

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL
PARENT NEWSLETTER
2009**

SEASON OF LENT

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday February 25 and goes for forty days ending with Easter Sunday April 12 in preparation for Easter. Lent is a time celebrated by Christians throughout the world in memory of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. During Lent our students and faculty begin the day with a morning prayer. All of our students and families are encouraged to pray, fast, do penance, and offer alms during these forty days. All of our students will attend the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 1:45PM

REGISTRATION

All tuition for the present school year, 08-09, must be current before registration is accepted. A Registration Form was enclosed in last month's Family Envelope. Not all forms were returned, so we are inclosing another form in the Envelope. If you are interested in re-registration please fill out and return as soon as possible. No re-registration fee of \$100.00.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to be eligible for registration families must meet certain requirements listed in the School Policy Book. A student must be in good standing both academically and behaviorally. Parents must demonstrate a spirit of cooperation and have no outstanding fees. Registration Agreement Forms will be returned to families not meeting these requirements.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DEADLINES

Applications for BLOCS and Children's Scholarship Fund are available on line. Please take advantage of these scholarships. Applications are available online at www.BLOCS.org. The deadline for Children's Scholarship Fund is March 1. Both applications must be mailed to address on the application. **DO NOT RETURN APPLICATIONS TO THE SCHOOL.**

MARKS CLOSE

Marks close for the second Trimester on Friday, March 6. Students having failing grades or unfinished projects should check with their teachers before marks close to see if work can be submitted for a passing grade. Report cards will be distributed, Monday, March 9 to the students. If tuition and lab fees are not up to date your child may not receive a report card and cannot return to school on March 10. Parents needing to see teachers must request an appointment. It is the parent's responsibility to make sure their child is passing all subjects.

SECOND TRIMESTER REPORT CARDS

The second trimester report cards will be distributed to students at the end of the day on **Monday, March 9**. We ask that parents sign the report card and return it to school by Wednesday, March 11. Teachers have no way of knowing if parents received the report cards unless a parent signature is on the returned card. Parents needing to keep the report card for an extended time must put this request in writing.

REPORT CARD CONFERENCES

Report card conferences for the Second Trimester will be available **ONLY** upon parent or teacher request. Appointment is necessary. Students must attend the conference with their parents. Parents must meet with the teacher if their child has a failing grade on their report card.

DELINQUENT TUITION

In the past months, several families with severe delinquencies on their tuition accounts were put on suspension. We regret having to suspend our students from attending school for financial reasons, however, the tuition is the only source of income for the school. Second trimester report cards will be withheld for families who have an outstanding tuition and lab material fee balance.

TERRA NOVA TESTING

Students in Grades 3, 4 and 7 will be taking the In View Test on March 5th. Students in Grades K-4 & 7 will be taking the Terra Nova Test March 9-13. This is the first year that students in Kindergarten will be taking the Terra Nova test. It is most important that all students be present for testing; we are not able to make up testing that students miss. Parents will receive the results of the testing as soon as they are available. The Terra Nova Test is a national standardized test mandated by the Archdiocese for all Catholic schools. Students in Grades 5, 6 and 8 took this test in October; results were sent home to parents in January.

BOOK FAIR

Our school Book Fair is scheduled the week of March 23-27. Students will have time to visit the Book Fair during the afternoon sessions of this week. Younger students should bring their Book Fair money in a labeled envelope with order enclosed. We are looking for parents who could help during the afternoon sessions. Interested parents should fill out the Volunteer Form. You will be contacted by Mrs. McDonald. Flyers will be sent home a week before Book Fair.

GOODSEARCH

Raise money for your school while finding the things you need on the internet! GoodSearch will donate to "Our Lady of Lourdes School" whenever you search the internet. Make www.goodsearch.com your home page and help our students without leaving the comfort of your chair just be sure to list "Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School Philadelphia, PA when asked Who do you Good Search for?

NICKELS FOR NEIGHBORS

During the months of March and April, each child is encouraged to collecting change for the men, women, and children in need in their community. Funds will be donated to the Catholic Charities Appeal of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

BOYS AND GIRLS TRACK TEAM

Mr. Brooker, CYO Director, is sending home Track Registration forms. Anyone who is interested in running track must return the form with the registration fee by March 3. There will be a mandatory meeting for parents and students, Tuesday, March 3 at 7PM in the Mercy Room. Practices will begin approximately two weeks from this date.

CAMP OVERBROOK AT ST. CHARLES SEMINARY - Do you want to provide for your children a wonderful week of fun, games, music, arts, and crafts. For only \$25.00 a week, a camper is provided with bus transportation, breakfast and lunch. Parish/school groups of 20 campers or more are picked up directly at the school yard. Please check the website at www.ooyo.org/csc.html.

FAMILY LENTEN RETREAT

There will be a Family Lenten Retreat on Sunday, March 1 at Our Lady of Lourdes School and Church. For more information, please contact Christine Shiba at (610) 543-3880 or lourdesyouth@yahoo.com.

EASTER VACATION

School will dismiss at 12PM on Wednesday, April 8. There is no school April 9-13. School will resume on Tuesday, April 14.

BASKETBALL NEWS

Mr. Brooker, the basketball coach is having a Parent v. Student basketball game on March 2 at 7PM at OEC. Everyone is invited and welcomed to attend.

ATTACHED YOU FIND:

Re-Registration Form

Tuition Agreement Form for 2009-2010

Revised Tuition Paper for 2009-2010

Family Lenten Retreat

Track Team Registration Form

REMINDERS:

-Family Envelopes due on Monday, March 2

-Lab and Material Fee \$35.00 per student due Monday, March 2