

AUG'S BLOG

Visitation Family,

As we near the ending of Advent and the welcoming of the Christ child, have you noticed it getting brighter around here? Our maintenance team adds more lights around the church each week as we get closer to the birth of the light of the world. Thanks to the guys for getting out the lights and leaders each week of Advent.

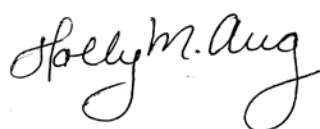
Thanks to EGO (Eighth Grade Organization) our school was in the Christmas spirit the last few weeks! They hosted a door decorating contest and sang Christmas carols throughout the halls. These 8th grade leaders are modeling for the younger students that Christmas is more than receiving gifts. It's about doing for others.

Our 4th grade put on a delightful prayer service on Tuesday reminding everyone that Jesus should be the focus of your holiday celebrations. At this prayer service, I assigned the students homework over break. It was to bring peace, love and joy to their parents over break. I reminded them that this should be done by helping with chores, being nice to their siblings and following through on requests the first time they are asked. Remind them of this homework when you are getting your home ready for guests.

When we return from break, we will have our Open House for new families, kindergarten and our current first grade on Jan. 4th from 6:30-8pm. Current first graders will meet in their homerooms. New families should meet in the library for personal tours. Our kindergarten room is furnished and ready to go! Thanks to parent, Leah Ruberg, for decorating the room.

Finally, I want to wish you and your family a peaceful Christmas. I hope you create pleasant memories of the holidays. Take time to be with your children. Play games, turn off the electronics for a day and enjoy each other's company. Schedule in time for your family to be as one.

May the Lord of Most High bring you peace and joy in 2018! As always, don't forget to spend time with your family at mass.



COOK'S CURRICULUM CORNER

All aboard! With round trip tickets in hand, the first graders boarded the Polar Express for a fun day of learning in their pajamas and slippers. They designed their own ticket, listened to the story and identified story elements (characters, setting, and main idea). They also participated in marshmallow math and wrote responses to prompts about the story. No ride on the polar express would be complete without the chocolate milk and doughnut cart delivering treats to the hard working students. To end the day, students heard the bells ringing--They certainly believe!

Did you know that your child can use <https://www.hoopladigital.com/home> to borrow any digital movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics and TV shows on their computer, tablet, or phone using their library card? What a great way to have so many resources at their fingertips instantly without having to leave home!

Have a blessed Christmas with family and friends. May the New Year bring you health, happiness, and laughter!

CHURCH CHATTER

Don't forget the reason for the season is Jesus Christ! It is important to share a pew with your children at mass this Christmas.

Mass times are:

4th Sunday of Advent, 2017 -4:00 & 5:30pm on Saturday, Dec. 23 & 9:00am on Sunday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve 2017, Sunday -3:30pm, 5:30pm & 10:30pm

Christmas Day 2017, Monday - 7:30am & 10:30am

Men's Christ Renews His Parish Retreat- The next men's retreat is fast approaching ...it will be held at Visitation School, Jan 27-28th. Have you ever wondered how to give your Faith a boost? Or wanted to learn what other men are doing to try and be good Catholics in this modern world? To sign up, contact Ken Meymann, kmeymann@olvisitation.org or call the parish office at 922-2056. It is never too late to sign up!!

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

Attention 7th grade parents: We are still looking for help with our Spirit Day Retreat (2/21/18) and our Confirmation mass (4/7/18). If you can help please go to the following link to sign up: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054faca922a1fc1-spirit>

Girl Scouts: Join us for our first Girl Scout Pinewood Derby Saturday, January 20, 2018. Please see the flyer attached for all the details. Questions - Barb Neltner bneltner@cinci.rr.com, 513-598-8515.

VAC: Only two days left to register for baseball and softball! Signups close at midnight this Friday, December 22. Be sure to go to www.vacsports.com today to register. If you have any questions that aren't answered on the sport home pages, feel free to contact Jason Walter for baseball at jjasonwalter@gmail.com or Jeff Bill for softball at visisoftball@gmail.com. Go Vikings!

Girls on the Run: We are excited to announce that the Girls on the Run (GOTR) program will be returning to Our Lady of Visitation for the Spring 2018 season. GOTR is a 10 week program that inspires girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. This year we will be hosting two teams, a 4th grade team and a 5th grade team. Registration will start January 27th. More information on how to register will follow mid-January. For more details, please see the attached flyer and attend our informational meeting on Wed., January 10th from 7-8pm in the Canteen.

TUITION ASSISTANCE & FINANCIAL AID **NEW for 2018-19**

Deadline: January 31, 2018 - Please read!

