

Our Lady of Lourdes School

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Colusa, CA 95932

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www.theollschool.com



Newsletter of December 5, 2014

Dates to Remember:

Monday, Dec. 8th - PTC Meeting 8 am

Tuesday, Dec. 9th - Caroling 6:00 pm

Parish Penance Service 6 pm

Wednesday, Dec. 10th - 2 pm dismissal

Krispy Kreme orders due

Thursday, Dec. 11th - Rally 10:15 am

Bring unwrapped gifts to the rally

No Mass

SAC meeting 6 pm

Friday, Dec. 12th - Jeans for a Buck

Spirit Day

Canned Food Drive ends

Krispy Kreme donut pick up

Sunday, Dec. 14th - Family Liturgy 10 am

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Dear Parents,

We are now in the Church Season of Advent. You might think of the colors of this season would be red and green that we see everywhere this time of year. For Catholics, the colors of the liturgical season of Advent are purple and a bit of pink. These colors have special significance for this holy season. They call to mind the themes of Advent.

The traditional Advent wreath will have three purple candles, one pink candle and perhaps a white candle in the center. Purple implies the theme of repentance and fasting in preparation for the celebration of Christmas when the white candle will be lit. During Advent, the priest at our Sunday Masses will wear purple vestments the first, second and fourth Sundays of Advent. As in Lent, purple reminds us that we are all sinners in need of God's mercy and love, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. We rejoice in the promise of redemption through the sacrifice of Jesus. On that day, the



Attachments:

Home & School Connection

Parent Partnership Handbook

Upcoming Dates:

Dec. 16th - Christmas Caroling 6 pm

Dec. 17th - Christmas Program & Dessert Pot

Luck 6:30 pm

Dec. 22nd through Jan. 2nd Christmas Break

Jan. 5th - Staff Inservice - No School

Jan. 7th - 5th - 8th grade Retreat in Chico

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priest wears pink vestments, and we light the pink candle on our wreath as a sign of our joy. It's a good reminder that while joy fills our plans for Christmas gift-buying and gift-giving, the true joy of Christmas is welcoming God's only Son into the world.

The white Christmas vestments are a sign of the purity of Christ, the sinless one. The priest will wear white vestments on Christmas Day and at all Masses through the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

This Monday, Dec. 8th, is the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception. The Immaculate Conception is the doctrine that Mary, conceived in the normal way through an act of love by her mother and father, was born free of original sin and its effects from the first moment of her existence. This special grace was conferred on her through the grace of God in anticipation of the Redemption. The Immaculate Conception celebrates the blessed Mother as a pure and spotless vessel designed for the privilege and responsibility of carrying the Son of God into the world. We hail Mary in faith and prayer because she is "full of grace" and because "the Lord is with her."

During this busy Advent season, as you shop and cook and wrap gifts, remember that Jesus came for us. He did not come as a conquering king but as a simple child born in a stable. At his death he wore a crown of thorns and died on the cross for us. In a joyfully unexpected event - he rose from

the dead, promising eternal life for those who believe in him.

As you move through Advent season do not forget the true meaning of the season. Give when you can to those in need. Share the joy of Christ with family and friends.

Let us pray for our students as they grow in Fortitude and help all of us to show mercy, love, and charity.

Yours in Christ,

Barbara Genera

1. Toy/Gift Drive -Thursday, Dec. 11th

Most of our families and students forgot about the toy/gift drive. Please do remember to bring items to donate this coming Thursday, Dec. 11th. We will bless them at our student



rally and then take them to Impact. Those students who brought items this week, we have them in the office and will include them in our blessing on the 11th.

We ask that each school family purchase one Christmas gift item for a child of any age and bring it on Thursday, Dec. 11th. We only request one item from each family. Please make sure the items are unwrapped. This makes it easier for distribution.

2. Can Food Drive

The canned food drive has begun! Our Lady of Lourdes School is collecting canned food items for people in need throughout Colusa County. These items will in turn be placed in food baskets and distributed to people that may otherwise not have a holiday meal. Each year our school unites with many organizations throughout our community to provide these holiday baskets. Our own 7th and 8th grade students pitch in and help sort the collected cans at the Fairgrounds every year. Please join us and support the canned food drive.

To make it easy, the Student Council Service Committee has placed a collection box in every classroom at school. They will check these boxes daily and there will be a prize for the classroom that turns in the most cans. Our canned food drive



will end this year on Friday, December 12th. As always, thank you for your help and generosity.

