



News From the Head of School



Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

As another school year draws to a close, with just three short weeks remaining, we honor and celebrate the Class of 2017 as they begin their final month of classes, exams, athletic events, dances, and activities at the Academy of Our Lady of Peace. We are very proud of their accomplishments, and salute all parents for their support and encouragement. Congratulations to all!

For the seniors, it is a time of sad goodbyes and exciting, new beginnings. With such a myriad of activities coming up for the end of the year, I urge all parents to leverage the OLP website [special graduation page](#), which offers details and information for the forthcoming events. This month is full of special opportunities for the Class of 2017 including Senior Prom on May 13, the Senior Farewell Assembly on May 18 (parents are welcome to join us),

followed by Grad Night that evening and ultimately Baccalaureate Mass on May 24 and Graduation on May 25.

In addition to the events for seniors, we also have several very special traditions for all students including Community Day and Mass on the Grass on May 12 and Evening of Excellence for grades 9-12 on May 16.

May God's blessings be with our seniors as they graduate from OLP and embark on an exciting future. On behalf of the Board of Directors, the faculty, staff and administration, I bid farewell to the Class of 2017 and wish them great luck and much success!

Also, we are very excited to welcome the Class of 2021 to the OLP family. We have already spent some time together on Registration Day in March and Spring Welcome Night in April. We look forward to many happy years together as partners in the education and formation of our young women!

To all of our parents, thank you for all you have done this year in our partnership to educate the hearts and minds of our students. **We invite all of you who have given your time to join us at our Volunteer Recognition Brunch on Tuesday, May 16 at 8:30 am in Carondelet Hall.**

Finally, we look forward to celebrating the legacy of OLP as we come together on May 10 for the 135th birthday party. As the oldest high school in San Diego, we have great reason to rejoice! Please plan to join us that evening as we celebrate the history of the CSJ as well as our beloved school.

God bless our OLP family and I wish everyone a pleasant and restful summer! I look forward to seeing all of our incoming students and their parents on Wednesday, August 9 for Frosh Orientation followed by picture day and class meetings on Friday, August 11 for all students!

God Bless,

Dr. Lauren Lek
Head of School

Looking Ahead to May

Dear Parents, Students & Friends of OLP,

This past April, Pope Francis participated in a [Ted Talk](#), delivered

May 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Events Calendar

May 4: [OLP-Saints Pops Concert](#) 6:00 pm in Holy Family Event Center

May 5: Spring Art Show 1:30-3:30 pm at OLP; Spring Dance for Frosh and Sophomores 6:00 pm at SAHS

May 10: OLP's 135th Birthday; [135th Celebration & Exhibit](#) 5:30 pm in Carondelet

May 12: Community Day

May 13: [Senior Prom](#) 7:00 pm at Hyatt Regency in La Jolla

May 16: Volunteer Recognition Brunch 8:00 am; Evening of Excellence 6:30 pm in Holy Family Event Center

May 17: Academic Assembly 10:55 am; Spring Sports Recognition Night 6:30 pm in Holy Family Event Center

May 18: Senior Farewell Assembly 10:55 am; [Senior Grad Night](#) 7:00 pm at Magic Mountain

May 19: Senior Privilege Day (No School for Seniors)

May 22: Blocks A and B Final Exams; Early Dismissal 12:00 pm

May 23: Blocks C and D Final Exams; Early Dismissal 12:00 pm

May 24: Blocks E and F Final Exams; Early Dismissal 12:00 pm; Baccalaureate Mass 6:00 pm on North Terrace

May 25: [Class of 1967 50th Reunion](#) 11:30 am; Commencement 4:30 pm on North Terrace

June 2: [Sober Grad Night](#) 10:00 pm

Recurring Events



from Vatican City. He provided illuminating commentary on the world as we currently find it and called for equality, solidarity and tenderness to prevail. As he spoke about the power of solidarity and community, the OLP Class of 2017 immediately came to mind. Pope Francis states that *"the future is attainable if we work together."* He shares that he is strengthened in his conviction, *"... that each and everyone's existence is deeply tied to that of others, life is not time merely passing by, life is about interactions."*

Class of 2017, we hope you keep this sentiment in mind as you travel through life's journey and that you stay connected to each other through the bonds of sisterhood. The interactions of your day-to-day life at OLP have formed such strong bonds as a group of women. We are confident you can change the world for better. Bearing witness to your high school journey has been an honor and

has provided such joy for OLP's faculty and staff. As a community, we feel so fortunate to have known you for the last four years. You will always be in our hearts and have left an indelible mark on the history of OLP. We are excited to celebrate your class and your achievements in the month to come.

