



May Highlights

- ... 3-7: Teacher Appreciation Week
- ... 4: May Crowning, Morning Assembly
- ... 5: Eucharistic Adoration, 9 am, Church
- ... 6: Muffins with Mom, 7 am, Gym
- ... 9: Mother's Day
- ... 10: PSIA Awards, Morning Assembly
- ... 12: Recorder Concert, 7 pm, Gym
- ... 13: Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima
- ... 14: Edline Update
- ... 14: Sports Banquet, Gym
- ... 16-21: YO Trip (8th Grade)
- ... 18: Choir Concert, 7 pm, Gym
- ... 20: Last Day for PK
- ... 21: Kinder Celebration
- ... 23: Solemnity of Pentecost
- ... 24: 8th Grade Retreat
- ... 25: Awards Assembly, Morning Assembly
- ... 26: 8th Grade Graduation, 6 pm
- ... 28: Last Day of School, 1/2 Day, No After School Care
- ... June 2: Report Cards Mailed



Cougar Express



May 2010

Issue 10

From the Principal's Desk



Dear OLSS Community,

It is difficult to believe that we are fast approaching the end of the school year. I would like to thank the many people in our school community who made this a very successful year. In particular, I would like to thank the PTO for the successful fundraisers they sponsored. The money raised will be used to purchase computers, projectors, document cameras and other technology-related equipment. My many thanks go to the outgoing PTO presidents, Mrs. Rina Gonzalez and Mrs. Alejandra Vela; their leadership was invaluable to the school. Additionally, many praises to those of you who sponsored our golf tournament and purchased car raffle tickets. The money raised will be deposited in our endowment fund; the interest for this fund is used to fund scholarships and teacher salaries. I would also like to thank the teachers and staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. I have witnessed how hard they work for the children. Most of all, I would like to thank God for the children he has placed in our care. The children are a great gift to our community; a beautiful gift of God.

I pray that you remain safe throughout the summer months. I ask that you continue to pray with your children and take them to Mass at least once a week. Remember, "the family that prays together stays together."

May God shower you with abundant blessings.

In Christ,
Fred Valle

Tuition Reminder / Closing Accounts

To ensure we are able to continue providing the best possible educational opportunities, we need every family to honor their commitment contract for the 2009-2010 school year. **Tuition payments are due on the 1st of each month.** Thank you to each family that chooses to support our school and Catholic education by committing to the sacrifice of monthly tuition.

Also, please make sure all outstanding balances (tuition, lunch, scrip, YO, commencement, etc.) are brought current—participation in commencement is contingent on clearing these. Please contact the business office for more information.

Report Cards / Grades Online

Report cards will be mailed Wednesday, June 2. You may always access your children's grades online at <https://www.edline.net/Index.page>.

Project Wisdom



May's Project Wisdom Theme is "Lemons or Lemonade". Throughout the month, the daily affirmations will address how one's determination and perseverance in overcoming obstacles can lead to their success.

I encourage you to discuss and promote the Project Wisdom theme at home as a family.

Included in this month's newsletter is the May edition of "Home & School Connection". You'll find sections that will assist you and your children in overcoming the summer blues. Remind your children to follow safety rules no matter what activity they may be participating in. Safety first!

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. 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

SchoolReach Parent Contact System

We are excited to announce a new technology that was implemented in February. Through a company called SchoolReach, we are subscribing to an automated calling system that will allow messages to be delivered to all parents via phone call and/or text message. Through this system, OLSS administration will be able to contact all families with specific messages regarding school events, major changes, weather announcements, etc. We are optimistic this will improve communication and provide another means to circulate important information.

If you have any questions please contact Mr. O'Keefe in the office at 956-686-3651.



***I am the way,
the truth
and the
life.***

Technology Resources Continued

MyTeacherWeb

<http://www.myteacherweb.com>

Parents and students may sign up for this free web resource which alerts you (through email or phone) whenever a teacher updates their web page. You can choose which teachers to add, and it will help consolidate homework (and other) information.

