

SOAR WITH THE SPIRIT!
Our Lady of Victory Catholic School - Weekly Update –October 23, 2009

Keeping our students healthy! – First of all, thank you for your support and patience as we are dealing with the various illnesses that we have been experiencing in the past month. Our parents have been very diligent about keeping students home who are ill and picking them up promptly when symptoms appear at school. As we continue to address these illnesses and your concerns, please note the following.

- We are very pleased to report that our absentee rate has dropped significantly to normal levels this week. After peaking at 20% on October 9, we are now at 4-6% for the first three days of this week.
- Please continue to keep sick children home. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) recommends that children remain at home for 24 hours after their temperature returns to normal without Tylenol or Motrin.
- The faculty and staff continue to encourage washing of hands, use of hand sanitizer, cleaning of commonly used surfaces in the classroom, etc. Please continue to support this at home.
- If interested, please call the office for absentee rates for your grade, homeroom or school. We do not attempt to identify the specific illnesses of our students, but we can report how many students are absent.

Keeping our students safe! – We have several security measures in place to keep your children safe during the day.

- One of the most effective practices we have is that all doors to the school are locked during the day. The office door is opened by the office staff after they visually check the surveillance camera and identify the visitor. Some parents “help out” by opening the door for some of our visitors. I know it is not in your nature to ignore people trying to open a door, but please let the office staff control access to the building. At the back entrance Mrs. DeMetrick and Mrs. Siegel manage the entrance at dismissal time.
- We would also like to remind you that all students must be signed in and out during the school day (other than 8 am and 2:10 pm). Thanks!

Sweatshirt Orders – The OLV-PTG is sponsoring their fall Sweatshirt Sale. As the cold weather approaches, please be aware that the only “uniform” sweatshirt that is permitted is the crewneck navy blue (K-5) and maroon (6–8) available from Land’s End, Schoolbelles, or the PTG sale. Hoodies, OLV sport sweatshirts, and other jackets are not permitted. The proceeds from the PTG sale supports our school Angel Fund for needy families.

Fire/Evacuation Drill – Our children participated in their second monthly fire drill this week. We are pleased to report that we can evacuate the building in under two minutes. We take these drills very seriously and it is essential that children understand that their full cooperation is necessary in the event of a real emergency. Please continue to reinforce with them the importance of practicing these drills. Next week we will participate in a Severe Weather Drill. A little unlikely for this area, but still a good thing to practice. During this drill students report to a first floor interior hallway away from windows.

Notes from Mrs. DeMetrick: The library will be the drop off point for donations for Centre County PAWS. Please check out the list of items needed under the media center section of the OLVCS web site. The students are very enthusiastic about this new endeavor for the library. Please consider sending in donations for a very worthy cause.

Library volunteers are asked to refer to the schedule that was sent to you via e-mail from the library volunteer coordinator. A lot of effort was put into the schedule. Please copy the schedule and make note on your personal calendar of the days that you are scheduled. The library cannot run smoothly without its volunteers. I appreciate everything that you all do to help the library run efficiently.

Colder weather is on the way! – Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing to enjoy recess. Add an extra hat or a pair of gloves in their coat pockets or back pack. Don't forget, shorts season ends on October 29.

Joseph Alessandro Performance Award - Mr. Jack Eggert and Julia Glover would like to thank Mr. Max Peoples for his donation to the Joseph Alessandro Performance Award. Mr. Peoples has donated \$1000.00 to the music scholarship fund that was created in honor of Joseph Alessandro. His kindness will allow us to offer four awards to deserving young instrumentalists beginning at the end of this school year. Many thanks to Mr. Peoples! If you would like to contribute to the Joseph Alessandro Performance Award, please send your contribution c/o Julia Glover, 315 Holly Ridge Drive State College, PA 16801.

Boys Basketball Coach Announced – The OLVCS Administration and the Athletic Council are pleased to announce that Mr. Richard Ciambotti has been hired at the 7th and 8th grade Boys Basketball coach for this season. We are very pleased that Coach Ciambotti is returning to us in this position. In the past, he has been both assistant and head coach for the team. More information to follow regarding registration for the team.

OLVCS Athletic Council is announcing the opening of two (2) council seats. The council member seats are held for a three (3) year term. The Athletic Council at OLVCS provides advice and recommendations to the OLVCS Principal and OLV Pastor regarding sports matters dealing with the schools' PIAA and APL teams. The Athletic Council works to develop general athletic policies and guidelines for the sports teams, while also providing specific support and season coordination for each sport. If you are interested in sports and want to help ensure the future success of the sports program at OLVCS, this is an excellent opportunity to get involved. If you are interested in joining the Athletic Council, please contact John Straub via email jstraub@pfginc.com or phone 404-1690.

OLVCS Walk-a-thon – Recently an update was distributed via email indicating that we are very close to reaching \$30,000 in donations. This is the best year, yet! We are at 87% participation. It would be great to hit 100%. It is not too late to submit your contribution. Remember that the success of this fundraiser determines how much additional fundraising is scheduled for the remainder of the year.

Parent Teacher Conferences – Conferences are scheduled for Middle School (grades 6 – 8) for Thursday, October 29 AND Friday, October 30. Middle School students will not attend school on Thursday and Friday. Elementary conferences are scheduled for Friday, October 30 only. Elementary students will not attend school on Friday. Elementary conferences have been scheduled and you should have received information from your child's teacher last week. We are in the process of scheduling the Middle School conferences. A conference request form was sent home last week with each Middle School student and an email was sent asking for your day and time preference. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

School Photo Retakes – The date for photo retakes has been rescheduled to Wednesday, November 18. We had to cancel the original date of October 21 because there has been a delay in receiving the photo packages.

Upcoming events:

Wednesday, October 28 – School Mass @ 9 am sponsored by all grades. **This will be our annual Saints Procession Mass!**

Thursday, October 29 – Parent Teacher Conferences for Middle School – No school for grades 6 – 8 only!

Friday, October 30 – Parent Teacher Conference for K – 8 – No school for grades K - 8