

Wednesday Notes December 11, 2019

Dear OLM Families,

Good afternoon, and happy second week of Advent. It continues to be a busy time at Our Lady of Mercy School. Please read on for details.

Congratulations to our robotics teams, the Daring Ducks and the Sky Makers, who both earned recognition at Saturday's qualifier. The Daring Ducks earned honorable mention for Core Values, recognizing their teamwork and gracious professionalism. The Sky Makers earned second place in Saturday's competition and a trip to the state championship on January 11. Congratulations to both teams, to Ms. Hollowell, and to our parent volunteers who supported them in their preparations for Saturday. In their conduct and their achievement, our robotics teams exemplified what it means to be a saint and a scholar at OLM. Good luck at states!

Congratulations also to Grace Seger, the winner of the bike from last Friday's raffle! And thank you to St. Nicholas for making the long trip from heaven to visit our students! He made quite an impression, and he gave us all a lesson in the importance of generosity. In that spirit, this week continues our **toiletry drive**. We are collecting hair care items through Friday. The flyer advertising the drive is attached for your reference. Thank you for helping us to help those in need, and for making an increase in charity an important part of our Advent preparation.

This evening is our 19th annual **Winter Band Concert**! Our band members performed for their peers this morning, and they perform again this evening at 7:00 pm. They have been working very hard under Ms. Hollowell's direction, and we are looking forward to an outstanding performance this evening.

The festivities continue on December 13 with our **Christmas Pageant** at 6pm. Please come join us for an evening of music and joy as we celebrate the most wonderful time of the year! Please see below for a few points to ensure that everyone is prepared for the pageant evening:

- Students in Grades 1-8 who do not have specifically assigned pageant roles or responsibilities should be in their classrooms by 5:30 p.m. Preschool and Kindergarten should meet their teachers in the front pews of the church by 5:30 pm.
- Narrators and actors from the 8th grade, please arrive at 5:15 p.m. to the church to get ready. Costumes for 8th grade actors will be provided.
- **Attire for the pageant:**
 - Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grade 1: Dress-Up or Christmas clothes
 - Grade Two: Angel costumes or plain white material. We provide the halos. Please no wings. (We are able to provide most of the costumes but if you decide to provide your own that is okay.)
 - Attire for boys (Grades 3-8): Festive-colored shirts and plain black or navy pants. Dressy shoes (no sneakers)
 - Attire for Girls (Grades 3-8): Dresses, shirts (festive colors), black plain pants or skirts. Dressy shoes (no sneakers). We discourage heels for reasons of practicality and safety on the church floor.

Parents, if you have any questions regarding the pageant, please contact Ms. Hollowell (khollowell@olmschool.org).

Throughout this week, all of our students are taking part in **Hour of Code** during their technology classes. Hour of Code is a component of Computer Science Education Week, which

runs from December 9-15. It introduces students to fundamental computer science coding, reinforcing the philosophy that every student can learn the basics of computer science. This worldwide effort is supported by over 200,000 educators and nurtures problem-solving skills, logic, and creativity, giving students a foundation for success in any 21st-century career path. Thank you to Mrs. Racca for coordinating our participation. Beyond preparing our students for careers, this enables them to understand the technologies they are exposed to every day, and helps them to use those technologies for virtuous purposes that will serve their education and the common good.

We have much to look forward to next week as well. Our **school store** will be open again during lunch on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, December 16-18. A flyer that includes prices is in today's envelope and attached to this email. We had quite a few shoppers in November, but we still have more inventory, and OLM swag makes great Christmas gifts!

We will also have Confessions for Grades 3-8 next Monday, December 16. This is a reminder that among the many preparations we all engage in for Christmas, the most important preparation we make is the preparation of our soul to accept the coming of Christ. We are grateful to Fr. Healey, Fr. Barrow, and our visiting priests for making this sacrament available to our students during the school day.

And Friday, December 20 will be our **Christmas Spirit Day!** We will be dressing down so that Mercy may flourish, and we encourage students to dress in their red, their green, their Christmas sweaters, or anything that gets them in the Christmas spirit. Our middle school will have their annual breakfast at 8:30, and we will come together one final time as a school for our Advent prayer service at 10:15 am in the church (Family and friends are welcome to join!). We will then dismiss at 11:30 to begin the Christmas vacation! We hope that the whole day sends the message that prayer, charity, and community are all a part of our lives as Christians, and that they all took on new meaning at the first Christmas, when the Word became flesh.

When we return from Christmas vacation, our **science fair** will January 16, and we are looking for judges! If you are willing and able to judge this year's science fair projects, please contact Dr. Husak at dhusak@olmschool.org. We are especially looking for those with a background or strong interest in the sciences, although that is not a requirement. Parents of competitors in the fair are not eligible to judge the competition, but are welcome to come the day of the science fair and see their children's work!

Our **yearbook committee** is still accepting interested members! The committee is open to all eighth graders. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Kimberly Sammartino at kimberlysammartino@mac.com.

Our capital campaign- **Our Faith, Our Future: Grateful for God's Providence-** is ongoing, and to date has raised in excess of \$1,000,000! The campaign goal is \$2,000,000, with \$500,000 of that total going toward school improvements. Thank you for your generosity thus far. We are still in pursuit of our final goal, and every contribution matters as we strive to secure the future of Our Lady of Mercy Parish and School. May God reward your sacrifices toward that goal.

There certainly is a lot happening! We thank you for your support in all of it, and amidst the hectic buildup to Christmas, we wish all of our families the joyful hope of Advent. God bless. Go Jags.

For Christ and Our Kids,

Patrick McNabb

Principal

Wednesday Envelope Enclosures

School Store Flyer

Ice Skating Flyer

Grade-Level-Specific Documents

None

Attachments

School Store Flyer

Ice Skating Flyer

Toiletry Drive Flyer

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, December 11	OLM School Band Concert 7:00 pm
Friday, December 13	Christmas Pageant 6:00 pm
Monday, December 16	School Confessions (Grades 3-8) 1:00 pm
December 16-18	School Store open at lunch!
Friday, December 20	Christmas Spirit Day! Dressing Down so that Mercy May Flourish
	Middle School Breakfast 8:30 am
	Advent Prayer Service 10:15 am
	Half-Day: 11:30 am dismissal
December 21-January 1	No School- Christmas Recess
Friday, January 3	First Friday Mass (formal uniforms required)
Saturday, January 11	Robotics State Championship (Roger Williams University)
Thursday, January 16	Middle School Science Fair
Monday, January 20	No School- Martin Luther King Day
Friday, January 24	Middle School Dance 6:30-8:30 pm
Sunday, January 26	Open House
January 27-31	Catholic Schools Week