



OUR LADY OF VICTORY SCHOOL

"WHERE EDUCATING THE HEART IS AS IMPORTANT AS EDUCATING THE MIND"

A newsletter for Alumni, Parents, Grandparents,
Friends, and Students of OLOV



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Inside this issue:

Alumnus Highlight: 2
Nicholas Ruickoldt,
Class of 2001

Calling all alumni 2

The Lonely Penguin
- Sister Margaret 3
Golub writes a book

Calendar of Events 3

Golf Tournament 3

Veterans' Day 4
Prayer Service

Letter from Mrs. Bartolotta

I have been giving much thought to this letter and going in many directions. It is hard to simply put into a few lines the many great things that are happening at our school. Although the school is great for many reasons, the people - students, parents, faculty, and staff - are what gives it its strength and greatness. It is wonderful to be surrounded each day by people you love.

There have been a few staff changes this school year. Mrs. Jennifer Clados, our first grade teacher for the past five years, took a position in Clinton. The commute makes it easier for Jen to balance her time with her family. Mrs. Susan Penrod, our former pre-k teacher, is now the first grade teacher. This left an opening in the pre-k, which has been filled with Ms. Katie Juliano. She is a wonderful, young teacher doing a terrific job with the three and four year olds. When a day isn't going quite the way I want it to, I can always go into the pre-k where everyone is always happy and everything is new and exciting! Mrs. Jennifer Casillo, our Kindergarten teacher, will take a maternity leave in December, and Mrs. Rebecca Appleby will replace her. We ask for God's blessings for our new teachers and those who are leaving, and pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance and inspiration during this transitional time.

As part of our Strategic Long Range Plan, I had wanted to introduce more prayer experiences for the students and one of them was a Veterans' Day Prayer Service. This has become a major event in our school. It is sponsored by the sixth grade and we invite veterans to come. We had our prayer service and it was very

special. We were given a plaque from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States West Haven Post 9422. It was made out to Our Lady of Victory School for their recognition of honoring all Veterans. We were all so moved by this as we want to honor them for the sacrifice they have made and were unprepared for them to honor us! It made me feel very happy because our students do work very hard for this event. It is my hope that our students will always appreciate that "Freedom is not really free".

Another part of our Strategic Long Range Plan, was to be current with our programs. Along with the faculty and staff, I am committed to excellence in all areas of development - spiritual, emotional, and academic. We purchased a new reading program published by Scott-Foresman which allows teachers many options as well as extensive activities for differentiated instruction. The program was very expensive and at times, we wondered if we needed to invest that much at this difficult time. After using the program, we all agree that it was definitely the right decision to update our reading program and make the change. Our previous program was already 10 years old!

As we approach the year's end - we continue to make progress and delight in seeing the growth and learning experiences of our students. My best wishes to all of our families for a wonderful Holiday season and a very Blessed New Year!



**Alumnus Highlight -
Nicholas Ruickoldt, Class of 2001**



A stormy night last May turned out to be one filled with good fortune for Doug Ruickoldt and his sons. Doug, an alumnus, Class of 65, parent of an alum, and longtime friend and supporter of OLOV was driving home that night when he saw Dan Torre performing his annual stint of selling car raffle tickets on Jones Hill Road - even in the pouring rain!

Doug felt sorry for the dedicated guy standing in the rain, getting soaked. He thought - why not? So, he bought a ticket and put it in his son's name. Doug has two sons, Doug, and Nick, OLOV Class of 2001.



When Nick got the call that he was one of the 2 winners of the Chevy Malibu, he thought someone was playing a joke on him. He thought his dad put someone up to it. He really didn't believe he won! Doug, Nick, and Doug were very surprised!

Nick went on from OLOV and graduated from Fairfield Prep, Class of 2005. He is currently a senior in college and will be graduating this spring.

*Remember
When?*

*Dare Graduation
2001*

Calling all Alumni -

We'd love to hear from you!

Tell us what you've been up to and share your stories.

Send alumni news for our next newsletter to:

**OLOV School - Alumni News
620 Jones Hill Road**



**What's New
at OLOV?**

Ms. Katie Juliano, our new pre- k teacher for 3 and 4 year olds.



Plaque from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States West Haven Post 9422 in honor of OLOV School's recognition of all veterans.

The Lonely Penguin - Sister Margaret Golub, OSU Writes a Book



Sister Margaret and Deni working together on The Lonely Penguin.

Sister Margaret Golub knows a thing or two about penguins - and puppets, and prayers! Known fondly to students as “The Puppet Nun”, Sister Margaret took her love of puppets, penguins, and stories and wrote the wonderful book, The Lonely Penguin. The story is beautifully illustrated by OLOV 8th Grade student, Deni Nakonecni. The collaboration resulted in publishing the book with the help of the Ursuline Sisters. “This is a story about ecology and global warming, but it goes beyond that. Teachers who read the books to students are able to talk about race relations, and meeting others who may or may not look like us, yet have their own uniqueness and similarities”. Sister Margaret’s ministry was working as a librarian for many years. She started many school libraries in Long Island. Once, after a teachers’ strike, Sister boosted morale in the school, by putting up a penguin display. The book is dedicated to Sister Margaret’s mother, Blanche Golub, who she credits for her support, inspiration, and love. The Lonely Penguin will be for sale after certain masses, and at OLOV school - For more information, call #932-6457.



Upcoming Events

Look for these upcoming events...

Dance & Electronics Raffle

8th Annual Auction

Tickets on sale soon!

**January 31 - Mother/Son breakfast
Father/Daughter Dance**

**February 14 - Dance and
Electronics Raffle**

**March Phone-a-thon (Dates to
be announced)**

April 4 - 7 - Book Fair

**May 15th - 8th Annual Auction and
Money Raffle**



Save the Date - OLOV Golf Tournament, Thursday, June 25, 2009

The Our Lady of Victory School Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2009. Co-chairs are Barbara Considine and Dan Torre. The tournament will be held at Laurel View Country Club in Hamden. Bring your foursome and join us!

Registration and coffee begin at 10:00 am and tee off time is at 11:00 am. The fee is \$150 per golfer.

A delicious buffet dinner and lots of great raffle prizes will follow.

Come support this great event!

For more information, call #932-6457



We're on the Web!

www.olv.org

Our Lady of Victory School
620 Jones Hill Road
West Haven, CT. 06516



Phone: 203-932-6457
E-mail: abartolotta@olv.org

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Veterans' Day Prayer Service

On a beautiful day in November, Our Lady of Victory School paid tribute to all veterans. Mrs. Ann Salemme and her sixth grade class hosted men and women veterans from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and the War in Iraq. Students performed, read poems, and a musical tribute highlighted all branches of the armed services. The tribute was both moving and spirited, as men and women veterans stood and saluted our flag while the official song of their branch was played. Gifts were presented from the students and Mrs. Bartolotta was presented with a plaque from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States West Haven Post 9422 (see page 2) in honor of OLOV school's recognition of honoring all veterans. What an honor - to be honored by such brave men and women! A reception followed and students from the sixth grade participated in a round table discussion with veterans, Sammuel Girsuolo and George Abel, survivors of Iwo Jima, and Kevin Dawid from the Iraq War.



Sammuel Girsuolo, George Abel, and Kevin Dawid speak to OLOV students about patriotism, their experiences of war, and peacetime.

Lance Corporal Kevin Dawid is now home from the war. Students from OLOV have been writing to him throughout his entire tour of duty and are always thrilled to see him!

The day was a memorable one for veterans, their families, students, and the whole school community!