



Our Lady Star of the Sea School

An Island of Learning... A Sea of Faith

Newsletter: January 4, 2017



Dear Parents & Guardians,

I hope that all our school families had a wonderful Christmas break! The start of the New Year is a time to bring from the past all that is right and good, and to give to the future the best we have to offer. As we embark on 2017, I look forward to working with our teachers, staff, parents, and parish to continue to make Our Lady Star of the Sea School the best that it can be.

NEWS & REMINDERS:

Cold Weather: Please send your child to school with a coat, hat, & gloves on cold days, so that they will stay warm during outdoor recess.

Scantron: Mid-Year Scantron testing for students in Grades K-8 will take place during the week of **Jan. 17-20**. Please be sure your child is well rested and has a healthy breakfast on testing days, and avoid scheduling doctor appointments during testing times.

Pre-K Info Day: We will be having an Info Day for parents interested in our Pre-K program for the 2017-18 school year on **Wed, Jan. 25 from 8-10am**. Please encourage any interested friends and family to visit.

Re-Registration & Admissions: Re-Registration for the 2017-18 school year opens **Jan. 29**. Current families will receive an email from OLSS/TADS with instructions on enrolling. Admissions for new families opens **Feb. 12**.

Open House: We will be having an Open House on **Wed, Feb. 1 from 9-11am**. Please encourage interested friends and family to visit. Volunteers are needed to help greet visitors and help give tours; please sign up through the school website if you are able to help.

Youth Rally: Middle School students will be attending the Youth Rally & Mass for Life in Washington, DC on **Jan. 27** with OLSS Youth Minister, Joanne Pensenstadler. Permission forms and info will be sent home in the next week. This field trip is optional; however, if students do not wish to go, they are expected to attend school that day. If you will be attending the Youth Rally with your children in PK-Grade 5, please notify your child's teacher. They will be allowed an excused absence from school that day.

Alumni Players: The OLSS Alumni Players' Dinner Theatre performance of "A Bad Year for Tomatoes", will be held on **Fri, Jan. 27 & Sat, Jan. 28**, and **Fri, Feb. 3 & Sat, Feb. 4** at OLSS. Tickets are \$40/person and include dinner, drinks, and the performance. Call 410-231-0168 for reservations.

Volunteers Needed: The Alumni Players event is a fundraiser for our school. Many volunteers (adults & teens) are needed to help make with this event; as waiters/waitresses (age 18+), kitchen help (age 18+), and table bussers (age 12-17). We are also in need of a Chair to organize this event. Please sign up to help through the school volunteer site. Volunteers may eat and enjoy the performance at no charge.

Inclement Weather Reminder: OLSS follows the inclement weather decisions of Calvert County Public Schools, who post their decisions on cancellations and delays on their website by 5:30am. OLSS will also send an email notification through School Messenger to notify parents if we will have a delayed opening or cancellation.

Health Policies: With cold and flu season upon us, we would like to remind parents of our health policies. Following these important health rules will reduce the risk of spreading illness to others:

- While sick, a person is contagious at least 24 hours before becoming symptomatic, and at least 24 hours after recovering from the symptoms of a virus. **Children who come to school while ill, and return to school too soon after being ill, put all of our children and staff at risk of catching illness.**
- If your child has had a fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea, please keep them home during, and for at least 24 hours after their symptoms have subsided.
- Students must be fever-free without the use of medications for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Students may not bring any medication to school. If medication (including over-the-counter) must be administered during the school day, a Student Medication Authorization form must be completed by a physician, signed by a parent, and submitted to the School Office with the medication.



National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States, focusing on the value it provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities, and our nation.

Special events at OLSS will include:

- Pastries for Parents
- Career Day
- Open House
- Sports Jerseys Tag Day
- Talent Show
- Ice Cream Social

The full schedule of events for Catholic Schools Week will be posted with next week's news.



FROG IT CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK:

This week's Challenge is for our students to discuss what a gift their Catholic education is with their families.



BASKETBALL NEWS:

Seahawks play **Sun, Jan. 8** at Mother Catherine Academy: 12:15 JVG, 1:15 VG, 2:30 VB, 3:45 JVB.

Varsity Teams will participate in the SYBL Mid-Season Tournament on **Jan. 14-16**.

A reminder that if school is canceled due to inclement weather, all basketball activities are canceled.

The SYBL Basketball event at the University of MD's Xfinity Center will take place on Sun, Jan. 29 starting at 9:30am. Please contact Athletic Director Gladys Nehf with any questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

JANUARY

- Jan. 13: 12:30pm dismissal – Teacher In-Service
- Jan. 16: No School – MLK Day
- Jan. 25, 8-10am: Pre-K Info Day
- Jan. 27: Youth Rally in DC
- Jan. 27 & 28, 6pm: Alumni Players Dinner Theatre
- Jan. 29 - Feb. 4: Catholic Schools Week
- Jan. 29, 10:45am: Opening Mass for CSW
- Jan. 30, 7-8:30am: Pastries for Parents
- Jan. 31, 1pm: Talent Show

FEBRUARY

- Feb. 1, 9-11am: Open House
- Feb. 3-4, 6pm: Alumni Players Dinner Theatre
- Feb. 10: 12:30pm dismissal – Teacher In-Service
- Feb. 20: No School – President's Day

The last week of school before Christmas Break began was full of exciting events for our students and families. I would like to thank our Music Teacher, Debbie Smedley, for the wonderful Christmas Concert. Please see the "2016-17 Photos" page of the school website for more photos!



Thank you also to all our Room Moms who helped coordinate classroom parties, activities, & the Middle School brunch.