We have so much to celebrate in the accomplishments of all our students. Congratulations to the Class of 2017 Valedictorian, Angela Dang '17 and Salutatorian, Katherine LaCosta '17. Additionally, congratulations to Kira Lukasik '19 for placing 1st in the District Level of the Optimist International Oratorical Contest! In a separate, but equally matched achievement, Lily Lucero '18 won a \$2,500 scholarship for placing 1st in the Optimist International Essay Contest at the District level! Congratulations, Lily!

We look forward to recognizing the achievements of our students at our Evening of Excellence awards ceremony on Tuesday, May 16 at 6:30 pm in the Holy Family Event Center. During the school day on Wednesday, May 17, we will have a schoolwide Academic Assembly at 11:00 am. Please note that families will receive notification this week via email if your daughter(s) will be recognized or receiving an award at either of the ceremonies.

With May comes AP testing, which will be taking place throughout the day on campus from May 1-12. Soon after, students will have final exams May 22-May 24. All students will be dismissed at 12:00 pm on final exam days. Please keep our students in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare to demonstrate their mastery.

In closing, Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers of our students! I know that for myself, all that I am or hope to be I owe to my mother. I am certain that this sentiment is shared by our students. Thank you for sharing the gift of your precious daughter(s) with us each and everyday.

God Bless,

Mrs. Jessica Hooper
Assistant Head of School



You're Invited to OLP's 135th Birthday Celebration and Special Historical Exhibit

In celebration of 135 years, and for a limited time, OLP will showcase beautiful exhibits of the adventures of the CSJ Sisters as they journeyed across the nation to California. Join us to celebrate their amazing feat and to recognize 135 years of educating the next generation of women leaders and innovators.

May 10, 2017
5:30 - 7:30 pm
OLP's Campus
Cocktails & Appetizers
No cost to attend

Off-site parking will be provided. Details will be emailed to attendees before the event, so make sure to RSVP!

[RSVP Here](#)

Every Tuesday: Parents in Prayer 7:45 am

Spirit Store Hours

The Spirit Store will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00-1:00 pm during the month of May. Can't wait? Check out our [online Spirit Store](#).



OLP-Saints Pop Concert

Join us on May 4 at 6:00 pm in the Event Center for an evening of music at the "May the Fourth Be With You" OLP-Saints Pop Concert! Performers include the Saints Band and Liturgy Choir, OLP Choral and Instrumental Ensembles and special guests. They will be presenting a diverse repertoire of musical styles and genres throughout history with a joint symphonic performance as the finale. [RSVP Here](#)



OLP-Saints Spring Art Show

Join us on Friday, May 5 from 1:30-3:30 pm on OLP's campus for the OLP-Saints Spring Art Show. Come see what our girls have been working on all year!



Summer Athletic Camps

Brush up on your skills and learn something new at one of our Summer Athletic Camps! So far, we're offering basketball and volleyball camps to middle and high school girls. Stay tuned for updates on softball, soccer and lacrosse camps.

[Learn More](#)



Back to School Dates

This will be the last newsletter before August. Please note these important August 2017 events:

- August 9-11: Frosh Orientation (Mandatory)
- August 11: Class Photos & Meetings



Lacey Yahnke '17 and Lauren Widasky '17 Commit to Play in College

We're thrilled to report that two more of our student athletes have signed letters of intent to play in college. Lacey Yahnke '17 committed to Santa Clara University for track & field and Lauren Widasky '17 committed to Claremont McKenna University for volleyball. Only 6% of high school female athletes continue on to play these sports at the college level. Congratulations to both!

[Watch Them Sign Here](#)



Be Inspired By a Child Cancer Survivor at Our Next Pilot Talk

On Tuesday, May 9, the OLP community will have a unique opportunity to hear from a true champion. Please join us in the Theatre during co-curricular (11:20 am) to hear from Julia, an amazingly strong 8-year-old girl who is battling cancer. Julia and her mom, Jessica, will share what true courage looks and sounds like as they fight cancer and prepare for an emotional and inspiring event: the Celebration of Champions.