To be considered for financial aid for the 2018-19 school year you must apply before January 31, 2018 through FACTS. Both the Archdiocese and Our Lady of Visitation financial aid programs begin with a single application through FACTS. No financial aid or assistance will be given without first applying through FACTS prior to January 31, 2018. **This is a change from prior years - Please note that 2016 tax return information will be required, NOT 2017 tax information.** Please see additional information in the attachment or call Leslee or Patty, 922-2056.

PTO and SPIRITWEAR

Spirit Wear shop will be open today, December 20, 3-5pm. Any questions, contact Nikki Niemann at 513-379-8478.

Congratulations to our 12/15 Lucky Bucks \$100 Winner Joe Priestle!

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Mercy High School: Please see the information attached about a date change for Mother of Mercy's Grade School Basketball Night. The event will take place on Jan. 30 (not Jan. 18 as previously communicated).

LUNCH MENU for January 1- 5

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
No School	R-Hamburger on Bun (2 oz.) L-Hamburger on Bun (3oz.) -Spiral Fries -Offer Cheese -Applesauce -Milk	R- LaRosa's Pizza (1 Slice) Cheese or Pepperoni -Peaches -Vegetables & Dip -Milk No Large Lunch	R-Chicken Patty on Bun (3 oz.) -Tater Tots (5) L-Chicken Patty on Bun (4 oz.) -Tater Tots (8) -Fruit Juice -Milk	R-LaRosa's Cheese Rondos (2) -Pizza Sauce -Mandarin Oranges -Vegetables & Dip -Milk No Large Lunch
A La Carte				
	-Hamburger on Bun (2oz.) \$1.00	-LaRosa's Pizza 1 Slice \$1.50	-Chicken Patty (3oz.) \$1.00	LaRosa's Cheese Rondos (2) \$1.50

A la Carte: Assorted bagged snacks and ice cream available daily for .50

Orange Tickets – Regular Lunch \$3.00

Blue Tickets – Large Lunch \$3.50

Purple Tickets – Pizza 1 slice or 2 Rondo's \$1.50

Attention: Prepaid tickets may not be used for a la carte items. These items must be paid for in cash. Also please use the pizza tickets on pizza and rondo days. It makes the line go so much faster!
Thank You!

TUITION ASSISTANCE & FINANCIAL AID

NEW for 2018-19

Deadline: January 31, 2018 - Please read!

All financial aid or tuition assistance offered to Our Lady of the Visitation students & families must be applied for through FACTS. This includes aid or assistance from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Education Foundation (One Faith, One Hope, One Love) as well as assistance from the OLV Education Fund.

To be considered for financial aid for the 2018-19 school year you must apply before January 31, 2018 through FACTS.

Both the Archdiocese and Our Lady of Visitation financial aid programs begin with a single application through FACTS.

No financial aid or assistance will be given without first applying through FACTS prior to January 31, 2018.

This is a change from prior years. In the past families had until May 1, to apply for financial aid.

We have made a significant change to our FACTS application to enable our school families to easily meet the January 31, 2018 deadline.

Previous application years required our school families to supply their most recent tax return. For this application cycle all families will be required to submit their 2016 tax return information.

Our financial aid application will now align with that of the area catholic high schools as well as with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati requirement that the **prior year tax information** be submitted to FACTS.

For example, to apply for financial aid for 2018-19 the parishioner's 2016 tax return information will need to be uploaded to FACTS. Under the old application process OLV would have required that the parishioner's 2017 return be submitted before Our Lady of the Visitation would make a financial aid award. This change will allow all families needing assistance to timely apply for the funds available through the Catholic Education Fund as well as the OLV Education Fund. Application by January 31, 2018 will also allow OLV to award financial aid earlier than June.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Leslee in the parish office, 922-2056 or lhouse@olvisitation.org.

Families who do not apply prior to January 31, 2018 will not be eligible to receive financial aid or assistance for the 2018-19 school year.

Catholic Education Foundation Tuition Assistance



Parents of Elementary School Children,

The Catholic Education Foundation is offering \$2 million of tuition assistance to families of elementary school students for the 2018-2019 school year. Families can apply for up to \$1,000 per student in needs-based tuition assistance.

The application period deadline is January 31, 2018.

If you have questions, please call Pam Jaspers at 513-421-3131, ext. 2713 or email cef@catholicbestchoice.org.

Catholic Education - The Best Choice!



Learn more and apply at:
www.catholicbestchoice.org



OUR LADY OF VISITATION GIRL SCOUTS

PINEWOOD DERBY

Saturday, January 20, 2018

Visi Auditorium

2:00pm Weigh In

2:30pm Race Begins

Car must be weighed in by 2:30pm to participate.

Receive one raffle ticket for every canned good you bring.

Lots of fun raffle prizes!

\$9.00 entry fee includes your regulation derby car kit.

All Visitation Girl Scouts are invited to participate.

