

*Faith • Knowledge • Service • Community*



**OLA**

**Our Lady of the Assumption  
Catholic School**

*established in 1951*

**2010-2011 Annual Report**

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your continuing support of Catholic education. When I walk the halls, I am often reminded of the impact our faith has on Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School children. Our faith is on display daily as the students stop to open doors for one another; to assist a student who has dropped something; as they say good morning to others in the halls; offer to help their peers out of their cars during morning carpool; when they clean the church; offer service to others; and simply, as they smile when someone approaches. OLACS is truly blessed to have kind, considerate, and compassionate children.



Thank you for entrusting these lovely children to OLACS. Your gift of a Catholic education to the students allows the children to grow spiritually and academically, and the children's presence is a gift from which all of us receive daily blessings.

OLACS provides an outstanding academic program for the students. The team efforts of the community, faculty, and staff were noted by the SACS/SAIS accreditation team during 2010-2011. Thank you for responding to surveys thus lending your assistance to the creation of the strategic plan, the basis for the goals and the SACS/SAIS report.

The Annual Fund monies continue to support OLACS and to assist us in providing a faith-filled environment and education. We are blessed to have the support of the community with a 95.6% response this past year. In the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "Start by doing what is necessary; then, do the possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

As OLACS continues to follow its strategic plan, our Catholic Identity and mission effectiveness remain the paramount focus; technology and educational goals, building needs, and financial stability continue to be annually reviewed and long term goals implemented.

Thank you for the many gifts, which you share with OLACS.

Yours in Christ,  
Anita Nagel



Dear OLACS Parents,

I hope all had a wonderful and restful summer vacation and are all settled in for this school year.

Our faculty is secure and eager to begin. We are blessed to have such a great faculty with 89% returning – continuity is so important. We welcome new additions to the faculty and staff: Cherie Carlson (Technologist), Meaghan Dowdle (primary Spanish teacher), Ashley Kuehne (8th grade), Courtney Martin (3rd grade), Laine Nimmo (teacher aide), Nicole Rice (6th grade), Cindy Tynes (teacher aide), and Lisa West (teacher aide).

The big news is that the school applied for the "Blue Ribbon" award, a national award for excellence. Our administration, faculty, parents and students are to be commended. Mrs. Anita Nagel has captained our ship in a most excellent and professional manner, and I feel certain the school will receive the Blue Ribbon recognition during the 2011-2012 school year. Anita is and continues to be the human driving force in our school in the spirit of Mary our Mother. I know a mere 'thank you' is insufficient, but Thank You!

We continue to improve our facilities and equipment. Our 8th graders each received an I-Pad' as we are in the pilot program to continue to have our students advance and reach their full potential. From all indications, it is working. We thank NetText Foundation for choosing us.

Our pledge drive this last year was 95% we will strive for 100% participation this year. Most importantly we are a Catholic parochial school first and foremost. We have the Liturgy of the Eucharist (Mass) and/or para-liturgies for the younger children at least once a week. I believe this sets the tone and standard for our students, faculty and staff of what it means to be a Catholic school. This spurs us on to be all that we can be, in academics and outreach. Just to name a few – our children are involved in the St. Vincent de Paul food drives, adopt-a-family at Christmas, Mothers' Retreat, and Baby Shower for single mothers.

I look forward to another successful year academically and spiritually in 2011-2012.

I thank, you, the parents of our children – you who are sacrificing your time, talent and finances to support Christian/Catholic education. Without your support, Catholic education could not continue. May God reward your efforts and may God continue to bless Our Lady of the Assumption Blue Ribbon community with love, commitment and a generous heart!

Rest assured of my continued prayer for you and your families.

Yours in Mary our Mother,  
Reverend James D. Duffy, S.M.  
Pastor

## ***Home & School Board:***

President – Bridget Fenn

President Elect – Elizabeth Pitman

Secretary – Renata Ares

Treasurer – Cindy Kim

VP Communications – Rachel Killian

VP Enrichment – Kathy Zamora

VP Community/Hospitality – Kristen Speckhals  
& Kelley Kalbas

VP Development/Fundraising – Meredith Nicholson

VP Spiritual Life – Liz McArthur and  
Michelle Ingham

VP Volunteers – Debbie Kehoe

## ***Advisory Council:***

Anita Nagel – Principal

Fr. James Duffy, S. M. – Pastor

Lori Beranek Quirk – Chairperson/  
Mission Effectiveness

Rob Aldrich – Facilities

Stephen Donahue – Advocacy

Brian Dorrien – Facilities

Tim Kalbas – Finance

Katie Lloyd – Marketing/Development

Nick Meyer – Strategic Planning

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory – ex-officio

Diane Starkovich, Ph.D.,  
Superintendent of Schools – ex-officio

## ***Annual Fund Chairs:***

Annual Fund Parent Co-Chairs:

Elissa and Rick Pressley (grades PreK-4)

Michelle & Kevin Ingham (grades 5-8)

***Annual Fund Parent  
Participation by Grades:  
Nine out of twenty homerooms hit  
100% parent participation!!!***

<i>Pre-K</i>	<i>100%</i>
<i>Kindergarten</i>	<i>100%</i>
<i>1st Grade</i>	<i>100%</i>
<i>2nd Grade</i>	<i>98%</i>
<i>3rd Grade</i>	<i>98%</i>
<i>4th Grade</i>	<i>96%</i>
<i>5th Grade</i>	<i>91%</i>
<i>6th Grade</i>	<i>88%</i>
<i>7th Grade</i>	<i>96%</i>
<i>8th Grade</i>	<i>88%</i>

*(A parent's participation is credited to all  
of their children's grade levels.)*



# Teacher of the Year



*Jessica Harms*

This is a love story – one that ends with “happily ever after.”

Jessica Harms came to OLACS three years ago. Like most new teachers she was eager and excited. We, as a school had no idea what we were getting in terms of an art teacher. Jessica has brought to our school much – Much more than can be written down with mere words.

She has energized our students with a love for art and empowered them to create, to feel that yes, each and every one has a gift to create. That the words “I can’t draw” are

not part of the vocabulary in her classes. Jessica manages to bring out the best in each and every student; and better yet, each student wants to perform for her, wants to try, wants to show what talents they have. No one feels incapable or unable under her direction.

Jessica does not stop with her assigned classes. As one walks throughout the school examples of Jessica’s outreach can be viewed. Hanging in the cafeteria are murals of our initials, OLACS, created by not only our students but with contributions of parents, grandparent, parishioners. The stairwell by the kindergarten classrooms hang murals reminding students what we are about, faith, service, community, and knowledge. Jessica set up “shop” at the parish/school fall fun festival and any and all were invited to be a part of creating these murals. Subject crosses adorn the main stairwell, again the work of students expressing their love of learning mixed with their love of religion.

Jessica’s creative hand is visible in our plays and school programs. Our gym walls and the walls of the “fine arts wing” bear pictures done by Jessica in her “free time.” The eighth grade hall is an example of mixing art with the creative writing and Literature programs at school. Jessica never says No when she can envision an art addition to whatever the school has planned. She seems to have a sense of how art can enhance the life of the school and how each and every one of us can be a part of that enhancement.

Did I mention that she won twenty-five thousand dollars for the school and used that money to add to the art program, introducing the students to computer graphics and the 21st century?

It takes two to create that perfect match – OLACS community and Jessica. What a love story! Ask any student, any parent, anyone who is a part of the OLACS community.

## Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School Congratulates Its Newest Alumni 2010-2011 Graduates

Gabrielle Atlow	Mary Grace Gaskin	Ty Mascara	Rachel Pyden
John Beck	Will Herman	Anthony Maspons	Kayla Sales
Patrick Connolly	Emily Jameson	Audrey Mendzef	Tessa Schwarze
Nikki Calderon	Matthew Kinsman	Rachael Meyer	Maisy Sysyn
Palmer Cannady	Bradley Kostensky	Jared Natsch	Dalton Wilson
Mary Jo Conboy	Adrianna Lavine	Mary Kate O'Donoghue	
Adriana Daves	Lawrence Lococo	Anna Oesterle	
Carlos Diaz	Daniel Marcuse	Drew Owens	

# Financial Report

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School continues to improve the quality of its students' education. With the success of the Annual Fund, OLACS was able to provide over \$50,000 of technology upgrades, including iPads for the 8th grade class and teachers. An additional \$48,000 was available to spend on needed interior improvements to the school, such as carpeting, ceiling tile, lighting, and paint.

Long-range financial stability remains an important goal for Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School. Giving through the Annual Fund and other fundraising continue to enhance education and technology, and maintain the viability of Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School.

The cost to educate each child at OLACS during the 2010-2011 was \$7,693 compared to tuition of \$7,150. The \$543 difference is made up through the Annual Fund and other fundraising. OLACS wishes to thank everyone whose financial support made a successful school year possible.



