



Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic School Alumni Newsletter

Vol. 12 No 2
Winter 2009

A Word from Our Pastoral Associate Deb Hamm

This year's theme for Catholic Schools Week that took place at the end of January was service. When I think about Catholic education, I am reminded how important service is in the Catholic faith.



During my elementary years, I was educated at Rosemary School in Fredonia. Some of my older siblings spent a few years at St. Mary's School in Random Lake back when we had a tri-consolidated school system. For all of us, service was a part of growing up Catholic. My brothers spent many years as altar servers. My sisters and I remember helping clean the church and rectory. And all of my siblings were taught the value of reaching out to those in need.

I also remember, at times, being the recipient of such assistance. We had nine kids in our family and money was often tight. I remember one particularly difficult Christmas time when I went out to the mailbox and found a Christmas card addressed to the "Hamm family." I took it inside and my mom opened it. Inside was \$100 and it was simply signed "Santa." There were tears in my mom's eyes.

I recognized the handwriting, and I've never forgotten the thoughtfulness and generosity of this wonderful human being who reached out to others in their need. In this simple gesture, I saw Christ.

It is important for all of us – young children, youth and adults – to participate in service and learn the value of helping others.

I have been on 26 mission trips, and every time I go on one, I meet Christ in unexpected faces and surprising places. And, almost without exception, the people I've served

with have, like me, returned with a deepened faith and a renewed commitment to caring for ALL of Christ's people. Service helps us understand those we serve. It helps us recognize that people are more important than things. It helps us recognize the inherent dignity and value of human life at all its stages, from the womb to natural death.

This is true for both youth and adults. Service stretches us out of our comfort zone. We learn to love in new ways. We learn to see with new eyes. We learn to hear the cries of those in need – even when those cries are silent.

I challenge all of us to be more open to opportunities to serve God's people in need as we continue to grow in our faith in, and love of, God.

Deb Hamm
Pastoral Associate

PB & J Challenge



Final Totals:

- 1st place - 8,184 oz. – OLL, Random Lake
(71 students/115 oz. per student)
- 2nd place - 4,223 oz. – St. Mary's, Lake Church
(39 students/108 oz. per student)
- Third place - 7,836 oz. – Rosemary, Fredonia
(91 students/86 oz. per student)

"Soup"er Bowl Results

- Rosemary School – 5,441 oz – 400+ cans
- Saint Mary, Lake Church – 4,440 oz – 392 cans
- Our Lady of the Lakes – 2,541 oz – 219 cans

From the Principal's Desk
Catherine Pohl

Most people would agree that children are our future. That is why at Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Grade School we support and applaud the efforts of our parish as they push forward with the "Faith in our Future" campaign.



We have been hearing so much lately about the "Faith in our Future" campaign going on in our parish and parishes all over the Archdiocese. Some people have thrown the information away without looking at it thinking it's just another measure by the parish to raise money. Others may have looked at it and did not understand it so they just tossed it aside to be lost in a pile in the kitchen, and then thrown away. Still others have taken the campaign under their wing and have been spending countless hours at meetings learning about the campaign, doing the mailings, talking to parish members who have been willing to listen and others who wouldn't, speaking in church at the different masses, and many more behind the scenes activities. Why? Why didn't these people throw the information away or toss it aside? It's because these people have Faith in our Future and are doing everything they possibly can to ensure that our parish and school stay in tact for years to come.

These are tough times in our economy for everyone. Many of us never experienced what we are experiencing right now. What's happening to our money? Our Church? Our Faith? Where do I turn? What do I do? Look into the eyes of a child in a Catholic school as he reads during a weekly Mass, or serves Mass during the week, or crowns Mary in May, or studies Religion every day. Look at the pride of Catholic school children as they observe Lent and Advent daily through the seasons. This is where our Faith in our Future begins. It is in our

children. It is now, not later. So even though the economy is struggling, our children give us the light to continue on. They are our future. Let us have faith in them now. Please support Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic School. Our future depends on all of us.

Blessings on all of you.

Cathy Pohl

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!



Happy Birthday to Jesus Party – The students collected mittens and each class wrapped them to create a gift for Jesus.

Teachers in the Spotlight

Ms. Thomaschefsky

I grew up in northern Wisconsin and have been singing in public since I was about eight years old. Music is a gift from God for us to share. I realize now that there is no way for us to know how much a song can change someone's life.



Children can learn words, ideas, and messages in songs that they carry for a lifetime. Music helped most of us learn the alphabet. A lot of our theology is passed on through hymns and the music of the liturgy.

When I am teaching music, I try to overlap material and build on connections the students already have made. Music is science, art, math, vocabulary, spatial skills and awareness all blended together. To try to disassemble it is like having a piece of cheese and calling it pizza! It is the way the material is layered and combined that makes music. I really enjoy helping the students take hold of this gift God has given us.

Mr. Holden

Hi, my name is Robb Holden, and I have been the Computer Teacher at O.L.L. for the past five years. I love being able to teach today's technology to the students of our school, and it is great to see the students so excited about using the technology. In today's technological world learning how to use and interact with the new technology is so very important. In our Computer classes I teach everything from best use of Internet (searching techniques), Internet safety, website accuracy and reliability, and Internet netiquette. We also cover such application type programs, such as: PowerPoint, Word Processing with Microsoft Word, Website creation, and digital photography.



I also teach Computers at St. Mary School in Sheboygan Falls and Shepherd of the Hills School in Eden, so I am a very busy person. In my spare time in Kiel – where I live, I like to spend time with my

wife Sabrina, who is also a teacher in a Catholic school and my dog Emma. During the summer months, my wife and I run a concession business at seven area county fairs where we sell cotton candy, caramel apples, popcorn, and fresh squeezed lemonade – all the goodies. That is a fun experience.

