

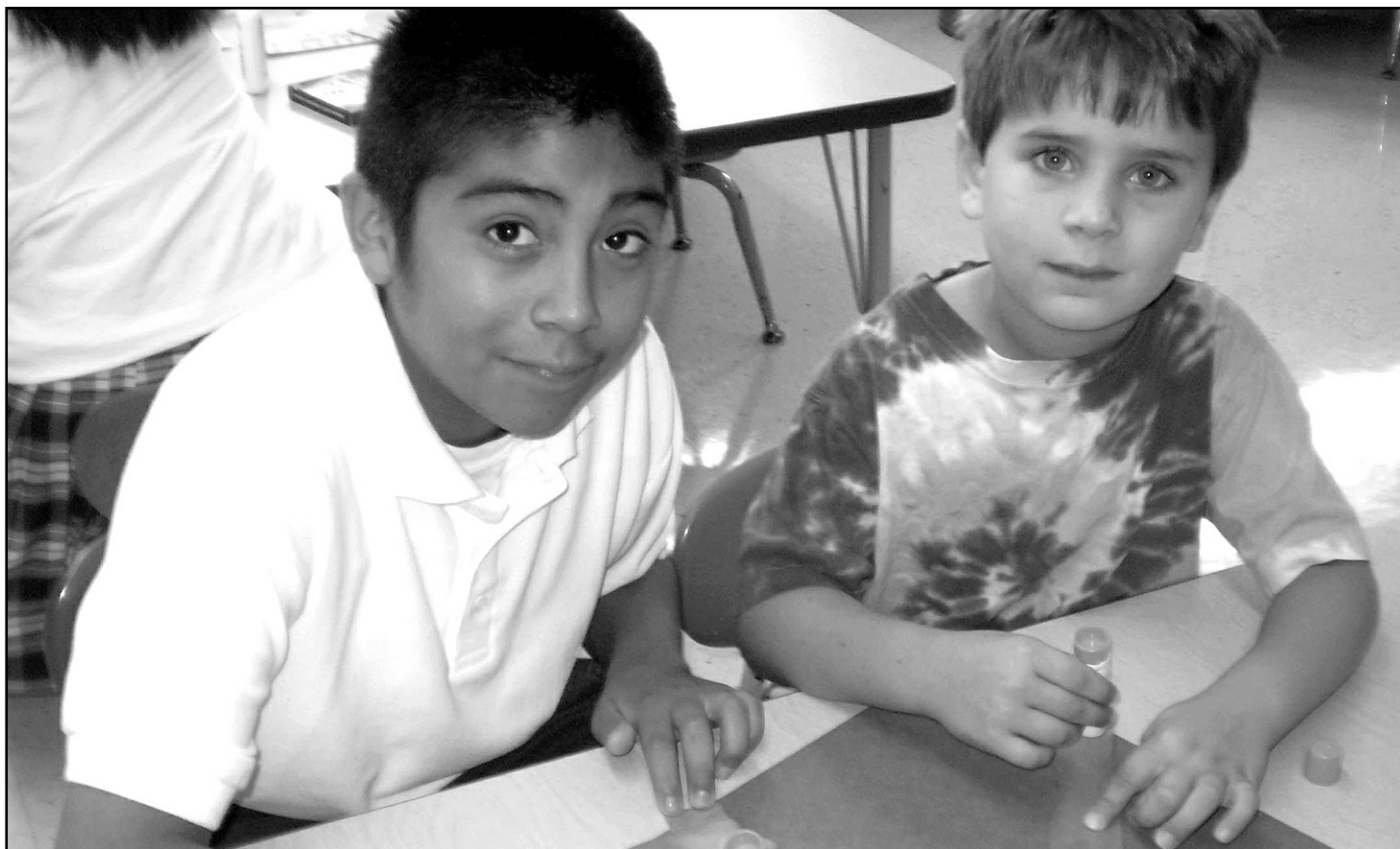
OUR LADY OF GRACE SCHOOL

Excellence in Catholic education for more than 50 years

NEWSLETTER

www.olgraceschool.org

WINTER 2008



Seventh-grader Gabriel Duran helps "buddy" Giovanni Komyatte, kindergarten student, with an art project earlier this year. The "buddy" program – which pairs two students of differing ages – is one of the many ways OLG School students learn to help support and minister to one another.