3. Krispy Cream Donut Sale

Order forms for Krispy Cream donuts went home on Wednesday, Dec. 3rd. Orders will be due on Wednesday, Dec. 10th and donuts can be picked up at the school on Friday morning, Dec. 12th. We will have two drive through locations for picking up donuts on both sides of St Bernadette's Hall between 6:30 and 9 am. See the attached information for the pickup locations.



We do need a few helpers for the morning of Dec. 12th. Please call the school or Gretchen Carrere at 870-6451 if you can help.

4. Citizenship Awards

Awards were given to students who showed the quality of Counsel during the month of November at Mass on Dec. 4th. The students who received this special award were Kaisy Colsa, Nathan Meza, Gabriella Sandoval, Allison Traynham, Georgia Guinn, Julian Granados, Gracie Tirado, Liliana Davis, and Eddy Sandoval.

Congratulations having this gift of the Holy Spirit.

5. WASC Parent Survey

Parent Surveys went home on Monday, Dec. 1st. Hopefully all parents were able to respond to the surveys. Thank you to those parents who were able to complete the survey and send it back to us.

6. Christmas Caroling

The Marketing Committee has scheduled our students to do Christmas Caroling around the town of Colusa on Tuesday, Dec. 9th and Tuesday, Dec. 16th. We will all meet at 6 pm in front of St. Bernadette's Hall and car pool to a few locations around town. We will come back in an hour for refreshments. All students are invited to join in the caroling.



"I will raise up for David a just shoot." Jeremiah 33:15

Fundraising Opportunities

Target: Don't forget to use your Target Red Card when shopping at Target (make sure you have your card designated for Our Lady of Lourdes School). Up to 1% of your purchases are donated back to the school.

Box Tops: Every box top is 10 cents to our school. Save your General Mills, Pillsbury, Betty Crocker, Ziploc, Kleenex, and the eBox Tops Marketplace. Bring the box tops to the school office.

Labels For Education: Save your Campbell's labels and bring them to the school. We are able to trade these in for educational supplies.

Raley's/Bel Air Extra Credit Program: Sign up for the something Extra Shopping card and then go on line and designate Our Lady of Lourdes School as the school of your choice. Raley's/Bel Air will donate 1% back to the school.

Preview

Mrs. Walsh-K: Our math homework packets will begin to have addition problems included.

Mrs. Croghan-1st/2nd: X Students should practice reading/singing the songs for the Christmas Program nightly!!! The study guide for the Advent test went home Tuesday on yellow paper. No cards will be due for this test. The test will be December 17th. The Weather test will be January 15th. The 3x5 cards are due December 17th. I would recommend that you make a copy of the cloud images and use them for one side of the card and their corresponding names on the other. This would also work for the weather tools, cut and glue, whiting out the fill-in word on the text side. Don't forget to make the short essay question cards. Students will have to write out a sentence response for those questions on the test. Math Facts homework will resume next week for all students on +1 and +2 facts. Study, Study, Study, we like to study.

Mrs. Walsh-2nd: We have our celebration for Our Lady of Guadalupe on Friday, December 12th. There is a sign-up sheet on the door. We

will enjoy the food brought after lunch, so please be sure your child still has something to eat during lunchtime that day.

Mrs. Ramirez-2nd/3rd Math: Next week 3rd grade will be learning about relating multiplication and division. 2nd grade will be learning about patterns with hundreds, understanding three -digit numbers and use different ways to show one thousand. 3rd grade, please continue to study your multiplication flashcards daily.

Mrs. Farrell-5th/6th: Next Tuesday there is the Ch. 7 history vocabulary quiz. Next Thursday we have our trip to the IMAX theatre and the Sacramento Cathedral of the Blessed Heart. Please wear a jacket that day because we will be walking outside, and get your cash/check and permission slip to me asap. Next Friday there is a math test. 5th grade: Greatest Common Factor/Least Common Multiple, changing fractions to decimals, equivalent fractions, simplifying fractions, adding/subtracting fractions and mixed numbers, multiplying fractions. 6th grade: Distributive Property, parts of an expression, identifying equivalent expressions, solving equations with more than one operation, solving equations using tables and graphs, graphing coordinates, solving formula. We will be reviewing math in class next week, but (and I cannot say this enough) studying at home is IMPERATIVE! Also, students will memorize and recite a Christmas poem (they have chosen poems and are signed up to recite from Dec. 15th-17th). If you don't begin to get a Christmas poem stuck in your head this holiday season, then know that your student isn't sufficiently practicing! Ch. 6 English (Voyages text) test will be given Dec. 17th. I also want to remind parents and students about the mass reflections and community service hours (5 for 5th, 6 for 6th). If you worked at the Pheasant Festival in the game room, you can use those hours.

