



February 15, 2023

Dear OLSS Families,

One week from today is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, one of the most important seasons in the Church's liturgical year. Lent is a time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's Death and Resurrection at Easter. Lasting 40 days – from Ash Wednesday to the evening of Holy Thursday – the season draws us towards the light of Christ and closer to God. At our school, we will observe Lent with the following events:

MARDI GRAS/ SHROVE TUESDAY: TUESDAY, FEB. 21

- **Tuesday, Feb. 21** is a \$1 Mardi Gras Tag Day; students can wear, purple, green, & yellow. Donations will go to the Sisters of Divine Providence to assist residents in the Nazareth Home Retirement Community.
- Students made Mardi Gras masks in Art and will have a parade at the end of the school day (time TBA).
- Hot lunch that day is pancakes as it is Shrove Tuesday, which comes from the word shrive, meaning "absolve".

ASH WEDNESDAY: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22

- Students will attend the 9am Mass; family members are welcome to attend.
- We will receive ashes on our foreheads at the Mass, which symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: FRIDAYS DURING LENT

- Students will attend Stations of the Cross together every Friday in the Parish Church.
- The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth. The stations focus on specific events of His last day. At each station, we recall and reflect with specific prayers.

If you have any questions about these practices, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or myself.

Grace and Peace,

Mrs. Jennifer Thompson
Principal

NEWS & REMINDERS:

FRIDAY/MONDAY: This **Friday, Feb. 17 is a 12:30pm dismissal** and there is no school on **Monday, Feb. 20** in observance of President's Day.

KINDNESS WEEK: Reminders for Thursday & Friday:

- Tomorrow's Theme is "Never Too Old for Kindness"; students may dress like an "old person".
- Friday's Theme is "Peace, Love, & Kindness"; students should wear their Kindness t-shirt with "hippy" attire.
- We are asking for donations new small/medium stuffed animals to donate to the pediatric units of local hospitals, and sugar-free snacks to donate to the healthcare residents of Asbury in Solomons.

BASKETBALL: We are having a Pep Rally for our basketball teams **Friday, Feb. 17 at 11:30am**. Players should bring their jerseys. Playoff Games are on Friday; VG vs. ANS at 6pm at ANS, and VB vs. SMB at 7:15pm at ANS.

HELP FOR OLSS FAMILY: Many of you are aware of the recent passing of Rick Hough. The Hough family's four children attended OLSS from K-8th grade, and Mr. Hough was a Seahawks Basketball Coach for many years. Mrs. Ihnacik and Mrs. Dioguardi have kindly set up a Meal Train to help the family during this difficult time. Please sign up to help [here](#) and email Mrs. Ihnacik with any questions at terri2you@gmail.com. A GoFundMe is also being set up to help the family; that information will be shared when it becomes available.

UPDATE TO FINANCIAL POLICY: We have updated our Financial Policy regarding tuition payment requirements due to withdrawals from the school during the school year. This update reflects ADW policy regarding tuition requirements. Please read the update on Page 5 of the [2022-2023 Parent/Student Handbook](#), under the section "Withdrawals".

GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS: ADW Catholic Schools Office is asking for nominations for the 15th Annual Golden Apple Awards for excellence in teaching. Please see the form with today's news to nominate your favorite OLSS teacher!

YOUTH EVENT: Students in 5th grade – college are invited to participate in the OLSS Youth Stations of the Cross in Silhouette performance. An information meeting will be held on Wed, March 1 at 4pm. Sign up [here](#) or email Youth Minister Joanne Pensenstadler at youthministry@olss.org.

SPIRIT WEAR: HSA's [Online Spirit Store](#) is open for purchases through March 5.

100th DAY OF SCHOOL



The 100th Day of School was celebrated last week with lots of fun activities!



ST. VALENTINE'S TAG DAY

Donations from yesterday's Tag Day will go Catholic Relief Agency to assist victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.



SENIORS BASKETBALL CELEBRATION

Last Sunday was the Seahawks' last home season game, and the 8th graders were given a special celebration!



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Look to this section of the Newsletter for answers to questions posed by parents/guardians, for Catholic trivia tidbits, and other important information. Any questions can be submitted to the School Office in writing (send in an envelope with your child) or emailed to olssschooll@comcast.net

Please note, I still have an open door policy. I welcome any conversation, at any time, with any parent/guardian. Please feel free to email me at principal@olsss.org or phone (410) 326-3171.

Questions

- Whatever happened to the Brick I ordered for the Memory Walk?

Unfortunately during COVID, the company stopped production of bricks. We were recently contacted by the company that they are back in business so a member of our HSA will be in touch with me very soon to inform me of the new timeline for fulfilling these orders.

- Could girls be allowed to wear white as well as navy knee highs and tights with their skirts/jumpers?

YES! I met with the Advisory Board and it was discussed and determined that girls could be allowed to wear both white and navy knee highs with their skirts/jumpers.

OLSS JOB OPENINGS:

CAFETERIA MANAGER: We are searching for a Cafeteria Manager to start March 20. This position is responsible for planning, shopping, preparing, and serving school lunches four days/week.

RESOURCE TEACHER: We are searching for a full-time Resource Teacher to start in March. This position assists homeroom teachers with modified instruction and works with students to enrich instruction.

For more info on these positions or to apply, please email principal@olsss.org



We will host our annual Polar Plunge on **Saturday, March 4 from 10:30am-12pm** at the Drum Point Beach Club in Lusby.

Students and their family members are welcome to participate in this fun event! Each plunger is required to raise a minimum of \$30 to plunge. Registration and donation collection will be on the olss.myfunrun.com website.

The money raised will help offset the cost of field trips and support extracurricular activities.

Sign up to volunteer with this event [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- ♥ **Feb. 17, 9-11am:** Open House for New Families
- ♥ **Feb. 17:** 12:30pm Dismissal
- ♥ **Feb. 20:** No School - Presidents Day
- ♥ **Feb. 21:** Mardi Gras Tag Day & Parade
- ♥ **Feb. 22:** Ash Wednesday/ Lent Begins

MARCH

- ✿ **Mar. 3, 9-11am:** Open House for New Families
- ✿ **Mar. 4:** Polar Plunge
- ✿ **Mar. 6:** Wear Kindness Shirt
- ✿ **Mar. 10:** 12:30pm Dismissal
- ✿ **Mar. 13:** St. No School – Collaboration Day
- ✿ **Mar. 17, 9-11am:** Open House for New Families
- ✿ **Mar. 17:** St. Patrick's Day Tag Day
- ✿ **Mar. 21:** Rock Your Socks for Down Syndrome
- ✿ **Mar. 29:** End of 3rd Quarter