

THE CRUSADER

OUR LADY of HOPE CATHOLIC SCHOOL PTO
MONTHLY PUBLICATION

Volume 4, Issue 1

September 2008

From the Principal's Desk

We have started our fourth year here at Our Lady of Hope School with a very smooth beginning! I want to thank the teachers and staff for all their hours of work and preparation before the students arrived on the first day. The staff put in many long days to ensure they were prepared to greet their new classes and get off to a great start!

I would like to thank the parents and students for the smooth transition back into the "school routine". Our tardy list has been very low so far the first few weeks and the students have very beautifully remembered many of the policies and procedures that we have in place for their safety and security here at school. It is truly a blessing to me to see their smiling faces walk through the door each morning. The children are what make our school such a wonderful place!

Welcome to all of our new families! We are very happy that you have chosen Our Lady of Hope School for your child's spiritual and intellectual needs. Please let us know if there is any way in which we can help you transition into a new school. Also, I am very happy to have all of our returning families back for another year! You are the backbone of our school and without your cooperation, support, time, talent and treasure we would not be able to offer many of the opportunities that we can provide our students on a regular basis.

"...if we all do our part we can accomplish great things for our children's educational and spiritual needs"

Please take the time to read over the list of items that our PTO has been able to fund this past year. You can find this list in our first PTO newsletter. Hopefully this gives many of you a better picture of how important it is to support the various fundraisers and events that the PTO puts on each year. I

realize that not everyone can support each endeavor, but if we all do our part we can accomplish great things for our children's educational and spiritual needs.

I hope to see all of you at Back to School night on Thursday, September 18 at 7 pm in the school gym. I will be laying out our plan for the Design for Excellence program that we will be going through this year through the Diocese of Arlington.

May God bless you and your families,
Mrs. Mary Beth Pittman
Principal

Inside This Issue:

- ✓ PTO Message & Financial Summary
- ✓ Upcoming Events & Programs
- ✓ Book-It Program to Begin
- ✓ Welcome Committee Corner
- ✓ Faith Committee Announcement
- ✓ Box Tops Contests Begin
- ✓ No-cost Fundraisers

Much More...

From Your PTO

We can do better! Last year we cleared \$87,000. As you can see in the financial statement printed to the right, that money was spent on Active boards – we now have one in all but two classrooms, scholarships, library books, teacher wish list items and teacher education, playground and science equipment, student agendas and Friday Folders, and much more.

This year, with your help, we want to increase that number to \$100,000. We want to continue to enhance our teachers; we still have scholarships to fund, there are still empty shelves in the library. There are costs associated with the accreditation process. We need two more Active boards; the music teacher would like musical instruments. We want a TRACK! We have \$17,000 put away towards one, but it will cost at least that much more. Father Saunders would like to add a MS counselor.

So how can we do this?

First of all, we need another auction. \$70,000 of that money came from the auction. We are looking for a dedicated team of people to organize this year's. And they will need many volunteers. Please, prayerfully consider chairing or co-chairing this most important event. You will receive all the help and guidance you need from people who have worked on it previously.

But there are plenty of other things as well.

- ◆ Last year we raised \$1,300 with only 60 people enrolled in the grocery store bonus bucks program. That could be doubled if everyone signs up and does nothing except the usual weekly shopping. Encourage grandparents to sign up their cards as well.
- ◆ Clip and send in your box tops! I guarantee that everyone has something in their pantry right now that has a box top on it.
- ◆ Shop through the box tops portal at your favorite online spots such as Landsend, Best Buy and Limited Too. We are working on setting up a link on the PTO webpage.
- ◆ Shop and sell Sally Foster and cookie dough. And don't forget Sally Foster online – with that you can order all year long and we get credit all year long.
- ◆ Come to Bingo and St Nick's Christmas Shop and support the restaurant nights – fun activities that earn our school money.

Together we can help make Our Lady of Hope School the best that it can be!

Results From Your Hard Work!

Last year was a busy year for our parent volunteers, and it shows! Listed below is a financial overview of money raised by the PTO and how it was spent. Our Lady of Hope School is a wonderful environment in which our children grow spiritually and academically, thanks in part to the additional resources provided by PTO activities. Let's keep up the good work and meet our goals for this year! We are always open to suggestions (via the suggestion box in the school office, or email to a PTO officer) and additional volunteers, get in touch and get involved!

