



Newsletter

October 1st, 2025

A Message from Mrs. Thompson

This past Saturday, Sept 27th, was the feast of Stella Maris, Our Lady Star of the Sea. This is a title that has been used by seafarers for centuries to refer to our Blessed Mother. Mary has more titles than any other saint. Some names refer to the role she played in our salvation, such as Mother of God. Other titles refer to places she has appeared, like Our Lady of Fatima. When we use the title Star of the Sea, we turn to our Blessed Mother for protection, whether we are on land or at sea. Our Lady Star of the Sea, pray for us!

Grace and Peace,

Mrs. Jennifer Thompson, principaleolsss.org

Upcoming Events

October

- Sun. Oct. 5th - Parish & School Picnic
- Mon. Oct. 6th - HSA Community Meeting 6:30pm
- Fri. Oct. 10th - Grandparents Day & 12:30 Dismissal
- Mon. Oct 13th - No School (Columbus Day; Indigenous Peoples' Day)
- Tues. Oct. 14th - Fall/Winter Uniforms Begin
- Fri. Oct. 17th - Flu Clinic, Fire Department Visit, And 8th Grade Basket Raffle winner pulled
- Sun. Oct. 19th - Children's Mass 11:00am
- Tues. Oct. 21st - Legacy Studio Portrait Retake
- Thurs. Oct. 23rd - End of 1st Quarter
- Fri. Oct. 24th - No School (Collaboration Day) and Trunk or Treat 5:00pm-7:00pm
- Wed. Oct. 29th - Students may wear Saint costumes to school and change after Mass
- Fri. Oct. 31st - Free Halloween Tag Day

Seahawk Spotlight

Our Symphonic Orchestra has been working hard and learning a lot these past few weeks!



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- Volunteers are needed on October 10th at 12:30pm to help break down tables from Grandparent's Day. VIRTUS training is REQUIRED for this volunteer opportunity. Please sign up on [Track it Forward](#) to volunteer.

Grandparents Day- Friday Oct. 10th is Grandparents Day! It is also a 12:30 dismissal. RSVPs are required if Grandparents will be attending. Due to limited space, a maximum of 4 grandparents per family may attend. Please [RSVP HERE](#).

Children's Mass- OLSS students will have the opportunity to participate in Children's Mass every 3rd Sunday at 11:00am. Please complete the [Interest Form](#) if your student is able to participate. Our next Mass is October 19th.

Early Pick Up- If you need to pick up your students early, please inform the office and your child(ren)'s teacher. Early pick ups must be done before 2:30pm. Any student being dismissed after 2:30pm will be dismissed along with the other car riders/walkers.

Fire Department Visit- Our Student Council is collecting red themed snacks to donate to the Fire Department when they visit our school. Please send in a donation by October 15th. Red themed snacks would include red Gatorade, Doritos, Cheese-Its, and anything else red or in red packaging.

Stella Maris Youth Group- Middle school and high school girls are invited to join the youth group meeting on October 3rd from 6:00pm-8:00pm

Financial Aid- ADW's 2026-2027 Financial Aid Applications are open in FACTS.

Flu Clinic- Please see the attached flyer for registration and details. If you do not have access to a computer to register, please contact schoolnurse@olsss.org.

Saint Costume Exchange- We are coordinating a saint costume exchange. If you have any saint costumes you would like to donate please send them in to school. More information is to follow.

Giving Market Product Sale Fundraiser

We are launching our Giving Market Product Sale Fundraiser!

There are three easy steps to help you support our school:

1. Register your student at <http://givingmarket.shop> using our code 143845
2. Share the personal shopping link with family and friends via email, text, and social media
3. Shop for yourself, family and friends. This is an excellent opportunity to get gifts and support a great cause.

Information packets were sent home today with students. Thank you for your support in helping make this fundraiser a success!

