



*OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL LOWER SCHOOL*  
*NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2011*

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Dear Parents,

Happy November! As we enter the month of Thanksgiving, there's no better time to reflect on the many blessings that we have been given. I like to think about the simple pleasures in my life that I am thankful for. Seeing the smiles on your children's faces as they greet me in the morning and the waves goodbye as they leave for the day are instances that I treasure and are very grateful for. Thank you for bringing those simple pleasures to me.

As we think ahead to November, it's hard to believe that first trimester is already winding down. I am very pleased with the progress our students are making. As I walk around from classroom to classroom, students remain on task and are very eager to participate and learn. We are very blessed to have such dedicated and enthusiastic teachers that inspire our children to be the best they can be.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment in providing your children with a Catholic Education. And more importantly, thank you for allowing us to be a part of that education. Each of you are counted as my many blessings. I wish each of you a blessed November.

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

Christine Olszewski

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> – All Saints Day Liturgy @ 1:30

Nov 4<sup>th</sup> – **No School** – Teacher professional day

Nov 10<sup>th</sup> – Lower School/Upper School PTSA planning meeting @ 7PM high school cafeteria (For all parents who would like to volunteer in some capacity)

Nov 12<sup>th</sup> – Bull Roast & Silent Auction 7-12

Nov 15<sup>th</sup> – Student Banking

Nov 17<sup>th</sup> – **1:30 dismissal**

Barnes and Noble Night 6-8PM

Nov 18<sup>th</sup> – Grade close 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester

Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> – Grandparent/Special Friend Day

**Noon dismissal**

Nov 24-27 – Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov 28<sup>th</sup> – **No School** – Faculty retreat

Nov 30<sup>th</sup> – Progress Report conferences 3:15-6PM

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – Progress Report conferences 3:15-5; 6-8PM

## **Uniforms**

Winter option uniform begins on November 1st. Shorts are no longer permitted until April 1<sup>st</sup>. Here are a few reminders regarding our dress code:

- As it is getting colder, students should be wearing jackets to school. Students are taken outside for recess, and 20 minutes of being without a jacket is a long time for students. Students are allowed to wear sweatshirts on top of their uniform. However, please remember the following:
  - Only approved navy blue or gray sweatshirts are permitted. Students should not be wearing any type of hoodie during the school day, nor can they wear jackets in school. It is crucial this time of year that students come prepared for the classroom with the appropriate sweatshirt. Students will be asked to remove any sweatshirt/jacket that is not uniform approved. Navy blue sweaters can also be worn.
- Girls may wear NAVY BLUE tights under their jumpers. Sweatpants of any kind are NOT permitted under their jumpers. Again, students need to be prepared for the colder days. Students will be asked to remove the sweatpants if worn under their jumpers.
- Shirts must be tucked in at all times. After 2 verbal warnings, they will receive a uniform notice (grades 3-5). Grades 3-5 are required to wear a belt.
- Any student not adhering to the dress code policy will be issued a uniform notice (grades 3-5). After 3 notices, an after school detention will be issued.

Thank you for your cooperation with this. It really says a lot about our school when students are consistently following the dress code.

## **Progress Report Conferences**

First trimester grades close on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Progress reports will be distributed by your child's homeroom teacher on November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> through individual conferences. A form will be sent home per family so you can designate a time that is convenient for you. Please return these forms ASAP so scheduling can begin. The sooner you turn these forms in, the more likely it would be for you to get the time you prefer. If no form is turned in by the due date, a family will be assigned a conference time.

## **Grandparent's/Special Friend Day**

Grandparent's Day is scheduled for Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is a great day for students to show off their grandparent or special friend. The day begins with a breakfast treat and coffee and juice. The morning continues with interactive activities planned by the teachers. Our morning ends with a Mass, in which we invite all grandparents and special friends to celebrate together. We will have a special 50/50 raffle that day to kick off the holiday season. Please look for details about this day from your child's homeroom teacher.

## **Values Code Vase**

Each morning on announcements, we begin our day with reciting 13 values that we strive to incorporate in our everyday lives. They include: honesty, respect, responsibility, self-control, hard work,

self-respect, concern for others, tolerance, cooperation, fairness, forgiveness, courage, and self-knowledge. Whenever a student displays an action portraying one of these value codes, they place a marble in their classroom vase. When their homeroom fills up their vase, they are rewarded. Students know it is not a race between classes. As one class fills up, they simply empty their vase and start over. All other classes continue until their vase is full. Each month is a different incentive. Congratulations to KB who filled their jar in September, giving them a free tag day. More congratulations to 2A, 3A, 3B, 1A, and KB who earned a popsicle treat in October. Classes are really geared up for November's reward, which is a free recess with their principal. (I even think we will see some marbles going in for good teacher behavior for this reward!) I am very proud of all our students for earning marbles because of the good choices they are making!

### **Stationary Store**

Just a reminder, that our stationary store is open Monday and Wednesday mornings from 8AM-8:20AM. A big thank you to Christy Urban who has been doing a wonderful job supplying our students with their classroom supplies.

### **Community of Service**

We have 2 events beginning in the month of November that allow us to give to those less fortunate than us. Our first event is our annual Stuff-A-Bus. Our goal is to stuff one of our Mt. Carmel buses with as many canned goods and nonperishable foods as we can. Last year we were able to collect 2500 nonperishable food items for the needy. You may send in these canned goods with your child to be held in their homeroom. All canned goods will be collected on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Our next event, which begins in the season of Advent, is our Adopt-A-Family project. This is a great way to give less fortunate families a Christmas they could not have on their own. Details will follow as Advent draws closer as to the needs of these families.

Please, if you are able to contribute to either of these events, it really does make a difference in the lives of those in need. Thank you in advance for your help.

### **A Note from the School Nurse**

As we enter flu season, we can prevent the spread of flu and other illnesses by following these guidelines to create the safest possible environment. Proper hand washing is the most effective way to prevent the spread of germs. Teach your child to wash his or her hands for at least 20 seconds. This is the amount of time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice and is especially important after using the restroom and before eating. It is important to teach your child to cough or sneeze into a tissue and to throw that tissue in a trash can. If a tissue is not available, coughing or sneezing into the bend of one's elbow is appropriate. Flu viruses can live on surfaces for 4-6 hours. Make sure you clean all surfaces with a disinfectant according to label directions. Don't forget to clean lunchboxes and backpacks on a regular basis. Proper nutrition is imperative for a healthy immune system. Start each day with a good breakfast. Look for cereals low in sugar and high in fiber. Try to purchase drinks made with 100% juice.

A piece of fruit, yogurt, and milk or juice is a quick nutritious breakfast on the run. Getting the proper amount of rest is important for maintaining good health. Children should get approximately 10 hours of sleep each night. Please keep sick children at home. Children must be free of fever, diarrhea, or vomiting for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Ms. Charlene

### **Fundraising**

Each month, this newsletter will end with information about our current and upcoming fundraising opportunities. Each fundraiser we do has the ability to benefit our school greatly. In order for that to happen, however, we need as much participation as possible. Please review these fundraisers. It would be great if everyone committed to doing at least one of these.

- The Yankee Candle brochure has been distributed. Orders and money are due by November 10th. Our school gets 40% of the orders turned in.
- Around Town Coupon Book will be distributed the week of November 1st. This is a great book with coupons that are user friendly. Many popular restaurants, fast food, and entertainment places are included. Our school gets 50% of the sales after 300 books are sold. Orders are due back by November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Bull Roast and Silent Auction is on November 12<sup>th</sup>. This is fun way to raise money for our school. Please contact Laura Cummins at 410-238-1163 for tickets.