



Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic School Alumni Newsletter

Vol. 13 No 1
Fall 2009

A Word from Our Pastoral Associate Deb Hamm

I just returned from a vacation out east. The autumn colors were fantastic. Although I prefer warm weather, the brilliant reds, yellows and oranges of autumn are always a favorite part of the changing seasons for me. I am always reminded of the wide variety of “colors” I encounter in my everyday life. Almost daily, I encounter men, women and children of many different talents, ages, cultures, races, ethnicities and religions.



When I was asked to write a column for this newsletter, I again thought of the autumn colors. I decided to reflect a little on leaves, trees, faith and Catholic education. Please bear with me. When I was a young Catholic school student in Fredonia, I was still a green leaf. Still very attached to the “tree” (my family), I was full of energy and very important to my family. Anything I did affected my family, much like a leaf’s work affects a tree.

As I grew and learned more about my faith, I was more and more “ready” to leave the tree and I became more ready to show my colors—the colors of my talents and the colors of my faith. I knew one day that I would be sent off into the world to use my talents and faith to nourish the world.

As I matured, my growing faith and the talents God had given me began to show more and more brightly in my life. Then when I became an adult, it was time to “let go” of the tree. It was a little scary, but I loosened my grip on the “tree” of my family and flew off into the

world. After a bit of a windy ride down, I landed on my own little plot of land...my own little plot of life. It was just where God wanted me to be. I have tried hard to use my faith and my talents to help nourish a hurting and broken world, to share love with the unloved, to be a friend to the friendless, to forgive where there has been injury, to raise up the downtrodden and to help others grow in faith.

This is a lifelong struggle. It isn’t always easy to do the right thing. Amid life’s biggest struggles, I look back to my young “leaf” days at a small Catholic School where everything seemed so much easier, where everyone shared my values, where we were all one family...one TREE.

I give thanks for the fact that there are still solid Catholic schools around where other children can grow into their “autumn colors” which they will use to nourish our world so in need of healing and hope.

God bless you,
Deb Hamm, Pastoral Associate

Needed: Aluminum Cans

It is time to clean out the garage and donate all your aluminum cans to Our Lady of the Lakes! Jeff and Tracy Hiller volunteered to coordinate this fundraiser year-round. It’s a great opportunity to make money for the school! No need to stack them in the garage until you can take them somewhere – drop them off at the Cedar Valley Cheese Store any time!

From the Principal's Desk
Dr. Rick Erickson

Hello, Alumni,

My name is Dr. Rick Erickson and I am the current Administrator of Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic School & Child Care Center. I am truly excited about being entrusted with the care of this wonderful establishment. As it was when you were here, our chief goal is to provide an outstanding Catholic education for the young people of our community. In my very short time here it appears we are continuing a tradition that began years ago.



A good friend of mine is a Capuchin Friar. We were discussing the schools we both work at when he made a comment about something the Novice Master at the Seminary would do each spring. As the story went every year the Novice Master would have the Novices plant a vegetable garden. They would work on it during the spring and summer and then go off to whatever assignment given to them. One year a Novice asked the Novice Master why he had them plant and work this garden when they never had a chance to enjoy the fruits of their labor. The Novice Master just smiled and said “your efforts today aren’t intended for you, but for those who follow you!” I thought about this story and how it applies to my relationship to the schools I attended. Even though I worked hard to put myself through my Catholic high school and various universities on my way to my nearly 40 years in education, I have always felt it was my job to ‘reach back’ to help those who have followed me. (*Warning:* here comes the pitch for your support) Just as the Novice Master tried to teach his Novices to leave something for those who follow I would like to ask all of the alums of Our Lady’s School to ‘plant a little something’ for those who are following in your foot steps.

I encourage and welcome you to visit us whenever you are in town. I don’t think we have changed dramatically since you were here. We have moved the Child Care Center into the school building; we have a dynamic technology center; the classrooms are as challenging as ever; we are trying to initiate an after school program; and we *still* attend Mass every Wednesday morning.

Your Servant,
Rick Erickson, PhD
Principal/Administrator

Our Lady of the Lakes
5th Annual Bowling Tournament



Elizabeth & Jim Duschene

Teacher in the Spotlight

Mrs. Weinert

My name is Kristy Weinert and I teach the 3 and 4 year old preschool program here at Our Lady of the Lakes. I live in Hingham with my husband David and 2 children Mitchel (10) and Konnor (7). We moved into the area 3 years ago for my husband's job. I received my degree in Early Childhood from Northern Michigan University in May of 1995. Since this time I have worked with many ages of children ranging from infants to 5 years old. In September of 2006 I started at Our Lady of the Lakes Child Care Center where I have been for the last 2 years. I am very excited to be teaching preschool here at OLL. Our Lady of the Lakes is a great place for young children to learn and grow. It is so wonderful to be able to share your faith with your students everyday. I get such joy out of watching them learn and discover new ideas in our classroom daily.



