

The Raider Report

News From OLA School

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Back To School Edition



Principal's Column:

Dear Families,
Welcome back
everyone and a

warm and special welcome to all the new families in every grade. The teachers and staff have been working hard through the summer to ensure that each and every one of the children is able to make a smooth transition into their new classrooms. I am absolutely delighted with the efforts they have made once again. They are truly committed to our children.

The school has been thoroughly cleaned, dusted, scrubbed and polished by the OLA maintenance crew, with particular attention paid to Berkeley and auditorium bathrooms, which have also been painted and had new stalls.

I look forward to another successful year in the patronage and love of Our Lady of the Assumption. We are so blessed to be here.

Sincerely,
Bernadette Boyle

Please note one calendar change: Skate Night is October 28 at 6 p.m.

Welcome Back!

Goodbye summer, hello school! Welcome back to all OLA students and families. The 2010-11 school year is upon us, and it is going to be a busy one! Among our regular class schedules, there are several additions and special events coming this year.

First, the school is preparing for its review of accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Principal Bernadette Boyle, teachers and a committee of parents have been preparing since spring for the accreditation team's February visit. There is still plenty to be done before the team arrives.

Secondly, school-assisted Masses will be held once a month on Sundays.

Read the story on Fr. Charles Ramirez for more information.

The school has 48 new students this year, coming from 26 new families. New parents, if you have any questions or need any assistance, please call New Parent liaison Deanna Garcia at (909) 592-9598.

For new and returning parents, please remember that the Brown Envelop is the main method of communication. All Brown Envelop material will be e-mailed this year, and will all be posted on the school website.



One Year In, Pastor Sees Vitality

It has been a little over a year since Fr. Charles Ramirez became the pastor of OLA Church. He has had plenty of time to get a feel for the school and assess its structure.

"There is a real sense of vibrancy at OLA. We have a wonderful principal and the teachers, most of who have been here for many years, bring a special continuity for parents and students."

Fr. Charles defers to Ms. Boyle's leadership in administrative and academic matters. But when it comes to developing the students' faith in Jesus Christ, the

school and the parish walk hand in hand and complement each other.

"Our children's liturgy on Fridays is exceptional. School liturgy coordinator Lena Kho does a great job of making it fun and reverent, and that's not easy."

Fr. Charles's goal is to strengthen the spiritual bond between school and parish (see page 2 for more). But he also emphasizes that parents are the primary source of a child's faith development.

(Cont'd on page 2)



Parent-Faculty Association News:

It's Your School, Too! Get Involved!

PFA Presidents Stephanie and Richard Peltooma extend a warm welcome to all returning and new parents. They appreciate the time, talent and donations that parents provide throughout the year. The PFA could not be as successful as it is without you!

Don't wait until the end of the year to try to fill your volunteer hours. There are plenty of ways to get involved right now! Many committees need members. If you like to entertain or have a knack for decoration, join the Parent Social committee, which prepares a wonderful evening of dining and dancing for parents and guests, and holds a silent and live auction. There's also Jog-a-Thon and the Book Fair.

Several events throughout the year rely on parent participation. If you would like to vol-

unteer for one of the events or would like more info, contact Stephanie at (909) 923-6834.

PFA meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month. The first PFA fundraiser of the year is the gift wrap and Christmas gift fundraiser. It's a great way to stock up on wrapping paper and start your holiday shopping early.

The first PFA social occasion of the year is the Spaghetti Dinner Night, Friday, Sept. 24. It's a great opportunity for new and returning families to spend a lovely evening enjoying a spaghetti feast! Coming up on the PFA calendar is the Room Parent meeting on Sept. 22 and the new Young Chef's Academy event on Oct. 8.

Fr. Charles Ramirez continued...

That means parents need to attend Mass regularly with their children, and pray at home too. "Parents have an obligation to model the Catholic faith. If children see Mass is important to parents, they'll see the value in it and model it too."

Fr. Charles suggested parents model good behavior in other areas, too. "Parents need to be charitable with other parents, especially when there are disagreements among them. Christ needs to be our common denominator. It's disheartening to learn that on some occasions, some parents just don't get along."

The parents who choose OLA school should have done so not just for the academics, but so their children can learn how to mirror the image of Christ. "We are here to support that value. The home is the 'domestic church'; we are here to support you and help you make Christ the cornerstone of your family.

"I think we've lost our way a bit. Some parents put a priority on extracurricular sports on Sunday over Mass. The intention for some is to get to Mass, but the day gets away from them and they never get there. After a while it becomes easier not to go to Mass. Jesus as human with a hidden divinity found it necessary and valuable to pray in community as a Jew at the synagogue every week. It was important for Jesus ... what about us?"

