

JANUARY 2012

OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL SCHOOL



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!!! It is hard to believe that it is 2012. The holidays sped by in the blink of an eye and now we all turn to trying to keep our resolutions, at least until Valentines Day. The new year brings with it an opportunity for new beginnings and new initiatives. It is the one time of the year that everyone is hopeful for the future. Let us all try to keep that hope for a great new year alive long after the trees have come down and the decorations have been put away.

I wish all of you a very Happy New Year and I look forward to an exciting second semester.

Exams:

Exams are looming ahead for the students. These important tests create 20% of the semester grade for the first half of the year. The tests are cumulative and will cover class material and content from September-January. Clearly, those students who study and prepare do the best on these tests. They are important! Please encourage your student to study. Exams are held from January 10-January 12 and students grades 9-12 will be dismissed each day after their last exam. Students in grades 6-8 will have exams in the morning and classes in the afternoon after lunch.

Teacher Award:

Each year our local Chamber of Commerce has a special dinner to award outstanding teachers in our area for their excellent work with students in the classroom and for setting a wonderful example for them in life. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School has two teachers who have been acknowledged with this special recognition. Accolades go to Ms. Barb Petr who is our English Department Chair and to Mrs. Mary Rocks who is one of our Kindergarten teachers. Both teachers deserve this recognition and we are proud of their dedication to students and their willingness to give of themselves. Congratulations to both Ms. Petr and Mrs. Rocks! The dinner honoring these educators will be held on January 12, 2012.

Reminder: Weather Related Information:

Winter weather is already upon us! Please remember that *Our Lady of Mt. Carmel follows Baltimore County for closings and weather related schedule and calendar changes*. Now that the new web site is fully functional, we will post information on that site as soon as it is available to us.

Science Fair coming up soon for 7th and 8th grade students

The annual Our Lady of Mount Carmel Science Fair will be held on Thursday, February 9th from 6-8pm in the lower church. As students get ready for the fair, they should be working on wrapping up their experiments and putting together their display boards. They must use a professional display board which can be found at places such as Office Depot or Staples, as well as other retailers. The boards are due to school the morning of February 6th for set-up and judging. All 7th and 8th grade students are required to participate, and families are welcomed to come check out their finished projects on the 9th. The top three projects from both 7th and 8th grades will represent OLMC at the Baltimore Regional Science Fair held March 24-25th at Towson University. Last year, one of our Mount Carmel students won an award and cash prize at this prestigious event, and this year's winners will look to continue that tradition.

Band:

Ms. Young from our Band program will be visiting classes and “drumming up” new members for the band at OLMC. This is a new program and a great way for students to get involved with music. For information email Ms. Young at eyoung@olmcmd.org.

Guidance:

College Financial Aid Night is on January 18th at 7:00 PM in the High School Cafeteria. Emphasis will be placed on scholarships, Federal and State Aid and filling out the necessary forms (FAFSA). This is especially beneficial for Junior and Senior parents.

Athletics:

As families begin to plan their summer vacations for the summer of 2011, please be aware that the start date for practices next fall: Football second week of August and all other sports start the third week. All athletes going out for one of our fall teams should plan on attending practice Monday through Friday beginning with their start date. Returning players are NOT guaranteed a spot on the team if they miss time, regardless of their grade. Athletes must have a physical on file in order to participate, please schedule these early as appointments often book quickly in the summer.

Schedules and pictures of our games can be found on the OLMC athletics page on Facebook, as well as by following the team links on our new school website.

Candy Bar Sale will be in January:

Students in Grades K-8 will receive 1 box of candy per family to sell. Any students in Grades 9-12 that would like to participate must request a box from the office. This is a major fundraiser for our school. Thanks in advance for your help!!

Exciting news!!

Kyle Petty, eighth grader, won our school-wide National Geographic Society geography bee. He will have a chance to take a qualifying test in January for the national geography bee to be held in April. Good Luck Kyle!!

