warmth and a dedication to Catholic values at the event. Thank you to everyone who attended or helped in some way. A special thank you goes to the OLL staff. We put the entire event together in a span of three weeks, and it was all volunteer work. Teachers simply stepped forward, took on a task, and made it happen. It was a wonderful example of commitment to one of our colleagues. And we also have to thank the following whose generosity and dedication were particularly invaluable: Lo Sole Mio, OLL Booster Club, OLL Home and School, the Lakin Family, Dinkers, OLL Knights of Columbus, OLL students, McFly's Tavern, Burke's Direct Mail, Rita Staley, Dan Emsick, Orsi's Bakery, Tony Manganaro, Deep Rock Water and Tony Romero, and OLL parents.

Congratulations and thank you to the 5-8th grade students who put on such a wonderful spring musical. The hours spent preparing were easy to see and well worth it. The show was very smooth and entertaining. Thanks also to Mrs. Swanson for her constant dedication to music and endless energy.

The Marketplace event this year was also a big success. If you have never been a part of the event I would encourage you to plan to attend next year. It's both fun and educational. The point of the day is to teach the students about life at the time of Christ. It was really well organized and the kids had a good time. Thank you to Lisa Blankman for organizing the event and to all the parents who helped out.

Next Monday, May 4th, will be OLL Teacher Appreciation Day. Our entire teaching staff will be returning for 2009-2010, and this is a day to thank them for their dedication to OLL and Catholic education. Just a simple note of thanks will help make the day special.

In the next few weeks there will be information sent home about the uniform policy for next year. One of the changes will be that all uniform items are to be purchased from a uniform store. These stores sell a product that is cut and styled in a modest and respectful manner. One can purchase a blue or white polo shirt from many places, but one purchased from a uniform store will be fitted and styled appropriately and help us to send a respectful message. We have no exclusive agreements with any particular uniform store, so I would encourage you to shop at the one that is most convenient and cost efficient. One of the points of a uniform policy is that everyone looks similar so that fashion is de-emphasized as a societal value. If we were to simply have blue/khaki pants purchased from any store as our uniform there will be many variances of color, style, and cut that would make the uniform policy pointless. Thank you in advance for your adherence to the policy.

Hope you can attend our May Crowning event on May 6th, our Field Day on May 8th, and our farewell mass on May 14th. I am excited about the future of OLL, thank you for all that you have done to make our school a success. If you know of a family that would be a good fit in our school please have them contact the office.

Peace,
William Kelly

May skill:



Asking for Help

The steps are:

- Look at the person
 - Ask the person if they have time to help you.
 - Clearly explain the kind of help that you need.
 - Thank the person for helping
-

May

May 1 – All school mass, Feast of St. Joseph the Worker



May 3 – First Communion, 2:00 p.m.

May 4 – Teacher Appreciation Day

We Love You!

May 4 – Red Wheel pick up 2:30 – 5:00

May 6 – May Crowning 2:00

May 8 – Field Day

May 12 – St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 3:05 – 3:45

May 12 – Servers Picnic

May 13 – 8th Grade Class Trip to Lincoln

May 14 - All school mass, Farewell to 8th grade students

May 15 – Last day of school for 8th grade students

May 15 – Dress down day \$1

May 19 – Practice 10:00 – 11:00, Luncheon 11:15, Graduation 7:00

May 20 – Preschool & Kindergarten Graduation, 1:30 in the Church

May 21 – Ascension Thursday, All School Mass

May 22 – Last day of school dismissal @ 11:30



Flowers for the Blessed Virgin

We would like to surround the statue of Mary with as many fresh flowers as possible on the day of May Crowning. Please feel free to send a few of your lovely garden flowers to school with you child on Wednesday May 6th.

Thank You

Congratulations to Emily Janda and Ivan Tunzer. They were chosen as our schools Rotary Honor Students. The Rotary motto is "service before self." These students are wonderful examples of that idea. Thank you for being great representatives of OLL.

Thank you Miss Tylski..... for volunteering to teach our 3rd grade students next year.

Thank you to all the parents who braved the cold/wet weather and cheered on the boys and girls at the track meet last weekend. Your dedication is much appreciated. A special thanks goes to Mr. & Mrs. Montag, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Manganaro, Mr. Felty, and Mr. Latka for your help running the various events. Thanks again to everyone.

See you this weekend!

Red Wheel

Thanks for your hard work with our Red Wheel Food sales. We made over \$3,500 for the Home and School which we will use for improving the school security this summer. Our top three selling families were, the Blocker, McIntosh, and Rasmussen families.

