Our Lady Star of the Sea School

Newsletter

November 12th, 2025

410-326-3171
olssschool@comcast.net
www.olsss.org

A Message from Mrs. Thompson

We are looking forward to our Family Thanksgiving Feast on Thursday November 20th. Please make sure that forms and payments are turned in by tomorrow's deadline. This is a great time of year to reflect in prayer and give thanks for all the wonderful blessings God has bestowed upon us.

Grace and Peace,
Mrs. Jennifer Thompson,
principal@olsss.org

Upcoming Events

November

- Thurs. Nov. 13th- Yellow/Green/Black Tag Day $2 or donation
- Nov. 17th-21st- Kindness Week
- Thurs. Nov. 20- Family Thanksgiving Feast
- Sat. Nov. 22nd- Christmas Bazaar 9:00am-2:00pm
- Mon. Nov. 24th- Picture Retake Day
- Tues. Nov. 25th- 12:30 Dismissal & Turkey Trot
- Nov. 26th-28th- No School, Thanksgiving Break

Seahawk Spotlight

Our basketball team received a blessing from Fr. Bob at Mass today. Corben B., Pacey K., Isabelle M., and Kalina D., were all chosen as team prayer captains for this season.
We are looking forward to a great season!

News & Reminders

Lunch- Orders for lunch must be placed and prepaid through the FACTS parent portal. Orders are available the week prior. To order click on "STUDENT," then "LUNCH." In the top left corner, next to your student's name, you will see "+CREATE WEB ORDER."

Volunteers Needed-
Annual Christmas Bazaar: There are many ways to help before, during, and after the event:
Before: set up, decorating, and sorting donations
During: greeting guests, raffle table, bake sale, concessions, and yard sale
After: breakdown, clean-up, and packing
Please sign up on Track it Forward to volunteer.
Turkey Trot: Sign up for volunteering at our Turkey Trot will open in Track it Forward soon.

Family Thanksgiving Feast November 20th- The FORM and PAYMENT for the Family Thanksgiving Feast are due November 13th. Each family is allowed to bring 2 guests. Families with last names A-H will be seated from 11:15am-12:00pm. Families with last names I-Z will be seated from 12:30-1:15. **No orders will be accepted after November 13th.**

Get Ready for the 2025 Turkey Trot!- We're excited to announce a new twist for our annual OLSS Turkey Trot. This year families can walk together with their students on the day of the Turkey Trot if each family raises a minimum of $50 in pledges. Here is how it works; students collect pledges from friends and family. If your family raises $50 or more, a parent or guardian can register to walk side-by-side with your child during the event. It's a great way for families to join the fun, support our school, and get moving together! Everyone's contribution helps us reach our $10,000 goal to support student activities like field trips and our basketball program. More details and registration are available at the fundraising portal: https://myfunrun.com/olssschool

Basketball News- Game Schedule:
Saturday, Nov.15th
JVG vs MCA at Cardinal Hickey Academy, Owings, MD at 9:00am
JVB vs ANS at Cardinal Hickey Academy, Owings, MD at 11:30am
VB vs CHA at Archbishop Neale School, LaPlata, MD at 3:30pm (Arrival time 3:00pm)
Sunday, Nov. 16th
VG vs SJS at Ryken High School, Leonardtown, MD at 1:00pm

Calendar Change for December 19th- Please note a change to the 2025-2026 calendar for December 19th. This will be an **11:30am dismissal day with no Aftercare.** Lunch will still be served.

Solomons Christmas Walk- If your student is interested in participating in the parade during the Solomons Christmas Walk on December 13th, please contact the school office at olssschool@comcast.net.

8th Grade Basket Raffle- 8th grade will be selling raffle tickets for their Fall Basket. The money collected helps support their graduation fund. Tickets are 1 for $1 or 6 for $5. Students can purchase tickets before school and at lunch.

Santa Shop- Please see the attached flyer for details on the Santa Shop. Volunteer opportunities are posted in Track it Forward.

