

September 4, 2018

Our Lady of Victories School 2018-19 September News Letter

Dear OLV Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful summer with your family and friends! The teachers, staff and I had time to rest and refresh ourselves this summer and we are excited about this school year!

I want to introduce a new teacher who will be joining us this year, Ms. Marygrace Piccolomini. She is our new second grade teacher and comes to us with teaching experience from St. Thomas the Apostle School. Since Ms. Piccolomini has attended Catholic schools, she understands the tenets of the faith and it is very evident that she has a real passion for children. Please help me welcome her and keep her in your prayers for a successful year.

The Back to School Night meetings are scheduled for Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> beginning with the Middle School Grade parents at 6:30 pm, followed by our Back to School meeting for grades K-8 at 7 pm. Pre-K 3 and 4 parents can meet the teachers at 7:30. All meetings are for Parents only. We look forward to seeing you and sharing with you important and exciting information about the upcoming school year including our spiritual theme, new bullying reporting program and our new Maker's Space.

This school year's theme is "Love one another like I have loved you" taken from John 15:12 which the teachers will fold into their everyday plans, discussions, lessons, etc., as well as the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes will also be emphasized this year in our daily prayers and monthly student-led assemblies. Also, each grade has their own assigned saint which will inspire the students to put their faith into action.

The Diocese of Metuchen is providing all of their Catholic Schools with a program called "STOP!IT" which is a reporting system for students to report bullying. This new program is designed to enhance the safety of our students and empower them with an easy app they can put on their phones. This program will be discussed with students when they return to school this month and they will learn how to use the program. Since this is a new system, I understand it may take a few weeks to get it fully up and running. The teachers and I will keep you abreast of how it is working. Click on this link for additional information:<http://stopitsolutions.com/>

All through last year and these past few weeks, the teachers and I have had several meetings discussing ways to create a space for our students to put their creativity and engineering processes to work. This year we are unveiling our very own "Maker Space" where students will not only create objects but will explore the world of trying solve problems by learning the engineering process. The steps of the engineering design process are to : Define the Problem, Do Background , Specify Requirements, Brainstorm Solutions, Choose the Best Solution, Do Development Work, Build A Prototype, and Test and Redesign. Last June, OLV teachers had professional development from the Liberty Science trainer who came to OLV School and discussed STEM lessons and the Engineering Process. Below this letter is a "Wanted List" of objects needed to fill the Maker Space. This will be an ongoing quest but I believe we will begin to fill the room with "stuff" needed for the students.

I am very happy to announce the new HSA officers: Jackie Gluchowski- President, Vanessa Hogan- Vice President, Jillian Leonard-Treasurer, Maria Holovacko-Recording Secretary, Kristine Lieberman-Corresponding Secretary, Sharon DeMonaco and Joann Sekerak-Publicity, Vanessa Haggerty-Spirituality, Noelle Lettiere-Social Concerns, Nicole Martin-Programs, Meaghan Spezzi-Alliance, Shannon Liana-Teacher Liaison, Michele Delaney and Melissa Krakowski-Past Presidents. These parents are the hardest working group of parents I have ever worked with and they are planning great events for this year. Hold the date of 10/10/18 for our first HSA General Meeting to get an overview of the school year.

I look forward to seeing you at Back to School Night next Monday. May God continue to bless you and your families as we enter this new school year.

Cynthia Casciola-Kitts