



OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL LOWER SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2011

Dear Parents,

What an exciting month that lies ahead! It's a very exciting, prayerful, giving, and joyous month. I can already see the festive decorations that flow through the halls and classrooms. I can hear the beautiful singing of Christmas Carols and the band members putting finishing touches on to their concert pieces. These are truly my gifts of the season.

As the month ahead is a busy one, we must not forget the meaning of the Season. As we have many opportunities for celebration, we also have incorporated many opportunities for prayer and reflection. I look forward to celebrating and praying with you and your family during this holiday season.

I wish each of you a blessed and wonderful holiday!

And this season would not be without our Blessed Mother.....Our Lady of Mt. Carmel...pray for us..

Many blessings,

Christine Olszewski

Lower School Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Dec. 4th – Craft Fair & Breakfast with Santa 8AM - Noon in High School Cafeteria
1st Annual Mother/ Son Ravens Event 3:30-7PM in High School Cafeteria
- Dec. 5th – Barnes and Noble Night 6PM-8PM
- Dec. 8th – Immaculate Conception Liturgy @ 1:30
- Dec. 10th – 2nd Grade Nativity practice @ 10:30
- Dec. 12th – Advent Reconciliation Grades 3-5 @ 1:30
- Dec. 13th - Student banking
- Dec. 14th – Pre K and Middle School buddies Christmas Caroling
- Dec. 15th – Christmas Band and Chorus Concert @ 7PM
Pre K and Middle School buddies Christmas Caroling
- Dec. 20th – Christmas Parties @ 1:30
- Dec 21st – Prayer Service @ 10:30
Noon dismissal; **No extended care**
- Dec 22nd- Jan 2 – **No School**
- Dec. 24th – 2nd Grade Nativity Christmas Eve presentation @ 4PM
- Jan. 3 – School resumes

Uniforms

What beautiful and handsome young people we have within our lower school! Thank you for your cooperation in adhering to the dress code. Our students are really representing OLMC in such a neat and uniformed way.

Please remind your child to wear a jacket to school. Students will not be permitted to go out to recess on days the temperatures are below 50 degrees if they do not have a jacket.

With the fashion trends changing so quickly, it is difficult to keep our handbook up to date. Please be advised when keeping up with trends, we still need to conform to a uniformed dress code. Feather hair extensions seem to be the latest trend. These extensions MUST be blended in with their hair color. They should not be bright colors, such as pink, blue, purple etc.

Adopt A Family

Letters have gone home to each grade level detailing the needs of a family within our parish. We as a school have been so generous in the years past in bringing some Christmas cheer to so many families. If you are in a position to do so, please consider sending in a gift. Please wrap the gift and label with boy/girl and the age. We will make sure it gets delivered to the family. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Santa's Workshop

In accordance to the spirit of giving, we are offering again this year a chance for your child to do some shopping for the special people in their lives. Our Santa's Workshop will begin on December 5th and continue that week. Each homeroom will have a designated time to shop. Please send in their budget form along with your signature before their shopping day. Once they shop, they will receive their "bill." Once the bill and payment are sent back to school, they will receive their items.

Advent Daily Mass

During the season of Advent, we offer 4th and 5th grade students an opportunity to attend morning mass on Wednesdays and Fridays. Students will not be marked late on these days. They will meet Sr. Margaret and Sr. Elizabeth at 7:50 and walk to mass together. Daily mass ends at 8:30. This is a great opportunity for students to celebrate the season with some extra reflection time.

Christmas Parties

Classroom parties are scheduled for December 20th at 1:30. Please adhere to the guidelines set forth from your child's classroom teacher. This is especially important to those classrooms that have students with nut allergies. These homerooms have sent notices to parents with a list of snacks that would ensure the safety of all children. This must be our top priority.

Value Codes

As explained in my last newsletter, students are able to earn marbles for behaviors that portray our value codes. I am very pleased to announce that almost all of our homerooms earned a free recess with their principal! Congratulations to the following homerooms that filled their vase this month: **KA, KB, 1A, 1B, 2B, 3A, 3B, 5B**. It was great to spend some fun time with each of these homerooms! The incentive for the month of December is classroom choice. I know each class will come up with something great!

A Note from the School Nurse

Healthy Lunches

Give your children the energy they need to make it through the day with a healthy lunch. If you provide your children with healthy food to eat at school, they will be better prepared to study and learn. Although there are lots of convenience products available, those products are often loaded with saturated fat, calories and sodium. It's important to strive for balance. Healthy lunches should have a complex carbohydrate such as whole grain bread or pita, a source of protein, at least one serving of fruit or vegetables, and one source of dairy (low-fat string cheese, yogurt, cottage cheese or milk). Keep in mind the age and size of your children when packing their lunch. Make sure to pack kid-size portions. When possible choose low-fat and sugar-free snacks. You don't want your children to be high-wired on sugar or falling asleep in class from a heavy, rich treat.

Fundraising

Thank you to all that participated in our Yankee Candle and Around Town coupon book fundraisers. Both fundraisers have come to an end. If you have not returned or sold your Around Town coupon book, please do so soon. If you have chosen not to purchase the book and it is not returned, you will be billed for the book.

We are continuing to collect box tops and Campbell's soup labels. Thank you to Mrs. Broznowicz for organizing both of these fundraisers. Here is some important information to pass along.

We can win up to \$2,500 in books for your school! Enter the Labels for Education® Book Bonanza Sweepstakes for your chance to win Scholastic books for Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Visit the Scholastic website at scholastic.com/bookbonanza to enter by December 31, 2011.

So far for the 2011-2012 school year, Our Lady of Mount Carmel has earned \$1,105.00 for just clipping box tops! Thank you for sending in your box tops and please continue to send them in. Our school can earn 5 bonus box tops for each person that signs up for the Marketplace e-mail. That equals 50 cents per person! If you love to shop on-line, please check out <http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/marketplace/Default.aspx> to see if the store that you love to shop is listed. There are tons of stores listed and for every purchase made, Our Lady of Mount Carmel receives bonus box tops which equals 10 cents for every box top. It adds up quickly!

Student Lunch \$3.00
Milk .50

DECEMBER 2011
LUNCH MENU



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 French Toast Sticks Sausage Fruit Milk/Juice	2 Pizza Green Beans Fruit Milk/Juice	3
4	5 Mozzarella Sticks Marina Sauce Peas Fruit Milk/Juice	6 Chicken Sandwich Goldfish Crackers Fruit Milk/Juice	7 Fish Sticks Corn Fruit Milk/Juice	8 Hamburgers Tater Tots Fruit Milk/Juice	9 Pizza Broccoli Fruit Milk/Juice	10
11	12 Tuna Sandwich Chips Fruit Milk/Juice	13 Taqitos Chips & Salsa Fruit Milk/Juice	14 Hot Dogs French Fries Jello Milk/Juice	15 Chicken Nuggets Corn Pudding Milk/Juice	16 Pizza Salad Fruit Milk/Juice	17
18	19 French Toast Sticks Sausage Fruit Milk/Juice	20 Macaroni & Cheese Peas Fruit Milk/Juice	21 12:00 DISMISSAL	22 SCHOOL CLOSED CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	23 SCHOOL CLOSED CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	24
25	26 SCHOOL CLOSED CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	27 SCHOOL CLOSED CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	28 SCHOOL CLOSED CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	29 SCHOOL CLOSED CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	30 SCHOOL CLOSED CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	31