

# Our Lady of Pompeii School Newsletter June, 2014



*"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
the courage to change the things I can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference."*



June, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Regretfully, this is the final newsletter from Our Lady of Pompeii School. You will find the format to be slightly different than in previous newsletters. Rather than writing about current classroom events, the teachers and students were asked to write a final reflection regarding their thoughts, feelings, and memories of OLP.

Many of the reflections mentioned a comparison of our school community to a family. Therefore, this newsletter is not sectioned by grade level. Rather it is put together with a bit more of a "family style" to it.

There are also many pictures of the 2013-2014 school year to assist you in taking one final look back.

As always, I ask that you keep our servicemen and women and veterans in your prayers.

Prayerfully,

Mrs. Diane Liptak  
Principal



**Our Lady of Pompeii School's Mission Statement:**

***"To enrich each student's spiritual, educational and social needs  
as well as develop the creative abilities necessary  
to become a contributing member of the parish and community."***

## *Thank you...*

It is imperative that we acknowledge with deepest appreciation all of the Our Lady of Pompeii Parish Pastors, beginning with Rev. Msgr. Alfonso J. Bernardo, who commissioned this school to be built, Msgr. Samuel Lombardo, Fr. John Leising, Fr. Jay McGinnis and Fr. Leon J. Biernat, all of whom supported this school during their time here and beyond. Thank you also to the members of the rectory staff, past and present, who have helped and supported us in countless ways.

We would like to recognize and thank the parish community who has generously supported our school by way of monetary and material donations, patronizing our fundraising events and bingo, volunteering their time and talents and most importantly, praying for the school. In particular, we would like to especially thank the members of the Rosary Society and the Holy Name Society for their support.

We would like to thank all of the Our Lady of Pompeii School parents and guardians who chose this school for their children and provided the opportunity for our teachers to be an intricate part of their education. Our deepest appreciation goes to the members of the Home School Board who have been extremely helpful and supportive. Thank you to those parents, grandparents, other relatives, and friends of our families, who baked, coached, monitored, chaperoned, chaired, volunteered, worked or patronized events, bingo, etc.

Thank you to the members of the OLP Sports Boosters who raised the money each year for league fees, uniforms, equipment, and for sponsoring Sports' Night. Their support throughout the years has been unwavering! They have never ever asked for recognition. There was never anything in it for them this entire time except to help the children of Our Lady of Pompeii School have a sports program. Without them, there wouldn't have been one.

We thank the teachers, faculty, and staff of Our Lady of Pompeii School, past and present, for their dedication and service to our students. They constantly and continually gave of their time and talents to ensure the students received an academically sound education rooted in our faith.

We thank the students, past and present; every Pioneer and every Panther, for providing us with an opportunity to carry out our mission from God. They brought life into this building. They were our motivation, our inspiration, and our hope for the future (and they still are).

Finally, and most importantly, we thank God for blessing all of us with the opportunity to be a part of Our Lady of Pompeii School. We ask Him to bless and guide all of us as we begin a new chapter in our lives. We also ask that Our Lady of Pompeii, our Blessed Mother Mary, continue to pray for us and remain at our side as we journey forward.



## ***June Events...***

**Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>** - The 12 Noon Mass at Our Lady of Pompeii Church will be held for the intentions of the students, faculty and staff, past and present, of Our Lady of Pompeii School. An Open House in the school will be held immediately following the Mass from 1:00 pm until 3:30 pm. We hope to see many alumni, and former employees of Our Lady of Pompeii School attend this event. We ask everyone to help us spread the word by mentioning it to people you know who have been connected to OLP School and to please post it on your Facebook page if you have one. Thank you.

**Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>** – New York State 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science test (written section) will be administered.

**Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Our Lady of Pompeii School 2013-2014 yearbooks will be distributed.

**Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>** – Grades K-8 will be attending a field trip to Fort Niagara in Lewiston, NY.

**Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>** - We will have our school Mass at 8:45 am. Kindergarten, grades 1 and 2 will be planning this Mass for us.

- We will be attending Eucharistic Adoration in the church for the last time as a school unit.
- Our Kindergarten Class of 2014 will celebrate graduation at 6:30 pm in the school hall.

**Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>** – Sports Night – Beginning at 6:30 pm in the school gym. This is an evening where all students who played on any of OLP's sports teams receive recognition for participation in basketball, volleyball and/or track. This event is made possible by Our Lady of Pompeii School's Sports Boosters. We are very thankful for these people, their support, and the fundraising they do to enable our students to participate in school leagues.

**Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>** - Field Day – This is a morning of fun and games for the students of Our Lady of Pompeii School. Our Class of 2014 Kindergarten graduates are also invited back for this school day – All students will be provided with a free hotdog lunch and extras. If your child is not a fan of hotdogs, he/she may bring a bag lunch from home on that day. Dismissal will be at 12 Noon. This will be the last day our Eighth graders have to report for class.

**Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>** - No School

**Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>** - No School

**Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Our Lady of Pompeii School's Academic Awards Assembly will take place in the school gym beginning at 10:15 am. Awards such as highest average in each core subject area and Christian Character will be presented to students in grades 4-7

- Students in grades 1-7 will be dismissed at 10:45 am
- Eighth graders are to report to the school gym at 6 pm. Graduation Mass will begin at 6:30 pm. A letter in next week's take home folder will have further information for the Class of 2014 and their families.



