

Annual Gala FAQ

Here are some answers to frequently asked questions about the Annual Gala.

1. What is the event like?

The Gala is a night to raise funds for OLW School. There is a live auction, silent auction, various raffles, and other opportunities where you can support the school. Bidding takes place on your mobile device (usually your own cell phone) through a special link that is sent to you earlier on the day of the Gala. If you can't attend the Gala, you are still able to bid on items through your phone. If you attend the Gala, you will enjoy socializing with friends during cocktail hour, dinner, and dancing along with experiencing all the auction action.

2. Who attends the Gala? What do we wear? Where do we sit?

We encourage parents of students, faculty, staff, parishioners, and anyone who supports OLW School to attend the Gala. It is a wonderful time to mingle and meet new friends. The attire ranges from business wear, to cocktail dresses, to tuxedos and gowns. The choice is yours. Tables seat groups of ten. Sometimes parents of students in the same grade get together and make a table or partial table. The Gala committee typically groups attendees this way as well, so if you don't have a full table of ten, we will seat you with familiar faces.

3. Where do the funds raised that night go?

The money raised at the Gala funds vital Family & School Association programs that support OLW students and teachers and the OLW School Annual Fund. In the past this has included cultural assemblies, a new playground, field trips, and support staff (e.g. aides in the classroom). In addition, each year at the Gala we also focus on a Fund-A-Need, which is a paddle raise for a specific initiative determined by the school administration. The most recent Fund-A-Need focused on bringing more technology to the students. This meant SMART boards in every classroom and laptops for teachers to run these interactive boards, carts of laptops for student use, and the upgraded infrastructure to support this technology. Through this initiative, in 2016 we were able to provide each eighth grade student with his/her own iPad. In 2017 we provided the entire middle school with 1:1 iPads.

4. This all sounds great. How can I help?

Your sponsorships and donations make this event possible. Sponsors underwrite a significant portion of our Gala and are recognized in our Event Book, on signage throughout the Gala, and on our website. Also, goods, services, and cash donations are all appreciated. Do you have a vacation home that you can donate a week's stay? Do you have tickets to sporting events or shows you can donate? Do you have access to a behind-the-scenes experience? Other ideas include donations of items. Our team can also group items together to create amazing baskets. Perhaps you provide a service that you can donate time towards – babysitting, closet organization, electrician services, for instance. The possibilities are endless. And we welcome cash donations of any amount. Please refer to the Gift Giving Opportunities sheet for a full description of how you can help. And of course, attend the Gala and bid on these great items!