



Our Lady of Grace

Catholic School

Expanding Minds • Growing Faith • Inspiring Service

Calendar Links



[CLICK HERE for the SCHOOL CALENDAR](#)



[CLICK HERE for the LUNCH CALENDAR](#)



Dec. 8 The Feast of the Immaculate Conception
All School Mass 10:30 @ St. Ann Church

Dec. 13 3/4 Grade Christmas Show 7:00 OLG Gym

Dec. 20-Jan. 2 Christmas Break

Jan. 3 School Resumes

[CLICK HERE for the EVENT CALENDAR](#)

Weekly Bulletin ~ December 7, 2017

COMMUNICATIONS

Inclement Weather

Our Lady of Grace School will follow Northwest Local District plans for any weather related school closings or delays. School closings and delays will be communicated by phone using the telephone number you reported to Option C. Any changes to your phone number should be corrected within Option C.

OLG will not announce an early dismissal for snow. No students will be released to district transportation operating on an early dismissal for fear there will be no supervision at home when they arrive.



As the weather gets colder, we would like to remind everyone the doors to school open at 7:30. Please do not drop students off before this time.

Students will go outside for recess when it is cold. Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather.



Religious Education

May the Force be with You

*Ok, I admit it, I'm a Star Wars fan. And I'm excited because the new movie *The Last Jedi* opens on December 15 (yes I even know the date). Since the first movie in 1977, the irresistible force of the *Star Wars* phenomenon has affected young and old alike. It's nearly impossible to get through a day without being bombarded by a *Star Wars* image or advertisement for the new movie! After all, Steven Spielberg predicted way back at the time of the first movie that it would be "the biggest movie ever." So why do so many across generations, cultures, and religions find *Star Wars* so captivating? Is it the dynamic characters, the spectacular musical score, the breathtaking special effects? Sure, all these contribute to the magic of *Star Wars*. But I don't think any of those can explain the mystery that has sparked wonder in millions for almost 40 years. Let's look at it.*

The *Star Wars* saga has many universal themes: fall and corruption, struggle and conflict, sacrifice and redemption, heroism and hope. George Lucas, the creator of *Star Wars*, pulled deeply from the wells of human experience and incorporated themes that have repeatedly appeared in epic poems, plays, legends, myths, and religious beliefs of various cultures throughout history. In fact, Lucas hacked into a "formula" storytellers often call "the hero's journey" by using universal human experiences:

frustration with the present world and our own lives; thinking there may be a greater purpose and meaning to life; the conflict between good and evil; the belief that this world isn't the way it's supposed to be; the hope that things will one day be better than they are; the urge to give up everything and get involved in the struggle.

Though everything in the *Star Wars* universe is fiction, the saga touches on something real and paints pictures of profound spiritual truths that all humans *feel* but few can put into words.

In the mythical *Star Wars* universe, the "good side of the Force" serves as a metaphor for an invisible and powerful source of goodness, truth, and life. According to *Star Wars* lore, somehow an imbalance occurred in the universe with the coming of the dark side, bringing evil, falsehood, and death. *Star Wars* uses these metaphors of light versus dark to restore "balance" to the Force. Characters like Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader play out their personal struggles with temptation, fall, conflict, and redemption within the ancient battle between good



and evil - Empire versus Rebels, Jedi versus Sith. And in the *Star Wars* universe, balance isn't achieved by equalizing the dark side and the light, but by crushing the dark side entirely - the victory of the light brings true order. The images of darkness and light also characterize our Christian story of creation, fall, and redemption. God first dispelled darkness with light (Gen. 1:1-3). He then crowned his newly ordered creation with human beings—his personal agents of glory and goodness – yet some chose darkness and evil.

At just the right time, God sent his light into the world to drive out the darkness (John 1:4, 9). God's Son battled the forces of darkness (John 1:5), surrendered his life to save the world (John 3:16), and rose from the dead in victory over death (Acts 2:24). And until his return, we - the children of light (1 Thess. 5:5) - are to serve as God's force of light and truth against the agents of darkness (Eph. 6:12). This brings *a new hope* to fallen world, and helping us focus on a time yet to come when death itself will be swallowed up by life eternal (1 Cor. 15:54-56).

Of course, it could be merely a coincidence that the fictional story of *Star Wars* shares some similarities with the Bible. But there's another explanation. Imagine truth as pure light through every aspect of God's created universe, but allowed to be told through human image-bearers whose imaginations tell stories that captivate us. The *Star Wars* writers tell the ultimate story imprecisely, imperfectly, and often impurely, but almost always the big-picture themes remain: fall, struggle, sacrifice, hope, forgiveness, redemption, reconciliation, and triumph. In the end, through a catastrophic conflict between good and evil, the dark side is crushed and the light is victorious. All these themes become illustrations of God's story of redemption. All serve as potential points of contact between the tellers of God's story and a world entranced by the magical world of *Star Wars*.

