

OLL PTO NEWSLETTER

December 2013



Upcoming Events

December

- 2 - Christmas Food Drive begins
- 3 - PTO Board Meeting 7pm Dekat Hall
- 6 - Report Cards go home
- 12 - Christmas Store - Dekat Hall
- 12 - BMX Bike Show
- 17 - Parish Penance Service 7pm
- 18 - Advent Concert 7pm Church
- 20 - Noon Dismissal
- 24 - Children's Liturgy 4pm
- 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS



Your PTO Officers:

President, Michele Hunstable
ollptopresident@gmail.com
Vice President, Denise Byer
Secretary, Sabrina Sanchez
Treasurer, Tania Leon

President's Message:

To the Families of Our Lady of Lourdes School,

It's is that time of year again when we have more things to do and it seems less time to do them in. Remember the reason we are celebrating and to be kind during the hectic days ahead. The first half of the year is drawing to a close and we have done some wonderful things that without you they would not have been possible:

*T'was the night before Christmas and Santa looked down
At all the good people and searched till he found;
The ones that give freely of their time and their hearts
he wanted to thank them but how could he start?*

*So many hours, they worked without fuss
They worked for the children; they all gave so much.
What could he do to show them their worth
The difference they made with their volunteer work.*

*"I know" Santa said, "I'll open their eyes"
"They'll see clearly the impact they have on small lives."
"They'll see smiles on faces that their work puts there;
They'll see kindness in children taught the lesson to care."*

*"They'll hear laughter from families that share in their days
They'll get hugs that without them would just go away."
"And at night when they rest, they'll sleep soundly and know
Their volunteer hearts keep the children aglow."*

Merry Christmas and thank you for making a difference

Whether you are spending the Holidays at home or planning a family vacation the PTO Board would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and happy and prosperous New Year!

Thank you,
Michele Hunstable

Testimonial

Our family this month is the Anastacio Family:

As parents, we all want our children to grow up in nurturing, safe, and happy surroundings so that they can grow up to be confident, loving, and balanced adults. When our oldest child was about to start kindergarten, we visited our local public school, as well as a couple of Catholic schools. We were not impressed at all with the public school even with its pristine reputation for being a California Distinguished school and having test scores over 900. The school we were impressed with was actually another Catholic school in the area. We liked the teachers and parents we met there so we enrolled our son for the following fall. We thought we were settled on a school and ready to begin, when we received a letter from his prospective kindergarten teacher informing us that she was no longer going to be teaching at that school. She went on and on about that particular school's politics in her letter and that raised a red flag for us immediately. We knew that this was not a good sign for things to come at that school, but it was already June and the start of kindergarten was only a few months away. We figured we would have to go with the public school. The next day, I decided to take a different route to work and drove up Tujunga Canyon Boulevard, when I saw the students assembled on the upper yard at Our Lady of Lourdes. I had not realized that there was another Catholic school in the area. So as soon as I got to work, I called the school and inquired about enrolling our son for kindergarten in the fall. I was told there were spots open, but to come see the school for myself. I went that day during my lunch break and was given a tour by Mrs. Jones, the principal. She took me to meet Mrs. Fill and in those first couple of minutes of talking to her and seeing the children in her class, I was sold! I knew in my heart that this was the right place for my son and family. I truly believe that everything happens for a reason and that events had to take its course so that we could be led to our wonderful school, Our Lady of Lourdes.

- Jessica Anastacio

Principal's Message: Happy New Year OLL Families!

The Advent season is the beginning of the Church calendar and the awaiting of our Messiah. I hope you were all able to watch the Advent video that was posted on the Parent Bulletin last week. It is a great reminder of the importance of this time of year...and it is not about the deals, sales, and savings on material items. It is about the joy, love, and light that Christ brings into our lives. Through the coming weeks, may we all remember the true meaning of the season, in our families, our school, and our communities.

God Bless you all!

Ms. Ratner



Volunteer with us

There are always ways to help and all of them make a difference. You are what makes our school be not just a school but a family.

Upcoming Opportunities and contacts:

Christmas Store – Jackie King at jackieg0523@yahoo.com

Contact Mrs. Ercek for below opportunities –
818-353-1106 or ercekoll@gmail.com

- Morning Drop Off supervision
- Make calls from home to take us off distribution lists
- Marketing Team Leader – Orchestrate - -
- Marketing efforts
- Marketing Team Members - Several different jobs are available to help get the school's name out there to our community.

FUNDRAISING:

Fundraising is a necessity in order to keep tuition rates down. Participation from all families is necessary to help insure the rates stay affordable. When we are able to show full participation obtaining grants for the school becomes easier. Please be supportive of the upcoming fundraisers.

