

THE CRUSADER

OUR LADY OF HOPE CATHOLIC SCHOOL PTO
MONTHLY PUBLICATION

Volume 3, Issue 4

December 2007

From the Principal's Office

As we await our Savior's birth during this Advent season, we are reminded that it is our hope and anticipation in the Lord's coming that we joyously ponder as Catholic Christians. The faculty and staff wish you and your families all the best in this special season of giving and hopeful anticipation. We also wish you a very Merry Christmas that is peace filled and joyous to all!

Our scheduled Restaurant Night at Chick-Fil-A on December 5 was postponed due to the inclement weather that day. We will be sending out details about the rescheduled night. We want to thank Meg Paganelli for always doing a wonderful job of organizing and planning these fun family evenings. Mark your calendars to eat at That's Amore starting January 20, 2008 until February 10, 2008. We will send home more information on this after we return from the Christmas Break.

Our eighth grade students took the High School Placement Test on Thursday, December 6. We wish them all the best as they start to make decisions about where they will attend high school next year.

A terrific time was had by all at our first annual St. Nick's Christmas Shop. A huge thank you goes out to Lisa Orosa and Lynn Ruff for having the vision and pulling it all together to start a wonderful Christmastime tradition at Our Lady of Hope. We would also like to thank the many volunteers who helped to make this event a huge success! There is no doubt the children will look forward to this next year!

We will hold our third annual Christmas Pageant tonight, December 14, at 7pm in the school gym. Please have your children here no later than 6:30pm. This

pageant is always a very heartwarming rendition of The Nativity. We would like to thank Mrs. DeLisi, Miss Morson and Mr. Weston for the many hours they put into this production!

The fifth grade will hold their annual International Fair on Tuesday, December 18 in the school gym. The children were each assigned a country in Europe and have been doing research on these. They will give a short presentation about their country as well as a sampling of a special food dish from their chosen country.

Our last day before the Christmas Holiday is Friday, December 21. We will have a school Mass and dismiss at noon. There will be no Extended Day that afternoon.

May God bless you and your families during the Christmas Season,
Mary Beth Pittman
Acting Principal

The faculty and staff wish you and your families all the best in this special season of giving and hopeful anticipation

Virginia Catholic Conference/ Catholic Advocacy Day

The Virginia Catholic Conference (VCC) represents the public policy interests of our Diocese that impact a number of issues, including education. To receive email alerts of news regarding various issues, please register at www.vacatholic.org.

The VCC will sponsor Catholic Advocacy Day at the Virginia General Assembly in Richmond, on January 28, 2008 8:30am-1:30pm. For additional details, please email Laura Merrell (laura.merrell@verizon.net), our Parent Liason for the VCC.

President's Message

We have so much to be thankful for this Christmas season. We only need to look at our school community — faculty, students and parents — the past month to see the wonderful work of Christ in our lives each and every day. We are thankful for the dedication of our teachers — planning amazing field trips, advent activities, the Christmas Pageant and providing all the special touches in the classroom that remind our children of their blessings and the love of Christ.

Our students — working hard on Saint's projects, book reports, religion projects, and special prayers. Most impressive is how our children give of themselves whether it is through their good deeds during advent or by donating food to feed the needy at Thanksgiving, sending 250 pounds of Halloween candy to the Troops in Iraq and adopting foster children at ChildHelp.

We are also thankful for the endless giving of precious time by all of our parent volunteers that work tirelessly to make so much happen at Our Lady of Hope. Take Friday, December 7th as an example — in one single day — parent volunteers organized the First Friday Coffee Social (thank you Carol Hess), the PTO Faculty Lunch (thank you Cher Russell), AND the amazing St. Nicholas Workshop (Thank you to Lisa Orosa, Lynn Ruff and their merry band of 30 plus elves that made all the magic happen). The Fun Friday Math Bowl held on November 30th was only made possible by the outstanding organization of Sheila Traenkle and all the parents who turned out to run the stations for each class.

Without question — these are the true gifts of the season.

May God Bless You and Your Families!
Merry Christmas!
Stacy Carey
PTO President

We need a few fresh faces for lunch and recess!

If you have a hour to spare once or twice a month, consider spending it at OLOH for lunch! Your children will love having you there and it's a great way to watch them with their friends!

