

# The Grotto News

December 2, 2011

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish School

www.ololjaguars.org



## From the Principal

Dear Parents,

Happy Advent! This is the time of the year that we prepare for the birth of Jesus. It is difficult not to get caught up in the commercialization of Christmas, Black Friday sales that now last a week.

Try to take this time to do some quiet reflecting, especially during the crazy hustle and bustle of the time. Take advantage of confession that is offered at the church every Saturday.

The school will have its Advent Show on December 14th this year, this is a change to the original calendar.

Thank you all for your support and prayers.

God is good,

Mr. Thomas E. Halfaker



### Yet to Come

- 12/3 Cheerleading Competition at Archbishop Carroll 6:00 p.m.
- 12/5 2nd grade field trip to Jungle Island  
Confessions for grades 6-8
- 12/6 Confessions for grades 3-5
- 12/7 Jeans Day  
Santa Pictures (wear red, white or green shirt)  
Daily rehearsals for Advent Celebration begin 1:00-2:30 p.m.  
Report Cards go home
- 12/8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception-2B Mass 9:00 a.m.
- 12/9 3A Bake Sale
- 12/12 Student Council, Choir and Dancers visit St. Anne's Nursing Home
- 12/13 Kinder- 2nd grade story telling in cafeteria from 8:30-10:30 a.m.
- 12/14 Pre-K Advent Celebration at 9:00 a.m. in church  
K-8 Advent Celebration at 7:30 p.m. in church (change to the calendar)
- 12/15 Deadline to pay for church offertory contributions
- 12/16 1A Mass  
Cafeteria is closed  
Early dismissal at 11:45 12:00 noon  
NO AFTER CARE  
Varsity Basketball Tournament begins in Key West!
- 1/3/12 Classes resume (change to calendar)
- 1/4 Club Picture Day
- 1/5 Science Made Fun in Pre-K
- 1/6 1B Mass 9:00 a.m. followed by Honor Roll Ceremony
- 1/7 Archbishop Coleman Carroll Open House

## From the Assistant Principal

Dear Parents,

I hope that this edition of our Grotto News finds you all well rested after the Thanksgiving break. As we are all busy preparing for Christmas, we must also take time to celebrate Mary, as the Mother of God. Next week our school mass will take place on Thursday for the feast of Mary's Immaculate Conception. We also invite you to join us for a play about the life of Our Lady of Guadalupe, presented by the St. Francis Missionaries, performed by over 100 students.

The weeks before our Christmas break are usually very exciting, and the cool weather has also added animation to these school days. As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, it can also be a challenge to keep our children focused on the true meaning of Christmas. The Pre-K and K-8<sup>th</sup> grade Advent Celebrations are both wonderful reminders of what the Advent Season is all about.

Thank you for sharing your children with us. All parents can agree that experiencing this season through the eyes of a child fill our hearts with joy. I pray that all of our school families celebrate the birth of our Savior with hope and expectation. Be safe and enjoy your time with each other.

God bless,

Laura G. Sanchez



# General Information

*The Staff of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish School wishes you and your family a blessed Christmas Season!*

## **Important Reminders**

This will be the last Grotto News before the Christmas Break. A few reminders:

The Advent Celebrations for grades K-8 will take place on Wednesday, December 14. **This is a change to the school calendar.** The Pre-K pageant will be at 9:00 a.m. and the K-8 pageant will be at 7:30 p.m., both will take place in the church. We look forward to seeing you there. Students in grades K-7 (including choir members) are to arrive that evening by 7:00 p.m. and are to go to their classrooms where they will be the duration of the show. **Students may not be dismissed until the show ends.** The teachers will bring them over when it is their scheduled time to perform. Students will be picked up from their homerooms at the end of the show. Students in 8th grade are to report directly to the church no later than 6:45 p.m. Students in the choir will be dismissed from the choir area upon completion of the show. All students in grades K-7 are to wear blue jeans and appropriate shoes.

The tops for each class are as follows:

- Kindergarten-brown, khaki, or other earth tone shirts or sweaters.
- 1st grade- black shirts or sweaters
- 2nd grade- yellow or white shirts or sweaters
- 3rd grade- bright solid color shirt or sweaters
- 4th grade- white shirts or sweaters
- 5th grade-white or light blue shirts or sweaters
- 6th grade-purple, red, or royal blue shirts or sweaters
- 7th grade-solid bright colors shirts or sweaters
- 8th grade- costumes will be provided for characters. All backstage crew will be dressed in black.



## **Friday, December 16th:**

The cafeteria will be closed on Friday, December 16th. Please send a snack for your child to eat in the classroom after Mass if you would like.

**We will have early dismissal at 11:45 and 12:00 noon. NO AFTER CARE that afternoon.** Please make the necessary arrangements to pick up your children no later than 12:00 noon. The staff Christmas luncheon will take place at 12:30 p.m. that day; we need your cooperation in order for the teachers to be on time for the luncheon.

*Parents are welcome to come into the classrooms as of 11: 15 a.m. to sign out students from their homerooms.*

***Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 (this is a change to the original school calendar which shows the return date as January 2nd.)***

The Mary Immaculate, Star of the Sea Varsity basketball tournament begins at Key West that afternoon. Good luck Jaguars!

