



5435 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. So, Mpls., MN 55417

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015 School Year**

### **Mission Statement**

**The mission of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Community, arising from our communion in the Sunday Eucharist, is to proclaim the word of God, to celebrate the presence of the Risen Lord in our midst, and to recognize the gifts of the Holy Spirit among us and use them to transform our lives in the world according to the pattern of life Jesus has shown us.**

### **Curriculum & Professional Growth**

Highlights of our 2014-2015 curriculum development:

- The addition of new staff this year - Middle School Math, Art, Music.
- A number of teachers continued their own professional growth through classes and workshops. Our teachers are dedicated to their own professional growth, which enhances their teaching. Ten of our staff already have a Master's Degree, and two are working on other advanced degrees. Some of the workshops were:
  - Top 20 Workshop: Emotional Intelligence in the Classroom
  - iPad Palooza
  - Stem Summer Conference
  - Aligning Math Standards, Assessments and Curriculum
  - Google Docs Workshop
  - Camp Read-A-Lot
- Extracurricular Programs – Our extracurricular programs this year again supported some excellent learning opportunities. Some of the exciting programs this year were:

Quiz Bowl	Junior Achievement
DARE	Band
Drama Club	Spelling Bee
Art Adventure	Talent Show
SCRATCH Computer Program	

### **Academic Special Events**

There were many proud moments this past year for many of our students and teachers in academic areas. Here are a few:

- History Day
- Mythology Reports
- Science Fair
- Revolutionary Day
- Robotics
- Art Movement Research Projects Art Show
- Battle of the Books

## **Early Learning Program**

The Preschool and PreK programs were very strong this year, full of loving and kind children, eager to learn. Some of the highlights for this past year are:

- The addition of the STEM program, ***Curious Minds***
- P.M. STEM classes were offered twice a week, in addition to Curious minds
- The addition of “The Lunch Bunch”, providing extra time over lunch and following for extra play time with friends
- The continuation of After Care and After Care Plus, allowing for care up to 6:00 pm for ELP children
- ELP students continue to receive specialist classes offered by the school staff: Music, Spanish, Art, Phy Ed, Library, Computer
- More interactive and age-appropriate playground materials

We are full for the daily PreK class, but we are offering a Preschool Plus program with the regular Preschool Program, with optional number of days a week. We are very excited to offer these enriched programs for Preschool and Prek- aged children!

## **NWEA MAP Testing**

We are very pleased to announce that OLP will be switching to NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) testing next year. This assessment tool looks at individual student growth, and provides much information for each individual student. Using the results, teachers can better differentiate to meet each student's needs. The testing is done in the fall and the spring, and parents will receive a student report each time. A Parent Information Night will be held early next fall to explain the testing to parents.

## **Athletics**

We had a very successful year with our athletic teams. Girls and boys in grades 3-8 participated in our MCYO league sports. Teams participating were boys and girls cross country(4-8), girls volleyball(4-8), co-ed soccer (3-8), boys and girls basketball (4-8) and girls slow pitch softball (4-8). In addition, boys and girls in grades K-3 had the opportunity to participate in our intramural basketball program. Our Lady of Peace students practice basketball skills and play basketball scrimmages on Saturdays during the months of January and February. All of our teams were coached by outstanding volunteers, of whom many were parents! We thank them for their guidance and dedication to our students in all the sports. We also thank Ms. Loso, our Athletic Director, for a successful year. We congratulate the following MCYO league champions: 7/8th grade girls basketball, 4-6th grade girls volleyball and basketball. In end of season tournaments: 7th and 8th grade girls volleyball took 2nd place, 7th and 8th grade girls basketball took first, and the 4-6th grade girls placed 2nd. We also congratulate the following Twin City participants: 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade girls volleyball placed 4th and 7-8 basketball placed 2nd. Our 7/8 softball team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the end of the season tournament. Congratulations to everyone for a successful school year in sports!

## **School Advisory Council (SAC)**

The School Advisory is comprised of nine school parents, the principal and the pastor. Members serve in an advisory and consultative capacity to the school principal and pastor. The committee addresses issues of formation and education unique to the school program.

