



DECEMBER 2018



OUR LADY'S ACADEMY PTO NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER CALENDAR

12/2	Breakfast with Santa 9am-12pm
12/5	Early Release Day 11:30am
12/5	Parent Teacher Conferences
12/7	First Friday Mass 9am
12/12	PTO Meeting 7:30pm
12/17	Christmas Concert Grades 1-8 6:00-7:30pm
12/18	Christmas Concert PreK-K 9:15-10:30am
12/21	Tag Day
12/24-1/1	NO SCHOOL (Christmas Break)

WAGON WHEEL

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WAGON WHEEL NURSERY & FARMSTAND

has generously offered to give \$5 off the price of a Christmas tree as well as contribute \$5 to Our Lady's Academy December 1-24

Check out their festive offerings for internal and external décor, wreaths, boxwood trees, kissing balls and fresh garland.

The accompanying Flyer must be presented to participate in this offer.



Get to know **Music teacher Thomas Fallon** and his inspirational work with our children:

"As a 10 year old Boy Soprano having completed 3 vocal lessons I was strongly encouraged by my teacher to audition for the lead role of a Christmas opera being presented by the local Methodist church. I won the audition and after 3 months of lessons I made my operatic debut with full orchestra in Gian Carlo Menotti's 'Amahl & the night Visitors'. This performance going in front of an

audience of 1,500 people forever changed my life! A year later I auditioned for the same role which allowed me to tour the whole United States singing with major conductors and orchestras. Leaving my elementary Catholic school at the age of 11 for four months and being reviewed by major critics and journalists and singing in some of the finest concert halls of our country left an indelible impression! In my teenage years from a Boy Soprano to the rare Countertenor voice which I now possess has allowed me to develop an amazing international singing career in opera, oratorio, Irish, music theater and sacred music. I have been so fortunate to represent America in numerous international vocal competitions....the Olympics of voice!

As a man of deep faith I have always believed in 'giving back' so in addition to my own performing, I have a deep passion for teaching. I have happily touched the hearts and souls of over 10,000 students in classrooms, choirs, camps and artist residences where I have taught and appeared in MI, IA, PA and here in MA.

I began teaching at Our Lady's in September 2016 and have been thrilled to hear every student singing as they eagerly embrace the words of St. Augustine, **"those who sing pray twice"**! Students are also encouraged to join Our Lady's Children Choir to learn special praise music and seasonal selections used throughout the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmastide, Lent and Eastertide. As special solo voices emerge from my constant listening and encouragement these talented students are encouraged to become soloists and cantors.

Some musical learning opportunities offered to students Grades 3 through 8

- The major classical composers and their varied musical compositions are researched
- The quarterly music magazine, MUSIC EXPRESS, exposes students in all grades to Patriotic, Folk, Musical Theater and Classical selections.
- The ability to “read” music is also taught.
- Students wanting separate music instruction with piano, voice or other orchestral instruments are strongly encouraged to sign up for band, orchestra and choir which are all available at Our Lady’s Academy or they can also pursue private lessons with Mr. Fallon or other area music teachers that he can recommend.
- Many students have had the opportunity to attend a live performance of a symphony orchestra concert where they are exposed to the varied instruments that make up a modern day orchestra. These Lexington Symphony concerts held at Cary Hall, have been preceded and followed up with classroom discussions and CD listening sessions.
- Select classes have experienced Master Classes with varied instrumentalists explaining the range, timbre and repertoire of their instrument. A very highly successful presentation of a modified opera, **La Traviata**, by Giuseppe Verdi was also presented in conjunction with the Italian Consulate and our Italian language department.
- All of our Christmas and Spring concerts are thematically arranged and prepared. It is amazing how many songs your children have learned from the presentations of **“Broadway on Trapelo”**, **“Dizzy for Disney”**, **“ A Christmas Card Concert”**, **“The Spirit of the Season”** and the forthcoming presentations of **“The Greatest Gift”** and **“We Hear America Singing”!**

Upcoming

- Christmas and Spring concerts provide an opportunity to showcase the wonderful talent that is found within our entire student body.
- A Talent Show is being planned for 2019. This talent show, with auditioned performers, will allow talented students the perfect opportunity to display their musical talents to the whole student body while also gaining invaluable performance experience.
- Music classes, choir rehearsals and Academy Masses make a big difference in the hearts and souls of your children. They are passionate about our concerts and their singing and they rely on each of you to be loving, supportive audiences. I look forward to seeing all of you on **December 17th and 18th!** **“The Greatest Gift”**, the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ is the real **“reason for the season”**. Our students look forward to expressing in song the faith we profess and the hope that we await! A blessed Advent and Christmas to one and all! **“ Mr. Fallon**

Thank you to all who volunteered to make ‘Breakfast with Santa’ a fun and successful event!



Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all Our Lady’s Academy Faculty, Staff and families! May Peace flourish in your hearts and dwell in your homes.

Best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous 2019!

JANUARY CALENDAR

1/2 First Wednesday Early Dismissal 11:30am
1/4 First Friday Mass 9am
1/9 PTO Meeting 7:30pm
1/18 Tag Day (Free Dress Day)
1/26 Family Bingo Night 5:30-7:30 pm
1/27 Family Mass and Reception 9am
1/28 Spirit Day & Pre-K/TK Assembly
1/29 Crazy Hair/Hat Day
1/30 Open House 6-8pm
1/31 Movie Day

Get involved in **Our Lady’s Academy** and come to a **PTO meeting!**

PTO Meeting Tonight!

Meetings are held in the Conference Room outside the main office the **second Wednesday** of the month at 7:30pm. We welcome all parents, guardians and faculty! Contact ptoboard@ourladysacademy.org with any questions.