## **American Cancer Society**

Thanks to the generosity of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish School's students and staff, we have made a donation to the American Cancer Association in the amount of \$634.00, raised by our students and staff on Jeans Day, during Breast Cancer Awareness month. Thank you for your support!

## **Parish Carnival**

Carnival raffle tickets were sent home to all families. Please be sure to fill out the stubs completely and send full payment with the stubs.

***The unlimited ride bracelets will go on sale on Monday, December 5th.*** The cost is \$50.00 per bracelet for four days of unlimited rides. This is the best value for rides and these passes will only be sold on a pre-sale basis. **They will not be available at the carnival.** Don't miss the opportunity to purchase your unlimited ride bracelet! The deadline to purchase these bracelets is Friday, February 3, 2012.

## **Finances**

The deadline to pay the offertory is December 15, 2011. New families whose children started in August of this year are required to contribute \$200.00 and returning families, \$600.00.

Report cards will go home next week, report cards may be withheld if there is a past due balance.

Re-registration will take place in January. **Accounts need to be current for students to re-register for 2012-2013.**

### *Children of the Blessed Sacrament*

As we begin this season of Advent, I invite you to come as a family to Jesus in our Adoration Chapel. What better gift can we give Our Lord and Savior this Christmas than to spend time with Him in Adoration? The graces you will receive will be immeasurable! Thank you to all who are reminding their children to come to adoration, at times our adoration chapel is bursting with children and we know how happy our Lord Jesus and blessed Mother are to receive our children.

God bless you,  
Melba Remior



### *St. Francis Missionaries*

Thank you to all who came to help give out the Thanksgiving baskets on November 19th, it was beautiful! We ask you to please continue collecting canned foods for the OLOL Food Pantry as we give food throughout the year to the needy of our community. Also, please continue with our Mission Collections as we strive to surpass last years collection to help more countries in need this year. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR December 9th 9:00 am when our Missionaries will perform this year's play "Our Lady of Guadalupe" at the church. They have been working very hard and are very excited to tell this beautiful story. If your children are in the play, please send them with their costume on that day with a change of clothes in their book bag. **Note: girls wear Indian Costumes, no bare shoulders, must wear a blouse or t-shirt under costume. If skirt is too short, must wear shorts or leggings**

Thank you and God bless you,  
Melba Remior

### *Career Day*

It is that time of year again when we ask all those who are interested in participating in the annual Career Day at Our Lady of Lourdes to please contact us so that we can place you on our schedule. In the past, we have had many parents, family members, friends, and neighbors of the students come and spend the day with the kids. The students really love this day because they get to learn all about the various careers that they can aspire to. Career Day will be on Tuesday, January 31, 2011. Please let us know by Friday, December 16th, 2011, so that we can accommodate your request. In this Grotto you will find the Career Day sign-up form. We look forward to hearing from you and to another successful Career Day! This event is not limited to parents! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email us!

Blessings,

Tammy Acosta: [tacosta@ololjaguars.org](mailto:tacosta@ololjaguars.org), Melissa Alonso: [malonso@ololjaguars.org](mailto:malonso@ololjaguars.org), Olga Miniet: [ominiet@ololjaguars.org](mailto:ominiet@ololjaguars.org)

## *Classroom News*



### *PK3*

To our Star Students: Connor Lazarus and Patrick Guerriero!

Happy Birthday to: Sebastian Velasquez and Katie Rodriguez!

Miss Novoa would like to thank her students, their parents, and the faculty and staff for the wonderful bridal shower. It was such an amazing surprise! Thank you all for the beautiful gifts and for celebrating her upcoming wedding with her!

For the next few weeks, we will be covering the letters I and J. Please continue to reinforce our teaching by helping the children with their homework and reviewing the concepts at home. We will also be covering the season of Advent and the meaning/story of Christmas. Also, we have sent the lyrics of their designated songs to the students who will be singing in the Advent Show. Please practice with them..

We would like to remind everyone that the Pre-K Advent show will be held on December 14th at 9:00 a.m. at the church. The students have all been assigned their parts and will need to come to school in costume on that day. The students will be dropped off in the morning as usual and will walk to the church with their classes. After the show, parents are welcome to sign-out the children from their classrooms.

On Friday, December 16th, there will be 11:45 dismissal and no aftercare. Please pack a small snack for the children to have after Mass.

We hope everyone has a truly blessed Christmas Season and very Happy Holidays! We hope to see you all rested and ready for the new year on Tuesday, January 31!

Thank you for all that you do!  
The PreK-3 Team

## PK4

It's hard to believe December is here! The children are excited to perform for you at our Pre-K Nativity play. We are rehearsing everyday. We are continuing to work on our alphabet and have started numbers in math. Please continue to help us at home with handwriting skills.

Happy December birthdays to: David Canizares, Isabella Canizares, Mario Masses-Valera, Carolina Rodriguez, Orlando Puente, Alexandra Morgado and Catalina Callejas!

Have a wonderful Christmas break and a very happy New Year!

God bless you,  
The PreK-4 Team



## Kindergarten

"Fling wide the gates, open the ancient doors, and the great King will come in. Who is the great King? The Triumphant Lord is the great King" Psalm 29:9-10

Welcome back! Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving. Now it's time to work. We still emphasize for your child to read everyday.