- School Policies - We implemented and supported some new policies, both for this past year and for the future year; The Wellness Policy; Tuition Policy; new Bullying Policy (2015-2016)
- The School Advisory Council composed a parent satisfaction survey for all school families in the spring. Results will be presented this summer to families.
- School Advisory sponsored multiple open houses – we are very aware of the need to boost enrollment
- New Family Mentorship Program
- Spirit Shop
- Fundraising

## OLP Special Events

During the 2014-2015 academic year we had wonderful parent volunteers lead many of the special events. Some of these events include:

### **Social Events**

Back to School Night  
Mardi Gras

Grandparents'/Special Person Day  
Scholastic Book Fair

### **Community and Service Programs & Events**

Room Parent coordination  
First day of school decorating  
Staff dinners during conferences

Monthly Birthday celebrations  
Catholic Schools Week activities  
Teacher Appreciation Week activities

## Tuition

Under the direction of the Parish Finance Committee, with help from the School Advisory finance committee, the school budget was reviewed and evaluated, in conjunction with the overall Parish budget. It was decided to increase our tuition approximately 2.7%. We added a necessary technology fee for grades K-4. One financial area we addressed this year was that of unpaid tuition. Our school budget is seriously affected by the large amount of unpaid tuition, and a new policy was formed to address this issue. We hope to lower our amount of unpaid tuition significantly by enforcing a more uniform and consistent policy for payments.

## Fundraising

**General Fundraising** – We are happy to report that we raised approximately \$49,000 this year with all our fundraisers, which helped the budget immensely.

- Mardi Gras
- Give to the Max Day
- Dine out Nights – Pizza Luce, Davanni's
- Campbell's Soup labels
- Box Tops Collection
- Coke Rewards
- Target Take Charge of Education
- Mancini's Dinner
- Plant Sale
- Spirit Shop
- Kowalski's Receipts

## Special Events and Activities

At Our Lady of Peace Catholic School we believe that our curriculum encompasses the skills our students will need to be productive members of their family, church, community, and society. Special events and activities can enhance our curriculum for our students.

During the 2014-2015 school year, our students participated in a number of service projects:

- Advent and Lent All-School Prayer Services & Service Projects
- Monthly All-School Mass, weekly daily Masses for classes
- Food Drive
- Crayola Marker Collection for recycling
- Rice Bowl collection

Other special events during the year were:

- Monthly birthday celebrations
- Seventh & Eighth graders attended Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center near Lanesboro, Minnesota for three days.
- The Drama Club Middle School Play, Fall

- The Drama Club Play, Grades 3-5, Spring
- Spring Concert, with Band
- Field trips for each grade
- Art Adventure, culminating in a trip to the Minneapolis Institute of Art
- Well-known children author visits, one on the fall and another in the spring

## **Accreditation Process**

We just completed our first full year following Accreditation in 2013. The Strategic Plan has been updated to reflect objectives already completed. New Objectives have been added to reflect some of the future vision and goals for the school. You can access the updated Strategic Plan on the school website.

## **Transitions/Hopes/Plans**

A major transition for the OLP community was my arrival as the new principal in July, 2014. The transition has gone well, and I am very happy to be here.

We are very excited about the following changes for the coming school year, which continue to strengthen all our school programs:

- Implementation of a new K-5 math series for the coming school year. We will increase the rigor of our math program and we expect the new series, "Math Expressions," to meet our needs. It will allow for more leveled learning, addressing the needs of our struggling learners as well as accelerated students. More information regarding this curriculum will be provided next fall.
- Increase Spanish, Music and Art to twice a week for grade levels
- Updating the wireless infrastructure
- Purchasing Chrome Books for grades 6-8
- Updating the iPad cart with new iPads
- Additional iPads in each K-4 classroom, which will allow for differentiated centers to challenge our accelerated students as well as provide intervention for struggling students
- Blocked middle school Math and Language Arts classes – these will be two class periods long, which will allow for ability grouping and challenging our accelerated students more effectively
- School day extended to 3:00

Another major transition is the leaving of Fr. Joe, as of July 1. We do not know our new pastor for OLP, but we do know that the right people have come into this community at the right time, and we trust the Holy Spirit will continue to watch over us and provide the best new pastor possible to meet our needs. We will miss Fr. Joe, and his wonderful homilies, and wish God's blessing on him as he moves on to a new home parish.

## **In Conclusion...**

It was a successful year for Our Lady of Peace Catholic School. I wish to thank the OLP Community for the rewarding first year. It has been a pleasure to get to know all the students, families and staff here, and I have been very impressed with the quality of education offered at OLP. Together with parents, parish, staff, and students, Our Lady of Peace School will continue to be a place where students grow in their faith, knowledge, service and prayer. Thank you for all your continued support and commitment to the OLP community.

Compiled by Jan Heuman, Principal  
 June 2015  
 Our Lady of Peace Catholic School