Net Income (net of expenses)

Auction	\$ 70,003.15
Sally Foster	\$ 8,274.75
Bingo	\$ 2,510.61
Spirit Wear	\$ 1,983.42
Restaurant Nights	\$ 1,772.67
Used Uniform	\$ 501.10
Box Tops	\$ 741.47
School Store	\$ 396.73
Innisbrook	\$ 366.95
Father Daughter Dance	\$ 294.76
Yearbook	\$ 100.92

Total Income **\$ 86,946.53**

Net Expenses

Active Boards	\$ (34,625.00)
Scholarship	\$ (20,000.00)
Library	\$ (15,000.00)
Curriculum Resources	\$ (10,000.00)
Teacher Wish Lists	\$ (4,450.00)
Teacher Luncheons/Appreciation	\$ (2,472.09)
Catholic Schools Week	\$ (1,423.70)
Science Lab	\$ (1,200.00)
Enrichment Programs	\$ (968.95)
Field Day	\$ (700.00)
Ice Cream Social	\$ (385.76)
Movie Nights	\$ (175.10)
8th Grade Graduation	\$ (174.50)
Faith Committee	\$ (19.19)
St Nicks	\$ (15.49)
Misc. School Expenses	\$ (2,499.27)

Total Expense **\$ (94,109.05)**

Net **\$ (7,162.52)**

We're Off to a Great Start Yearbooks Delivered

We would like to thank all the parents that sent in pictures for use in the 07-08 yearbook. The yearbook really came together with all the fabulous photo submissions. Once again, in the springtime, we will be asking for photo submissions; so please keep this in mind throughout the year as you are taking photos at our various school events and field trips. A special thank you to Cathie Barron, our yearbook coordinator, for volunteering so much of her time to provide our school with such a special way to preserve our memories.

Ice Cream Social Fun For All

A special thank you to Mrs. Jennifer Griffin and all of the dedicated volunteers who helped us start the year off on a great note! The ice cream social was a great place to meet new friends, connect with classmates after a long Summer and get ready to return to school.

One Stop Shopping

One again, those families who chose to participate in the Innisbruck pre-ordered school supply kit sale were able to forgo the crowded stores and enjoy the end of their Summer knowing their school supply needs were taken care of. Thank you to Mrs. Dona Grado for continuing to run this program.

Sally Foster

This year we look forward to the continued success of our Sally Foster sales. For the last three years, Sally Foster has helped our PTO raise funds. If you have not had a chance to look over your Sally Foster packet, please take time this weekend. Fifty percent of all sales are credited back to our school and directly to our PTO. Forty percent of magazine sales are profit for our school as well. Ask your relatives to support our school by renewing their subscriptions through Sally Foster. It does not cost any more than a renewal subscription and our school will benefit. Let's try to break last year's sales record! Remember to send in your order forms and money on Monday, September 22!

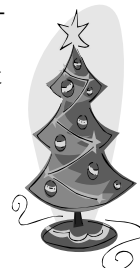


Get Ready to Bake

Just a reminder that orders and money for cookie dough sales are due back to school on Monday, September 22!

St. Nicholas Is Back at Our Lady of Hope!

Back by popular demand! St. Nick's Christmas Shop will usher in the year's Christmas season on Friday, December 5 from 5 PM – 8 PM at the Our Lady of Hope school and gym. Children will be able to use their budgeting skills to purchase that special secret gift for mom, dad, and all their loved ones. In addition, a variety of activities and stations are in the works to bring on the Christmas cheer!



The success of this annual event is dependent on our volunteers and sponsors. Please consider donating your time, talent and treasure for this truly festive occasion! Volunteer opportunities in the following areas are available:

- ♦ Decorations
- ♦ St. Nick's Shop
- ♦ Purchasing & Inventory
- ♦ Set-up/Clean-up
- ♦ Photo with St. Nick
- ♦ Arts & Crafts
- ♦ Meet & Greet
- ♦ Activity Stations
- ♦ Caroling Station
- ♦ Sponsor Solicitation

And many more!

Donations for the following items are most welcome!

- ♦ Wrapping paper (a roll or 2 of Sally Foster Angel wrapping paper)
- ♦ Wrapping supplies (tape, scissors, ribbons, etc.)
- ♦ Arts & crafts supplies (crayons, markers)
- ♦ Green Christmas trees (all sizes, to lend or donate)
- ♦ Artificial poinsettias, green, red, and silver tablecloths, and other décor items
- ♦ More items will be solicited as we near the date

For more information, contact Lisa Orosa at lorosa@verizon.net or Lynn Ruff at lynnruff@yahoo.com.

Thank you to all our volunteers!

Any questions regarding volunteer opportunities, please send an email to ashonnard@verizon.net.