Ladies' Night Out:

Do the winter doldrums sometimes get you down? A great way to combat the winter blahs is to participate in the PTSA sponsored Ladies Night Out. This evening is one of good company, good food, and shopping from assorted vendors. If you are a vendor and would like a table, information is included later in the newsletter. If you would like to attend, please plan to come on February 17 from 7:00-10:00 p.m. and bring your friends. We hope to see you there!

Technology Raffle:

Thanks to all that supported the raffle this year. The money we raised will help offset our technology initiatives throughout the school.

1st Place Winner of \$500 Bob Smith Sr.

2nd Place Winner of \$100 Michael and Judy McCafferty

3rd Place Winner of \$50 Jim Pospisll

Top Seller Rebecca Burke wins \$50

Trinity Long in 5B won the Tag Day Raffle and gets a week of tag days!!

Congrats to all and thanks again for your support!

A+ School Rewards:

Dear Baltimore Schools,

GIANT is the official supermarket of the Baltimore Ravens and this year they're teaming up to help your school earn a special prize!

From now until the Ravens end their post-season run (Go Super Bowl!) each Baltimore-Area store has a BRPS Mailbox in the front of their store. We're encouraging all of your students, teachers, staff & more to submit a letter wishing the Ravens good luck. Letters will be pulled prior to each game so that the Team has a chance to read them & get inspired to win.

The school that has the most letters submitted will receive a visit from Poe, the Ravens Mascot & the Baltimore Ravens Cheerleaders.

Don't wait. Encourage your classes, today, to write a letter for good luck & bring them to GIANT! Letters will be pulled the Thursday prior to each post-season game.

Thanks & GO RAVENS!!

Senior Portrait and Farewell Info.

All outside pictures must be submitted by Friday, January 6, 2012, or they will not be included in the yearbook. They should be submitted in a digital format (high quality resolution jpeg) on CD.

Also, each year we allow parents and families the opportunity to place a Senior Farewell at the end of the yearbook. This allows you the opportunity to congratulate your son or daughter for all their hard work and celebrate their achievement with a lasting reminder. The prices and sizes for these ads are listed below:

1/8 page (business card size)	\$35	½ page	\$90
¼ page	\$60	Full page	\$150

The deadline for Senior Farewells is Monday, January 9, 2012. In the past 5 years, we have sold out of the space allocated for farewells; so, do not wait until the last minute. Please contact Ms. Elfring or Dr. Bunn with any questions.

Respect Life Club:

The Respect Life will be hosting a bus trip for 56 students and chaperons on Monday January 23, 2012. We will leave at 5:45 AM from school and return at 4:15 PM. Anyone interested should contact Mr. Hall, 410-686-1023 X1270 or dhall@olmcmd.org, there are only a few seats left. (Mrs. Drinks is on leave)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan 6th – Deadline for Senior pictures to be submitted

Jan 10th–12th – Upper School Exams. Grades 9-12 dismissal after last exam, Grade 6-8 Exams in morning regular dismissal time.

Jan 13th– **School Closed for Upper School—Grades 6-12**

Jan 16th – **No School** – Martin Luther King holiday

Jan 18th– College Financial Aid night. 7pm Upper School Cafeteria

Jan 19th – Regular day (Lower School, grades k-5 has early dismissal)

Jan 29th – OLMC Open House 1-3PM-Grades K-8;Catholic Schools Week Mass 10AM

Jan 30th – Catholic Schools Week – Staff Appreciation Day

Jan 31st – Catholic Schools Week – Student Appreciation Day (Free tag day for students)

Feb 1st – Catholic Schools Week – Liturgy at 1:30

Feb 3rd – Catholic Schools Week – Teacher Appreciation Day

Finally...

Though it is true that half the year is over, it also true that there is a great deal of learning yet to happen this academic year. Students will begin their second semester work on January 17, 2012. Many students will change from first to second semester electives on that day, while others will begin the second half of the content for yearlong classes. Either way, students will benefit from taking each class very seriously and completing their work with quality. We often look to athletes or celebrities as role models, I remember hearing Michael Jordan in an interview say that to be the best at something you had to commit to doing it 10,000 times. Let's take the time this second semester to help our young people make their way to 10,000 times. Let's help them be the best.

Happy New Year!

Christopher Ashby,

Principal