



*OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL LOWER SCHOOL*  
*NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2012*

---

Dear Parents,

Happy Catholic Schools Week! What a great week to showcase all the wonderful happenings here at Mt. Carmel! I could not be more proud of the accomplishments our school has made! It is a very exciting time to be a part of such a wonderful community in which Catholic Education is strongly valued. I truly could not ask for better students, parents, teachers, administrators, and parish and school staff. All of us make Our Lady of Mt. Carmel a wonderful place to be! Thank you for your dedication, commitment, and support of Catholic Education and of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. It is this week that we honor each of the members of this special community! Thank you for all you do!

Many blessings,

Christine Olszewski

Lower School Principal

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- February 1<sup>st</sup> – Catholic Schools Week Mass at 10:30
- February 2<sup>nd</sup> – K-5 parent visitation day from 8AM-3PM
- February 3<sup>rd</sup> – Teacher appreciation day
- February 6<sup>th</sup> – Pre – K into Kindergarten registration 8:30-10AM at Queen of Peace  
K-8 registration Lower School Cafeteria 6PM
- February 7<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade ACRE testing
- February 10<sup>th</sup> – Father/Daughter Dance 7-9:30 PM in High School cafeteria
- February 14<sup>th</sup> – Student Banking
- February 15<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Meeting 7PM
- February 16<sup>th</sup> – 1:30 Dismissal**
- February 17<sup>th</sup> – Ladies Night Out sponsored by PTSA in high School Cafeteria 7PM
- February 19<sup>th</sup> – Pancake Breakfast in High School cafeteria
- February 20<sup>th</sup> – NO SCHOOL**
- February 21<sup>st</sup> – Book Fair begins
- February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Ash Wednesday Liturgy at 1:30; Circuit 2 schedule
- February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Grades close for 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester
- February 29<sup>th</sup> – Progress Report Conferences 3:15-6PM
- March 1<sup>st</sup> – Progress Report Conferences 3:15-6PM

## **Student Congratulations**

A big congratulations to our Second Grade students who received their First Reconciliation on January 28<sup>th</sup>. I am very proud of their accomplishments!

Our Fifth Grade students have been participating in our Samsung Galaxy Tablet program with Mr. Kloetzer to enrich their Science Units. Students are very excited to experience this new form of online learning. We will be introducing the tablets to other grades as the year moves on.

Congratulations to KB and 2B who filled their value code vase for January. Each class earned a no homework evening. February incentive will be a “wacky” tag day.

## **Uniform Reminders**

As we enter the halfway point in the school year, it is important to think about replenishing uniforms as needed. I know that uniform shoes wear out more quickly than we would like. It is important to replace these shoes in a timely matter. Gym shoes should be primarily white. Indoor soccer shoes of any color are not permitted. After a verbal warning to your child, a uniform notice will be issued with a required date to have the new, approved shoes. After 3 uniform notices, students in grades 3 through 5 will serve an after school detention. Adhering to a uniform policy not only presents our school in a positive way, but also instills responsibility in our young people.

## **Communication**

It was our intent at the beginning of the year to utilize technology as our primary source of communication. By now, there have been several email notices distributed by both your child’s teacher and myself through Alert Now. There has also been one Alert Now phone call that was sent on the day of the late opening. If you have not received one of these forms of communication, please notify the office immediately with your contact information. It is important to update email addresses and phone numbers as needed with the office. We will certainly continue to add the hard copy option of correspondence, but you need to notify the office of that as well.

Also, please be aware of calendar changes and updates that go out. As the calendar that is distributed in August is very useful, some dates change or are added as the year goes on. Newsletters and emails from your child’s teachers include those date changes, as well as our website [www.olmcmd.org](http://www.olmcmd.org). Communication can only be successful if we are utilizing the proper resources.

## **Progress Reports**

Second Trimester comes to a close on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Conferences will be determined based on need, either by the teacher or the parent. You will be receiving a form from your child’s teacher either initiating a conference or opting out of one. Parents are welcome to request a conference with the teacher even if it has been opted out. Much like last trimester, on this form will be the times available for conferences and you may choose a time that is most convenient for you. We will then schedule accordingly.

### **Re-registration**

Re-registration forms were mailed out to families last week. Please notify the office if you have not received one. Returning families are offered an early bird discount on their registration fee. Placement is not held for students until forms and fees have been returned. If your family is not returning, please indicate that and return the form. If you have financial concerns, please contact the finance office.

### **Inclement Weather**

As I write this newsletter it is a balmy 65 degrees outside, but as we know, old man winter isn't far from done with us. Please tune in to WBAL-TV for updates on school closings or delays. We normally follow Baltimore County Public Schools. However, as experienced recently, when Baltimore County has a scheduled closing, if a delay or closing is needed, we will announce our school independently.

In the event of a 1 hour or 2 hour delay, extended care will open at 8AM. If the school closes early due to inclement weather, extended care will remain open one hour after the early dismissal.

### **Second Grade Thanks....**

The second grade would like to thank Little China at Eastern Blvd and Kingston Road for their generous donation of fortune cookies, placemats, and menus. We were able to celebrate the Chinese New Year and use the menus as a math activity for our current story, Chinatown.

### **A Note from our Nurse**

#### Children's Dental Health Month

February is the National Children's Dental Health Month. The American Dental Association (ADA) recommends the following for good oral hygiene:

- Brush your teeth twice a day with ADA accepted fluoride toothpaste. Fluoride helps reduce and prevent tooth decay.
- Replace toothbrushes at least every 3 months, when bristles begin to show wear, and after an illness such as a cold or flu.
- Clean between teeth daily with dental floss. It helps remove plaque and food particles between teeth and under the gum line.
- Eat a well-balanced diet.
- Limit your between-meal snacks.
- Schedule dental appointments every 6 months for professional cleanings and oral exams.
- Rinse with mouthwash to reduce the bacteria that causes plaque and gingivitis.

Look for the ADA Seal on all of your oral hygiene products. It is your assurance that the product has met ADA criteria for safety and effectiveness.

