

Cougar Express



September Highlights

- ... 2: Picture Day
- ... 3: Early Dismissal (Noon) - No After School Care
- ... 4 & 7: No School
- ... 8: Memorial of the Birth of Mary
- ... 9: Adoration, 9 am, Main Church
- ... 10: 8th Grade Retreat
- ... 11: 7th Grade Parents Mass, 8 am, Church
- ... 11 & 12: OLSS Volleyball Tournament
- ... 12: Memorial of the Holy Name of Mary
- ... 14: Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- ... 15: Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows
- ... 18: Middle School Back to School Dance, 3:30—6:00 pm, Gym
- ... 18: Grandparents Day
- ... 18: Progress Reports Distributed
- ... 21-25: Jesus Club Book Fair
- ... 22: Memorial of Our Lady, Queen of Peace
- ... 29: Feast of the Archangels
- ... 30: Picture Retake Day

September 2009

Issue 2

From the Principal's Desk

Dear OLSS Community,

I can do all things through Christ who is my strength. Philippians 4:13

This will be our theme/motto throughout our new school year. You will read this motto in our letters, newsletters, memos, etc. The children will receive daily reminders of our motto during morning prayers, as they go about the daily routines, and events throughout the year. I would also invite the parents and teachers to incorporate this motto in your daily prayers to serve as a reminder that the strength to help us through the struggles of life can come through Christ if we allow Him to enter into our lives. Let us all continue to strengthen our faith through our actions; by being patient, considerate, loving, correcting each other in charity and not through anger and malice, and through daily prayer and a true faith in a Provident God.

In Christ
Fred Valle

Used Uniforms

Used uniforms are still available for sale. Please see Mrs. Gloria Tamayo if interested.

OLSS Website

Please visit our official school website at <http://www.olsschool.org>. You will find important announcements, this newsletter, the lunch schedule, teacher pages (to look up class work & homework) and much more.

Progress Reports / Grades Online

Progress reports will be given to students on Friday, September 19. Please review your child's academic progress and then sign & return one progress report sheet to their homeroom teacher. If needed, you may call the front office to schedule a conference with your child's teacher. You may also access your children's grades online at <https://www.edline.net/Index.page>.

Project Wisdom

Welcome back, OLSS family and friends! I hope you had a restful summer with your children and are prepared for another fantastic school year!

Project Wisdom daily affirmations will continue to be an important part of morning assembly. What is Project Wisdom? Project Wisdom is a program consisting of daily messages dedicated to building character, self-esteem, and community within our students. Project Wisdom promotes ethical thinking and conduct, motivation for students to do and be their best, and an acceptance of the diversity that makes our world so unique. September's Project Wisdom Theme is *Great Expectations*. The daily affirmations throughout the month will address education, goals, and having a positive attitude. I encourage you to discuss and promote the Project Wisdom theme at home as a family.

Individual counseling, group counseling, and Rainbows will be offered through the OLSS counseling program. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you feel that your son/daughter would benefit from any or all of the services that the counseling program has to offer.

In addition, I will be providing classroom guidance presentations utilizing the "Protecting God's Children" curriculum. This program is accepted by the Diocese and is instrumental in ensuring our children's safety. This year, all grade levels will begin with Lesson #1 in the fall and Lesson #2 in the spring.

May God bless you!
Ms. Lucie M. Garcia
Guidance Counselor

Campbell's Labels, Box Tops & Cell Phones

We will continue to accept Campbell's Labels and Box Tops for Education this school year. You may send them in a baggy or envelope with your child at any time.

We will also continue to collect empty InkJet print cartridges and used cell phones (any brand); we continue to reap benefits from these items. However, **we will no longer accept used Laserjet Toner cartridges**; those may be taken to the McAllen recycling center.

Club de Español 2009-2010



The Spanish Club is a culturally-oriented organization formed by Jr. High students to promote Hispanic Cultural activities throughout the campus.

Students engage in Hispanic and Latin American cultural activities such as learning historic events and celebrations, customs and traditions awareness, dances, arts & crafts, community service projects, etc.

