

Wednesday Notes



January 3, 2024

Dear OLM School Community,

Welcome back to school! We hope that everyone has been able to enjoy a blessed Christmas season with their families and is looking forward to great things in the new year! It's a short week to get us back into the swing of things, ending with First Friday Mass at 9:00 am this Friday, hosted by Grade 7. All families are welcome to attend! Please read on to see everything else that is going on at school as we get in to 2024!

For Christ and Our Kids,
Patrick McNabb
Principal

The Week Ahead

Thursday, January 4 Choir Practice 2:30-3:15 pm
Thursday, January 4 Mock Trial Practice 2:30-3:30 pm
Friday, January 5 First Friday Mass 9:00 am (Formal Uniforms)
Friday, January 5 Final Deadline to Complete Cheer/Softball Surveys
Monday, January 8 Chess Master Connections Begins!
Monday, January 8 Student Council Meeting 2:30-3:15 pm
Thursday, January 11 Choir Practice 2:30-3:15 pm
Thursday, January 11 Mock Trial Practice 2:30-3:30 pm

Inclement Weather Information

With the winter's first forecast of possible snow approaching for this weekend, it's a good time to remind everyone of our practices regarding school closings and delays. In the event of snow, ice, or other weather-related emergencies, OLM School makes its own determinations in regard to the need to delay or close school for the day. **With students residing throughout the West Bay and beyond, we do not strictly follow East Greenwich Public Schools or any other particular school district in deciding whether to close or delay school for weather-related reasons.**

In the event that we must cancel or delay the school day, you will receive an email and a text message, and we will publish the information to local news networks. **Please look for communication specifically from Our Lady of Mercy School for information on closings and**

delays, and please be sure that the contact information loaded into FACTS is up-to-date; this will ensure that all alerts arrive at the correct phone numbers and email addresses!

OLM Athletics News

New Athletics Offerings

We recently announced that we are exploring the addition of two new OLM Athletics offerings – Cheer (Winter 2024) and Middle School Softball (Spring 2024). There are two surveys (links below) that will help us gauge commitment and determine feasibility of launching one or both programs this school year. Thus far, the response has been very positive! We will keep the survey open through the end of year. **If you have not yet responded but wish to do so, we ask that you complete these brief surveys by THIS Friday, January 5.**

For those who have responded, watch your email for more information about both Cheer and Softball in early January 2024.

[Click Here if You Are Interested in Cheer!](#)

[Click Here if You Are Interested in Middle School Softball!](#)

Please direct any questions to Jerry O'Connell, OLM Athletic Director, at joconnell@olmschool.org

PTG News

It's a new year with a lot of new events on the horizon! Please check out the PTG News to see how you can lend a hand in 2024!

[Click Here for the PTG News!](#)



President's Message

Happy New Year. We hope everyone had a healthy and happy holiday break. We have a lot of exciting events in the new year and we will be looking for volunteers to help!

Upcoming Events

The Father Daughter Dance will be held on Saturday, February 10 at 5:00pm at Valley Country Club. Invitations will be sent home in the new two weeks.

The Mother Son Event will be held in March. More details will be shared in the next few weeks.

Our biggest fundraiser, Spring Fling, will be held on Saturday, May 4 at 6:00pm at Quindnessett Country Club. More details to come!

Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for volunteers for the following events. Please email olmpta@gmail.com if you are interested in helping out.

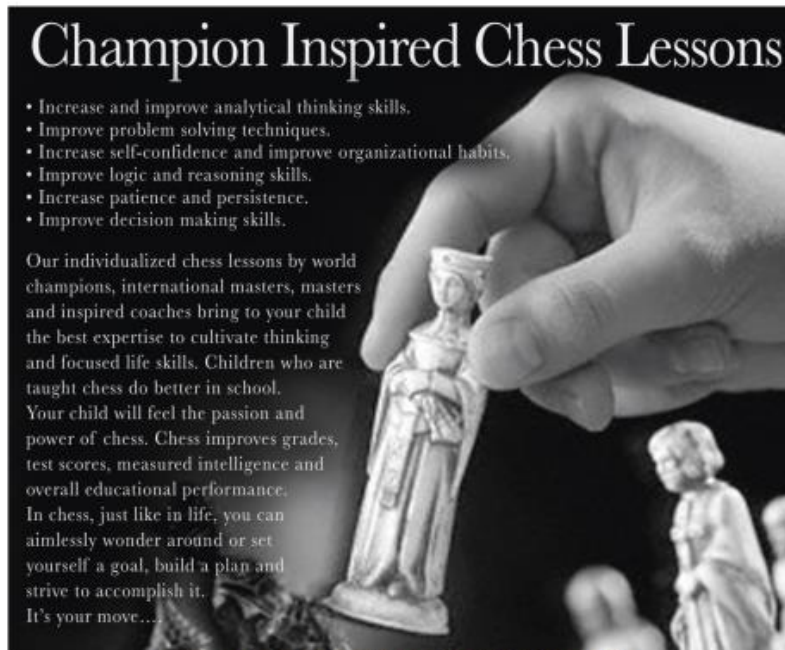
We are looking for families to place OLM Open House lawn signs around town. If you are interested in putting a sign on your lawn or in your neighborhood, please reach out to olmpta@gmail.com by **Tuesday, January 9.**

