

OLD MISSION MONTESSORI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Halloween

By the end of October, in most of North America and Europe, days have become short and cold. The church keeps a great festival at this dark time of year—All Saints and All Souls, the first and second days of November. And, like every other Christian festival, the holiday begins at sunset on the day before.

An old name for All Saints' Day was All Hallowmas. ("Hallow" is another word for saint.) The eve of All Saints was called All Hallows' Eve, which got shortened to Halloween (from Hallowe'en, i.e., Hallows' evening).

This festival has an interesting history. Many of the peoples of northern Europe divided the year into four seasons based on the length of days, but these were a bit different from the seasons as we know them. "Winter" was the period of the shortest days. It began on November 1 and ended on February 1. This night, huge bonfires are lit on hilltops to welcome the dead who would return home for a bit of comfort by the warm hearthside. Food was set out. Any stranger was welcomed into the home. Who knew? Maybe the stranger was really a dead relative.

But the annual return of the dead brought trouble, too. Not all of them were friendly. So everyone stayed together all night for protection, and they told stories of the dead and of narrow escapes from cranky ghosts. People dressed up like the dead to make any ghostly visitors feel more welcome and also to confuse the angry ones.

In the earliest days of Christianity, the remembrance of the dead and the celebration of the saints was kept at Eastertime. We Christians look forward to the day of resurrection of all who have died. But in the tenth century in Western Europe, the church began to keep the remembrance of the dead in November, in autumn, when it seems as if the earth itself is dying. In most of Europe, Halloween is strictly a religious event. Sometimes in North America the church's traditions are lost or confused. Still, All Hallows has been kept by the church for over 1000 years.

Halloween night still can be a Christian celebration, kept as the holy eve of All Saints' Day. Halloween customs reflect the gospel. Trick-or-Treat is just good, old-fashioned hospitality. In the name of Christ, we welcome all who knock on our doors. Walking in the streets in masks and costumes reminds us of our journey to heaven. Once our journey is done, we will take our masks off and see ourselves as we truly are—the beloved children of God, the saints in glory.



DATES TO REMEMBER!

- **Thursday, October 29th**, JV Volleyball #6 vs. St. Mary's (away)
- **Thursday, October 29th**, JV Volleyball #5 vs. St. Michael's (away)
- **Friday, October 30th**, Harvest Hoe Down, Primary through Transition classrooms (Volunteers needed - see your child's Teacher)
- **Friday, October 30th**, 11:00 am, Elementary Mass (Jr. Elementary - Mid. School), **Full day: 3:00/3:15 p.m. dismissal.**
NO GOLF
- **Sunday, November 1st**, Daylight Savings time ends, (set clocks back 1 hour)

- **Sunday, November 1st**, Dia de los Muertos, Old Mission San Luis Rey, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.
- **Monday, November 2nd**, Flag Football vs. St. James, (home)
- **Friday, November 6th**, 11:00 am All School Mass, 12:30/12:45 pm dismissal
- **Tuesday, November 10th**, Casino Night at Capozzoli's
- **Wednesday, November 11th**, Veteran's Day, **NO SCHOOL**



Friday, October 30th Dismissal

There was an error in last week's newsletter. We will have a **full day** on **Friday, October 30th** with normal **dismissal time: 3:00/3:15 p.m.** I apologize for the error.

LEARNING MORE ABOUT MONTESSORI EDUCATION

FURTHER INFORMATION ON A MONTESSORI PREPARED ENVIRONMENT?

The structure of a "prepared environment" involves the use of many materials with which the child may work independently. At each step in learning, the teaching material is designed to test the child's understanding and to help correct errors.



VISIT FROM

SISTERS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

This past weekend we celebrated the *Sisters of the Precious Blood* and their legacy of service for 175 years! We were very blessed to have their presence here at Mission San Luis Rey Parish and school. Many returned to once again walk the school halls and reminisce plus to their delight many of their former students also returned this weekend to recall their school experience and share those times with one another. In speaking with and listening too many of these individuals one could visualize the school through their eyes and experience the history of Mission San Luis Rey. These wonderful Sisters definitely left their 'mark' and we will be forever grateful to them for our parish school and their presence at Old Mission Montessori!



Restaurant Night at Capozzoli's

Thank you to all of you who supported our most recent restaurant night at Capozzoli's. OMMS raised \$175.50 and good food, good music, and good company was enjoyed by all of us who attended. Restaurant night fundraisers benefit our school's art, music, drama and Spanish programs.



