



FEBRUARY 2019



OUR LADY'S ACADEMY PTO NEWSLETTER

Meet Donna Allen – Guidance Counselor

Donna began in 2013 as a Guidance Counselor to work with eighth graders as they make their transition to high school. She works two days per week (Mon and Tues) and a large portion of her time is dedicated to working with students and families during this exciting time of change for eighth graders. Donna offers



- Info sessions for Parents in Spring and Fall to go over the high school application process.
- In the Fall, coordinates various high schools to visit and meet with 8th graders.
- An Interview class for students to help them prepare for interviews they may have at high schools.
- A resource to students and parents throughout the high school application process.
- Coordinates the application process by sending out the supporting materials needed for each application made and by doing the Administrative recommendations for each student.

In addition to the work with eighth graders, Donna

- Developed and coordinates the annual New Parent Orientation to welcome new families to Our Lady's Academy.
- Coordinates Grandparents/Special Persons Day in the Spring.
- Chaired the School Climate and Culture Committee.
- Coordinated with Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) to bring anti-bullying programs to students at Our Lady's Academy.

Donna has an Undergraduate Degree in Early Childhood Education, certifications in Early Childhood and Elementary Education and a Master of Social Work Degree, as well as a certificate in Human Services Administration.

She has also worked as a

- Child Advocate and as a School Social Worker in public and private schools.
- Taught college courses in Child Development and Human Development and Strategies of Behavior.
- Volunteered as a Faith Formation teacher and a Girl Scout Leader

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 2/1** First Friday Mass 9am
- 2/6** Early Dismissal 11:30am
- 2/13** Social Studies Fair 6pm
- 2/13** PTO Meeting 7:30pm
- 2/15** Tag Day
- 2/18 – 2/22** NO SCHOOL - February Break

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

A big Shout Out to all volunteers who helped coordinate and execute the various activities for Catholic Schools Week: 6th and 8th grade parents who hosted the concessions at Family Bingo, Stas Sadkowski for MCing the evening and calling the games, Shelli Waetzig, Andrea Larranaga, Monica Rojas-Cuellar and the middle school teachers & students for helping with the care packages, Irwin, Mrs. G and Mrs. Minor. A special thank you to the Sweeney Family for generously hosting the Ice Cream Social Finale and to the coordinator of Catholic Schools week, Monica Rojas-Cuellar. All your talents and contributions to making it a success are much appreciated.



**Meet Fran Stuart,
Director of
Instruction and
Curriculum**



Fran's main role at Our Lady's Academy is to oversee the selection of curricula, order classroom books, monitor student performance data as well as the training and evaluating of teachers. She also tutors students which she totally enjoys when possible. You might call her a jill of all trades! She retired from the Boston Public schools after 40 years as a teacher, principal, math and science facilitator. She was honored as a Boston Teacher of the Year recipient of which she is very proud. She has worked at the Museum of Science evaluating new curriculum as well as instituting a program for involving New England school districts in the wonders of the MOS. She has a B.S. in Elementary Education and a Masters in Education from Lesley University. She has two children and five grandchildren whom she adores and they certainly keep her very busy!



Box Tops for Education can help enhance our school. If you have any sitting around from cereal and other groceries, please bring them into class for Carolina Lara who is coordinating that effort. Sheets will come home for parents/kids to add their box tops to. This effort raised \$500 this winter! Your contribution makes a difference.

MARCH CALENDAR

- 3/1** First Friday Mass 9am
- 3/6** Ash Wednesday Mass 9am
- 3/6** Early Dismissal 11:30am
- 3/13** PTO Meeting 7:30pm



Our Lady's Academy on AmazonSmile

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**Wishing a Happy Valentine's Day
and enjoyable February Break to
all Our Lady's Academy Staff,
Faculty and Families!**



Come join us at the PTO Meeting, it's a great way to Lady's meet other parents and get involved in Our Lady's Academy.

Meetings are held in the Conference Room outside the main office the **second** Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm. We welcome all parents, guardians and faculty!

Contact ptoboard@ourladysacademy.org with any questions.