

March 2010



Home & School Association

Serving our school through community, faith & stewardship.



As I write this letter, a freak March snowstorm has hit Atlanta! After too much cold, too much rain and possibly even too much snow, we are all *very ready* for spring!

While we all long for spring and warm weather, the weather we have right now is *perfect* for Lent. We may long to move ahead quickly, but God tells us to slow down and truly experience what is right before us. The season of Lent is a time to slow down, reflect, and draw closer to God. Soon enough spring and Easter will be here and we will all rejoice – not just for spring flowers and warm weather, but also for the promise of renewal that Christ's resurrection brings. By slowing down during Lent, we can more fully experience all the joys of Easter.

During this Lenten season we can all reflect on the many blessings of the great community we have at Our Lady

of the Assumption Catholic School. In particular, I am grateful for the numerous parents who gave generously of their time, talent and treasure to ensure the “*By the Seashore Dinner and Auction*” was a success. In particular I am so very grateful for **Joy Baljet** and **Elizabeth Wathen**, our Gala co-chairs, who gave (and gave and gave!) their time and talents to lead this awesome group of parent volunteers. Thank you Joy, Elizabeth and *all* who worked on the Gala this year!

Spring is almost here. Soon warm weather will usher in another busy season of athletics, outdoor activities and a very busy end of another school year. But for now, for just a short while longer....I hope we can all slow down and enjoy the peaceful and reflective season of Lent.

Yours in Christ,
Barb Halaburt

Home and School Board Elections

The Home and School Association presents the following slate of nominees for the 2010/2011 Home and School Association Board. Elections for these positions will be held March 15 - March 24, 2010. Ballots will be emailed to all families on March 15th.

President-Elect: Elizabeth Pitman

Secretary: Renata Ares

Treasurer: Cindy Kim

Vice President of Fundraising: Meredith Nicholson

Vice President of Community and Hospitality (Co-chairs): Kristen Speckhals and Kelley Kalbas

Vice President of Volunteer Services: Debbie Kehoe

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.

*Please join us for the next Family Restaurant Night
Tuesday, March 23rd
5pm to 8pm at*



GALLA's PIZZA
4849 Peachtree Road
770-500-3184

(Between Ashford Dunwoody and Johnson Ferry Road)
<http://www.gallaspizza.com/>

Get a GREAT meal, and help out your school!!

Galla's has generously agreed to donate 20% of all sales from 5-8pm (dine in, takeout and delivery) to our school! This is a WIN-WIN deal!!! So, even if you can't make it to the Restaurant, you can call and have it delivered!! Galla's has a delicious menu of pizza, sandwiches, snacks, and pastas. It's divine!

So, stop by the restaurant & join us for dinner! You get out of the kitchen and the whole family gets to join other OLACS families for a night out!

Questions.... contact Brooke Kremer at (404) 949-0940 or brookekremer@hotmail.com or Bridget Fenn at (404) 467-9823 or bridgetfenn@bellsouth.net.

FATHER DAUGHTER SOCK HOP



Dust off your dancing shoes and the poodle skirts! It's time once again for the OLACS **Father Daughter Sock Hop**. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 24th** for this cherished tradition for Dads and their special girls. Look for registration forms after spring break. (Fathers, Grandfathers or other special male friends are welcome!)

Fundraising

OLA Spirit Wear – Yeah!!! Go OLA!!! To date, we've raised over \$450 for our school this year with our new fundraiser. We are working on more sale dates, online sales and will have new items for next year too! Get your "original" spirit wear items before they are sold out!!

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.

SAVE THE DATE

The OLACS Volunteer "Thank You" Shower
Thursday, April 22nd
7:30pm – 9:00pm
Your invitation is coming soon!

Home and School General Meeting
Wednesday, April 28
7:00pm in Moylan Hall

ALL PARENTS are encouraged to join us for this *very important* meeting where Mrs. Nagel will share her annual "State of the School" message.

