



March Highlights

- ... 1-5: COGAT Testing
(Grades 2, 5 & 7)
- ... 1-5: Spanish Lenten Mission, 6:30 pm, Chapel
- ... 2: 1st Eucharist Parent Meeting, 6:30 pm, Gym
- ... 4: 5th Grade Vocation Day, San Juan Basilica
- ... 5: 2nd Grade Parent Mass, 8 am, Church
- ... 6: 1st Penance, 9 am, Church
- ... 8-12: ITBS Testing
- ... 8-12: English Lenten Mission, 6:30 pm, Chapel
- ... 12: 3rd Quarter Ends
- ... 13: Track Meet
- ... 15-19: Spring Break
- ... 20: Memorial of St. Joseph
- ... 22: 4th Quarter Begins
- ... 23: Graduation Pictures
- ... 24: Eucharistic Adoration, 9 am, Church
- ... 24: Lenten Penance Service, 7 pm, Church
- ... 25: Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord
- ... 26: Report Cards Distributed, Edline Update
- ... 27: PSIA Meet, St. Paul Lutheran, McAllen
- ... 28: Palm Sunday
- ... 31: Live Stations of the Cross, 7 pm, Gym

Holy Week
March 28 - April 3

Cougar Express



March 2010

Issue 8

From the Principal's Desk

Dear OLSS Parents,

Greetings from the faculty and staff of Our Lady of Sorrows School. As you know, many very, very good things are happening at our school. The children are well engaged in the academic program. The halls and playgrounds are full of life. All of us are working extremely hard to immerse the children in not only the practices of our Catholic religion but in the tenets of our faith. It is, of course, our desire that our students are not only well prepared academically, but that they also internalize the belief in and love for God by living our Catholic faith.

One of the areas that I am working on with the faculty and staff is the elimination of bullying. There have been several incidents that I have been made aware of that involve bullying. I have consequently sent a strong message to our students that this type of behavior is totally unacceptable and will be dealt with swiftly. As most of you know, bullying can be physical and/or psychological. Often times, the psychological bullying has more detrimental long term effects. There have been incidents of children gossiping about each other, calling each other names, and saying extremely unkind things about their classmates. This has resulted in students not wanting to come to school and causing great anxiety to them. I am asking that you as parents, as the primary educators of your children, speak with your children about how bullying can be harmful to others and cause a great deal of suffering. If they feel that they are being "picked on" encourage them to let a teacher or an administrator know. If you discover that they are "picking on" someone then please explain to them the harm they may be causing to another human being and tell them to STOP.

The faculty and I are determined to put an end to this kind of behavior. If I or a member of the faculty is made aware that a student is being bullied, the student will be called into the office and the appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. The parent will be asked to come in and meet with an administrator and a behavior contract will be written. If the requirements of the behavior contract are not met, i.e. the student does not stop the bullying, then you will be asked to withdraw the child from the school.

My prayer is that all of us can work as a team to help the children express their faith through their actions of kindness and respect towards each other. It is also my prayer that the faith will permanently emblaze their hearts and serve as a beacon throughout their lives.

Always in Christ,
Fred Valle

Report Cards / Grades Online

Report cards will be distributed Friday, March 26th. You may always access your children's grades online at <https://www.edline.net/Index.page>.

From The Principal's Desk

Estimados Padres de Familia de OLSS,

Reciban un caluroso saludo de todo el personal del Colegio de nuestra Señora de Dolores.

Como ustedes saben, hay cosas muy positivas pasando en el Colegio. Los niños están trabajando en nuestro programa académico. Se siente la vitalidad de los niños, en los de patios y pasillos. Nosotros estamos trabajando duramente para fomentar en los niños no sólo la práctica de nuestra religión Católica, sino el dogma de nuestra fé. Por lo tanto, nuestro deseo no solamente es que nuestros estudiantes estén bien preparados académicamente, sino también profundizar la fé y el amor por Dios viviendo nuestra fé Católica.

