

May 17, 2020 OLMC Update – We're in the final stretch!

Dear Our Lady of Mount Carmel School families,

As I write this update, I am filled with so many feelings of *abundant gratitude*! Everyone: parents, faculty, staff, and especially the students, have make extraordinary efforts to make distance learning not only work, but flourish! Has it always been easy? No! Has it always worked as planned? No! Have there been hiccups and road bumps along the way? Yes! Is OLMC leading the way on rapid response to teaching in new, creative, and unprecedented ways? Yes!

Have we all put on the OLMC – literal and figurative – blue and yellow jersey and worked together as a team? Yes! This is what community is about! This is what a caring community does! This is how a Catholic community puts faith into action!

Teacher Maureen & Teacher Karen have become masters of <u>video circle time</u> for their PreSchoolers!





Ms. Carlisle had a 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Fairy Tale Party to celebrate learning the beginning, middle, end and characters, all important parts of literature.



Ms. Thayer & Mrs. Zell – aka the dynamic duo – personally delivered a  $3^{\rm rd}$  Grade birthday greeting to Aiden!





Ms. Hussey showering LOVE on her 4<sup>th</sup> Graders at Fiona's front yard social distance party!





The 6th Graders dazzled Ms. Precissi with their Ancient World Extravaganza!

# Who says time travel doesn't exist? Just ask Ms. Precissi's 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies class! Ancient World Extravaganza!



And then of course, there was the 8<sup>th</sup> grade OLMC Class of 2020 lawn sign parade led by their fearless leader, Mrs. Furrer!!!





These are just a few of the many ways that OLMC Faculty & Staff are putting their students – your children – into the HEART of their learning experience during this time of COVID-19. My heartfelt THANK YOU to each and every one of you! We are OLMC!

I want to share several plans for the upcoming days as we head into our final weeks of this extraordinary 2019-2020 school year.

# Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> – student holiday

We did NOT take a Festival holiday on April 24<sup>th</sup>, and so we are now planning a student holiday, no-teaching day for this upcoming Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The OLMC faculty and staff will use this as a clean-up work day on campus. As you know, we left the school buildings on March 11<sup>th</sup> thinking we would return two weeks later. Now, as we need to close out the year and prepare for the new year, there's much to be done!

# **Last days of teaching**

- Last day of academic zoom teaching for 8th grade: Thursday, May 21st
- Last day of academic zoom teaching for grades PS-7<sup>th</sup>: Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

### **Honoring the OLMC Class of 2020**

Following on the great fun the OLMC Faculty and Staff had delivering graduation signs to all 28 graduate's homes, we have several plans to safely honor our beloved Padre Graduates! On May 11<sup>th</sup>, the San Mateo County Health office issued an order for: "Highly Regulated Vehicle-based Gatherings". Teams of OLMC Faculty & Staff, along

with the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade parents, are making plans using this May 11<sup>th</sup> order to guide us for safety of all persons.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents will get specific information about graduation events; however, we want EVERY Padre Family to have the opportunity to say CONGRATULATIONS! And GODSPEED! to our graduates! We are inviting families to make celebratory posters that can be hung on the school yard for the Thursday & Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> graduation events. These events will be private due to social distancing orders.

We will have a virtual graduation, and we will share this link at all in the community, so that we may all share the graduates' celebration virtually.

If your family would like to participate, please make a celebratory poster and drop it off in a specially marked box on the Arcade by Wednesday afternoon, May 27<sup>th</sup>. Your family posters will be hung to celebrate our Padre Class of 2020.

# June 1-4 schedule for all PS-7th Grade classes

Monday, June 1st: no zoom classes

parents only will be scheduled for appointments to drop-off textbooks/technology devices and to pick-up students' personal

belongings that may have been left at school.

Stay tuned for more details.

Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>: move-up and good-bye celebrations

This will be a time for students to meet their "new" teachers for next

vear and then say good-bye for the summer to their current

teachers and classmates.

Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>: no zoom classes

parents only will be scheduled for appointments to drop-off textbooks/technology devices and to pick-up students' personal

belongings that may have been left at school.

Stay tuned for more details

Monday, June 4th: 9:30 am End of Year Prayer Service (all may attend, but focused on

K-7<sup>th</sup> Grades)



# Middle School Blue/Gold day schedule

Please see updated blue/gold schedule for 6-7-8th Grades.