**A time for waiting!** Advent reminds us that anything worthwhile is worth the wait. Advent celebrates the awaiting of Jesus and the difficult but necessary spirituality of watchfulness, waiting and acceptance. We will discuss Advent Season as a Christian experience of waiting. The children will discover that waiting is not a passive activity; it is an active experience of patient watchfulness and preparation. Through prayer and other preparation, the children will discover what waiting is all about. They will learn simple and practical ways to wait and to prepare their hearts and homes for the coming of Jesus. Children have been invited to go on an Advent journey and they will learn what it was like for Mary and Joseph to travel the roads from Nazareth to Bethlehem. They will also share kind acts to prepare themselves for the coming of Jesus; the student will be engaged in a very special activity. They will make a Nativity scene. We will have six groups of five children each. We will let you know the materials we will need. Please kindly send what is asked so the children will have a great time working as a team.

Your child is entering the exciting world of the vowels and already started learning addition and subtraction. We invite you to practice with your children beginning/ending sounds, spelling words and vowel sounds. Children will be having their reading hard cover book for the first time. The book goes home and comes back to school.

Reminders:

- Field Trip to the Miami children Museum is on Tuesday, December 13. Parents are more than welcomed to follow the bus. We will arrive by 10:00 a.m.
- Flowers for Mary December 7th!
- Donations: Items for our treasure box.

Congratulations to our Star students: Matthew Khawly, Bela Lopez,-Viegas, Mariana Castillo and Frank Sanchez

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Happy Birthday to: Alexander Mejia, Emily Martinez, Mario Lao, Emily Gonzalez and Imanol Gorrochotegui

Star Students: Natalia Osorio, Robert Romeo, Carolina Rodriguez, Imanol Gorrochotegui and Adrian Morgade

Welcome back! Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving break.

We want to thank everyone for helping out with our field trip. The kids had a blast!

On December 13th, the storytellers will be here to tell stories about Christmas around the world.

Math: We have started double digit addition with borrowing, please practice at home.

Reading: Please have your child read daily for at least 30 minutes.

This will be the last Grotto for 2011, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

The First Grade Team



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

**H**appy Birthday to all our December students: Cassandra Martinez De Castro, Arianna Salcedo, Isabella Rodriguez, Nicholas Collazo, Catalina de Atienza, and Sebastian Sierra may you have a wonderful and special day!

We trust you had a wonderful time during the Thanksgiving holiday. We are now getting ready for our next event, the Advent celebration! This performance will take place on Wednesday, December 14th at 7:30 p.m. at the church. Please drop your child off in the classroom at 7:00 p.m. on this evening. You may pick them up after the entire show has been presented. Second graders need to wear jeans with a yellow or white shirt or sweater. This promises to be a very enjoyable evening and we look forward to this event.

Our students enjoyed an Extreme Health Presentation Wednesday reinforcing the importance of healthy eating habits. It was enjoyed by all students.

Monday, December 5th – Field trip to Jungle Island – chaperones who will accompany us on the bus have been advised. All parents who will follow the bus or meet us there will need to comply with certain rules that Jungle Island requires. An email was sent advising you of these requirements. Thank you for your cooperation.

Friday, December 9th - Book report due – please bring a large paper bag and other small items your child will need to create their main character. We will provide construction paper and buttons.

Tuesday, December 13th – In house field trip “Christmas Around the World”.

Handwriting – we will start the beginning of cursive writing next week. We will begin with the over and under curve strokes. It is important that students hold their pencils correctly. Please remind them at home if they are not holding it correctly.

Religion – we started Chapter 5 – a study guide went out this week. Chapter 5 Test is scheduled for Tuesday, December 6th.

Language Arts – Test on singular and plural possessive nouns is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7th.

Please make sure your child reads the library book they check out during our library time. They do get tested for comprehension as part of the Accelerated Reading Program. They usually have two weeks between checking-out a book and the test.

We take this opportunity to wish you a very blessed Christmas. May the true meaning of this beautiful season dwell in your hearts always.

May the New Year bring us much health, happiness and peace on Earth. God bless you and your families.

The Second Grade Team

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

**C**ongratulations third graders. We want to thank every single one of you for making it through the 1st Trimester!

**THANK YOU** for all the food donations for Saint Anne's Mission and all the tube socks donations for Camilus House. We really appreciate it.

We sent home a Reading project for the 2nd Trimester on November 17th. The book selection was due Tuesday, November 22nd. The project is due January 17, 2012 Please remember that the book your child has selected must be a chapter book level grade 3 or higher. If the book does not meet the requirements the book will be denied. Even though the students have weeks to complete this project, please **DO NOT** wait to the end to do it.

Reminders:

Students should be reading their AR ( Accelerated Readers) everyday. They will be taking AR quizzes on their AR books once they have completed their books. Please continue to practice multiplication tables with your child. All students should have a chapter book in their desk at all times. Please make **SURE** your child has at least 3 sharpen pencils and an eraser their pencil pouch. Everyday they are coming to school unprepared!

Keep on sending Boxtops with your child! Remember, Bale Sale every Friday!

Congratulations to our Star Students of the week! 3A Michelle Pombo and Gabriel Linares and 3B Nicholas Goggi and Katie Gonzalez

God bless,  
The Third Grade Team



#### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Congratulations to our Students of the week: 4A-Zoe Bendaña, 4B- Danielle Cooner and Matias Ayesta.

We want to thank everyone who donated canned food and socks. The response from all the parents was excellent.