The Celebration of Champions is a fundraising event for Rady Children's Hospital, Peckham Center for Cancer Blood Disorders. The event was started 22 years ago by one of our own OLP alumna, Lisa (Meulmester) Peckham '77, whose son also battled cancer as a child. OLP will host a booth at the Celebration of Champions on Saturday, May 20, and students will have the opportunity to earn service hours by participating. If you're interested in participating, please contact Jayne Marie Alexander '19 at jalexander2019@aolp.org.



OLP Students Continue to Advance in Optimist Club Contests

Invitational Oratorical Contests:

Paulina Halley '17 and Karime Laborin '17 advanced to the Regional Level of the Rotary Four-Way Speech Contest. Karime Laborin '17 also placed 2nd at the La Mesa Lions Club Contest.

At the Optimist International Club Level Contest, Mary Anne Szuch '17 placed first and Kira Lukasik '19 placed second, advancing them both to the District Level. Kira then placed 1st in the District Level! So far, she has earned over \$3,000 and is moving onto Regionals/Nations in June. This is our third year in a row advancing to the District Level, and our second year advancing to Regionals/Nationals.

At the Optimist International El Cajon Club Level, Stephany Webb '18 placed 2nd and Anitza Velazquez-Marquez '18 placed 3rd. Stephany Webb '18 advanced to the Zone Level of the Optimist International Oratorical Contest.

(Mandatory, Grades 9-12)
 -August 11: Endless Summer Parent & Alumnae Event 5:00 pm
 -August 14: First Day of School
 -August 17: Back to School Night 6:30 pm
 -August 22: 2016-17 Service Hours Due (Grades 10-12)

2017-18 CLASS COUNCILS

Class of 2018 Council:

Lily Lucero '18
 Isabella Orendain '18
 Aida Ramirez '18
 Kiana Yazdani '18, President Designate

Class of 2019 Council:

Nicole Bruno '19
 Kara Cato '19
 Katya Cerny '19
 Diana Valenzuela '19, President Designate

Class of 2020 Council:

Greta Drachenberg '20
 Amy Hickman '20
 Alex Pacheco '20, President Designate
 Emma Rens '20

Congratulations!



Senior Mentors Provide Wellness Opportunities for the OLP Community

It's never too soon to learn work/life balance. This year, senior mentors in the Discipleship/Senior Mentors religion class, co-taught by Service-Learning Director Mrs. Wilson and Counselor Ms. Muther, provided wellness opportunities for our community. They organized and facilitated two monthly co-curricular gatherings for students called "Wellness Wednesdays" and "Teen Talks."

During "Wellness Wednesdays," senior mentors led students through mindfulness activities like meditation, coloring, yoga, massage and journaling. It was time to decompress and bring some balance to busy student lives in an "off-the-grid" environment - no phones or computers were allowed in the room. "Teen Talks" were an opportunity for students to delve into topics pertinent to teenage girl life in an intimate and safe environment. This year's topics included "Dating and Relationships," "Coping with Depression and Anxiety," "Body Image" and "Fitting In." Thank you senior mentors for all you provided for our school this year. Have fun in college!

Optimist Club Essay Contests:

Lily Lucero '18 won a \$2,500 scholarship for placing 1st in the Optimist International Essay Contest at the District level. This is the first time one of our students has placed at this level. Congratulations, Lily!



State of the Arts: Awards and Next Year's Plays

Special Recognitions:

On April 29, OLP was one of 24 schools to participate in the 12th Annual Student Shakespeare Festival at Balboa Park. Grace Newton '17, Elizabeth Ortiz '17, Andrea Morland-Tellez '20 and Isabella Knapp '20 performed a scene that was an amalgamation of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and the modern version of *She's the Man*. The scene won second place in its division! Grace Newton '17 also won the Best Actress award and received an Honorable Mention for her Buckingham competition monologue from *Cymbeline*.

On May 1, Elisa Litke '17 competed in the English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition in New York City, placing as a semi-finalist! She previously won the San Diego Branch competition in March. [Read More](#)

Next Year's Plays:

Mark your calendars: OLP's fall musical will be Disney's *Mary Poppins!* Auditions will be held August 15-18 after school, and performances will be October 26 and 29 and November 2, 3 and 4. In the spring, OLP will be presenting the *Addams Family* musical, based on the original cartoon by Charles Addams and the 1960s TV show. Please contact Mrs. Herb at kherb@aolp.org for more information.



