

# THE CONSOLATION

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## OMC School to Continue as Our Parish School



By Mariah Hall

For the better part of your life, you're in school. About sixteen years of your life is spent sitting in a classroom; learning, growing, making friends and overall discovering who you are. Nine of those years were spent in elementary school. Elementary school was where you first learned that two plus two equals four and that the 's' in 'island' is silent.

Elementary school is where you first figured out the radius of a circle, flipped through the pages of a dusty textbook and discussed what Shakespeare meant by "To be or not to be". It's where you dipped your hands in

paint and pressed them up against a paper and called it art. It's where you scribbled notes to your friends, passing them under the desk, trying to smother the grin on your face. It's where you traded your peanut butter and jelly sandwich for chocolate milk. It's where you ran circles in the playground, giggling and tumbling to the ground. It's where you met the most inspiring teachers and bonded with the most amazing friends.

For nine years, elementary school was the center of your life. But now speed up twenty years. What if when you looked back on that chunk of childhood, there was a big empty space? What if all those teachers who had given you an extra shove along the road of life when you were little—were gone? What if nothing was as you remembered it anymore? What would it be like to walk through the same doors you'd walked through most of your life only to find yourself in a completely different world?

Our Mother of Consolation was

scheduled to merge with Holy Cross. Fortunately, the pastor of our parish, Father Bob, made an appeal to the Blue Ribbon Commission. He brought up certain points such as the school's strong academics and how there wasn't really enough room to hold another hundred students.

If the two schools had merged, things would be different. Our Mother of Consolation wouldn't really exist anymore—it'd be under a new name, have different school colors and the uniforms would be changed. All the teachers would have had to reapply, meaning that excellent teachers that have worked at O.M.C. for years and established the devoted community that it is—might not be here anymore. That's why everyone—teachers, students, parents—is extra relieved to hear that Our Mother of Consolation will not be merging with Holy Cross. We still are—and will be—Our Mother of Consolation.

## OMC School: Looking Forward To the Next 150 Years

By Isobel Grogan

Breathe easy students! Now that OMC has won its appeal it will be around for another 150 years. Thanks to Fr. Bob, Mr. Hagy, and Mr. Kallmeyer, for getting the decision to merge repealed and for making everyone's lives so much easier.

If OMC had merged with Holy Cross of course, it wouldn't have been the end of the world, just OMC's world. Our Mother of Consolation has been famous for pulling its own weight around and takes pride in the

fact that they not only do not strain the archdiocese economically, but is a shining star in terms of academic achievement.

This wise decision to stop the merge saved many teachers' jobs and many students' happiness. All the students are happy to return to their beloved school and to have their excellent educators guiding them through elementary levels. So raise your milk cartons and drink to Our Mother of Consolation's continued success and good fortune.

### Special Edition

This edition of the Consolation was begun as part of Catholic Schools Week. It was decided that the edition would have more meaning if it were released after the decision on our appeal was made. Some articles were written by the staff that did not fit into the revised edition. Fintan, Nick and Erika are thanked for their work.

# Pre K, Starting a New Generation Here

By Molly Carroll

The preschool is filled with playtime and laughter, but they also learn about the letters of the alphabet. The children trace the letter, and then color the letter in.

I asked Gracie, Summer, Joseph, Kate, and Chip, what letter was their favorite? What letters are you looking forward to? What their favorite thing to do in school? What are the ways you could be kind?

What was your favorite letter? Gracie said A was her favorite letter. Joseph said his favorite letter was A also. Summer said she also liked the letter A. Kate said her favorite letters are K, and T. Chip said he liked the letter C the best.

What letters are you looking forward to? Some of the letters were the letter O, and R. Some of them said they like the shape of it, and they knew a lot of words that began with it.

What is your favorite thing to do in school? Gracie said her favorite thing to do was to play at play time. Summer said she likes to play with her bunny rabbit. Kate said she likes to play with her doll, and Chip likes to color.



# Kindergarten, the Kutest Konsolation Kids

By Chris Moore

I recently visited the kindergarten class to and asked them questions to get an understanding on how they feel about school. The answers I gathered were very different but interesting. They didn't really seem to take me as seriously as

you may expect. My first Question: What do you guys like about school? Many responded by saying learning and reading. Some children said having fun and taking naps. They all seem to like school and love the school that they are in.