As we beginning a new trimester, we would like to remind all students and parents that this is the time for a fresh start (a new beginning). Students need to keep focus on their studies now that we have started the month of December. For the new trimester, we will be requesting a chapter book of at least 100 pages that the students will need keep in class. The second trimester will also include a science and reading project that will be assigned shortly. Please remind your children to keep improving on their handwriting skills.

All Northeast projects look excellent! The students will continue to learn about all the different regions of the United States throughout the school year.

Reminder:

The fourth grade Advent Show will be on December 14th and the students need to arrive at school by 7:00 p.m. (report to your classroom). Our students will be wearing JEANS and a WHITE SHIRT or SWEATER.

Mrs. Duyos, Mrs. Palacios and Mrs. Del Campo would like to wish every one of you a MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Ms. Duyos, Mrs. Palacios and Mrs. Del Campo

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

We hope you had a great and restful Thanksgiving break! We will soon begin a thematic unit *The Watsons go to Birmingham-1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis. The book will need to be purchased if you do not already have a copy. The book is due December 12th. After this date, the students will not be using their Reading textbook or practice book. At the end of the week the students will be receiving a reading comprehension and vocabulary exam related to this novel for the assigned chapters. In addition to our thematic unit, we will be watching two movies related to segregation. A permission form has been sent out, please sign and return the form no later than Wednesday December 7th.

Please make sure your child is using his/her time wisely to complete their scrap-book project. It is due December 12th. 5th-grade students will be wearing a white or light blue shirt for the Advent show.

Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs. Tovar, Mrs. Basilio, and Ms. Cedeno



## Middle School News

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day.

Our annual Advent celebration will take place on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the church. The sixth grade students need to wear jeans with a purple, red, or royal blue shirt/sweater and appropriate shoes.

In class we are continuing to read *Freak the Mighty*. after every chapter, we have discussion questions that the students to complete. These questions are used to study for chapter quizzes and tests. Students will also be tested on vocabulary words from the novel.

This week we began to work on Chapter 13 Punctuation- Underlining (Italics), Quotation Marks, Apostrophes and Hyphens in the Elements of Language Text book.

Many blessings,

Mrs. M. Porraspita

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts

The second trimester has officially begun. Below you will find a tentative guide for the topics that will be covered during the first few weeks. Please note this is subject to change and is only to serve as a guide.

#### **Grammar/Writing**

Chapter 15 (Punctuation)

Chapter 3 (Verb, Adverb, Preposition, Conjunction, and Interjection)

Chapter 4 (Direct and Indirect Objects)

## Persuasive Writing

### *Literature*

We will be reading the following novels:

Freak the Mighty  
The Outsiders

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [arivero@ololjaguars.org](mailto:arivero@ololjaguars.org) or through the school office.

Thank you and God bless.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Rivero

### *8th Grade Language Arts*

**D**rama News:

The middle school production of *Beauty and the Beast* has been rescheduled until after Christmas break. As soon as the rescheduled date has been confirmed, we will let you know! After the break, look for forms for this year's drama t-shirts and ticket sales. Thank you for supporting the arts!

8th Grade Language Arts:

Report cards for the 1st trimester will be out next week. Now that students have entered the 2nd trimester, it is imperative that students maintain their grades. Please make sure your child is doing homework nightly and studying for tests. High schools will be taking note of this year's grades.

In reading, students just completed the novel, *Freak the Mighty*. Before we go on Christmas break, as a culminating activity, students will view the movie, *The Mighty*, which is based on the book. During the next two weeks, we will read a few more short stories. After the holiday break, we will begin our next novel, *The Giver*. This novel explores a futuristic utopian society where disturbing elements of our current society have been eliminated to create a perfect society. However, in eliminating the bad, some good aspects of society had to be eliminated as well. The question students will have to answer is: Is this futuristic society better?

In English, students continue to identify and diagram parts of speech. Once we have completed this unit, we will continue to work on developing and perfecting writing skills. We will also work on topics specific to what will be seen on the high school entrance exam including analogies, verb tenses, spelling, etc.

In vocabulary, students continue to develop a litany of words for current and future use. Words specific to the high school entrance exam will also be featured in the next two months together with words specific to short stories and novels.

As this is our last grotto of the year, I wish you a blessed Christmas season and a happy, healthy New Year!

God bless,  
Laura J. Behrens

### *Middle School Math*

**W**e hope you had a blessed Thanksgiving. Welcome to the new trimester! The next few weeks will be hectic and fun, preparing for the upcoming Advent show and anticipating the joy of Christmas and upcoming vacation. Please help us keep students focused by ensuring they are well-rested and prepared for school with a good breakfast and all of the materials and books they need for school.

We want to remind students and parents of the importance of homework, for the large percentage it represents of a student's grade, for the practice and reinforcement it provides and for the mastery of student's skills it will develop. We cannot emphasize enough the role homework plays in our students' success in math. In Math there is a direct correlation between the quality of homework completion and resulting grade. Doing a quality job on homework includes working out all steps as instructed, showing all work, line by line, checking answers, finding errors when answers are incorrect and reworking problems as necessary.

Additional problems are always available from the text book found in even problems, chapter ending tests and chapter reviews, and from the workbook or [www.classzone.com](http://www.classzone.com).

Homework reports are not required after the first trimester, so it is important that students take responsibility for their work. Math homework is given daily, almost without exception, so students should be able to show their parents the daily homework with teacher's initials once it is checked.

