

Our Lady of Peace School
August 2011

Dear Our Lady of Peace Parents,

August greetings! Since time does fly when we are having fun, I hope that your summer is flying by. For me this summer has been filled with doctors and hospital/rehab visits and after-surgery care for my mother, brother, and husband. Since June 3rd, I have often thought that it is a good thing that it was summer and my time freer than during the school year. Husband Ron's surgery in July was the "straw" that my darling sister from Oklahoma (in remission from breast cancer) responded to by coming to Ohio to help me – yeah!!! Things have been easier with her here, and I have started to think about school once again. This is a good idea since August 24th will be here in just over three weeks: Time certainly does fly.

A first priority is to recognize the hard work that went into this year's parish festival and to say thank you to all involved in its success. The festival is a community celebration and takes a huge team effort. For the past two years the festival team has been led by Ed and Tricia Mikula -- we thank them most heartily for their hours and hours of hard work. We also send thanks to all who volunteered and gave hours of their time; it is greatly appreciated.

I should also share a little of what we have planned for this year. We have two years left in our school's four-year Ohio Catholic Schools Accrediting Association (OCSAA) improvement plan. (The plan continues to be posted in the hall if you are interested in reading it.) Last year positive interpersonal relationships were encouraged through living our baptism. This year we will concentrate on the Eucharist and bringing the REAL presence of Christ to the world. Our thinking is that if students fully understand their relationship with Christ and allow Him to govern their interaction with others then the bullying issue, whether victim, by-stander or bully will be addressed holistically – they will be a follower of Christ – a Christian. The student learning goal has been modified to focus on improving each student's thinking and reasoning by engaging in grade-level appropriate strategies to develop their analogical reasoning. We plan to especially use our implementation of the new science course of study to document their growth in making meaningful connections between new information and prior knowledge and experiences. The teachers will share more on both of these goals as the year goes on.

Starting August 1st new windows for the upper level in the original building will be installed one room at a time. Since there are ten rooms (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, art, staff lounge, offices), the work is scheduled to be done before the August 18th opening staff meeting: your prayer for the smooth completion of this project is appreciated.

Yours in His Service,

Carol A. Folian
Principal

P.S. I hope that Summer Homework is going well. The expectation details were sent home in the June parent letter and also on the Principal's Page on the school's website. If there is extra room after this letter is complete, they will be reprinted as the last notice/reminder. If no room – it basically is to read, to write, do math, do service, and be active. ☺

IMPORTANT NOTICES and Reminders:

1. Staff changes for 2011-12: First we share the good news that Mrs. Carol Brand was assigned to Immaculate Conception for the new year. That is an answer to prayer and although we will miss her, we are happy that she was reassigned as that was not a certainty. The only other change at OLP s that Mrs. Deanna Rieser will be a primary aide taking Miss Hannah Starr's place.
2. Automated Tuition Payments through FACTS will start this again month on the 5th or the 20th per your requested date. Those paying in full should have done so by now (only a few are missing – thank you to the rest!). Remember that the 2010-11 Scrip tuition money earned by your family was already deducted from your tuition pledge.
3. Please send in two separate checks for:
 - 1) Home-School dues -- \$15.00 made out to OLP H-S. As a requirement of enrollment, all families must join the Home-School Association and the yearly dues are fifteen dollar (\$15.00). You will not get the 2011-12 School Directory until those dues are paid. An extra copy is available for \$3.00.
 - 2) Assignment Notebooks – For all students in grades 3-8 please send \$6.00 per student to pay for the two assignment notebooks that will be used this year. If paying by check, please make this check out to OLP School. They are \$3.00 each and your child will receive the second notebook in February.
4. There will be a staggered start for **FULL-Day Kindergarten Only:**
 - Wednesday, August 24
 - Full-Day -- Only those NOT IN after-school child care (SACC)*
 - Thursday, August 25
 - Full-Day -- Only those IN SACC
 - Friday, August 26
 - All Kindergarteners

* SACC registration is not complete and since we try to divide the class in half those with siblings already going to SACC may be asked to come on Wednesday instead of Thursday. If this becomes necessary, you will receive a call from the office. More information on SACC and other questions will be answered at the New parent Orientation Meeting (see #7).

5. Cafeteria News –This fall the price of the hot lunch will continue to be \$2.50 and start on the first day of school.. Milk/juice will be \$.50. Please plan to have your children buy the hot lunch. In a Federal Lunch Program, OLP gets commodities based on the number of lunches it provides to students – the more lunches, the more commodities thereby lowering the cost of the individual lunches. Please apply for the free and/or reduced lunch program any time during the school year should your family's income meet the required guidelines. Please see the separate information sheets.