2009-2010 Spanish Club Members

- ... Danielle Bassetti (President)
- ... Montserrat Bonilla (Vice-President)
- ... Carlos Deándar
- ... Cynthia Del Río † (Honorary Member)
- ... Eline De La Fuente (Special Events Coordinator)
- ... Fernando García
- ... Javier Holguín (6th grade Coordinator)
- ... Helena Manrique De Lara (7th grade Coordinator)
- ... Fabiola López-Dávila
- ... Luz Ortega
- ... Yuria Páez
- ... Victoria Quaiocoe
- ... Jamie Sandoval (Secretary)
- ... Fernanda Tijerina (8th grade Coordinator)
- ... Stefan Yarto

The Spanish Club would like to dedicate our school year activities to the memory of our beloved friend Cynthia Del Río.

In Christ,
Ms. Bay
Spanish Club Coordinator

Even in the most difficult circumstances human freedom is capable of extraordinary acts of sacrifice and solidarity to welcome the life of a new human being. - Pope Benedict XVI

Student Council 2009-2010

Student Council is a service organization that plans activities for the student body, and works with the PTO, the Athletic Program, faculty, and staff to promote school spirit and unity.

The following students have been elected by the student body as their 2009-2010 Student Council Representatives:

Executive Board Members

Ana Lucia Garza (Executive Board Coordinator)
Gerardo Martínez (6th grade Student Council Coordinator)
Britanny Garza (7th grade Student Council Coordinator)
Cecilia Pérez (8th grade Student Council Coordinator Valeria Gómez)

6th Grade Members

Yuria Páez (Assistant Coordinator)
Paul Bonilla
José Andrés González
Mariana Lozano

7th Grade Members

Ana Georgina Garza (Assistant Coordinator)
Maria José Balderas
Kiara Olmeda
Carlos Ramírez

8th Grade Members

Ashwin George (Assistant Coordinator)
Caroline Harms
Etienne Sunday

Camera Crew Members

Marisol García (Coordinator)
Deborah Benavides (Assistant Coordinator)
Oscar Espinosa
Javier Exiquio González
Mariano Salinas

We are all looking forward for an exciting year!

Respectfully,
Ms. Turbay
Mr. O'Brien
Student Council Advisors

JClub

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Have you been looking for a way to ensure that your child will have access to quality books, music, and movies that highlight our Catholic beliefs and values? Then welcome to JClub—where the “J” stands for Jesus!

JClub Book Fairs provide your family with a wonderful selection of Catholic resources from PAULINE Books & Media, the publishing house of the Daughters of St. Paul.

JClub offerings include:

- Board books
- Picture books
- Coloring and Activity books
- Bible stories
- Music
- Sticker books
- Saint biographies
- Comic books
- Prayer books
- Parent and teacher resources

Our school will be hosting a JClub Book Fair September 21-25. Your child will be bringing home a book list, and we encourage you to look over the list with your child. A percentage of all proceeds will benefit our school library.

All Orders Due By: Friday, September 25, 2009

Make all checks payable to: OLSS

Your order will be shipped to the school by Pauline Books & Media within three to four weeks of receipt.

Sincerely,

Pat Espinosa
OLSS Library Manager

P.S. You and your child can visit www.JClubCatholic.org for more activities and games!

WORLD RHYTHMS ARTS PROGRAM (WRAP)



Dear 6th Grade parents,

I am excited to be introducing my students to this multiple-discipline curriculum that incorporates drumming, singing, dance, and culture. Rooted in traditional West African music and dance, WRAP develops arts and life skills through a holistic approach to music and movement education. Students play their way through 20 developmentally progressive lessons, learning authentic drumming and dance skills, traditional rhythms, culture, geography, and essential life skills.

The following are some of the WRAP core values. . (P.R.I.D.E.)

Progress

We can make and acknowledge our progress by

- ... Keeping our curiosity alive-pushing to learn more.
- ... Showing initiative and courage by trying new things and taking risks.

Responsibility

We can show that we are taking responsibility by

- ... Being on time, well, prepared and actively listening to each other
- ... Treating instruments and each other with care
- ... Being respectful of ourselves and each other

Inclusion

We can agree to help everyone feel included by

- ... Helping those who need or ask for it
- ... Being patient with those who may need more time
- ... Cooperating with our fellow musicians.

Diversity

We can agree to celebrate diversity by

- ... Acknowledging that everyone has different skills and needs
- ... Using our different talents to create the best possible outcomes
- ... Welcoming all ideas and perspectives, even when we may disagree with them.