Math tutoring sessions will be Wednesday, December 7th and 14th and again with January 4th.



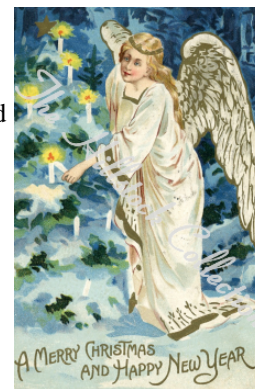
We will be having frequent afternoon rehearsals for the Advent show which may interrupt normal class schedules.

As this will be the last Grotto for some time, we wish all of our students and families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! God bless you.

Please contact your teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Leslie McConachie [lmconachie@ololjaguars.org](mailto:lmconachie@ololjaguars.org)

Michelle Rodriguez [mirodriguez@ololjaguars.org](mailto:mirodriguez@ololjaguars.org)



### ***Middle School Social Studies***

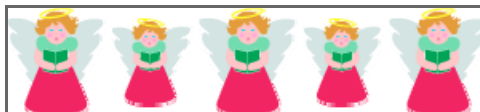
**W**elcome back everyone. I've heard wonderful stories of the fabulous Thanksgiving everyone had. This holiday and the days that we all had to rest were much needed after the trimester exams. Thank you for all the wonderful birthday wishes and gifts. You all made my birthday truly special.

We are starting a new trimester and the material being covered from this point on is what will be included in the next trimester exam. Students may remove from their binders all material from the first trimester. Even though there are only a few weeks before we break for Christmas, it is very important that all students stay on top of **their assignments. Every homework counts and now that we are in the second trimester, homework notices may not be sent home. Students are to be responsible for completing their assignments on time.**

The Advent show will be held on Wednesday, December 14th. Please refer the Mrs. Ewen's column under Music for the proper attire for students.

Since this will be the last Grotto for the year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a safe vacation. I look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

God bless,  
Olga Miniét



### ***Middle School Science***

With trimester exams behind us we can breathe a sigh of relief!! But only for a moment! Report cards will be coming out soon, and it is time to think carefully about the time and effort we have put into our studies. Did we do all that we could to get good grades? Now is not the time to look outward and cast blame, but inward and find that drive in ourselves to move forward in a positive way. Remember students, it is not about your parents, or your teachers! It is about your effort and your attitude. It is your LIFE! Enjoy your youth, have fun with friends, and when it is time to study, buckle down and do the best job that you can do. I have a challenge that I would like to extend to all my students! Can you come to school ready to learn, open to new ideas, willing to give your studies 100% of your effort? Are you willing to play an active role in deciding your own future? I am thankful for each and every one of you! You are all special to me! One day, your generation will be running this country, and I trust in you! Will you take my challenge and be the best you can be today?

8th Grade: Rube Goldberg Projects are due on January 9th, by 8:00 a.m. Students will be preparing their machines to run during the regularly scheduled Science Fair. The rough draft for the technical report is due Monday, December 5th. Only one per group, please! Send any questions to my email!

6th Grade: We are doing a quick review of the lab safety, scientific methods and just how important math is to science.

7th Grade: We are finishing up with Protists and Fungi and learning just how important they are to the world.

8th Grade: We are beginning the chapter on work and simple machine! It is surprising to know that there is a formula for work! Unfortunately we were unable to complete the lab on Hovercrafts due to missed school days. But as an extra credit activity we will complete them before Christmas and have a hovercraft competition in class!

Science Fair updates:

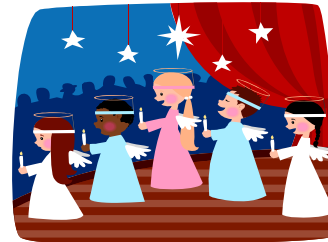
6-7th Grade: Assignment # 3 was returned last week and the next and final due date before the Science Fair is December 5th. The students can find the handout again online. The students must hand in the actual assignment sheet because it has a place for a parent signature. Students can still type the assignment! Send any questions to my email!

May God bless you and bring you Joy this Holiday Season! Thank you for all your support this year! I thank you for allowing me to spend time with your children doing what I love most, talking about sScience!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mrs. Kim Loor

# Special Areas News



## **Technology**

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. For the second trimester we are aiming to raise our WPM in keyboarding for grade 3rd-8th. In addition, we will be working with Microsoft Publisher and Word. It is very important that students continue to practice typing at home. This is the only way that they will be able to meet their typing goal.

In Kinder-2nd, we will be working on more computer basic skills. We will also work on Microsoft Word. I am looking forward to a great 2nd trimester, and I am very proud of the keyboarding progress. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at [ta-costa@ololjagaur.org](mailto:ta-costa@ololjagaur.org).

Thanks,  
Tammy Acosta

## **Library News**

I hope all of you returned safely from your Thanksgiving Celebration. During the next few weeks we will be concentrating on the holidays. The children will be engaged in a variety of holiday activities. While your children are continuing to read their AR books please set aside some time to reflect on the Season ahead. Now is a wonderful time for you to read and tell the stories of the season that are special to you. There are so many wonderful books about Christmas for your children to enjoy. I have my favorite stories as I know you do from your childhood memories. Add some new ones to these family traditions. Enjoy this blessed time.

God Bless you and all you hold dear, today and everyday,  
Victoria R. Truitt



## **Spanish**

I hope you had a nice and restful Thanksgiving Holiday.

