



Saints & Scholars ...so that Mercy may flourish

The mission of the Catholic school is the integral formation of students so that they may be true to their condition as Christ's disciples and as such work effectively for the evangelization of culture and for the common good of society ~ Pope St. John Paul II

Calendar of Events

Friday, 3/9

Group photos with Lifetouch

Monday, 3/12

1:00pm School

Confessions

Wednesday, 3/14

8:30am Hearing

Screening

2:45pm Faculty

Meeting

Friday, 3/16

Professional Day - No School

Monday, 3/19

12:05pm St. Joseph

Italian School Mass

Friday, 3/23

1:00pm Living

Stations of the Cross

7:00pm Living

Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, 3/28

Dress Down Day

Saints & Scholars

Thursday, March 29

Half day dismissal

(11:30 am)

10:45am 2nd Grade

Holy Thursday

Reenactment



"In his description of hell, Dante Alighieri pictures the devil seated on a throne of ice, in frozen and loveless isolation. We might well ask ourselves how it happens that charity can turn cold within us. What are the signs that indicate that our love is beginning to cool?"

More than anything else, what destroys charity is greed for money, "the root of all evil" (1 Tim 6:10). The rejection of God and his peace soon follows; we prefer our own desolation rather than the comfort found in his word and the sacraments. All this leads to violence against anyone we think is a threat to our own "certainties": the unborn child, the elderly and infirm, the migrant, the alien among us, or our neighbour who does not live up to our expectations..."

~ Pope Francis

Principal's Message

"Safety First is Safety Always"! As we all ponder the recent Parkland tragedy, I believe it's important to share with you what we do at OLM School to make and keep it safe to the greatest extent possible. First, we follow the current R.I. state protocol on drills; fire (11 drills), evacuation (2 drills) and lockdown (2 drills) every year to a "T". All doors are locked, the front entrance is double-locked, and is the only egress in which anyone is allowed access to the school (with the exception of faculty and school staff) during school hours. There is an OLM Crisis Response Team in place to deal with various extraordinary weather and/or emergency events should they occur.

Alternate protocols to the current "lockdown procedures" are being discussed with both the East Greenwich police department and the D.O.P. Office of Education and Compliance (OEC). The OEC in conjunction with the R.I. State Police will sponsor an "Active Shooter" training on April 25th at a Principal's conference. Father Healey, Mr. Paolino, School Board Chair, Mr. Cote, Mr. Anderson and I will attend the training. An update will be provided to the OLM community on next steps after the training to ensure that best practice is initiated and utilized at the school.

Father's Corner

How is Lent going? If not well, perhaps it is because we are too easily pleased. As C.S. Lewis writes: "If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us." He compares us to a child "who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because the child cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea." We are, Lewis says, "far too easily pleased" by the things of this world. In order to see clearly we need to realize what Lent is about. The Church's disciplines, Lent especially, help us see more clearly how much better are the things that God wants to give us and what we have mistaken for the good. While at this stage we may want mud pies, God wants to bring us to the sea. Enlightened by our Lenten practices, may this Easter be filled with joy at the Resurrection of Christ.

Our Lady of Mercy School

55 Fourth Avenue
East Greenwich, R.I.
02818
Phone: 401.884.1618
Fax: 401.885.3138
Web: olmschool.org

Parish

olmparish.org
Daily Readings:
uscc.org/readings
Catechism of the
Catholic Church
usccb.org/catechism

Web References

Academic ~ General

Khanacademy.com
(online tutorials for
many subjects)

Literacy

Seussville features
Dr. Seuss's books,
games and activities,
videos and much,
much more!

Starfall is an
educational
alternative to other
entertainment
choices for children."

Mathematics

Fact Monster - Fact
Monster is a free
reference site for
students, teachers,
and parents.

Puzzle Maker -
Create your own
content related
puzzles.

