



# Our Lady of Perpetual Help

*"Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School builds character and shapes tomorrow's leaders by delivering academic excellence in a Catholic faith based community."*

December 11, 2016

2016-17 Edition

## In This Issue

- Principal and AP Principal's Corner
- CDC News
- Music at HEB
- Wreaths Across America
- Spelling Bee
- School Nurse
- Tyson Project A+
- Amazon Smiles
- HEB Gift Cards
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Spiritual Corner
- Student Essays

## Upcoming Dates:

**Dec. 20 Christmas Parties, no cafeteria service**

## Contact Us

Phone: 210-651-6811

CDC: 210-651-6819

## Principal and Assistant Principal's Corner

We have had a great first half of the year! Thank you for making it so. The recent Christmas programs at the school and CDC were wonderful events. Also, at the Christmas Movie night on Friday, Santa, Scrooge, Olaf, and an Elf were there to watch the PTC sponsored "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," "Frosty the Snowman," and "Christmas Story" with about 50 families.

It is heartwarming to see the words of Luke 12:48 lived out by OLPH students: "For unto whomsoever **much is given**, of him shall be **much required**." OLPH extended its time, talent, and treasure to the Guadalupe Home for unwed mothers, spread Christmas cheer by performing with its middle school recorders and handbells at HEB, singing for the Selma City Council, and for the 21<sup>st</sup> year, assisted with the SAMMinistries (SAMM) / Homeless Prevention Services.

On Friday, the OLPH Girl Scouts from the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade participated in the national Wreaths Across America program by escorting the wreaths from New Braunfels to Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. As they passed the school from I-35, they were greeted by Beta Club and their classmates with banners and cheers. Then on Saturday, they, along with the Boy Scouts, and about 4,000 Volunteers placed wreaths at graves as they recited the name of those who appeared on the grave. This non-profit 501-(c)3 organization mission is to **Remember, Honor, and Teach.** "

We are happy to report that OLPH will activate its new Wildcat website within the next week. The new website offers a cleaner design and includes secure encryption and faster load times. The website will be hosted by eCatholic, a company who has almost a decade of experience in this area. ECatholic is a Texas based company who focuses on providing secure reasonably priced options to many Catholic Schools and Parishes to include St. John Paul II High School.

The website is the first impression of OLPH by many prospective parents, and reflection on our school. It also is a source of valuable information regarding our vibrant school. We took a very deliberate approach in ensuring the website is not only visually appealing, but secure and informative as well. One of the new features is that it is optimized for mobile phones. The site host also provides a higher level of security. We owe a special thanks to Mr. Steve

Website:  
[www.olphselma.org](http://www.olphselma.org)

Cicherski for his research and assistance with the new website and Mrs. Colleen Guerra who was instrumental in designing and assembling the layout.

Lastly, please remember to continue to sell the Catholic Life tickets! 100% of the profits from the tickets goes directly to the school.

*The next newsletter will be sent out on Jan. 8, 2017*

*We wish everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

Our Lady of Perpetual Help...Pray for Us!

**START STRONG, STAY STRONG, FINISH STRONG**

Mr. Burns, Principal

Mrs. Amanda Miller, Assistant Principal

Please feel free to contact Mr. Burns at [burnsf@olphselma.org](mailto:burnsf@olphselma.org) or Mrs. Amanda Miller at [millera@olph.com](mailto:millera@olph.com).

## CDC News

Dear Parents,

I hope you had the opportunity to attend our Christmas Program on the 15<sup>th</sup>. All the children did a wonderful job singing like angels. If you purchased a DVD they will be in by Tuesday. We can still order extras but you will not receive them until after the holidays. Just ask Ms. Adelina at the front desk.

The faculty and staff wish everyone a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

God Bless,

Ms. Ogrin

K3 & K4 Christmas Program



2016 Guadalupe Home Drop-Off



Fr. Eric talking to the children



### **CDC Integrity Awards**

**After School Activities in CDC building (unless otherwise noted): Classes will not meet December 19th & 20th**

Monday – Art Class at 3:45p

Tuesday – TOT Class (PK 2:30p)

Wednesday – Orchestra Class (violin & guitar) at 3:35p

Thursday – Stomp & Play Class (PK 3p & K 3:45p)

Friday - Dance (PK 2:45-3:30p & K/1 3:45-4:30p)

Chess Class at 3:45p (rooms 401/402 – portable behind the cafeteria)

### **CDC Inquiry List for 2017-2018**

Are you interested in enrolling your child in the OLPH CDC K3 or K4 program? Please call the CDC Office (210-651-6819) before December 16th to be guaranteed a spot for the 2017-2018 school year. Children need to turn 3 &/or 4 by September 1st to be eligible. Enrollment begins on January 30th. Only current families with age appropriate children are eligible to be placed on the inquiry list at this time. The official list begins on January 9th.