The Anxious Generation
Part 2
The Back Story
The Decline of the Play-Based Childhood

Part 2 consists of three Chapters. (Chapters 2-4)
Chapter 2- *What Children Need To Do in Childhood*

In Summary

- Human childhood is very different from that of any other animal. Children's brains grow to 90% of full size by age 5, but then take a long time to configure themselves. This slow-growth childhood is an adaptation for cultural learning. Childhood is an apprenticeship for learning the skills needed for success in one's culture.
- Free play is as essential for developing social skills, like conflict resolution, as it is for developing physical skills. But play-based childhoods were replaced by phone-based childhoods as children and adolescents moved their social lives and free time onto Internet-connected devices.
- Children learn through play to connect, synchronize, and take turns. They enjoy attunement and need enormous quantities of it. Attunement and synchrony bond pairs, groups, and whole communities. Social media, in contrast, is mostly asynchronous and performative. It inhibits attunement and leaves heavy users starving for social connection.
- Children are born with two innate learning programs that help them to acquire their local culture. Conformist bias motivates them to copy whatever seems to be most common. Prestige bias motivates them to copy whoever seems to be the most accomplished and prestigious. Social media platforms, which are engineered for engagement, hijack social learning, and drown out the culture of one's family and local community while locking children's eyes onto influencers of questionable value.
- Social learning occurs throughout childhood, but there may be a sensitive period for cultural learning that spans roughly ages 9 to 15. Lessons learned and identities formed in these years are likely to imprint, or stick, more than at other ages. These are the crucial sensitive years of puberty. Unfortunately, they are also the years in which most adolescents in developed countries get their own phones and move their social lives online.

Upcoming Ch. 3- Discovery Mode and the Need for Risky Play
 Ch. 4- Puberty and the Blocked Transition to Adulthood



Catholic Schools
A Faith-Based Education
that Lasts a Lifetime



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 April 1, 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

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA SCHOOL
INVITES YOU TO

GRANDPARENTS DAY



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2025

9:00a.m. - MASS
10:00-10:45a.m. - BRUNCH
10:45-11:15a.m. - CLASSROOM VISITS

PLEASE RSVP THROUGH OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE WWW.OLSSS.ORG



WE UNDERSTAND THAT MANY CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE GRANDPARENTS WHO ARE ABLE TO COME TO GRANDPARENTS DAY. SPECIAL FRIENDS OR RELATIVES ARE WELCOME TO COME IN PLACE OF GRANDPARENTS.



CALLING ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL ARTISTS!

The Visual Arts Department at St. Mary's Ryken wants your ART!

In collaboration with our Youth Honors Chorus, we will be showcasing your art at the choral concert December 5, 2025 at St. Mary's Ryken!

- Artwork can be any 2-D medium (no digital), no larger than 18x24
- Students may enter up to three pieces of art
- Showcased artwork can be of any appropriate theme ~Christmas is a PLUS!
- Please accompany work with artist's name, grade, and school on the back of the work as well as a title for the piece and what medium or media was used
- Middle School Visual Arts Teachers can collect and drop-off physical showcase work Dec. 1 or Dec. 2 between 3 - 5 p.m. at the St. Mary's Ryken Gallery in Romuald Hall. If other arrangements are needed, please contact us.
- Exciting prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places, and Honorable Mention!

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ENTER THE COVER ART CONTEST FOR OUR PROGRAM!

1st Place \$50  
2nd Place \$35  
3rd Place \$20

- One Entry per Student (does not count towards Showcase Artwork)
- Theme of "Snowflakes and SleighBells" should be represented
- The winning art will be featured on the cover of our Choral Program
- Artwork can be any 2-D medium (no digital), no larger than 18x24 OR a digital image of the work can be uploaded by the students art teacher
- Please accompany work with artists name, grade and school on the back as well as what medium or media was used
- Drop off work to SMR Fine Arts Department or email image by due date

COVER CONTEST ENTRIES due November 5, 2025  
For Questions and email submissions, contact Mrs. Julia Redding at [julia.redding@smrhs.org](mailto:julia.redding@smrhs.org)

**Stella Maris**  
Youth Group  
Meeting  
celebrating  
*St. Faustina*  
Friday  
**10/03/25**  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

open invite to all middle & high school girls

RSVP or questions contact [danielle.olekson@gmail.com](mailto:danielle.olekson@gmail.com)



NO COST Flu shots available at your child's school

## In School Free Flu clinics!



### Beat the Flu This Season

- Book an appointment for your child online today

Use the link, or scan the QR code below. It is specific to your school only.

**October 17, 2025**

**Our Lady Star of the Sea**

<https://calvertcounty.as.me/SLVFluClinic2025OLSS>





Contact your school if you have questions, or need assistance.

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.html>