5th & 6th Grade Field Trip Ice Age Center



Alumni Search

We continue to work on putting all of our alumni into a computer database. If you know any alumni of our school who are not currently receiving our newsletter, please share this with them, or send us their address and we will make sure they receive a copy of our newsletter. It is really great to hear from past students, especially when they share some of their favorite memories and interesting stories of St. Mary's in years past. Also we love to hear about what you are doing and about your families. Please send us a note!

We've made it easy for you to contact us, just mail in the Alumni Update Form found on the back page of our newsletter. Feel free to attach a separate piece of paper with any additional stories you might have.

You can also reach us by e-mail at ourladyrls@archmil.org

Current information is available on our website: www.ourladylakes.org

School Address:

Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Grade School
306 Butler Street, Random Lake, WI 53075
920-994-9962

Parish Address:

Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Congregation
230 Butler Street, Random Lake, WI 53075
920-994-4380

Father Dick Guest Reader Preschool/Kindergarten/1st Grade



Home and School News

Summer vacation is over and another school year is well underway. The Home and School continued to remain active all summer and has a number of great events planned this year.

Over the summer we worked on selling our Football Raffle tickets and in July we had a rummage sale at the school. We are planning another rummage sale next year so please remember to begin putting items aside for us. In August we had our 4th Annual Golf Outing which was a huge success. Even though there were some clouds and cool weather everyone had a great time.

This year we started off the school year with our annual registration and followed that up again with a Meet the Faculty night. This was a great opportunity to introduce our new Principal and for our students, families and staff to spend some time getting acquainted. A picnic style dinner was served and some kids were even having so much fun hanging out in their new classrooms they gave me their sad puppy eyes when I told them it was time to go home that night.

The Friday before Labor Day, we held a brat fry and bake sale at the Cedar Valley Cheese store. We also have one there the Friday before Memorial Day and are planning on making both of those annual events.

In October we held our first Wine and Cheese Tasting event at the Five Pillars. Based upon the success and feedback we received, we are planning on making this an annual event.

The Holidays in the Heartland Craft Fair and Market Place event was canceled this year due to low vendor participation. This event celebrated its 20th anniversary last year, but in recent years the vendor attendance has been decreasing. We are working on ideas to try to revive this event,

so if you have any ideas, or are interesting in helping us you, please let me know.

We have a few large events in the upcoming months that we encourage you to attend. So please mark these events on your calendars. If you would also like to volunteer to help us plan or execute these events, please let us know.

- Ice Bowling Event – TBD – Stay tuned for more information.
- Shake the Flakes – February 6, 2010
- Endowment Fund Dinner Auction – April 17, 2010

As part of our 2009-2010 school year the Home and School Association is working on a number of other exciting fundraisers and events that will be brought to you in the upcoming months. In order to help us meet our objectives, we strongly encourage everyone to participate in these events.

Please remember that we have our Five Pillars nights year round, which are typically the 4th Monday of each month. This is an opportunity to partake in some great food and great company and support our school in the progress.

We appreciate any input or feedback you may have and one way to share it is by attending and participating in our Home & School meetings. The remaining meetings this year will be held on December 2, 2009, March 3, 2010 and May 5, 2010 at 6:30 PM at the school. You should also feel free to contact me anytime if you have questions or want to share your thoughts, concerns or feedback.

Thank you all for your support,

Curt Blaszczyk
Home & School President

OLL School Wish List

Thank you for your interest in donating money or items to Our Lady of the Lakes School. If you would like to make a donation toward one of the items on the wish list, please contact the school office at 920-994-9962 or Marilyn in the parish office at 920-994-4380. The following is some of the items on the list:

Computer wishes:

- SmartBoards for 4 more classrooms
- “Hot Wiring” the school (or campus) for wireless computer access
- Netbooks for grades 3 and up.
- New computer for school office

Classroom wishes:

- Textbooks for grades 7 & 8
- Painting easel
- USB flash drives

School wishes

- A Grotto outside the school office entrance
- Ability to hire our Technology & Music Teachers one more day each week
- Improvements to our outside play area
- Added storage area
- A paper cutter that actually cuts paper
- A school mascot to go along with our nickname
- Financial security

Child Care Center wishes

- An age appropriate playground
- ‘Coupe’ Cars (those little pedal cars)
- P.E equipment – age appropriate
- ‘Oodles’, & ‘oodles’ of washable markers
- Glue sticks/bottles
- An entrance security/communication system – mostly needed during non-school hours.
- Ethnic dolls and other ethnic toys
- Double stroller
- New microwave
- Computer & printer
- WalMart gift cards
- ‘Toddler’ dinnerware
- New mop
- Financial security

OUR LADY OF THE LAKES
CATHOLIC CONGREGATION
230 Butler Street
Random Lake, WI 53075

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Random Lake, WI
Permit No. 23

Return Service Requested

**Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic School Alumni Update
(formerly St. Mary's Catholic School)**

Name: _____ Attended from 19__ to 19__

Maiden Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Date: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Here's my update: _____

Can we use this information in our school newsletter? Yes _____ No _____

Alumni Approval