

# sharing the Good News

from OUR LADY of GOOD COUNSEL SCHOOL



building on  
foundations of  
**FAITH**

**Our Lady of Good Counsel School**  
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photo: Amanda McKenney

Mrs. Baird's first grade class stops to take a picture at the fire prevention assembly, with some of the Southampton Fire Company's firefighters and Sparky.

## Stop, Drop and Roll!

by Rachel Kazlauskas

On the morning of October 8, Pre-K through third grade gathered in the parking lot for Our Lady of Good Counsel's annual Fire Prevention Assembly, where the children learn how to protect themselves in the case of a fire. Firefighter Michael Lorenz had a great time teaching the kids to be safe and prepared, but he's not the only one who came out to help! Everyone was thrilled to see Sparky the Dog, suited up and ready to put out a fire. Sparky demonstrated the proper way to stop, drop, and roll for the kids, who enjoyed every minute of it.

Another experienced firefighter, Kevin McKenney, was more than happy to help out the children. With the kids' undivided attention, he dressed into his gear, showing the children just how much protection the firefighters need to wear when they're on the job. He walked around the crowd,

allowing all of the kids a glimpse of the uniform. He explained why each piece of equipment was necessary for firefighters.

After many helpful tips were given to the students by Mr. Lorenz and Mr. McKenney, the kids couldn't wait to walk through and experience a real firetruck. With the assistance of Sparky and the teachers, the children climbed in and stared, awestruck, at all the gears and switches inside the truck, and as they exited, each and every one of them smiled at the camera for a picture.

The fire prevention assembly informs the younger students of Our Lady of Good Counsel of the importance of fire safety in a fun and exciting way. It is a great experience for the students and teachers alike, and helps the kids grow up in a safe environment, just as they should.

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# OLGC Students

HELPING OUR

# COMMUNITY

by Jessica Phillips

Our Lady of Good Counsel is always searching for new ways to help out in the community. Currently there are many charity drives going on in our parish and our school. One of the charities we are supporting holds a peanut butter and jelly drive, in which the students in our school collect jars of peanut butter and jars of jelly that will later be used to make sandwiches for those in need. Recently OLGC students participated in The Knights of Columbus' baby bottle drive. We collected bottles filled with donations that help support single mothers and their children. All of our hard work has been a great success and has made a positive impact on our community. Great job, keep up the good work Cougars!

OLGC students also participate in many other community outreach programs throughout the year. Our school community rallies to support local charities such as Operation Santa Claus, Nickels for Neighbors, Aid for Friends, and Operation Rice Bowl.

***Be on the lookout for more opportunities to get involved and help out our neighbors!***



Some of the many baby bottles passed out and collected by OLGC students for the Archdiocese.

## Clubs & Activities

### 'En Garde!

by Jess Webb

The OLGC Fencing Club was started last year in 2013 by Mr. Eric Szwed, our third grade teacher. "I helped start a fencing program in my high school and greatly enjoyed it. After high school, I missed fencing, so I thought it would be a good idea to start a program in Our Lady of Good Counsel School. Not many schools have fencing clubs, and I wanted the kids to love fencing as much as I did," Mr. Szwed revealed. Aidan Lynskey, a fourth grade member of the fencing team, explained that the team does not compete against other schools. Instead, they compete against each other. Another fourth grade member of the fencing team is Alexis Kelerchain. Alexis describes how Mr. Szwed's way of teaching helped her learn all the techniques of fencing. "Mr. Szwed makes us play games and we have fun playing them. I think that it is important to have fun while doing something that you enjoy." Alexis and Aidan learned techniques such as advancing forward and receding away. Both agree that fencing is a competitive sport, but it does not require daily practice. They like to fence and enjoy the challenge of competing against opponents.

Fencing is a sport that involves a foil (sword), mask, gloves and a body protector. People who fence wear a jacket with a lamé, a device that registers touches by an opponent. Points are scored each time you touch an opponent with your foil on the torso, back or shoulders.