**Pick up will be May 4th
2:30 – 5:00 in the Social Hall**

Please remember we do not have freezer space to store your items. If you cannot make it personally, please make arrangements to have someone pick up your order.

The Altar Server schedule for June, July, and August will be sent home this month. If there are any dates that your child will be unable to serve during these summer months or if your child no longer wishes to be a server, please let me know by May 8th. Thanks - Julia Kimble 341-3902 or kdugout6@cox.net

Thank you for all the contributions to our coupon programs throughout the year.

Our latest deposit from Box Tops =
\$319.80

Please remember to purchase scrip for your summer projects

Coming up.....

St. Vincent de Paul at OLL

Tuesday, May 12th will be the last meeting of this school year for the St. Vincent de Paul youth group. Please be sure to attend. We will have a pizza party and a representative from the Food Pantry will be presenting certificates to the eighth grades students for their service.

We will continue to collect paper bags throughout the end of the month. You may drop them at the office anytime or to Cindy Jandrain 3274 Frances Street (344-0919).

**The due date for all registration/book fee deposits is May 15th.
Your child is not officially registered until tuition is current and reg/book fees are paid.**

Bring a \$1.00 for the Festival pop booth on May 15th for a dress down day.

MAY NEWS FROM OUR CLASSROOMS

Pre K News from Mrs. Muth

Wow, we can't believe that it is almost time for our graduation! We have learned so much this last year. We not only learned the alphabet and the sounds of the letters, we have also learned our numbers. To top it all off, we have become rather good at walking silently in the hallway and we are getting good at raising our hands to speak. We have put Ms. Muth through her paces as much as she has put us through ours. We have had a fabulous year!

This has been an amazing year and I personally have enjoyed watching each of the pre-kindergarten students grow and learn. I would like to thank all the parents for entrusting their most precious accomplishments to me. It has been an honor to watch your children blossom. Thank-you! I hope you have all enjoyed this year as much as I have!

God Bless,
Ms. Muth

Kindergarten News from Mrs. Jensen & Mrs. Kirchhevel

It is hard to believe that they year is coming to an end. What a wonderful year it has been! This month we will discuss animals and their habitats our families and how they are important to us. Our new popcorn words will be **come, in, will, that, and it**. In Math we will be reviewing addition and subtraction along with problem solving. Science we will focus on safety over the summer, household tools and scientists. In Religion we will discuss how we are growing and in social studies we will study transportation and communication. Mrs. Jensen and I wish you a safe and happy summer!

First Grade News From Mrs. Hahne

It is hard to believe this is our last month of school. This month in first grade we will finish our fifth and final reading book. We will work on summarizing and developing story comprehension. In Grammar, we will work on recognizing the subject and the predicate of sentences. We will also work on pronouns. We will be working extra hard on math facts up to 18's.

It has been really great working with this class and their parents. The parents have been extremely supportive. Have a great summer!

Second Grade News From Ms. Hoos 2A & Ms. Lampe 2B

Wow—May has come so quickly. We have been so busy preparing for First Communion. We are excited to finally be able to receive the Body of Christ. Please keep us in your prayers as we make our First Communion on Sunday. We will then begin to study about Mary and learn more about the rosary. We are learning how to add and subtract numbers into the thousands in Math. We will begin to explore multiplication soon too. We are beginning to write in cursive. We are excited to explore this new style of

handwriting. We are almost finished with our reading series. We have just a few stories left, we will then begin some independent book studies of our own. We are learning about synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, and words with prefixes. We are learning about gases, solids, and liquids in Science. We are learning about the pioneers and the colonists in Social Studies. We had a wonderful day at Marketplace. A huge THANK YOU to all the parents and students who volunteered their time to spend with us. You made the day wonderful. Thanks to Lisa Blankman for all you did! We are looking forward to winding down the year. We can hardly believe the end is here. Thank you for a great year!

Third Grade News From Mrs. McQueen

Happy Spring! Although the weather is very summer like, we have much to accomplish before vacation begins. We will be completing our year in math by studying fractions, decimals, and larger multiplication and division problems. We have completed our reading series and are currently reading chapter books of children's classics. In Science we are studying healthy diets and making healthy choices in our foods we eat as well as our daily lifestyles. In Social Studies we are going over governments and the importance of laws in our lives. In Religion we are studying the time lines that lead up to the birth of Jesus and his life on Earth. We will be studying adverbs, then writing a final story in Language Arts.