Spring Sports Wrap Up Their Successful Seasons

Our student-athletes have been busy wrapping up their seasons. In only their third year of existence, Varsity Lacrosse won the City League Championship, an OLP first; Lily Lucero '18 came in 4th place at the Olympic Archery in Schools National Championship; Lacey Yahnke '17 won her event at the Jim Cerveny Invitational, competing against top-ranked girls in San Diego; and four volleyball players (Gioella Falcone '18, Breeze Hafenstein '18, Kaleigh Lane '18 and Gabrielle Preciado '18) have been selected to the 2017 Junior Volleyball Association Ultra Ankle Watch List. Go Pilots!

[Read More](#)

May Monthly Highlight

ARCHITECTS OF CHANGE:

KIMBERLY CACCAVO &
KATHERINE NOWLAN

Co-Founders of Graced by Grit

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **SHRIVER MEDIA**



@OLP



Angelica Ramirez-Lee '18 and Tatiana Sallins '18 represented the United Kingdom at the 13th Annual Rotary Model UN. This two-day international conference at the University of San Diego's Institute of Peace and Justice gives students the opportunity to work towards finding creative and innovative ways to address major global issues, such as Brexit and climate change, using conflict-resolution skills.



On April 8, seniors enjoyed lunch with their mothers during our annual Mother-Daughter Luncheon. [View more photos here.](#)



OLP and Saints students reenacted the Stations of the Cross in downtown San Diego through the Walk for the Suffering on Good Friday. Take a moment to browse through these incredibly powerful photos [here.](#)



On April 10, Link Crew hosted an Easter Social. The Easter Bunny even made an appearance!



AOC Monthly Highlight: Promoting Wellness & Safety Through Fashion

An architect of change (AOC) is someone who challenges what is, imagines what can be, and moves humanity forward.

Meet Graced by Grit founders, Kimberly Caccavo and Katherine (Kate) Nowlan, and their highly-technical athletic clothing line designed to empower and keep women safe. In honor of San Diego slain teen, Chelsea King, all of their clothes include safety whistles and a place to hold one's cell phone. These amazing women show the benefit of stepping out of one's comfort zone to embrace strength in the face of adversity. As Ms. Caccavo and Ms. Nowlan tell us, "Every woman has experienced that difficult moment that she thinks might just break her. How we make it through those moments defines us."

Watch Carly Tucker '18 and Marlene Vollbrechthausen '18 interview Ms. Caccavo and Ms. Nowlan in this Architect of Change Monthly Highlight.



Alumna Spotlight: Q&A With Kilee Seifert '16

After moving out-of-state, transferring to a new university, and experiencing life away from home, Kilee Seifert '16 shares lessons learned from her first year as a college student.

[Read More](#)



Ada B. Nisbet '24: The Woman Behind Our Beloved Alma Mater

By Dr. Melinda Blade, Director of Mission Integration and Historian

6th in a series about OLP's history, in honor of OLP's upcoming 135th birthday.

Each freshman class is taught our alma mater before their first day of classes begin. At the conclusion of major assemblies and OLP events, the student body, faculty and staff stand and sing the alma mater. Reunion classes who have not been on campus for decades still remember the words. On written documents and the banner in the Event Center, the author's name is given: Ada B. Nisbet '24. But who exactly is she?

[Read More](#)

In April, Brianna Hunter's '20 grandfather, Armando Valenzuela Lovon, spoke to Mrs. Oseguera's class as a guest speaker.

Armando, who was born in Peru, is a retired university professor who specializes in the Inca civilization and the Quechua language (of the Incas). He talked to the class about the Incas, their philosophies, worldview, contributions, and taught them a few Quechua words.



On April 25, the St. Joseph's Dads Club treated our girls and their fathers to free donuts, coffee and juice on North Terrace! We have a feeling this Donuts With Dad event will become an annual one. [View more photos here.](#)



On April 27, OLP hosted over 300 guests at the 3rd Annual San Diego Diocesan Banquet. We were thrilled to recognize Mrs. Katie Turner (10 years), Ms. Kathleen Guerin (20 years), Mrs. Jeanette Handelsman '64 (30 years) and Ms. Margaret Weidower '68 (40 years) for their dedication to Catholic education in San Diego. [View more photos here.](#)



AP Environmental Science had a huge harvest on May 2. Three large pans of lettuce led to a Salad Party in St. Catherine's!



Sister Suzanne visited OLP on May 2 for our annual Get on the Bus fundraising day. We're thrilled to report we reached our \$2,000 donation goal! This secures our goal of sponsoring one of the busses for children to visit their mothers and fathers in prison.



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