When asked how being a fencing coach compares to being a teacher, Mr. Szwed replied, "I challenge my students more mentally than physically and my fencers more physically than mentally." If you are interested in joining the fencing club, stop in to Mr. Szwed's room, 5B. I am sure he will not be on the fence about letting you join the club!



photo: Jackie Rosney

### When in Rome...

by Sabrina DeNicola

The 8th grade students were able to take a journey back in time to the Roman Era. On Thursday, November 7th, a Roman Festival was held in the Monsignor D'Angelicco Cultural Center. The students and their foreign language teacher, Mrs. Hoffman, participated in a Roman themed event. Everyone was able to experience the life of a Roman by walking in their sandals for the day. While draped in fabric resembling togas, the 8th grade enjoyed many Roman traditions, including chariot races, catapults, and inspiring fashion. Speeches were presented about famous Roman rulers and prominent landmarks. This celebration enabled the students to learn about Roman culture in an entertaining way. At the end of this memorable day, you could hear the echoes of everyone chanting, "Toga! Toga! Toga!"

### All Saints Day Parade



The students of OLGC School celebrated the feast of All Saints Day by dressing as their favorite saint and attending 10:30 mass.



photo: AJ Weiland

*Mrs. Mitchell, our new art teacher, loves to teach the most creative class, art.*

## It's All About The Art

by Julia DeWitt

Though new to OLGC School this year, Mrs. Mitchell has definitely had plenty of experience as an art teacher!

Originally from good ole' Pennsylvania, Mrs. Mitchell has moved around a lot. From Delaware, to Chicago, to London, Mrs. Mitchell has covered it all. In college, she majored in art history and minored in art history and museum studies. She taught at St. John the Evangelist School for eight years prior to coming to OLGC. She has also taught art and fashion history, been a museum director, and ran summer art camps. When asked what her favorite medium was, she replied, "Oh, I would have to say plaster and gauze [sculpting], the kids just love it so much!" When asked about her favorite artist, Mrs. Mitchell answered with a grin, "I can't pick! That would be like picking a favorite child or student!! How about all of them?!" Her favorite artistic time period is Medieval Art.

Mrs. Mitchell enjoys riding her bike and attending art shows with her husband and two teenage daughters. She has been a Girl Scout Leader for eleven years and even met Princess Diana during her time in London.

Mrs. Mitchell was anxious to starting teaching in a new school, but knew that she would have fun and get to meet more children, which is what she loves to do!

*Thanks to PIE for the two iPad carts and iPads, and to the Archdiocese for the grant we received for new iPads to fill the carts!*

## Music Teacher By Day, Lawyer By Night

by Ryan Taylor

You probably could have guessed that Mr. Walzer, OLGC's new music teacher, loves music, especially Billy Joel "New York State of Mind". After all, he has been playing the organ since learning the instrument at his Catholic grade school, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in New Jersey.

What you probably don't know about Mr. Walzer is that he is also a lawyer. In fact, Mr. Walzer practices law almost every day after school. When he isn't teaching music or practicing law, Mr. Walzer can be found playing the organ at his church or fulfilling his responsibilities as his parish music director.



photo: Michael McKemney

*Mr. Walzer loves exercising his passion for music.*

Mr. Walzer appreciates the hard work of all his students, but his model of a perfect student is one that knows when to sing and when to listen carefully. He says, "I look for kids who have a passion, love, and joy for music." Mr. Walzer hopes that his students have a great year in music class, but most importantly, he hopes that his students will begin to appreciate music more than they already had. He hopes that his students open their minds to new kinds of music and the students will participate in singing and playing instruments.

Although you may not like the song that Mr. Walzer picks for class, I'd think twice before starting an argument with him!

## TechUpdate

by Mrs. DeMarzio, Technology

I am happy to report that our 1 to 1 iPad program is in full swing. Our teachers are using the iPads to inspire their students and transform learning. Our faculty will have training on using the iPads in the classroom across the curriculum with a certified Apple Educator in November.



photo: Jackie Rosney

## Best of Both Jobs

by Mary Lynskey

As we all know, our wonderful and hardworking principal, Mr. Mokriski, has decided to be both a principal and Honors Math Teacher. Mr. Mokriski said that he was very excited to start teaching again. When I asked him if it was a challenge being both a teacher and a principal he answered saying, "At this point in the school year I am not having any problems, and I am having fun teaching." Also not only has he been a principal at Our Lady of Good Counsel he has been a principal at Bonaventure Elementary School for two years and at St. Benedict's Elementary School for four years. So he does not lack experience at all!

