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News From the Head of School



Dear OLP Pilot Community,

Happy August, and welcome to the 2017-18 school year!

What an incredible whirlwind summer it has been. From a Pilgrimage in Le Puy, France, to Washington, D.C. for the National Coalition of Girls' Schools (NCGS) Conference, my summer was filled with mission moments connected to what we collectively do on a daily basis here at OLP to educate our young women. As I watch my two-year-old daughter, Emma, grow and develop, it continues to fill me with great joy to work on behalf of all our OLP girls, faculty and staff.

Just as I was busy learning and growing both academically and spiritually, so too were many of our faculty, staff and students. I hope you were able to follow some of their exciting journeys through the pictures on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

A school never sleeps, and this summer, our campus was a beehive of activities, from summer camps to summer school classes. The foundation that was built by our Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet 135 years ago continues to guide all that we do here at OLP. We are so very proud of our commitment to ensure that our graduates are representatives of the CSJ charism – living examples of women of faith, women of heart, women of courage and women of excellence!

As I am writing this letter, our City Wide custodial team is rapidly preparing all of the classrooms for the start of the school year. Work is also beginning on our new sports field behind the Holy Family Event Center, which was funded by last year's Annual Fund and [Golf Tournament](#). These fields will provide additional turf space for our physical education classes and our Athletics program.

This year, we welcome several new members to the OLP Pilot faculty and staff. You can read more about these incredible individuals in this newsletter.

Important academic dates to note:

- Frosh Student and Parent Orientation on Wednesday, August 9, with a Frosh Family Lunch provided; Tech Camp for all frosh will be Thursday, August 10
- Picture day and class meetings on Friday, August 11
- First day of classes, Monday, August 14
- First school liturgy on Tuesday, August 15 at 11:00 am for the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- All School Back to School Night on Thursday, August 17

I also hope that all of our parents will consider joining us at our school year's kick-off Endless Summer event: an adults-only gathering on August 11 at 5:30 pm on North Terrace. It is a wonderful way to join in fellowship with fellow parents, OLP alumnae and alumnae parents, along with faculty and staff. [Purchase Tickets Now!](#)

I look forward to welcoming all of you back to OLP for another tremendous school year.

God Bless,

Lauren Lek, Ed.D.
Head of School

Quick Links

- [Returning Student Brochure](#)
- [Student-Parent Handbook](#)
- [Textbooks](#)

August 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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

- July 31-Aug. 1: ALICE Training in Library & Aquinas
- Aug. 1-3: Schedule Changes in Counseling Offices
- Aug. 2-3: Link Crew Training
- Aug. 4: Carondelet Circle Retreat
- Aug. 7: [Fall Sports Tryouts](#) Begin
- Aug. 9: Class of 2021 Student & Parent Orientation; Frosh Family Picnic at 12:30 pm
- Aug. 10: Frosh Orientation Day 2
- Aug. 11: Picture Day & Class Meetings; [Endless Summer Party](#) at 5:30 pm
- Aug. 11-12: [Alumnae Reunion Weekend](#)
- Aug. 14: First Day of School
- Aug. 15: Mass (Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary) at 11:00 am; Fall Sports Parent Night 6:30 pm
- Aug. 17: National Honor Society Induction Ceremony at 5:30 pm; Back to School Night at 6:30 pm
- Aug. 18: Last Day for Schedule Changes; 12:45 pm Dismissal; Back to School Social 1:00-4:00 pm
- Aug. 22: [Service Hours for 2016-17 Due](#)
- Aug. 25: 12:45 pm Dismissal; Faculty/Staff Meeting

Looking Ahead to August



Dear Parents, Students & Friends of OLP,

I have to agree with the writer Henry James when he said, "Summer afternoon—summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language." I certainly hope that this summer has provided you with some beautiful summer afternoons! With less than two weeks left of summer vacation, please allow me to remind of you some important details pertaining to the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

