

The Principal's Corner

Notes and Updates from Principal Maureen Trenary



School on Good Friday: A Rich Religious Landscape Opportunity



With spring breaks and travels waning, we are hoping that many will participate in the inspirational and devotional Holy Week at Our Lady of Grace. I have asked the teachers to not assign homework from Holy Thursday through the Easter Weekend and to not schedule any tests on Good Friday in order to encourage family attendance at our parish Stations and

liturgies.

Last spring SAC discussed honoring Good Friday as a designated school day at OLG this year. Often our students and families are on vacation during Holy Week. I know there are various reasons why some would not want OLG to be in session on Good Friday. ***Being in session provides us a wonderful opportunity for a Good Friday experience for all of our students.*** I like to think that we are a school of the Gospel and we would be remiss as a Catholic School, a school called to provide a rich religious landscaping for our children, to ignore this opportunity to convey the magnitude of Good Friday to all of our students.

Fr. Neil purchased crosses for all of our students to hold as they pray the Stations on Good Friday. The crosses will be blessed after next Wednesday's Mass with holy water from the Jordan River. We asked Fr. Neil to take a picture of the actual stations on the Via Dolorosa as our OLG group followed the path of Jesus in Jerusalem. These pictures will be the backdrops of our outdoor Stations for our students. Our 7th graders will be the leaders for each homeroom praying the Stations. Teachers will be offering various faith opportunities throughout the day and our teachers will be communicating the grade level schedule of their observance for Good Friday. This will not be an ordinary school day. We wish many blessings on all of our students and families during Holy Week and their Easter celebrations!



Giving Thanks: The Holy Land Pilgrimage

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.” 1 Chronicles 16:34

Our teachers and staff were blessed to be able to pilgrimage to the Holy Land! They have expressed their gratitude many times. Father Neil has captured highlights of their pilgrimage which are featured on our school and parish website. The teachers have been sharing their journey with their students.

We are also extremely grateful for our teachers and staff who were at OLG and provided support and coverage for their colleagues as they experienced an extraordinary opportunity. I am humbled by their good will and we could not have not have enjoyed the productive week for our students without the help from the following former teachers (Elaine Nikrad, Nancy Jackson, and Marie Maslowski) and former parents

(Shannon Hansen, Linda Dornbach) and current parents (Jen Williams, Brigitte Nybeck, Laura Giertsen, Jane Reichert, Jess Hannan, Amy Weber, Christina Mosakowski, Katie Yacoub, Katy Kirchner, Annemarie Kraft, Elizabeth Jensen, Susan Michael, Diane Mulligan, Kathleen Johnson, Christina Larson, Danette Halloran, Jackie and Bob Harvey and Mike Rogalski). Thank You!



Design for Learning Update

Jill Johnson, our project designer, will be returning to meet with our teachers on Monday, April 10th (School not in session). She will meet with our teachers as a group and in grade levels during the day. Patrick Healy (an OLG School alumnus) from KI Design will be installing sample furniture in our school library on Friday. Teachers will have the opportunity to view and talk about the furniture during their meetings with Jill. Our teachers will be shown how the furniture can be used in their prospective layouts. This will provide Jill with feedback from everyone on the options reviewed. We are very excited and are grateful to the Men's Club, and our many parents, grandparents and friends of OLG for supporting this initiative!

Share the Good News of OLG!

As we wrap up enrollment of our current families, we still have openings in the majority of our grade levels. As you are talking with your friends in the community, we encourage you to share your experience and the immeasurable value of our faith-based community and rigorous academic program. We are especially looking for new students and families to join us for next year's Kindergarten class!

Registration Fees for 2017-18

Families will see their \$150/child registration fee on their May Smart Tuition statement. Unless a family has communicated to the school office that their child(ren) are not returning, OLG will advance each child forward within Smart Tuition and charge the registration fee. Any family who needs to communicate that their child(ren) are not returning must communicate to myself and Richelle Dudziak by **Friday, April 14th.**



Standards-Based Grading Survey

We are grateful to the 200 parents who completed the standards-based grading survey during March. We appreciate your insights and thoughtful recommendations. At the same time, students in grades 4-6 completed a similar survey detailing their experience transitioning from a traditional grading system to standards-based grading. The Education Committee of the School Advisory Council will take time

over the next several weeks to organize and review the results of this survey. The committee will then work in conjunction with administration and the teachers to discuss and carry out any modifications and improvements to the implementation of standards-based grading moving forward.

Carpool Request on Good Friday

We ask that parents who are carpools in the afternoon on Good Friday to arrive after 3 pm. This will help our parishioners who are attending 3 pm stations to access our parish parking with ease.

Looking Ahead

Monday, April 10: No School for Teacher Workshops

Thursday, April 20: Band & Choir to the Twins Game

Thursday, April 20: 8th Grade Confirmation

Friday, April 21: JPII Gala

Thursday, April 27: Grades 3-5 Concert

Friday, April 28: OLG School Carnival

Friday, June 2: Last Day of School (Edina is ending their school year on Thursday, June 1st due to construction, but we will keep our last day as June 2nd)