My second Question: What don't you guys like about school? Some said reading while others said gym and going outside. These are some surprising answers.

Mrs. Mayberry is doing a great job as their teacher and these same students will learn and grow and become young men and young women.



# 1st Graders Are Little, But Not Counted Out!

By Taliyah Trueheart

When walking into the first grade classroom at Our Mother of Consolation, you're engulfed with lively spirits and the eagerness to learn. Energy fills the room as Ms. Tobin instructs the young students.

"She's a good teacher," one of her students, Jason, states. The children in her class seem to enjoy themselves when learning in any subject. They are enthused by any means of hands-on activity, especially the experiments in science class.

"I liked the sink or float project," Rowan, another student, ex-



Photo by Kelly Carroll

plained. The students had tested to see what objects would sink or float in water. Even the children

who are not fond of the subject of science still enjoy the experiments.

The children are currently learning various subjects, and all that were interviewed liked something different. "Soft 'g's and religion," said Benjamin, "Nouns and verbs," said Rowan, and Jason said "Fact families." It's wonderful to know that all the children are satisfied with, at the least, one subject of their daily activity.

Even though they are only seven or eight years old, this first grade class shines a light throughout the whole school.

## Second Graders 'Love' Their Classmates

By Naomi Bethel

A girl named Damya loves school, "because we have activities like art and music." They are learning about the tens and ones. They are also learning how to regroup and subtract. She likes art because

they get to paint pictures. Then in gym they play cookie jar. She loves her classmates because they play together and they hang out with her teacher.

A boy named Aiden likes school because he gets to learn new things. His favorite subject is math. He is learning how to rename and multiply. He says he loves to hang out with his friends

and his teacher Mrs. Weir is very nice.

Nate is another boy in second grade who loves to learn new words. He loves science because they get to do really cool experiments. In science they are learning about oxygen and matter. He says his teacher is very nice and she does a lot of nice things.



Photo by Kelly Carroll

## Third Graders Are Goin' for the Stars

By Luke Mattice

Third grade is a very energetic class. They love their school -- OMC.

They love being together as a class. They love all their special classes like art and music because they can show their artistic ability. They also like gym and recess because they can exercise and run around.

They also love OMC because of all the kids they meet, and they



Photo by Kelly Carroll

like the teachers that have the opportunity to teach the kids. Some of the students said they like OMC because they love the opportunity to learn about their religion every-

day. Right now they are learning about the water cycle, and a math program called "Times Tables the Fun Way."

## Fourth Grade: In the Heart of OMC

By Isobel Grogan

Most upper grade students remember their days in Mrs. Logan's class. They remember the apple scented air freshener, and the Flyers memorabilia, and even though some of these things are gone, the memories are still sweet.

Currently, the fourth graders are learning about William

Penn and the founding of Pennsylvania, in Social Studies. Catherine, a current fourth grader, states, "It is important to study William Penn, because without him, our state wouldn't exist." According to Norene, they are also doing a special science experiment about what floats and what doesn't.

When asked what they liked

about Mrs. Logan, some 4<sup>th</sup> graders said, "She does a good job of integrating the subjects together," "She is an original teacher," and "She doesn't give too much homework." All good qualities.

Though they are still considered the lower grades, the 4<sup>th</sup> graders are certainly not oblivious to the fact that our school faced the possibility of merging with Holy Cross.

"What do you like about OMC and being in a Catholic school?"

"We have a nice school yard." —Keino

"I get to learn about my faith" —Jordan

"Everyone is really nice." —Kennedy

So there you have it, according to the students, 4<sup>th</sup> grade is a year to remember fondly or eagerly



Photo by Kelly Carroll

# Fifth Grade: Smart, Smiley, Spirited Bunch

By Mary Pisoni

I interviewed three 5th graders: Sammy, Darryl, and Rodney. I asked what they liked best about O.M.C. Sammy's answer, "I like recess and art (taught by Ms. Mead) the best." Darryl agreed with Sammy and said art and recesses. But Darryl also said he likes all his friends here too. Rodney said he likes gym the best (taught by Ms. Filipone). Sammy and Darryl said they both like the after school activities they have here at OMC, but Rodney said he does not enjoy them.