Enjoy the Movie – I certainly will! *And may the force be with you!*

Mark Friedman, CRE

OLG Talent Show Auditions

The show will be Friday, February 2, 2018,
at 7:30 PM in the Little Flower Parish Center.

Auditions will be held in the Music Room:
Thursday, January 4- Acts Grades K - 4
Friday, January 5 - Acts Grades 5 - 8
(Including 8th Grade Emcees)

Audition sign-up sheets will be posted on Wednesday, Jan. 3,
next to the Music Room. (You need to sign up for a time.)
We are looking for all kinds of talent - musical, vocal, dance, magic,
comedic, novelty! If you can do it, we'd like to see it!

This year we would like to see fewer solo acts and more group acts.
Some things to keep in mind:

- 1) Your act should be no more than 3 minutes long!
- 2) You don't need all costumes or props for the audition, but you should be able to describe them to the judges.
- 3) Singers may not lip sync or sing along with the performer who created the song. You need to sing a cappella or with an instrumental accompaniment. Make sure all lyrics are appropriate.
- 4) All members in a group act need to be at the audition.
- 5) The mandatory dress rehearsal will be Thursday, February 1, at the Little Flower Parish Center from 4:30 - 8:00.
- 6)

If you have questions, see Mrs. Robers, Mr. Langjahr, Mrs. Flynn (K),
Mrs. Flynn (Gr. 5) or Mrs. Jordan.

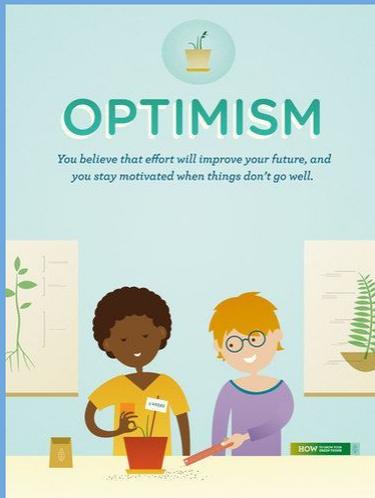


Youth Wrestling

[CLICK HERE](#) for information on the Bulldog Youth Wrestling Club held at St. Xavier High School. Students in grades 2-6 are eligible to participate. No experience needed. Sign up now!

Character Corner

Monthly Focus:
Gratitude



OPTIMISM
You believe that effort will improve your future, and you stay motivated when things don't go well.



[CLICK HERE](#) for a video on optimism.



BOOKOPOLY

Again this year, students in grades 4-8 have been challenged to read 40 books in different genres. New this year is the theme, Bookopoly. There are 40 squares on a Monopoly board, one for each book. The different property groups are the different genres. Instead of buying the properties when they read and record a book, they earn value of the property. **Students can use this monopoly money to purchase items in our Bookopoly Store.**



The primary reason for this program is to encourage all kids to read more and to stretch our young readers to explore new types of books and genres of literature. It is also a fun way to track and reward reading that they have to do anyway.



FREE CHOICE	PUBLIC LIBRARY		
\$180	REALISTIC AVENUE		
\$200	BIOGRAPHY RAILROAD		
\$160	FOLKTALE AVENUE		
\$140	FAIRYTALE LANE		
\$150	POET'S BRIDGE		
\$140	LEGEND HOLLOW		
JUST CHOICE	ADVENTURE AVENUE	THRILLER LANE	CHANCE ? FREE CHOICE
VISITING	\$100	\$120	

All students have received information about this program in library class. They can access their Bookopoly Record in Google Classroom or Google Drive from any computer at school or home.

Any book read during this school year counts. Books from over the summer do not count for this program. Books can be AR or not, it doesn't matter. Books must be at the student's level. All books must be recorded on their Bookopoly Record to count towards their money total.



Bookopoly Store will be open December 18-19 and then again in the spring, TBD.

What I need from you

1. Support your student in their reading progress and book selection. Check in with them periodically to see what they are reading and how they're doing.
2. **Donate items** that can be sold at our store. Anything is acceptable - trinkets, stuffed animals, candy, treats, coupons, gift cards. Donations can be sent to school marked Library. Thank you!



Contact Mrs. Mattingly with any questions. dmattingly@olgcs.org

There will be a special reward for those that make it all the way to 40 books by the end of the program in May.



Education Commission would like to encourage all members of OLG's community to get involved in various service activities. We are partnering with the 4 covenant parishes to bring joy to parishioners who are unable to get out of their homes for the holidays.

OLG students in grades K-8 will be creating Christmas cards to send to over 103 shut in parishioners and over 300 local nursing home residents. Let us all remember the importance of kindness this Christmas season and throughout the year.