## ***May Activities...***



***First Communion and May Crowning – Congratulations to our Third graders – God bless you***



***Diocesan Track Meet – Congratulations to our OLP Track team –Great sportsmanship!***



***The "Idy-Odyssey" - Congratulations to the OLP Drama Club – Outstanding performance!***

# Special Person's Luncheon...



# Cinco de Mayo Piñatas...



## Reflections...



I have been at OLP for nine years and I have met so many great kids. All of my teachers have been so supportive and gave me the help I needed. With such a small amount of kids, our school feels like a second family. The teachers are all so fun and I love that even in eighth grade we still get recess during lunch. OLP is another family to me and everyone here has given me support and made me a strong Catholic. - Shae (8)

I will miss my class because they always play with me. I will look forward to joining OLBS basketball team. I will miss my principal. She is very funny. I will miss my gym teacher. She is very fun. - Angelo (AJ) (2)

I will miss my teachers. I love the popcorn chicken for lunch, and I loved it when I ate it. It was paradise in the lunch room! - Vincent (3)

My time at OLP has taught me life lessons and given me great memories. Most of my lessons came directly from my teachers. These teachers have helped me through my nine years. The great memories I have are from my friends and classmates. They have become my second family that I'm very close to. - Stephanie (8)

I will miss my friends. I will miss my teachers. I like my principal. I like my buddies. I will miss Mrs. Q. I like Mrs. Shirley. I will miss all of the field trips. - Nevada (2)

I will miss the teachers, Blue and Gold Day, and field trips. My favorite part of OLP was Blue and Gold Day when we beat the blue team 110-75. - Luis (3)

I love OLP School. I was here for six years and this is the only school I have ever been to. I wish it wasn't closing. I really wanted to be in my mom's class but I guess not. I will miss OLP. My favorite part is Field Day. I hope this school is put to good use. - Jaden (4)

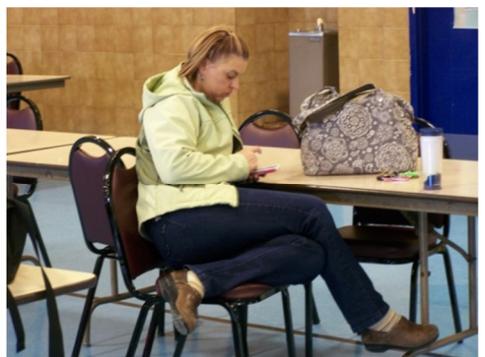


## Mrs. Tracy Breinlinger...



I have only been at Our Lady of Pompeii for seven short years, however, in that time, it has become an integral part of who I am. This place was not only a place of employment, but has been a place of joy, sorrow, hope, and faith. I have come to think of OLP, the students, faculty and staff, as part of my family, not just coworkers. Some of my fondest memories involve various class trips, field days, Christmas programs, Drama Club plays and haunted houses. However, the moments I will cherish most are the day to day things that made teaching at OLP special: the “light bulb” moment in math, jeopardy review games in science, science activities and just being able to share my knowledge with my students and watching them grow into the young men and women they are today. It is with a heavy heart that I write this final reflection, but I know in the end, that God’s will is being done and we need to have faith and trust in Him to the end.

Mrs. Breinlinger



## *Mrs. Ann Marie Celeste...*



It is time for new beginnings, time to meet new people and new friends. It is time for new challenges, fun and scary. I know that everyone from the OLP family will do well and survive with grace. It is also time to thank every student that I have ever taught in the last twenty-one years. The creative talent has been outstanding. I have been truly blessed to have met every single student family at Our Lady of Pompeii. I actually started teaching the second generation of former students. Everyone that I have met has touched me in a special way. The best gift is when a parent tells me that they had their child's artwork framed, and it is hanging in their living room. I too received a painting from a former student as a gift and it too hangs in my living room as a reminder of how talented the students are at Our Lady of Pompeii. They are truly amazing. They have been fuel for my soul. Being the Art teacher at OLP has been the best job I will ever have. Every year the students make portfolios to place their artwork in and take home, well now it is my turn to use my students' artwork in my portfolio as I look to start my new journey in life. I am hoping to work with the art teacher at my children's school by having an art club after school. I also have been doing private lessons, which gives me great joy. It gave me great pleasure to prepare the art show this year and sad that it was my last one at OLP. Thank you for all the beautiful artwork and attending the last art show for Our Lady of Pompeii School. I hope I cross paths with all of you again. Good luck to all of you as you start on your new journey where ever it may take you.

God bless,  
Mrs. Celeste



# Ms. Diane Colella...



Pompeii has been my home for 25 years! It has been a home for God, love, laughter, and learning. I thank all that I have worked with through the years, those that I have taught, and those that I have met at this amazing school! You all have added happiness to my life! I have always loved coming to school and will especially miss the happy faces of our children. My wish for all of you is happiness, love and success. I am confident that with your religious teachings and the guidance of our God, you will succeed! Please know that all of you have a special place in my heart and will forever!!

Ms. Diane Colella





My time at OLP was the greatest time of my life. Everybody accepted me for the first time in my life. I came out of my shell and did a lot of things I never thought I would do. I was in Drama and this year I was the leading role. This was the happiest time of my life. I'm really going to miss this place. - Scott (8)

My favorite teacher is Ms. Colella, because she is the funniest. In Mr. L's class I do math and science. In math my favorite topic is finding the area. In science my favorite part was making a rainbow. In Mrs. Walker's class we have religion and reading. - Joseph (3).

