

The Falcon's Nest



Falcons
Don't Fly...
We Soar!

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Catholic Schools Week

The week of January 27 to February 2 was Catholic Schools Week. The theme was "Catholic Schools Raise the Standards."

On Saturday, January 26th, and Sunday, January 27th, students read, served, made speeches, and brought up the gifts at mass. There was also an open house at OLOL school.

On Monday, January 28th, there was another open house, this time at night. A special program was prepared to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of OLOL School. There was singing, reading, and videos that were prepared by Mrs. Florczak. All three cheerleading teams

(Bidly, JV, and Varsity) performed their competition routines.

Tuesday, January 29th was Student Appreciation Day. Many classes did special activities, such as science experiments. There was no homework given, and all students got a special penlight/whistle. It was also a free tag day. Students participated in the It Takes Heart to Be a Hero program, which involved jumping rope.

Wednesday, January 30th celebrated our nation's heroes. Students wore red, white,



and blue and could make a donation to the American Heart Society. Some of the grades watched a video called "Milltown War Heroes," which showed pictures of all the local soldiers, both past and present.

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The Living Stations

Our Lady of Lourdes students presented the "Living Stations of the Cross" on Thursday, March 28th and Friday, March 29th. Jesus was portrayed by Kenny Peralta, grade eight. Mary was played by Kimberly Calix, grade

eight. Jorge Perilla played the part of John, Kirsten Smith the part of Mary Magdalene, Edgar Cabrera the part of Judas, Eder Palacios the part of Simon, Christine Starozytnyk the part of Veronica, and Samuel Mejia the part of Pontius

Pilate.

OLOL has been putting on the Living Stations for a long time now, and Mrs. Gleason says that this is one of her favorite productions of all.

Field Trips vs. Libraries and Computer Labs

By Sara Balsamo

I think schools should continue to use their money for field trips instead of libraries and computers. Field trips are fun and educational. They allow students to get out and explore instead of sitting down all day in a library or computer lab. Field trips also allow students to get the exercise they need by walking through exhibits.

I remember when we went to a museum for a class trip, the Franklin Institute. Our class went through the giant heart structure a million times! Also, in that same room, I saw life-sized structures of animal hearts and was able to watch a video on heart surgery,

which was kind of gross. We also went to the sports room and played sports such as tennis and participated in a safe, mini version of rock climbing. We played in the electric room a lot, too. After we touched an electric ball, we shocked each other. I saw a person stand next to a light-up wall and when she turned her cell phone on, the lights went crazy. It was an amazing learning experience.

When I go to the computer lab, I learn all about the Microsoft tools. For example, right now in computer class we are learning about Excel. We even have our own email address that we use to send

our work in to our computer teacher. I also use the laptops and iPads during class to research. I like the computer lab and everything we do and learn there, but I don't like sitting in front of the computer all the time. The computer lab doesn't give me the opportunity to see and feel new and interesting things like a field trip does.

I think schools should use their money on field trips instead of libraries and computer labs. Students have more fun in education on field trips. I think it's best to have field trips for these reasons.

Fun Facts

- Blue eyes are a genetic mutation; before the mutation, all eyes were brown.
- No one knows where Mozart is buried.
- New Jersey and Oregon are the only states where it is illegal to pump your own gas.
- In Singapore, it is illegal to sell or own chewing gum.
- The U.S. has more bagpipe bands than Scotland does.
- The speed of a typical raindrop is 17 miles per hour.
- During WWII, because a lot of players were called to duty, the Pittsburgh Steelers and Philadelphia Eagles combined

to become The Steagles.

- The United Nations declared the Internet a basic human right in 2011.

All fun facts come from funfactz.com.

Eighth Grade Class Trip

Everyone knows about the legendary eighth grade class trip to New York City. Well, you guys get to read all about what is to happen first-hand, right here, right now, from two eighth graders.

The trip begins with the students arriving around quarter to

seven so they can go to Mass. After Mass, the coach bus arrives. Everyone gets settled, and then the bus leaves at eight.

The eighth graders arrive in New York City and enjoy some attractions. Some of the most exciting include the Hard Rock Café,

Empire State Building, Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, and the Ride, a moving theatre motorcoach.

After a long day of site-seeing and eating, the students board the coach and leave the city.

