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**Our Lady of Peace School Alumni Newsletter**

# Panther Pride



**current topics >>>**

## How can you be an EXTRAORDINARY Alum for Peace?

While Our Lady of Peace School is truly EXTRAORDINARY in things money cannot buy, we count on the generosity of others to support our excellent programs and opportunities.

Alumni gifts help fill the gap between tuition and what it actually costs to educate our students at OLP. Our nationally recognized school provides a visible return on your investment by educating, challenging and inspiring our students to be life-long learners and instilling in them a sense of service to their community.

**Watch your mail for our Annual Fund Letter. We hope you choose to be... EXTRAORDINARY for PEACE!**

WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET, BUT WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE.

-WINSTON CHURCHILL

## EXTRA! EXTRA!

### From the Desk of Principal Maureen Kerr to Alumni

It is hard to believe I have begun my fifth year as principal of Our Lady of Peace. It doesn't seem that long ago when I was a student here. So many things are still the same – caring and inspiring teachers; loving and hardworking volunteers; a sense of family in the parish and school that is priceless; and our foundation of faith that is intrinsic in all we do! However, so many things are impressively different, our one-to-one Chromebook environment for our middle schools; our updated new technology infrastructure and online assessments for our K-8; and our safety and security program which is being used as a model for other schools. What is even more impressive is that it is alumni that had a key roll in all of these improvements.

For me personally, this is going to be an EXTRAORDINARY year to watch our students learn, grow, and achieve. All three of my children are here at OLP. My son, Brady, began middle school this year, which means wearing a tie every day, switching classes just like he will in high school, and getting the important privilege at OLP – a locker! My daughter Claire entered fourth grade, a year with more responsibility and the anxiously anticipated first year to be part of the Academic Fair with a science project.

Then there is my youngest, Evan. He's in kindergarten—a time, when homework is exciting and makes him feel like “a big kid”, and oh, the uniform! It makes me so proud to see all three of them here in the halls of Peace – the school I truly love and

have invested my heart and soul into like so many before me.

This year, as the People of Peace, we will concentrate on reaching our goals and building our character as we strive to ask ourselves how we can *Be Extraordinary* in all ways – in our Faith, in our Academics, and in the way we serve others. Here at Our Lady of Peace, our mission is real and it is lived out – to be the People of Peace. Join us as we think about being even more



extraordinary; going above the norm and doing things a little better, with a little more love and a little more thought. Together, let's be inspired to make our world, community, and school better for our children and their future. Thank you for being a faithful part of Our Lady of Peace. We do not take you for granted.

*Maureen*

# Irvin says summer studies in India were life changing

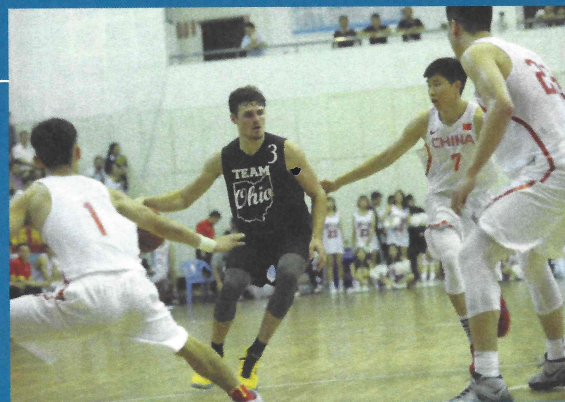
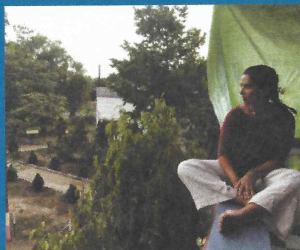
Alison Irvin, OLP '11, traveled abroad to study in India. She not only explored the beautiful culture and land, but also learned more about herself. She share her experience with our students and guests at our Family & Friends Day—All About India.

You can read her blog at:

[alisonindia.wordpress.com](http://alisonindia.wordpress.com)

## What she learned:

“The journey was hard at times and challenged me physically and mentally, but it was well worth it. If you have the chance to explore— GO! Don’t look back. Take chances. Meet people from around the world and jump out of your comfort zone! Learn to think outside the box and pay attention to the world around you.”



# Basketball takes Harler to China

Chase Harler, WVU Men’s Basketball guard and OLP '12 grad, traveled to China this past summer to represent the USA in exhibition games against teams from Germany, Lithuania and China. Harler especially loved playing pick up games on the playground of grade schools he visited, while on his trip.



Nikki Nolte, OLP '14, presents a thank you banner to OLP for helping with the Ronald McDonald House pull tab to cash program.

## Nolte & OLP Shine

OLP 2014 Graduate and 2017 CCHS Homecoming Queen, presented OLP with a Ronald McDonald House thank you banner. Together Nolte and OLP collected 200 pounds of pop tabs with the help of our sixth grade's collection efforts. The tabs turn into cash to keep the amazing family centered housing open. Nikki was one of 50 queens to be honored RMHC guests. She received a personal tour of the Ronald McDonald House and St Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital for collecting the most tabs.