I bet all of you are wondering why Mr. Mokriski would want to start to teach again. Well he told me that he just wanted to be in touch with the students and think that he is doing just that. I think that he is doing a great job and he is a wonderful role model for the students and Our Lady of Good Counsel School!





## \*\* Welcome to OLGC CYO \*\*

*Hey, Cougar Nation!* OLGC's CYO is proudly made up of over 275 student-athletes on over 50 different teams. This Fall, our athletes are in the midst of successful Soccer, Volleyball, Football and Cross-Country seasons, with playoffs underway. And, it does not stop there! We have over 200 student-athletes who registered for our CYO basketball program, which will be starting in early November. If you have not yet participated in any of our CYO sports, we encourage you to join your classmates and come out to play!

## \*\* OLGC Playoff News \*\*

Our 8th Grade Varsity Girls Volleyball team prevailed in the playoff semifinals and went on to the Varsity Volleyball Championship game. After a tough match, the girls lost to St. Alphonsus, but their 2nd place finish earned them a berth in the Archdiocese Volleyball Playoffs! Congratulations to our girls!

Our Varsity Boys and Varsity Girls Soccer teams both advanced to the playoffs. Great job!

## \*\* Athlete In The Spotlight \*\*

**Sean Geiger**, one of our CYO athletes and a member of the CYO Saints football team, was recently in the spotlight. ABC News ran a story about Sean, highlighting the strength and determination he has displayed during his courageous battle with cancer (<http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/video?id=9293935>). OLGC CYO is proud to have Sean as a part of our program.

## \*\* Thank You For Your Support \*\*

OLGC CYO is fully funded by donations from families, sponsors, and local businesses. The major fundraising event for OLGC CYO is the Annual Golf Outing, the most recent of which was just held on September 20th. Thanks to all of you who supported this year's Outing, it was a tremendous success! Your names are proudly displayed in the Monsignor D'Angelico Cultural Center for all of our students and guests to see. And, the money raised by the CYO has been put to good use. Look outside and you will see the brand new outdoor basketball court, which was recently completed – and funded wholly by OLGC CYO. We expect all of the kids in Cougar Nation to use and enjoy the new court for years to come!

## Contact CYO

Visit [cyo.olgc.org](http://cyo.olgc.org) or email OLGC CYO at [olgccyo@gmail.com](mailto:olgccyo@gmail.com) for more information about any of our CYO activities.

## Partners in Education

### News from PIE (*Partners in Education*)

We are off to a great start this school year in our fundraising efforts! So far, we have successfully completed the OLGC Tote Bag sale, the Scholastic Book Fair, the Yankee Candle sale, and had a fun night out at Trunk 'N Treat. Our next events are the **Breakfast with Santa** (December 8th) and our ever popular **Santa Shop** (watch for dates!)

**We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our dedicated chairpersons for these events; we couldn't be successful without you!**

You don't have to wait for a specific event to help our school! We have many "quiet" fundraisers that require very little effort to be successful. Ways you can help:

- Log on to [www.giantfoodstores.com/aplus](http://www.giantfoodstores.com/aplus) and register your **GIANT** card to participate in the A+ Rewards program. It only takes a minute to register and has no effect on your gas (or turkey!) points. **School ID #03575**.
- Send in your Warminster **ShopRite** register receipts, **Campbell's Labels for Education** (go to [www.labelsforeducation.com/About-the-Program](http://www.labelsforeducation.com/About-the-Program) for participating products), and **BoxTops for Education** (we earn 10¢ for every BoxTop sent into school).

- Did you know that you can even save money while shopping at **Target**? Through their Take Charge of Education program, Target will donate up to 1% of your REDcard (target credit card) purchases to our school when you shop in the store or on Target.com.

*Thank you for your active participation in all these fundraisers. Watch for future editions to see the total monies collected to date from these endeavors.*

## Yes! You Can Join PIE!

We are always looking for volunteers to either join the Committee, or to volunteer time and talents to chair, or support an event. Please contact us at [olgcpie@yahoo.com](mailto:olgcpie@yahoo.com), or voicemail at 215-357-1300 x284. We are also looking for suggestions on upcoming events, please watch for a survey from us. All suggestions will be taken into consideration, so please help us help our school!!

*Happy Thanksgiving and God bless you all!*

~ OLGC PIE Committee