

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Newsletter

We are on God's Mission

Issue 19

Jan. 3, 2018

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School forms leaders of tomorrow
by expanding minds, touching hearts and nurturing spirits
through the traditions and teachings of the Catholic faith.**

Dear Our Lady Families,

Welcome Back! I hope the Christmas season was happy and your New Year full of promise! We begin a new semester and new quarter with much to look forward to in these next 90 school days! There is lots of excitement in the building today—it is good to be back together!

Thank You! I am very humbled by the generous outpouring of gifts and cards during the holiday season. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness. My family and I certainly are enjoying the many sweet treats and gifts. I do not take for granted how fortunate I am to work in such a kind community; how I appreciate your goodness!

Best Gift of All! Congratulations to Kindergarten teacher, Brandy Balsler, and her husband Ben, on the birth of their second daughter, Ruby Ann, on Dec. 28. All are doing well and we are excited to see Scarlett in the big sister role! We send many prayers and happy wishes to little Ruby! For this third quarter, we welcome back Mr. Jeremy Sebolt as long-term substitute teacher for Mrs. Balsler. He and Mrs. Andres worked together previously, so they are quite the team already! Mr. Sebolt's email is jsebolt@olphna.org.

Semi-annual tuition due - If you chose to pay your tuition semi-annually, the second payment is due Friday, January 12th. You can find the amount due on Jupiter under "Balance". Please feel free to call Connie Andres with any questions or if you need additional information.

Report Cards Jupiter access to report cards will be opened on Monday, Jan. 8 with second quarter grades. The second semester and third quarter begin today, Jan. 3.

Sweatshirt Orders If you'd like to order the new PTO sweatshirt or T shirt with *#Our Lady Pride* or a new middle school House T-shirt or hoodie, now is the time to place an order. See the order forms online. Order forms and payment are due in the school office by Friday, Jan. 12.

Site Visit Report Our school had a site visit on Sept. 20 as part of the Archdiocesan and Advanc Ed accreditation process to assure the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Elementary and Secondary Catholic Schools are met. Thirteen standards within the four domains of Mission and Catholic Identity, Leadership and Governance, Academic Excellence, and Operational Vitality were examined. The site visit team was tasked with giving commendations and recommendations in each area. Here is a synopsis of the results:

Strengths noted are the many opportunities students have to enrich their faith life, the strong curricular rigor and cross curricular emphasis along with an "A" accountability score and Four Star status from the state. The highly qualified faculty and staff with principal support were acknowledged. 44 accolades were noted under the 13 benchmarks with 23 options to pursue continuing improvement.

Recommendations included continuing to connect the Catholic faith to everyday life, marketing of vouchers and tax credit scholarships so parents and parishioners know the power of these funds to afford a quality Catholic education. It is recommended that a 3-5 year financial plan be developed by the Finance Committee, School Commission, pastor, principal and business manager to ensure good allocation of resources and stewardship. Surveying families for feedback was also recommended, and we have just completed this survey.

Floyd County Little League Signups Information about this year's signups for Floyd County baseball and softball leagues has been posted on our school website.

Marketing The best way to market our school, retain current families and increase student enrollment is through relationships. Hallmarks of Our Lady are the attention to detail, warm family feeling, academic excellence, strong Catholic identity and exceptional parent support. Each family has their own story to tell and we appreciate you sharing your school pride with family, friends and the community. As you can tell, I am most grateful for your suggestions and feedback so we can reach more students and give them our best. We welcome phone calls and the chance to give Our Lady tours at any time. Open House begins the 2018-19 enrollment season and is held on Sunday, Jan. 28 from noon-3:00 PM.

Providence News See the Cheer Clinic flyer online. The Providence High Make-up Placement Test for entering freshmen is on Saturday, Jan. 6.

Amazon Smile When you place Amazon orders, please use Amazon Smile whenever possible. See the online flyer for details. Simply by ordering through Amazon Smile, together, we may make a big difference for Our Lady!

Winter Closing and Delay Information Remember, Our Lady has our own announcement and does not follow New Albany Floyd County or Providence High. You will receive news of winter weather delays or closings through Jupiter by 6:00 AM, on Facebook and the Our Lady website, or watch WDRB for school closings and delayed starts. No news is good news—that means we are on a regular schedule!

If we have instructional time to make up, due to snow days, we will use days in the following order: Feb. 19, May 4, Mar. 12, Mar. 13. Of course, we are hoping for an uninterrupted year of instruction, but want to plan for the unexpected!

Our Fruit of the Spirit for January is **Faithfulness**, so we are on God's Mission of Faithfulness to start the new year. Here's to a productive week and a grace-filled year!
I hope you are staying warm and healthy!
Mary Ann

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, Jan. 3	WEEK ONE, 6:00 PM in Wagner Hall
Friday, Jan. 5	8:00 AM All School Mass
Monday, Jan. 8	SPIRIT DAY
Friday, Jan. 19	2:00 PM Grs. K-8 Right to Life Prayer Service
Monday, Jan. 15	NO SCHOOL – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, Jan. 22	PTO Meeting, 7:00 PM
Wednesday, Jan. 24	1 st Communion Parent Meeting, 6:30 PM in Wagner Hall
Sunday, Jan. 28	OPEN HOUSE – Noon-3:00 PM -- Beginning of Catholic Schools Week