



# Our Lady of the Assumption School

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Dear Families,

As I write to you today I am looking out onto fog and wearing a jacket; such are the vagaries of our weather that by lunchtime I will probably need a hat and sunglasses! But it's that time of year when routines are well established and work can progress apace before too many interruptions - a 'solid' time of year. I am delighted to see how many of the children are making excellent progress at mid trimester. A special mention again to the teachers for all the time and energy they are devoting to contacting and meeting with everyone over the last few weeks.

After High School information night I know that our 8<sup>th</sup> grade are already focusing on this time next year. Everyone should be aware that all the school hold open houses, visits and/or 'shadow' days. Both the 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and school office have more information. All our local Catholic High Schools offer excellent academic opportunities and as you know the success rates for students in Catholic Schools is astonishing: 99% of Catholic High School students graduate. No other system of schools comes close to that. And these students go on to *complete* their college courses. When we realize the potential and see achievement in our children here every day and we can easily forget that what we achieve is actually quite extraordinary. Recent articles in the LA times, the Tidings and even the Wall Street Journal by former mayor Richard Riordan, re-emphasized the importance of Catholic Schools for a student's future and even for society. Archbishop Gomez has restated his unequivocal support for Catholic Schools in Los Angeles.

Once again we found out what to do when the fire alarm sounds. All the children and staff demonstrated very well how to conduct a smooth and efficient evacuation, even when it happens at recess. Long before the fire truck pulled in everyone was safe, attentive and accounted for. The system also had its semi annual inspection this week and all is well. By the time you read this we will have taken part in the "Great California Shakeout" so our earthquake drill will be tested also. Later this year we plan to hold a couple of surprise drills, to keep everyone on their toes!

I have now met with two companies regarding new playground equipment, Sun Country Systems and Miracle. Both have installed equipment locally. I am looking at the demolition and removal of existing equipment, removal of sand, new curbing, purchase and installation of new equipment, and new ground cover. Thankfully, the money raised in recent years by the PFA will cover the costs. There are many who must be involved in this process especially the PFA, parish facilities committee and the new school council for advice on the selection of the company, as well as the equipment we want to see and selection of the best ground cover. If you would like to be involved, please send a note with your contact information (phone and email.)

The incredible effort, time and energy that everyone puts in makes this a truly vibrant community offering something for everyone. When I put all this into the context of a faith filled Catholic parish, God has truly blessed and graced our lives here at Our Lady of the Assumption.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Boyle  
Principal