ANNUAL OLSS YARD SALE
DONATIONS NEEDED!

Do you have gently used items you'd like to donate?

We're now collecting for this year's Annual OLSS Yard Sale – held during the Christmas Bazaar!

Donations Accepted Starting Now!

Drop off location:
Shed #2

Beginning November 14
We'll begin accepting donations in the Chesapeake Room during set times - Specific drop-off times coming soon!

What to donate:
Household items, holiday décor, toys, books, kitchenware, tools, small furniture, and clothing
(Please no broken items or large TVs)

Your donations directly support Our Lady Star of the Sea School and its wonderful programs.

Thank you for helping make this event a success!

Questions? Please email: olssbazaarvendors@gmail.com

Tag Day Thursday November 13th

To participate:
Bring in $2 or a donation
Wear yellow, green, and/or black.
If it is a PE day for you, make sure to wear proper PE shoes.

Funds collected go towards rebuilding the school communities of Chetwood Primary and Mount Alvernia High School in the Diocese of Montego Bay

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

Help us showcase student creativity by encouraging submissions for our Yearbook Art Contest! Selected artwork will be featured in this year's book for the whole school to see!

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT:
November 21, 2025

TURN COVER ART INTO:
Mrs. Oster

COVER ART WINNER RECEIVES
Free Tag Day
Free Tag Day

WE WANT YOUR ART IN THE YEARBOOK!

THEME IDEAS
SCHOOL SPIRIT
THIS YEAR'S THEME
FRIENDSHIP, KINDNESS, OR COMMUNITY
A FAVORITE MOMENT OR MEMORY

WHO CAN ENTER?
ANY STUDENT WHO LOVES TO DRAW, PAINT, DOODLE, OR DESIGN! ALL STYLES WELCOME.

SUBMISSION TIPS
ORIGINAL (NO TRACING OR COPIED IMAGES)
SCHOOL-APPROPRIATE
8.5" X 11" SHEET (PORTRAIT ORIENTATION)
NO BORDERS ON ARTWORK
KEEP ELEMENTS & TEXT 1/4" FROM EDGE

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Email: olssschool@comcast.net

Pastor: Rev. Robert Kilner
Principal: Mrs. Jennifer Thompson

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Students in grades 5-8 and 9-12 will be asked to participate in a survey required for the ADW Catholic school system-wide reaccreditation.

Purpose of Surveys: The purpose of these surveys is to collect student feedback on their perceptions about their Catholic education experiences. The survey questions focus on aspects such as school community, mission, faith formation, academics, extracurricular activities, and school resources. This provides important data for the continuous quality improvement process at ADW schools.

Student responses are anonymous and confidential. No personal identifiable information will be collected. No individual student's answers will be reported to the school or the Catholic Schools Office.

These surveys are used by Catholic schools nationwide.

Survey Name	Administered to	Estimated Time	Length
Catholic Identity Program Effectiveness (Elementary/Middle)	Grades 5-8	Approx. 30 minutes	28 Questions
Catholic Identity Program Effectiveness (High School)	Grades 9-12	Approx. 40 minutes	35 Questions

The survey will be administered during the school day between November 17th and December 10th.

No Action is Required: These surveys are anonymous, voluntary, and administered during school hours, so you are not required to take any action.

Should you have any questions regarding the survey or administration or would like to have your child opt-out of the survey, please contact me at **principal@olsss.org** or by calling the school office at 410-326-3171 by **November 16th.**

Thank you for your support and commitment to academic excellence.

Grace and Peace,

Jennifer W. Thompson

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Next week you will be invited to participate in a survey required for the ADW Catholic school system-wide reaccreditation.

Purpose of the Survey: The purpose of this survey is to collect feedback on your perceptions about Catholic education at our school. The survey questions focus on aspects such as school community, mission, faith formation, academics, extracurricular activities, and school safety. This provides important data for the continuous quality improvement process at ADW schools.

Please note that your responses are anonymous and confidential. No personal identifiable information will be collected.