When I came in fifth grade, I didn't know anyone. In my four years here my classmates have become my family. I've learned so much and had fun doing it. I really enjoyed all the activities and assemblies. I'm going to miss my time at OLP - Sarah (8)

I wish the school wouldn't have come to an end. I've been here for seven years since Kindergarten and wish I could stay two more. I have made hundreds of memories with my classmates. This is the best school I have gone to and I would never think of leaving and I hate it that I have to. Sincerely - Brendan (6)

After this year, I am really going to miss OLP. Ever since I was little I would be so excited to go to school every day and I would never want to leave. Also I always enjoy the small classes because it is easier for me to learn and understand. For the past seven years I have gained trust and friendships with the students and teachers here at Our Lady of Pompeii. In the past seven years there have been good days and bad days, but I will never forget those years that I spent at OLP. - Connor (7)

When I think of Our Lady of Pompeii School I see my Pre-K classroom. Every day we would play with toys as we got there. It was my first year of OLP. I have been in OLP for six years. I don't want it to close. I hope OLBS is just as amazing as OLP. I love OLP! - Michael (4)

I will always remember Pompeii because of the field trips I went on. My favorite was to Toronto. I also like Pompeii because my favorite subjects are gym and lunch. My favorite thing to work on is Science projects. My favorite teacher is Ms. Colella. - Samantha (1)

My years at OLP started about five years ago in the third grade. OLP has been a great time and learning experience, a good time all around . . . good friends, good teachers, good school. - James (8)



## ***Mrs. Barbara Grimes...***



It is hard to believe that I have been a teacher at Our Lady of Pompeii School for almost fourteen years. In August 2000, I interviewed for a kindergarten position at Our Lady of Pompeii School. I taught kindergarten for nine years with the help of some great teacher's aides- Doris, Sarah and Shirley. In the last five years I have been the second grade homeroom teacher. I have also taught first grade ELA, Spanish and handwriting at OLP.

Looking back at my time at Our Lady of Pompeii School and thinking of all the wonderful people that I've had the opportunity to work with is something that I will always treasure. Thank you for your words of encouragement, sharing of resources, and your sincerity and trust.

I have been privileged to have had many gifted and talented students in my class. It is always a pleasure to hear how successful our former students have become. I will miss the many parents and grandparents whom I have met over the years. Thank you for the many sacrifices that you have made and will continue to make so that your children can have a Catholic education.

Some people have asked what the teachers will do once the school closes. My immediate plans will be to finish planning my oldest daughter's wedding in August and supporting my younger daughter's quest to find a permanent job after graduating recently from Daemen College. I am still working on "finding the best of myself." It is an exciting, on-going journey. Thank you for being my traveling companions along a large and important part of my life. You will always be in my prayers.

- Mrs. Barbara Grimes



## *Mrs. Shirley Guagliardi...*



Dear OLP family:

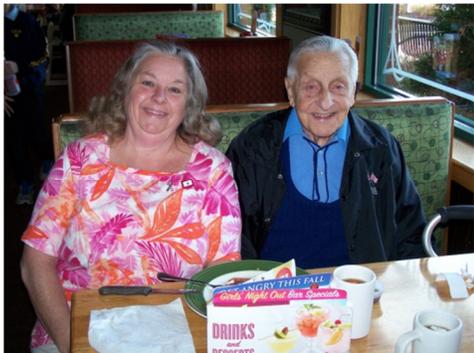
That is what we are: a family. We laugh together; we learn together; we grow together; but most importantly we pray together. We are now going in different directions. God has a plan for all of us.

Yes, we will miss things: the children will miss their friends, teachers and familiar faces; the faculty will miss the students and each other. I will miss it all – Mrs. Liptak, the faculty (past as well as present), the parents, but especially the students – every single one of them. Every one of the students is unique with their own personalities (and boy do they have personalities)!

Just remember – God has the plan. God bless you all!

Love,

Mrs. Shirley



## Mrs. Becky Hoag...



### Looking Back

A blessing. That is how I feel about my year teaching the students and working with the faculty at OLP School. I truly believe with all that I am, that I would not have been able to get through all that life has handed me in the past year without my OLP family. The students, their families, and the faculty have been a visible reminder to me of how much God loves all of us. I will never, ever, forget the compassion and love that was shown to me and my family upon the death of my beautiful Goddaughter, Ashley Nagel, last September. I am so thankful for that. Then, when my family home was lost to a fire in December, you all came together again and helped to carry us through! I do not know how I would have gotten through all of that without all of you. You all showed us what God looks like! That is a blessing.

The memories that I will carry with me:

- Our Ofrenda – Day of the Dead
- Advent – Our prayer services in the gym and singing hymns using the projector screen
- The Super Gift From Heaven – Our Christmas Musical
- Las Posadas – The Inns (Joseph and Mary’s journey to the stable; our play)
- Making Piñatas – Cinco de Mayo
- The Idi-Odyssey – OLP Drama Club Spring Play

I am so grateful for God leading me to teach at OLP School. I will never forget my year here. Knowing all of you and teaching the students here has changed me for the better and has brought me closer to God. Thank you God and thank you my OLP family. May God continue to bless you all. Our Lady of Pompeii, Pray for Us!

Mrs. Hoag





Dear Friends and School Family, Farewell is a hard word to say to Pompeii. I learned my first letter of the alphabet here and made my first and only group of friends here. Even though my school is closing, the awesome memories will stay with me till I die. We were there for each other from beginning to end in good times and bad times. I love my friends. I look up to my good-hearted teachers and I really do think what a wonderful world I live in. Long live OLP! God Bless! XOXOXO With all my love and best wishes – Sarina (6)

I like gym. My favorite thing was running around before we did hockey skills. I liked drawing morning pictures like Jesus. She (Mrs. Sugg) makes us write sentences like “I see two bees and three butterflies”. She writes it. Then we write it. Then we draw two bees and three butterflies. Mrs. Sugg lets us play a little bit at the end of the day. – Ryan H (K)

Over the past nine years, I have made friends with people I will never forget. This school has brought me closer to God and I am so thankful for that. This school is my second family. OLP will always have a special place in my heart. - Joyce (7)