We especially need help on Tuesday! Contact Carol Hess @ carolh1517@aol.com

Catholic Schools Week – January 27 – Feb. 2nd

Catholic Schools Week is just around the corner and the theme this year is "Catholic Schools Light the Way." We would like to celebrate this week by showing our students the many opportunities they have to Light the Way for their future and for their community. Look for more details about events of the week to come in Friday folders and thru the January newsletter. And if you are interested in helping with art displays, Teacher Appreciation Day, the Open House for new families and our Movie Night, please call Sheila Traenkle at 703/433-9699. It is always a great week to celebrate the pride we have within our school!

An Evening With Our Lady - April 5th, 2008

We need your help to make the auction a success! Please consider donating an item or service, becoming a sponsor or advertising in the program. No item is too big or too small! We need everything from vacation homes to coffee makers! If you have an item you wish to donate please return your donation form to the front office as soon as possible.

The auction committee is again offering personalized Guardian Angel Messages in the program for \$25. Messages are 25 words or less and are a great way to thank a teacher, congratulate a class, or recognize your children. In addition, if you would like to send a teacher to the auction — there is an opportunity to Sponsor a Teacher this year for \$60, which covers their ticket price. These rates and advertising rates and sponsorship levels are listed on the donor form, which can be downloaded from the website at <http://oloh.maestroweb.com>. The website is updated regularly and is your best source of updated information about the auction so don't forget to add the site to your favorite bookmark list! Thank you for your support!

Spirit Wear Blankets – On Sale!

While supplies last, get your Crusader Blanket for \$25. Contact Beth Flood at EBFlood@aol.com to order yours today!

Restaurant Night Update

Our next Restaurant Night will be at That's Amore, January 20 through February 7. Be looking for the information flyer in the Friday Folders and share it with your friends and family! We will be setting up another Chick-fil-A to make up for the cancellation.



Faith Committee

You are a blessing to others. Your corporal works have been fruitful! In October/November, we collected and mailed 250 pounds of Halloween candy to soldiers to distribute to children in Iraq, along with a beautiful video tribute sung by our Childrens' Choir. Hand-made get-well cards are sure to warm the hearts of many deserving veterans. Also, we collected 330 pounds of food and provided 8 large families Thanksgiving dinner.

This month, you will be a light of Christ to 60 ChildHelp orphans when they receive holy bear angels, no-sew blankets, Christmas cards, and a cash donation to purchase supplies for their new Art Therapy Program.

Always remember, all are welcome to join us to pray over school intentions in the St. Thomas Moore room on Tuesdays at 1:45pm. Merry Christmas!

St. Nick's Christmas Shop

Joyful smiles and eager faces greeted the volunteers of St. Nick's Christmas Shop on Friday, December 7th and Sunday, December 9th. Armed with a Christmas shopping list and clutching their money purse, the children patiently waited their turn to shop for their loved ones in the first-ever St. Nick's Christmas Shop sponsored by the Our Lady of Hope School PTO. With the beautiful winter wonderland backdrop created by Anne Shonnard, Thuha Schrader (who also created the St. Nick's logo), Trish Gilmore and Jess Foster, the children were more than eager to begin their Christmas shopping. Not that there were not enough activities to keep them occupied while they waited. Children got a chance to meet St. Nicholas and have their pictures taken at the Photo Station. Our lady of Hope parishioner, Cathy Rivers of Catherine Rivers Photography, generously volunteered her time and talent for this event. John Germain and Bob Fay of the Knights of Columbus gamely played the part of St. Nick. While the children waited for their complimentary photo to be printed, they could make their own stained glass ornament, create Christmas cards or make some hand-tied blankets for the foster children of ChildHelp at the Arts & Crafts station. Some of the more active children could burn off their energy at the large moonbounce that had been set up in the gym. Or they could satisfy their sweet tooth with some delicious treats or warm up with hot chocolate or hot apple cider at the Parents' Hospitality Area. Aspiring singers could even take center stage in the caroling station while Chelie Billingsley accompanied them with her guitar.

