

# OLW Alumni Newsletter

## Happy Halloween

## October 2017

Earlier this month, we celebrated Grandparents Day at school for the fourth year as a revived tradition. The day began as grandparents and other VIPs celebrated Mass with students and then went to visit the classrooms. Many of the teachers had activities planned for the “new students” and those included interviews of the grandparents and time to read together. Enjoy the pictures at the end of the newsletter.

OLW was in the news recently with an article about the iPads in Middle School. Because of great fundraising efforts last year - from the Family School Association, parent and alumni donations on #GivingTuesday, as well donations made by alumni during the Alumni Annual Appeal in May - each middle school student was assigned an iPad for school work. This is a huge advantage for our students as they prepare for high school; our Technology Coordinator worked with the local high schools in setting up our iPad program.

<http://www.dailyherald.com/submitted/20171024/wayside-steps-up-ipad-training-for-high-school-prep>

### More Changes Coming to the Elementary Building

Last year, OLW was gifted a very generous anonymous donation that allowed for the classrooms and hallways to be painted in bright colors. New blinds and some new furniture were also installed in each classroom.

This year, the school administration wants to continue building improvements in the elementary building - the downstairs library will be transformed to a multi-purpose space!! This will allow K-5th grade students to leave their classrooms at lunch and eat in a lunchroom. It will also be a place for parent and school meetings to be held, instead of always competing for space in the Parish Center.

Two former fifth grade classrooms downstairs will be converted to a new modern resource center and library. Since all teachers have iPads and laptops to use in their classrooms, the school doesn't need to have as much space for a Technology Lab.

Both projects together will require new flooring, possible asbestos abatement, new lighting and lots of new furniture. These updates will occur in Summer 2018. The building improvements in the Elementary building and throughout the school are the main focus of OLW fundraising this year. We plan to start with #GivingTuesday (November 28) which is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the typical charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. We hope you will feel inspired to give back to OLW this year. An email with specific information will be sent in November.



Bright new classrooms!

### Alumni Updates

Here are some updates we received this summer and fall. We love to hear from you - please send us email with information about you, your siblings and any classmates with whom you keep in touch.

**Patricia Smith Davison, class of 1966**, retired to Cape Coral, Florida in 2016 with her husband of 44 years. They were married at Wayside in 1973.

**Kevin Leahy, class of 1967**, told us that his family sold "the old house next to OLW. Our family home was a rectory for OLW. My parents purchased it directly from the Archdiocese in 1963." The house looks at the playground, the street deadends in there as well. Seven Leahy children went to OLW and lived in that home. Kevin, 1967; Christopher, 1971; Stephen, 1971; Michael, 1973; Mary, 1974; David, 1976; Margaret, 1978. Kevin currently lives in Omaha, NE.

**Mary Smith Ricotta, class of 1968**, emailed to tell us how much she enjoys the email newsletters and learn what is going on school now. She just retired from 30 years of teaching middle school. For 23 of those years, she taught in a Catholic school in the Denver area; she lives in Wheat Ridge, CO, outside Denver. She says, "I obviously loved Catholic schooling so much I wanted to pass it on to other children. My favorite memory of OLW was my eighth year when the new middle school building opened and for the first time not only were we separated from the elementary but we also had P.E. We had never had a gym before so this was a big thing. It was great being the first ones in the building. My other favorite memory is the Living Rosary that we had during the May Crowning. I see that the Crowning still occurs. What a blessing to have that tradition continuing."

**Nichole Whiting Martin, class of 1994**, celebrated her 12th wedding anniversary this past August. She and John have a 5-year-old golden retriever named Bentley. Nichole is a Senior Specialty pharmaceutical representative for Novartis. Some of her fondest memories of OLW are the Halloween Fun Fair, the middle school class trips to Washington and Springfield, and Mr. Rhinehart's Science class and Science Fairs! She says, "OLW gives a solid foundation to treat others as you would like to be treated." Nichole lives in Flanagan, IL, which is about 40 miles from Blommington, IL.

### Class of 1970 Reunion

For the Class of 1970, a reunion is being planned for you and your classmates. Tom Henn, who currently lives in California, is organizing everything, along with help from Danielle Kenney, OLW Marketing Director.

**Date:** Saturday, May 19  
**Place:** TBD, but it will be held in Arlington Heights  
**RSVP:** no RSVP is needed yet, but please let us know if you are considering it. Send an email to Danielle Kenney at [dkenney@olwschool.org](mailto:dkenney@olwschool.org), and/or to Tom, [tw Henn@comcast.net](mailto:tw Henn@comcast.net), and we will make sure to keep you updated. It seems as though many are interested.

Please forward to your classmates in case they do not currently receive the OLW Alumni Newsletter.

Robin Ramicone Holum, class of 1978, with her mother, Mrs. Ramicone, and Robin's daughter.



Son of Tom Bauer, class of 1990, with Tom's parents, John and Betty Bauer.



The second grade son of Mark Staker, class of 1992, interviews his maternal grandparents.



Buddy activity just before Halloween. Fifth graders and kindergartners wrote and colored a Halloween book. Seventh and second graders interviewed each other to see all that they have in common.