

OLH

NOW

more than ever

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AT LONG LAST...THE PLAYGROUND IS OURS!

Six months without outdoor recess sounds like a very severe consequence! To the children of OLH, that was how long it took from the day that the first piece of asphalt was pulled up until the gala dedication ceremony on September 12.

Creative things were done during that six month period: creation of new student-led lunchtime clubs, more use of the Open Gym period, and several afternoon teacher-led walks.

Thursday, September 12 was a very overcast afternoon, following torrential morning rain. By the time the entire school gathered outside with their special guests, the weather proved to be perfect for a ribbon cutting, prayers of thanksgiving, and lots of media coverage!

Bishop Emeritus, William Murphy, led the prayers of the day and blessed the statues as symbols. he was accompanied by Father Mike Vetrano, Janusz Lipski, Steven Maddaloni, Jesus Arellano, Peter DeSanctis and John Wachowicz.

Dr. Kathleen Walsh and Mr. Biagio Arpino represented the Diocesan Education Department, with Southampton Village Mayor Jesse Warren and members of the School Board were on hand for the festivities.

Special guests for the day were Shawn Leonard, our architect, Nancy Lenz and Alfred Angiola, the engineers, Perry DeLalio of SFA who did all the site work, Oceanview Landscape, DAZ Electric, Mahoney Plumbing, Lynch Irrigation and several of the men who did the physical labor on the project.

The excitement of the day was accentuated by the presence of local and diocesan media: Catholic Faith Network, the Long Island Catholic, Southampton Press and our own Charles Styler!

Bishop Murphy blessed the statue of St.

Joseph the Worker that is a reminder of these people and the dignity of labor.

Sunflowers were everywhere around the beautiful new turf field, a reminder of the children who will play there for many years to come.

After the entire school joined in singing *A Million Dreams*, specially made visors were distributed with the reminder that OLH, we DREAM...we BELIEVE!

(See the insert for photos)



NEW FACULTY....NEW IDEAS

New beginnings always make us aware of new physical changes...and also, new faces! This year, four new faculty members have assumed their duties at OLH:

Mrs. Lisette Lennon (top)

will be working as the teacher of Spanish language for all students in Kindergarten through grade three, and will be available to assist with general communication between the school and Spanish speaking families. A seasoned teacher of both Spanish and Reading, Mrs. Lennon was educated at Queens College and St. John's University.

Mr. Logan Robinson,

who had served as a substitute teacher at OLH last year, is now the homeroom and Religion teacher for the fifth grade girls, and will teach Math and Science to the entire fifth grade class. An experienced math teacher, Mr. Robinson holds bachelors and masters degrees from James Madison University.

Miss Taylor Hernandez (right), is the lead teacher for the energetic third grade class. Having substitute experience in local schools, Miss Hernandez brings new life to the class. A graduate of Salve Regina University and a masters' candidate at Molloy College.

Miss Emma Seabury

(bottom), is a graduate of OLH! She will be working as a teaching assistant in both grades one and two. After her graduation from Hampton Bays High School, Miss Seabury received her degree from the College of New Haven.

The addition of Miss Seabury to the faculty brings the number of OLH graduates on staff to three!

Miss Lauren Valle is the current first grade teacher, while Miss Amanda Burriesci is the Prep Science teacher.

Mr. Robinson is an active member of the North Sea Fire Department, along with our fourth grade teacher, Miss Madeline Price.

IT IS ALL RIGHT HERE...IN THE BOOK

Among the rituals of the beginning of the school year, we find the "Tabernacle" ceremony, a very simply way for the teachers to make special presentations of the Religion textbooks for the year. Each class comes to the gym where a blue tent has been erected, under which is the stack of books for that group.



The teacher simply presents the book individually with the invitation to "Receive the Word of the Lord"

This simple ritual is to remind the children that this is the most important text that will be used during the coming year.

On the following day, copies of those books are also presented as Offertory gifts with the reminder of what is contained on those pages.



NEW ADDITIONS...NEW OPPORTUNITIES



Nate (8) and Zach (6) are finally in the same learning community: the PREP!



First grader Brandon has a good example in his brother, Michael from Prep 7.



New Prep 6 students (Ava Ava, Sofia and Jenna) adjust to lockers...and combinations.

WHAT ELSE IS NEW?



The newness of being in Pre-school can be overwhelming to some children. Parents and teachers alike try to make the transition from home to school easier.

This year, a new playground greeted the pre-K students and was an immediate attraction!

Preparation work (removing old equipment, replacing railroad ties, cleaning the sand and rebuilding the storage shed) was

done during the summer by several parents. This prepared the way for the professional installation of the red and blue apparatus. This was made possible by a grant from an anonymous benefactor.



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DEDICATIONS.....AND WATCHFULNESS OUTDOORS!



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much

During the Dedication Ceremony for the new playground campus, special statues that will serve as reminders of the care and protection of our students and the gratitude of the school community.

The statue of Mary, Our Lady of Grace, stands facing the new playground area, memorialized in the names of several of our grandparents. Mary's protective eyes will focus on the children at play.

Across the yard, the statue of St. Joseph, the Worker, stands as tribute to all the workmen who did so much physical labor to make this project come to fruition.



HERE WE ARE, LORD....READY TO BEGIN!

The Opening of School Liturgy is the official beginning of each school year. Our tradition is that each class, when introduced, proclaims loudly **HERE WE ARE, LORD** prior to welcoming the celebrants of the Mass. During the intercessions, the names of all the new teachers and students were read.

Father Mike Vetrano was the main celebrant, along with Fathers Janusz Lipski and Msgr. William Gill. Father's homily was unique as he actually built a kite while comparing that to a student's beginning to read, with all



the elements needed for the kite's flight, and the student's need for support.

At the end of the liturgy, the congregation broke out into a chorus of **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to congratulate Msgr. Gill on his upcoming 90th birthday. (He was the pastor at St. Rosalie's for many years and was one of the founders of the new regional school: Our Lady of the Hamptons!)





The community of
Our Lady of the Hamptons
Is deeply grateful to
HELEN and CHARLES DOLAN
whose support and generosity have made possible
THE OLH PLAYGROUND CAMPUS
Dedicated on September 12, 2019