We have come to the end of the first trimester, and we've been having a great time while we learn and practice Spanish. Students in grades K-3 will soon complete Unit 2. Information regarding the Unit 2 test for 3rd grade will be forthcoming.

Que Dios los bendiga,  
Mrs. Avedo-Rodriguez

I hope you all had a nice and relaxing Thanksgiving with your families. Grades 4th - 8th will be having one test prior to our Christmas break. Test dates will be announce by next week.  
Melissa Alonso

## **Religion**

Since this is the last Grotto until January 6th, I would like to wish you a wonderful Christmas season full of wonder and awe. May it be a season of growing, of being together, and rich in blessings!

In the coming weeks the children will be learning about the following:

6th grade: will study how God begins to gather a people to himself making God's plan for salvation clear. These people become known as the Israelites.

7th grade: will learn that the inspired writers of the Bible approached the truth of history differently from modern historians. Inspired by the Holy Spirit they put into writing their memories of God's presence, preserved, and passed on to future generations.

8th grade: will explore commandments fourth through sixth. They will be able to understand that in seeking the perfect life, we do not allow societal practices to lessen our courage to stand up for the truth. They will recognize that Christians speak up for life by being living examples of God's mercy and forgiveness.

Verse to Remember: You spoke to me, and your words filled my heart with joy and happiness. Jeremiah 15:16

Many blessings!  
Mrs. Barbeite

## *Library*

Dear Families, I hope all of you returned safely from your Thanksgiving Celebration. During the next few weeks we will be concentrating on the holidays. The children will be engaged in a variety of holiday activities. While your children are continuing to read their AR books please set aside some time to reflect on the Season ahead. Now is a wonderful time for you to read and tell the stories of the season that are special to you. There are so many wonderful books about Christmas for your children to enjoy. I have my favorite stories as I know you do from your childhood memories. Add some new ones to these family traditions. Enjoy this blessed time. God Bless you and all you hold dear, today and everyday. Victoria R. Truitt

## *P.E. and After School Sports*

Welcome back from Thanksgiving break. We hope your celebration was memorable and that you enjoyed time spent with family and friends.

Here's what's happening in our department:

### PRIMARY BASEBALL

Our Primary Baseball Team played their last game prior to Thanksgiving. They finished their season with a 4-4 record. The team is to be congratulated for their late-season wins over St. Kevin on November 15th (10-8) and the previously undefeated St. Louis on November 17th (9-6). The boys recorded many crowd-pleasing moments on the diamond during their season!

We would like to thank Coach Rudd for his continued dedication to our baseball program and for the expertise, enthusiasm, and patience he devoted unflinchingly towards our youngest ball players.

Our thanks also go out to high school junior Thurman Hall for volunteering his time to coach 1st base throughout the season. Now that the Primary Baseball season is over, please make sure, if you have not already done so, to return your child's baseball jersey prior to the Christmas break to Ms. Catanach in a Ziploc bag labeled with your child's name. The cap is your child's to keep and should not be returned.

### JV BASEBALL

Weather permitting, the JV Baseball Tryout should have taken place (on Wednesday November 30th) by the time you read this Grotto News and the list posted as to who made the team.

Those who made the team will have been advised of the practice schedule. The JV Baseball Team has very little time to prepare for their forthcoming season. As such, attendance at practice is mandatory and of the utmost importance.

The JV Baseball season begins in January. As soon as we receive the schedule for the season, we shall send it home with your son along with a snack schedule.

### VARSITY BASKETBALL

The Varsity Girls Basketball Team finished their regular season with an UNDEFEATED 8-0 record and as CHAMPIONS of the All Catholic Conference Central Division. Congratulations girls! We are very proud of you. The team finished its regular season with wins over St. Timothy (37-11 on November 15th), St. Brendan (34-8 on November 17th) and St. Kevin (50-8 on November 22nd).

The Varsity Boys Basketball Team plays its final game of the regular season this afternoon at St. Theresa at 3:45PM. The boys beat St. Thomas 41-23 at home on November 14th.

The All Catholic Conference Playoffs will take place next week. Game dates, sites, and times were not available as of press time. Please come out and support our Varsity Boys Basketball team on Monday December 12th as they contest the 3rd annual "Battle of the Jaguars" vs. Devonnaire K-8 School. Game time is 3:45PM approximately. The Booster Club will be serving a variety of gastronomic delights at the game. The newly introduced strawberry smoothie has been a popular addition to the Booster Club repertoire!

Both our Varsity Girls and Varsity Boys Basketball Teams will travel to Key West on Friday December 16th to compete in the Mariner Classic Basketball Tournament hosted by Mary Immaculate Star of the Sea School on Saturday December 17th. This is our 8th year participating in this tournament in Key West and we are confident that a great time will be had by all – players, fans, coaches – and Jiggy!

### PRIMARY BASKETBALL & JV GIRLS BASKETBALL

Now that the Varsity Basketball seasons are wrapping up, we can start to focus more attention on our Primary and JV Girls Basketball Teams.

Mary Romero sent an e-mail prior to Thanksgiving Break listing all the December and early January practice dates for both teams. Please ensure that your child attends each and every practice.

The Primary Basketball Team will begin its season on Tuesday January 10th. Games will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The JV Girls Basketball Team will begin its season on Wednesday January 11th. Games will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays. We are not

yet in receipt of game schedules for either team and may well not receive them until we return to school in January.