While faith development is a key component for deciding to enroll children at OLA, Fr. Charles says he can't overlook the academics. The strong academic foundation at OLA makes it an attractive school. Coming in third place in the Archdiocese's Academic Decathlon in 2010 demonstrated that strength. The coming year is expected to be an exciting one. Plans include beautifying the school (much work was done over the summer). A statue of Our Lady of the Assumption will be placed in front of the school office and new playground equipment and grass is scheduled for next summer.

School Sunday Masses Begin Sept. 26

New for 2010-11, the school will assist at Mass one Sunday each month. Fr. Charles Ramirez suggested the new program so parishioners could see students participate in Mass. It is also an opportunity for school families who do not attend Sunday Mass to get involved. The first Sunday Mass with the school is scheduled for Sept. 26th, at 9 a.m. The eighth graders will provide hospitality and proclaim the word of God. For more information, see Ms. Boyle or Lena Kho.

A PRAYER FOR THE BEGINNING OF SCHOOL



God our Father, we thank you for the opportunity to begin this new school year. We ask that you bless the faculty, the students, families and all members of our community.

As the children leave for school, we pray that you will keep them in your care. Send your Spirit to open their minds to all that is true and beautiful and good. Help them to see the gifts and talents you have given them and to use them well. Give their teachers patience and understanding and help them teach what is just and true. Open their hearts to your presence and enfold them in your peace and protection.

Send your angels to guide and guard the community, holding it in the palm of your hand. May the school be a home of truth and wisdom, of faith and good will toward all.

We ask this through Jesus, Your Son.

Amen.

Courtesy of the Diocese of Dallas

Calendar:

- Aug. 27: Mass, 8:15 a.m., faculty led
- Aug. 28: Parish picnic after 5:30 p.m. Mass
- Sept. 2: Gift wrap fundraiser begins
- Sept. 3: Mass, 8:15 a.m., student council led
- Sept. 6: School closed, Labor Day
- Sept. 9: Back to School Night, 7 p.m. in the church
- Sept. 10: Mass, 8:15 a.m., 7th grade led
- Sept. 14: PFA meeting, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 17: Mass, 8:15 a.m., 4th grade led, Spaghetti Dinner Night, 6 p.m.
- Sept. 22: Room parent meeting, 6:30 & 7 p.m.
- Sept. 23: OLA School to the L.A. County Fair
- Sept. 24: School closed
- Sept. 26: 9 a.m. school Mass, led by 8th grade, buy Scrip after Mass
- Sept. 27: School closed
- Sept. 28: Free dress for summer Scrip
- Sept. 28-Oct. 8: ITBS testing
- Oct. 1: Mass, 8:15 a.m., 3rd grade led
- Oct. 8: Mass, 8:15 a.m., 5th grade led, Young Chef's Academy PFA event 2 p.m.
- Oct. 12: PFA meeting, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 14: All-school Rosary, 11:30 a.m.

Preparing for accreditation

This school year, a team for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges will visit OLA for our periodic accreditation review.

The team will assess the breadth and depth of OLA's educational effort, seeing how well our school fulfills its mission. OLA faculty and parents have been preparing for the review since last year, gathering and updating key documents needed for the effort.

Such reviews can result in a number of accreditation options, depending on a school's challenges. OLA received a full, six-year accreditation during its last review, a sign of the strength of the school's service to students.

Student Council Ready to Serve

By Christina Dorado

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a fun summer. This year's student council is looking forward to the new school year. All the council members are excited to organize OLA's social and fundraising activities. Your 2010-11 student council officers and commissioners are: President - Sydney Lujan; vice president - Halli Barrios; Secretary - Nicole Tunque; Treasurer - Michelle Wyatt; Sports - Matthew Sie; Spirit - Delaney Hoehn; Religious Affairs - Michael Spinney; Safety and Ecology - Katherine Amelin; and Publicity - Christina Dorado & Joseph Rode.

The first event of the year is Back to School Night. It will be a fun and informative evening. We will keep you up to date with the latest events.

OLA School in Action



Top left: Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Myer greet parents on orientation day.

Top right: Ms. Boyle and other OLA volunteers offer lemonade and information about the parish and school at the Claremont Fourth of July celebration over the summer.

Left: New parents share a prayer at the new parent orientation dinner held in mid-August.

Have a school-related event or activity you'd like to advertise in The Raider Report? Contact Renee Diepenbrock at (909) 214-6501 or reneecat@aol.com.



Follow OLA School on Facebook @ Our Lady of the Assumption School, Claremont.

Raider Sports

Fall sports begin in September. Check the schedules to sign up to play or root our teams on!

A Few Reminders:

- *Parish Picnic is this Saturday, Aug. 28.
- * First PFA meeting is Sept. 14.
- *Virtus training and recertification will be held in the fall. Please watch the Brown Envelope for more information.