My favorite memories are with Mr. L., meeting my best friends, David and Matthew, when Mr. L. threw markers across the room, and Mr. L’s exciting chapter. Finally I can’t wait to go to Albany. - Jeremy (5)

I am proud to say that I went and graduated from OLP in high school. Every year all the teachers have been helpful and the other students are friendly. I am sad that I have to leave all my teachers and friends. I’m also really sad that the school is closing. – John (8)

I love this school. I wish it would stay open forever! I will miss everyone so much! My favorite thing in kindergarten was all of the fun crafts and activities. In first grade I loved switching classes. In second grade I loved how we would read on the rug. This year we have a trip to Toronto! It was so exciting to meet everyone this year. I will miss everyone, especially all of the teachers who taught me so much! Aimee (3)

I remember the time when we had a Halloween party in the gym. I was too scared to go in the haunted house. This happened in the beginning of the school year in third grade. I think I was a queen or princess. We had so many parties that I won’t forget. I will miss Mrs. Ripa, because she is my most favorite teacher ever. - Alexa (3)

My favorite memories of OLP are seeing Connor scaring Mrs. Walker half to death. The laughter of the children! - Zachary (5)





I think graduation is going to be fun. We did bingo and we did number bingo and Ms. Sugg is a great teacher. I like Kindergarten. - Giovanni (K)

I will miss school because we can't go to gym. I like school because I could play. At the end of the year we will have attest. I'm going to miss handwriting. At the end of the year I will miss Religion. - Vincenzo (2)

I have a lot of crazy memories at OLP. There were exploding potatoes chucked markers, bubble gum contests, free doughnuts and third grade ghosts. I will miss all of the crazy jokes, plain madness, and the wall to wall carpeting. I will miss the fact that everyone knows everyone. I will miss the friends I've made. - Katelyn (5)

I remember when I played in Blue and Gold day and blue won. We also, went Christmas caroling in December. When Fr. Leon left Pompeii we had a good-bye party. Then, I also remember the change challenge and second grade won. Also, we ate things and chatted at the Christmas concert. Last, I remember the Halloween party and how we dressed up. - Max (3)

When I got here in fifth grade, I was warmly welcomed as a new student. My years here were great! I was in the Drama Club and the photography club. I got to enjoy what I do best here. I made such great friends here that I will keep in touch with for a long time. - Zackary (8)

I love this school. I've been here 5 years, and I will always remember Our Lady of Pompeii. I will miss everything—the pencils, the white board, and even getting in trouble--, but most of all I will miss my school family and the friends I made here. I love this school, and I will always remember it. - Paige (3)



## ***Mrs. Diane Liptak...***

Anyone who knows me will tell you I talk a lot. I even take a lot of notes when someone else is doing the talking. Hence I am also known for writing a great deal.... Letters, memos, greeting cards. Name it – I can write!

I have most certainly utilized a great deal of words in my time here, verbally and in written form. Now, for the first time, I find myself without words, unable to express any emotions I am feeling, unable to share any memories I have, unable to really reflect back on the thirty three years I have spent in this school. The fact that it was my idea for this to be a newsletter of reflections exudes irony. Every teacher and student was able to complete the task. Yet my page remained blank, the last to be filled.

I read all of the other reflections in this newsletter, so many thoughts and memories shared by so many different people. Two words were often referred to; “home” and “family”. I can easily relate to those references. This school has always been my home. During my time here, I’ve worked for five (now six) pastors and eight principals. I cannot tell you the number of teachers I’ve worked with, the number of students I’ve taught, or the number of parents and parishioners I’ve gotten to know, but I can tell you I have a memory and a place in my heart for every one of them.

We are all part of the same family. That is how I define it to be, and on much larger terms, that is how God defines it to be. As with all families, we have been through good times and bad, laughter and tears, moments of great sorrow and of great joy , but no matter what the circumstances, none of us has ever had to go through any of it alone.

As with all families, changes occur. It is now our turn, though it may not be *our* choice, to face changes. Our courage and strength to face these changes comes from God. In our time together, we have taught and learned from each other and we will always carry that experience and knowledge with us. We will take our thoughts, our memories, our love for this school and the people we have come to know because of it, and preciously lock it safely in our hearts. With change comes growth and we will all continue to grow by experiencing new things, meeting new people, and living each day that God blesses us with to its fullest.

May God continue to bless all of you with good health, safety, love, and joy. May He always be the food for your hunger, the water for your thirst, and the light for your path. May He guide you in all your ways and may you always feel His presence around you. May you keep Our Lady of Pompeii close to your heart and may Our Lady of Pompeii keep you close to her heart as well.

Prayerfully,  
Mrs. Diane Liptak

***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not; In all your ways be mindful of Him, and He will make straight your paths.” ~Proverbs 3 : 5-6***

## ***Mr. Daniel Lukasiewicz...***



And here we are; the last newsletter.

When I began working at Our Lady of Pompeii I had no idea what a ride I was in for. These last five years have seen many changes. Outside of school I got married, bought a house, and got my first dog ever! Back at school we've had new students, new teachers, new priests, a new bishop, and even a new pope! It's hard to believe that so much has happened in just five years.

I would like to thank our principal Mrs. Liptak for being such a dedicated administrator.

I would like to thank all of my fellow teachers for their encouragement, support, honesty, and collaboration.

I would like to thank all of my students, past and present, for their energy, humor, and hard work.

But most of all, I would like to thank the parents and guardians of Our Lady of Pompeii. I can't convey in words how well of a job you've done raising your children. Year after year, the students at Our Lady of Pompeii who spend time in my class impress me with their honesty, compassion, and empathy. That is not a fluke. That is a reflection of everything that you've done right as parents. It has made my job a joy day after day, and I repeat, Thank You.