**Dec. 12 – Recorders and Handbells Perform at HEB**



## Wreaths Across America



Austin and Amy Murray participated in the Wreaths Across America event at Fort Sam Houston. They are shown honoring their Great Uncle John Murray, U. S. Navy.

## The 2017 Spelling Bee

Get ready for the Spelling Bee, coming up in January. Information will be sent home to parents, including word lists and access to the Spelling Bee website.

The classroom bees will be held between Jan. 9-17, as decided by the teacher. The elementary bee will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 18 and the all-school bee will be held on Thursday, Jan. 19, both at 8:30 am in the Pastoral Center. The top three winners of the elementary bee will participate in the all-school bee. Parents will be welcome to be in the audience. Please, no young children.

The regional bee will be held on Feb. 18, 2017 at San Antonio College. In addition to the opportunity to participate in the regional bee, our top speller and alternate will win a free, one-year subscription to Britannica Online. Please contact your child's teacher or Joan Brooke in the library if you have questions.

## **From the School Nurse:**

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School needs an audiometer.** This piece of equipment is necessary to perform hearing screenings for our students. We do not own one. Since I have been the school nurse I have borrowed machines from other Catholic schools or the Texas Department of Health, or requested help from nursing schools in our city. I never know for sure if and when I would receive this help. My request is to any physician, audiologist, or medical supply sales person if he or she would be able to obtain a discount for us on this equipment. It is expensive and any help would be appreciated. The hearing screenings for this school year have been completed. Please let me know if you can help.

## **Tyson Project A+**

Please see the attached flyer for information on the Tyson Project A+ program for another way you can help to support our school.

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by shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)  
on Black Friday and Cyber Monday.  
You shop. Amazon gives.

amazon smile



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School

## HEB/GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Gift Cards make great gifts for Family, Friends, Neighbors,

Employees, Teachers, everyone!

Sold after Masses on Saturday and Sunday until Christmas

Available weekdays at CDC

### **Calling All Wildcats to Support Their Community!**

The OLPH St. Vincent de Paul Ministry needs our school support to feed the hungry in our community. Each week, families in need come to their door for assistance that includes putting food on the table. Please see the pantry request below and bring in your donation on Monday. Your gesture of care allows each student bringing a donation to wear jeans with their spirit shirt. Through October, your donations totaled just over 1,000 lbs of food! Go Wildcats! Thank you for your continued support of this vital program.

Our students are required to wear their approved school uniform everyday unless specifically told otherwise or for an upcoming special event (which info. will be relayed). **On Monday, Dec.19<sup>th</sup> our students are able to wear their spirit shirt with their uniform bottom.** Or they can wear jeans and a spirit shirt if they bring in a **jar of peanut butter, 18 oz.**



### **Future Requests:**

Jan. 9 – Box of baking mix, 40 oz.

Jan. 23 – Can of chili w/o beans, 15 oz.

Jan. 30 – Bag of pinto beans, 32 oz.

## **Spiritual Corner**

### **December Notes from Sister Clementine**

*Thanks so much for your kind outpouring of love in giving us such a generous amount of gift cards for the Sisters' Pantry. God bless you all and know that it is appreciated and helps not only the two of us but our sisters at the Motherhouse in Victoria. They are grateful too, and keep you in their prayers.*

*Gratefully,*

*Sister Leonita*

*Sister Clementine*



**Advent - November 27 – December 18** The season of Advent (Latin “to come to”) is a time of preparation of our souls, with three “comings” in mind. It refers to, firstly, to preparing our hearts for the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. It also invites us to anticipate the coming of Christ in our lives at the present moment through grace and the reception of the Jesus in the Word and the Eucharist, and adoring Him in the silence of the Blessed Sacrament. Finally, we are to prepare for His second coming at the end of time. Come Let us Adore Him! Come, Lord Jesus, Come.