We are looking for volunteers to help set up and clean up at the Father Daughter Dance on Saturday, February 10. Please email olmpta@gmail.com if you would like to help.

Spring Fling is a huge event that needs many volunteers for gathering auction items, helping with decorations, setting up on day of the event, and cleaning up after the event. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to our Spring Fling Chair, Christina Haas, at christinahaas@gmail.com.

Chess Is Returning!

We are pleased to announce the return of a very popular program with Chess Master Connections! Information about the program and a sign-up form came home prior to Christmas Vacation, and both can be accessed again by clicking the button below. The program is open to students in all grade levels, and will meet for eight Monday afternoons beginning this coming Monday, January 8. Please check out the flyer for details!



Champion Inspired Chess Lessons

- Increase and improve analytical thinking skills.
- Improve problem solving techniques.
- Increase self-confidence and improve organizational habits.
- Improve logic and reasoning skills.
- Increase patience and persistence.
- Improve decision making skills.

Our individualized chess lessons by world champions, international masters, masters and inspired coaches bring to your child the best expertise to cultivate thinking and focused life skills. Children who are taught chess do better in school. Your child will feel the passion and power of chess. Chess improves grades, test scores, measured intelligence and overall educational performance. In chess, just like in life, you can aimlessly wonder around or set yourself a goal, build a plan and strive to accomplish it. It's your move....

OUR LADY OF MERCY SCHOOL

and Chess Master Connections (CMC) are proud to offer chess instruction, for all levels of chess and the life skills of winning and losing well, creating a plan and following it, focusing on you and your opponent's actions and the importance of creativity are all masterfully imparted throughout their instruction.

CMC chess programs are dynamic, thoughtful, and *FUN*

Learn how to THINK through the game of CHESS

Boys and girls are welcome!

Beginner - Intermediate - Advanced

8-week session: \$136

Make checks payable to Chess Master Connections

Dates:

January 8, 22, 29, February 5, 12, 26, March 4, 11

Time: 2:30 to 3:30 pm

www.chessmasterconnections.com

[Click Here for Chess Master Connections Registration Form!](#)

Interested in Music Lessons?

Earlier this fall, Mr. Jack Rametta, OLM alumni parent and former band director, spoke to students in Grades 4-8 about the possibility of signing up for private music lessons, building toward the re-establishment of our longstanding band program.

And he is still accepting new students in Grades 4-8! If your child may be interested in beginning one of the instruments listed below, please fill out the form (it has come home previously and is linked again at the bottom of this section), and return it to the main office. Thank you very much!

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SIGN-UP FORM

Dear OLM parents,

Your student's music class hosted an instrumental music demonstration today, where several band instruments were demonstrated by Jack Rametta. The OLM instrumental music program was started in 2001 by Jack Rametta when his children were OLM students, and he's been gratified to see so many prior OLM band students prosper in their careers.

Recently, Principal McNabb and Mr. Rametta met to decide the best way forward for the program, post-pandemic. It was decided that Mr. Rametta will offer OLM students private, semi-private and/or group lessons, based upon instrument selection and available scheduling. You can learn more about Mr. Rametta at johnrametta.com.

When are the lessons?

Our goal is to schedule students who choose the same instrument to have lessons together. We won't know the actual schedule until all students have registered, but the plan is to schedule all lessons **one day per week (TBD), between the hours of 5pm-8pm**. Lessons will last approximately 30 minutes. Parents will be responsible to drop-off and collect students at the music room.

What you'll need

AN INSTRUMENT - The instrument choices are pictured below. (Please note: piano, bass or guitar students must already have basic skills to participate). The instruments below can be purchased or rented at Robert's Music in Warwick (Papa Gino's Plaza). Robert's offers a rental/ex-change program that allows students to change instruments within the 1st six months with no penalty. Please remember to mention that your child attends OLM.

FLUTE	CLARINET	ALTO SAX	TRUMPET	TROMBONE	DRUMS & BELLS (drum students also study bells)
					

What's the cost?

The program fee is \$150, which covers the full school year. The cost of method books is included. Billing for the program will go through FACTS. The program will conclude in May 2024 with a concert for parents and friends.

