



Our Lady of Peace School  
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Wheeling, WV 26003  
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# Our Lady of Peace *Panther Pride*

Alumni Newsletter 2015

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Your support helps us grow strong



## Educating children from preschool to eighth grade.

Focusing on the formation of our students  
academically, civically, and athletically in a caring  
and faith filled environment.

*Dear Alumni,*

I write this letter to you as a welcome back to your alma mater! Our mission is to help you stay connected to your beautiful hilltop grade school and keep you updated on what's going on at Our Lady of Peace.

As an alumna myself, I am confident in saying that it is truly our alumni that make up the foundation on which we have grown. Because of our students both former and current, we work hard each and every day to improve upon our more than 50 years of excellence to make you a proud member of our school community.

You are a vital part of Our Lady of Peace's past, present and future! It is our hope that you come back and join us for a special event, fundraiser, or just a visit to stroll through the halls. We'd love to see you so we can show you what is new, what's transforming and what will never change.

*Maureen*

Principal Maureen Thalman Kerr  
Class of '94



Fellow Alumni,

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE....

I ask you to remember back to the time, when most everything you were involved in centered around OLP. Life was much simpler then. Excitement was around our school performances, sacraments, sporting events, and who could forget the fantastic OLP Fiesta days in the summer?

Can you picture yourself walking into the old double door entrance? Within the last 10 years we had new full view etched glass doors installed thanks to Bishop Michael Bransfield's beautification efforts.

Can you remember looking down at those old square tiles as you walked through the halls and stair wells? We were able to replace all that flooring last year thanks to many of you, our pa-

### Help us get new lockers!

Sponsor a locker for \$130

Your name and graduation year will be featured.

(Return the form on page 11 of The Panther Pride by June 30th)

If your years at Peace date back as far as mine do, you can remember having to cram your books in your desk, and when we got to the middle school level that meant books, note books, binders, folders, pencil boxes? Well...it was one big mess. After my class graduated in 1994, the school received the old staff lockers from Wheeling Hospital. Those have been used by our middle school students who occupy the main hall. Through the years the Knights of Columbus have painted and repaired the lockers as best they can. However, the time has come that we need to replace them.

For \$130 each we can get new lockers to neatly line our hallway. The overall goal is to raise \$10,400 for 80 lockers. As fellow alum of our truly remarkable school, I'm asking you to SPONSOR A LOCKER FOR PEACE. We will honor each locker donor with a commemorative locker marker, featuring your name and graduation year or your family's name.

Your consideration of a gift to meet our goal will be so appreciated. Use the form on page 11 of this edition of our Peace Pride Alumni Newsletter and join me in making a visible difference for Peace. As the new principal, I have said numerous times how amazed I am at the generosity and kindness

of the People of PEACE. Thanks for being a part of this very special group. I appreciate your time; and seriously... stop by and see us!

With Peace,  
Maureen Kerr



## Sponsor a locker for Peace!

For \$130 you can sponsor a locker for Peace as part of our middle school locker replacement project. We need at least 80 lockers, and you can help get us there!

Each locker donated will feature a dedication plate with the donor and class year.

Fill out the form below and return it to school by June 30th!



Yes! I am excited to donate a locker!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### For dedication plate (Two lines maximum)

Name to appear (can be single student or family): \_\_\_\_\_

Year of OLP Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

### Examples:

*Maureen Thalman Kerr  
Class of 1994*

*The Bibey Family  
1982, 2011, 2016*

## Class of 2014 kick started Mrs. Kerr's First Annual Fund Campaign



Annual Fund Goal \$10,000 for new K-6 Reading Program. The campaign was kicked off by the Class of 2014, who donated \$20.14 each. That wonderful statement coupled with the generosity of our school families, parishioners, alumni, and friends of OLP quickly raised \$10,900!

### Your support helps us grow strong!

Special fundraising events held to benefit students and programs at Our Lady of Peace School this year included:

**The Walk for Peace Walk a thon \$10,599**

**Joint Parish and School Steak Fry \$5,397**

**The Annual Valentine Dinner Dance \$11,116**

**Paint n' Sip and Paint n' Shake \$2,135**

**Peace Premier of Dueling Pianos \$5,600**

**Next project: Lockers! Amount needed \$10,400**

**Amazing Raise \$1,175**

### What You Can Do – SPONSOR A LOCKER FOR PEACE!

For \$130 you can sponsor a locker for Peace as part of our middle school locker replacement project. We need at least 80 lockers, and you can help get us there! Each locker donated will feature a dedication plate with the donor and class year. Fill out the form on the back page and return it to school by June 19th!



## Students come from near, far to be a part of Peace

The first bell of the day rings at 8 a.m. now at Our Lady of Peace School. That's when the exciting buzz you can all remember fills the hallways as students make their way to their lockers and classrooms. Most of the students come from nearby



communities, Mount Olivet, Mozart, Bethlehem; but not all. If you ask Principal Maureen Kerr, "That's just another reason we are so exceptional."

