

November 3, 2009

Halloween has come and gone. The academic year continues to progress and we find ourselves nearly to the end of the first quarter! Before we look at upcoming events, two quick thank you notes and a 'shout out' to our Varsity Cross Country Team!

First of all, thanks to the OLMC Christian Service Committee and the faculty, staff, parents and students that donated so generously to Christnet. Last Wednesday, OLMC delivered over 30 lunches, toiletry bags and incidentals to the host parish, St. Patrick. Sr. Barbara was overjoyed at the generosity of our school community and promised to keep each and every one of us in her daily prayers.

Secondly, thanks to the PTG for organizing the 'Fall Family Activity' at Westcraft Nursery last Thursday. As anyone that attended can attest to, it was a rousing success. The weather cooperated, attendance was fantastic and the haunted hayride was a huge hit! Students are already looking forward to next year!

And, congratulations to the OLMC Cross Country Team on the completion of a great season. The State of Michigan Regionals were held on Halloween and I am happy to report that Cody Parker (Grade 12) qualified for the state competition. He will be representing Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on Saturday, November 7th at the Michigan International Speedway. Best of luck, Cody! I am proud of every member of the Cross Country Team. Throughout the season, I was continually impressed with their drive and determination. It's no secret that Cross Country is my favorite sport and I enjoyed each and every meet!

On Monday, November 9th, our 7th and 8th grade students will take a break from their normal routine and participate in HS Prep Day. This event is designed to give students a real life 'taste' of high school life at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Several students from other area schools will also be participating this year. Dress code, as well as, arrival and dismissal times remain the same. And, lunch will be free that day, courtesy of the OLMC Development Department.

Tuesday, November 10th is a half day of school due to parent teacher conferences which will be held from 1:00–3:30 and 5:00–7:00 p.m. A sheet detailing the procedure for Grades K-8 is enclosed. As in the past, upper school teachers (Grades 9-12) will be situated in the gym. Report cards for all grades will be handed out at conferences so it is imperative that you schedule a time to attend.

Please mark your calendar and plan on attending the PTG General Meeting on November 11th @ 6:30 p.m. Our parent group is always looking for your input. Alone we can do so little but together we can accomplish great things!

And, why not plan on attending our upper school open house on Sunday, November 15th from 1:00-3:00 p.m.? Our upper school (Grades 9-12) has received many requests for high school placements and will be hosting a fall open house so as to allow interested parties to tour the facilities, review the curriculum and meet the staff. If you haven't walked through the high school, this would be a great opportunity to acquaint yourself with the programs geared toward our older students. This is a must for our 7th and 8th grade families because it will not be long before they will be walking those hallowed halls of MC High!

On the subject of the high school, please pray for our 9th and 10th graders on November 17th as they go on religious retreat. May their hearts and minds be moved by the Spirit.

Spirit Shop Update! The Spirit Shop has enjoyed an enormous amount of success in the limited time it's been open. Orders taken at the Grand Opening and PTG Breakfast are currently in process and should be filled this week. The store will be open after school on the following days: Wednesday, November 4th; Friday, November 6th; Friday, November 13th; Wednesday, November 18th and Friday, November 20th. Also, due to popular demand, it will be open during the afternoon session of conferences on Tuesday, November 10th. Stop in and take a peek! Order forms are being developed and will be sent home as soon as they're complete. Suggestions for new apparel are always welcome. The possibilities are endless!

An exciting announcement regarding Scrip! In an effort to promote our Scrip Program and help keep tuition costs minimal for parents, Fr. Ptak and I have decided to apply a portion of Scrip proceeds toward tuition. Here's how it will work: When you purchase Scrip, half of the proceeds generated from your purchase will be applied to next year's tuition (Academic Year 2010-2011). This represents a wonderful way to lower your tuition cost and help the school while shopping for your everyday needs. This will be discussed in more detail at the PTG General Meeting so please be sure to attend!

And another easy fundraising idea ... Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup Labels! Marie Marleau has graciously taken on the administration of these fundraisers and is currently trying to wrestle them back under control. Please clip your box tops and Campbell labels and send them into the school office. It's free money!!! And it can really add up!

Brown envelope reminder: The brown envelope should be returned to your child's homeroom teacher within two days of receipt. The brown envelope is our vehicle of communication and when we receive it back, we know that you, the parent, have received the informational contents. So please make every effort to look for the brown envelope every two weeks, review the contents and return the envelope to your child's teacher.

And now, a word about November, the month of Thanksgiving. The bulletin board outside of my office has been decorated, thanks to Mrs. Swalec, for Thanksgiving and reflects what the students of OLMC are thankful for this season. As I read each precious saying, I reflected on how thankful I am to be the principal of a Catholic School. I thank God every day for Fr. Ptak and his dedication to Catholic Education amidst naysayers and nonbelievers that do not share the same commitment to Christ. I am thankful for my faculty and staff. They prove time and time again that their work here is a mission as opposed to a job. I am thankful for our parents because of your commitment to Catholic Education. Your self sacrifice in sending your child to a school where we can not only say God's name out loud but join together in prayer and worship as a school community proves that you take your roles as Catholic parents seriously! And, of course, I am thankful for our students, the next generation of Catholics. I am humbled to know that this wonderful school with such a modest history plays such a great part in developing their morals and values that will carry them with their faith into their adult lives.

Timothy Scanlon, Principal