

WELCOME TO OLOL



Welcome to Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Elementary School! We are excited that your family will be joining our community. We want to provide some resources that we thought would be useful as your child begins the exciting transition to elementary school.

The role of the welcoming committee is to act as a resource for parents whose children are newly enrolled at Our Lady of Lourdes (whether as Kindergarteners, or as transfers from other schools). Starting a new school can be stressful for both parents and children. New people, a new community, and new protocols are a lot to take in. We want to ensure that you have access to the resources you need to feel welcome and comfortable in our community.

We have several parents who would be happy to chat with you, and to answer any questions you have regarding the transition into Kindergarten, and/or transferring into OLOL. If you wish to be connected with a veteran OLOL parent, contact Kate Rybczynski (kateololourdes@gmail.com) who will coordinate the connection.

We have also compiled this brief guide which we hope you will find useful. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have further questions. We're here to help!

Sincerely,

Our Lady of Lourdes School Council

Contacts and Quick Links

OLOL Office	519-886-4810
OLOL web site	http://lourdes.wcdsb.ca
Principal	Krista Mooney, 519-886-4810
Parent Council Chair	Siobhan Stables and Charlotte Gravlev
Welcome Committee Chair	Kate Rybczynski, kateololourdes@gmail.com
Extended Day Program	www.wcdsb.ca click on link
Subscribing to newswire	http://lourdes.wcdsb.ca Click on 'Join Our Mailing List'
School bus cancellations	www.wcdsb.ca Click on Cancellations Button

Our School

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Elementary School was opened in September 1949 and dedicated on Sunday, September 4, 1949 by Rev. J. F. Ryan, Bishop of Hamilton. There were 158 students enrolled in the school the first year. The teaching staff consisted of sisters and lay teachers. In 1959, work began on the new addition creating a more spacious learning environment. Today at Lourdes, our current school enrolment is approximately 235 students in grades junior kindergarten through to grade 8.

School Policies and Student Activities

For information regarding school policies and activities, please look at the following sources of information:

Monthly School Newsletter and Calendar, which is distributed at the beginning of each month and is packed with important information and policies. It celebrates our students along with descriptions of recent activities and events. The newsletter and calendar are distributed by email via Newswire. We kindly ask that you subscribe through the Newswire link found on the school website to receive these communications. If you are new to the school, it may be worth keeping the September newsletter handy throughout the year as it contains relevant information regarding school holidays, break schedules, school policies, and an easy to read description of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board's communication policy.

School web site: lourdes.wcdsb.ca. Copies of the School newsletter is also available here.

Student Agenda: Please refer to the front pages of your child's agenda as this outlines many policies & procedures for Our Lady of Lourdes.

Events

Details on all school events will be in the school newsletters. Please refer to calendars carefully.

Meet the Teacher Night – Our annual September social evening.

This event takes place in the early evening on a day in September. We kick off the school year on a high note by giving students, parents and teachers an opportunity to get to know each other better in a fun, relaxed, community building environment.

Angel Tree – Helping others in need at Christmas.

Each year, in early December, we gather items or raise funds to donate to selected charities or individuals in need. Our activities have ranged from toy drives to food vouchers to warm clothing and items for seniors. Each child who contributes will be invited to symbolically light a bulb on the Angel Tree. The student body will witness the gift of giving as the tree starts to radiate goodness and sharing.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Mission Day – Fundraising for good causes and having fun too!

This is a fun-filled afternoon, usually held on a mid-week afternoon in June, when the children can participate in various games, raffles and other activities. We rent a snow cone machine and have a variety of tasty snacks for purchase. All proceeds raised are donated towards a charity or cause, selected by the school council each year. Past charities include the cancer ward at Grand River Hospital, Mom2Mom Africa and Canadian Food for Children.

School Assemblies – The school regularly has Flames assemblies to celebrate special events and awards. Notice of the times of the assemblies are in the school newsletter. Parents are always welcome to attend.

Spring and Fall Yard Clean Up – Come out with the family and help pull weeds, and keep Our Lady of Lourdes school looking tidy and beautiful. Younger children particularly enjoy this event and can learn about different plants and weeds in the process. We will often have a cool snack (freezies) to celebrate our hard work.

There are a variety of other events that happen each year, such as concerts, talent shows, school masses, and fundraising events that parents are welcome to attend. There are also food drives, Jump Rope for Heart, and the Terry Fox Run.

How Can I Contribute to the OLOL Community?

Throughout the year we have many events that are designed to build community and help raise funds for school clubs, activities and selected charities. Parents are welcome to volunteer their time and skills to ensure that these events are a success. Students develop their community, and also gain a sense of social responsibility, raising funds for selected charities. For events such as Mission Day, Meet the Teacher, and Yard Clean Up, parents may volunteer to supervise/coordinate activities or participate in the set-up or clean-up of the event. And for Angel Tree, parents may volunteer to help with the coordination, packaging or delivery of the donations. A call for volunteers will be held on our Meet the Teacher Night. Parents are always welcome to contact the office to volunteer any particular interests or gifts and talents they may have.

School council - Every year we welcome new council members, and encourage interested parents to attend the council meetings to learn what the council is doing and bring forward any items that might enrich Our Lady of Lourdes school. School Council provides feedback and advises the school administration on a variety of issues, plans community building activities, and also raises funds to support the school and the students. Some of the initiatives that School Council worked on over the past year are: organizing events such as Mission Day, Meet the Teacher night, Movie night, and coordinating school lunch program (pizza days, milk, food order days).



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Fundraising – Through fundraising activities throughout the year, we aim to have fun and generate enrichment funding for the school. Past fundraising activities have included QSP Magazine sales, Scholastic book sales, and weekly pizza days. Money raised recently has been allocated to: painting games in the Kindergarten yard, a Chromebook cart, cozy library furniture, frames to showcase student work, a dance instructor for the junior students, busing for retreats and sporting events. All money raised through our fundraising efforts goes directly back to the students.

Charitable contributions - For those who prefer to make a charitable donation to the school, these are happily welcomed at the School Office and a charitable receipt can be provided through the office.

Strong Start/Head Start Reading Program – Parent volunteers help support additional reading programs offered throughout the day. If you have an interest in reinforcing literacy skills please contact the principal or special education teacher. These initiatives provide wonderful support to many of our learners.

Field Trips – When needed, teachers will send home a form requesting volunteers for field trips. This is an enjoyable opportunity to take small groups of children around to activities at an event.

Note that for any volunteer activities working with students, a police check is required. The forms to request this service from the police are available at the School Office.

Spirit Wear

School Council arranges for the opportunity to purchase Our Lady of Lourdes Spirit Wear such as t-shirts, track pants, shorts and hoodies. These items, with the Our Lady of Lourdes logo, are great for gym class, Spirit Days and everyday wear. Information about ordering is communicated to families before upcoming Spirit Wear sales.

Parent Resource Centre

In the main foyer past our Resource Room on the right you will see a Bulletin Board highlighting community events and camps. This is a wonderful resource for parents. You will also see a number of pamphlets which showcase numerous agencies and supports for various initiatives.

Yearbook

The Memory Book is a tangible collection of your child's experiences throughout the school year. It is well received by both students and family and is compiled by volunteers year-round. Please consider sharing the photos you have snapped in either individual classrooms and/or when accompanying on field trips, etc. This assistance is greatly appreciated.