Our Lady of Grace Athletic Association

[OLGAA](#)



We are still looking for volunteers to organize/run our annual Lenten Fish Fry committee. If you are interested in volunteering for one of the chair positions and have availability starting at 3:00 pm on Thursday's & Friday's during the active season, contact Melinda Miller at olgaasecretary@gmail.com for description of the committee positions. We need your help in keeping this OLG community tradition alive!

The OLGAA has been hard at work with restructuring the Board positions and responsibilities. This is a volunteer organization and we need your support in order to run a successful program. If interested in helping out in any way, please contact President Jim Schreyer: presidentolgae@gmail.com or Athletic Director Ellen Hughes: olgeaglesad@gmail.com.



K-2 Instructional Basketball *K-2 Boys & Girls Instructional Basketball registration is now open! We are very excited to launch this new sport for our younger student athletes! This sport will focus on fundamental skills instruction, while encouraging teamwork and of course, having fun! The season will run from January - March, so make sure you sign up before registration ends on November 30th.*

Click the link below to register:

<http://leagues.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=759168>

The purpose of OLGAA is to provide athletic activities for the youth of OLGCS and/or the Covenant Parishes and the opportunity to engage in these activities/sports under the supervision and guidance of elected and/or appointed officials.



PTO would like to thank Ms. Waltner on using her time and talent to help update the new and improved PTO page on the OLG website. [CLICK HERE](#) to get information on meetings, volunteer opportunities, Walk-a-thon pictures, and much more!



The PTO is currently looking for a volunteer to fill the position of Donations Coordinator. The Donations Coordinator is responsible for soliciting donations from local businesses to be used as prizes at events such as the Walk-A-Thon and Carnival. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please email volunteers@olgcs.org. Thanks!!



Join in the OLG Family Fun with these future events!*

2/22 Skating Party @ Skatin' Place

3/10 March Madness Basketball Tourney (12-4)

4/13 Spring Carnival (6-9)

5/14 Volunteer Dinner @ Italianette



Tuesday, Dec 12th: Due to product availability, we will be serving Pepperoni Pizza Calzone with Beef Pepperoni and Mozzarella instead of the planned Pepperoni Stromboli.

Free & Reduced Applications: It's never too late to apply for free or reduced lunch, especially if family circumstances have changed since the beginning of the school year. Contact the OLG Cafeteria or Darlene Cytraus for an application.

Low Balance Notifications Via text or Email: With your K-12 Payment System account, parents can receive low balance notifications via text or email when their student's account goes below an amount of their choosing. This preference can be set under the "Manage Profile" tab on the left-hand side of the K-12 account. K-12 Payment System accounts are free and this notification is available to parents even if they never pay via credit card. Contact the OLG Cafeteria with any questions.



WE NEED YOU

Calling All Children!

FOR THE CHRISTMAS
CONCERT!

All children from kindergarten and up can participate in the
Christmas Concert on Friday December 29th, at 7:00 p.m.

REHEARSALS: Thursdays, December 7th, 14th and 21st at 5:30–6:30 pm.

DRESS REHEARSAL: Wednesday December 27th at 7p.m.

For more information, and to sign up your child, please contact Chris Schaljo
cschaljo@saintannparish.org or 513-521-8440 ext 116

Crystal Clear Science Specialty Class

Grades 1,2,3,4

January/February 2018



Our Lady of Grace School will host the popular Crystal Clear Science enrichment class with all new class offerings. Taught by certified teacher, Mary Jo Fischer, these classes are sure to delight and inspire the budding scientist in your child.

Scientific concepts, critical thinking, following directions, measurement, reading, and teamwork are all strengthened in this course.

Thursdays 3:00-4:00
January 18,25 February 1,8
<i>(Possible Snow Day Make Up: February 15)</i>
Shocking Science
Balancing Act
Cars and Ramps
Potential and Kinetic Energy
Swinging Scientists

The \$50 cost includes demonstrations, hands-on activities, and ongoing experiments. Space is limited. Classes filled on a first come first served basis.

Return this form and fee (payable to Crystal Clear Science) to the school office in an envelope labeled: Mrs. Mary Jo Fischer - Crystal Clear Science

Questions? Please contact me at mjfischer@fuse.net or call the school at 931-3070.

-----Cut here -----

Crystal Clear Science Registration

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Room/Teacher _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____ Please watch for Class Confirmation in your email.

Parents'/Guardians' Names _____

In case of emergency or class cancellation, contact _____

at Phone Number _____

Additional Phone Numbers where you can be reached _____

Allergies: (i.e. food, latex, etc.) _____

_____ has my permission to attend the Crystal Clear Science class on the dates and times above.

Parent or Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

_____ My child is enrolled in the Y's Kids after school program. Please send my child to Y's Kids after the science class.