

FROM PRINCIPAL BERRY

My first official day as Principal here at Our Lady of Peace Catholic School was June 12th. Since that time a lot has been happening in the school and I have not taken the opportunity to reach out to the Parish and share. One of my goals for this year was to be in open communication with the Parish to ensure all stakeholders were aware of my mission and vision for the school. So, below is a summary of what we have been working on and the direction we are moving. Thank you all for your support and prayers!



My greatest challenge this summer was ensuring that my staff felt informed, heard, and validated in the concerns with all that happened this summer. This was no easy task and I know I could have done a better job. Nonetheless, on the first day of in-service, they all showed up ready for not only the task of educating their students, your children, they came ready to prove that OLP is a special place with a particular mission to bring peace.

This summer we also hired 8 new staff members! This required hours of interviewing which I leaned on the staff to do. For weeks in the summer we had teachers coming in the building and offering their time to aide with finding the best candidates to fill our open positions. They came home early from the cabin, found child care, and gave up time at the pool so that OLP could continue to be the best school it can be.

We expanded the Early Learning Program. With the expertise of Dolly Kinney and her team, we made room for 10 more ELPers. If 10 more students in the ELP program does not sound like a lot please visit them anytime for 8 AM to 3 PM! OLP wrote an Enrollment Grant to the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE) to aide in our marketing and development efforts. We received over \$30,000 to be allocated to projects throughout the year to make sure people in our neighborhood know where and who we are!

In late September we held our first annual Curriculum Night. This was an opportunity for parents to come into the school and meet their children's teachers, our specialist teachers, and administration. There has been only wonderful feedback about this night that I cannot wait to hold it again next year and have it be even bigger and better.

On October 6th we held our first Marathon and raised over \$9,000 for enhancing grade level curriculum. We held a hot dog picnic, walked the neighborhood and Lake Nokomis, and put the teachers in a dunk tank.

Lastly, the Peace Post has made a move to Mondays! Recently, I surveyed our community for feedback so we could continue to grow. There was a resounding theme for improved communication. I took the sound advice and moved the Post to a time that it might be better received. Please let me know what you think!

So, there it is... some reflection on what has happened so far this year and it is only October 22nd. Thank you so very much for all of your continued prayers and support for this amazing Catholic school. Although at times it can seem like a whirlwind, I will always find resolve within the mission and vision of the truly unique community!

PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Making our spaces more Family Friendly for parents of young children

There are some adjustments and upgrades we would like to put in place for our families with younger children, but before going any further, we need your help. We need to know if our ideas are the best way to proceed and if this is indeed something you would like to see happen.

I would like to meet to talk about how we can best meet your needs; to see if you really want these upgrades and if there is anyone out there who would like to help make any adjustments happen. You might even come up with some areas that we have overlooked!

Some of the possibilities might be:

- Family Room near worship space for families and children during Mass: We have one but could it use some upgrading & different type of playthings.
- Revive & staff the Childcare Room behind Pates to use for infants and small children during Mass.
- Providing Parent/Child Bags at all entrances that families could pick up for their children to have during Mass time.
- Offering Children's Liturgy of the Word more often during both Mass times.
- How to make our spaces more user friendly for families of young children.
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

If you are interested, contact Joy Biedrzycki - jbiedrzycki@olpmn.org

MARY HALL TO APPEAR AT LEISURE CLUB

Please join us for the song stylings of Mary Hall at our October Leisure Club event. We'll gather at noon in Pates Hall on Tuesday, October 24th for Scalloped Potatoes & Ham, fellowship and Mary Hall's marvelous music.

Our October event is the perfect time for anyone 55 and up to renew their annual dues (\$4.00). Cost for this event is \$6.00 per person. For further information, contact Bernie Howell (612-724-4547) or Karlette Rizzi (612-729-1501).

MOTHER TO MOTHER - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26TH 7 PM

Change of Place: Trinity Room of Church

Park on 11th Ave and enter through Door #7 - follow the signs

Invited speaker and facilitator: Suzy Wheeler

Come to this meeting to get fresh ideas/tips on making your Financial Life less stressful! Presented by Suzy Wheeler, Education Specialist with Family Means/Consumer Credit Counseling Service. Get and share tips on:

- * Saving money/reducing expenses
- * Building a better credit score
- * Getting out of debt
- * Preventing ID Theft

New mother? Seasoned mother? Home on maternity leave? Come and join us for a night out!