A Parent's Guide to the Teen Brain

<http://www.drugfree.org/TeenBrain/index.html>

Through the use of video, interactive segments, scenario-based role-playing experiences, and practical advice from experts, A Parent's Guide to the Teen Brain explores the science behind teenage brain development and how it shapes normal teenage attitude and behavior. Find tools and tips – all designed to help you connect with your teen. Gain insights into teen brain development and apply your new knowledge of normal teenage behavior to real life.

The Parent's Resource Center

<http://www.drugfree.org/Parent/>

The Parents Resource Center provides advice and stories from parents and professionals about drug prevention, intervention and raising healthy teens.

Virtue & Saint of the Month

Our saint for the month of April is St. Mary, Mother of God, while our virtue for the month is generosity.

May is traditionally a month dedicated to Mary, so it seemed appropriate to spend this month learning more about the Mother of Jesus. We know that she was a very young girl (about the age of 15 or so) when Gabriel appeared to her with a message from God. We know that she accepted God's call with a willingness to serve and a heart and soul open to whatever God asked of her.

Mary quietly pondered all the things she saw her son do, and when he started his ministry she was one of his most faithful disciples. She stood by him as the

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PSIA

Approximately 103 private schools participated in the PSIA (Private School Interscholastic Association) state-level competition held on April 24, 2010 at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas. Students from schools in Amarillo, Argyle, Arlington, Austin, Beaumont, Brownsville, Carrollton, Cedar Hill, Conroe, Converse, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Edinburg, El Paso, Fort Worth, Fredericksburg, Frisco, Garden Ridge, Garland, Georgetown, Harlingen, Houston, Irving, Joshua, Katy, Levelland, Lubbock, McAllen, Mission, Pharr, Plano, Richardson, Richmond, Rio Grande City, San Antonio, Selma, Shallowater, Slaton, Spring, Sugar Land, Tomball, Universal City, Victoria, & Weslaco participated.

Congratulations go out to all the OLS students who participated at the State Competition. They are: Valeria Reza, Roberto Pena, Mary Catherine Esguerra, Armis Sunday, Arush Shekar, Melanie San Roman, Maheen Khizar, Gabriel Ramirez, Giovanna Milano, Jaime Sandoval, Salvador Moreno, Javier Mayorga, Luis Gutierrez, Victor Jaramillo, Casey Vasquez, Marian Guerra, Nick Villareal, Rajiv Swarap, Cody Castillo, Tiffany Yang, Mariel Salinas, Cecilia Perez, & Paloma Moreno.

The following students received state recognition.

- ... Cody Castillo: 6th place, Spelling 2
- ... Mary Catherine Esguerra: 6th place, Spelling 6
- ... Maheen Khizar: 2nd place, On-Site Drawing 6
- ... Valeria Reza: 4th place, Calculator Applications 6-8
- ... Jaime Sandoval: 3rd place, Poetry Interpretation 6
- ... Arush Shekar: 6th place, Mathematics 5

This year Our lady of Sorrows School placed 28th out of a possible 72.

Josephine Thomason
PSIA Coordinator

Music News



We will be having our Recorder concert on May 12th at 7pm in the gymnasium. **I need all 4th and 5th graders to be there for this event.** We have been working hard to put this together for you. We hope you can come and hear us! Students are to wear their Cougar Shirts and Jeans for this event.

Choir will be performing our "Spring Concert" on Tuesday May 18th at 7pm in the OLS gym. I need all of my Choir members to attend. This will be a celebration of Music composed by Michael Jackson.

Choir will also be competing on Friday, May 21st at the ZONE (it will be a competition/field trip). They will need to wear their choir t-shirts and jeans for this event. We will be departing from school at 9:00 am (immediately after mass). Our competition takes place at 10 am.

