

SOAR WITH THE SPIRIT!

Our Lady of Victory Catholic School - Weekly Update –November 4, 2009

Parent Pick up – We are very committed to keeping your children safe from the time they arrive until they are dismissed. Please help us during Parent Pick Up time to ensure that all students are being dismissed appropriately. The library hallway is the designated area for parent pick up at the end of the school day. Two of our staff are on duty at this time to keep things running smoothly. Please check in with one of the supervisors before you leave the building. We appreciate your promptness in both arriving no later than 2:10 pm and leaving as soon as you have “collected” all of your children.

Protecting God’s Children – Safe Environment for Children Lessons – By now you should have received a hard copy of the information regarding Lessons Five and Six that will be presented at each grade level by our teachers during the week of November 9 – 13. A copy of this letter is re-printed below. If you would like your children to participate in these lessons, you do not need to do anything. If you prefer to “opt out” of these lessons, you will need to complete a Verification Form. We will inform you of the day and time of these lessons and you will need to provide supervision of your children during that time.

Counselors Corner---This month’s theme for friendship circle is COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS. Also MIX-IT-UP Tuesday is November 10th. This is a lunch activity that encourages students to sit with a different student and get to know someone new.

H1N1 Update – Last week Mrs. Bechdel attended a meeting at the State College Area School District to obtain information regarding H1N1 flu vaccine distribution. Currently the plan is to extend the vaccine to our students provided the school district receives enough of the vaccine to service their students. The priority age range to receive the vaccine is 5 – 9 years old. There is NO guarantee that our students will receive the vaccine, so it is suggested that you investigate and take advantage of other opportunities to have your children vaccinated. In addition, we are happy to report that our absentee rate is approximately 3%.

Last year’s Yearbook - There are a limited amount of yearbooks available from the school year 2008-2009. To purchase one please submit a check payable to OLVCS for \$10.00 and place in an envelope marked “Office – Attn: Rosemary Weber.” Don’t miss out on the memories!!

Boys Basketball Meeting– Coach Ciambotti will be meeting with the 7th and 8th grade boys who are interested in participating on the team this year. They will meet on Thursday, November 5 at 1:45 in the gym. Forms for physicals, recertifications, etc. will be distributed at the meeting.

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.

Upcoming events:

Friday, November 6 – School Mass @ 9 am sponsored by grade 2
Tuesday, November 10 – Report Cards Distributed

Mark your calendars! The OLV Bazaar will be held in the OLV Gym on Saturday, November 21.

[Scroll Down for the Protecting God’s Children Safe Environment Letter...](#)

**Safe Environment Program for Children
Parental Notification Form**

TO: OLVCS Parents/Guardian
FROM: Kathy Bechdel, OLVCS Principal
SUBJECT: Safe Environment Program for Children
DATE: November 2, 2009

Our Lady of Victory Catholic School will present a safe environment program, the *Protecting God's Children for Youth* program, to our students during November 2009. This program, specifically designed for students in Kindergarten through grade eight, is from the creators of the *Protecting God's Children*TM. Every Diocese in our country must comply to the mandated Dallas Charter established by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. This program is provided to us by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown and is a part of our ongoing effort to establish and foster the safest environment for all children and youth in all ministries of the Diocese. **This program is not a sex education program.** A copy of the overview of the lessons is attached to this notice.

In November 2008, lessons three and four were taught. This year, lessons five and six will be presented. We encourage you to read the descriptions of these lessons below. If you have questions about the program or the lesson, please contact Kathy Bechdel at 814-238-1592 and specific lesson plan information can be provided to you.

If you determine that you DO NOT want your child to participate, please contact Kathy Bechdel at 814-238-1592 or principal@olvcs.org. In order to insure accountability on our part, you will be required to complete a Verification Form indicating that the instruction was offered to your child/ren and that you chose not to allow participation in the instruction. For more information on the *Touching Safety* program, visit the VIRTUS OnlineTM website at www.virtus.org.

Lesson 5 - Grooming – Students learn about the types of behavior that may indicate that an adult is grooming the child or young person for something more than friendship. It also helps students learn to trust their own instincts about what is “okay” and what is “not okay”.

Lesson 6 – “No Secrets” – Reinforcing and building on lessons from Year 2 (Boundaries and Telling Someone You Trust) this lesson deals with peer groups and other influences (including grooming by an abuser) that prevent children and young people from reporting inappropriate behavior. It also helps children and young people develop their own decision-making process to use in these situations.