The GALA – A Huge Success

The "By the Seashore Dinner and Auction" not only was a huge success but was a great time, as well. Guests were treated to a wide array of Silent and Live Auction items as well as a host of class parties and games to sign up for! The night was filled with fun, fellowship and some great bidding action.

We would like to thank our major sponsors who helped to make the night a success:

Marc and Jeanne Woodward * Atlanta Institute for Ear, Nose and Throat * Buckhead Uniforms * CSI Kitchen and Bath Designs * Publix Supermarkets * St. Joseph's Hospital

We would also like to thank our Committee Chairs for their hard work and efforts to make this entire event run smoothly.

Maria Soisrud, Lori Howard, Valerie Langman, Michelle Ingham, Holly Emberson, Jocelyn Ralston, Sharon Black, Julie Bunker, Helen Kokoska, Bea Farach, Renata Ares, Meredith Nicholson, Blythe Koss, Kelley Kalbas, Jenn Harry, Mary Anne Nahas, Jane Orman, Jocelyn and Tim McCarthy, Tracy Johnson, Bridget Fenn, Brooke Kremer, Jenna Griffin, Maria Holbrook, Elissa Pressley, Gina Bodell, Dianne Kaseta, and Kimberly Wise.

We are so grateful to the volunteers who worked on these committees to insure our success.

Isabella Capriles, Mimi Clausen, Susan Wirtz, Jeanne Woodward, Christine Goode, Tara Bertulfo, Janice Warners, Bill Koss, Mary Donahue, Suzanne Sanchez, Lauren Gourgues, Gin Shaw, Christy Liss, Mary Doyle, Kathy Prieto, Debbie Masterson, Deonna Henry, Kimberlie Thompson and Bruce Nelson.

Thank you to the entire community for participating in the Online Auction, and to those who attended the event on February 27th. This was truly a community fundraising and FUN raising event!

Thanks to all,
Joy Baljet and Elizabeth Wathen

Volunteer and Administrative Services

Way to go Used Uniform Sales Team! – Special thanks to Julie Drucker and her team for our third successful sale! This final sale brings our total amount raised to over \$3,500 for this school year! Please donate any used uniforms by bringing them to the front office bin for next year's meet & greet sale. Want to help? Please log onto the PTO Manager and select "Used Uniform Sales" as an interest. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Drucker at khdrucker@bellsouth.net

Spring Book Fair – Want to help our media center? The Spring Book Fair is coming and to sign up for a volunteer slot, please contact Nancy Meredith at jmeredi4@bellsouth.net. There will be many items appropriate for all grade levels and be sure to check out this fair's greatly expanded middle school selections!

Volunteer and Administrative Services would like to express our gratitude to the following volunteers who have graciously offered to help in the development office so far this year. These volunteers help Sharon Black with many items & events including the Annual Fund, Mailings, Grandparents Day, and the Phone-a-Thon to name a few. Our sincere thanks to:

Advisory Council - Josh Coughlin (Chairman), Rob Aldrich, Steve Donahue, Brian Dorrien, Katie Lloyd, Nick Meyer, Lori Quirk

OLA Recipe Cards - Jane Orman, Anne McGrath, Maureen Riski, Marion Cockcroft, Jennifer Barbe, Mary Wong

Grace Scholarship - Josh Coughlin (GRACE coordinator for church and school), Anne McGrath, Mary Jo McComb

Annual Fund - Becki and Craig Kitchen (Co-Chairs for Annual Fund), Marion Cockcroft, Christine Goode, Sara Hogan, Karin Ashby, Loreen Costa-Moran, Sharon Adams, Patsy Moeller

Open House - Katie Lloyd, Amy Aldrich, Jennifer Barbe, Mary Wong

Phone-a-thon - Katie Lloyd, Kelley Kalbas, Jeanne-Marie Wieland, Jenny Castro, Elissa Pressley, Sara Hogan, Trish Coughlin, Mary Anne Mackey, Maureen Riski, Susan Mann

