

*OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL LOWER SCHOOL
BACK TO SCHOOL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2011*

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that October is already here! What a great start to a new school year! It's wonderful to see fewer and fewer tears and more and more smiles as the mornings go on. The students are settling in nicely to their new routines. Now is the time, if you haven't already, to establish those routines at home as well. As interims approach, now is a great time to contact your child's teacher if you are having any difficulties establishing homework and study routines.

Looking ahead, October looks to be a very busy month, beginning with our fall festival. Thank you in advance to all that have already volunteered to help with this. Our festivals would not be a success without the help of all of you. It is also a great time to share each other's company.

It has been such a wonderful start and I can't wait to see what lies ahead. As comes with all change, we have had a few bumps along the way (and I expect a few more!), but I have every confidence that as we work together, anything is possible. Thank you for the support and encouragement that so many of you have shared. I am truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful community! And as we look ahead, even greater things are yet to come, and I can't wait!!

As with everything we do...

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel...pray for us.

Christine Olszewski

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept 30-Oct 2 – Festival Set Up

Oct. 7 – 1st Friday Mass grades 4-5

Interims distributed

Noon Dismissal

Oct. 7-9 Festival

Oct. 10 – **No School** (Professional Day for Teachers)

Oct 12 – **Noon Dismissal**

Flu mist clinic

Oct. 18 – Student Banking

Archdiocese Accreditation Visit

Oct. 20 – **1:30 dismissal**

Ident-a-kid pictures

Oct. 21 – Quarter Auction to benefit Technology @ 7PM

Oct. 25 – OLMC High School Open house 6:30-9:30

Oct. 27 – 5th Grade Vocations Trip

Oct. 28 – Dance recital @ 1:30
Oct. 29 – Trunk or Treat
Oct. 31 – Halloween parade grades K-3 @ 1PM
Halloween Parties @ 1:30

Traffic Patterns

It is crucial, for the safety of children, parents, and staff members, that **EVERYONE** adhere to the traffic patterns enforced in the morning and the afternoon. Under **NO** circumstances should children be dropped off in the driveway between the high school and elementary school. In the morning, lower school and middle school students should be dropped off in the back parking lot. There is no staff supervision in the driveway, as our staff members must be on the parking lot to direct that flow of traffic. It is completely **UNSAFE** for young children to be crossing the driveway to enter the parking lot by themselves. The drivers of these students should enter from Old Eastern Avenue and remain in the left lane. There are 2 drop off lanes that turn into the parking lot from the main driveway. To allow traffic to flow, please use **BOTH** lanes. If you need to park for any reason, please park closest to the soccer field. Students may enter the building at 7:40. Please be aware that there is no staff supervision prior to 7:35, so please use caution when dropping children off before that time. Lastly, it is the responsibility of **ALL** adults to ensure the safety of every child on that parking lot. Please travel safely and adhere to the instructions that staff members are giving you. We are only trying to look out for the safety of all.

Uniforms

The new gym uniforms are looking great! Thanks to all who have conformed so quickly. For those still using the old, no worries! As your child begins to outgrow the old, please refer to Lands End to bring in the new. Here are just a few reminders regarding our uniform policy:

- Grades 3-5 are required to wear a belt at all times with shirts tucked in.
- Sweatshirts should be navy blue (previous style) or gray. Hoodies and fleece jackets are **NOT** allowed. Please use caution when ordering online at Lands End. There are several options listed that are not approved school uniforms, but would be great spirit wear. These spirit wear items are clearly marked.

Please refer to the handbook for uniform policies. In grades 3-5, students will be issued uniform notices for not adhering to these policies. After 3 notices, the student will receive an after school detention.

Festival

Our biggest fundraiser is upon us. The fall festival is on October 7th through the 9th. This is a great time to gather the family for some fun, entertainment, and of course great eating! There are still many opportunities to volunteer. Please contact Tina Varacalle at 410-933-1565 if you would like to volunteer at one of our kiddie booths. We also need several people to help with tear down on Sunday evening. It's a big job, but the more people that lend a hand, the easier that job becomes. Pray for great weather!

Halloween

We have several Halloween events lined up that will allow the students to celebrate the holiday in a fun and safe way. Our first event is the Dance concert on Friday, October 28th. Mrs. Arciaga's dance classes are hard at work in preparing for their first concert of the year. This will take place in the gym at 1:30. All are invited to attend.

Our next event is our annual Trunk or Treat. This is scheduled for Saturday, October 29th. We encourage you to attend our 5:30 mass that evening, which will include our Children's Liturgy of the Word. Children are allowed to wear their Halloween costumes, but we ask that masks and head gear remain off during the mass. Trunk or Treat will begin right after mass at approximately 6:30. During this event, children will trick or treat from car to car. You are encouraged to decorate your "trunk" as we will be having a contest for the most festive.

Our final events are our Halloween parade and our class parties on Monday, October 31st. Our parade will begin on the back parking lot at 1PM for our Kindergarten through 3rd grade students. Everyone is invited to watch and cheer on our princesses, goblins, and other make believe characters. Please look out for details regarding individual classroom parties from your homeroom teachers. It is important to adhere to the policies set forth from your child's teacher. Goodies should be given out by the discretion of the teacher during the allotted time. No extra goodies should be distributed during lunch time.

