

January 11, 2010

Welcome back and Happy New Year to each and every one of you. I hope that your break was restful and that you have begun 2010 refreshed and invigorated!

Because we are in the throws of winter, a friendly reminder that in the event I have to close school due to inclement weather, OLMC will be listed on Channel 4 (www.clickondetroit.com). OLMC actually has three codes that have to be entered into the network's reporting system: PreSchool, Elementary School and High School. On a snowy morning, it is difficult to get through on the phone lines three times in a row. So, I want you to understand that **if you see any OLMC facility listed as closed, the entire complex is closed.** For example, the Elementary School would never be open when the High School is closed, etc. If one is closed due to weather, all are closed despite the fact that there may be a reporting lag in listing each faction.

A word of thanks to all involved in making the final two school weeks of 2009 so successful and memorable at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic School. The Elementary School CHRISTmas Concert was a huge success as was the High School's Drama Production: *The Gift of the Magi*. Mrs. Erin Bush and Mrs. Heather Shiveley did a wonderful job preparing our students for the concert and play.

Grades 9 thru 12 along with their homeroom moderators should be commended on their remarkable efforts in the first annual "Deck the Halls" Competition. I appreciate their creativity, planning and hard work. Their efforts went a long way in not only bolstering CHRISTmas Spirit but School Spirit, as well. The Classes of 2010 and 2011 tied. Because the votes were equally split amongst the Junior and Senior Classes, it was only fair to give them both one extra day to sleep in and extend their CHRISTmas break by one day!

And, thank you to our pastor, Fr. Ptak for sharing the Oplatek (Polish Wafer) with the entire student body prior to break. Staff and students alike enjoyed the time with Father caroling in both Polish and English. The fellowship felt in the gym that day was remarkable and personally, I am grateful to be a part of such a close-knit school community.

Great news from our Athletic Department - Over the break, they sponsored a CYO CHRISTmas Tournament and turned a profit just shy of \$10,000!!! Coach Haire personally thanks all of the staff, parents and students that worked at this event, recognizing that such success could never be possible without the combined efforts of the entire school community!

Some calendar notes

- The PTG Meeting scheduled for tomorrow, January 13th has been changed to Wednesday, January 20th. It is crucial that you attend the meeting on January 20th because details on the upcoming auction will be shared. I hesitate to say more because I don't want to spoil any surprises. But, suffice to say, this year's auction is shaping up to be the event of the century with a new theme, new location and a slew of new participants sporting new and exciting ideas! **MARK YOUR CALENDAR – WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20th – BE THERE!**
- The February Hot Lunch Order Form for Grades K-4 is enclosed. Please submit orders on or before the morning of Monday, January 25th ...No Late Orders Please! Oh, and, that's not typo ... the Archdiocese of Detroit has lowered the price of a full lunch for the month of

February from \$2.75 to \$2.10. This special applies to all students (Grades K-12) that purchase a full lunch during the month of February.

- Grades 9-12 will be taking their Semester Exams on Thursday and Friday, January 21st and 22nd. As a result, both days will be a half day with Grades K-8 dismissing at 11:35 and Grades 9-12 dismissing at 11:20. Because Friday, January 22nd marks the end of Quarter 2 and Semester 1, report cards are due out and will be distributed on Wednesday, January 27th.
- Our two week Catholic School Celebration begins on Sunday, January 24th with our Open House from 1:00 – 3:00. The Book Fair and Junior High Science Fair will also open that Sunday. Our celebration this year encompasses two full weeks with Week 1 dedicated to fulfilling our mission statement (Enter to learn. Go forth to serve.) and Week 2 dedicated to building School Spirit and a sense of community amongst the entire student body. The Development Department is busy coordinating a huge soup kitchen event that all classes will play a role in and the Catholic Schools Committee and Student Council are busy planning events designed to enhance school spirit and fellowship. Updates will be sent home as they develop!
- On Friday, January 29th after the 8:00 a.m. Mass, there will be an appreciation breakfast for every parent that has a child in this school. Fr. Ptak and I understand the sacrifice that you make on a daily basis and are thankful for your decision to keep your child in a Catholic School amidst secular society pressures/temptations. Because we are both guilty of not saying ‘thank you’ enough, we decided to formally thank you during our Catholic School Celebration with a short program and breakfast after the 8:00 a.m. Mass. For the sake of planning purposes **PLEASE COMPLETE THE ENCLOSED RSVP FORM** and return to the school office by January 22nd. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

One final reminder before I close:

SCRIP sales are ongoing and represent an easy way to earn \$\$\$ off next year’s tuition! As expected, sales have decreased after the CHRISTmas rush. However, SCRIP gift cards still make wonderful gifts and can be used for everyday purchases/expenses. For example, did you know that you can pay on your KOHL’s charge using the KOHL’s SCRIP Card? Or, did you know that if using the Marathon SCRIP Card when gassing up your vehicle, you pay the cash rate at the pump? News you can use to support the SCRIP Program while earning personal tuition breaks! 😊

Until next time ...

Timothy Scanlon
Principal