

April 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back from your Easter break! May the spirit of the Lord fill your hearts with the promises of Easter blessings of joy, happiness and unwavering faith for the rest of your days!

IOWA standardized testing will begin on April 12th and end on or before April 25th for students in grades 1-8. The IOWA Testing is originated from the University of IOWA which provides an assessment for student achievement in Reading, Written Expression, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Language and students in grades 3, 5 and 7 will take an additional test called the CogAT Test (Cognitive Abilities Test). Parents will receive a Home Report that will indicate the testing result of their child. The new testing norms are a guide for both the administration and faculty to evaluate our current learning objectives and develop instructional strategies as well as teaching and learning objectives that will meet the students' potential. After we received the test results, administration and faculty will access the students' results over the course of the next few weeks. The results will allow teachers to make adjustments to the curriculum and target learning using the Lexile scale for individual reading levels. Please make sure your children(ren) get plenty of sleep and eat a healthy breakfast during these testing times.

The Diocese of Metuchen is undertaking a new marketing initiative designed to build enrollment in grades PreK – Kindergarten which will begin on April 10th. This campaign will use multiple media platforms – digitally printed in social media. Once new families click on our link, we will have the opportunity to reach out to the new families and recruitment them to our school. As you already know, parents are our best marketers - word of mouth is still the most effective tool for recruitment. This past Buddy Day brought in seven children two of which registered for next year. When we return from our break. I want to create an OLV Parent Ambassador Group to help with talking with new families. If you are interested, please contact me. Thank you parents for your support!

We are excited to announce that OLV School has a new website, using the same domain, which has the same features as well as additional features. Please be patient with the site as we continue to build the website over the next few weeks. The hope is to add additional features such as online giving for possible donors and student videos, etc. If for some reason the website is down, the teachers will email any necessary information to you. As you already know, parents are our best marketers - word of mouth is still the most effective tool for recruitment.

Please mark your calendars and plan to participate in the "Designer Bag Bingo" on April 13th and the Father Daughter Dance on April 20th. The HSA has been working very hard in planning these events for you! I look forward to seeing you there! And don't forget to get sponsors for the Walk-A-Thon for scheduled on May 4th! Our families make us a special place! Thank you for your dedication to OLV School!!!

Parents are asking about our last day of school. We had to adjust our calendar because of the snow days we needed to take. Therefore, if there are no other reasons to close the school building, the last day of school will be June 20th. The last three days of school will be half days. I understand some of you want to make your early vacation plans so I hope this helps you. Also, the first day of summer uniforms is April 16th !

Lastly, on a more serious note, I need to remind parents to be very diligent and careful when you pick up your child in the parking lot. There is one way to enter the lot and one way to exist the lot. Cars must go at a very slow speed while they are in the parking lot because we have both children and parents there at this time. Don't try to be the first car out of the lot by going out quickly. One of our staff members had a big dent on her car while she was parked in the parking lot. I appreciate your understanding.

Sincerely in Christ,

Cynthia Casciola-Kitts