I wish everyone the best in their coming year, and I hope that we can all find the silver linings on this grey cloud.

Embrace the future, revel in your excitement, make new friends, keep learning, and most of all continue to be your wonderful selves.

To look back on the last five years here at Our Lady of Pompeii School, I can easily see that my time here was truly a blessing.

Thank you again  
Mr. Lukasiewicz





Goodbye Pompeii. At OLP School, I have had a very nice time. I don't think I'd be the same if I hadn't come here. I made wonderful friends and had great teachers as well. Also, my class made many hilarious memories. I enjoyed all the activities. I am upset to leave and sad that I will not get a chance to graduate, but OLBS doesn't seem that bad, especially since almost everyone from OLP School is going there. - Evan (6)

Our Lady of Pompeii is fun. I will miss my friends, maybe. Mrs. Sugg is fun. Mrs. Liptak's April Fools' day was kind of cool, and I got to be a "left over". I think that's it. - Lila (K)

My favorite part of the school year is the trip to Toronto and field day. I will miss the school and everything here. On field day we have cotton candy, a bounce house, games and lots of fun stuff. In Kindergarten I remember that the puppet theater fell on my knee! In 1<sup>st</sup> grade we had an ant invasion and we won. In 2<sup>nd</sup> grade we did reader's theater. In 3<sup>rd</sup> grade we have a Toronto trip. I will miss everyone and the teachers. - Mya (3)

I like this school because we have library. It will be a bummer because when we leave we may not have library. I also like math. Even though my new school will have math, I still like the math we have now. We are learning multiplication. I like the friends I have. - Madison (2)

It was so much fun going to Pompeii because I loved to go to gym, art class, and technology. Gym was fun because I ran around. Art class was fun because I made art. Technology was fun because I went on the computers. OLP was a great school to be at. - Alexander (1)

There are a lot of things that I will miss about OLP. I will miss all my school friends, my teacher, my class, my other teachers, and computer class. There were also other things I liked, like the crafts in kindergarten, the boys attacking the red ants in first grade, free time in first grade, third grade, Mrs. Walker's class, field day, blue and gold day, and field trips. I'll miss this school. - Arianna (3)

All I can say is "Wow". What happened to my four years at Pompeii? Those were the best four years of my life. I have hundreds of memories with my friends in the memory bag. I will never forget Mr. L.'s class which in my opinion, is the best class ever due to my friends and the teacher. The physical part of Pompeii may be gone, but the memories will always live in my heart. See you later alligator! Love - Daniel (6)





I've only been at OLP for four years, but I have met so many great people. All my friends are always there for me and I can always depend on them too. The teachers help me when I'm having a hard time understanding. I'm going to miss being in a small school where everyone knows each other next year. OLP has become my second family. - Sophie (8)

First off, I would like to thank all the students, faculty and staff of OLP for helping through my years here. The memories I've made here will be with me forever. No matter where I go I will always consider myself an OLP student. All I would want is for it to stay open two more years so I can graduate. These eight years will be my favorite. My friends were tremendous. Our Lady of Pompeii pray for us. - Seamus (6)

I have been a student at OLP for 10 years (my whole school life so far). I love the people here. My class is like my family and we are always there for each other. If you are having problems, you can always talk to the teachers. The teachers are very supportive just like the students. I love OLP because of all the amazing people that have been with me for these awesome ten years. - Madeline (8)

I love Pompeii and I am really going to miss the family atmosphere here. My favorite part of every day is when I walk in. Right away someone says "Good morning. Everybody knows who you are. It's a nice feeling to know that everybody cares about you. Nobody is mean or rude and that is a community I love being part of. - Thomas (7)

I will miss at Our Lady of Pompeii: Mrs. Walker bringing Paula's Donuts. I will also miss 50's day, also field day. I will miss everything. - Sarah (5)

Goodbye Our Lady of Pompeii School. Ever since I came here in Kindergarten, I have made great friends and had awesome teachers. We had so many memories and so many activities. Some of my favorites were Blue and Gold Day and Field Day. Our buddies were nice and sports were great. Goodbye Our Lady of Pompeii School. Goodbye - Michael (6)



## ***Mrs. Jane Quiram...***

My time at OLP is sadly coming to an end. Our Lady of Pompeii has been a part of my life for over 40 years. My children went to school here and so did my grandson, James.

I have held many different positions here, some salaried and some volunteer. I want to share some of my fondest memories with you.

- Sports have always been a part of my life, so when I was asked to coach softball, I was thrilled. I don't remember how many years I coached, but I do remember the way the girls improved throughout the year and all the fun we had. Miss Diane was a co-coach with me for many of them. We had many winning seasons. Ask her about "Go Home"!!!!
- I started the girls' volleyball league with three schools. My fondest memory was the year when OLP won two tournaments, beat St. Mary's to make it to the diocesan finals, and won it.
- OLP used to have a girls' athletic association. We always had fun. The best memories there were making and selling Christmas cookies, sleepovers (which, nobody ever slept), Christmas caroling, and the camaraderie shared by all the girls.
- All the Blue and Gold Days during Catholic Schools Week,
- Classes in physical education going from once a week to twice a week, and now some even have it three times a week.
- The times that OLP won the Fitness for Kids Challenge from Independent Health and purchased lots of gym equipment.
- Going to the Bison game.
- When we used to have paper weighing every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and received dress down days for getting so many pounds.

Most of all, I will remember all the children that I have taught, that good sportsmanship is more important than winning, that everyone has their own talent, and that they should always do their best.

Oh yeah, a special occasion I will always remember from our current sixth grade – oatmeal isn't always just oatmeal!