Mrs. McCullough-7th/8th: Next week we will spend a lot of time on the Christmas play. Please bring in any needed prop and materials on Monday. We will squeeze in a prop building day next week. On Tuesday, we will have the science test on Atomic Theories, radioactivity, and half-lives. On Wednesday, rough drafts of the Research Essay are due and will be peer edited. Friday we will have the Unit 8 Vocab test and also celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe's Feast Day. Also, on Tuesday, Dec. 9th OLL will be

Caroling at 6-7pm. Any 7/8th who attends can use that time as Community Service hours. I look forward to hearing those beautiful Christmas voices!

Recognition/Review

Mrs. Walsh-K: We have begun to borrow little red reader books. Please have your child bring it to school each day just like they would an AR book.

Mrs. Croghan-1st/2nd: X Nathan Meza has passed the + 4 Math Facts. Anthony Anderson has passed the + 5 Math Facts and Brayden Duran has passed the +6 Math Facts. Way to Go boys! Congratulations to Nickolas Meza for joining the Ten Point Club and earning his 2nd Ready Reader Certificate in AR. Congratulations to Anthony Anderson for joining the Thirty Point Club and earning his 3rd Rising Reader Certificate! Read, Read, Read, we like to READ!

Mrs. Walsh-2nd: The students have begun to look up vocabulary words each week in the dictionary. They are getting faster.

Mrs. Ramirez-2nd/3rd Math: Congratulations to Eleanor Jewett for earning 100% on the Ch. 5 math test. Also, earning 90% and above Jesse Medina. Way to go!!

Mrs. Farrell-5th/6th: Our students have been doing a great job remembering to bring in non-perishable items for our food drive; remember the drive lasts until Dec. 10th. Advent is here and we are busy preparing ourselves for Jesus' birth! Each student has written on a purple ornament a gift that they have decided to give Jesus this season; they are hanging on our makeshift tree as a daily reminder. Our advent wreath, Nativity, and Christmas day countdown (including chocolates) are all set up. We have Christmas lights, too, thanks to Mrs. Walsh! We're continuing to learn about poetry, and the literary tools and figurative language used by poets. We read In Flanders Field this week, and we are excited to read and discuss more poems in the next two weeks. We're also busy preparing for our Christmas program!

Mrs. McCullough-7th/8th: A lot of kudos are due this week. In Religion, Helena Harris and Mary Pat Peterson scored 100% on the chpt 16 test

with Pablo Meraz rounding out the A's. Our Chapter 7 Vocab Test was full of all stars! Congratulations to Mary Pat Peterson, Christian Reyna, and Erik Wrynski for earning 100% and to Fernando Castillo, Lili Davis, Helena Harris, Pablo Meraz, Eddy Sandoval, Sophia Stocks, and Dylan Toscano for bring home the A. The Literary Analysis essays are going home today as well. I would like to say, "Awesome Job!" to Fernando Castillo, Erik Wrynski, and Helena Harris for the A paper! Islamic Mosaics were presented this week as well. Thank you for the hard work and interesting facts discovered. The mosaics are in the window on display if you would like to come check out the work. The Islamic unit test had some top scores as well. Honorable mentions were earned by Fernando Castillo, Jacob Lambirth, Helena Harris, and Christian Reyna. Job well done 7/8th!

“Our words might hide our thoughts, but our actions will reveal them.”

Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

Diocese of Sacramento
Catholic School Department

December 2014



SHORT NOTES

Where is it?

If you give your child a U.S. map, how quickly can he find all the cities with NFL teams? Kids tend to be more interested in maps when the locations relate to their interests or lives. Another idea is to show him a state map, and tell him to point out all the cities he has visited or ridden through.

Donate recyclables

Many families will have leftover cardboard boxes, wrapping paper, or greeting cards this winter. Ask your youngster's classroom teacher and art teacher if they could use the items for projects. Sending in recyclables is an easy way to support your child's education and to show her that you're thinking about her school.

Meet the babysitter

When you need a sitter for your youngster, consider letting him meet her ahead of time. Invite her over so your child can show her around your home and tell her what he likes to play with. Afterward, go over rules for homework, TV use, and snacks, and point out safety items (emergency phone numbers, first aid kit, flashlight).

Worth quoting

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." *Aesop*

JUST FOR FUN

Lisa: "Do you want to hear a construction joke?"