This survey is used by Catholic schools nationwide.

Survey Name	Administered to	Estimated Time	Length	Languages
Catholic Identity Program Effectiveness (Parent and Community)	All Parents/Guardians	Approx. 30 min.	48-50 Questions	English Spanish

The survey link will be sent directly to you via **FACTS on Monday, November 17th.** The survey can be completed from your computer or mobile device anytime on or before **Wednesday, December 10.**

While participation is voluntary, your honest and thoughtful input is highly encouraged and deeply appreciated to best inform our reaccreditation process.

Should you have any questions regarding the survey, please feel free to contact me at **principal@olsss.org** or **410-326-3171.**

Thank you for your commitment to our school community and for choosing Catholic education.

Grace and Peace,

Jennifer W. Thompson

SANTA SHOP

- The Santa Shop is an opportunity for students to shop for Christmas gifts for their families (and pets) at school. They will shop with their class, with volunteers or buddies helping younger children.
- Students will have Christmas cookies and hot chocolate after shopping.
- Children will bring their wrapped & labeled gifts home.

Shopping days are:

- **Mon, Dec. 1:** PK, K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th
- **Tue, Dec. 2:** 5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th
- **Wed, Dec. 3:** Children who were absent and who would like to purchase additional gifts.

IMPORTANT INFO:

- Students must bring their completed shopping list to school on **Monday, Dec. 1**.
- All gifts are $4 and must be paid for in advance through the online school store **only**. Students may purchase up to 8 gifts on their shopping day and may purchase additional gifts on Dec. 3 if they wish.
- If payment has not been made by their shopping day, children may look around but cannot shop.

SANTA SHOP SHOPPING LIST

Name: _____

Grade: _____

	Gift Recipient's Name (eg Mom):	# of Gifts:
1)	_____	____
2)	_____	____
3)	_____	____
4)	_____	____
5)	_____	____
6)	_____	____
7)	_____	____
8)	_____	____

Notes: _____

_____

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Anxious Generation CHAPTER 3 SUMMARY

Discover Mode and the Need for Risky Play

The human brain contains two subsystems that put it into two common modes: *discover mode* (for approaching opportunities) and *defend mode* (for defending against threats). Young people born after 1995 are more likely to be stuck in defend mode, compared to those born earlier. They are on permanent alert for threats, rather than being hungry for new experiences. They are anxious.

All children are by nature antifragile. Just as the immune system must be exposed to germs, and trees must be exposed to wind, children require exposure to setbacks, failures, shocks, and stumbles in order to develop strength and self– reliance. Overprotection interferes with this development and renders young people more likely to be fragile and fearful as adults.

Children must have a great deal of free play to develop, and they benefit from risky physical play, which is anti-phobic effects. Children seek out the level of risk and thrill that they are ready for, in order to master their fears and develop competencies. Risk -taking online may not have comparable anti- phobic effects.

In the late 1980s and especially the 1990s, parents in Anglo countries became more fearful for many reasons, including changes in the media ecosystem and news cycle. They lost trust in each other, they started spending far more time supervising their own children, and they did more parenting in defense mode, seeing risks and threats everywhere.

The worship of “safety" above all else is called safetyism. It is dangerous because it makes it harder for children to learn to care for themselves and to deal with risk, conflict, and frustration.

The attachment system evolved to help young mammals learn the skills they'll need to reach adulthood while retreating to their “secure base” when they feel threatened. Fearful parenting keeps children on home base too much, preventing them from having the experiences they need to grow and to develop a secure attachment style.

Children are most likely to thrive when they have a play– based childhood in the **real** world. They're less likely to thrive when fearful parenting and the phone - based childhood deprive them of opportunities for growth.