CASINO NIGHT

If you would like to help sponsor Casino Night or know someone who would like to OR if you have items you are able to donate, please contact Linda Martinez: Linda.martinez@nbcuni.com or Sonya Lineses: rsalineses@msn.com. This is the BIG fundraiser we are looking to for the funds needed to help keep tuition down as well as keep the school moving forward. This is OUR school and we all need to help support the events that support the school

Go to www.biddingforgood.com/ollschool

To purchase your Casino Night Tickets,

CAR RAFFLE

OLL is half way towards achieving our goal of 50 tickets bought by our school families! Don't be left out! For only \$100 you can buy a one in 1500 chances to WIN a brand new 2014 Toyota Prius! This car gets 50 miles to one gallon of gas!!! You can buy on the lay-away plan, too! Send us \$20 a week for the next five weeks (til Dec. 25th) and the ticket is yours! Get five relatives or friends to buy a ticket and the sixth ticket is FREE! The drawing is on Christmas Day so give yourself a present and buy a chance to win today!



Thursday, December 12th, is the Annual Christmas Store. This is a wonderful tradition that the children love. They get to pick out a present for their family members. I always LOVE to see what they have chosen.

We are also asking you to send a reusable bag with your child to put their gifts in.

If you are able to help with set up the evening before please contact Jackieg0523@yahoo.com .



Upcoming on December 8th from 8am-12pm in the auditorium. Santa will be there from 8am-10am and will be back from 10:30am-12:00pm. Don't miss that keepsake picture with Santa!

Enjoy a pancake breakfast and then get some shopping done at the Holiday Boutique. Also, please do your best to sell or purchase the raffle tickets that were sent home. Who knows, you could be a winner!

Advent Concert



The Advent Concert is Wednesday, December 18th, at 7pm in the Church. Please come and listen to our children sing in celebration. They have been working very hard to get ready. I know it will be a wonderful evening.

The dress for the evening is Dressy Dress. See you all there.

SPORTS: OLL LIONS

Varsity and JV boys and girls varsity basketball teams are getting ready for their season. Come out and cheer for the kids. You do not have to have a child on the team or be on the team to support the sports program. Support the school and kids and show your Lions Pride.

*“Support Lions’
Pride and attend a
sporting event.”*



Food Baskets are a very important event that we do each year. Although we have changed it up just a bit this year, it is no less important for those need families in our community. We will be collecting food from each classroom. The list below shows what we would like each class to bring. These items will then be given to *the pasture* so we can help as many families as possible in our community. Each class will also be

adopting a family to help them have a wonderful Christmas. By asking each class to adopt a family we think the kids will be more engaged as they will have some information about the families they are helping. As we start to shop for presents and food for our own Christmas please remember there are people in our own Community who need our help to have a Christmas celebration at all. Giving feels good so please do what you can and know that it will bring a smile to a family's face and joy to their heart on Christmas morning.

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| Kindergarten and Preschool | Toothbrush and toothpaste Toilet paper Facial tissue (Kleenex, Puffs, etc.) |
| First Grade | 1 box of instant mashed potatoes 1 box instant stuffing mix 2 (16 oz.) cans/jars gravy |
| Second Grade | 2 (16 oz.) cans vegetables (green beans, corn, etc.) 1 box crackers 2 (16 oz.) cans soup |
| Third Grade | 1 box Bisquick baking mix 1 bag flour 1 bag sugar |
| Fourth Grade | 1-3 pounds of pasta 2 (16 oz.) jars pasta sauce 1 container shelf sustainable parmesan cheese |
| Fifth Grade | 1-2 boxes instant hot chocolate mix 1 bag marshmallows 1 box tea bags |
| Sixth Grade | 1-2 boxes dessert mix (cake, brownie, etc.) 1-2 packages of cookies 1 container frosting |
| Seventh Grade | 1-2 jars peanut butter 1-2 jars jelly 2 (16 oz.) cans canned fruits (pears, pineapples, etc.) |
| Eighth Grade | 1 box cereal (oat, corn or wheat) 2 (16 oz.) boxes macaroni and cheese 1 can/jar coffee |

Please be sure to check the “best if used by” date on all donated items. The Pasture cannot hand out items that have already expired.



The **OLL Adult and Children's Choir Concert is coming up on December 8, 2013**, at 5:00pm in the Church. It is a wonderful evening of music. You do not need to have a child in choir to enjoy the performance. The Children's Choir has received and accepted an invitation to sing at **Carnegie Hall in New York!** The children are very excited and it is an honor that they were invited. We as a parish can

help them get there. The proceeds from the choir concert will go to help the children get to New York.

We are thankful for your continued support of our Choir and thank you in advance for your donations and support. You can purchase your tickets before or after all the Masses or at the Parish Office. Pre Sale tickets are: Adults \$10.00 / Children \$6.00 (12 and older) Tickets may also be purchased at the door for an additional \$2.00 for adults or children

The children and adults work hard for this ministry and to bring their voices to God on Sunday. This concert is a wonderful opportunity to hear the choir if you have not been able to enjoy their voices at Mass.

Please consider Choir for your child. It is a wonderful and rewarding experience. You can contact the BVM center for more information at (818) 818-352-3218.

