



C.A.R.E. News

Newsletter – July 2, 2008

www.CareNews.org

Our Lady of Grace Catholic School *this week's Q&A's*

Mr. Mike Johnson, principal of Our Lady of Grace Catholic School, continues his efforts to prepare Our Lady of Grace to open this coming fall. Once again, Mr. Johnson also takes time to answer questions you have posted on the C.A.R.E. News web site.

NOTE:

We apologize for missing last week's Q&A newsletter. CARE News members had some vacation conflicts.

Q: I feel that everyone needs to just chill out and let the new school get organized. Once everything is absolutely finalized, then submit questions. All this is doing right now is interfering with getting things accomplished. (including this e-mail) Show your support and let them do their job. Things always work out in the end."

A: Thank you for your words. We do, however, want to ensure open and clear lines of communication. Within the next month www.carenews.org will be closing down. We will be going to our web page and moving to a newsletter format. We will still take e-mail contacts but will respond publicly to only the most frequent questions (via the newsletter) and then respond to individual e-mails as necessary. The newsletter will primarily be an electronic tool; however, we will send out paper copies once the school year begins (the hope is that we could phase out the paper copies in the future).

Q: Will you have a list out about the cost of lunch?

A: I look forward to my first OLG lunch - I'm hearing great things about the food choices and quality. Our hot lunch will cost \$2.00. Milk will be \$.35 and snacks are \$.05 to \$.50.

Q: In your last newsletter you stated that packets for Latchkey registration will be sent out soon. We do not know yet if we have a bus to our area, and do not know whether we will need latchkey. You had mentioned earlier that we may not find out if we have a bus until just a few weeks before school starts. Do you know if we might find out sooner so we can plan accordingly?

A: You might be able to find out sooner but right now the districts are waiting to get our finalized student list. Because of the software we use, we had to wait until St. Ann's officially closed before we could begin entering data. We will have this data to the districts within the next week and they will begin routing. Once you get the information on our Before and After Care program feel free to submit it with a notation regarding busing and how that will impact your use of the program.

Q: The packet about the Latch Key program states registration is needed by 8/1/08. Whether or not my daughter will need to use this program depends on what time she will be picked up by the bus. We are new to bussing this year. Will we find out the anticipated bus pick up times before 8/1/08? And will it come from OLG or from our public school district?

A: The buses will come from your public school district. They will route for OLG and let you know via the mail whether or not they will provide you busing. You probably will not find out pick up times prior to 8/1/08 but if your child is going to be a bus rider, they will not have to worry about paying for Morning Care. Most of the buses will arrive at OLG between 7:45 and 8:00.

Comment: I would like to say that I find the OLG website impressive. Our website offers us a chance to shine for the community and we have done that. I find it professional and easy to use.

A: Beyond our team of very creative moms and dads, OLG has been blessed with the work of professionals in both graphic design and marketing. It has been an awesome experience seeing all the pieces come together for OLG. There is a lot of work to be done but there are incredibly gifted people working to make OLG all that we hope for.

[Note: Our Lady of Grace's web site is www.olgcs.org]

Comment: The Event Calendar on the OLG Website does not list carnival clean-up day, May 26, 2009, as a day off school.

A: Thanks! We definitely have that date on our calendar. The website is a work in progress and we have it posted so that those working on it can access and view it. It is very incomplete but looks great! Please keep using the CARE news site as your source of information until we take it down later this month.

Q: I am wondering about the gym clothes policy. Last year, all the classes would change to solid blue shorts and plain white or blue t-shirts or spirit wear for gym. Why is it that only the 4-8 grades must change?

A: The amount of time it takes the younger students to change into their gym uniform really cuts into their classroom minutes. We looked at what other area schools were doing and decided that having the girls simply remove their jumpers made the most sense given our desire to maximize classroom time. In the future we will be moving to a more uniform shirt and shorts color for grades 4-8. The Education Commission hoped that this year's policy would help families save money given all the other uniform costs.

Q: Last year our school collected LaRosa's receipts for the PizzAchievement program. They also collected used toner cartridges. Will OLG be collecting LaRosa's receipts and/or used toner cartridges?"

A: I have been in touch with LaRosa's regarding their "Pizza Achievement" award but we have not yet gotten that program implemented at OLG. We will be collecting used toner cartridges and, from time to time, we will also collect used cell phones.

Q: I have a question regarding lock-downs at the school. Last year I found out, from my son, that there was a lock-down just a week or so before school was out for the summer. We never did hear from the school regarding the incident. We were concerned about the incident happening at all, but more concerned that we did not hear anything from the principal about it. How will you handle these situations?

A: Lockdowns are unfortunate occurrences that happen for a variety of reasons. Some schools have more lockdowns than others simply because of police protocol in the district. All of the covenant schools had lockdown procedures and OLG will do the same. Usually there is a two tiered structure to lockdowns. The first is simply getting everyone in the building and ensuring that all exterior doors are shut and locked (they'll be locked throughout the entire school day with entrance into the building happening only at the main door under the blue awning). The second tier is to pull all window shades, close and lock all classroom doors and move everyone to the floor out of any line of sight or fire. Tier one lockdowns will happen frequently. Tier two lockdowns happen infrequently. Whenever a lockdown occurs, parents will be notified through an e-mail burst. It is important that we are prepared for these events but that we do not over react to them. To ensure a healthy learning environment our students, faculty and staff need to know that they are safe in our building.

Q: I have a concern over the length of the jumpers/skirts being 3" above the knee. We already have a dress code that is "2 inches above the knee" and it isn't adhered to. How will this policy be enforced?

A: When a student's skirt length is of concern a female employee will assist the student in establishing the appropriateness of their skirt length. If it is not long enough, the student will be asked to get in uniform (maybe she has the waist rolled). If she can't get into uniform she will be loaned a skirt that we know goes beyond 3" above her knee.

and from OLG admin ...

Q: I thought I read a packet with all the info (latch key, school supply list, etc.) would be mailed out June 23rd.
Have they been sent?

A: Yes, 95% of them were. The rest were mailed on July 1st. If you do not receive one this week please call the school office (931-3070).

Can you help Our Lady of Grace?

Calling all plumbers, electricians, carpenters and able bodied labors, OLG is in need of your many skills. One of our major projects this summer is to “gut out” the Friary to make room for the library. This project will start July 7th. Please contact Tim Clifford @ 521-8440 if you can assist us.

Like doing research on the internet? Had experience writing or working with grants?

Have you had experience writing grants or just enjoy doing research on the internet, then we need your help. OLG’s programs relating to music, drama, art and foreign language are all areas that have considerable grant dollars available. We want to form small groups working on grants in each of these areas. Your time and effort is all that is required to assist us building these programs at OLG. Contact us at 931-3070 if you can help us with this effort.

Mr. Johnson will continue to keep parents & parishioners updated throughout the summer using the C.A.R.E. News web site (www.carenews.org) and the C.A.R.E. News email.

To have the C.A.R.E. newsletter emailed to you automatically as they are issued, go to www.CareNews.org. While you are there, you can also ask questions or leave comments and feedback for Mr. Johnson and the Steering Committee.

NOTE: If you missed any of the C.A.R.E. News weekly Q&A emails, you can always access them at <http://www.carenews.org/QandA.htm>