God bless,

Mrs. Jane Quiram AKA Mrs. Q



## Mrs. SueAnn Ripa...



It is hard to find the right words to convey my feelings as the school year comes to a close. What a wonderful experience these last 20 years have been!!! There are countless memories---from my first year with 33 students and wall to wall desks in the room until now---too numerous to mention or share. I have seen priests and principals come and go, but the one constant was the students' eagerness to learn, their smiles, jokes, and stories (I have heard some really good ones over the years). All those memories will stay locked in my heart forever. I have told the students, especially the 8<sup>th</sup> graders, that life is a journey, and that once they left OLP they would start a new one. They should be willing to expand their horizons and try something new. How ironic, that I find myself in that position. It has been an amazing journey and like all journeys it will come to an end in June, but the memories will live on. Next, I'll wait for God to lead me on another incredible journey. I will truly miss all the students, parents, and staff members (who have become my best friends) for they have touched my heart and enriched my life so deeply. Thanks for the memories!!!!

God Bless and Ciao,  
Mrs. Ripa





So long OLP. I have been at OLP for eight years and I have learned so much and I have grown so much. I have made so many memories in my time being as student at OLP and I have made so many friends here. The teachers and students were great. The sports and the clubs were great to take along with the classes. I don't want OLP School to close, but I can't do anything about it. Love – Steven (6)

While I went to Pompeii, I met pretty much the greatest people I've ever met. They're like my family and I'm going to miss them and this school next year. – Rain (8)

I will miss my time at Our Lady of Pompeii School. I remember the 50's day. We would dress like they did in the 50's. Field Days were so fun! I remember bouncing in the Sponge Bob Bounce House. The cotton candy was so good! I will miss the nice and cheerful teachers. Our Lady of Pompeii is a great school. - Allison (5)

I will miss my friends. I will also miss Blue and Gold Day. I'll miss all the teachers. Next year, I will make new friends. I will miss the games we play. I will play new games at my new school. - Bridie (2)

Our Lady of Pompeii has been my second family since I have been in Kindergarten. It is unfortunate that I don't get to finish my eighth grade year here. I think the things I will miss the most are all the fun times we had. The Halloween parties and the plays were awesome and I always was excited about them. Those times will always be remembered and I don't know how I'll ever say goodbye to my second family. I will always miss it here because this school and family is the best on this whole wide Earth. - Alyssa (7)

I have been here for two years and this is one of the best schools that I have visited. The teachers are extremely passionate and in love with their job. They take the time to sit down with the students and teach the students personally until they understand the lesson. The children here are extremely friendly and they show such respect that I could not believe. Yet they bring joy and love to the whole building. They help you when you need it. - Cristian (8)

I will miss all of the amazing years I had at Pompeii. The school was always like a family to me and everyone knows each other here. There are so many memories that I will never forget. I will always remember looking forward to basketball and volleyball season every year. - Emersyn (7)



## *Ms. Jennifer Szczesniak...*



Who could have imagined that what started out as a job seventeen years ago in my ideal setting – a Catholic school – would have become so much more: a home, family, supportive faith community, good friends, and a real place of grace? God has walked these halls, embraced us in difficult times, and lifted us so high on good days. We have seen Him over the years in our principals who have encouraged us, our colleagues who have worked with us, and our staff members who have made life smoother for us. We have also seen Him over the years in our pastors, parishioners, and parents of our students who have trusted us, worked with us, and understood we would do all we could to give our Pompeii kids the best education possible. But we have especially seen Him over the years in our Pompeii kids – with their hopes and dreams, challenges and hard work. They are our joy, our highest achievement, and our reward.

Our Lady of Pompeii is unique. Make no mistake. Wherever you go you will not experience another Pompeii. For that we are sad; but we also rejoice and are glad that we were here for a time, and those of us who shared the experience are so much richer for it.

How much love can a building hold?

Locked in our hearts forever are...

Countless smiles (“I get it!” Lunchtime! “I lost a tooth!” “I got an A!” Picture Day)

Countless cheers (“We won!” “It’s field day!” “We got through the play!” Dress-down!)

Countless hugs (“Welcome back!” “Did you have a good summer?” “So sorry.” “Missed you.”)

And a million tears (“In June our school will close.”)

Keep up those Pompeii smiles and spirits...ALWAYS!!! Blessings, Ms. Jennifer Szczesniak





I loved coming to Pompeii because we went to many field trips. I like school because it is fun. My favorite teacher is Mrs. Sugg. I like school because I have friends. – Scarlett (1)

I feel about Our Lady of Pompeii is: I love this school. I have been here since Kindergarten through fourth grade. I have learned a lot since Kindergarten. This school is like a second home to me. Everyone cares for one another. We are all friends. All the teachers are so helpful and so nice. I love learning about God and Jesus every day. My favorite part of the year is Field Day because I get to play with my friends. I also like to go in the bounce house with friends. I do not want to leave my “house school”. I am going to a different school, though not any other school will be as caring and as helpful as this one. I DO NOT WANT TO LEAVE!- Rachel (4)

When someone says OLP, I think of all my wonderful friends and things I learned. When the school closes I will cry. - Isaac (4)

I’ll miss it because none of my friends are going. I know I’ll make new friends and I really, really, really don’t know where I’ll be going. This is a really good place. I don’t want to leave it. The teachers are nice. – Josie (K)

I will miss it because I will not be seeing my friends at school. I will also miss it because I will not see the teachers. – Tessa (3)

The school is brown. There are 70 children in the school. The classes are decorated with stickers. The school is made out of brick. It is good. - Cyril (2)

I have had a lot of fun at OLP. I love to go to gym to play and do experiments in science, especially when Mr. L accidentally broke glass. I loved it when we won on blue and gold day. - Matthew (3)