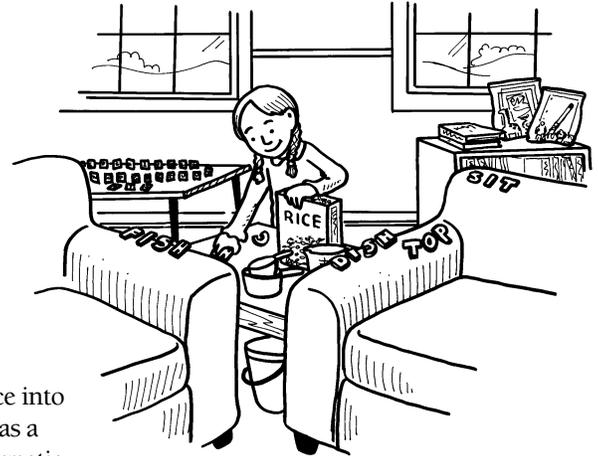
Jack: "Sure."

Lisa: "I'm still working on it."



Learning around the house

Children often like to play school at home. With winter break coming up, encourage your youngster to set up "learning centers" just like her teacher has at school. She'll enjoy being both teacher and student—and she's sure to learn a lot. Here are ideas.



Dig and find

Help your youngster pour rice into a wide, shallow container, such as a baking dish. She could bury magnetic letters in it and dig them up one at a time until she can make a word. Or she might estimate how much rice a bucket will hold and use measuring cups to check. Finally, have her hide small items (paper clip, coin, plastic toys) in the rice and move a magnet through it—she'll discover which items are attracted to it.

Read and perform

Suggest that your youngster pick a few of her books and collect items to act out the stories. She can put each book and its props in a zipper bag. *Example:*

For a story set in a forest, she may get plastic animals. Add paper and pencil so she could write a new opening or an alternate ending. She'll practice reading for meaning as she visualizes the action or thinks of different plot twists.

Order and arrange

Let your child gather things to put in order. For instance, have playing cards that she can stack from 1 (ace) to 10 or Scrabble tiles for her to line up from A to Z. Or write decimals (0.05, 0.7, 1.5) on separate slips of paper for her to arrange from smallest to largest.♥

Smooth sailing

Keep the holidays simple—and everyone happy—with these stress-free suggestions:

- Some families just try to do too much! Settle on the one or two holiday traditions that everyone really enjoys, and drop the others.

Tip: Exercise is a known stress-reducer, so include an active tradition like a family softball game or hike.

- Try to stick to your youngster's routine as much as possible. For example, if you have a long drive to Grandma's house, let him ride in his pajamas. He can listen to an audio book and fall asleep in the car at his usual bedtime.♥



Responsible for myself

Who can John count on to make sure his schoolwork gets turned in? John! That's because his parents taught him that he's responsible for his own learning and for the choices he makes. Consider this advice for raising a responsible youngster.

Learning. It's up to your child to listen to his teacher and complete assignments she gives him. Ask him to think of other ways he could take responsibility as a student. He might say he should bring home school library books for a project or let you know if he is struggling with math.



Decisions. If your youngster makes a mistake, encourage him to own up to it. Kids sometimes get into the habit of blaming others. ("Indoor Frisbee was her idea!") You'll help him see the connection between his decision and the consequence by saying something like, "You decided to take your sister's advice, and you broke a vase." *Tip:* When

he does admit responsibility for a mistake, try not to get angry. Instead, ask, "How could you fix it?" or "What did you learn from this?"♥



"Thank you, teacher"

Your child will bring a smile to his teacher's face with homemade gifts like these.

Cookbook

Here's a gift that lets the teacher try some of your family's favorite dishes! Help your youngster collect family recipes from your kitchen or from relatives. He can write and illustrate each one on a piece of paper. Then, have him decorate a cover, punch two holes on the left side of each page, and tie yarn through the holes.



Picture frame

For this colorful idea, your child needs a box of crayons and a picture frame with a wide, flat border. Let him use craft or wood glue to stick crayons or crayon pieces all over the frame. Inside the frame, he could put a class picture or a photo of himself with his teacher.♥

Q & A

Play with vocabulary

Q: Studying vocabulary words is not my daughter's favorite thing. Are there ways to make it more fun for her?

A: Sure! You could turn study time into game time with ideas like these.

Let your daughter write each word on a muffin tin liner and put the liners in a muffin pan. Take turns tossing a coin into the pan. When it lands on a word, the player can either give its definition or use it in a sentence. If you define or use the word correctly, keep the liner. If not, leave it in the pan. Then, it's the next person's turn.