Structure of Support

As Catholic education remains among the pillars in developing our children into successful Christian adults, we take a moment to thank those who have helped create the solid foundation that supports the success story we know as OLG School.

Support begins with our pastor and

parishioners, whose generosity and commitment week after week, year after year, keeps the school's mission on course.

It continues with our dedicated faculty, whose commitment to excellence is a major reason OLG School has been rated "exemplary" once again by the state.

It thrives with our parents, whose sacrifice and dedication energize so many support efforts outside the classroom.

And it comes from alumni and others throughout the community.

To all of you, we offer our heartfelt thanks.

OLGschool

MORE INSIDE

■ To register a child for the 2008-09 school year, call us at (219) 838-2901.

■ Come visit OLG School at our Open House on Jan. 30, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

■ Home and School Association features active parents in support of OLG. **Page 2**

Message from our Principal

As we enter 2008 at Our Lady of Grace School, we do so with renewed efforts and commitment to Catholic education in our parish community. Our students are the focus of all we do. Preparing them for life means more than just learning the three R's. Religion and respect for every human person are integral to all areas of study.



**MARILYN
TOMKO**

Helping students to build relationships with their friends, families, and with God encompasses the work of our dedicated faculty and staff.

In collaboration with our parents, School Board, parishioners, alumni and planning committees, the work of our ministry continues to bring

positive results. Once again, our enrollment has increased. Our School Board continues to implement our strategic plan focusing on communication, a development program and annual fund. Our students continue to excel academically, earning OLG another exemplary rating from the state. Also, our Home and School Association provides strong leadership and support for the growth of our school family.

For more than 50 years, Our Lady of Grace Parish has been committed to the ministry of Catholic education. We are grateful for the support of so many who share their time, talents and treasures for the benefit of our children. With your continued support, we know that a bright future exists for our students and their families.

OLG SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Dan Dernulc	Virginia Lenart
Karen Golumbeck	John Sedia
Kathy Gortat	Marilyn Underkofler
Michael Jasaitis	Stan Wrobel
Mike Kaim	Teresa Zahorsky
Dan Kalinowski	

Ex-Officio Members:

Rev. Edward J. Moszur, Pastor
Marilyn Tomko, Principal
Lisa Anderson, Home and School Association
Donna Frazier, Recording Secretary

HSA: In full support



HSA board members and volunteers for 2007-08 include (from left): Tracey Clark, treasurer Sonia Magallon, president Lisa Anderson, secretary Luzelena Gordon, vice president Lisa Hays, parliamentarian Sherry Larmon, Elizabeth Munoz and historian JoAnne Garcia.

Loyal group leads by example

A child who receives an education in a Catholic school ultimately becomes an adult who has learned the value of caring for others before self. One way parents teach their children compassion and care is by showing a good example and serving others.

The Home and School Association of OLG School serves toward that mission.

Yes, the HSA has a financial goal to meet every year to help improve school programs. This year, HSA funds will help purchase readers for the students.

But the HSA does so much more.

The organization sponsors social events for OLG children – such as movie night, cookie walk or pumpkin carving – and for the entire parish –

such as the St. Nick parish breakfast and the chili cook-off. Some parents help by becoming a chairperson or a volunteer for one of our many events. Others give of their time by taking over an important fund-raising task, such as organizing Market Day every month. Parents of OLG students volunteer because they know it is the right thing to do – it is teaching by example.

With a focus of enhancing the educational benefits for OLG students, the HSA also makes sure to show appreciation for our dedicated teachers by hosting two faculty luncheons each year and donating gifts to those professionals who give of themselves day-in, day-out for our children.

OLG School begins annual fund

OLG School Board members, along with a steering committee dedicated to maintaining Catholic education in our community, are kicking off our first annual fund campaign this year. The annual fund is critical to keeping Catholic education affordable.