I have several favorite memories of OLP. 1. Field Day—I loved the bounce house, tattoos and ice cream. 2. Blue and Gold Day—I may have only won once, but I loved competing in the games. 3. Halloween Party—I loved the games and video games. 4. Father Leon’s Good-bye Party—I loved the video games and the peeps. I will miss all the teachers, as well as the students who aren’t going to my new school next year. I think OLP is a great school. I will miss OLP as much as the other students will. I’m really sad about OLP’s last year. - Alexander (3)



## ***Mrs. Donna Walker...***

It is difficult to put into words the feelings that are felt in my heart. Our Lady of Pompeii School has been a part of my life for the past twenty seven years. As I was praying and asking God what to write for this final newsletter article, He provided me with this quote:

“In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18. Give thanks. And so I shall.

Dear God,

Thank You for the blessing called Our Lady of Pompeii School. Twenty seven years ago my husband John and I decided to send our children to this school. We wanted them to have a Catholic School education. We wanted every day to be infused with Catholic doctrine and Christian values. Throughout their elementary years Chris, Sara and Nick were blessed with wonderful pastors, principals and teachers. Thank You, God, for the gift of those people who helped John and I mold our children into the beautiful young adults they are today.

Our Lady of Pompeii is my parish and I prayed for years for a chance to become a member of the faculty. Eighteen years ago You blessed me with that chance and I thank You for that opportunity. Seven years later I felt called by You to pursue a different path. Thank You for the years I was a Hospice volunteer.

But You, Lord, You were not finished with me at Our Lady of Pompeii School. So five years ago You called me back. And oh, what a blessing those five years have been! Thank You. Thank You for allowing me the privilege and the honor to serve You here. Thank You for my coworkers whom I dearly love and will miss. Thank You for the parents who have sacrificed their time, their talent and their treasure so their children could receive a Catholic based education. And the children Lord, Your greatest treasure, thank You for the children. Your children. They have brought such joy to my heart and a smile to my face. How Lord, how much I love Your children! Thank You for allowing me to share my two greatest loves: religion and reading, with Your children.

And now Lord, You want me to be thankful as I say good-bye. So thank You Lord. Thank You for the opportunity, the privilege, the laughter, the tears, the adults, the children, the love, the support. Thank You for allowing me to do Your will here at Our Lady of Pompeii School. Amen.

Your faithful servant in Christ,  
Donna M. Walker



## *Mrs. Shelley Wos...*



I have been the music teacher at Our Lady of Pompeii School for three years. It has been a joy to teach in such a wonderfully supportive and happy environment. My fond feelings for this school and its students and teachers have grown quickly and steadily. In my first year, I hardly knew the names of the other teachers. Now I consider them friends. In my first year, I was overwhelmed by the number of students I saw (because I was also teaching at another school) and the short time for which I saw them. Now I think of those students as “mine.” It is a privilege and a pleasure to teach music at Our Lady of Pompeii.

The past three years have been full of music. Our students have learned so much and grown as musicians. They sang, danced, played instruments, wrote their own songs, made drawings, set goals, collected data, experienced live shows, explored new genres, used new vocabulary, created new instruments, produced top-level Christmas concerts, and much, much more. Our students are talented and enthusiastic, and I’ll be hard-pressed to find another group as kind, eager, and willing to try new things. Nothing fills me with pride like watching them grasp new concepts – the “a-ha!” moment – or apply old concepts in new ways. Nothing warms my heart like hearing their robust and enthusiastic singing during our Friday morning school masses. Nothing energizes me like “Freeze” dancing with the Kindergarteners, recorder lessons with the Fourth Graders, or lively conversations with the Eighth Grade. It has been a good three years, and I am thankful for every minute of it.

While I am sad to turn these students over to a new music teacher in a new school, I hope that they continue to love learning about music, and I am excited for any new opportunities or experiences they may have. My students and my colleagues will be in my prayers as we all transition. God bless the students, God bless the faculty and staff, and God bless you.

Mrs. Shelley Wos





Everything here was fun. I will miss Mr. L. , the small classes, and the memories here. Also the charities and the change challenge. Some memories I have are meeting David and Jeremy. Also, I will miss Mr. L's fun classes. - Matthew (5)

My time at OLP was the best grammar school experience of my life. I have been to four different grammar schools and OLP was the best one. The three years I was here I didn't make friends, I made a family. All the faculty and staff were exceedingly helpful and welcoming. I am really sad that the school is closing and I am praying for the faculty, staff and students. - Andrew (8)

I love Our Lady of Pompeii School because I had so much fun at last year's First Day. My favorite part was the cotton candy. I ate eight sticks last year. I am very sad I don't get to graduate from eighth grade. I was here four years and I made amazing friends. Also, I became great friends with teachers too. I never want to leave Pompeii. - Christopher (4)

I like my teacher, because I like her name and because her hair's black and I want my hair black. I'll probably dye it. I like her games on her computer. I liked doing stuff with my friends and playing "Hop Frog". - Cali (K)

I will miss OLP. I have always enjoyed the smaller class sizes which gave more individual attention. The atmosphere of the school is welcoming and caring, which are two things I think every school must need. The teachers always make their classes fun and enjoyable. One thing I will always remember are Father Leon's homilies. They were always so inspiring and he explained the Scripture in a way that would relate to me. I will never forget Our Lady of Pompeii. - Adam (7)

The ten years at Pompeii has been the best years of my life. When I first started here at Pompeii I was in Pre-K and one friend I made then, has been my best friend for all of the years here. I have made many more friends since then. I have loved coming to school and I will never forget the amazing teachers here. Here at Pompeii, the reasons I am so successful is the small classes, and everyone around me. Our Lady of Pompeii has, and always will be, a major part of my life. - Andrew (7)