#### TRACK AND FIELD TRYOUT

The Track and Field Tryout will take place on Friday January 6th from 3:00-5:00PM. Students in 1st-8th grades may try out for the Track and Field Team.

Permission forms will be given out prior to Christmas Break to all students interested in trying out. If your child has already tried out for a sport this year, he/she needs to bring only the Permission Form to the Tryout. If this is the first sport your child is trying out for this year, he/she needs to bring all three required forms to the Tryout – The Permission Form, the Medical Pre-Participation Form (filled out and stamped by your doctor, and also filled out by you), and the Consent/Release of Liability Form. Ms. Bush will have extra copies of the Permission Form in the Reception Area. The other two forms can be found on the school website.

Track and Field Meets take place on select Saturdays in the spring (usually in February and March). If your child cannot commit to participating on a Saturday, please do not have him/her try out for Track and Field!

#### PE CLASS

This week we began the second Trimester of the school year. PK3-1st grade students continue to enjoy a variety of games and songs using the parachute. Students in 2nd-5th grades have started a soccer unit and will play the ever-popular game of “Sideline Soccer” for the next few weeks. Middle school students have been placed in their new elective class. Those in the Softball unit with Ms. Kunkel have been divided into two teams and embarked upon competitive softball games on a rather muddy baseball diamond this week. Students in this elective should bring, if at all possible, a softball or baseball glove to class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students in the Fitness unit with Ms. Catanach will be tested for the Presidential Physical Fitness Test. It will take 3-4 weeks to complete testing for all five components of this test. Students in Games with Mr. Suarez enjoyed playing Scooter Hockey this week on the basketball court. This game is a lot of fun and provides a great workout for the legs!

#### HOMECOMING DANCE

Our Homecoming Dance takes place this evening from 7-11pm in St. Bernadette Hall (the cafeteria). Tickets sales are now closed for the dance. No tickets will be sold at the door this evening. Per school policy, students must have been in attendance at school today in order to attend the dance tonight. We look forward to seeing your son/daughter dressed in his/her finest this evening. This is our annual FORMAL dance. Per the instructions given in the Homecoming Flyer, boys should wear dress pants, a dress shirt, and a tie (no jeans or sneakers!) and girls should wear appropriate dresses (no strapless or backless dresses!)

If your child did not bring in his/her assigned item for the dance by the December 1st deadline, please have him/her bring it to the dance this evening:

6th grade – water (gallon water bottles)

7th grade – soda (liter bottles)

8th grade – cups (small 5 ounce cups)

The Homecoming Court is selected by your middle school sons and daughters. They voted for the Court prior to Thanksgiving break. We will crown an 8th grade King and Queen, a 7th grade Prince and Princess, and a 6th grade Duke and Duchess.

Please be here promptly at 11:00PM to pick up your child from the dance.

#### BOOSTER CLUB

Our Booster Club is the absolute BEST and we would like to convey our heartfelt thanks to our phenomenal Booster Club Board members for their tireless efforts all fall. It is extremely gratifying to hear our Booster Club complimented most favorably at home games by parents from other schools!

#### THANK YOU TO:

Martha Vargas – President

Jose Merdjane – Vice President

Maru Deiters – Treasurer

Mary Romero – Secretary

Wendy Morera – Social Secretary

Since this is the last edition of the Grotto News prior to Christmas Break, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and to wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and every happiness in 2012.

Until next time,

#### GO JAGUARS!

Ms. Kunkel, Ms. Catanach, and Mr. Suarez



# **C**hristian Awards

11/19 and 11/23

## Ms. Lopez and Ms. Becky

Gabriel Quintero  
Thalia Acosta  
Julia Clark  
Sergio Alonso  
Miguel Garrido  
Derek Gonzalez

## Ms. Novoa and Ms. Maggie

Patrick Guerriero  
Daniela Larrauri  
Amanda Canizares  
Madeline Reboso  
Robert Ferrar  
Ashlee Harrison

## Ms. Laughlin and Ms. Gabby

Sebastian Ordoñez  
Orlando Puente  
Marcos Gonzalez  
Enzo Valdes  
Annalise Yi-Ortiz  
Julian Gonzalez

## Ms. De Atienza and Ms. Remior

Isabella Cabrera  
David Canizares  
Aidan Fernandez  
Gabriella Sganga  
Vladi Guerrero  
Julia Ortega

## Ms. Rodriguez and Ms. Ramirez

Matthew Viña  
Carolina Duran  
Mia Rivero  
Lucas Alonso  
Andres Camargo  
Andres Wallis

## Ms. Estrada and Ms. Salcedo

Bela Lopez-Viegas  
Sofia Toro  
Luciana Picasso  
Justin Ramos  
Matthew Khawly  
Natacha Gamby

## Ms. Menendez and Ms. Mendoza

Angelica Pagan  
Carolina Espinosa  
Kevin Steinbring  
Ashley Pazos  
Emily Martinez  
Brianna Masses-Valera

## Ms. Quintana and Ms. Litzie

Kassandra Ambut  
Felipe Lugo  
Natalia Osorio  
Emma Blanco  
Isabella Sganga  
Nico Paz

## Ms. Sardina and Ms. Soler

Lexander Garcia  
Aliza Quelix  
Jonah Quelix  
Nicholas Collazo  
Bryan Amaya  
Angela Duran