6. Volunteer Hours – As the handbook makes clear, every family is expected to volunteer a minimum of fifty hours of their time at school. This is part of the “expense” of having children at a Catholic School, and it is a responsibility that cannot be taken lightly or and should not be ignored. Tuition does not cover all the personnel needed to provide the programs that allow our children to thrive; you are needed.

The two volunteer sheets in this mailing are the Lunchtime and Morning Prefect form from Mrs. Kriss Swint, Prefect Coordinator, and the Home –School Committee Volunteer form from Mrs. Mary Foley, Volunteer Coordinator. Every family is expected to return the volunteer forms and is asked to strongly consider that every lunch hour requires three and does best with four parent volunteers to prefect the playground and cafeteria.

IMPORTANT -- All OLP in-school volunteers (including coaches) are required to have been fingerprinted and have attended the Protecting God's Children Workshop. We will try to have fingerprinting available here in the library after the New Parent Orientation meeting on August 23rd (see #7 below), and in the OLP school office from 7:30am-3pm on September 2nd - September 7th. It is also available (when not at a feeder school) at Watterson HS.. The fingerprinting only takes five minutes, your driver's license and \$25.00 in cash or check made out to OLP School.

For dates and times when the Protecting God's Children Workshop is being offered and to register on-line go to www.virtusonline.org On-line registration is required for all sessions.

7. The Mandatory "New to O.L.P." Parent Orientation Meetings will be held on Sunday, August 21:
- Mrs. DeStephen meets with All Full-Day Kindergarten Parents at 3:00 PM in her classroom (Enter Kindergarten/Junior High Doors -- North side of building)
 - Mrs. Gruber meets with All Half-Day Kindergarten Parents at 3:00 PM in her classroom (Enter Primary Doors -- West side of building)
 - Mrs. Folian meets with All New to OLP Parents at 4:00 PM in the Cafeteria (Enter Primary Doors -- West side of building)
 - Mrs. Jenn O'Brien will also be available to answer any SACC questions.
- Please be prompt as we will start and finish (4:45 PM – at the latest) on time. If you are unable to attend, please call the office.

8. General Reminders:

- A. Please complete and sign the enclosed Emergency Cards and return to school the first day to your child's homeroom teacher. Please review the medication policy in your Parent-Student Handbook. We need a form for all prescription and non-prescription medications. This form is available from the office and is also on the school's website.
- B. All Families will be sent a copy of the 2011 Parent-Student Handbook by the September 8th "Meet the Teacher" Meeting.
- C. The 2011-12 Opening School Mass on the first day of school, August 24 at 8:30 am, will be for grades 1-8. Please join us on the 24th!
- D. The 2011-12 Calendar is included in this mailing. It will also be printed on the inside of the Home and School Directory. Please be sure to check the monthly Parent Letters for any changes to the directory and dates listed in the calendar.
- E. For School-Age Child Care, contact Mrs. Jenn O' 261-1220. Registration is required and those who are not registered cannot be guaranteed a place.
- F. Uniform Reminders:
- Note: Starting this fall, girls may also wear navy blue skorts that meet the skirt length requirement.
- 1) Full uniform expected from the first day of school. This includes no dyed hair.
 - 2) Be sure your child's name is on everything you'd like back if lost.
 - 3) Don't shorten skirts or jumpers too high because growing legs shorten them soon enough.
 - 4) Socks must have a minimum of a 1" cuff.
 - 5) The gym uniform is required for grades 4-8. (Order form enclosed for new & Gr. 4 and on website for others.)

F. Uniform Reminders (cont.):

6) Uniform Shoes – The shoe policy adopted allows a conservative-colored leather shoe. Shoes must be below-ankle height*, have a back, and be flat-heeled (less than 1”).

Colors (only) = black, brown, blue, tan, gray, burgundy, white. Style = athletic or dress shoe that tie and/or buckle. No pull-on styles and no Converse-type shoes will be allowed. Check before wearing if in doubt.

-**** Please test shoes to be sure they have non-marking soles. ****-

* Be aware shoes are suppose to be below ankle height – it seems that there is a new style that is a little taller than the ankle but just barely too tall. IF a student’s socks show the minimum of 1” above the shoe, then the shoe will be considered to meet the dress code -- otherwise they will not be allowed

G. As far as we know -- First 5-Days’ Bus Service (check the newspaper or your public school):
Columbus Bus Routes (365-5074) -- normal AM and PM
Worthington (883-3180) & Olentangy (740-548-4547) Buses -- morning only

9. Reprint of Grades 2-8 Summer Homework – due Wednesday, August 24th.

Add Summer Homework requirements from June PL if space permits