Excellence

We can agree to work together towards excellence by

WRAP Continued

- ... Paying attention to every detail of the practice and performance
- ... Showing perseverance-even when it's difficult
- ... Trying to improve in every way-even in ways no one else may notice
- ... Being accountable for our actions

I am looking forward to working with your child and forming him/her into the best musician he/she can be!

Musically,
Mrs. L. Gomez

Fall Raffle

The new school year has begun and this year Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School will be having a Parish/School Octoberfest 2009 Festival on October 17, 2009. The Festival will be an all day event from 11am to 9pm. Octoberfest 2009 promises to be a fun family event with lots of food, games, and entertainment. All proceeds from this event will benefit Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School.

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School will also be having their annual Fall Raffle during Octoberfest 2009. Tickets are \$5.00 each and will be sold after masses at OLS, church office and school office. The following prizes are to be raffled:

- ... 1st Prize: 2010 Mazda 3
- ... 2nd Prize: Philips 42" 1080p 60Hz LCD HDTV & Philips home theater audio system
- ... 3rd Prize: Outdoor Bar-B-Que Package (includes a convertible picnic table, Grill, and 32" Metal Fire Pit)

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy Octoberfest 2009. There will be games, food, BINGO, silent and live auctions and many more activities to participate in.

In the spirit of cooperation for the continued success of our school, we hope that everyone will come out and join us October 17, 2009.





♪ OLS CHOIR AUDITIONS ♪

Hello OLS family!

Once again I am looking forward to a new and exciting year for our OLS CHOIR! If your son/daughter is in grades 3rd-8th and is interested in auditioning please fill out this form and return it to me by Thursday, Sept 3rd.

Auditions will be held Tuesday, Sept 8th starting at 3pm in the Music room. I will have a short meeting with parents following the auditions.

Choir Practice will be held on Tuesdays from 3:00-4:30 beginning in September.

**Former choir members will not need to audition but will have to fill out the form.

If you have any questions, contact me at the school.

Musically,

Leticia L. P. Gomez

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Parent signature: _____

Number where parent can be reached: _____

Dear Parents,

**How would you like to see your child's name
in lights?**

Well now you can!

**For \$10, you can have your child's name
on the school marquee for their birthday!**

**Just fill out the attached Birthday Order
Form with your child's name and birthday
and turn it in to their homeroom teacher.**

More order forms are available at the office.

**Thank you,
Student Council**



Birthday Order Form

**Have your name on the school marquee
on your special day!**



Children's Names

Birthdays

Purchase SCRIP cards to earn service hours!

Your SCRIP purchase is just like cash. They are pre-paid cards for YOU to use at your favorite clothing store, Eat at your Favorite restaurant, and do your grocery shopping.

You earn 1 hour for every \$50 spent

Choose from a large variety of vendors.

Make OLSS your one-stop shopping center for Personal Use , Birthday Gifts and Christmas Shopping List.

Always on hand at the front office:

P.F. Chang's ~

Olive Garden/Red Lobster ~

Starbucks ~ H.E.B. ~ Wal-

Mart/Sam's ~ Chili's/Macaroni Grill

~ and iTunes Cards



STOP by the front office **NOW** to purchase your gift cards

Orders are placed weekly
Pre-Paid orders for non-stocked cards are due by **Thursday!**

Any Questions:
Call Minna Tamez at
956-686-3651

SCRIP CARDS SCRIP CARDS



OUR LADY OF SORROWS CATHOLIC SCHOOL
1100 GUMWOOD AVE.
MCALLEN, TX 78501
PHONE: (956) 686-3651 FAX: (956) 686-1996
www.olsschool.org



August 1, 2009

Revised - Family Service Hour Program Guidelines Instructions 2009-2010

The following guidelines will govern the family service hour program for Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School. Please refer to these items regarding specific policies.

Each family is required to perform a minimum of 10 hours of service to the school community. The service hours can be done in full or in two installments. Any hours in excess of the family commitment are greatly appreciated and vital to the success of the many events throughout the year. However, additional hours will **NOT** be credited to other persons or school years.