They all agreed that science was their favorite subject but for different reasons. Sam likes it because he thinks learning about animals is cool. Darryl likes it because

he enjoys animals and technology. Rodney likes learning about space. All three of them love O.M.C!



Photo by Kelly Carroll

# Sixth Grade: Small but Not Forgotten

By Kimberly Sanford

The sixth grade is an undoubtedly a small class, consisting of only twelve students, but when it comes to academics they are anything but. The sixth graders that were interviewed all agreed that having a small class works to their advantage. Not only do they get more one on one attention from the teacher, but they also enjoy the comfort that a small class provides. The sixth graders all agree that they enjoy having a small class because they know everyone's names and everyone is familiar with each other.

When questioned about their teacher, Mr. Anthony Iraci, the sixth graders had nothing negative to say. One student said that they enjoyed his witty remarks and clev-

er jokes. Other students also agreed with this statement. When interviewed the students often mentioned their studies about Russia, and the project that they were working on at the time. According to the students, they had to choose a topic that had to do with Russia, for example Russian Homes. Then the students would have to write

and turn in reports on Russian Homes, or their chosen topics. While doing this project the students were also simultaneously working on their science fair experiment, which adorned the hallways of the school.

It's true that the sixth grade is a small class of few students, but its personality is anything but.



Photo by Kelly Carroll

## 7th Grade, 7th Grade, Wherefore Art Thou?

By Mariah Hall

“Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?”

Where is the one place you’ll find Shakespeare, Edgar Allen Poe, the *Titanic* and a hermit crab all in the same room? Seventh grade, of course. Mr. Leonard, the seventh grade teacher, is infamous for doing *Romeo and Juliet* every year as well as for his fascination with the *Titanic*. A black raven perches upon the projector screen. Copies of Dante’s *Divine Comedy* sit in stacks on shelves along with other classic literature like Homer’s *Odyssey* and Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*. In place of a regular clock is a wooden Roman numeral clock that chimes every

hour. On the windowsill in a cage is the class pet, a hermit crab that a student takes home every Friday. The room is littered with odd objects—The Penguin from *Batman*, *Archie* comics, *Star Wars* Pez dispensers, strips of carpet, troll dolls, a vintage record player, two giant butterfly kites and much, much more.

Mr. Leonard is well-liked for his creative ideas and the connection he makes with his students. “He treats us like adults,” remarked Isobel Grogan. “He really wants to hear our ideas.” Students agree that he “makes learning fun” with his cross-circular activities and engaging projects.

Recently the seventh graders worked on a skit about Francis De Sales’ life and have finished their science fair projects, which cen-



Photo by Kelly Carroll

tered on life science. Everyone’s poster boards were set up on tables on the third floor, displaying flourishing plants or trays of bacteria or charts tracking levels of blood pressure. Seventh graders are looking forward to the rest of the year, full of scenes from Shakespeare, poems by Alfred Noyes and possibly... the growth of sea monkeys?

## Eighth Graders: The Youthful Elders of OMC

By Briana Boyer

For many schools, Catholic schools week is fun, but for Our Mother of Consolation, Catholic Schools Week is the epitome of excitement. The students in the eighth grade, though, undoubtedly have the most experience with it.

The eighth grade seems to be busy at work during this time of the school year. Even though they are graduating in five months, they obviously are still 100% focused on

their schoolwork and their remaining time with each other.

I asked Student Council president, Fintan O’Toole, what major assignment he was working on currently. He said, “Currently, our eighth grade class is working on various topics, including Oceanography and the Coriolis Effect.”

I asked eighth grade student Emma Devers what project she was the most proud of during her time at OMC. She said, “The project I’m

most proud of is my published short story in an anthology for young readers”.

Finally, I asked Mariah Hall and Gabbi Deans what their favorite things were about their teacher, Mr. Brennan. Gabbi answered, “I liked when he tells us about his childhood and things he did when he was young”, while Mariah responded, “He treats us like adults, teaches life lessons, shares his experiences, and challenges us.”