Class meetings, school pictures and day three of the Freshman Orientation program will take place on Friday, August 11, 2017. **Attendance is mandatory.** All students must attend in their formal school uniform and take their school photo prior to their class meeting. Sophomore, Junior and Senior class meetings will take place in the Event Center while the Freshman Orientation will take place in the Theatre. All photos will be taken in either the Student Library or the Dance Studio. Please bring the completed order form with payment to the photo session. Please reference the schedule listed below:

- **Frosh:** Photos 7:30 - 8:45 am | Frosh Orientation 9:00 - 11:30 am
- **Sophomores:** Photos 8:45 - 10:00 am | Class Meeting 10:00 - 11:00 am
- **Juniors:** Photos 10:00 - 11:15 am | Class Meeting 11:15 - 12:15 pm
- **Seniors:** Photos 11:15 - 12:30 pm | Class Meeting 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Once the school year begins on August 14, our campus will be open from 6:15 am - 6:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 7:00 am - 3:30 pm on Fridays (no Zero Block on Fridays). The Library will be open, providing supervision from 7:00 am - 6:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 7:00 am - 3:30 pm on Fridays. The Library is the only place that provides direct supervision outside of school hours and all students should be picked up from campus by the time the library closes each day.

On Tuesday, August 15, we will celebrate the Mass of the Assumption of Mary at 11:00 am in the Holy Family Event Center. As always, parents and family members are welcome to join us for this liturgical celebration.

Fall sports tryouts begin Aug. 7. Check the [Athletics page](#) for more information. Also, remember that the deadline for all elective schedule changes is August 18. Please make an appointment with your [class counselor](#) prior to school starting to discuss any needed schedule changes.

Save the Date! Back to School Night is on Thursday, August 17, with the program beginning promptly at 6:30 pm for all grade levels. We look forward to welcoming you to campus to meet your daughter's teachers and connect with our OLP community.

Should you have any questions or concerns pertaining to life at OLP, I encourage you to contact your daughter's assigned Assistant Principal directly. We are honored to be your partners in the education of your daughter(s) and look forward to welcoming the Class of 2021 and their families to life at the Academy of Our Lady of Peace.

God Bless,

Mrs. Jessica Hooper
Assistant Head of School



Join Us At Our 4th Annual Endless Summer Party!

All parents, alumnae and OLP friends (ages 21+) are invited to our 4th Annual Endless Summer event on Friday, August 11, 2017 at 5:30 pm on North Terrace (OLP's campus). This year's celebration will feature local craft beer, delectable wines, dinner and live music. Don't miss this opportunity to mix and mingle with the OLP community before school begins!

\$35 General Admission Ticket
*Delicious dinner
*1 serving of beer or wine

Recurring Events

Parents in Prayer: Every Tuesday 7:45 am

Morning Mass: First and Third Tuesdays
7:00 am, *beginning in September.*



Back to School Student Social!

Friday, August 18
1:00-4:00 pm
OLP's Campus

All students are invited to our Back to School Social. There will be water balloons, music, dancing, snow cones and a bouncy! Water and wings will be provided. Come celebrate back to school with some fun in the sun!



OLP Golf & Tennis Tournament

Registration for the OLP Golf & Tennis Tournament is now open!

Monday, October 30, 2017
Lomas Santa Fe Country Club

Our annual tournament raises much-needed funds for our Athletics Department. [Learn more on our website](#) and reserve your space today!



Can you Help Us Restore Our Beloved Chapel?

The Chapel is OLP's crown jewel and has served our community well as the site of innumerable masses, student liturgies, and alumnae weddings and memorials. The Chapel was built in 1927, and has seen very little change over the past 90 years. With your help, we are hoping to give it some love and attention by restoring it to its original beauty.

We are half way to our goal of raising \$100,000 toward this project. [Make a donation today!](#)

(additional drinks available for purchase)

\$50 Premium Admission Ticket

- *Delicious dinner
- *Commemorative pint or wine glass
- *2 servings of beer or wine
- *5 raffle tickets

\$750 VIP Package (SOLD OUT!)

