



Founded in 1956

Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare

To: Parents of Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare
From: Board of Trustees of Our Lady of Bethlehem

We are pleased to provide you with an update on the current state of Our Lady of Bethlehem and plans for the coming year. As most of you know, last year we made the difficult and important decision to refocus Our Lady of Bethlehem as the premier provider of early childhood education and programs. After a year of review and planning, we would like to share the progress.

Mrs. Lori Dulin has been named Director of Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare. Mrs. Dulin is a graduate of Ohio Dominican University. She joined Our Lady of Bethlehem in 1996 and led the Childcare from 1998 to last year when she was named Interim Director. Mrs. Dulin developed and expanded the very popular Summer Program, which offers Catholic summer day camp for children ages 3 to Grade 6. She is dedicated to Our Lady of Bethlehem on all levels, and has been an effective project and spiritual leader.

We are taking the steps to implement an infant and toddler childcare program. With no Catholic childcare program of this kind in Central Ohio, Our Lady of Bethlehem is especially positioned to fill the need. We would like to give special recognition to parent Stacey Thomas for leading the project team. We are currently filing with the appropriate state and local agencies and appreciate any input and assistance into this process. The program will be formally announced once all paperwork has been accepted. Our target launch is the spring of 2010.

Most importantly, we want to share how we are doing with the goals we set for the community of Our Lady of Bethlehem.

1. Academic & spiritual growth for every child

- Awarded accreditation through 2013 by the Ohio Catholic School Accrediting Association for academic and spiritual programs.
- The student body performed “An Evening in Bethlehem Nativity Program” on December 10 at St. Timothy. More than 300 family members and friends from the Our Lady of Bethlehem community attended.
- Kindergarten students attend weekly Mass in the OLB chapel, including observing holy days of obligation. Younger students visit the chapel weekly.
- Issued first grading period progress reports and held parent/teacher conferences for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten families.
- The faculty “Intervention Assistance Team” is developing a plan for including additional guidance and discipline tools in the classrooms.
- Families contributed items for “Run the Race” Advent service project, a Catholic program that provides gifts and spiritual support to underprivileged youth.

2. Keep current students and bring new students to OLB with quality programs and offerings

- Developed plan to implement infant and toddler program, including the appropriate inspections and resources. Early projections suggest about 20 students could be accommodated in the existing space and three to four additional staff members would be needed to meet state-mandated ratios. Currently securing needed inspections from state and local agencies.
- Launched registration for 2010 summer program and 2010-11 academic year. Offerings include a new five-day Pre-Kindergarten program.
- Launched **Our Lunch Bunch** program which affords the opportunity for children to stay at OLB for lunch and recess. This encourages social and emotional development and extends learning beyond the classroom.
- Held “Fun Family Nights” such as Fall Fest and Advent Wreath-making. Students, families and staff enjoyed community building and fun. More events of this kind are being planned for the near future.

3. Secure OLB’s financial viability

- Corresponded with State Representative John Patrick Carney’s office regarding state budget cuts for non-public schools.
- Renewed OLB’s application to remain an Ed-Choice school for the 2010-11 school year.
- Conduct on-going review of financials, especially expenses, to make sure we stay within budget. This includes continued review of childcare and preschool staffing models.
- Taking steps to implement infant and toddler expansion.
- Grants Committee met to prepare for submission of grant application in late January.

4. Give our facility the love and attention it deserves

- Parent volunteers painted our future gym and large muscle room. Next, flooring and mats will be installed. February is the target month to begin using this classroom.
- Continued evaluation of physical plant and landscaping.
- Beautification Day hosted by the Home and School Association cleaned up the exterior and prepared landscaping for the winter months.
- Reconfigured classroom and office space to maximize learning opportunities, safety and efficiency.
- The lantern on the “front porch” has not worked for more than a decade. Mrs. Dulin had the lantern investigated for repair and learned it was hand-made of solid copper. The lantern now hangs proudly and brightly! This project cost just under \$100, including parts and labor. Mrs. Dulin has secured a private donation for the entire amount.

Our Lady of Bethlehem will host an open house for current families interested in our programs on Jan 31 from 1-3 pm. In the meantime, we encourage your input and participation because we very much appreciate your thoughts and involvement. Please know you are welcome at any of the board meetings, held the second Tuesday of the month, and the Marketing Committee meetings, typically held the second Saturday of the month. We also encourage your involvement in the Home and School Association and the Development Foundation. Please see your OLB calendar and weekly newsletters for meeting dates and times.

Founded in 1956 by the Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus, Our Lady of Bethlehem exists to lead all children to Jesus. We hope that your children and families continue to be blessed by this community.

Sincerely,

James Cetovich
President, Board of Trustees