I graduated from the UW – Eau Claire in 1995 with a license to teach grades 1 – 8. I decided to be a teacher when I was in the fourth grade, mainly because of the awesome teacher role models I had at that time, and I have never regretted my decision. Now I just enjoy being that role model that I had to our current students.

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

Home and School Update

In November we held our 20th Annual Holidays in the Heartland Craft Fair and Marketplace. It was a cold day with light flurries which set the mood for a great holiday event. Our 21st Annual event will be held on Sat., Nov. 14, 2009 and we are committed to making it bigger and better. We are accepting vendor registrations so if you or anyone you know is a crafter or has a home business please let them know about our event. They can contact me or information is available on our parish website.

Our Cheese and Candle Sale ended up a bit short of our budget this year. With the option of purchasing gift cards, we struggle to understand why participation is so low. If you have any suggestions or feedback on how we can improve the sales for this event, I would appreciate hearing it.

Our Christmas program was held in January this year, due to the harsh December weather and the need to cancel our scheduled program. The children performed exceptionally and triumphed adversity because they missed the two days of school prior, including their dress rehearsal, due to extreme cold weather. A special thanks to our faculty and students for putting on this wonderful program.

In January we also celebrated Catholic Schools Week which started off with Mass on Sunday morning. The children sat together in church and performed a wonderful and inspirational song for us all. After Mass, there were open houses for the school and childcare center. There was a book fair, brat fry and bake sale at the school. The childcare center had cookie decorating and art projects for the kids.

Shake the Flakes took place Feb. 7th at the Five Pillars. The Eischen family generously donated the meals which were excellent as usual and the Hiller family donated a number of generous raffle prizes. The entertainment this year was provided by Gary Clausing and Tony Frontier with their Dueling Pianos and was enjoyed by over 220 attendees. We expect the efforts and contributions of everyone to result in over \$5000 raised for OLL. A special thanks to Mark and Lori Bichler for coordinating the event.

Our SCRIP program has seen decreased involvement and we need your help. This is a fantastic program that costs you absolutely nothing to participate in and actually can earn you money towards tuition, church dues or OLL Childcare expenses. This program simply requires you to purchase "gift cards" through OLL then the merchants pay a percentage back to OLL. It is very

easy to participate and the cumulative efforts make a huge difference for our school.

GoodSearch is a search engine that pays OLL approximately 1 cent for every web search you conduct through their website. Based upon historical usage, it appears that few people are using GoodSearch for their search engine so I am switching our focus. The real power of this website is how much money OLL can earn if you shop the Internet through GoodSearch with "Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic School in Random Lake WI" setup as your charity. GoodSearch has partnered with over 1000 on-line merchants. All you need to do is set up OLL as your charity, and then go to GoodSearch Shopping to access the merchant's website and shop. The donation (3% on average) will automatically be sent to OLL through GoodSearch. There are many popular participants including: Amazon, I-Tunes, Dell, Kohls, Target, Best Buy, Walmart, and Hotels.com. Please help spread the word. If your company or business purchases supplies, books, computers, hotels or rental cars over the Internet, please see if they can setup OLL and use GoodSearch. If anyone has any questions or problems with this, please contact me and I will be glad to help you.

If anyone has a Target Red Card or is considering getting one, this is another great way to earn free money for OLL and yourself. Through this program you receive a Red Card credit card and then have the option to setup a charity to benefit. When you charge a total of \$1000 you earn a day of shopping at Target for 10% off. I used our discount for a day of Christmas shopping this past year. You can get details at Target or on their website.

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

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 March 4, 2009 and May 6, 2009 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
262.692.3521 - Home

OLL School Wish List

Thank you for your interest in donating money or items to Our Lady of the Lakes School. Please know that any money donated may be used towards any item if the price exceeds your gift. Just specify how you would like it to be used. 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 Marilynn in the parish office at 920-994-4380. The following is some of the items on the list:

Computer Wishes

- 512 MB jump drive
- SDRAM 128 MB or better
- HP Scanner
- Surge protector power strips
- Carts for classroom computers

Classroom Wishes

- Book Shelf / Cart (4th grade)
- Painting easel
- Venn diagram pocket chart
- Teacher's Easel
- Classroom computer for children's use (K)
- Plastic Kitchen set for the Preschool
- Mailbox cubbies
- Bookshelves
- USB flash drive
- Novels with teacher's guides (5th)

School Wishes

- TV for classroom (3rd grade)
- Carpet for classrooms
- Paper cutter
- Sensory Table (Pre 4)
- Rug for Reading Center (Pre 4)
- Dramatic Play Items: thermos, cell phones, lunch box, brief case, dress up clothes for boys and girls (pre 4)
- Play Doh: rolling pins, cutters, cookie cutters (Pre 4)
- Cash Register (Pre 4)
- Religious puzzles & coloring books (Pre 4)

Day Care Center Wishes

- ◆ Step Ladder
- ◆ Board Puzzles (more than 12 pieces)
- ◆ Floor Puzzles (12 – 48 pieces)
- ◆ Kitchen center play food, dishes, dress-up clothes for boys and girls etc.
- ◆ Playground balls
- ◆ Ethnic baby dolls
- ◆ Ethnic foods for play
- ◆ Religious story books
- ◆ Religious posters and figurines
- ◆ Veggie Tale movies
- ◆ Play toy animals
- ◆ Double stroller



3rd grade making pretzel snowmen on crazy hat day during Catholic Schools Week



Dairy promotion day at OLL

**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

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

Return Receipt Requested

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