Our Lady Star of the Sea Kindness Week Calendar

November 17th-21st

Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
Rooted In Kindness Root for Kindness and for your favorite team by wearing your favorite jersey or team sports outfit, cheer gear, etc. Assemble Tree of Kindness and Ice Cream Social to kick off the Week!	*Saddle up for Kindness* Saddle up into your favorite western/country themed outfit, boots, etc. Police Department Visit-**Bring in Blue colored snacks and drinks for our officers** Buddy Day Picnic-Lunch with buddies outside on the lawn weather permitting	*Self-Love/Dress to Impress* Wear your Sunday best Kindness to our Students:No HW Day Make Kindnss Note for hymnals Make a change for Kindness- Students bring in their spare change they have earned for the Poor box at Church.	*Color the World with Kindness*-Wear your class color today! Pk- Green K- Purple 1st-White 2nd-Orange 3rd-Blue 4th-Red 5th-Yellow 6th-Grey 7th-Pink 8th-Black Thanksgiving Luncheon-Thankfulness runners students made will be at each table	*Dream Of Kindness* Pajama Day (Must wear shoes, no slippers, gowns must have pants underneath) Random Acts of Kindness Prize Drawings Bring your favorite blanket and stuffed animal for bedtime kindness story read by your buddy/Kindness Coloring or Kindness Bingo

Ongoing Daily Activities:

Pillar Of Kindness: students/staff to write thank you notes and positive quotes to show appreciation to each other.

Staff Shout Out- Student to Staff – Shout out box will be at Front Office Window: Students write down your shout outs for staff members or solicit nominations from other students in the school, they will be read at morning/afternoon announcements for the whole school to hear.

Random Acts of Kindness: You see someone being Kind? Going out of their way to make a difference in someone else's life? Please nominate students by writing the child's name and how they showed kindness. Then all of the nominated students will be entered into a weekly drawing for a prize. One prize for Prek-2nd, 3rd-5th, and another for Middle School. The students/staff drop the nominations off to the Random Acts of Kindness Box at Front Office.

Secret Kindness Missions- Students your mission is to do something kind for a specific person all week, but Shhh keep it a secret! Let your students know that there are Top Secret Mission Cards at the table in front of the Pillar of Kindess. Use the decoder to assist with Secret Kindness Missions this week! Teachers you may assign a person or simply have your students pick another student or staff member that they want to show kindness too. Have fun with it!
*Teachers may create an age appropriate assigment for students to journal, write a paper, or document their secret missions for the week. Include how it made them feel and what they can do moving forward to keep kindness going in the community.

Kindness notes in hymnals- have students write out kindness messages to parishoners to find in their hymnals.
*To be placed in hymnals on December 5th Mass

Friendship bracelets- Recess Station will be up all week for students to make friendship bracelets.

Our Lady Star of the Sea School

Family Thanksgiving Feast

Thursday, November 20, 2025

- Turkey
- Stuffing
- Mashed Potatoes
- Green Beans
- Mac & Cheese
- Sweet Potatoes
- Cranberry Sauce
- Gravy
- Rolls
- Dessert

Each family is allowed 2 guests.

Seating Times

- **11:15 AM – 12:00 PM**: Families with last names **A–H**
- **12:30 PM – 1:15 PM**: Families with last names **I–Z**

Forms and payment due by **Thursday, November 13, 2025**

Reservation Form

Family Name: _____

Number of Adults: _____ @ $10.00 each = $_____

Number of Children: _____ @ $5.00 each = $_____

Total Amount Due: $_____

Payment Method: ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Online School Store

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*No orders accepted after **November 13, 2025***

2026-2027 ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOW OPEN

Apply Now

The tuition assistance awarding timeline for the 2026-2027 school year ended on February 27, 2026. Families MUST apply for ADW assistance prior to requesting OLSS Tuition Assistance.

Beginning October 1, families can apply for ADW Tuition Assistance through their FACT Family Portal or by visiting factsmgt.com.

- **IRS Integration:** FACT is implementing IRS Integration to enhance your experience.
- **Faster Award Notifications:** Expect a quicker turnaround for award notifications.

Upcoming Meeting: Additional information will be provided during the Home and School Meeting on October 6.

Contact Colleen Muldoon if you have any questions: muldoonc@olsss.org