



# C.A.R.E. News

Newsletter – August 6, 2008

[www.CareNews.org](http://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.

Q: How will we be getting the initial packet of information for this coming school year?

A: Packets will be available after all Masses this weekend. There will be boxes in the back of church and your family will have an envelope marked for you to pick up. After this weekend we will move the packets back to the school office. You are welcome to pick them up from there.

Q: Do you know if there is going to be a parent/teacher mandatory meeting the 1st week of school?

A: Yes, there will be a meet the teacher night, but we are looking at dates the third week in September. We will let you know as that gets finalized.

Q: With between 700-725 children attending OLG this year, has there been a decision made on morning drop off and after school pick up. There was a lot of congestion last year. How is this going to work?

A: As I write to you my left arm is sitting on a stack of campus maps that we are using to work through the best morning and afternoon routines. At this time we are planning to have about 15 buses coming in and out of OLG. To ensure the safety of our students and community members we are going to keep cars and buses separate. Cars will enter via the drive on the East side of campus near the old white school house. Buses will enter through the main entrance to OLG. The buses will make their loop in the upper lot and the cars will make a loop through the lower lot to ensure that students are dropped off curb side. All students will need to exit their cars from the right side of the vehicle. There is a more thorough description in the packet you will pick up this weekend in the back of your church (or from the school office on Monday).

Q: Since the school is located near a busy intersection (Colerain and Galbraith), are there crossing guards to assist the walkers across the street?

A: I am looking into this but do not yet have an answer.

Q: I stopped by school to pick up some items from the supply list and they did not have them in yet. When can we get those items?

A: We will have those items available on August 18th. Also, we did make a few changes to the supply list (Kindergarten and 8th grade). We apologize for having to do this. The revised list is posted on [www.carenews.org](http://www.carenews.org).

Q: I just printed off the revised school list and noticed that we have to buy a mat for Kindergarten. Will we be able to keep the mat? Depending on price, can we buy our own elsewhere? Are there going to be anymore unexpected expenses?

- A: We do apologize for not having the mat on the original supply list. We are asking that everyone purchase the mat through school so that we have mats that are the exact same size and shape. This is helpful for storage purposes. We get the mats at a good price and they are yours to keep.
- Q: My child is a fourth grader and the revised list no longer has index cards and has only one box of tissues. Is this correct? Also, it states my child needs an eight pocket folder. What is that exactly? I can't seem to find it.
- A: Yes, those revisions are accurate. The eight pocket folder is simply a bound set of 4 sturdy, pocketed pages. Each page is usually a different color and it has pockets on each side.
- Q: Regarding the bus issue, how come the students that live in North College Hill are not offered bus service?
- A: As a district, North College Hill does not offer busing. They do offer reimbursement to those living in their district who incur expenses in transporting their child(ren) to and from school. Please call 931-8181 x 304 and ask for Kathy Cullers for assistance with the reimbursement paperwork.
- Q: The Cincinnati Waldorf School, which is moving into the Little Flower building, is having "Work Days" for parents to help get the school ready. With only 3 weeks left and all the work that is still left to do will you be scheduling similar days? Also do you have an update on the planned construction for the building?
- A: Thanks for the offer to help. We are not color coding the school as does Waldorf but everyone is busy getting ready for the start of the year. We have some high school students in here helping us move boxes and our teachers are now able to get into their rooms and are setting up. The library, serving area and modular units are all in process and we hope to have them completed prior to the first day of school. When we get to the spot where volunteers would be helpful, we will send out a cry for help! Thanks again!
- Q: I read to that the homeroom assignments will be posted at the churches around August 10th and at OLG. Just curious, can these be posted on the website and/or in Care News?
- A: While we are going to have packets of information at each church this weekend, class lists will not be included. We want to make sure they are posted after any needed shuffling has already occurred. They will definitely be posted by Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. We are not going to be putting the class lists on-line.
- Q: I understand we are going to continue to save labels and box tops for the Box Tops for Education program through General Mills. When I log onto the website, Our Lady of Grace isn't listed. Are we also going to enroll in the on-line program for additional benefits?
- A: To enroll in the program your school has to be "open". We have to wait until after our first day of school to enroll. We have someone who will be doing this for us. We are now enrolled in Lands End, Meijer and Target's programs.
- Q: Thank you for posting information about uniform availability from Lands' End's website and our school's ID number to get credit for orders. However, when I checked out the website, I looked at the sample ID code and it had 10 digits. I put in the code that was posted in Q&A (where it allows you to look up your school's dress code) and it said it was an incorrect number. Can you please verify that the number provided is correct?
- A: Yes, the 9 digit number provided is correct. You were the early bird that beat Land's End to the worm... now their computer system has caught up with us.
- Q: Recently I heard that Spirit wear t-shirts could be purchased at Family Game Night but they were not available. School starts in 27 days and I am afraid, unless it's posted here, I will miss out on the opportunity to purchase spirit wear in time for school. I'm sure there will be a huge demand for the t-shirts and sweat shirts. Can you tell me if in the future OLG will have a spirit wear shop? Will spirit wear be available to purchase year round?
- A: We actually have an order of spirit wear in production right now! These items will be sold through the skating party, some of the athletic contests and at the open house (8/24). We will be placing orders regularly and we are working on finding the best location for our spirit shop.
- Q: Is it true that the sweatshirt the students can wear at school is going to be grey and not one of the school colors? There was so much emphasis placed on the school colors selected and the naming committee spent a lot of time trying to coordinate the uniform with the school colors. Using a non-school color for part of the uniform seems like a departure from all that careful planning.

A: The discussions surrounding the school sweatshirt included the professionals we have been consulting throughout the process of identifying our school colors, logo and mascot. The fear is that the OLG light blue will be difficult to keep looking clean and the OLG dark blue with the dark blue pants would not look good. In light of this, we have requested samples of our school logo on an ash colored sweatshirt. Final decisions will be made this week.

Q: I was just wondering why k-3 had to wear their school uniforms for gym. The little kids sweat too and I think they would be more comfortable in other clothes.

A: When we have the younger students change for gym we lose about 10-15 minutes of gym class time. That means that over the course of one month they would lose the equivalent of one gym class. It also makes preparation for gym a smoother process. We are not going to have students changing clothes in classrooms. Changing in the bathrooms creates the challenge of one class changing while another may be in trying to do the same. We made calls to various schools in the area and found that it was not an uncommon practice to have the younger students stay in uniform (girls will not be wearing their jumpers during gym).

Q: I had girl's uniforms sent to me and I got the wrong ones. Should I take them back to the store or send them back?

A: I would encourage you to call the store. They have been asking you to return them to the store and then they will have the correct uniform shipped to your home.

*Hope to see you at our gatherings!*

**OLG Night at The Skatin' Place**

August 20, 2008 Grades 5 - 8

August 21, 2008 Grades K - 4

Both events start at 6:30PM and end at 9:00PM

Admission Price \$3.50

**Students must be accompanied by at least one parent.**

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*Mr. Johnson will continue to keep parents & parishioners updated throughout the summer using the C.A.R.E. News web site ([www.carenews.org](http://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](http://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>*