I want to thank you all for the privilege of working with your children this year. They are a great group of people and have grown so much over the course of this year. I wish you all a fun and safe summer and look forward to seeing everyone next year.
Sheila McQueen

Fourth Grade News From Mrs. Costello 4A & Ms. Tylski 4B

The fourth grade students are anxious to finish the year, but they know there's a lot to be done yet. In Math we've been working on adding and subtracting fractions, and then writing them in lowest terms. Our next two skills are decimals and measurement. This year for our Nebraska Studies we have received a Nebraska Studies magazine. In the four page magazine the students have learned about the landforms and waterways in Nebraska. We read about prehistoric people, Indian tribes, explorers, and pioneers. In May we will read how Nebraskans lived during the Depression and World Wars. In Science we are finishing our unit on electricity. We will soon start a unit on weather. The students will also prepare a simple science experiment for the class this month. The students have worked very hard this year. We wish them well as they journey to the top floor.

Fifth and Sixth Grade Language Arts, Mrs. Kowskie 5A

It's hard to believe the school year is coming to a close already. What a great year it's been. The 5th grade English classes are currently finishing up their adjective work and will be doing some very engaging writing projects to emphasize adjective use. They will be working with partners to create an advertisement of an imaginary new exhibit to the Henry Doorly Zoo. We will also try to put on 5th grade class plays for which the students will write their own original scripts.

After finishing a "how-to" expository writing unit, the 6th grade English classes will be covering adjectives and adverbs in mini-lessons. Then they will embark on their last project – an advertisement unit in which they'll script and present commercials that promote a new original cereal.

The 5th grade reading classes are closing the year out with their partner novels, "Esperanza Rising" and "Bud, Not Buddy". These multi-cultural favorites are sure to spark interest. The students will be making some important comprehension observations and responses concerning these books in their dialogue journals. What a productive year we've had in 5th and 6th language arts classes!



Fifth and Sixth Grade Math and 5th Religion, Mr. Jourdan 5B

FIFTH GRADE RELIGION

The fifth grade Religion classes will be completing their study of the sacraments of the Eucharist, Penance, and Anointing of the Sick. They will also be studying the parts of the Mass. In our last unit, the classes will be studying ways in which we can live like Jesus, among which are taking a closer look at some of the Ten Commandments.

FIFTH GRADE MATH

The fifth grade Math classes will be studying dividing by two-digit divisors, division of decimals, and fractions in the last month. Their knowledge of the basic multiplication and division facts (0 through 12) will come into play virtually every session. The need to show *all* of their work and to follow *correct mathematical procedure* are vital as the students are being set up to succeed farther down the road in their mathematical endeavors.

SIXTH GRADE MATH

The sixth grade classes will be involved in finding perimeter, area, surface area, and volume of various geometric shapes and figures. There will be formulas to memorize. Pi (π) will have the value of 3.14. All answers must be labeled correctly, with the area answers being in "square" units and the volume answers being in "cubic" units. We will also have a lesson on the Pythagorean Theorem.

Fifth and Sixth Grade Social Studies and Reading, Ms. Vieira 6A

The sixth grade Social Studies classes are making their way through our economics unit. We have been doing some fun class activities so students can relate what we learn to their lives. They will then begin preparation for our final project! We've had some more students join the President's Challenge hall of fame: Jake Mitzlaff, Hollie Peters, Donnie Schmidt, Tiffany Sommer, Mary Hinderaker, and Tess Blankman. Again, these students memorized all the presidents in order by last name!

Fifth Grade Social Studies classes are making their way through American History. We are learning about life in early America and the difficulties of our now independent nation. We will be making our way to the industrial revolution and do a fun project to experience what it was like to work an assembly line.

The sixth grade reading classes did a wonderful job on their book projects! We will be moving on to writing our own fractured fairy tales and reviewing what we learned about literary techniques and elements.

I hope you all have a blessed and FUN summer! I have truly enjoyed being with your children this school year. They really are a wonderful group. I look forward to seeing more of the fifth graders next year as sixth graders, and hope the sixth graders will come visit when they're big junior highers!

Fifth and Sixth Grade Science, 6th Grade Religion, Mrs. Laski 6B

Parents, wow, can it really be our last newsletter this year? I am so impressed by the students here at OLL. We have had a great year in 5th and 6th grade science. Students have just completed another round of student-led science experiments. Students were asked to choose experiments that they wanted to do and to demonstrate these experiments to their class. They also needed to explain to their class the science behind the experiment. Students were asked to use the scientific method to write up a report about the science that was involved in their chosen experiment.

