

OLH

# NOW

more than ever

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 1

SEPTEMBER 2020

## WE'RE BACK.....LOOKING AHEAD!

March 13, 2020 was the last time that the community of OLH was able to gather as one, fittingly at a liturgy hosted by the then-first graders. Days, weeks and months separated us, despite virtual learning.

September 9, 2020 marked a new beginning as three hundred-fifty students returned to the school, eager to begin a five day full, in person school year.

Several new families have joined the school community and are bringing a new energy and spirit to an already vibrant school family.

Classes have been divided into smaller teaching

groups (pods), with every faculty member now a homeroom teacher. The majority of classes are taught within the homerooms, with teachers doing the traveling between classes. The spacious outdoor grounds (the new playground, pergola area, north garden and even front lawn) allow for outdoor classes, mask breaks and recess.

Students do have the use of the gym, computer lab and dance room, while the library, art and music rooms are limited in accessibility. Lunch is eaten in the classrooms, since the auditorium is not available right now.

School was opened gradually with each community returning on a different training day. One of the things that needed

rehearsal was the entry into and departure from the building. Since the buses now enter via the rear electronic gate, the procedures are different for drop off and pick up.

Interior procedures are in place regarding disinfection of the building, social distancing, reminders about hand washing and, of course, the daily temperature checks.

There have been many decisions to be made, plans to be

revised, and dreams yet to become reality. The unity of the teachers, students and parents is essential as we return to a new "normal" that is aware of the health and safety of everyone.

We go forward with faith...with hope.....with joy! We are OLH....we are strong....we are ONE!





## WE RETURN TO THE ALTAR

Every year, Catholic students gather to open the school year at special school liturgies. This year was no exception, as Fathers Ryan Creamer and Janusz Lipski celebrated a votive Mass of the Holy Spirit, to ask God's blessings on this unique school year.

Last year, Our Lady of Poland

Church was filled with three hundred students. This year, however, only the forty-four members of Prep 6 were present in the church, observing social distancing ...and...wearing masks.

The other three hundred students and their teachers watched the live-stream of the liturgy from their classrooms on Smartboards. They were able to see the mass, respond to the prayers along with everyone else, even to their class acknowledgement as they were called to stand and respond *“:Here we are, Lord.”*



## TEACHERS ARE FLIPPING OVER TECHNOLOGY

When the pandemic forced closure of our schools last March, many students were forced to come out of their comfort zones and have all of their learning at home via zoom sessions with their teachers, Google Classroom sessions and electronic testing.

There was an effort made to provide laptops and Chromebooks for families who did not have home devices and the donation of our leased-out PCs.

Over the summer, three new Smartboards were added in classrooms, a gift of twenty-five new iPads was accepted for the primary grades, and will be matched by an additional set. The final two Chromebooks carts are on the way!

Each teacher has been “armed with” a personal laptop and computer vault. All of this is to help us F:IP our classrooms.....students will use devices in the classrooms....and leave their textbooks at home for reference and homework!





# OH, THE PLACES WE WILL GO!



The need for smaller class groupings has made OLH find new places for class learning.

The library is now home to two small primary classrooms while the learning center has given



way to the second kindergarten group.



The auditorium now houses Prep 7, while Prep 8 has taken



over the second floor of the Prep.

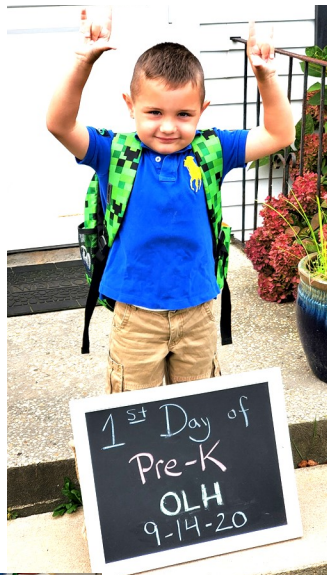
The best part is that we can also learn OUTDOORS



## IT ALL STARTS HERE



The OLH program has eleven years in all. Each of the steps is unique and important.. This year, the three year olds will not begin school until January, while the four year olds have started their five day a week journey at St. Rosalie's in Hampton Bays.



Teachers Mrs. Jennifer Wegman and Mrs. Nancy Matute have welcomed their new co-teachers Mrs. Robyn Web-

ster and Miss Larisa Schadt.

The thirty Pre-K students are already learning to share their social distance, wear their masks, wash their hands frequently, and....have fun while learning.







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## 'TIS THAT VERY SPECIAL SEASON

Autumn in the Hamptons is extraordinary, with all of the natural resources provide students and their families with opportunities to spend time outdoors visiting the many apple and pumpkin farms, corn mazes, vineyards and, of course, giving chances for those early autumn brisk days at the beach.



While the traditional field trips that are taken by the pre-school and primary students will not be possible because of COVID restrictions, the teachers are already planning virtual trips and special projects that will keep these seasonal events fresh in the students' minds.



Look also for the spectacular colors of the leaves as they begin to fall!

## SEEING DOUBLE.....SIBLING RIVALRY



**OLH is truly a FAMILY PLACE...with 121 families sending two of more children to learn here!**

**Included in that number we have several sets of twins and a growing number of children of OLH alumni!**