## OLA Catholic School Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011

### Current Reserve Funds are as follows

Operating Reserves:	\$952,990
Capital Replacement Fund:	486,867
Annual Fund Reserves:	174,441
Teacher Endowment Fund:	120,689
Scholarship Endowment Funds:	264,561
Goizueta Scholarship Fund:	104,921
Pierce Reading Program Fund:	42,113

### Revenue

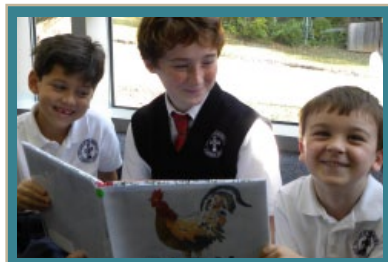
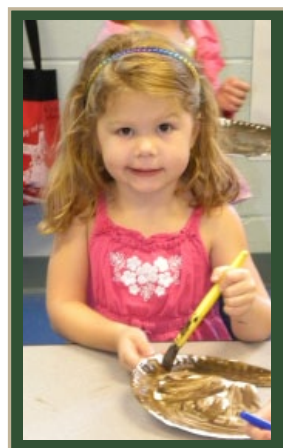
Tuition:	\$3,371,660
Enrollment Fees:	73,500
OLACS Financial Aid:	50,712
Archdiocesan Tuition Grant:	46,000
Goizueta Grant:	25,700
GRACE Scholarship:	10,688
Annual Fund Donations:	241,119
Home & School Income:	109,303
Interest Income:	79,437
Other Income:	37,323
Total Revenue:	4,045,443

### Expenses

Instructional/ Administrative Salaries & Benefits:	2,765,787
Facilities Salaries & Benefits:	85,399
Tuition Assistance:	133,100
Instructional:	288,573
Administrative:	63,482
Facilities:	123,655
Utilities:	59,236
Payments to OLA Church:	90,880
Home and School:	41,935
Capital Improvements:	48,263

Total Expenses:	3,700,313
Actual Cost to Educate	7,693
Tuition Rate	7,150

**Tuition Gap per Student** \$543



# Fundraising and Development

## THREE YEAR HISTORY OF FUNDRAISING:

<b>Participation</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Advisory Council	100%	100%	100%
Faculty & Staff	100%	100%	100%
Home & School Board	100%	100%	100%
Parents	81%	95%	95%
Total Monies Raised	\$341,660	\$455,614	\$378,990

## 2009-2010 Development

Annual Fund (paid gifts)	\$241,119
Gifts in Kind	19,575
Grants	6,705
Home & School	57,303
Home & School Fun Run	52,000
Middle School Retreat Fundraising	2286

## Accreditations and Affiliations

**SAIS/SACS** (Southern Association of Independent Schools/  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools)

**NCEA** (National Catholic Education Association)

**GISA** (Georgia Independent Schools Association)

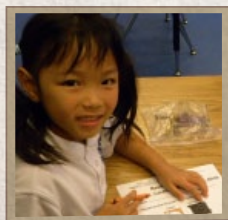
**AAAIS** (Atlanta Area Association of Independent Schools)

**NMSA** (National Middle School Association)

**NAESP** (National Association of Elementary School Principals)

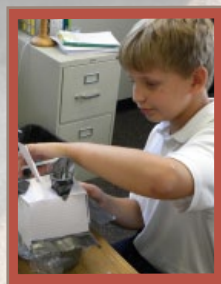
**NASSP** (National Association of Secondary School Principals)

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School is jointly accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). In 1970, OLACS was awarded its initial accreditation by SACS, and in 2006, OLACS received dual accreditation from SAIS/SACS. Every five years in order to remain accredited, a school must demonstrate that it is worthy of receiving the mantle of accreditation by meeting quality standards, by being evaluated by an outside committee composed of peer educators, and by completing a self study focused on strategic improvement and student performance. Completing the self study is a rigorous process demanding both time and attention to address four critical questions: where is the school today; where does the school want to go; what is the plan to get there; and how will the school know when it has accomplished its plan. While the evaluation takes place every five years, a school must remain committed to program of continuous self-improvement and to consistently demonstrate to its stake holders its quality assurance through self evaluation and internal review. Due to this intensive process, SAIS/SACS accreditation is recognized both nationally and internationally as a symbol of quality in education.



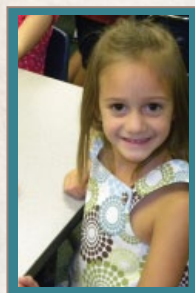
*"This is our first year and we have been very pleased with the school, staff and the education our child has received this year!"*

– OLACS Parent Survey 2011



*"I like how people treat you with respect and everyone is nice to you and everyone else."*

– OLACS Student Survey 2011



*Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School seeks to create a nurturing environment grounded in the Catholic faith, which provides for the spiritual and academic development of each child.*