We had many creative ideas and students are really getting the hang of interpreting what is taking place during an experiment. The fun thing we have learned, is that some of our best learning takes place when an experiment does not go as planned. This really gets students thinking and using the steps in the scientific method to analyze why an experiment failed. It gives students the opportunity to go back to correct or modify a variable in order to get the desired result.

Thank you for your support this year and for providing your students with many of the items they brought from home to conduct their student-led experiments. I look forward to working with our current fifth grade students again next year in science.

Seventh and Eighth Grade Language Arts, and Seventh Grade Religion Mrs. Markey 7A

As another exciting school year comes to a close, allow me to take this opportunity to bid farewell to the Class of 2009. It has been my honor and privilege to watch you learn and grow as students, mentors, and friends these past two years. I will pray for each of you as you leave Lourdes. I pray that the Lord will bless you, protect you and challenge you.

Remember, if you were given a summer reading list from your high school, this is required reading, and you can expect a quiz over this material the first week of school. See, I'm still watching out for you. ☺

Sixth and seventh graders, you also have summer reading requirements. Read all you can this summer. Read for enjoyment, but keep track of what you read on the handout that was sent home. This is not an option. Eighth graders will be completing plot diagrams on the second day of school, and seventh graders will be filling out book report forms. This will be the first grade entered on the computer for the first quarter. So remember to bring your completed reading list to school on the first day.

Parents, thank you for another wonderful year with your children. Relax, enjoy the summer and we'll all get together and do it again in August!

Mrs. Markey

Seventh and Eighth Grade Math, Ms. Lamoureux 7B

7th Grade

Wow! It is hard to believe that the year is almost over! The 7th graders have been working on some pre-algebra topics like how to solve some simple equations. We are learning how to get our variable alone, and how to make sure that we are keeping our equations 'equal.' We are just about finished with our little preview though, and are going to spend May looking at how to graph and find the slope of a line. We will also learn about square roots and look at some special properties of triangles.

8th Grade

I know our 8th graders are really sad to be finished having “fun” with polynomials, but all good things must come to an end. We are going to be spending their last few weeks on a variety of topics that will cover graphing and finding the equation of a line. Also, we will look at some special properties of triangles. We will also be looking at some properties of radical numbers and will spend a day or two talking about money.

7th Grade Religion

Seventh graders are going to be busy for the next week getting ready for the May Crowning which is on May 6th. All the seventh graders have a role and we have been practicing how to lead a rosary in Religion class. We are also learning about some of the “other” books in the New Testament, but mostly about the Acts of the Apostles.

Seventh Grade Social Studies and Eighth Grade American History, Mrs. Herbek 8A

I find it very difficult to believe that we are reaching the end of the 2008-2009 school year! This year has flown! I want to stress to all my students and their parents, STAY FOCUSED, KEEP UP ON ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND DO NOT FORGET THAT EVERY GRADE COUNTS to the end of fourth quarter! This has been a great year and we all want to end this year on a high note!

8th grade has kept on busy schedule throughout this year. We are finishing the year with Thomas Jefferson’s presidency and hopefully, a look at the Civil War. The 8th grade has worked very hard this year. I am extremely pleased with their knowledge of our government and the goals of our Founding Fathers. I feel each 8th grader has a better understanding of how special our country is and should continue to be. I know these students will use their voice, vote when they turn eighteen, and hopefully, run for public office some day.

In 7th grade, we are finishing the year by studying parts of Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. Geography, history and present day problems will be the focus of our study. (We will use the news to discuss present day problems).

8th grade will complete their Monet paintings by the end of the year. I look forward to seeing how amazing these paintings, I know, will be.

To the parents, thank you for sharing your most prized possession with me, this past school year. This has been a year of learning and growing. I was pleased and honored to be part of the educational experience of your children.

To both classes—DON’T FORGET TO READ, LISTEN TO THE NEWS, AND STAY INFORMED ON CURRENT EVENTS OVER THE SUMMER!

TO EVERYONE, HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

Seventh and Eight Grade Science, Eighth Grade Religion, Ms. Sander 8B

Spring Greetings!

As April ends and May begins, I would like to congratulate students on a few of the special programs in these months including: a congratulations to Mrs. Swanson and the 5th -8th grade on the spring program, a congratulations to the 8th grade on their Confirmation, as well as an early congratulations on the much anticipated 8th grade graduation.

Eighth grade Religion will be finishing the year with an overview of the Bible that should help students with required scripture classes (for students entering catholic high schools) as well as encourage personal Bible study for all students to help them grow and share the message of Jesus. Students should recall the three sources of Catholic teaching: Magisterium, Tradition, and Bible. It is from these three sources that Catholics live out the apostolic mission entrusted to them at Confirmation.