**December 25 – January 9 Christmas** Christmas Day is the one of the most important days of the Church year (second only to Easter Sunday). It is the feast of the Incarnation; God becoming flesh in the person of Jesus. He is Emmanuel, or “God-with-us”. Although Jesus was born over 2000 years ago, suffered, died and rose again, every Eucharist is actually “like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into his flesh, His Body and Blood, and in a sense, He is born anew on the altar. “(US Conference of Catholic Bishops). So while December 25 commemorates the birth of Jesus, the liturgical season of Christmas actually begins with the vigil mass on Christmas Eve, but does not end until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord; As Catholic Christians, we can keep our Christmas tree up this year until January 9th! “During this SEASON, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation which is born within him...including the fact that he was born to die for us.” (USCCB)

**December 28 Feast of the Holy Innocents** On this day we honor the little children who were martyred by Herod in his attempt to kill the child Jesus, whom he feared would replace him as a king. (Matthew 2: 1 – 18). On this day, we can remember the unborn; the innocents, and pray for life and healing for all! Prince of Peace, through your healing Spirit, help us to lovingly accept every conceived child created in your image and likeness, as a messenger of peace and goodwill toward all people.

**December 30 - Feast of the Holy Family** This beautiful feast celebrates the virtues of Mary and Joseph, their trust in God’s protection, and their loving interaction as together they cared for the child Jesus. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, help us to live as your Holy Family, united in respect and love. Bring us to the joy and peace of your eternal home.

**January 1 – Solemnity of Mary Mother of God** On this day we honor the mother of Jesus, the Blessed Virgin Mary, as a model for the renewed Christian life, her openness to the Holy Spirit and God’s will for her life, her “yes” to all that God asked of her. It is also the World Day of Peace. Let us pray for peace in our troubled world. “We entrust my urgent prayer for all humanity at the beginning of the year... to which we look with hearts full of hope, notwithstanding the dangers and difficulties that surround us. May Mary show us, in her Son, the Way of peace, and enlighten our vision, so that we can recognize Christ's face in the face of every human person, the heart of peace! “ Benedict XVI 2007

## Snack Sale After School

The middle school cheerleaders are going to be selling water, Gatorade, and snacks after school Monday – Thursday from 3:30-3:50 in the courtyard. Everything will be \$1. Thank you for supporting the cheerleaders!

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### Notes

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Newsletter submissions must now be submitted no later than Thursdays at noon to Joan Brooke. Items received after the cut off will not make it into the newsletter. Send submissions to [brookej@olphselma.org](mailto:brookej@olphselma.org)

## The Student Corner

Student writings from the Journalism class

### New Books!

By Aubrey S.

There are many new books in the library from the book fair. All of these books are very interesting. You can read these books for AR or just for fun. Here are two new books.

Proxy: Some Debts Cannot Be Repaid by Alex London A boy named Syd has a friend who gets sentenced to death for Syd's wrongdoing after Syd kills a person in a car crash.

Reading level: 4.8 Points: 13

The Decision: My Brother is a Robot by Amanda Ronan Shawn's brother discovers a way to make filtered water out of rocks and dirt that starts to save lives.

Reading level: 4.0 Points: No test

## **New Building – New Problems?**

**By Josie F. and Mackenzie B.**

New building? When will it be done being built? How is it affecting the students' learning abilities?

First off, the new building is anticipated being done middle summer 2017. However, some people have reported that construction has caused a noise problem. When we asked students about the building, the majority said, "The new building is a good thing, but the noise that comes from it is not."

Noise pollution is a major problem. Many birds live in the OLPH area. We cannot help but wonder what this is doing to their environment.

Another problem is the amount of unknown people roaming about our school campus. With all the commotion due to construction, anyone could walk onto campus and no one would even notice. The Student/ Parent Handbook reads that if outwear is worn, every student has to wear ALL navy jackets and outerwear. However, any gloves, scarves or hats can be either navy, gray or white. Although that addresses the uniform issue, there is no solution to the noise pollution until the construction is concluded. All we can do is wish that it will end soon.

In conclusion, the building has its pros and cons. For the time being we will have to deal with it. Hopefully the building will be here quicker than expected.