[Register Here](#)

Thank You to Our Sponsors:



Introducing OLP's New Faculty & Staff

Faculty

- Kristen Artz, *STEM*
- James Cooney, *Mathematics & Economics*
- Kelly Marshall, *Dance*
- Ryan Martin-Spencer, *Religious Studies & Economics*
- Brigid Rodriguez '04, *World Languages*
- Justin Tracy, *VAPA & Drama Director*
- Carolyn Williams, *Social Studies*

Staff

- Erin Bare, *Annual Giving Manager*
- Christina Gramer, *Athletic Trainer*
- Colleen Murray, *Head Counselor*
- Stephanie Parker, *Associate Director, Annual Giving*
- Carter White, *Campus Ministry Support (Jesuit Volunteer)*

[Read All Of Their Biographies Here](#)



Food Service at OLP

The French Gourmet is delighted to continue their food service partnership with OLP for the 2017-2018 school year. They offer two food service alternatives for your daughter's pleasure. **Common Grounds** on Upper Plaza offers breakfast pastries, panini



Experiencing God in Appalachia

By Katie Wilson, Director of Service Learning & Retreats

At the beginning of summer, eight students had the opportunity to spend a week of simplicity and service at Nazareth Farm, a Catholic community in rural West Virginia that offers a service-retreat experience. Throughout the week, our students deepened their faith through the cornerstones of community, simplicity, prayer and service. Students served alongside the farm's Appalachian neighbors to address substandard housing by providing home repair such as roofing, painting and siding. It was a powerful week, spent celebrating the richness of Appalachian culture and experiencing God by building relationships between fellow volunteers and the local community.



The San Diego Zoo is hosting a "Tech to Reconnect" conversation on August 18 from 6:30-9:00 pm. Discussions will be focused on how we can use technology to better understand and protect forests. All ages are welcome! Use the code "PILOTS" when registering to receive 50% off any general (\$40), Zoo member (\$30) or student/educator (\$20) admission ticket.

[Purchase Here](#)

Students can also receive up to two free tickets if they submit a project idea on how technology can help end extinction! [Click here](#) for submission guidelines and details.



Bailey Gehler '19 Makes Under Armour West National Team

Bailey Gehler '19 was one of 20 girls from the entire west coast to make the Under Armour West National Team for lacrosse!

sandwiches, fresh fruit, yogurt, a full service coffee bar and more. The **Pilot Cafe** in St. Catherine's is open for lunch, offering a self-serve salad bar and hot entrees. Parents can deposit money for lunch into a MealTime Online account, which students can use at either location.

[Learn More](#)



New Addition to the Chapel Garden: 135th Anniversary Wall Mural

By Michael Stringer, Visual & Performing Arts Department

The recent completion of OLP's 135th Anniversary Mural in the Chapel Courtyard is a culmination of about a year's worth of work. The composition and design of the 6x20 ft. mural depicts important events in the history and journey of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Academy of Our Lady of Peace. Working from left to right, both figurative and architectural elements create a visual timeline that starts in Le Puy, France, and ends on OLP's campus. More than 30 current and former students contributed to this project and it took nearly two months to complete.

[Learn More](#)



Alumna Spotlight: Alumna of the Year, Jeanette (Prantil) Handelsman '64

We are thrilled to announce that Jeanette (Prantil) Handelsman '64 has received the 2017 Sr. Claire Patrice Fitzgerald '56 Alumna of the Year Award. The Alumna of the Year Award began 31 years ago to honor a woman whose values and accomplishments are consistent with the mission, core values and ideals of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet and the Academy of Our Lady of Peace. Mrs. Handelsman has served hundreds of students in many capacities over her 30 years on OLP's staff.

[Read More](#)

We will be honoring Jeanette at Alumnae Reunion Weekend's Hosted Reception on August 11 at 1:00 pm. [Click here](#) to RSVP for the reception.



Students Grow Spiritually at the CSJ High School Leadership Conference

By Jeanette Handelsman '64, Alumnae Engagement Coordinator

The Doheny Campus of Mount St. Mary's University in Los Angeles was once again a beautiful setting for the 2017 CSJ High Schools Leadership Conference. The

She competed in the UA All-America National Tournament over the summer. Congratulations, Bailey!