Why instrumental music?

Musicians generally have higher SAT scores (about 100 points), favorable decisions by college admissions boards, increased brain development, lower levels of alcohol, tobacco, or drug abuse, and increased confidence in oral presentations.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO EITHER THE HOMEROOM TEACHER OR FRONT OFFICE

My child _____ in grade _____ is interested in playing _____.

Name

Instrument (can list more than one)

Please list any evenings that conflict with your student's schedule _____

Parent's Name(s) _____ Best Phone# _____

Email address(s) _____

I give my permission for my child to participate. I understand that if scheduling cannot be arranged, I won't be billed for the program.

parent's signature

date

[Click Here for Instrumental Music Sign-Up Form!](#)

Preparing to Volunteer

Are you interested in volunteering at OLM School during the 2023-2024 school year? Because we take the moral and physical safety of our students very seriously, there are steps that all volunteers must take before beginning:

BCI and Safe Environment Training paperwork must be processed in order to allow parents/grandparents to volunteer at OLM on field trips, in classrooms, etc.

Here are the steps that all prospective volunteers must complete:

- [OLM Volunteer Application](#) - complete this form.
- [BCI application](#) - complete this form - which must be notarized by a Notary Public. Attach a copy of the **FRONT** and **BACK** of your driver's license. The school pays the \$5.00 processing fee.
- [Safe Environment Training](#) - complete this form once you have reviewed the following links:
 - [Safe Environment Training Link](#)
 - [Safe Environment Code of Ethical Conduct Link](#)
 - [Safe Environment Extract Link](#)

Please send/bring all these forms/documents to the front office once you have completed them so we can submit them for processing. **Please note the process can take a few weeks, so the time to act is now!**

Thank you for working with us to ensure the safety and well-being of all students at OLM School!

Wednesday Envelope

Nothing This Week!

Upcoming Dates

Friday, January 5 First Friday Mass 9:00 am (Formal Uniforms)

Monday, January 8 Chess Master Connections Begins

Monday, January 15 NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Tuesday, January 16 PTG Board Meeting 6:00 pm

Wednesday, January 24 Second Trimester Progress Reports Go Home

Thursday, January 25 Class of 2024 Science Fair

Sunday, January 28 Open House 10:00 am-12:00 pm

January 28-February 2 Catholic Schools Week!

Friday, February 2 First Friday Mass 9:00 am (Formal Uniforms)
Friday, February 2 Middle School Dance 6:30-8:30 pm
Saturday, February 10 Father-Daughter Dance 5:00-8:00 pm
Tuesday, February 13 PTG Board Meeting 6:00 pm
Wednesday, February 14 Ash Wednesday Mass 9:00 am (Formal Uniforms)
February 19-23 February Vacation
February 25-28 OLM Parish Lenten Mission
Tuesday, March 12 PTG Board Meeting 6:00 pm
Friday, March 15 NO SCHOOL Teacher Professional Day
Monday, March 18 Second Trimester Report Cards Go Home
Tuesday, March 19 St. Joseph's Day Mass 12:05 pm (Formal Uniforms)
Wednesday, March 27 Grade 6 Field Trip to Gillette Stadium
Thursday, March 28 Holy Thursday; 11:30 am Dismissal; No After-School Extended Day
Friday, March 29 NO SCHOOL: Good Friday
Sunday, March 31 Easter Sunday
Monday, April 1 NO SCHOOL: Easter Monday
Friday, April 5 First Friday Mass 9:00 am (Formal Uniforms)
Tuesday, April 9 PTG Board Meeting 6:00 pm
April 15-19 April Vacation
April 27-28 Spring Drama Production @ The Prout School
Saturday, May 4 Spring Fling 6:00 pm @ Quidnessett Country Club
May 6-10 Reading Week!
Wednesday, May 8 Third Trimester Progress Reports Go Home
Thursday, May 9 Ascension Thursday & Grandparents Day; Mass @ 10:00 am
Tuesday, May 14 PTG Board Meeting 6:00 pm
May 15-18 Eighth Grade Class Trip
Monday, May 27 NO SCHOOL: Memorial Day
Friday, May 31 Eighth Grade Final Mass 9:00 am (Formal Uniforms)
Friday, May 31 Middle School Graduation Dance 6:30-8:30 pm
Sunday, June 2 Class of 2024 Graduation Mass & Awards Brunch 10:30 am
Monday, June 3 Confessions for Grades 2-7 12:45 pm
Tuesday, June 4 Class of 2024 Graduation 6:00 pm
Friday, June 14 Last Day of School; 11:30 am Dismissal; No After-School Extended Day

Happy 2024!