NAME:

GRADE:

TROOP #:

Please complete and send with entry fee to:

Barb Neltner c/o Grace Neltner 5th grade—Ms. Cullion (checks payable: Troop 43252)

Registrations received by 12-24-17 will get their derby kit and rules delivered by 1-1-18.

Volunteers needed to help run this fun event.

Contact Barb Neltner: bneltner@cinci.rr.com 513-598-8515



Returning to Our Lady of Visitation...

GIRLS ON THE RUN!

We are excited to be bringing Girls on the Run back to Our Lady of Visitation for the 2018 Spring season! This year we will be having two teams!!! GOTR is a nationally successful character development program that inspires girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. The program combines age-appropriate character development lessons with running games. The program uses exercise, positive reinforcement, and encouraging role models to provide young girls with the confidence they need in those critical pre-teen years.

What is the commitment?

- Girls will gather as a team twice per week, from February 19 – May 12. On May 12th, all tri-state area GOTR teams come together for the 5K event at Paul Brown Stadium.
- Girls MUST be able to commit to BOTH days per week for the entire season, as well as the May 12th 5K event. *With a limited number of spots (15) on each team, please only sign your daughter up if she can make this commitment.*

4th Grade Team Specifics

Days: **Tuesdays/Fridays** Times: **2:55-4:30pm** First Practice: **Feb 20th**
Head Coach – **Shanna Hambleton** - shannahambleton@yahoo.com

5th Grade Team Specifics

Days: **Monday/Fridays** Times: **2:55-4:30pm** First Practice: **Feb 19th**
Head Coach – **Melissa Cunningham** - mrbitner2000@yahoo.com

Lottery Registration Procedure

Each team may have up to 15 girls. Registration will open Jan 27th through Feb 7th. If more than 15 girls register for either team, a random lottery will be conducted by the GOTR organization. More details on the lottery and how to register will follow.

Cost

\$160 (*Financial assistance is available – discounts are offered on an income-based sliding scale*). Cost includes fitted running shoes, GOTR t-shirts, 5K registration, healthy snacks at each practice, finisher's metal, end of season party, and more!

For more information about the program visit www.gotrcincinnati.org, or contact Meggie Pauly (megeara.pauly@gmail.com).



Who we are

Girls on the Run® is a national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams. Our 10-week program drives transformative, sustained change in the lives of third- to fifth-grade girls across all 50 states.

What we do

Using an intentional curriculum that integrates physical activity, our trained coaches teach girls critical life skills and strategies they can apply to all aspects of their lives.

Why it matters

- Girls' self-confidence begins to drop by age 9
- 50% of girls ages 10 to 13 experience bullying such as name calling and exclusion
- Physical activity levels decline at age 10 and continue to decrease throughout adolescence

Our results*

85%
IMPROVED IN
CONFIDENCE
COMPETENCE
CARING
CHARACTER
OR CONNECTION



GIRLS WHO WERE
LEAST ACTIVE
AT THE START
INCREASED IN
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



BY MORE THAN
40%

97%
LEARNED CRITICAL
LIFE SKILLS



Girls on the Run has a **POSITIVE IMPACT** on girls during the program and **BEYOND**.

Girls on the Run makes a **STRONGER IMPACT** than organized sports or physical education programs in teaching **LIFE SKILLS**.



Where girls made the greatest gains

CONNECTION

How supported they felt by their peers



CONFIDENCE

How much they liked the person they are



“I will continue to **teach others what I learned** at Girls on the Run, and carry it with me **FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.**”

Learn how you can change the life of a girl. Visit us at www.gotrcincinnati.org

*Results based on a 2016 independent study conducted by Positive Youth Development expert Maureen R. Weiss, Ph.D.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 12, 2017

CONTACT: Patty Thelen, 681-1800 x1160
thelenp@live.mcauleyhs.net

Mother of Mercy High School to Hold Grade School Basketball Night
***NEW DATE – January 30, 2017**

Cincinnati – Mother of Mercy High School will hold a Grade School Basketball Night for grade school girls interested in experiencing the athletic programs at Mother of Mercy. Grade school girls who attend will receive free admission to the game, will enjoy snacks and giveaways, and will learn cheers with current Mercy students. **PLEASE NOTE THE DATE BELOW HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM PREVIOUS COMMUNICATIONS. THE NEW DATE IS JANUARY 30, 2017.**

- **Tuesday, January 30 at Mother of Mercy, 3036 Werk Road** – Grade School Night festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the gym lobby. The Freshman game begins at 4:30 p.m., JV begins at 6 p.m., and Varsity begins at 7:30 p.m. The Mercy Bobcats will take on St. Ursula. Students are encouraged to wear a grade school spirit shirt or their grade school basketball jersey.

Any questions, please contact Tricia Reisman (Mother of Mercy) at 661-2740 x346 or reisman_t@motherofmercy.org.