Lauren Anastas '18 Receives All-Academic Team Award

Lauren Anastas '18 was recognized as a US Lacrosse All-Academic Player this summer, and had the highest cumulative GPA out of all San Diego CIF nominees. A US Lacrosse All-Academic Player is "one who exhibits exemplary lacrosse skills, good sportsmanship on the field, and represents high standards of academic achievement in the classroom." Congratulations, Lauren!



Dr. Lauren Lek, Mrs. Jessica Hooper, Dr. Johnathan Chittuluru and Mrs. Diane Lehman '08 presented at the National Coalition of Girls' Schools (NCGS) Conference in Washington, D.C. this summer. Their presentation, "Creating a Culture for Innovation in a Highly Competitive Collegiate World: Giving Girls a Voice through STEAM," featured the creative work of OLP students.

Mrs. Rigoberta Hinkledire, Mrs. Kathy Gibbs and Dr. Melinda Blade attended USD's 21st Character Education Conference over the summer. The conference focused on character development and how to incorporate various teaching techniques and tools into the classroom curriculum.

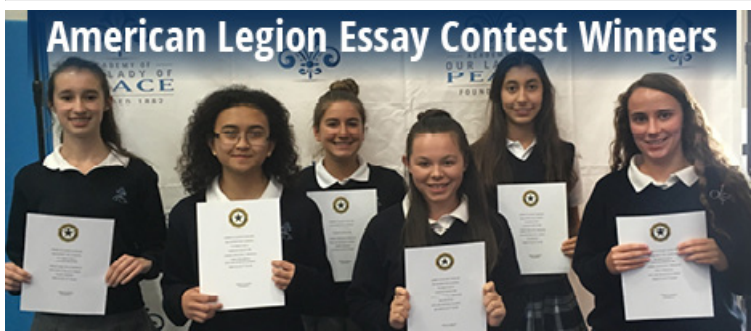
Ms. Sabrina Vasconcelos attended the American Sign Language Teacher Association (ASLTA) Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. More than 500 ASL teachers from all over the U.S., Canada, Iceland, Mexico and other countries attended. It was the largest conference in the history of the organization and provided over 20 hours of training in ASL and Deaf Culture instruction.

Mrs. Susan Antolin '06 and Mr. Aaron Gonzalez both graduated from USD in May with their Masters' in Curriculum & Instruction.

Mrs. Jessica Hooper, Mr. Aaron Gonzalez, Mrs. Toni Russo and Mr. Steve La Marca became ALICE-certified instructors on August 1.

Conference took place June 6-9 and was attended by nine students and faculty from each of the CSJ high schools. The purpose of the Conference was to not only acquaint the students with CSJ history and traditions, but also provide an opportunity for the students to share common experiences at their own high schools that are in alignment with these same traditions.

[Learn More](#)



American Legion Essay Contest Winners

Congratulations to those students who placed in the American Legion Auxiliary Essay Contest 2017. First place winners received \$100; second place winners received \$75; and third place winners received \$50. Winners are as follows:

Class of 2019:

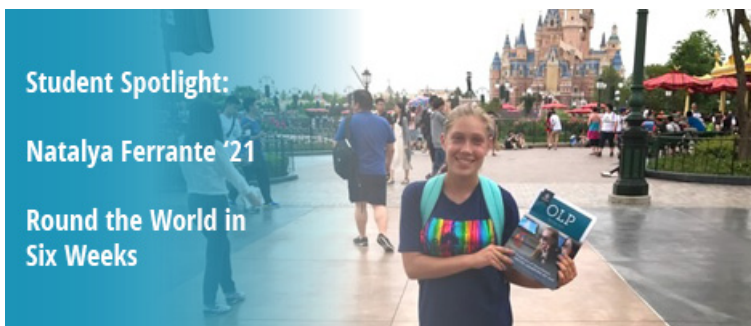
1st Place: Haley Gronski '19
2nd Place: Andrea Deinard '19
3rd Place: Ana Serrano '19

Class of 2020:

1st Place: Zasha Makabenta '20
2nd Place: Maggie Stall '20
3rd Place: Lilly Connolly '20