Many can remember when tuition did not exist at OLG School. Today, however, in addition to the nearly 50 percent subsidy from the parish, alternative sources of funding are a necessity to help with the operating expenses. The annual fund will provide

unrestricted dollars to help defray the cost of educating each OLG student. These unrestricted funds will be available for the area of greatest need, whether that be for teachers' salaries, classroom equipment, utility or heating costs, or whatever expenses need to be met to fulfill OLG's mission.

The annual fund steering committee will be reaching out to all stakeholders, including alumni, parents of alumni, board members, faculty and staff, grandparents, parishioners and business leaders. This year's goal is \$30,000.

Where are they now?

Wes Heubner, OLG '63, lives in Griffith and has worked for the Lake County Sheriff's Department for 25 years. Formerly an outdoors columnist for northwest Indiana newspapers, he is the founder of the Highland chapter of the Isaac Walton League and also has appeared in a few movies.

Joe Skertich, OLG '64, now lives in Western Springs, Ill. He was one of eight children.

Kathy Noel (Bellinghausen), OLG '65, lives in Munster with her husband of 35 years, Bill. Now retired after 18 years as a certified nursing assistant at St. Margaret Hospital, she loves to spend time with her two grandchildren and attends arts and crafts shows.

Mark Mullaney, OLG '71, is vice president for administration at Holy Cross College at Notre Dame, Ind. A graduate of Notre Dame, he lives in South Bend with his wife and five children.

Michael J. Robinson, OLG '76, lives in Crown Point and works as a welder mechanic for P.C.I. His parents, Buel and Pat Robinson, are still OLG parishioners.

Lisa Loehrke-Sichhart, OLG '83, lives in Evanston, Ill., with her husband Phillip Sichhart. Lisa, who received two degrees from Purdue and graduated from medical school at Midwestern University, is a faculty physician at Evanston Northwestern Hospital.

She performed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Lutheran General Hospital in 2006.

Theresa (Karin) Zardt, OLG '87, lives in Griffith with her husband and five sons. She is a first-grade teacher at St. Michael School in Schererville.

Mary Jane Shkroba (Rozarski), OLG '88, lives in LaPorte and works as director of finance and administration for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC).

Jennifer Paswinski, OLG '96, graduated from Purdue in West Lafayette and lives in Schererville. She recently opened Jivebetty Store in Crown Point, where she sells custom T-shirts and accessories for girls.

Jacqueline Klapak, OLG '02, is a student at the prestigious Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., with a double major of philosophy and French. She remains active in music, singing in Vassar choirs that tour abroad each year, and recently met her biological brother for the first time.

Paula Puntillo, OLG '03, has been accepted into the Direct Admission Program in physical therapy at Marquette University, Milwaukee. She will not need to apply for the master's or doctorate program, but is automatically accepted as she proceeds with her studies. Paula is one of 62 selected from 700 applicants.

Embracing education



Veteran kindergarten teacher Judy Drake greets OLG students as they arrive for school earlier this year.

OLG School mission statement

Our Lady of Grace School, with the support of the school families, dedicated faculty and the entire parish community of Our Lady of Grace, cultivates academic excellence and Catholic values within a distinctive educational framework. The major goal is to prepare students to respond to the challenges in their lives by:

- Providing quality instruction;
- Encouraging students to lead "Christ-Centered" lives; and
- Developing a consciousness of the family of God by providing service to others.

Looking for OLG alums! We want to know what you're up to!

Please take a few minutes to fill out this form and send it back to us, as we would like to remain in contact with you. School newsletters often will include a "Where Are They Now" section on our former students.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

e-mail address _____

Please check at least one: OLG alumnus, Class of _____

Former OLG parent

Former OLG teacher

Please tell us below about your family, career, endeavors, etc.:

Please fill out, detach and mail form to: OLG School, 3025 Highway Ave., Highland, IN 46322 ■ You can also e-mail us at: olgnews@yahoo.com

A COUPLE HUNDRED REASONS TO SUPPORT OLG SCHOOL



OLG *school*

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