Una de las áreas en la qual estamos trabajando es la eliminación del acoso mutuo. Han habido varios incidentes en relación a este tema que manda un mensaje negativo a nuestros estudiantes. Este tipo de comportamiento es inaceptable y actuaremos rápidamente para detenerlo. Como todos ustedes saben, acosar a un ser humano muchas veces tiene serios problemas psicológicos o físicos que les pueden causar un efecto perjudicial por largo tiempo. Hemos tenido incidentes acerca de niños hablando mal uno del otro "criticando negativamente" a sus compañeros, dándose sobrenombres cuyo resultados hacen que el niño no quiera asistir a la escuela, causándole gran ansiedad.

Les pido a ustedes como padres de familia, los cuales son los primeros educadores de sus hijos, platicar con ellos acerca de como el acoso puede ser dañino a un ser humano y causar sufrimiento. Si ellos sienten que han sido señalados, aconséjeles avisar a un maestro o administrador inmediatamente. Si usted descubre que su hijo (a) a causado acoso a alguien, entonces explíquele el daño que talvés a hecho a otro ser humano, y dígame que deje de hacerlo. El personal del Colegio y yo estamos firmemente dispuestos a terminar con ésta clase de comportamiento. Si yo o cualquier miembro del Colegio somos notificados que un estudiante ha sido acosado, el estudiante será llamado a la dirección. Tomaremos acción con una disciplina apropiada. Se le pedirá al padre de familia asistir a una junta con un administrador del Colegio y se le dará por escrito un contrato de comportamiento.

From The Principal's Desk Cont'd

Si el estudiante no cumple con lo establecido como dejar de molestar a sus compañeros, entonces se le pedirá a los padres de familia que retiren al niño (a) del Colegio. Pido a Dios que todos nosotros trabajemos como un equipo para ayudar a los niños a expresar su fé através de sus acciones, compasión y respeto mutuo. Tambien es mi deseo que la fé enardezca sus corazones y sirva como una luz através de sus vidas.

Suyo en Cristo,
Fred Valle

Virtue and Saint of the Month

Starting in February we began incorporating a virtue and saint of the month into our morning prayer, religion bulletin boards, and religion classes. This focus on one saint and one virtue will complement our Words of Wisdom, and be an excellent supplement to our religion curriculum.

We're using Virtues culled from the fruits of the Spirit: (Galatians 5:22-23, 2 Corinthians 6:6, Ephesians 5:9, 2 Peter 1:5-7): Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-control, and Chastity.

The saints will be matched to a particular virtue, and will be ones that may have particular appeal to our kids.

The list of virtues/saints being used this year are as follows:

February: St. John Bosco and Love (appropriate for Valentine's day and as we begin the season of Lent)

March: St. Joseph and Patience (a good tie-in for Lent this year)

April: St. Catherine of Sienna and Faithfulness (appropriate for Easter)

May: Mary, Mother of Jesus and Generosity (to round out the year)

It is our fervent hope that by stressing these virtues and saints we can give our community another way of imitating the life-giving presence of Jesus.

Blessings & Peace,
Hugo De La Rosa III
Campus Minister

Project Wisdom

March's Project Wisdom Theme is *Making the World a Better Place*. Throughout the month, the daily affirmations will address citizenship, helping others, the ability one individual possesses to make a difference in another's life, and smiles – a universal language we can all practice. I encourage you to discuss and promote the Project Wisdom theme at home as a family.

Included in this month's newsletter is the March edition of *Home & School Connection*. You'll find some helpful solutions to discipline issues, ideas to increase your child's vocabulary, and methods to look beyond stereotypes.

Individual and group counseling sessions continue to be available to any student in need of services. Please visit my website for a description of the services available. As your children prepare for their upcoming exams, don't forget to review the testing tips available on the website! If you have any questions/concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you!

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

Golf Classic & Car Raffle

The Annual Golf Classic and Car Raffle will be held on Friday, April 30, 2010 at the Palm View Golf Course. The golf classic is one of the finest tournaments in the Rio Grande Valley. Everyone in the community is invited to participate. Team sponsorships are available at \$1,150, \$2,150 and \$5,000. Also available are hole sponsorships for \$150. Special donations are also accepted. The winner of the raffle will have a choice of one of the following 2010 vehicles from the Ramirez Family Dealerships valued at \$35,000: Land Rover LR2, Ford F150, or Ford GT Mustang. The donation for each ticket is \$50, and only 2,000 tickets will be sold. The drawing for the car will be held on Friday, April 30, 2010 at the Palm View Golf Course at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested in purchasing car raffle tickets they are available at the school, church office, and after each weekend mass. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to the school's endowment and general funds to assist in the education of the children of our community.