I will miss the school and things that are here. I like the school because it has a lot of stuff here that is going on. I would miss the teachers and classmates also. I always liked the Readers' Theater. I would miss the principal and everyone. - Violet (2)





I like how the school is very big. I also like the teachers and how they are so nice. I will miss the teachers. I will also miss my friends. I will miss Gym class, Art class, and playing basketball in this school. -Alexandria Z (2)

My time at OLP has been exciting. I met my friends Matthew and Jeremy. I will miss Mr. L.'s exciting attitude. He makes lessons fun. I'll miss making comics and languages with Matthew and Jeremy. - David (5)

I am going to miss OLP. Everyone knows each other. Everyone is nice and we all care about each other. All of the teachers help us when we need it. Every year, I look forward to basketball, volleyball and drama. I will always remember the memories I made at OLP. - Nicole (7)

My memories are of Kindergarten. We had a big ant invasion. I will remember Blue and Gold day (my team always won). One of my favorite parts was when I got to celebrate my birthday. I loved going to the Halloween party. My favorite part of the school year is field day. I had a very fun time. - Owen (3)

I will always love and remember Pompeii because we have lots of people in our school. My favorite teacher is Mrs. Sugg because she plays lots of games and my favorite special is gym because we play Duck Duck Goose. In lunch we eat lots of food and Mrs. Q. calls people up for snacks. I always get chips. And when I hear the bell on the last day of school I will miss everyone when I am in a different school. - Scarlett (1)



***"This much have I told you while I was still with you the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will instruct you in everything, and remind you of all that I told you."***

***~ John 14:25-26***

## News from the Nurse

June is national safety month. As a school we can raise awareness throughout our community by sharing our knowledge of staying safe with others.

This year the National Safety Council is focusing on the following safety issues:

**Week 1: Prevent prescription drug abuse:** Keep all prescription and over the counter drugs and medications out of reach of children and in a locked cabinet. It's also very important to take proper dosages and following directions. Do not share your prescription medications with anyone else; they were prescribed specifically for you.

**Week 2: Stop slips, trips and falls:** Clean up after yourself and don't leave things lying on the floor. If you spill something on the floor, clean it up right away and make sure the floor is dry. Turn on a light at night so you can see what's around you. Be careful with area rugs, they cause an uneven surface.

**Week 3: Be aware of your surroundings:** Always pay attention to what or who is around you. "Look before you leap". If you are going somewhere unfamiliar, do some research and learn the area before going.

**Week 4: Put an end to distracted driving:** This not only pertains to driving cars but also bikes. Always pay attention to road signs and follow rules. Make sure to always wear your seat belt and bike helmet. Don't listen to music too loudly and put down your cell phone!

**Bonus week: Summer safety:** There are many fun activities to do in the summer, but safety is always first. Be careful when playing on a playground, watch for other kids who are around you. When playing sports, wear protective equipment, stretch before playing, and stay hydrated with water. Wear sunscreen, a hat, and sunglasses when going outside. Know your limits when you are swimming.

There are many ways to stay safe in many different situations. What can you think of?

*Happenings in the health office:* Please remember to schedule your child's physical this summer if they need one. NYS mandates physical exams on students entering grades K, 2, 4, 7, 10, and new entrants. Also if your child takes medications at school, please have the proper paperwork completed by your doctor. Let me know if you need any forms to take to your child's appointment. Please call me with any questions!

Stay healthy!

Mrs. Parker RN, BSN



**Note: Mr. and Mrs. Parker are expecting their first baby in August.**

**Congratulations, Good Luck and God bless the Parker family!**

# Congratulations to Our Lady of Pompeii School's Kindergarten Class of 2014...



# Congratulations to Our Lady of Pompeii School's Eighth Grade Graduating Class of 2014!





# Thank you parents...



These pictures are just a small representation of the support Our Lady of Pompeii School has received throughout the years from the Home School Association. We thank you for your time, effort, and love in monitoring, fundraising, coaching, classroom help, bingo, baking, painting...the list goes on. God bless all of the parents (and grandparents) who have gone above and beyond for Our Lady of Pompeii.

## ***The Dream Team...***



***“We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance of hope of our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father knowing, brothers loved by God, how you were chosen.”***

***~ 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4***

### 2014 Religion Assessment Results

	Grade 3		Grade 7	
	OLP School	Diocese	OLP School	Diocese
Number of students	11	635	8	697
Program Score	92.4%	81.4%	92.2%	81.1%
Curriculum Standard: Scripture	88.3%	72.7%	93.8%	84.7%
Curriculum Standard: Creed	96.1%	86.3%	92.7%	82.8%
Curriculum Standard: Prayer	93.5%	79.1%	90.6%	73.6%
Curriculum Standard: Social Justice	90.9%	91.9%	90.6%	88.1%

### Business First Rankings (2007-2013):

2007 - 217    2008 - 171    2009 - 90    2010 - 39    2011 - 28    2012 - 22    2013 - 11

According to the percentage of students in third through eighth grade who met or exceeded the proficiency standards in English and Math in 2013 NYS tests, Our Lady of Pompeii School ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> of 57 area private schools, finishing 1<sup>st</sup> in ELA and 5<sup>th</sup> in Math.

Dedicated Teachers + Hard Working Students + Supportive Parents = Positive Results

***And this is what dreams are made of!***

## A Final Look Back...



First Day of School – Wednesday, September 24, 2013



Eighth Grade Graduation will be held on June 23, 2014



***“For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope.” ~ Jeremiah 29:11***