

Wednesday Notes December 4, 2019

Dear OLM Families,

Well, we survived our first snow day. Thank you to all for your flexibility as we tried to make the decision that made the most sense for our school community. And a blessed Advent to all. We have a great deal going on in our school over the next three weeks as we look forward in joyful hope to the coming of Christ. Please read on for all the details.

This week and next is our **toiletry drive**. This week, we are collecting oral care items, and next week we will be collecting hair care items. As an added bonus, students who bring in toiletries this week are earning raffle tickets that will be entered in a drawing to win a bicycle provided by Lifetouch. Each item donated earns one ticket. The drawing will take place after Mass on December 6, and St. Nicholas himself will be picking the winner!

This Friday is our **First Friday Mass**, and fourth grade will be hosting. Please remember formal uniforms for the day (those with PE class may bring sneakers to change into). And please know that all parents, family, and friends are most welcome to attend Mass with us. Of all the great community activities at OLM, there is none better than our coming together around the Eucharist: the source and summit of our life as a Church and as a school.

Drop & Shop is also this Friday! We have had a nice response and are looking forward to a fun afternoon. Thank you to Mr. Cote and the student council for their efforts at organizing this event to help all of us get into the Christmas spirit.

A number of our students are going to keep working hard right through Saturday this week. Many of our eighth grade students will be taking the High School Placement Test for admission to Catholic high schools this Saturday. At the same time, our robotics teams will be competing in their qualifier at Martin Middle School in East Providence. Please give them your encouragement and your prayers. We want to thank our middle school teachers, who continue to do excellent work in preparing our students for high school, and especially at this time Mrs. Kane, who has been working with eighth graders after school on Mondays to help them prepare specifically for the HSPT. We also want to thank Ms. Hollowell, who has taken the reins as our robotics coach this year, along with our parent volunteers, who are all supporting our students in the real-world thinking and problem-solving that our robotics program encourages. They are going to have the chance to show off their abilities this Saturday.

Looking to next week, please join us Wednesday December 11th for our 19th annual **Winter Band Concert**! An in-school concert will be held for students and faculty that morning at 8:25 am, and another concert will be held at 7 pm that night for friends and family. Our band members have been working very hard under Ms. Hollowell's direction, and we are looking forward to an outstanding performance next week.

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).

In other news next week, all of our students will take 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.

Report cards will be distributed next Tuesday, December 10. It has been an outstanding first trimester, and we pray that all of our students have earned report cards that reflect that truth. Please always feel free to reach out to your child's teachers if you have questions about their academic progress. The path to scholarship is rarely straight or easy, and our teachers are here to support students in facing their inevitable challenges and transforming them into opportunities for intellectual and spiritual growth.

Our **yearbook committee** is still accepting interested members! Their next meeting will be Wednesday, December 11 after school in the computer lab. The committee is open to all eighth graders. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Kimberly Sammartino at kimberrysammartino@mac.com.

Our **School Store** is will be open again during lunch periods December 16-18! We had quite a few shoppers in November, but we still have more inventory, and OLM swag makes great Christmas gifts!

Our capital campaign- **Our Faith, Our Future: Grateful for God's Providence**- is ongoing, with the goal of raising \$500,000 to support needed improvements to our school, and a total of \$2,000,000 to support our parish community as a whole. These funds are critical for the continued success of our school. Please reach out to the parish office if you have questions. We thank you for your generosity.

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

None

Grade-Level-Specific Documents

None

Attachments

Toiletry Drive Flyer

Upcoming Dates

Friday, December 6	First Friday/Feast of St. Nicholas Mass (formal uniforms required) Drop & Shop 3:00-5:00 pm in the gym
Tuesday, December 10	Report cards issued
Wednesday, December 11	OLM School Band Concert 8:25 am & 7:00 pm
Friday, December 13	Christmas Pageant 6:00 pm
December 16-18	School Store open at lunch!
Friday, December 20	Middle School Breakfast Advent Prayer Service Half-Day: 11:30 am dismissal
December 21-January 1	No School- Christmas Recess
Friday, January 3	First Friday Mass (formal uniforms required)
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