

To: Parents of OLG Students
Fr: Mrs. Chaimowitz
Re: Week of September 21, 2009

Back-to School Social Thanks: Thank you to all the families who came to the Back-to-School Social last Friday night. Our school families enjoyed some good food and music, while mingling with new and old friends. A big thank you goes out to **Judy Anzaldo** for chairing the event, and **Kevin Fisher** for providing the entertainment. Thanks also, to **Jack McMahon** for his tireless work that evening, **Lyn Strozer** for managing the food area, and all the other OLG parents who volunteered to help with this fun event.

OLG "Welcome Week": This is an exciting week when we welcome every new student (and their families) to our school with some fun activities. We kicked off Welcome Week by introducing and welcoming each new student individually at the Monday morning assembly. There will be some fun surprises during the week to make our students feel welcome at their new school.

Class Representative Elections: On Monday and Tuesday of this week the elections for Class Representatives took place in each classroom. The election results will be published in next week's family bulletin. Congratulations to all those who ran!

PTO General Meeting: This Wednesday, September 23 at 7:00 p.m., we will have an open forum meeting facilitated by PTO President, **Colleen Consola**, on PTO issues and/or concerns. Please submit questions in writing addressed to Colleen Consola, and return in your family envelope on Wednesday morning. Only questions turned into Colleen by Wednesday morning will be answered.

This is a mandatory PTO meeting, so we kindly ask at least one parent/guardian from each family to attend. Sign-in sheets will be posted on the wall of the Parish Hall, where the meeting will take place. This will be an adult only evening. Any students who are brought to the meeting will be supervised by Sr. Michelle in a classroom so they are not outside without supervision. Students will be doing quiet seat work during this time.

In the rare circumstance that no parent/guardian is able to attend a PTO General Meeting, I ask that you write me a note of explanation. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Catechetical Sunday: The **Our Lady of Grace Children's Choir** will be singing at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Catechetical Sunday, September 27. We cordially invite and encourage all our school students and their families to come hear our wonderful chorus and cantors, led by **Mrs. Caroline Wilson**, at this very special Mass.

OLG Chorus Members: On September 27 we will sing at the 9:30 a.m. Catechetical Sunday Mass. We'll sing songs you know and love. If you can attend, please plan on arriving at church by 9:15 a.m. The chorus will sit in front of the tabernacle. Chorus members: Don't forget to wear your dress uniform to Mass. Please, come help this be a great, music-filled Mass! -- *Mrs. Wilson*

ITBS Testing: All schools are required to participate in an archdiocese-wide standardized testing program. The Iowa Testing of Basic Skills (ITBS) has been selected for the archdiocesan elementary system testing program. **The testing will be administered during the mornings next week from Monday through Thursday** for grades 2 through 8. Please do not plan any vacations, medical appointments, or other appointments that would take your child out of school during this important testing period.

October Hot Lunch: October orders are due tomorrow, Wednesday, September 23. Please make sure each child has his/her own order form. You may send in one check per family, however. Please keep the top portion of the hot lunch calendar for your reference during the month of October. Please return your orders tomorrow. Unfortunately, late order forms cannot be accepted because we have to place our final orders with "Mr. Jiffy" in advance of the month.

Sports Team Practices: Practices for Girls Volleyball and Boys Flag Football officially start this week. Practice days and times are clearly posted outside the P.E. office located in the west school building. **All sports fees for the fall season are now due. Your child will not be able to begin practice until the \$50 fee has been paid.** If you have any sports-related questions, please contact **Coach Fisher** at: 818-344-4126, extension 333.

Volunteer Service Hours: Volunteer Hours Report forms will be sent to you once a month via your family envelope. Please look for a form included in this envelope. If you've already done some volunteering at the school, THANK YOU! Now you should complete one of these forms (Volunteer Hours Report) to document your volunteer time, if you haven't already done so. Please send your completed form back to the school office via your returned family envelope. The VP of Volunteers will keep this information as record of your volunteer hours.

The **required** number of service hours has been **reduced** to 35 hours. Each family must work at least 9 of these hours during the April, 2010 fair. The amount billed to you for **unfulfilled** service hours will **increase** to \$25.00 per hour. Unfulfilled **fair** hours will remain the same at \$50 per un-worked hour during the weekend of the fair.

All OLG volunteers (**regardless of level or type of volunteer position**) are required to **document the first 35 hours** of service worked.

Example: *Mrs. Jane Doe, Room Parent, 1 hour – September 8, 2009 – 3rd Grade Class Newsletter Meeting*

Or: *Mr. John Doe, 8th Grade Basketball Coach, 2 hours – September 16, 2009 – Practice w/ boys A team*

This is to maintain equitable reporting practices and to gather information that will help to accurately staff future events and positions. This is to assist **all** families in fulfilling their service hours to Our Lady of Grace. We are truly blessed to be part of a community where **so many families contribute so much** of their time and talent! **Thanks again, to all our wonderful OLG parent volunteers!**

Magazine Drive – Week 3: How are your magazine sales coming along? Keep the momentum going! There are only **two** more official “turn-in days” left. One is **this Friday, September 25**, and the last one is just around the corner on October 2. **Enter as many orders as you can online.** For “landed” order form users: Please make sure to fill out the forms clearly so you and your children receive the proper credit. As a reminder, the school retains **50 cents of every \$1 spent** on these magazine orders. In addition to directly benefiting our children with the profits made from this fundraiser, please note that **40 % of each family’s total sales will be credited to your Family Fundraising Obligation (FFO).** So please keep those orders coming! If you have any questions, please call **Erin McClure** at 818-708-8456, or **Dewi Brahm**s at 310-529-7914. – *Erin and Dewi*

Gift the Gift of Reading: Please don't forget the **Los Angeles Radio Reading Service's** request for contributions for magazines. This is a non-profit organization we have adopted with this drive that broadcasts magazine content to listeners who cannot see or cannot turn pages. This is a wonderful cause and can help make the day of many visually impaired people. Your magazine purchase for this organization is tax-deductible. Thank you!