STAND Training

There is still time to get your STAND certification training complete before the Halloween parties and upcoming field trips. No one is permitted to attend classroom parties unless their certification is complete. Please contact Colleen Reed at the parish center at 410-238-1167 to get this process started. Volunteers who have been certified, please check your expiration date. Your certificate expires every 5 years. To become re-certified a simple form needs to be completed and turned in. Thank you to all our volunteers who have completed this process and help in many different capacities. Our school runs so much smoother with the help from all of you.

4th-5th Band Instruction

Band starts this month, so please be patient while listening to your children practicing. Learning an instrument takes time, and the more they practice, the better musicians they become. Your child will be learning new musical skills, along with time management, making up work efficiently, responsibility, and working as a team member of the band. There will be a Christmas concert on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at 7:00pm. This concert will be held in the church. All band members are required to participate.

If your child has not yet signed up for band, it's NOT TOO LATE. Please see Ms. Young for the information, and your child can start this wonderful journey of instrumental music!

A Note from the Nurse's Office

Flu Season- Flu Facts

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year.

The signs and symptoms of flu include:

- Fever/chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue
- Occasionally vomiting and diarrhea, more common in children

Flu viruses spread mainly by droplets made when people with the flu cough, sneeze, or talk. Sometimes you might also get the flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching your mouth, eyes, or nose.

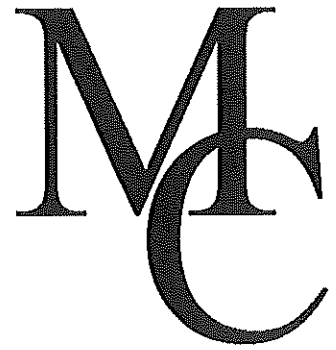
Most healthy people may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 5-7 days after becoming sick.

Complications of flu can include bacterial pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections, dehydration, and worsening of chronic medical conditions, such as Asthma or Diabetes.

The CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses. In addition, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue into the trash. Wash your hands often with soap and water. Avoid touching your nose or mouth. Try to avoid contact with sick people.

If you are sick with a flu-like illness, stay home at least 24 hours after your fever is gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine. Limit your contact with others as much as possible.

Bull Roast and Silent Auction



Join us for our Annual Bull Roast and Silent Auction!
Tickets are \$35 per person and includes bull roast menu, beer, soda, DJ, dancing,
and fun. Games of Chance, Beer Pong Tournament, extensive Silent Auction
featuring sport memorabilia, and much much more!

You don't want to miss this event!!! **We will sell out!!!!**

Saturday, November 12th, 2011
7:00pm-12:00pm

For more information contact Laura Cummins
410-238-1163

Donations are still needed for the silent auction, so if you or your company could donate an item or make a monetary donation towards the purchase of big ticket items, please contact Katie Fitzpatrick in the Parish Center. Items on our wish list for auction are: food players, sporting event tickets, iPad, airline tickets, cruise packages, etc.

Ticket Order Form

To purchase tickets, please complete this form and return it to the school office marked "Bull Roast". Make checks payable to OLMC.

Name: _____ Child's Homeroom: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

of tickets at \$35 per person _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

To pay by credit card:

_____/_____
(credit card number) (exp. date)

Name on card

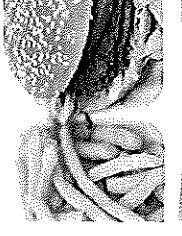
Signature

Billing Address

Zip Code

Student Lunch \$3.00
Milk \$.50

LUNCH MENU
OCTOBER 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Macaroni & Cheese Peas Fruit Milk/Juice	4 Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes Fruit Milk/Juice	5 Ravioli & Salad Garlic Bread Jello Milk/Juice	6 Taquitos Chips/Salsa Corn Milk/Juice	7 12:00 DISMISSAL	8
9	10 SCHOOL CLOSED	11 Corn Dog Baked Beans Fruit Milk/Juice	12 12:00 DISMISSAL	13 Cheesesteak French Fries Fruit Milk/Juice	14 Pizza Green Beans Fruit Milk/Juice	15
16	17 French Toast Sticks & Sausage Fruit Milk/Juice	18 Turkey with Gravy & Corn Mashed Potatoes Milk/Juice	19 Hamburger Chips Fruit Milk/Juice	20 Ham & Cheese Chicken Noodle Soup Goldfish Crackers Milk/Juice	21 Pizza Peas Jello Milk/Juice	22
23	24 Macaroni & Cheese/ Peas Fruit Milk/Juice	25 Lasagna Green Beans Fruit Milk/Juice	26 Fish Sticks Corn Fruit Milk/Juice	27 Chicken Nuggets Carrots Applesauce Milk/Juice	28 Pizza Salad Fruit Milk/Juice	29
30	31 Hot Dog Applesauce Dirt Pudding Milk/Juice					