

SOAR WITH THE SPIRIT!

Our Lady of Victory Catholic School - Weekly Update –February 24, 2010

OLVCS announces a new program for our students!

SPARK at OLVCS

Sports, Play, and Active Recreation for Kids

We are very excited that Our Lady of Victory Catholic School has been chosen to be a recipient of a generous grant from Highmark Inc.

The Highmark Healthy High 5 Grant aims to promote lifelong healthy behaviors in children and adolescents ages 6-18 in the communities served by Highmark Inc. Highmark has paid for OLVCS to implement a new physical education program using the SPARK method.

SPARK (Sports, Play, and Active Recreation for Kids) is a unique nationally recognized program designed to help teachers lead activities that are inclusive, highly active, integrate academic and wellness concepts, and are fun for all students. Additionally, instructional units are designed to develop students' motor, cognitive, and social skills. Students won't be wasting time waiting in line for a turn, being a target in a dodgeball game, or being chosen last for a team. All students will have the opportunity to practice and participate in high levels of moderate to vigorous physical activity on a regular basis.

The SPARK Training for our teachers will be held April 19, 20 and 21st at OLVCS during the day. In addition to training for the teachers, the school will receive a large and diverse collection of physical education and sports equipment. The kids will get the chance to learn and play during this training time as well. We hope that your kids will be buzzing about all the neat activities that occur during that week and their enthusiasm will last as the program grows.

The benefits of physical activity are too numerous to mention here. If you are interested in learning more about the SPARK program, please visit their website:

www.sparkpe.org

If you are interested in hearing what another school who has implemented this program has to say about it please view this link:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Video/playerIndex?id=259948>

Continue to watch for more updates in the future about this exciting new program.

Diocesan Vocation Poster, Essay and Poetry Contest

Congratulations for the following students whose entries were selected to represent Our Lady of Victory Catholic School at the Diocesan competition. In the Poster category – Elizabeth Long (1A), Brendan Scanlon (1B), Nicole Flis (2A), Hannah Langelaan (2B), Lexi Risha (3A), Julia Cusatis (3B), Josephine Erb (4A), Sarah Authier (4B), Brendan Cawley (5A), and Alex Burka (5B). In the Essay category – Ethan Fisher and Ashley Helsel (6th), Kelsie Bennett and Alexander Bevilacqua (7th), Jake Weaver and Michael Beattie (8th). In the Poetry category – Maria Sicree and Kate Driscoll (6th), Larissa Burka and Michael Casciola (7th), Michael Cawley and Stacy Smerbeck (8th).

American Bake Sale - Leah Englehart and Lauren Kelly, two OLVCS sixth graders recently hosted a bake sale to help feed the hungry. The girls spent 2 days baking and icing close to 400 cupcakes. They raised \$352.00 in proceeds that will go toward the Great American Bake Sale. Their participation in Share Our Strength's Great American Bake Sale raised critical funds needed to support after school and summer feeding programs across the country. For every \$10.00 that was raised one child could be fed for a month.

OLVCS Summer Camp 2010 - Details are coming!

Remember hats, gloves, and COATS – All students will participate in outside recess provided the “Real Feel” temperature is 20 degrees or higher. Please make sure your children bring their warm weather gear with them to school to make it a pleasant and enjoyable recess.

Spelling Bee – The top classroom winners in grades 4, 5, and 6 will compete at our annual school Spelling Bee on Tuesday, March 2 at 1 pm in the gym. The winner of this competition will be our representative at the Altoona Johnstown Diocesan Spelling Bee on May 5. All are welcome to attend our school Spelling Bee!!

Rice bowls – During Lent we encourage our children to make contributions to Catholic Relief Services through Operation Rice Bowl. Each classroom will have a Rice Bowl to collect donations. We suggest that you encourage your children to consider taking a few coins from their piggy bank each week and depositing them in their classroom's Rice Bowl. Thank you for your continued generosity.

CAMP ZACCHAEUS 2010 Camp “Z” is a week-long summer camp for youth grades 4-9. Campers experience a week of lively Liturgies, inspirational music, prayer experiences, evangelization sessions, campfires, games, skits, a live concert and lots more! Scholarship money is available to eligible applicants. For more information or to receive a brochure, contact Francine Swope in the Youth Ministry Office at (814)693-1401.

Coaching Opportunity – Assistant Track Coach: Our Lady of Victory Catholic School is currently accepting applications for an assistant track coach for its boys and girls 7th/8th Grade PIAA Track team for the spring 2010 season. The season begins with practices in mid-March and runs through the District 6 meet in mid-May. The position does offer a small stipend. Applicants will be required to submit criminal/child abuse clearances and attend Protecting God's Children training. Interested applicants should contact John Straub at 404-1690 or submit a letter of interest to: OLVCS Athletic Council, Attention – John Straub, 800 Westerly Parkway, State College, PA 16801.

Needed - Photos of extracurricular activities and other school activities – Please send in your photos of your team, cub scouts, brownies, choir, band, etc or other candid photos of school activities for inclusion in the Memory Book. Please forward your digital photos to Eileen Clarke at ipobilling@yahoo.com. Your photos will make it a great yearbook this year!!

Upcoming events:

Thursday, February 25 – Middle School Information Night for 4th and 5th grade students @ 6:30 pm in the Activity Center

Friday, February 26 – School Mass @ 9 am sponsored by grade 7/8 C

Friday, February 26 – Stations of the Cross @ 1:30 pm

Wednesday, March 3 – 8th Grade Parent Meeting @ 7 pm in the library