December's corporal work of mercy featured a Holy Bears Angel tree where for a minimum donation of \$10, one could give a foster child his or her own guardian angel bear in their child's name while contributing to ChildHelp's Art Therapy Program. To ensure the success of this fundraising activity, the Boland Family from the Fields of Athenry, offered to give a matching gift for funds raised over \$600, to pay for the hand-tied blankets to be given to each foster child. For example, if we raised \$650 in the Holy Bears Angel Tree, the Fields of Athenry will give a matching donation of \$50, (up to \$150). Donations will continue to be accepted until the night of the Christmas pageant on December 14.

A raffle of St. Nick's sack of toys generated much excitement as children purchased raffle tickets at the school store and at the event itself. For \$1, a child could get a chance to win a sack full of toys that included an Ipod Shuffle and a limited edition Nintendo DS. Fr. Belli drew the winning raffle ticket on Sunday and declared the Behrend Family as the winner! The four Behrend children (former students of Our Lady of Hope) excitedly returned on Sunday to claim their prize, after praying fervently to St. Nicholas and doing many good deeds that day as they awaited the call declaring them the winner. Congratulations to Paul (age 10), Grace (age 9), Joey (age 6), and Maria (age 4) Behrend!

Of course, none of these fun events would have been possible without the tireless support of all the parent and youth volunteers! A HUGE THANK YOU to them and to everyone who supported St. Nick's. The generous spirit of giving was evident in everyone who donated baked goods, merchandise and Christmas decorations, to those who volunteered their time and talents, and to those who babysat the kids! The spirit of Christmas is most definitely alive and well in our school community. Merry Christmas to all!

Spotlight on the Parish Junior High Youth Ministry

Gods Teen Crusaders, or GTC for short, is the name that OLOH students picked for the 7th/8th grade youth ministry.

Upcoming events for the group will be publicized to the email list, placed in the bulletin, and uploaded to the website at http://www.ourladyofhope.net/youth_calendar.asp.

Upcoming events:

Youth Mass December 30th - 5:00PM

If you want to help Lector, Usher, Serve or learn how to run the sound system, please contact Ed Rogers: 703-433-6772 or OLHyouth@yahoo.com. Mass is focused toward teens, but all families are invited! There are snacks/drinks and chill time in the parish hall following each mass.

Fun Friday Afternoons

As you all know, we had the students from the Options Program at Paul VI High School come in Oct. to address the student body. We also had several families donate money to the Options Program. We collected a total of \$250 and just received a very nice Thank You note from the students and faculty. Thanks to all who donated. It was greatly appreciated and will be used to help support the students as they transition into the work force.

Our Fun Friday for November was the Math Bowl. Hopefully all of the parents heard about the fun games and activities that happened that afternoon. It took a BIG group of volunteers to pull this off and I thank each and every one of you. We could not have done it without you!!!

Our next Fun Friday is Friday, Jan. 18th. We have Mr. Dennis Regling scheduled to share "The Magic of Science." We hope to get all the students excited about the upcoming Science Fair that is scheduled for February 29 for grades 6-8, and March 14 for grades K-5. Packets for Science Fair will be handed out in early January.

Welcome Committee Corner

As a way to welcome the new families to our school, each month we highlight new families. This month we are introducing the Gomez Family to Our Lady of Hope School.

For John and Nikki Gomez, the decision about where to send their oldest son, Daniel Jacob, "Coby", for Kindergarten was not a difficult one. They have been parishioners at Our Lady of Hope since 2003, and were thrilled to learn that there was to be a parish school. Says John, "Both Nikki and I attended Catholic schools, and it has always been important to us that our children be in a place that helps to develop their moral character, and focuses on their relationship with Christ."

Coby loves Mrs. Fuller's Kindergarten class, especially "recess" and "extra recess", and enjoys the new friends he has made! Coby's younger brother, Eco, age 4, will benefit from his older brother's experiences at OLOH, and John and Nikki look forward to becoming more and more a part of our wonderful school community!

Have your contributions stopped?

If you haven't yet renewed your grocery store cards then your all-important contributions to Our Lady of Hope School have stopped! Last year our school raised over \$2000 from these programs, but this year we have many renewals still outstanding. We need your help! Won't you please take a few moments to renew your school designation and turn your everyday shopping into cash for Our Lady of Hope School. Thank you for your time and support!