For the second game, have her write vocabulary words on a beach ball using a washable or dry-erase marker. Toss the ball back and forth. When you catch it, define a word your right hand is touching. The other player has to guess your word based on the definition.

Note: For both games, keep her textbook or a dictionary nearby to check definitions.♥



ACTIVITY CORNER

Glitter "germs"

Handwashing is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of germs and help keep everyone healthy. This activity will show your child how germs spread—and motivate her to wash up.

1. Ask her to wet her hands, and then sprinkle them with glitter (to represent germs).
2. Let her touch a counter top or door-knob. Next, you touch the same spot. She just shared her

"germs" with you! Point out that the same thing happens with real germs.

3. Have her try to wash the glitter off with water only, and then with soap *and* water. She'll see that she needs soap to get rid of the "germs." Be sure to have her wipe them off the counter, too.

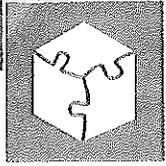
Note: Suggest that she think about her glitter germs to remind herself to wash her hands before meals, after using the bathroom, and when she coughs or sneezes.♥



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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Monitor Daily Performance

Dr. Patricia M. McCormack, IHM

It is true that “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Keep track of the daily paper trail: homework, quizzes, tests, notebooks, and workbooks. Be proactive. Keep current on your child’s academic performance. Teach your child to focus on teacher remarks that appear on student paperwork. Don’t be caught off guard when the school issues mid-quarter reports or failure warnings. If your school posts grades electronically, check the website weekly or, better yet, make it your child’s responsibility to give you a weekly print-out. Focus on the following five practices.

Dr. Pat McCormack is a consultant and public speaker on issues of whole-person formation. Contact her at the IHM Office of Formative Support for Parents and Teachers, DrPatMcCormack@aol.com.

1. Set Realistic Standards

Use personal observation and teacher input to determine reasonable expectations. When we ask too much of a child, we frustrate; when we ask too little, we insult! Store away examples of your child’s work that illustrate neat, accurate, care-filled performance. If the need arises to re-motivate, use those samples as the standard of expectation.

2. Supervise Homework

Homework is time-on-task. Generally, the time expectation is 10 minutes multiplied by the child’s grade level. Assist with memory work. Listen to lessons. Examine written work for thoroughness and accuracy. Have your child make personalized flash cards for review and drill. With a calendar available, teach how to divide a long-range project into small parts. By grade six, hold your child accountable for creating the time plan and submitting it to you for input.

3. Expect Personal Best

Explain to children that God’s gift to them is life; how they use their lives becomes their gift to God. Their job is to complete schoolwork to the best of their ability (which gives glory to God) or to deal with the consequences of negative choices. Revoke privileges if performance falls below your realistic, established standards, and use that time for additional study to correct the situation. If parent or teacher accepts less than a student’s personal best, it conveys a destructive and self-defeating message.

4. Establish Goals

Routinely, help your child to set a goal, write out a schedule that includes specific behaviors that will be necessary to reach the goal, post the plan in a meaningful place for frequent reference, follow the plan, and finish on or before the due date. Assist with goal setting and support your child’s efforts with suggestions, but let the planning and accomplishment belong to him or her. By junior-high age have your child communicate to you realistic academic goals and related behaviors at the beginning of the year and at each marking period or more often, if necessary.

5. Avoid Procrastination

Teach your child how to look ahead and to get into the habit of getting a jump-start on long-range assignments. Provide an organizer-type book or electronic system to keep track of upcoming events, projects, homework, etc. Help him or her to develop a systematic approach to task completion: practice maintaining a log, a to-do list, or a calendar. If your school provides regular home communication, read the material together and make calendar notations of events. In a nutshell, benefit from the maxim: “Plan your work and work your plan.” 



Krispy Kreme Doughnut Sale Information

Presale begins Wednesday, December 3rd.

Krispy Kreme original doughnuts sell for \$10.00 a dozen.

Please make checks payable **to Our Lady of Lourdes School.**

Collect money at the time of preorder.

All order forms are due back on Wednesday, December 10th.

Doughnut pick up day is Friday December 12th

6:30a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

We will have two stations set up for pick up on the morning of the 12th one in each parking lot.

Remember this is the only time to pick up your doughnuts...fresh from the oven!!

We will have a few extra available for purchase the day of pickup.

If you have any questions about the Krispy Kreme fundraiser please call, Gretchen Carrere 530.870.6451

Our Lady of Lourdes School

Krispy Kreme Pick Up Friday, Dec. 12 6:30-9 am

At the locations marked below:

