

# The Principal's Corner

Notes and Updates from Principal Maureen Trenary



## Fostering a Staff that Leads the Way!



We have an incredibly talented and faith-filled teaching staff at OLG School. I am grateful for the gifts they all share with each other and their students. It is my hope to foster within each of them the desire and opportunity to take on some degree of a leadership role within our school.

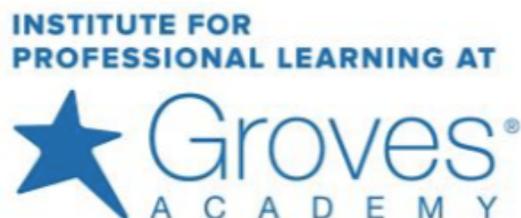
Jesus Christ is our ultimate model of leadership and he demonstrated the importance of creating more leaders. He said, "Come and follow me." and those who followed became the foundation of our Christian faith.

As you read through my updates this month, you will see many new initiatives that our school is both exploring and beginning during the coming months. Each of these initiatives has a variety of teachers leading the way and helping our school to continue to grow and best serve our students and families. These new initiatives would not be a reality without the dedication and creativity of our outstanding staff.



K-2 Teachers in a Meeting with Groves Academy Leadership

## Partnership with Groves Academy



The K-2 teachers are excited about having the opportunity to partner with Groves Academy this coming year in the teaching of Reading. Within the past two weeks, we initiated a partnership with the Institute for Professional Learning at Groves Academy to implement the Groves Literacy Framework in grades K-2 for the 2018-19 school year. This Framework includes:

- Quality core instruction in the area of literacy
- Data driven decision making about students
- A Response to Intervention model
- Professional collaboration
- Ongoing professional development

Some of the services include onsite teacher coaching, data analysis of student progress, increased grade level collaboration and an improved response to intervention model. The addition of this Framework will benefit all K-2 students no matter where they are in their reading development. There will be more information on this partnership with Groves Academy as we approach the 2018-19 school year. I am grateful for Michelle Hannan for her leadership role on this initiative with Groves.

# Doing Good Together: OLG Family Service Fair!

What a special morning where our students, parents, teachers and parishioners joined in Doing Good Together! Our group participated in creating cards, hygiene kits, fidgets, forever flowers, dog adoption packets, and place mats for places like Mary's Place, Catholic Charities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, Send Kids the World, Spot's Last Stop Canine Rescue and Catholic Eldercare! I am grateful to Sharon Hierlmaier for her leadership in creating this opportunity to serve together! Here are the final results of the morning:

- Colored many cards for McKenna and Ethan, a young girl and boy with daunting medical challenges (Send Kids the World)
- Assembled 73 hygiene kits & 55 baby kits for individuals experiencing homelessness (Sharing & Caring Hands and Tubman Center)
- Decorated and picked out books for 99 book bags for other children experiencing homelessness (People Serving People)
- Created 175 forever flowers to brighten the day of seniors (Catholic Eldercare)
- Assembled 175 dog adoption folders and 185 dog treat packs (Spot's Last Stop)
- Created 170 fidgets for kids in crisis or experiencing mental health challenges (Catholic Charities)
- Colored DGT Conversation Placemats to continue family conversations about how to make kindness a daily family routine



Students and Teachers "Doing Good Together"

## CSCOE Initiatives

The Catholic Schools Center of Excellence is offering several trainings and initiatives in which the OLG staff will take a leadership role.

### 4 His Glory Athletics Conference - Friday, April 13th

Jeff Solsten attended this conference at St. Charles Borromeo School. The mission is to reclaim Catholic school youth sports for their rightful purpose and start a movement to create a culture in Catholic schools' athletics where coaches, parents, and students understand why we play and

the true purpose of athletics. Matt Birk along with Rich Gannon, Brooks Bollinger, John Tauer and Brian Bonin presented ideas on how to reclaim our youth sports programs.

### Positivity Project - April 26th

Joe Mortl, Kathryn Holtz, Paul Schmidt, Mary Varley and I attended a conference on the Positivity Project supported by CSCOE. The intent of the Positivity Project is to help students have more confidence in themselves AND build relationships on the foundation of character and 'the good' in people. The 24 Character Strengths of Positive Psychology can be aligned with the virtues of our Catholic Faith. We are exploring how the Positivity Project could be a resource in our school.

### Special Education Conference - June 20 and 21

Day one of the conference is exclusively for school leaders, those with policy-making and/or oversight responsibilities in their schools. The second day of the conference will focus on those who work directly with students. Kathryn Holtz, Katie Jaax, Katie Monahan, Emily Moore, Lisa Moeller, Maria Gathje, Megan Hahn, Michelle Hannan, Mandy Seymour, Rikki Mortl and I will be attending the conference. On Day 2, classroom teachers will learn how to access and use a number of resources developed by the Diocese of Phoenix to effectively support children with special needs in our Catholic school classrooms. Each participating school will receive its own tool kit of resources and have the opportunity to explore its contents during the day.

## CSCOE Initiatives Continued

### Khan Academy Math Support - August 14<sup>th</sup>

Chris Strantz will be one of 39 teachers to participate in the CSCOE Khan Academy pilot program. The goal of this program is to leverage Khan Academy to improve math outcomes, with an initial focus on Grades 4 and 5. The program will include instruction on best practices as well as ongoing support. Jason Hovey, Khan Academy's Director of School Partnerships, will lead the program. During this session, Jason will share best practices for implementing Khan Academy, practices that he has learned by working with schools across the country.

### Holy Land Pilgrimage 2019

CSCOE again awarded OLG a grant to recruit, retain, or reward teachers. Once again we chose to recognize our teachers by

offering them the opportunity to pilgrim with Fr. Kevin and Father Park (pastor of Annunciation) to the Holy Land from December 31<sup>st</sup> 2018 until January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The ten teachers who have served 10 or more years at OLG and were not able to go last year were invited to apply. Mrs. Moore, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Sherburne, Mr. Solsten and Mrs. Hierlmaier accepted. We are grateful to the generosity of the CSCOE! The teachers who went last year were very excited that more of our teachers have been gifted this wonderful opportunity.

## NEW! 6-8 Technology Club

With direction of Mr. Benson and leadership from 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, the Middle School Technology Club is rapidly moving forward. There are several interest areas within the club; Robotic Devices, Game Coding, App Coding, Video Production, Help Classes (iPhones, iPads, Laptops, etc.), for the OLG community and students, along with Teacher Technology Assistants. The club is also looking at a possible summer STEM camp for younger students in grades 2-4.

## ISTE Conference - August

ISTE is the International Society for Technology in Education and their annual conference this year will be in Chicago. Mike Benson, Dan Cleary, Katie Foley, Paul Schmidt, and Chris Strantz will be attending the this conference. The ISTE Conference & Expo is recognized globally as the most comprehensive educational technology conference in the world. For more than three decades, educators and education leaders have gathered at the ISTE conference to engage in hands-on learning, exchange ideas and network with like-minded thinkers seeking to transform learning and teaching. The annual event attracts over 18,000 attendees and industry representatives, including teachers, technology coordinators, administrators, library media specialists, teacher educators and policymakers. Attendees also enjoy world-class keynotes, hundreds of sessions in a variety of formats and a massive expo hall.

## 70th Anniversary Reunion!

The planning of the 70th Anniversary Reunion for OLG School is underway. An email with a survey has gone out to 50 alumni to gauge their interest in and start forming committees for this event. Our aim for this celebration weekend is the last weekend in September of 2019!

## NEW! K-8 Spanish Club

A new addition to OLG extra curricular activities this spring is the Spanish Club, directed by our Spanish teachers

Carla Temple, Amanda

Goodwin and Tara Duffy! Spanish club is open to all students K-8 and meets one Thursday a month after school from 3:30-4:30. The goals of the club are to provide fun enrichment opportunities as well as volunteer opportunities for older students to help and mentor younger students. Previous meetings have included Ojos de Dios yarn crafts, piñata, guacamole cooking demonstration, and an exciting Latino music presentation. There are currently 40+ students enrolled.



Our 5 Holy Land Pilgrims



Leo & Kathy Lara teaching about Latin American Music at Spanish Club