

November 17, 2009

Upon reading Fr. Ptak's front page bulletin article this past Sunday, I was both moved and impressed with his overall commitment to Catholic Education and, in particular, his love and commitment to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic School. Because it is so powerful, I am enclosing a copy of it in this brown envelope for everyone to once again review. I know first hand that you, the parents of our students, share his enthusiasm and appreciate the fact that "God is not banned but Worshipped, Praised and Adored" at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic School. The daily sacrifice that you make to keep your child in a Catholic School is a testament to your commitment as Catholic parents to provide your children with a solid moral and Catholic Education in this godless society.

To that end and in celebration of you, I would like to announce that there will be a celebration of OLMC parents on the morning of Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Now, you probably think that I'm nuts right now. After all, isn't January a long way off? However, as I read and reread Father's article, I got to thinking that we should somehow celebrate and formally recognize the parents of our students. And, what better time to do so than during Catholic Schools Week? On Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, there will be an all school Mass at 8:00 a.m. Immediately following the Eucharistic Celebration, I am inviting all parents to the gym for a breakfast in celebration of YOU! After CHRISTmas break, I will send out more information and an RSVP form. In the meantime, though, check your calendars, clear your schedules and plan to spend the morning with us!

I promised myself that I would keep these letters short and sweet. However, try as I might, there is so much going on here at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic School and we are so alive with activity that I find it impossible to do so!

This Friday, our Junior Class (OLMC Class of 2011) will celebrate **Ring Day** at the 8:00 a.m. Mass. Ring Day at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is a time honored tradition. On that day, class rings are blessed before the Lord and the juniors are officially elevated to 'upper classman' status. As part of the ceremony, they vow to uphold and promote the ideals of our school. Of course, all are invited to Mass on Friday to witness the Ring Day ceremony.

Please keep our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students in your thoughts and prayers on Saturday as they take the **High School Placement Test**. Standardized tests can be intimidating. However, we ask only that God guide them to do their best.

**SCRIP** is off to a wonderful start! As was announced and discussed at the PTG Meeting, half of the profits generated by your individual orders will be applied toward your 2010-2011 tuition. Many families are already taking advantage of this offer. Forms are enclosed for your convenience. Feel free to copy the top sheet and distribute to family and friends. Orders will be placed every Monday. Generally, it takes 2 days for the school to receive the order. So, you can count on having your order by Friday of each week.

And, the **Spirit Shop** is not only open but thriving, as well. The huge order from conferences and the PTG Meeting was placed yesterday and we hope to have it back in house for distribution by the end of this week. Order forms have been developed and are enclosed for your convenience. Since many families are purchasing Comet Spirit Wear for CHRISTmas, I have decided to make Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> a free dress day whereby students, faculty, staff and parents can wear Mt. Carmel

apparel. Many families have suggested designating one day a month for this purpose and I think that it's a great idea! Right now, I'm looking at the first Wednesday of each month but will remind you on a month to month basis.

Bob Haire and the OLMC Athletic Department is preparing for a very busy basketball season and, in particular, for the **CHRISTmas tournament**. Our CHRISTmas tournament is the best in the downriver area and schools are already calling and registering to be a part of the competition. During the tournament, Mrs. Huerta runs a concession stand that is second to none! This year, as in the past, we are asking for donations of items to be sold at the concession stand during the tournament. Cans of pop (any flavor and/or variety), cases of gatorade/lemonade/tea, individual bags of chips, candy, etc. are some of the items that are sold. If you run across a great sale, why not donate some items to this concession stand? Obviously, donations cut down on expenses and lower expenses mean larger profits. The money funds athletics at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and our athletic teams allow an outlet for our students to grow and mature physically, emotionally and spiritually through healthy competition and team building.

And, if you have some extra time, why not volunteer to work at some of the events? We are always looking for volunteers to work the door, sell concessions, keep score, etc. It's a great way to not only get involved but fulfill your service hour commitment, too. Volunteerism at these games is not limited to parents of student athletes! All are welcome to help, attend and/or cheer for the mighty Comets!

**Lunch forms** for the month of December are enclosed. Please submit your completed form with payment to the school office no later than Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. Due to the timing of placing the commodities order, we cannot allow for late orders! And, if you are receiving a free and/or reduced lunch, please fill out a form, as well. I am happy to report that the lunch program is going very well. Now, it is simply a matter of tweaking our system so as to make it better and better. Thank you for your cooperation and special thanks to the lunch moms/dads for their patience and flexibility the past two months as we ironed out our system!

**Kaitlyn Patrick** (Grade 10) will be performing in Dypac's A CHRISTmas Carol this holiday season and a flier detailing dates and times is attached. Katie has been working very hard and I'm sure I speak for the entire school community when I congratulate her for her theatrical accomplishments!

The PTG is preparing for their next big events: **Breakfast with St. Nicholas** and the annual **Cookie Walk** on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Information is enclosed. Of course, volunteers are needed. But also, please invite everyone you know ... family, friends, neighbors ... to these events. The PTG works very hard to raise money for the benefit of our children. The OLMC Altar Society will also be hosting a **jewelry making** event on December 6<sup>th</sup> during the breakfast and cookie walk. Please support their efforts as their moneys go toward purchasing Church items such as hosts, candles, altar linens, flowers, etc.

To the end of page two ... Gonna end it here ... Remember that Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> is a half day. Happy Thanksgiving!

Timothy Scanlon, Principal