## Ms. Arbucias and Ms. Plummer

Eduardo Rodriguez  
Joel de Leon  
Alejandro Ramirez  
Valeria Durand  
Nicholas Delgado  
Julian Rodriguez

## Ms. Manley and Ms. Lily

Andres Rodriguez  
Victoria Morera  
Natalee Heriveaux  
Andre Vidal  
Alexander Perez

## Ms. Sganga and Ms. Lily

Mariana Trujillo  
Katrina Guarin  
Sarah Larrauri  
Lourdes Guzman  
Anthony Miranda  
Sofia Meyer

## Ms. Palacios and Ms. Del Campo

Abbey Ewen  
Kimberly Peters  
Andrea Duran

## Ms. Duvos and Ms. Del Campo

Ahren Myers  
Alexa Wong  
Gabriella Pinto  
Heinz Luedeking  
Paola Moreno  
Francis Coronado

## Ms. Tovar and Ms. Cedeño

Jonathan Arnold  
Daniela Arguello  
Maku Udechukwu  
Francesca Fernandez  
Robert Morse  
Branden Hernandez

## Ms. Basilio and Ms. Cedeño

Valerie Velasquez  
Victoria Duran  
Nicholas Hernandez  
Yovannia Quelix  
Veronica Cortes  
Ariana Motta  
Katelyn Cespedes

## Mrs. Porraspita

Matthew Alfonso  
Madeline Reboso  
Daniel Canizares  
Zack Polumbo  
Kenneth Currier

## Julian Rodriguez

Gaby Polo

## Ms. Miniet

Daniel Moreno  
Daniela Ruiz-Paiz  
Nicole Recuset  
Catalina Cortes  
Gabriella Garcia  
Melissa Gonzalez

## Ms. Rivero

Olatz Arriaga  
Gabriella Contreras  
Angelica Gomez  
Andrea Martinez  
Francesca Bagala  
Ryan Fernandez

## Ms. McConachie

Pablo Quiñones  
Laura Santana  
Alec Duran  
Gabriella Quesada  
Kevin Marin

## Ms. Loor

Brianna Bahadue  
Gabriella Rodriguez  
Sofia Zacarias  
Christina Iturrioz  
Kaethan De Crumpe

## Ms. Behrens

Nicholas Iturrioz  
Tyler Halfaker  
Michael Quiñones  
Alicia Melgar  
Amanda Canizares

## Mrs. Soler

Carlos Diez

## Mrs. Rodriguez

Katia Sierra  
Walter Martinez  
Kevin Marin

## Mr. Manny

Valeria Durand  
Alejandro Concepcion  
Lauren Dominguez  
Victoria Morera  
Robert Romero  
Heinz Luedeking

## Mrs. Pastora

Jean-Pierre Certain  
Dylan Chang  
Michael Vazquez

## Mrs. Acosta

Nicholas Paz  
Santiago Tovar  
Emma Blanco

# O.L.O.L. JAGUARS CAREER DAY!

It is that time of year again when we ask all those who are interested in participating in the annual Career Day at Our Lady of Lourdes to please contact us so that we can place you on our schedule. We invite all moms, dads, tios, tias, family and friends to join us as our students learn about the different careers they can aspire to.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2011**

**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish School**

**14000 S.W. 112th Street**

**305.386.8446**

**CONTACT:** Mrs. Tammy Acosta: [tacosta@ololjaguars.org](mailto:tacosta@ololjaguars.org)  
Mrs. Melissa Alonso: [malonso@ololjaguars.org](mailto:malonso@ololjaguars.org)  
Ms. Olga Miniet: [ominiet@ololjaguars.org](mailto:ominiet@ololjaguars.org)

**Presenter's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Requests:** \_\_\_\_\_

(VCR, TV, Outdoor Area, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Children at O.L.O.L.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Available Time:** 7:30 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

(Circle One) 7:30 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

11:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

**Briefly describe your career:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Presentations are 25 minute sessions. Please allow a few minutes for questions!  
Please return form to O.L.O.L. by Friday, December 16, 2011!

**THANK YOU!**

# December Menu



Meals are planned and prepared to meet the nutritional needs of children. Students will be offered a choice of a Hot Lunch with a variety of fruits, vegetables and side dishes. This menu is provided so that you can discuss meal choices with your child. Ham and cheese or Caesar salad is available everyday as an alternative. The cost per meal is \$4.00.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		30 Beef Burrito Yellow Rice Refried Beans	1 Chicken Nuggets Hamburgers Pot Luck Potato Sticks	2 Pizza French Fries Fruit and Juice
5 Spaghetti with meat sauce Garlic Bread Side salad	6 Fried Chicken Mashed potato Cole Slaw	7 Pork BBQ Ribs Corn on the cob Baked Potato	8 Chicken Nuggets Hot Dogs Potato Sticks	9 Pizza French Fries Fruit and Juice
12 Fettuccini Alfredo With chicken Garlic Bread Side Salad	13 Beef Stew White Rice Bread Rolls	14 Chicken Nuggets Hamburgers Potato sticks	15 Pizza French Fries Fruit and Juice	16 Cafeteria Closed

**NOTE: Our Lady of Lourdes reserves the right to change the menu selections at any time based on availability of fresh and seasonal items.**

# Christmas Break