OMMS Casino Night

Next month, OMMS will be hosting Casino Night at Capozzoli's. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 10th starting at 7pm. Tickets are on sale now for \$50 and include a buffet dinner, beverages, \$500 in chips and prizes. This is an adult-only event. For information on tickets or corporate sponsorships, contact Lisa Caso at (760) 521-6841.



One of Our Camp

Pendleton Marines Needs Our Help!

This week will be our last opportunity to help a young Marine Sergeant's wife and three kids who have apparently lost everything material in America Samoa due to the tsunami. If you would like to help there is a list of items needed below. We will have a collection box in the school office. Thank you and God bless you for making a difference!

Items Needed: Canned food, toddlers clothes (sizes 3T & 5T), girl clothes (size 8), toiletries, blankets, kids toys & books



Parent Participation Opportunities

Outdoor Environment

Miss Antonelli needs help in our Outdoor Environment (after school care area).

- ~ We need about 15 square feet of pavers put in place for our "sacred space."
- ~ We have a two and one half foot tall St. Francis statue that needs to be positioned (permanently and safely) into place.
- ~ A work bench that needs restoration and cabinet doors.
- ~ A wooden wash stand that needs refinishing.

Please see Miss Antonelli after school in the Primary yard or you may leave a message with the school office. Thank you.



Harvest Hoe Down

We Need Your Help!!

Harvest Hoe Down is Friday, October 30th. We are still in need of parents to volunteer to bring food and to help run the games. We can't have a Hoe Down without parent participation! All food items are to be brought to your child's classroom on Friday morning. Also we will still need to borrow bike or skate helmets for the tractor ride (helmets need to be labeled and brought in Friday morning). The helmets will be returned to your child's classroom. Once again, thank you for all of your support and help.



Recycling Tree

Our school recycles with "Cartridges for Kids." We collect used inkjet cartridges, cell phones, GPS devices, laser cartridges, IPODS, video games and consoles, DVDs, digital cameras, PDAs, and laptops to recycle and earn money for the school. We have posted our "Recycling Tree." We would like to encourage our working parents to put out "recycling boxes" at their place of business. Each time one of the students brings in a recyclable item he/she will put a leaf on our tree! We hope to have a beautiful "recycling tree" filled with fall colors soon. Thank you for helping us to save our earth and earn monies for our school at the same time.



Thanksgiving Baskets

As is our tradition, OMMS will adopt about fourteen families in need from our community and from within our Marine Corp community at Camp Pendleton this Thanksgiving.

Our Thanksgiving baskets supply each family with a Thanksgiving meal (and a little extra). This is a stewardship project that helps us all "live" our faith so we encourage all of the children to get involved. Each classroom of students will decide together who will bring in each item for the family's basket. Once again, we would not be able to reach out to those in need if it weren't for the generous hearts of our OMMS Family! We appreciate you!

Just the Health Facts

Although we have not had any confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus, we have had students absent due to flu type symptoms including fever.

Remember to be diligent about HAND WASHING and remain home if ill, especially if you have a fever.

Our goal is to remain HEALTHY! Check out the Healthrock hand washing song at this link: <http://www.healthrock.com/cartoons/wash-your-hands>.



Late Nite Catechism is coming to town!!

Don't forget to mark your calendars!! Sister's brand new show, "Til Death Do Us Part", will be here on Friday, February 12th. Sister will give a hilarious lesson of the Sacrament of Marriage and Last Rites. Tickets will go on sale soon.



Lost and Found

~ Red/burgundy/black lunch bag was left on O'Keefe Field last Wednesday, with 3 important items inside. If you found it, please return it to the school office or Room 206. Thank you.



Prayer Corner

Please keep the following members of our school family in your prayers:

- ~ Mrs. Jill Sivage and Family
- ~ The Sam Marinello (Knight of Columbus) Family
- ~ Connor McWayne's Grandma
- ~ Mrs. Elena Paredes and Family
- ~ Kubitz Family
- ~ Yosuco Family
- ~ Evan Chiariello, Andrew's brother
- ~ Natalie and Allison Rubio's Great Grandma, Marseille
- ~ Donnah Snaer-Williams
- ~ Michael and Kevin Dyblie's uncle, Daniel Mlocek
- ~ The Rocha Family
- ~ Blanche Lindsey
- ~ The Nugent Family
- ~ The Vorndran Family
- ~ Our deployed men and women of the armed forces