



OLW Alumni Newsletter October 2016

Recently, OLW celebrated Grandparents Day at school. The day began as grandparents and other VIPs celebrated Mass with students. All special guests were invited to visit the classrooms and then return to the Gathering Place for some refreshments. Teachers had activities planned that included arts and crafts for the “new students,” time to read together, and interviews for the different generations. OLW held yearly Grandparents Day about 25 years ago and we renewed the tradition just three years ago. Enjoy the pictures at the end of the newsletter that show some alumni children with their grandparents.

Eighth Graders Benefit From Technology Initiative

In mid-October, each eighth grade student was provided an individual iPad to use for school work. The iPads are preloaded with apps such as the Apple and Google Suites, Notability, and iMovie (which the students use for in class presentations). District 214 and St. Viator both use iPads and we feel our students will be better prepared for high school because of this technology advantage. The opportunity to assign iPads to each eighth grader is part of a three-year initiative that is focused on bringing more technology to OLW students.

- Every classroom has a SMART board plus a laptop for teachers to run these interactive boards.
- There are 30 iPads for sixth and seventh grade use, plus 20 iPads are being used in some elementary classrooms in a pilot program.
- Almost 100 laptops are available throughout all the classrooms, and the Tech Lab has more than 20 computer stations.
- There is also an emphasis on upgrading our campus infrastructure to support all this technology.

This is the last year of the technology initiative and we anticipate providing each middle school student with an iPad in the 2017-18 school year.

Donations to the Annual Fund from individuals and from the Family School Association helped us achieve this goal. Proceeds from our annual Gala make up the largest portion of contributions to the Annual Fund, but donations during last year’s Alumni Appeal were steered towards the Annual Fund, unless otherwise directed. Additionally, donations made last year on #GivingTuesday supported Annual Fund endeavors.

OLW will participate in #GivingTuesday again this year. #GivingTuesday 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 consider being a part of this giving event; an email with specific information will be sent in November. You can follow us on social media @olwschoolah to learn more.

Alumni Back at School



Andrew Prahin, class of 1988, returned to OLW last May for an Author’s Assembly and spoke to the students about his experience as a published author. His first presentation was with preschool through fourth graders and focused on his book, *Brimsby’s Hats*, which is the story of Brimsby, a happy hat maker who becomes sad when his best friend moves away. Brimsby finds a way to use his talent as a hat maker to make new friends.

His second presentation was geared toward the fifth through eighth graders and he detailed the process for publishing a book, including writing and illustrating it. Andrew attended Northern Illinois University on a partial scholarship from the Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce after he wrote an essay detailing his dream of becoming a children’s author. That goal was accomplished with the 2013 publication of this book. The story in *Brimsby’s Hat* is told through both words and the illustrations, which are vivid and happy. Andrew generously donated a portion of his speaking fee to the school for use in our school art program.



Joshua Gustafson, class of 2012, started the Robotics Club at OLW as an Eagle Scout Project, but it has become so much more. Now in its third year, students in Robotics are learning coding and three teams will compete at a FFL (FIRST Lego League) competition in December. Joshua says, “As a member of D214’s High School FIRST Robotics Team (FRC), WildStang Robotics, I was exposed to real world challenges that engineers face and was allowed to apply and build upon the material learned during the school day to something extremely cool in the evening. I wanted to bring a similar program to OLW and the FIRST Lego League program, which is a program that has students build small robots from Legos in order to invent a solution to a problem, seemed the right choice. The students think it’s cool and they are learning beginning engineering in a grade school environment.”

Notice the table at the Robotics Club meeting – Joshua built it and donated it to OLW before he left for college at the Milwaukee School of Engineering to study Mechanical Engineering.

Jonathan Quenan, Class of 2012, put the editing and finishing touches in the school video which is viewable from the school website, www.olwschool.org. Johnny took media tech classes each year at RMHS and was part of the group that produced the school video announcements. He has always had an interest in film and video. We are thrilled he was available to help us before starting at Dayton this fall.

Updates and Reunions?

The January Alumni Newsletter will focus on alumni updates. Please update your mailing and email address on the website and add some details about what you are currently doing. Please ask your siblings and friends to do the same.

If anyone attended or was involved in planning the all-years reunions that occurred in 1990 or during the parish 50th Anniversary in 2002, please contact Danielle Kenney, dkenney@olwschool.org. We are thinking about planning another all-school reunion.

If you are having a class reunion and want to tour the school, sit at an OLW Mass together, or use OLW as a meeting spot, contact Danielle for that as well. And don’t forget to send us pictures and tag us in social media posts. @olwschoolah can be used for Instagram and twitter. Use the hashtag #olwalums or #olwschool.

Missed Previous Newsletters?

You can find previous Alumni Newsletters on the Alumni page of the website. [Click Here](#)

You can also stay up to date with OLW School by following us on social media:

[Facebook](#) - facebook.com/olwschool

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Tag us and use these hashtags:

#olwalums

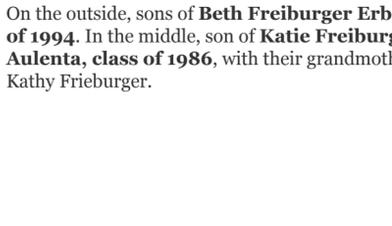
#waysidewildcats

#olwtraditions

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#olwwildcatpride

Pictures



Daughter of **Michelle Harris Koulias, class of 1992**, with her grandmother, Mrs. Loretta Koulias.

On the outside, sons of **Beth Freiburger Erbach, class of 1994**. In the middle, son of **Katie Freiburger Aulenta, class of 1986**, with their grandmother, Mrs. Kathy Friebrurger.



Son of **Emily Mensching Paine, class of 1989**, with his paternal grandparents.

Daughter of **Jay Cherwin, class of 1990**, with her maternal grandparents during Grandparents Day in 2015.



Children of **Trissy Ryan Walas, class of 1991**, **Mike Ryan, class of 1989**, and **Ed Losos, class of 1982**, with their grandparents at Grandparents Day in 2015.

Corrections

Denise Reilly Rossman, class of 1960, pointed out that she participated in Cotillion when at OLW, so that tradition has been going on longer than we thought.

We love to know more about the early days, but it’s hard to find out those details. The history of our school is so interesting so please email any memories or fun facts that you have. We’ll include it in a future newsletter.

Also, in the September Newsletter, one of the cross country coaches was accidentally misnamed. Rich Hall (not Brad Hall) helped to coach this past season. He has a sixth grader at OLW who is part of the xcountry team.

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