**Art of Problem-
Solving:** 3rd grade
and up; videos are
organized, clear and
free!

Early Childhood - Pre-K3 celebrated Valentine's Day and learned how to take care of their teeth. During the lucky month of March, they will focus on Dr. Seuss, St. Patrick's Day, and preparing for Easter. Our Pre-K4 students learned about the dentist and how to keep their teeth clean. In March, they are excited to learn about fairy tales, St. Patrick, and spring! Our Kindergartners enjoyed learning all about the Winter Olympics. They learned a song to help them remember all 7 continents and talked about various countries around the world. They hosted a "Friendship Olympics" Bingo activity with the Pre-K4 class and made gold medals with their Pre-K4 friends! Our 1st Graders used their imaginations to set sail to the Arctic to learn who lives there and how they survive. They just left the Arctic and sailed *all the way* to Antarctica and are excited to learn who lives there and how they survive! They are also conducting a Tomie dePaola author-illustrator study in March. Our 2nd Graders received the Sacrament of Reconciliation last Saturday. They had practiced since the start of the school year, so they were ready! They all floated out of the church wearing their angel wings and halos. They will now begin preparation for their First Holy Communion in May. They have been working with two-digit addition and subtraction with regrouping in Math class. Soon they will all be writing in cursive. Everyone is so excited!

Intermediate Grades – Themes for 3rd grade included: Valentines, biographies, multiplication and division, Black History, the sense of hearing, and sacrificing for the season of Lent! In Social Studies, biographical book reports were complete about famous African Americans and are on display in the hallway. Science lessons have focused on learning the parts of the ear and how it works. The children are using IXL and a variety of games to speed up their fact recall for multiplication and division. We will start collecting items to create Easter Baskets for a raffle to raise money for local Catholic charities. 4th graders embraced a Valentine's-related STEAM challenge. Using simple household items such as rubber bands, dental floss, Q-tips and (moistened) tongue depressors, students were challenged to build a working bow and arrow. Many found success in the culminating distance contest that measured just how far their homemade arrow flew. Who knew aerodynamics and physics could be "disguised" as so much fun? We will be reading a novel by Avi that depicts the battle between the *Monitor* and the *Merrimac*, we will be experimenting with both magnets as well as simple electrical circuits and we will fearlessly tackle a unit on fractions. 5th grade was privileged to have two Olympians speak to our class. Mrs. Sara DeCosta-Hayes (goalie – Gold 1998 Olympics/Silver 2002 Olympics) and Mrs. Lisa Brown-Miller (right wing – Gold 1998 Olympics) shared wonderful stories of their dedication, hard work and experiences. Mrs. Hayes explained, "The Olympics bring everyone around the world together. Like what's happening now with North and South Korea. For those few short weeks, the world is at peace, and it's an honor to be an athlete representing your country during that time." The fact that the USA Women's Hockey Team won gold this year in Pyeongchang, South Korea was icing on the cake!

Middle School - In Middle School English Language Arts, 6th grade is studying Greek mythology and writing their own myths. 7th grade researched local pirates and made brochures on pirate life in anticipation of their reading of *Treasure Island*. 8th graders have been enthralled reading "The Monkey's Paw" and "The Cask of Amontillado". Algebra 1 is working on polynomials and factoring which will be leading into quadratic equations. Grade 7 is working on multi-step equations, with the 6th grade delving into geometry. In science, 6th grade classes are studying the weather. The 7th grade is wrapping up the study human body systems while 8th grade put together electrical circuits in class as they continue their examination of the forces of electricity, and visiting the Boston Museum of Science March 2nd. 6th grade Social Studies classes are studying the civilizations of Ancient Greece and Rome, while the 7th grade is studying the Thomas Jefferson era. 8th grade finished a unit on the Great Depression and is beginning to study World War II. In theology, the 6th grade is studying the Ten Commandments and the modern Popes. 7th graders focused on the patriarchal narratives and 8th is examining the role of the Christian in the world.

Friday morning Stations of the Cross



8th Grade Boston Museum of Science Trip