Thank you...you are the key to our success!!!



Restaurant Night
Wednesday,
September 24
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

In the Sugarland Crossing Shopping Center, in front of Burlington and Shopper's Food

Eat-In or Drive-Thru, Our Lady of Hope School earns 15% of all sales!



Get Ready To Read!!

Please join in the fun of making your child a better reader. We will be offering the "Pizza Hut Book It" reading program for grades K-5. From October through March, the students will bring home monthly reading logs, with goals set by their teacher. If the goal is met, a certificate for a free personal pan pizza from Pizza Hut will be issued to the student. This is an **optional** program to encourage reading for fun. Look for additional information in your child's backpack. You may contact Dona Grado at jndg1012@msn.com with any questions.



Faith Committee

We accomplish extraordinary things only by God's strength within us. We place our trust in Him! It is so important for our school community to pray for one another. You will receive a prayer intention card in Friday Folders and we invite your entire family to make their prayer requests. All are welcome to join the Faith Committee to pray over these intentions on Tuesdays at 2:45pm in the St. Thomas Moore meeting room. God bless Our Lady of Hope School!

Join Us in Prayer

The following is the link provided by the Virginia Catholic Conference for information on the Novena being offered each Tuesday until the Presidential Election. Please consider being a part of this effort to ask God's guidance and wisdom as we elect a new President.

<http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org/resources/podcasts>

Upcoming Math Bowl for Fun Friday

On Thursday, Oct. 23rd, after the morning of Field Day, we will have our 2nd Annual "Math Bowl" in the afternoon!!! There will be interactive games and friendly math competitions for all to participate. Just like last year, students will be grouped by grade level and travel to six different math stations that will include Shopping, Measuring, Probability, Estimating, fun board games and the list goes on. If you love shopping, cooking, playing board games and/or doing math—your help is needed!!! We need an estimated 16-17 volunteers to run our Math Bowl. I will soon be sending home a list of games we will need donated and a list of volunteers to run the various math stations. The volunteer time will run from 1:00 – 3:00. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sheila Traenkle at 703/433-9699.

School Store - Open for Business

The school store is open every Wednesday morning from 7:45 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. in the school lobby. Students have the opportunity to purchase a wide variety of items. We sell, pencils, pens, erasers, rulers, glue sticks, scissors, folders, highlighters, book socks/ covers, pencil cases, index cards, filler paper, composition books, protractors, compasses and many more items. The price range is between \$ 0.10 -\$4.25. A special thank you to Lorena Tatusko and Cami Purpura for running the school store.



Keep In Touch With Your PTO Officers

Carol Hess, President

Carol1517@aol.com

Danielle Murdock, Vice President

daniellemurdock@aol.com

Mary Anne Gnatowski, Secretary

magnatowski@verizon.net

Christy Anderson, Treasurer

christycanderson@verizon.net

New Faces, New Families at Our Lady of Hope School!

This year we have 27 new families joining the Our Lady of Hope School Community! We are so glad to welcome them to our school community, and hope that everyone is adjusting to life as a "Crusader"!

Please join the PTO in welcoming:

Carlos Angarita and
 Paula Botero-Paramo Camila Angarita (K)
 Carlos and Raynelle Araque Collin (1)
 David and Dena Bruce Grace (4), Leo (K)
 Maricel Cassell Kaylee (4)
 Stacie and Mustafa Cayci Amber (K)
 Joe and Ashley Cristofaro Mary "Caroline" (K)
 Jennifer and Trey Dean Sarah Grace (K)
 Heather Disney Hannah (1)
 John and Susan Dunk Jacob (3), Sarah (2)
 Myra and Antonio Gajo Nathan Zachary (K)
 Joseph and Michaela Grinder . Kaitlyn (K)
 Anna Harmon Helenka (6)
 Natalie Hartman Oliver (K)
 Eddie and Colleen Herrera Nicholas (K)
 Joseph and Cynthia Hunter ... Catherine (1)
 Chris and Carrie Jenks Ryan (K)
 Glenn Jones and
 Suzanne Volpe Faith (K)
 Tricia and Paul Kershaw Jack (K)
 John and Jennifer Maguire Casey (K), Maggie (1)
 Patrick and Rose O'Mara James (K)
 Richard and Kristin Orth Matthew (7)
 Donna Pellegrini Patrick (1)
 Benedicto Pilande and
 Lordei Lacdao Angelo Pilande (K)
 Kelly and Dena Rickert Alexander (3),
 Christian (K)
 Pamela Skojec Louis Skojec (4)

Getting to Know You...