~Christine Starozytnyk and
Lauren Diehm

Saving the Field Trip: An Important Educational Tool

By Clara Melvin

Our school is considering doing away with field trips. The faculty is weighing the cost of these trips against using the funds for more computers and library books. While I don't dispute the value of books and computers, I do object to selling short the worth and usefulness of a field trip.

There are many reasons why the school should continue supporting field trips. The trips provide us with opportunities to learn about careers. They teach us in a 'hands on' way. Not all students can learn easily sitting in a desk. Some need to see and experience for themselves, rather than using textbook. Field trips also allow students some much-needed

time away from the classroom. The four walls of a classroom, no matter how brightly decorated, can feel confining at times and the excitement of a trip away is always welcome.

Let's face it, we all love field trips. I would like to see more of them. I have had many good experiences on field trips. On one occasion, I was inspired by what I saw and realized a possible career that interests me.

Library books and computers are great; I cannot argue that they have no educational use. I certainly could not live without books...I love them! My concern is that sixth, seventh, and eighth graders do not even

get use of library privileges, so wouldn't field trips be of more use to them? New books might benefit younger grades, but not the older ones. While computers are a necessary part of our classroom environment, we are fine with the technology we have. From SmartBoards to laptops to iPads, we are definitely not deprived.

Field trips are like an outside classroom. Although students are having fun, they are still learning. Isn't that the overall goal? I believe that field trips provide us with more than just some additional information on our subjects. They give us a front row seat to the world.

Student Council News

The Our Lady of Lourdes Student Council recently held a collection for the Center for Great Expectation's baby shower. School families donated items such as diapers, bottles, and bibs. The collected items were later taken to the shelter, which helps women and their children.

The Student Council also

gardened for Earth Day. They planted hostas and flowers in the front of the school building. A Shades of Green poster contest was also held. Students could submit posters that showed how and why we should be more green and earth-friendly.

Because of the school closing, Student Council elections will

not be held. Mrs. Conaway and Mrs. Oman would like to thank the Student Council for their service



to the students and the school family for their support throughout the years.

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Thursday, January 31st was a day for thinking about vocations. Two missionaries came to speak to the students (Sr. Emery and Sr. Leila). They told about their work in different countries and taught a song for praising God.

Friday, February 1st was

First Friday Mass. Students from the fourth grade class read and sang. Joey Diehm and Quonn Ailey served their first Mass. After Mass, there was a family pizza lunch. Moms, dads, grandparents, sisters, and brothers all came to the cafeteria to have lunch with the students. In the afternoon, students watched

movies.

Although Catholic Schools Week's main purpose is to thank and remember the people around us, it is also a lot of fun.

~Emily Sullivan

OUR LADY OF LOURES SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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Falcon's Don't Fly... WE SOAR!

Sammy's Words of Wisdom

Seventh grader Samuel Mejia has started giving out advice to his classmates and teachers.

"Life begins at Baptism. Yes, I am a prophet!" To whole class, during Confirmation class.

"You should always eat yogurt with a fork. That's the normal way." To Edgar Cabrera while eating his snack.

"No, Emily, you have to do it like me. Nice clean paper with no name!" To Emily Sullivan, about headings.

"These are Enlightenment Chips. You eat them if you want to get smart." To whole class in referral to his barbecue potato chips.

"This is my square. You use it to measure angles and triangles." To whole class about his protractor.

Of course, these words are coming from the boy who ate a whole ham sandwich and whole slice of cookie cake at the same time, in one bite, so who knows if we should believe him...

Undefeated 2013 Playoff Run Would

Make Miami Heat Best NBA Team Ever

The 1995-96 Chicago Bulls are generally regarded as the best team in NBA history.

But if the Miami Heat goes through the 2013 playoffs without dropping a single game, the Bulls' place in history will be in jeopardy.

Before flooding the comments section with cries of sacrilege, hear me out.

In Michael Jordan's first full season back after his baseball-induced retire-

ment, the 1995-96 Bulls finished the regular season with a 72-10 record.

Through the 2012-13 season, no team in NBA history has ever matched or surpassed that feat.

The 2012-13 Heat weren't all that far behind, though. They finished the regular season with a 66-16 record, which has only been done 13 times in NBA history. The 66 wins were a great boost for the Miami Heat record.

They might even be one of the best teams in NBA history.

~Jason Rodriguez