Eighth grade science has looked at methods used to study space including the waves of the electromagnetic spectrum, space stations, and space probes. Students will continue to study space particularly in our solar system, as they finish the unit on the Earth, Sun, and Moon, and look at the other planets and objects in our solar system.

Seventh grade will end the year studying about the interactions of life in particular the living and non-living elements of ecosystems. Special focus will be on human impact to these ecosystems and how we as people can be more environmentally friendly.

As the year comes to a close, I would like to thank parents and students for a grace filled year at Our Lady of Lourdes. I am excited for a summer that provides an opportunity for current students to grow and prepare for the responsibilities that await them as both freshmen and 8th graders!

Ms. Sander

Music Notes, Mrs. Swanson

Happy May everyone! I can hardly believe it's already here! Phew, the year has just flown by! Even though our Spring Concert has come and gone, the music classroom continues to have lots going on with end-of-the-year events. The second grade has been working on music for their First Communion, and the kindergartners and preschoolers have begun new songs for their special graduation day. All the classes have also been working on some new liturgical music for the May Crowning coming up.

As we count down the days, the lower grades will continue to work on projects and units relating to rhythm, steady beat, orchestra instruments, song form, song writing, and some fun new music games. Some of these grades will also continue to have the opportunity to sing and lead music in mass, which they're always so excited about, so lots to look forward to! The upper grades will be finishing up their Rock Music projects that we had to set aside during program time, along with other projects relating to music in advertising, music timelines, and composers. We've got a lot yet to do, so we'll be keeping busy through the end of the year! It's been a great first year, and I'm already looking forward to the next! Have a blessed summer. ☺

Computer Notes from Mrs. Mc Donald, Technology Teacher

It's amazing to me how this year has flown by. It seems like just yesterday that I put up new posters and dusted off the stations in the room. Thank You parents for supporting the Computer Program at OLL. In our final month the students will be as busy as ever.

8th Grade: The students will be doing a PowerPoint project titled: **Time of Your Life**. Each student may bring in a memory card or flash drive with up to 3 pictures to help illustrate the story they will be writing about. The students may email me the pictures as well but will not have access to online storage sites or their email at school. They will not be allowed to use pictures selected if they do not come in the format requested. The use of real life pictures is not mandatory. If your student can't or doesn't want to use Real Life images they may use clip art instead. I hope this assignment will be one to

help them reflect on their years at OLL and bring back fond memories. The students will be presenting the projects the last week they are here. If you want a copy of the project please coordinate with your student to provide a blank CD or flash drive to save the file to.

7th grade: The students will be working on a project simultaneously in Computer and English. Both Mrs. Markey and I will be grading the project based on our various class interests in the project. See the student's requirement sheet for more information.

Intermediate: The 6th graders are finally done typing up their English stories. What dedication they showed. Good Job everyone! Look for culminating projects to come in the next week as they begin their wrap up projects in Excel.

The 5th graders are still working on their poster assignments and should be done within the next 2 weeks. I am excited to see how they turn out!

Primary: The 4th grade has been working on the keys; A,S,L and ; as well as D,F,J and K. Each student is working at their own pace and should have the home row mastered before the end of the year. They are also researching a famous mid-western person. Look for those stories to be done by May 15th.

3rd through pre-k are focusing their skills while practicing Math, Reading, and Social Studies games. The Pre-K students and Kindergarten students have been exploring StarFall.com and seem to be enjoying the games and songs that reinforce letter and word sounds. It is so fun to see them catch on and enjoy learning, all the while learning basic computer skills!

Some fun sites:

www.starfall.com or www.primarygames.com

Physical Education – Mr. Miller

It is really hard to believe that May is right around the corner and the end of the school year is quickly approaching. In the Physical Education classes we had 15 students qualify for the Presidential award in the President's challenge and another 44 as National award winners. Way to go students! These students will be receiving certificates at the awards day. In class the student will be starting a unit on slow pitch softball, but with a little wrinkle. We will be playing Chicago style softball with a 16" ball; I hope the students enjoy it. We are working on their eye hand coordination. On another subject, if you can help with the field day in the morning and haven't sent back your sheet yet, please make sure you get that back to school as soon as possible so that I know how to plan.

Wellness Program - Mrs. Sobetski

The First grade did a super job planning a menu for April. Now our Kindergarteners have planed a menu for May. Their parents and friends will be invited to have lunch with their student any day during the month of May.