## Giving spirit >>>

# Dunlevy key to OLP strategies: safety, security, and technology

Our Lady of Peace School is leading the way in school safety measures thanks to OLP Class of 2010 graduate Trey Dunlevy. Trey, who owned and operated Westgate Security since the time he was in sixth grade (yes sixth grade!), is the lead in the school’s crisis management committee, technology committee, facilities & maintenance, and strategic planning. Trey now leads Yahn Electric’s new security & communications company. His expertise in safety, lighting, sound, technology, and electronics have not only saved the school tens of thousands of dollars but also provides a level of protection like never before.



OLP Class of 2010 graduate Trey Dunlevy previews an app on Principal Maureen Kerr’s phone that secures doors, regulates an HVAC system, and serves as a two way crisis alert system with her staff.

“It is technology that we hope we never have to use, but we feel safe and have peace, knowing it is in place to protect our children and our staff,” said Principal Maureen Kerr.

# We are blessed by our EXTRAORDINARY Donors!

More than 20% of our budget comes from third source income—fundraisers, alumni gifts, donations, grants, and awards.

Listed below are donors from August '17-August '18. We thank them for making a difference for Peace!

## Gifts of \$10,000 or more

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Mr. and Mrs. George Ferdinand

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Steve and Maureen Kerr

## Gifts up to \$199

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Yoho

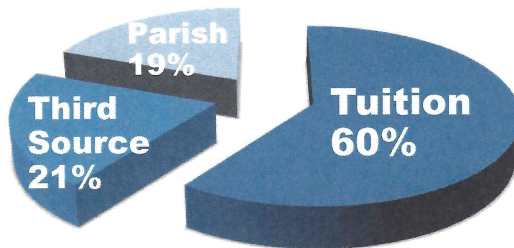
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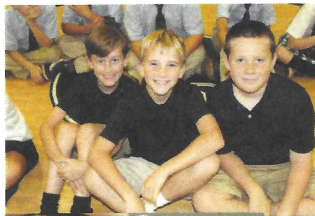
Craig and Jessica Glenn

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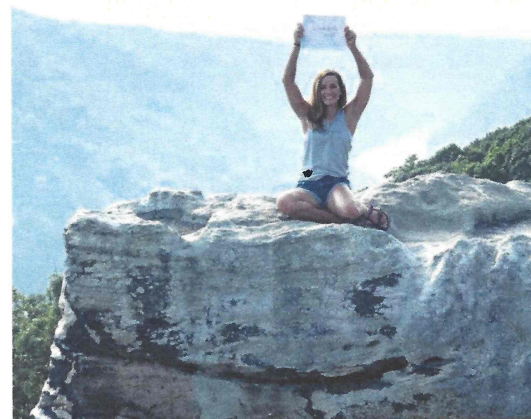
Mr. and Mrs. Zachary Allman

Valerie Piko

Jerry Burkle



Thank You

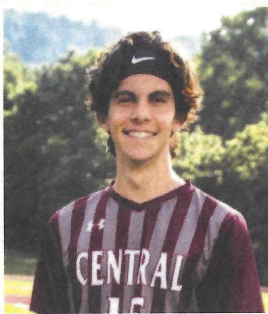


## Schneid publishes 2nd Book

Addie Schneid, author of *Shelly on the Seashore* and *OLP* 2008 grad, recently received word that her second children's book will be published. *The Wonderfully Wild Ones* will be released in the Spring of 2019. It spotlights our beautiful state of West Virginia.

## Cole Saseen's making the grade for OLP

Our Lady of Peace Class of 2016 graduate Cole Saseen is excelling in the classroom and on the soccer field at Central Catholic High School, and



what he is doing at OLP that is making a positive difference.

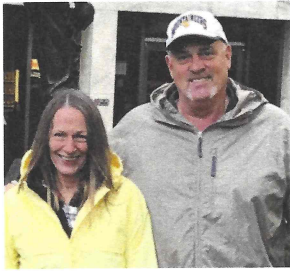
Saseen is spending the free time he does have tutoring students in math both after school and in the summer.

"He is such a great example for alumni of how we can give back in meaningful ways," Kerr said. "We love when our alumni come back to visit, tour the school, attend a fun-fundraiser.... When they come back with a gift of time, talent and treasure it truly touches your heart."

# OLP pride still strong

*It's been decades since Mark Owen, Class of 1969, has walked the halls of his old grade school. In early August, he and his wife, Lisa, stopped by and did just that. They left not only impressed, but also so very proud of the school that gave him such a solid foundation for success in life was still going strong and living up to its mission.*

As he toured the school Mark with his wife of 44 years, he shared fond stories of OLP. He was in second grade when



the doors opened in 1962. He served as an altar boy for Fr. Robert Lee and loved playing basketball for OLP. Although it wasn't until 1969 when the boys finally had a winning record and won the

league!

Mark enjoyed seeing the personalized bricks on the playground walkway he bought in honor of his 1969 graduation year, and for his father, Douglas Owen, who was a WWII veteran and awarded three Purple Hearts, 3 Bronze Stars, and a Combat infantry badge.

Be like Mark, and stop by OLP. See what has changed, what is transforming, and what will forever be our foundation—our faith and excellence in education! You will be glad you did.



1969 CHAMPS—OLP Panthers Boys Basketball won the parochial league tournament!

**Plan to join us >>>**

**Save the date:**

- Dec. 1 Breakfast with Santa*
- Jan. 25 Catholic Schools Week*
- Feb. 8 Mystery Dinner Theater*
- April 13 Trivia Night*

**Contact us at 304-242-1383**

[www.olpschool.org](http://www.olpschool.org)

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