Volunteer Opportunity – Magazine Drive: If you wish to earn a few volunteer hours, we are looking to fill some spots Friday mornings on September 25 and October 2, from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. to reconcile orders. Please contact **Dewi Brahm**s at 310-529-7914 for further information.

Artwork for Education: Art teachers are working with students to produce beautiful artwork that will be turned into greeting cards that parents, family, and friends can purchase and enjoy. In order for your child's artwork to be published in the catalog so you can purchase it in the form of a beautiful greeting card, **a permission form is required. The deadline for turning in the permission forms is Friday, September 25. NO EXCEPTIONS.** Please turn these forms into your child's homeroom teacher, or to the school office via your returned family envelope. Extra copies can be found in the school office also. **If any parents would like to contribute artwork, we would love to have it! Please put your completed artwork into the “Ways & Means” mailbox in the school office no later than Friday, September 25.** If you have any questions about the program, please contact **Heather Clemens** at 818-774-1958, or **Jennifer Lopez** at 818-345-1037.

Returning Family Envelope: **Thank you** to the many parents who've been “doing their homework” (reviewing and completing any paperwork) and returning their family envelopes **on Wednesdays**, as requested. Your diligence in meeting this deadline is very much **appreciated!**

Unfortunately, there are several families who still have not returned all the forms (**emergency forms** included) we asked you to review, sign, and return on the second day of school. We must tell you again how important it is to return the reviewed contents of your family envelope **each Wednesday**. Please make every effort to meet this very important deadline. The staff members and parent volunteers who handle the various paperwork thank you!

Two more emergency/earthquake cards have been included in the family envelopes for several families who still have not returned the previous ones sent to them.

PLEASE NOTE: IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE THESE COMPLETED EMERGENCY CARDS BACK VIA YOUR RETURNED FAMILY ENVELOPE TOMORROW, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, YOUR CHILDREN WILL UNFORTUNATELY NOT BE ABLE TO REMAIN AT SCHOOL. We must have your emergency contact information.

We kindly request any other important forms previously sent to you (but not yet returned) be sent back to us tomorrow also.

Monies Returned in Family Envelopes: Whenever returning checks or cash in the family envelope, please be sure to put your remittances in smaller sealed envelopes and write your child's name, grade, and a description of what the money is for on the outside of that envelope. Enclose these remittance envelopes in your returned family envelopes. Please, no loose checks, bills, or change (especially change) included in the family envelope. If you don't take the time to do this, then we must do it for you. On those weeks that fees are coming back for several different things, it can be somewhat difficult to figure out where your money is to go.

When several fees are being sent back to the office for different things, please be sure to write separate checks, or send separate cash for each thing. For example, last week several parents sent one check combining their payments for Hot Lunch orders, Pizza Friday orders, Back-to-School Social orders, etc. on one check. These functions are all handled by different committees that must reconcile their receipts. We also received lump sums of cash for several different functions, and had to separate those monies also. We appreciate any help you give us to ensure your money reaches the correct destination.

Day Care Receipts: If you need a day care receipt for your Tax-Saver or Flex Spending account, please contact Mrs. Stott at stottm@ourladyofgrace.org.

Weekly Scrip Orders: Gelson's Markets and Whole Foods Markets were left off the scrip order form. Gelson's and Whole Foods are available as follows:

Gelson's	\$50 or \$100 increments	Profit rate 5%
Whole Foods	\$50 increments	Profit rate 5%

We will also be adding:

Henry's Farmers Market	\$50 Increments	Profit rate 3%
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If the order form in your envelope does not list these merchants, please 'write-in' your Gelson's, Whole Foods, and/or Henry's orders. Thank you.

Knights of Columbus Soccer Penalty Kick Competition: The Van Nuys K of C has announced its first annual Soccer Penalty Kick Competition is to be held this Sunday, September 27. The competition is open to all boys and girls from 10 to 14 years of age (as of September 1, 2009). The competition will be held on the athletic field of St. Francis de Sales School located at 13368 Valleyheart Dr., Sherman Oaks, 91423. The competition will begin at 3:15 p.m. and end approximately at 5:00 p.m. Each entrant will receive a certificate of participation, and the winners in each category will receive a plaque and a council champion certificate. Winners in each category will advance to the district level competition where they will represent their school and the K of C council. A traveling trophy will be presented to the school/parish with the most penalty kick points made. **If your child is interested in participating, you may pick up a registration form in our school office.** For any further information about this, please contact the competition chairman, **Jack Lathuras**, at 818-782-1097.

Changes to Information in PTO Directory: Since we are still receiving some PTO Directory change-of-information requests from parents, we will hold off printing the information in this bulletin for an additional week.