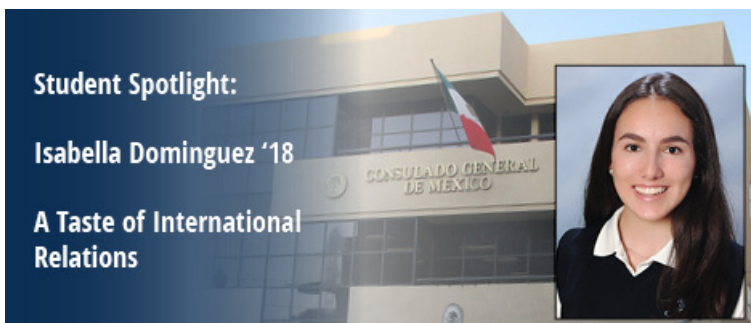
Each of the first place essays were sent on to the district competition. Zasha Makabenta '20 placed second in her division while Haley Gronski '19 placed first in her division. Haley's essay will go on to be judged at the Department Level.

We'd like to thank Midge Farrar from the American Legion Post 7 for sponsoring our school, and thank all members of the American Legion Post for their dedication to youth!



Student Spotlight: Natalya Ferrante '21: Round the World in Six Weeks

Natalya Ferrante '21 spent her last summer before high school traveling the world with her mom. They walked on the Great Wall of China, visited Croatia's Plitvice Lakes, experienced Shanghai Disneyland, and walked 10,000 ft uphill to see the Tigers Nest Monastery in Bhutan. Their six-week "Round the World" adventure was an amazing experience, filled with learning new cultures and mother-daughter bonding. Be sure to ask Natalya about the other countries she visited!



Student Spotlight: Isabella Dominguez '18: A Taste of International Relations

Isabella Dominguez '18 has been working at the Mexican Consulate in San Diego all summer. She commutes from Tijuana to Downtown San Diego four days a week and

@OLP



OLP turned 135 on May 10, 2017, and we celebrated the occasion by showcasing an historical exhibit of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. The same exhibit will be on display during Alumnae Reunion Weekend Aug. 11-12. [View more photos here.](#)



Commencement 2017 was held on May 25 on North Terrace. We're so proud of our newest alumnae and wish them the best on their next adventure. Make sure you check out our two Commencement albums and Baccalaureate Mass album on our [SmugMug page.](#)



Grace Newton '17 returned to OLP this summer to teach a Musical Theatre camp for middle school students. Her campers did so well at their dress rehearsal!



In Dr. J's Engineering for Fun summer camp, middle school girls constructed their own games out of materials such as cardboard, wood and PVC pipe. #likeagirl

plans to work at least one day a week once school begins.

"Everyday at the Consulate proves to me that this is what I would like to do for the rest of my life," Isabella says. "Having the opportunity to get a glimpse into how the Consulate works gives me a chance to prepare myself for this career (in international relations)."

[Read More](#)



Student Spotlight:

**Emilia '18 & Valentina '20
Perez-Rocha**

**Not All Classrooms Have
Four Walls**

Student Spotlight: Perez-Rocha Sisters: Not All Classrooms Have Four Walls

By Emilia '18 and Valentina '20 Perez-Rocha

Our family believed that this summer, we needed to take two months off to travel and learn. It was always our father's dream that one day we would learn French and other languages. He sent a few emails and we were set to take a two-week intensive course at the Alliance Française in Montpellier, France.

Our first day of French class passed by and we realized that it wasn't going to be that bad. As the days went on, we learned more and more and felt like we were a part of a new culture. At the end of the two weeks, we were not only able to speak French – we took away something better. We became more independent and open to new challenges. There is no better way to prepare for the future than by accepting new challenges and seizing opportunities, no matter how new or intimidating they might be.

[Read More](#)



A group of students received the amazing opportunity to tour Europe this summer, learning about the future of food. They celebrated the Fourth of July at the Vatican!



Mrs. Rayner's French Language & Cooking camp hosted a delicious lunch for their families on the last day! The girls served quiche, salad and four different desserts.



Mrs. Lehman '08 was busy teaching art camps this summer. In her Artists & Foodies camp, middle schoolers got to practice drawing "still life" using delicious subjects: cakes, donuts and ice cream cones!



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