This service can be performed in a number of ways at a variety of functions throughout the school year. These include:

- Purchasing Scrip Ea. \$50 = 1 hour
- Octoberfest 2009
- PTO Sponsored Events – All School Meals, Set up, Serving, Walk-a-thon
- Gala Projects – Set-up/Working at Boards, Working on Projects
- Any level of sponsorship (You **MUST** be the sponsor)
- Concession Stand/Admissions at Home Games
- Selling Car Raffle Tickets at Church – 2 shifts of work = 1 hour
- Purchasing/Selling Car Raffle Tickets - Ea \$50 = 1 service hour
- Attend PTO Nights = 1 Hour
- Other Service to the School as Approved by Administration

Service hours must be documented on the Service Hour Logs and verified by school personnel overseeing the event or the approved representative of the school. The Service Hour Log form is enclosed. It is the responsibility of each family to keep their Service Hour Log updated. Service Logs must be brought to the event for approval. Your personal Service Log is the only form of verification of service hours.

Service Hour Logs **MUST** be submitted to the front office or to Minna Tamez by Dec. 18, 2009 with the 5 or more hours completed and by May 14, 2010 with the last 5 hours completed. School personnel are not responsible for lost or misplaced Service Hour Log and will not assist in recreating lost forms.

Service hour logs **NOT** turned in by Dec. 18, 2009 will be billed \$50 to the family account for every hour not completed. Service hour logs will **NOT** be accepted after Dec. 18, 2009. Service hour logs **NOT** turned in by May 14, 2010 will be billed \$50 to the family account for every hour not completed. Service Hour Logs will **NOT** be accepted after May 14, 2010.

Please call Minna Tamez if you have any questions concerning your very valuable and appreciated service to our school community.

In Christ,

Fred Valle,
Principal

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School
1100 Gumwood Ave
McAllen, TX 78501

**2009 – 2010 Mandatory Service Hour Program
Service Hour Logs**

This policy statement outlines the terms and conditions of the "Service Hour Program" for the 2009 – 2010 school year. This policy statement contains specific guidelines to help make the service hour program successful.

1. Only parents/legal guardians listed on OLSS registration records can be credited with Service Hours. Any hours accumulated in excess of the minimum requirements will be appreciated although NOT credited to other persons or school years. Five (5) hours must be completed by December 18, 2009 and the other five (5) hours by May 14, 2010.
2. Only authorized personnel designated by the Administration can approve all service hours.
3. Parent/legal guardians not meeting the minimum number of service hours required will pay Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School \$50.00 for each mandatory service hour not served or completed by Dec. 18, 2009 and May 14, 2010.
4. Mandatory service hours can be made in various forms of services.
5. Parents/legal guardians must keep their "Service Hour Log" form updated. It is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian to turn in the Service Hour Log form to the Front Office or Minna Tamez, Dev. Dir. as soon as 5 hours are completed or by the required due date
6. Original Service Hour Log form (with original authorized personnel signatures) is to be used at all times. Photocopies of the form are not acceptable. Forms are available at the front office. It is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian to have their form available at all activities for immediate signature by authorized personnel.
7. Lost or misplaced Service Hour Logs are the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian. OLSS personnel will not assist in recreating lost forms.
8. Service hours are due in two installments. The first five (5) hours must be completed by December 18, 2009. The remaining five (5) hours must be completed by May 14, 2010. No delay is allowed unless a previous, written agreement is made with an authorized personnel and/or the Principal.
9. Service hour log is due to the Front Office or Minna Tamez after the five (5) hours are completed. Service hours due by December 18, 2009 cannot be completed after that date. Service hours due on May 14, 2010 cannot be completed after that date. NOTE: May 14, 2010 is the final date to turn in Service Hour Log forms for credit. After this date the Service Hour Log will NOT be accepted.

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1100 Gumwood Ave
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Scrip Order Form

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PRE-PAID



Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School
1100 Gumwood Ave
McAllen, TX 78501
956-686-3651 Fax 956-686-1996



Name: _____ Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Oldest Student's Name: _____ Teacher: _____