MAY 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17	18	19	20	21	22	2
	BLUE	GOLD	BLUE	GOLD Last Day of 8th Grade Class Zooms	No School Festival Replacement Holiday (Teacher Work Day)	
24	25	26	27	28	29	9
	No School Memorial Day	BLUE 6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> ZOOM	GOLD 6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> ZOOM	BLUE 6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> ZOOM	GOLD 6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> ZOOM Class of 2020 GRADUATION	
JUNE						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	NO ZOOM CLASSES	Move Up Day & Class Goodbye Day Details: TBD	NO ZOOM CLASSES	End of the Year Prayer Service 9:30am	5	6

# Thinking ahead to next year

Safety is my #1 priority as OLMC Principal. Of course with all the news announcements and speculations about the future, many of you are thinking about August and what our new school year will look like. Many people are worried, rightfully so, about their children's health and safety. I am asking parents to please be patient.

I am monitoring the county and state health orders and regulations, and will share any relevant updates. Please be aware that announcements made by Governor Newsom, California Superintendent of Public Education, or San Mateo County Office of Education are specifically geared toward public schools. As an Archdiocese school, I follow the directives of the Archdiocese. Ultimately, in my decision-making priority, I follow:

- Archdiocese of San Francisco: I follow all decisions made by Archbishop Cordileone and the Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Pamela Lyons.
- San Mateo County Heath Office: The Archdiocese always follows their orders.
- OLMC Pastor

### Re-Opening Schools Task Force

The Archdiocese of San Francisco, Department of Catholic Schools (ASF DCS) has recently created a Re-Opening Schools Task Force, and I will be one of 5 elementary school Principals on this Task Force. Thus, not only will I be part of all the Archdiocese-

wide planning and privy to all information, but I can confidently bring this knowledge back first-hand to our OLMC community.

The Task Force had our 1st meeting on Friday, which was a 1-hour meeting with the Superintendent of Schools for Marin County. I have a 2nd Task Force meeting scheduled for tomorrow afternoon, and a meeting scheduled for May 26th with the Superintendent of Schools for San Mateo County. All the different school and public health organizations are ramping up plans for the re-opening of school. It is premature for me to announce plans for August, other than the first day of school will be Monday, August 24th.

As a member of the Task Force, I will develop step-by-step plans and policies, which will be of utmost importance. Having clear communication will ensure safety for all in our community: students, faculty, staff, and parents.

## **OLMC master calendar**

A committee made up of the OLMC School Board, Finance Working Group, and Festival and Auction Chairs met twice to consider best options for these events. We decided to re-organize our major fundraising events by flipping these events and plan a weekend festival in the Fall (October 17-18) and our benefit auction in the Spring (April 24). Please see the new master calendar.

### **URLs** to bookmark

OLMC Monday morning assembly at 8am:

https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/264358815?pwd=ZWJ5QVFzY2k1L2JvbTBB K1NWVSgrQTog

Meeting ID: 264 358 815

Password: 301

Attendance – mark your *present* or *absent* student every day. <a href="https://forms.gle/t7Jyqde8bgei7wz29">https://forms.gle/t7Jyqde8bgei7wz29</a>

**OLMC Distance Learning Guides:** 

OLMC Distance Learning Guide - Weekly Schedules by Grade Level
OLMC Distance Learning Guide - Policies & Procedures

COVID-19 donation campaign – *thank you for your generosity!* <a href="https://factsmgtadmin.com/give/appeal/S3Sx3JeHM">https://factsmgtadmin.com/give/appeal/S3Sx3JeHM</a>

Scrip inventory – please help us sell our remaining inventory... we are making good progress!

https://forms.gle/UcdFNeswyVqvv197A

I know this is a lot to absorb. I suggest that you focus on the next few weeks, take a good break from the computer screen, and leave the planning to me and my OLMC Task Force. We figured out distance learning with only a 24-hour notice and a lot of effort on the part of the Faculty, Staff, and Parents. I am confident that this next few weeks and months we will find the same *esprit de corps* to make the best for our Padre community.

Best,

Deborah Farrington, Ed.D.

**Principal** 

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School