

OLH

NOW

more than ever

VOLUME 19 NUMBER 3

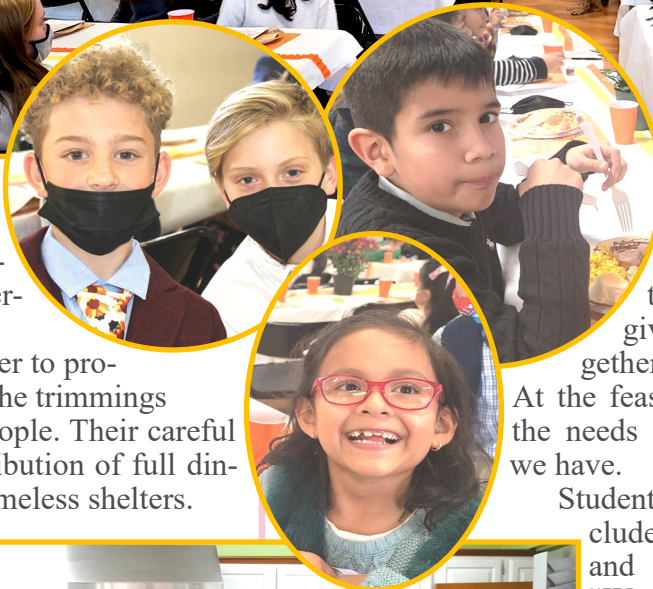
NOVEMBER 2021

OLH HAS MANY REASONS TO GIVE THANKS

In a time when we have been forced to adapt to change the way we interact as a community, the OLH family inched another step closer to “normal” with the annual Thanksgiving Feast.

Last year, only the Prep students sat at table in the “dining hall” while everyone else enjoyed their dinner in the classrooms via take-out boxes and live-stream. This time, only the and first graders celebrated in the classrooms, while both Prep and Intermediate joined the pastors and faculty at table....widely-spaced...and all entering with their masks in place.

A team of parents worked together to provide freshly roasted turkey and all the trimmings to more than three hundred-fifty people. Their careful planning also allowed for the distribution of full dinners to several local community homeless shelters.



Traditions are important in a school like OLH. Taking time to come together for special events gives us a chance to pray together for our friends and family. At the feast, students are reminded of the needs of others and the blessings we have.

Students received booklets that included the history of the holiday and special prayers. The hymn “We Gather Together” was led by Mr. Basar.

The Hamptonix led everyone in “God Bless America” as a sign of our awareness of and gratitude for our freedom and the chance to celebrate this way once again.



HELPING OTHERS STARTS HERE



A small can of corn....a box of ricecereal....crackers....are all items we might take for granted as we open the pantry cabinet. Each year, especially around holiday time, we think of those who may not have enough food to feed their families. There are food drives everywhere.

Each of the three OLH school communities was challenged to collect at least three items per student as we pledged our help for the Heart of the Hamptons and the food pantry at St. Rosalie's Church. The goal was met and more than one thousand food items were packed up and transported to the two locations.

Earlier in the fall, students were asked to submit brief essay for the Stop World Hunger competition. The topic this year was "How has Covid impacted world hunger?"

While the winners of the contest have not yet been announced, we celebrate the ideas of our students that went far beyond the simple act of food drives. Awareness of the problem truly begins here!

HOW DO YOU SPELL S-U-C-C-E-S-S-?

"Good readers are good spellers"! OLH students are reminded of that often as they work through Phonics, Vocabulary, Grammar, Spelling and good Literature.

The annual OLH competition of the Scripps Spelling Bee was held on November 22, as Mrs Lisa Macari challenged fifteen top Prep spellers with difficult words provided by the national event.

Prep 7 presented the two students who emerged in first and second place. Olivia Caruso outspelled Maeve Springer in a lengthy run-off for first place. Olivia is now eligible to compete in both the written and on-line phase of the bee that could lead to her representation at the national spelling bee on Washington, DC in the spring.

New OLH student, Mateo Burriesci of Prep 8 took the third place trophy after a run-off .



IN PRIMARY...THE PLAY'S THE THING



After a year in which every class did present its class play...but....in an auditorium with no spectators and only a live-stream feed to the classrooms and homes....the first graders had a chance to be pioneers in a new way to « bring back the audience ».

The second graders welcomed the kindergarten and first graders to the front of the auditorium, while their masked parents viewed « *Mother Goose's Courtesy Camp* ». Older students joined on live stream. As usual, the wonders of YouTube helped to make everyone able to view the musical.

Not to be outdone, the first graders presented a Thanksgiving show « *The Turkeys Go on Strike* » to an expanded audience that included grades K, 2 nd 3, along with their parents.

As we look ahead to the Christmas show (on December 19), there will be some changes that will move us away from the movie format used last year back to a live audience. The size of the group will be limited by ticket, but getting the entire school included in the show in front of a live masked audience is the priority.





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MAKE WAY FOR THE THREE YEAR OLDS



Each year, our pre-school program welcomes both three and four year olds to the St. Rosalie's campus. Because of Covid restrictions, three year olds were asked to wait until there was an easing of mask and spacing guidelines.

If the progress is monitored well, there will be a class of "almost-four year olds" beginning in late January.

These young children will then be eligible for the four year old program in September.

Information about this two day a week program are available at the school and also online at www.olh.org.



MUSIC IS INSTRUMENTAL TO SUCCESS

OLH has a very strong Fine Arts program as one of its foundational steps. Programs in art, dance and music are included in the regular school schedule, and expanded into the extracurricular program.

After a zoom format of instruction during the Covid year, the Paul Effman Band program is back on Tuesdays during the day. Mr. John Rienzi, a professional drummer himself, teaches woodwind, brass and percussion instruments to thirty students in grades 3-8.

Mrs. Song A Shaughnessy, a concert violinist, starts the fifty member string program in kindergarten and builds the solo and orchestral skills up to grade 8.

Professional classical and rock guitarist ...and OLH classroom music teacher, Mr. Joseph Basar, works with the afterschool guitar students.

Choral work is started by Mr. Basar's JOYFUL NOISE, for students in grades K-3, while the Hamptones, the twenty-two member elite girls' chorus and the nine member Hamptonix welcome students in grades 4-8. Sister Kathy is the choral director.

Drama, Art and full programs in ballet, jazz and tap dance round out the Fine Arts offerings.



LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES INVOLVE OLH

Service is part of the fabric of any Catholic school. At OLH, participation in activities and events of the parish and local communities is encouraged in every grade.

There is a call for new members of altar serving and the parish children's choirs, as well as lectors. Families are urged to contact their local pastors to have their children participate.

The local communities also are always looking for family involvement in Chamber of Commerce, Heart of the Hamptons and other civic causes. This is a great chance to spread OLH spirit!