PAYMENT DATE			PAYMENT AMOUNT			CASH			CHECK NUMBER			RECEIPT NUMBER		
RETAILER	VALUE	QTY	TOTAL	RETAILER	VALUE	QTY	TOTAL	RETAILER	VALUE	QTY	TOTAL			
Aeropostale	\$25			El Pollo Loco	\$10			Office Depot	\$25					
American Airlines \$100 or \$250	\$100 / \$250			Express	\$25			Office Max	\$25					
American Eagle Outfitters	\$25			Express for Men	\$25			Old Navy (Gap)	\$25					
American Express Gift Card	\$100 / \$200			Exxon Gas	\$25			Olive Garden (Red Lobster)	\$25					
Applebee's	\$25/\$50			Fairfield Inn (Marriott) \$50 or \$100 or	\$50			Outback Steakhouse	\$25					
AT & T 120 Minute Card	\$9.50			Family Christian Stores	\$50/\$100/\$500			P.F. Chang's China Bistro	\$25					
AutoZone	\$25			Foot Locker Stores/Lady Foot Locker/	\$25			Papa John's	\$10					
Avis Car Rental	\$50			Footaction USA	\$25			Payless Shoes	\$20					
Babies-R-Us	\$20			GameStop	\$25			Pep Boys	\$20					
Banana Republic	\$25			Gap Tri-Card (Banana Republic, Old	\$25			Pier 1 Imports	\$25					
Barnes & Noble \$10or\$25 or	\$10/ \$25/\$100			GNC	\$25			Pizza Hut	\$10					
Bath & Body Works \$10 or \$25	\$10 / \$25			Gymboree Store Only	\$25			Radio Shack	\$25					
Bed Bath & Beyond	\$25			H.E.B. \$25 or \$100	\$25			Red Lobster	\$25					
Best Buy \$25 or \$100 or \$250	\$25/\$100/\$250			Home Depot \$25 or \$100 or \$500	\$25 / \$100			Red Robin	\$25					
Blockbuster Gift Card	\$10			iTunes	\$25/\$100/\$500			Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory	\$10					
Budget Car Rental	\$50			Jack In The Box	\$15			Ross Dress for Less	\$25					
Build-A-Bear Workshop	\$25			JCPenney \$25 or \$100	\$10			Sam's Club \$25 or \$100 or \$250	\$25/ \$100/\$250					
Burger King	\$10			Joe's Crab Shack	\$25 / \$100			Sears \$25 or \$100 or \$250	\$25/\$100/\$250					
Celebrity Cruises	\$100			Kay Jewelers	\$25			Shell Gas \$25 or \$50 or \$100	\$25 /\$50/\$100					
Champs Sports Store	\$25			Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC)	\$50			Shoe Carnival	\$25					
Cheesecake Factory	\$25			Kohl's Department Store \$25 or \$100	\$5			Sports Authority	\$25					
Chili's Grill & Bar	\$25			Lane Bryant	\$25 / \$100			Staples \$25 or \$100	\$25 / \$100					
Cinemark Theaters	\$25			Limited	\$25			Starbucks \$10 or \$25	\$10 / \$25					
Claire's	\$10			Little Caesar's Pizza	\$25			Subway \$10 or \$50	\$10 / \$50					
Cold Stone Creamery	\$10			Logan's Roadhouse	\$20			Sunglass Hut	\$25					
Comfort Inn \$25 or \$100	\$25 / \$100			Lowe's Home Improvement \$25 or	\$25			Sun Harvest	\$25					
Courtyard (Marriott) \$50 or \$100	\$50/\$100/\$500			Macy's \$25 or \$100	\$25 / \$100			T.J. Maxx \$25 or \$100	\$25 / \$100					
Cracker Barrel	\$10			Marriott Hotels \$50 or \$100 or \$500	\$25 / \$100			Texas Roadhouse	\$25					
CVS Pharmacy \$25 or \$100	\$25/\$100			Marshalls (TJ Maxx) \$25 or \$100	\$50/\$100/\$500			The Children's Place	\$25					
Dell Computers	\$100			MasterCuts (Regis Salons)	\$25 / \$100			Toys-R-Us	\$20					
Denny's	\$10			Men's Warehouse	\$25			VISA Credit Gift Cards \$25 or \$50 or \$100	\$25/\$50/\$100					
Dillard's \$25 or \$100	\$25 / \$100			Michael's	\$25			Wal-Mart \$25 or \$100 or \$250	\$25/\$100/\$250					
Disney Gift Card \$25 or \$100 or	\$25/\$100/			Mimi's Cafe	\$25			Walgreens \$20 or \$100	\$20 / \$100					
Domino's Pizza	\$5			Motherhood Maternity	\$25			Wendy's	\$10					
Dress Barn	\$25			Nike	\$25			Holiday Gift Card Sleeves	\$.50					

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