

January 2010



## Home & School Association

*Serving our school through community, faith & stewardship.*



*Happy New Year*

If this time of year finds you contemplating resolutions, consider adding one more to your list: helping OLA School through the Home and School Association.

Even though we are half way through the school year, the HSA still has many activities planned. And, as always, we welcome any parents who want to lend a hand. If you have not yet had a chance to do so, now is a great time to jump in and join our team!

Grandparents Day, The Gala, Spirit Wear sales, the Father Daughter Sock Hop ....these are just a *few* of the activities looking for volunteer help. Check out the HSA tab on the school website to learn more.

*Volunteering at OLA...that's one resolution we are happy to help you keep!*

### **Are you ready to kick it up a notch?**

If you have volunteered for an HSA activity, you already know this is a great way to help the school, meet parents and have fun along the way. If you are ready to kick your involvement up a notch, please consider joining the HSA board for the next school year. We are seeking responsible parents who want to work as a team to create the best environment for our children. We need parents for the following positions next year: **President Elect, Fundraising, Volunteer & Administrative Services, Treasurer and Secretary**

If you are ready to become more involved this way, please contact Bridget Fenn at [bridgetfenn@bellsouth.net](mailto:bridgetfenn@bellsouth.net). You may also contact any of the current board members to discuss their roles further. (Board contacts are on the school website.) Elections will be held in March.

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



*OLA Spiritual Life*

"Faith that Works" James 2: 14-26

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*Begin the New Year with a Clearer Mind & a  
Renewed Spirit!*

*Our Lady of the Assumption's Spiritual Life Committee  
Invites you to a*

***Mother's Morning Retreat***

***Friday, January 22nd***

***8:00 am - 12:00 pm***

***Moylan Hall***

***Guest Speaker: Mrs. Rita O'Brien,***

*wife of OLA's Deacon Mike O'Brien & past OLA CRHP Spiritual Director*

*Coffee and a light breakfast will be served*

*This event is a gift to you from OLA HSA*

*Please RSVP to Michelle Ingham: [kmingham@bellsouth.net](mailto:kmingham@bellsouth.net)*

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**Chase Away the Winter Cold at Sweet Tomatoes**

The weather outside is frightful...why not join us for a hearty bowl of soup and an extra dose of warm OLA friendship! Our next Restaurant Night is at the Dunwoody **Sweet Tomatoes** on **Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>**. You will enjoy a night out of the kitchen, the kids will love the free ice cream and everyone will enjoy catching up with OLA friends while we raise funds for the school. Look for a special, **required** flyer in next week's Thursday folder. Please bring the flyer to the restaurant to ensure OLA gets fundraising 'credit'.

## *Fundraising*

**OLA Spirit Wear** -We'll be selling OLA Spirit Wear from 1pm - 4pm in the Gym during Bobcat Basketball games on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. Come get some items and show your OLA spirit!!

We are looking for more volunteers to join this committee, so please log onto the PTO Manager and select "Spirit Wear Sales" as an interest. Questions or suggestions? Please contact Mary Donahue at [donahma@yahoo.com](mailto:donahma@yahoo.com).



**We love our teachers (and staff!)**

Teacher appreciation day will be held on Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, during Catholic School's Week. As we pause to honor Catholic education, Teacher Appreciation Day presents a great opportunity for parents and students to show thanks for our dedicated teachers and staff.

If you choose, you and your child may send in a note, a flower or small gift. *This is completely optional.* Remember: teachers appreciate any sincere recognition of thanks - simple and heartfelt is often best! (Vases will be available in the classrooms should children bring in flowers. Single flowers are preferred - when combined they make a beautiful bouquet - as unique as each classroom!!)

## *Volunteer and Administrative Services*

Volunteer and Administrative Services would like to express our sincere thanks to all our volunteers who have dedicated their time and talents to help OLA so far this school year. Our school year is half over and we are truly blessed to have such an active group of parents supporting our school!

We still have many great events coming up such as: Principal Coffees, Catholic Schools Week, Grandparent's Day, Used Uniform Sale, Spirit Wear Sales, The Gala, St. Vincent De Paul Food Drive, Spring Book Fair, Father/Daughter Sock Hop, Field Days and more.

So, keep up your eagerness to help and be sure to check out the PTO Manager to get involved. Thanks again for your support!



**HSA Spotlight Committee of the Month**

**Spotlight on Fundraising**

**"Why does Home & School do fundraising events?"**

We get this question all of the time. The answer is quite simple. The tuition that we pay does not cover the expenses necessary to send our children to OLA. This "tuition gap" (the difference between tuition and the actual cost to educate each student) runs anywhere from \$600 to \$1000 per year. In addition, there are expenses that come up every year like new electrical systems, new roof, and generally keeping up and improving our campus.

Not sure how to help? Number one is Annual Fund. Every family needs to participate in Annual Fund regardless of their financial situation, as families can participate in Annual Fund with their Gift of Prayer. Therefore, the uncertain economy should not impact the parent participation percentage. The Parent participation percentage does not indicate the amount of dollars that are raised; rather it indicates the depth of parent support for our school. A strong show of parent support speaks volumes about our school! It helps with new admissions, it helps OLA qualify for grants and it shows that we have a strong school community where families are happy and involved. Also, did you know all gifts to the Annual Fund are 100% tax deductible!?!

Also—Next month, February 27<sup>th</sup>, is this year's Gala— By the Seashore. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year, and a really fun evening. There are so many ways you can participate...you can: donate, sponsor, attend, buy something on-line, buy something at the Gala, work on class project, donate a class party and attend a class party. It would be fantastic if we can get every OLA family to participate in one of these ways. Keep an eye out for more information or go to <http://olaschool.maestroweb.com/> .

Thank you all for your participation in our previous Restaurant Nights, Sally Foster sales and other fundraisers. It all goes to the common goal of helping our school and our children. For more information on any of these projects, or to find out how you can become involved, please don't hesitate to contact Brooke Kremer, VP of Fundraising at (404)949-0940 or [brookekremer@hotmail.com](mailto:brookekremer@hotmail.com).

OLA H&S BOARD MEMBERS	Secretary: Elizabeth Pittman	VP Community & Hospitality: Elana Werntz
	Treasurer: Sandra Geeslin	VP Development & Fundraising: Brooke Kremer
President: Barb Halaburt	VP Communications: Rachel Killian	VP Spiritual Life: Liz MacArthur & Michelle Ingham
President Elect: Bridget Fenn	VP Enrichment Services: Kathy Zamora	VP Volunteer & Administrative Services: Mary Donahue