Musically,
Mrs. Letty Gomez

Science Fair

The 2010 OLSS Science Fair took place on April 8th. All the participants had wonderful projects, and the guest judges from UTPA & STC were extremely impressed with everyone. The winners were:

8th Grade

- 1st Place: Marisol Garcia and Marcela Terrazas
- 2nd Place: Analise Gutierrez and Sarah Marchan
- 3rd Place (Tie): Fernanda Gomez
- 3rd Place (Tie): Victoria Margo and Ariana Pearson

7th Grade

- 1st Place: Silvia Camara
- 2nd Place: Joseph Cantu and Stefan Yarto
- 3rd Place: Victoria Quaicoe

6th Grade

- 1st Place: Miguel Del Rio, Jose Andres Gonzalez and Manuela Ramirez
- 2nd Place: Sebastian Arizola and Jesus Moreno
- 3rd Place: Natalia Garcia-Gonzalez, Yuria Paez and Laura Sepulveda

Congratulations to the winners and all the participants! Thanks to all for helping make this year's Science Fair a success!



Saint and Virtue of the Month Cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

crowds hailed him as king, and she was one of the few who stood with him as he suffered and died on the cross. In the upper room she was one of the people that first got to bask in the presence of the Risen Jesus.

She is a model for us as fellow followers of Jesus, and she exemplifies the virtue of generosity which we strive to imitate this month. She gave her life to God, she gave her time to her family and especially her son, and she continues to give us her attention through her prayers and intercession. May we spend this final month of school thanking God for Mary's "yes" and working to have the same generous heart she still does.

Traditional Prayers to Mary

Hail, Holy Queen

*Hail holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
Our life, our sweetness, and our hope.*

To you we cry, poor banished children of Eve;

To you we send up our sighs,

Mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.

Turn then, most gracious advocate,

Your eyes of mercy toward us;

And after this, our exile,

Show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.

O clement, O loving, O sweet virgin Mary.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,

That never was it known that anyone

who fled to your protection,

implored your help,

or sought your intercession

was ever left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence,

we fly to you, O virgin of virgins, our mother.

To you we come, before you we stand,

sinful and sorrowful.

O mother of the Word incarnate,

despise not our petitions,

but in your mercy hear

and answer us.

Amen.

Marian Doctrines

We have three Marian dogmas (teachings) in the Catholic Church:

1. her divine motherhood (*Theotokos*, defined @ the Council of Ephesus in 431)
2. her Immaculate Conception (formally defined in 1854)
3. her bodily assumption into heaven (formally defined in 1950)

We also have one dogma that is not formally defined but still kept:

1. her perpetual virginity (baptismal formulation since the 3rd century)

Mary was declared *theotokos* (from the Greek; literally "to give birth to God"; usually transliterated as Mother of God) at the Council of Ephesus in 431. This was in direct contradistinction to the heresy that denied that Jesus was really God, or that he was fully human and fully divine. It is embedded in the church's Christological teaching because it helps describe and delineate the nature and person of Christ Jesus - it is not a separate teaching on its own.

The dogma of the Immaculate Conception states "that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege from Almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, was kept free of every stain of original sin." This dogma is also tied into the Christological teaching of the Church. Because of the singular nature of Jesus' birth and the necessity of preparing a vessel of honor for the Son of God to inhabit and enter into our world, we believe that Mary was kept free of original sin - that is, she was not radically broken or disconnected from God.

Regarding her bodily assumption, the dogma states that "Mary, Immaculate Mother of God ever Virgin, after finishing the course of her life on earth, was taken up in body and soul to heavenly glory." We don't know if she died first and then was assumed, or if she was assumed on the verge of death, or if she was assumed before dying. We also distinguish her assumption from the ascension of Jesus: Jesus ascended to heaven under his own power and on his own authority; Mary was assumed into heaven by the grace and power of God. It is symbolic of God's hope that all of us will one day be in heaven - that we will make the journey to our true home and bask in God's presence.



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