As a way to reach out to our new families, all are invited to attend a Welcome Coffee in the Parish Hall after the all-school Mass on Friday, October 3. This is a great opportunity to meet the newest members of the OLOH School Community! Watch the Friday Folders for additional details.

Please contact Danielle Jones at jones011098@comcast.net if you would like to help out with this event.



Share your Crusader Spirit by joining the Welcoming Committee!

If you are interested in helping our newest families get involved in the OLOH School Community, please contact Danielle Jones at jones011098@comcast.net.

Welcome to another great year at Our Lady of Hope.

This year our goal is to raise \$1500 through Box Tops for Education. It's so easy! Just clip the Box Tops and turn them into your child's classroom teacher or homeroom teacher if your child is in middle school. Box Tops can be found on lots of products you probably use each day: For a complete list go to www.btfe.com

Each Box Top you send into school with your child is worth 10 cents. The PTO will use all monies earned to provide educationally and culturally enriching activities for our children. Every academic quarter the classes compete to see who can bring in the most Box Tops. The winning class receives an extra recess and a popcorn party!!! In order to be counted toward the first quarter total, all Box Tops must be turned in by 10/17/08. All box tops turned in after this date will be added to the second quarter totals for each class.



Let's Show How Much We Care

The first Friday of each month, school ends at 11:45am presenting the staff with an opportunity to gather together. Parent volunteers will work to help make this a quick but yummy event to show our appreciation for all their hard work. Each first Friday, two parent volunteers by grade are sought to help setup, decorate and break down after the event. A two hour time commitment (11:30-1:30) is necessary.

October 3 rd	8th grade	March 6 th	3rd grade
November 7 th	7th grade	April 3 rd	2nd grade
December 5 th	6th grade	May 5 th	1st grade
January 9 th	5th grade	June 5 th	K
February 6 th	4th grade		

Please contact Carrie Jenks, our Luncheon Coordinator, at 571-265-2189 or carrie.jenks@lafarge-na.com if you have any questions, or to volunteer.

Turn your everyday shopping into \$\$\$ for Our Lady of Hope Catholic School

**** Annual renewal of your grocery store cards is required in order for our school to earn contributions ****

Use these instructions to sign up online or return your information to the office and we'll do it for you. Either way it's quick and easy to help Our Lady of Hope Catholic School with this no-cost fundraiser!



Giant
A+ Bonus Bucks
www.giantfood.com

Click "Our Stores", then "Designate a School".
Our Lady of Hope Catholic School ID #04914



Harris Teeter
Together in Education
www.harristeeter.com

Click "Together in Education", then "Link your VIC card to your school now".

Our Lady of Hope Catholic School ID #5848



Safeway
Club for Education
www.escrip.com

Click "Yes! Renew" to register your Club card or debit/credit cards.

Our Lady of Hope Catholic School ID #1044980



You may also return your information via email to the address below. We need everyone's participation to make this year's fundraising effort a huge success!

For help please contact Shannon Callihan at 540-751-1562 or shannoncallihan@aol.com.

Pump Up Those Sally Foster Orders & Help the St. Nick's Shop!

The St. Nick shop is looking for donations for wrapping paper to cut down the cost of the items. Please consider making a donation. Sally Foster has some items that would be perfect to help our wrapping elves. If you would like to donate some wrapping paper and raise money for our PTO consider buying the following items from Sally Foster to donate to the St. Nick Shop:

Contemporary Holiday Gift Totes - S031 \$8.00

Playful Holiday Totes - S059 \$9.00

Little Angels Giftwrap - S065 \$10.00

Pompom Pull Bows - S045 \$8.00

Festive Cellophane Bags - S003 \$6.00

All donations can be left at the front office Attn: Christine Granata

We're Headed to Pumpkinville

On Friday, October 3rd, school dismisses at 11:45 am. A group of Our Lady of Hope School families are heading out to Pumpkinville in Leesburg to enjoy an afternoon of fun. Pumpkinville is located at 19270 James Monroe Highway in Leesburg (at the Leesburg Animal Park). They offer a hay maze, giant hill slides, straw tunnels, rope swings, moonbounces and more. You can learn more about it at www.leesburganimalpark.com/pumpkinville.htm. Admission on weekdays is \$8 per person. This is not a school or PTO sponsored activity, but should be a good time for us all!



The Crusader is a monthly publication of the Our Lady of Hope Catholic School PTO. If you have comments, suggestions, or a submission for a future issue, please contact Danielle Murdock at 703-948-9790 or daniellemurdock@aol.com.