

May 15th, 2014

Dear OLA,

Never in my thoughts, 15 years ago, could I have imagined what the future held for Gregg and I as young, likely naïve, new but older parents. I had no idea that Our Lady of the Assumption would have such an impact on our life. As I begin this letter of sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the OLA school and parish staff, I first must thank my own wonderful parents. I thank them for choosing a parochial, faith filled education for myself and six siblings. The incredible memories and the sense of community I experienced within my family growing up in NY without a doubt influenced our school choice for our children. The greatest gift I ever received from my parents was the gift of their faith filled lives and now I feel OLA has provided Gregg and I fifteen years of opportunity to give that same gift to our children. For that we are forever thankful.

I have begun reminiscing about each grade, each teacher, and each staff member both past and present. In our garage we have a file cabinet filled with K-8 folders for Jordan, Spencer & Casey. Every year I promised I would not save as much and every year I broke that promise. There were so many projects, poems, writings, pictures, and loving cards that were precious. I admit each year I put the folders in without looking back but today I decided to look back. I went through the folders and my heart filled with laughter and my face was smiling. Yet my heart also ached and my eyes were teary. How did this happen? How did 15 years go by? I had no answer but I had a cabinet filled with clear evidence that 15 years did not just go by it was filled with amazing experiences, teachers, friends and so much love and support.

Letters books, self-portraits', Christmas ornaments, First Communion banners, science projects, mother's luncheon, cards, art work, missions, author signed books, Gilles Gazette, metal masks, state reports, international days, open house, Christmas programs, treasure maps, 3-d graphing projects, buddy projects, history reports, computer graphic cards, parents luncheon, handmade jewelry, secret Santa gifts, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, auctions, fashion shows, country fairs and the joyous list goes on and on and on.

It was a cabinet spilling with memories of field trips to the pumpkin patch, plays, Gibson ranch, Zoo, Sutter's Fort, CA museums, Sly Park, Marine Headlands, Math and Science Contests, Cathedral, Coloma, Six Flags, Challenger Science Museum, Raley's Field, Folsom Lake, Washington, Newman Retreats, etc.... and again I could go forever. Field trips were always my favorite event and Gregg always enjoyed the overnight ones! He had so much fun with the children & the teachers. We have enjoyed laughing with you all.

OLA has always been more than a school to us. It has been our church, our community and it is filled with the people we cherish. Over the years you have all made us laugh, nurtured our

children, taught them respect, filled them with faith, helped us be better parents and gave us a wonderful community. We are so blessed and thankful to have each of you in our lives.

Thank you for this wonderful chapter in our life, and thank you for preparing our boys for their continued chapters. Though we will not be at the school daily, OLA will forever be in our hearts and in our prayers and we will forever be at OLA.

Thank you for 15 wonderful years.

Love,

The Giles Family
Michele, Gregg, Jordan, Spencer & Casey