

# PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

Well by now you should have all received your Semester 1 report cards. It has been quite a challenge this past month in the technology arena. Thank you all for your patience and support. That being said I know that this is a bit late for a February newsletter. Our distribution system was down with the server and we were unable to send the newsletter by email. I have decided to make this newsletter a February/March edition. Please see below for upcoming events and calendar items that would benefit greatly by your participation.

Ash Wednesday is coming up very quickly. As you know this is the beginning of the Lenten Season for our Church. Lent is a time to reflect on our lives and really try to see what is important around us. Many of us will give up chocolate, or soda, those brave few might give up "Facebook", how will the world move forward? While I too will be thinking about what I will 'give up' this Lent, I also look for what will replace my sacrifice. I try each year to do more of what I should in addition to less of what I do not need.

As a community, there is much we have to be thankful. There is also so much more we can do for one another. This Lent take a moment to be about looking inward, but then be about helping outward. Our community thrives when we work together.

## **The SERVER!!!**

I realize that we have made references to the server being down and perhaps not everyone is clear as to what that means. At the end of January the hard drives that make up our data storage on the network failed. We quickly went about the simple task of replacing the drives only to realize that our backup systems had not functioned correctly. We had lost access to all the data stored on the upper school server. Everything from Memos to Transcripts was unavailable to us.

Luckily we had made a move to on-line grading and email systems which allowed us to recover more quickly. Even so, we were down for about three weeks. Thanks again for all your patience and support. To date the repairs have cost over \$15,000. We do anticipate more expenses though we hope that we have seen the worst. Needless to say this expense has really tested our resolve and the budget for technology. Please support any of our upcoming programs and events that you see on the calendar and 'stay tuned' for a very special event coming this spring!

## **Catholic Schools Week**

This year Catholic Schools Week was a great success. While the upper school does not celebrate the week the same way the little folks of the lower school do , we did take each day of the week to really appreciate all those who work hard to make Catholic Schools a Place to Grow.

Special thanks to the PTSA for their presence and presents. The faculty and staff really appreciated all the goodies. Special thanks also goes out to the SGA who provided an Ice Cream Sundae bar for our upper school students at the end of the week.

## **March for Life:**

On Monday January 23rd, 40 students plus faculty, alumni and parent chaperones braved the cold weather for a trip to Washington DC, to attend the Rally, Mass and March for life. At the Verizon Center, the group joined with over 25,000 young people from across the nation to hear songs and speakers and to celebrate Mass with Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, a representative from Rome and about 200 priests. The OLMC group then walked to the Mall to hear talks by various politicians and pro-life leaders. The students found the event to be enjoyable and life changing.

## **Ladies Night Out:**

It's that time of year. Valentine's Day!! As a man I know that we as a gender sometimes mess this very special day up big time!! Its what we are. As an apology for all the men out their that will be coming up a bit short this year, let me invite all you ladies to a special night out with you in mind. Friday February 17th is Ladies' Night Out. Come and spend the evening with friends and commiserate over just how bad men can be.

Enjoy refreshments, coffee or soda, and if the mood strikes you maybe get yourself a glass of wine or a beer. You could get a massage or jut do a little shopping. Its up to you. There will be music and games and lots of fun. Treat yourself!! Come to Ladies' Night Out. Cost is \$7 in advance or \$10 at the door. Call the school office for details, 410-686-1023.

## **Pancakes-for-a-cause**

Each year our Campus Ministry holds a pancake breakfast for a local cause. This year is no exception. Sunday, February 19th our campus ministry will hold a pancake breakfast after the masses to raise money for those in need. Please plan on joining us and helping our students make a difference

## **Shrimp Feast**

March 24th is the day. Mark your calendars and order your tickets for this event that is sure to be a sell out. Arguably one of the most delicious events of the year, this March we will once again hold our annual Shrimp Feast. With a menu that sounds like it is from the movie *Forrest Gump*, if you like shrimp you need to be here. Fried shrimp, steamed shrimp, shrimp gumbo, shrimp soup and the list goes on and on.

The cost for the event is \$35/ person and the event hours are 7-12. See you all there!!!