All cards must be re-registered every year in order for our school to get the credit.

If you need help renewing your cards or if you have any questions, please contact Shannon Callihan at 540-751-1562 or shannoncallihan@aol.com.



Safeway: www.escrip.com

Click "Yes! Renew" to register your Club card and debit/credit cards, school ID # 1044980



Giant: www.giantfood.com

Click "A+ Bonus Bucks", then "Designate Schools", school ID # 04914



Harris Teeter: www.harristeeter.com

Click "Together in Education", then "Link your VIC card to Your School Now", school ID # 5848

All parishioners, parents, teachers, families and friends are encouraged to register!



Great Job 3rd Grade!

Congratulations to Mrs. Meier's third grade class for collecting the most Box Tops in the first quarter: Over 1400! They will be celebrating their victory soon. 2nd place went to Miss O'Donnell's fourth graders. Can they take first place next time? Or will another grade win top honors? Keep clipping and we'll find out in January! The next deadline for Box Tops submissions is Friday, January 18.

Don't forget to do your online Christmas shopping through the Box Tops Marketplace at www.boxtops4education.com. Vendors include Lands End, JC Penney, Barnes and Noble, Sharper Image, and Gap. Our Lady of Hope will receive a percentage of each purchase made. Happy shopping!

Cookie Mix Recipe Contest:

Bake Life Sweeter™, and you could win \$5,000—plus 1,000 Bonus Box Tops! This is your chance to win up to \$5,000, plus 1,000 Bonus Box Tops for Our Lady of Hope!

To enter the annual Cookie Mix Recipe Contest, submit your original cookie or bar recipe using Betty Crocker® Cookie Mix by February 1, 2008. From all entries, 15 Finalists will be chosen; the Grand Prize Winner will receive \$5,000 cash and 1,000 Bonus Box Tops for their school. The remaining 14 Finalists will each receive \$500 and 1,000 Bonus Box Tops. An Online Voting Winner will receive an additional \$500.

Enter the Bake Life Sweeter™ Cookie Mix Recipe Contest and share your cookie creation today! For complete details, see www.BakeLifeSweeter.com/Cookies.

From The Nurse's Corner

Tips On Nutritious After School Snacks for Kids to Prepare

- **Build-your-own pizzas.** Top an English muffin with low-fat cheese and peppers, pineapple cubes, spinach, olives, zucchini, broccoli, or whatever else tickles their fancy. The more alternatives to fatty meat toppings, the better.
- **Fruit fondue.** Cut up fruits, such as banana slices, strawberries, or pineapple. Use yogurt, low-fat caramel sauce, or low-fat chocolate syrup for dipping.
- **Fruit smoothies.** Kids can make a different flavor every day with pre-cut fruit pieces (parent-prepared or frozen fruit) and their favorite juice.
- **Frozen yogurt sundaes.** Top off a bowl with berries or sliced fresh fruit and maple syrup or low-fat chocolate sauce.
- **Veggie delight.** Kids can dip fresh carrots, broccoli, sweet peppers or any of their favorite vegetables into low-fat yogurt or low-fat caramel for a refreshing snack.

In addition, I do encourage parents to add water and or substitute the juice boxes in their children's lunch box for water to foster good hydration while in school. In lieu of our wellness policy, I also discourage having candy and soda sent in to school for treats, as a snack or for lunch. Thank you parents for all your support and all that you do for our school.

2007-2008 Calendar

December

- 14 Christmas Program
- 21 Early Dismissal – Christmas Break
- 21 – Jan. 2 Christmas Break

January

- 3 Classes Resume
- 4 First Friday Principal Coffee Social; Early Dismissal at Noon
- 4 Teacher Luncheon
- 5 HSPT for Public school students
- 8 PTO Executive Board Meeting
- 11 Bingo Night
- 18 End of Second Quarter; Fun Friday
- 20 - Feb.7 That's Amore Restaurant Nights
- 21 NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King Holiday
- 22 March for Life
- 24 General PTO Meeting
- 26 Snow date HSPT for Public school students
- 27 – Feb. 2 Catholic Schools Week
- 29 2nd Quarter Awards Assembly
- 31 2nd Quarter Awards Assembly