Grandparents' Day - Christine Goode, Stephanie Lombardo, Debbie Hill, Debbie Masterson, Laura Hogan, Mary Wong, Jennifer Owens, Loreen Costa-Moran, Kathy Prieto, Jeanne Queen, Amy Brown, Elizabeth Piper, Marie Frank, Gretchen Moran, Erin Webb, Sandra Clodomir, Cathy Newbill, Silvia Burgoon, Carol O'Connell, Sonia Martinez, Valerie Langman, Laura Aisthorpe, Colleen Chipman, Sara Hogan, Sharon Adams, Kim Rizik, Denise Banna, Jane Orman, Denise Wagner, Mary Natsch, Jim Newbill, Joey Burgoon, Colin Wong, Marion Cockcroft, Dana O'Donnell, Amy Aldrich

We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful group of parents who are devoted to OLA and their children and give so much of themselves for others. Be sure to check out all the events on the PTO Manager and thanks again for all your support!



HSA Spotlight Committee of the Month - Cultural Arts

What do Laura Ingalls Wilder, an Italian clown and Peter Rabbit all have in common? These are all characters that have been brought to life this year for your children as part of OLACS's cultural arts initiative. Each school year, part of your Home and School fees goes toward bringing entertaining and educational programs to the students. Most of these programs are scheduled through the Woodruff Arts Center's Young Audiences arts-in-education program.

Here is just a sampling of what the students have seen or will see this year:

Pre-K through 2nd grade students were "wowed" by Vincenzo Tortorici, a befuddled clown who needed the students' help to complete his list of silly tasks. They will also have the opportunity to "shake, rattle and roll" with musician Dave Holland in early March.

First and 2nd graders learned about nouns, verbs and "other important stuff" from musician and storyteller Andy Offutt Irwin. In April, puppeteer Holly Stevenson will take these students into the whimsical world of Beatrix Potter and her literary creations.

Third through 5th grades were also entertained by Andy Offutt Irwin and his wacky environmental show. Storyteller Holly Stevenson's portrayal of Laura Ingalls Wilder took the third grade students back in time, while our fifth graders learned several Latin American folktales from storyteller Tersi Bendiburg. Fourth grade students enjoyed musician/storyteller Eric Litwin's silly and scary tall tales.

Our middle school students recently honed their comedy improvisational skills through workshops led by Nancy Meyer, a member of Laughing Matters comedy troupe (and former OLACS mom). As you can see, these programs allow our students to see a wide variety of live programs that cover a diverse array of art forms, genres and cultural traditions. Thank you for your support of these programs!

Volunteering at OLACS: How you can help the school earn FREE MONEY!

Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered this year for school and Home and School activities. Our parent volunteers are an *integral part* of what makes OLACS a very special school!

If you have volunteered this year, there may be one last task we need you to do: **entering your volunteer time on the PTO system.**

Does it really matter, you ask? Only if you believe that helping our school earn free grant money matters!

The PTO system is our way of collecting valuable information about the total number of volunteer hours donated to our school. This gives us a quantitative way to measure parent participation – **an important aspect of school grants.** This data is important for the grant applications submitted by our Development Office. Schools that can show active parent participation are more highly favored in the grant process.

In short, if you have volunteered, but *not* entered your time – you are not doing your **full part** to serve our school.

Here's the best part: entering your time is **QUICK and EASY!** Really! The PTO system is super easy and user friendly. Just follow the instructions in the **PTO User Guide** which is located on the school website (Home & School tab – Volunteering section) Have **questions?** Just contact Shari Kinsman at skinsman@produsys.com

OLACS H&S BOARD MEMBERS	Secretary Elizabeth Pitman	VP Community & Hospitality Elana Weritz
	Treasurer Sandra Gremlin	VP Development & Fundraising Brooke Kerner
President Barb Halaburt	VP Communications Rachel Kilian	VP Spiritual Life Liz MacArthur & Michelle Ingham
President Elect Bridge Penn	VP Enrichment Services Kathy Zamora	VP Volunteer & Administrative Services Mary Donahue