



Our Lady of the Assumption School

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November 17, 2011

Dear Families,

Thanksgiving is upon us! It's our unifying and national celebration and a natural fit for Catholics to take time to enjoy family and friends, to celebrate in gratitude for all we have. We know how to count our blessings and to recognize God who has made it all possible. Moreover we understand that turning love into an action through charity is not just an option. We work for and with those we love. We do not turn away from information like levels of poverty in LA County, which still show that over 50,000 people are homeless. As a community we know and respond to the call to action to help whenever we can.

I invite you once more to stop and consider the many challenges our families and friends have faced this year and the many hardships yet to be overcome. I also invite you to find opportunities to do what you can with what you have, and to support where you can in charity and love. The following are a reminder of the annual OLA events and ways to help.

OLA Alternative Gift Market: This weekend in the auditorium at which a wide variety of agencies offer ways to buy 'alternative' gifts. Please consider supporting these very worthy causes. So often when we give gifts it is simply to recognize the individual for all they mean to us. Why not combine this with making a real difference to real people?

Holy Childhood Association: Students will be given a HCA box to fill with spare change or a portion of their allowance to help children around the world.

Food Collection The BETA center desperately needs food. This is ongoing through November and December. Protein goods are in particular need (peanut butter, tuna and canned meat)

I give thanks that I am part of a community that understands this responsibility and knows that responding to our community is responding to the word and example of God. As you plan for all the many celebrations in the next few weeks, remember to stop and breathe. As you consider all you must do, I urge you to also consider the following: "Make time for the quiet moments, for God whispers and the world is loud."

I wish you all a very happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Boyle
Principal

Postscript

Athletics – Winter season and basketball

Please note that December – February from 8:00a.m. – 5:00p.m. the basketball courts are in use for both PE lessons and after school sports practices and games. Please do not park on or near the courts, which are in the NE corner of the OLA site. The gate on Berkeley Avenue will also be closed periodically. Drive SLOWLY through the parking lot. This is particularly important on Wednesdays when the children arrive for and depart after the OLA Faith Formation classes between 4:15p.m. – 5:45p.m.

Christmas Program for Kindergarten – 3rd grade

Two tickets for the Christmas program are allocated per child in grades Kindergarten – 3 and must be ordered in advance specifying which program (matinee or evening) that you will attend. Further tickets go on sale at \$5.00 for the remaining spaces. In the past the money raised through ticket sales has allowed us to donate \$700 for “Shoes that Fit” and the OLA school Adopt-a-Family. This year once again the proceeds will go to providing a scholarship for an OLA family in need.

Uniform

Please review the school uniform rules in the parent student handbook, especially as you buy new shoes. Too many parents are allowing the children to wear incorrect footwear. Here is the relevant paragraph from the Parent Student handbook, with an addendum regarding the popular, lightweight (and expensive) TOMs shoes:

Shoes

Tennis shoes must be black and/or white with black or white laces only. Decorative laces are not allowed. A *small* logo is permitted. All shoes must be tied correctly on the outside of the shoe. Black dress shoes may be worn. Black and white saddle shoes may be worn. **For safety and health of all children backless/open heeled tennis shoes and/or sandals, clogs, boots, or open-toed shoes are not permitted. No TOMs.** No shoes with wheels, such as Heelys, are allowed. The sole and heel of any shoes must be no more than one inch high. For health and safety reasons slip-on shoes must cover the top of the foot, such as the traditional standard ‘VANS’ so they are similar to the regular tied lace ups. No “ballet slipper” style shoes may be worn. Regulation school shoes must be worn on Free Dress and Picture days. There are some special occasions when exceptions may be allowed, and written instructions will be posted and sent home in advance.