Golf Classic & Car Raffle Cont'd

We kindly request your assistance with this event by donating a sponsorship. We invite you to purchase or sponsor a team. You may contact the school at 686-3651 for further information.

Any contribution is greatly appreciated. We thank you in advance for helping Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School in providing a quality Catholic education to our children.

Minna Tamez
Development Director

PSIA Update

PSIA Update:

This year a total of 145 students from grades 1 to 8 will be competing at the District Level on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at St. Paul Lutheran School in McAllen. A letter to parents was sent out two (2) weeks ago to inform parents of their child/children participating in PSIA District competition.

You will know from your child/children whether they will be advancing to State level. State competition is scheduled on a Saturday, April 24, 2010 in Fort Worth, Texas. We look forward to a successful competition this year. There is a list of participating PSIA students and their coaches on page 4.

Ms. Thomason
OLSS – PSIA Coordinator

OLSS Students Compete in San Antonio

Several OLSS students competed in a Free Throw Competition on Saturday, February 13, 2010 sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Diocese of Brownsville. The winners of that competition were invited to compete at the regional level on Sunday, February 21st at State Farm Arena in Hidalgo, TX. Jasmine and Karla Long competed in the girls division and received 1st Place in their age category; Alex Cisneros competed in the boys division and received 2nd place. Jasmine and Karla Long will be traveling to San Antonio, TX on March 6th to competing in the 2010 Knights of Columbus State Free Throw Championship. Congratulations go out to the Long sisters for a job well done!