## **Broadway comes to Essex!!!**

This year is no exception. The Mount Carmel Players will be captivating audiences here in East Baltimore with its production of the smash favorite, "Annie". The show times are Friday and Saturday March 9 & 10 and March 16 & 17 Show time for these dates is 8PM. Or if you prefer a matinee and a meal Sunday March 11 & Sunday March 18 the show will be at 2PM for the show only and 12:30 for Dinner and the show. The cost for the show is; Adults \$11 or \$12 at the door, Children and seniors \$8 or \$9 at the door. If you would like to purchase tickets for Dinner and the Show the cost is; Adults @16 in advance and \$17 at the door, Children and Seniors \$12 in advance and \$13 at the door.

## **Re-registration:**

Re-Registration Forms have been sent out. If your family did not receive one, please call the Admissions Office at 410-238-1163. It is very important that you complete and return this forms as soon as possible along with your re-registration fee. We hope you will take advantage of the early bird discount. If your child(ren) are not remaining at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, please indicate so on the form and return it to the office. If you should have financial questions or concerns, please call Mrs. Weber in the Finance Office at 410-238-1160.

## **Athletics**

**Spring Sports** are right around the corner. The High School teams for men's and women's lacrosse, men's baseball, and women's softball start try-outs the week of 2/21. Golf starts March 1st. Middle school sports tryouts begin March 5th & 6th, we offer men's and women's lacrosse, men's baseball and women's softball.

As a reminder to those athletes who are planning to participate in Fall sports the start dates are as follows:

August 10th for Football      August 15th for all other HS fall sports

Please plan vacations with these dates in mind. All athletes are expected to attend from the first day and vacations are not an excuse.

## **Notable School Happenings**

### **Beans and Bread**

The first Tuesday of the month our students gather after school to prepare food for the patrons of Beans & Bread Soup Kitchen in Baltimore City. Our students volunteer for this and each month really get to see what it means to help those in need. If you would like to help with this project either with your time, talent or your treasure, please contact the school office, 410-686-1023.

### **Global Solidarity Week**

You may have heard that Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is one of about 10 schools nationally in a partnership with Catholic Relief Services, CRS. We are considered a Global Solidarity School. What that means to our community is that we spend time teaching everyone the importance of being aware of the desperate needs of people globally. Our focus throughout this year is "Peace" the last week of March is Global Solidarity Week where our students will have an opportunity to bring together all that they have learned throughout the year.

### **OLMC in Leatherneck Magazine**

Many of you may know that Mr. Dotterweich a teacher in our Social Studies Department, is a veteran of the United States Marine Corp. He always makes sure that our students are aware of the sacrifices being made by our service men and women, and has students keep those people in our prayers. The February issue of *Leatherneck Magazine* features a letter from Mr. Dotterweich, AKA Sgt. Dotterweich and a picture of his homeroom, 8b's Christmas tree, decorated with Mr. D's helmet on top. Thanks for all you have done for our country Mr. Dotterweich and thanks for all you do for our students here at OLMC.

### **Annual Appeal:**

Each year our school conducts an Annual Appeal which requests financial support for our students. Alumni of the school, friends in the parish and community, as well as current and former parents have always been supportive and given generously. I hope that this year is no exception! Education is a gift that we can give to young people and it cannot wait! I hope that you will be generous so that your child and children in the future can benefit from being part of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School.

## **Calendar Dates**

- February 16** 1:18 dismissal - Circuit Three schedule
- February 17** LADIES' NIGHT OUT—Upper School Café—7pm-10pm
- February 19** Pancakes For-A-Cause—Upper School Café—8am –12pm
- February 20** School Closed—Presidents' Day
- February 21** HS Spring Sports begin
- March 2** Progress Reports Mailed
- March 5** MS Spring Sports Begin
- March 6** Beans & Bread Upper School Café—2:18
- March 9** "Annie" -8PM School Gym
- March 10** "Annie" -8PM School Gym
- March 11** "Annie" -Luncheon 12:30 Matinee show 2:00
- March 15** Faculty Meetings— 1:18 Dismissal
- March 16** Athletics Hall of Fame Assembly 10:30 am  
"Annie" -8PM School Gym
- March 17** "Annie" -8PM School Gym
- March 18** "Annie" -Luncheon 12:30 Matinee show 2:00
- March 19-23** Standardized Testing Grades 3-8
- March 23** Grades Close for Third Quarter
- March 24** SHRIMP FEAST Upper School Café 7-12
- March 25—31** Global Solidarity Week

## **Finally:**

We are blessed at OLMC. Each day that is clear. As we journey through Lent let us not forget in the midst of our sacrifices all the blessing for which we must be thankful.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Ashby

Principal