PSIA Contestants & Coaches

Art Memory Contest (4/5) Ms. Arguelles 1 Marian Guerra 2 Sabrina Guzman 3Alma Regina Vaca	Maps, Graphs & Charts (5) Ms. Thomason 1 Gabriel Ramirez 2 Carlos Gonzales 3 Nick Villareal	Music Memory (3-5) Ms. Gomez 1 Frankie Salinas 2 Diego Mendez 3 Ariana Silva	Ready Writing (3) Sister Agbakoba 1 Patrick Graham 2 Valeria Arguelles 3 Patrick Garcia	Spelling (3) Mr. Gonzalez 1 Arjun Koolwal 2 Juliana Morales 3 Lilian Honrubia
Calculator Applications (6-8) Mr. O'Brien 1 Roberto Pena 2 Javier Exequio Gonzalez 3 Ashwin George	Maps, Graphs & Charts (6) Mr. Cleary 1 Jasmine Long 2 Diana Moreno 3 Jose Miguel Pineda	Music Memory (6/7) Ms. Gomez 1 Sandra Solis 2 Jamie Sandoval 3 Margaret Leal	Ready Writing (4) Ms. Tijerina 1 Salvador Moreno 2 Luciano Farias-Ramirez 3 Ana de Alba	Spelling (4) Mr. Gonzalez 1 Katherine Sacalise 2 Diego Mendez 3 Salvador Moreno
Creative Writing (1) Ms. Lucio 1 Alvaro Mayorga 2 Anna Honrubia	Maps, Graphs & Charts (7) Mr. Cleary 1 Armis Sunday 2 Alejandro Ramirez 3 Hugo Reza	Number Sense (4/5) Ms. Losada 1 Arush Shekar 2 Melissa Barragan 3 Ariana Silva	Ready Writing (5) Ms. Marez 1 Paulina Camara 2 Carlos Javier Sanchez 3 Gabriel Ramirez	Spelling (5) Ms. Camarena 1 Arush Shekar 2 Roberta Gutierrez 3 Daniela Paez
Creative Writing (2) Ms. Saenz 1 Andrea Espinosa 2 Gian Franco Laddaga	Maps, Graphs & Charts (8) Mr. Cleary 1 Roberto Pena 2 Valeria Reza 3 Ashwin George	Number Sense (6-8) Mr. Aguirre 1 Valeria Reza 2 Esteban Vidal 3 David Garcia	Ready Writing (6) Ms. Delos Reyes 1 Armis Sunday 2 Mary Catherine Es- guerra 3 Madelyn Guerra	Spelling (6) Ms. Camarena 1 Mary Catherine Es- guerra 2 Maheen Khizar 3 Jasmine Long
Dictionary Skills (4/5) Ms. Espinosa 1 Norisha Quaicoe 2 Isabella Pennick 3 Kayla Hickie	Mathematics (4) Sister Agbakoba 1 Arnoldo Garcia 2 Diana Moreno 3 Theodore Morales	On-Site Drawing (6) Ms. Arnold 1 Tiffany Yang 2 Daniela Blanco	Ready Writing (7) Ms. Jarvis 1 Helena Manrique 2 Leslie Sanchez 3 Chris De La Rosa	Spelling (7/8) Ms. Camarena 1 Casey Vasquez 2 Jorge Garza 3 Karla Espinosa
Dictionary Skills (6-8) Ms. Espinosa 1 Valeria Sanchez 2 Victor Jaramillo 3 Marijose Ochoa	Mathematics (5) Ms. Losada 1 Arush Shekar 2 Juan Carlos Lozano 3 Gabriel Ramirez	On-Site Drawing (8) Ms. Arnold 1 Daniela Garcia 2 Maheen Khizar	Ready Writing (8) Ms. Jarvis 1 Cecilia Perez 2 Ana Lucia Garza 3 Melanie San Roman	Storytelling (1) Ms. Lucio 1 Nathaniel Sanford 2 Rebekah Rodriguez
Impromptu Speaking (7/8) Mr. de la Rosa 1 Christopher De La Rosa 2 Stefan Yarto 3 Valeria Reza	Mathematics (6) Ms. Losada 1 Mary Catherine Es- guerra 2 Alexa Gutierrez 3 Kathleen Guerra	Poetry Interpretation (4) Ms. Tijerina 1 Eli Cisneros 2 Giovana Milano 3 Julieta Rey	Science (6) Mr. Brosnan 1 Armis Sunday 2 Maheen Khizar 3 Zachary Lucio	Storytelling (2) Ms. Saenz 1 Connor Daley 2 Mario Guerra
Listening (4/5) Ms. Quintanilla 1 Paulina Camara 2 Sarah Margo 3 Renata Nava	Mathematics (7) Mr. O'Keefe 1 Edgar Garcia 2 Ana Georgina Garza 3 Paloma Moreno	Poetry Interpretation (5) Ms. Marez 1 Mariel Salinas 2 Paulina Camara 3 Sarah Margo	Science (7) Mr. Brosnan 1 Silvia Camara 2 Chris De La Rosa 3 Joseph Cantu	Storytelling (3) Mr. Plata 1 Valentina Salinas 2 Reynaldo Galindo
Listening (6-8) Ms. Turbay 1 Roberto Pena 2 Etienne Sunday 3 Sara Marchan	Mathematics (8) Mr. O'Brien 1 Javier Exequio Gonzalez 2 Valeria Reza 3 Ashwin George	Poetry Interpretation (6) Ms. Delos Reyes 1 Elisa Lopez 2 Jaime Sandoval 3Sandra Solis	Science (8) Mr. Brosnan 1 Caleb Morales 2 Roberto Pena 3 Sarah Marchan	Vocabulary (5) Ms. Marez 1 Luis Gutierrez 2 Alejandro Arango 3 Kayla Hickie
Maps, Graphs & Charts (4) Ms. Thomason 1 Karla Long 2 Matthew Moreno 3 Eric Cardenas	Modern Oratory (7/8) Mr. De La Rosa 1 Shelseah Leal 2 Roberto Pena 3 Alec Padron	Poetry Interpretation (7/8) Ms. Jarvis 1 Natalia Meade 2 Valeria Laddaga 3 Margaret Leal	Spelling (2) Ms. De Leon 1 Rajiv Swarap 2 Javier Mayorga 3 Cody Castillo	Vocabulary (6) Ms. De Los Reyes 1 Armis Sunday 2 Mary Catherine Es- guerra 3 MarlaYanez
				Vocabulary (7/8) Mr. O'Keefe 1 Melanie San Roman 2 Valeria Sanchez 3 Victor Jaramillo

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