They come from all over Marshall County – Glen Dale, Moundsville, Washington Lands, and McMechen. Her students travel from as far south as New Martinsville and Proctor. They drive from the western communities of Dallas Pike and Cameron. They come from northern communities throughout Wheeling including Triadelphia and Valley Grove. Her students even travel across the River from St. Clairsville and Shadyside. More than 60 students travel 20 minutes or more to get to school. Several travel as much as an hour to get to school every day. So, why? Kerr said it is not due to a grand marketing plan. It is simply

because of reputation and focus.

"We work very hard as a faculty, school board, and parish to offer not only an excellent education, but also and arguably more importantly a nurturing, inspiring and

welcoming environment for every child," Kerr said. "We are always working on new and exciting curriculum; we are continually transforming our programs to stay in the lead; and we are standing firm on our foundation of faith and that will never change."

Our Lady of Peace School (OLP) serves children in grades Preschool 3 to 8th grade.

Eighth grader Jenna Cunningham, of St. Clairsville, wrote about how much she loves OLP in her book publishing assignment for her eighth grade English class. Cunningham transferred to the school when she was in fifth grade after her school, St. Joseph Central Grade School, closed its doors.

"I couldn't believe it. My school was closing? I was so sad and thought I would never have a school I could love again," she said. "My dad always taught me 'Everything happens for a reason.' He was right. I absolutely love Our Lady of Peace. There is so much to do here, and I have so many friends from all over.

"These have been the best four years of my life," she said. "I will be sad to leave, but (OLP) has prepared me well and I am confident I will do well the next four years."

Emma Brown of New Martinsville gets the prize for traveling the furthest distance to school.

"I literally have a school in my neighborhood I could walk to, but my parents heard about how nice Our Lady of Peace is and set up a day for me to visit," Brown, a sixth grader said. "I loved it. I remember



getting in the car with my mom after I shadowed, and begging her to please let me go to school here. "I can't thank my parents enough for all the sacrifices they have to make for me to go here," she said. "I know they are happy. I'm doing better in school and I am so happy."

Proctor resident Justus Kirkland agrees with Brown and added, "The teachers here care about you. They genuinely want you to do well. "It's not always easy to get up so early to get here on time, but it is worth it," Kirkland said.

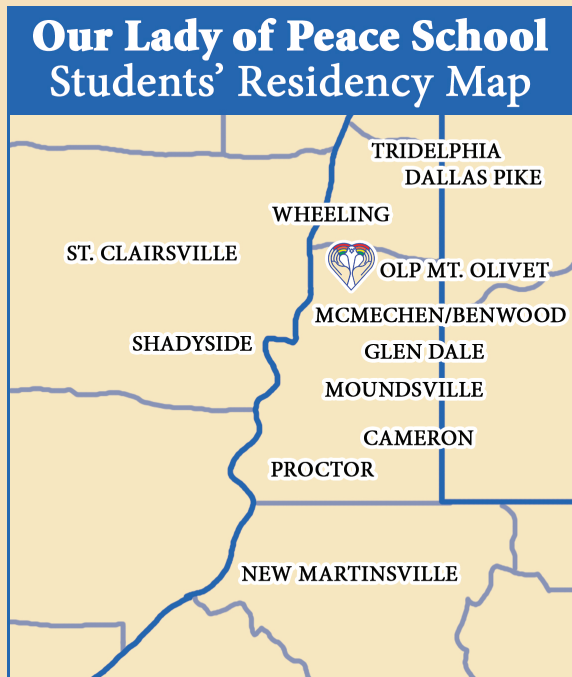
Parent Tracy Sheedy of Cameron brings her three-year-old son Nash to OLP, because she believes "the school is ahead of the others. Nash's PK3 class is doing lessons and activities that his peers in other schools who are in kindergarten haven't been challenged to do yet. If you ask Nash though, he'll just say 'I love school', he just wished it were every day."

Our students in pre-school through fifth grade are taught in an environment that recognizes the potential in each child, Kerr said. "Our culture of life-long learning provides positive reinforcement, self-confidence and guided instruction to build a desire for excellence and creativity." Our Lady of Peace is a two time National School of Tomorrow winner for innovations in education. "The faith formation of our students sets us apart," Kerr said. "We prepare our students not only for academic success, but to be leaders in the community by learning and leading others down Christ's path. We put our mission to practice. It's not just a bunch of words, we truly strive to be the People of PEACE: Prayer; Encouragement & Example; Academic Excellence; Community, Commitment, Covenant; and

Esteem for Ourselves and Others. "I really like having religion class and going to Mass as a whole school," said sixth grader Libby Murrin of Dallas Pike, "(OLP) is a great place to be. I can take advanced math with seventh grade. I know my teachers will work with me in all my subjects, because (OLP) has great student-teacher interaction. I appreciate my parents for sending me and my brother (first grader) Jasper here."

Fourth grader Alyssa Kalo of Triadelphia said she values OLP Pastor Fr. Dennis Schuelkens. "Fr. Dennis is cool," she said. "He does so much for us at our school Masses, plays with us at recess, and comes into our classrooms. I can't imagine going to any other school. I can't imagine going to a school where we wouldn't pray as a class for someone who's sick or has died. It would be so weird not to have a Fr. Dennis or prayer in school."

The school offers activities for students to enrich their mind and spirit, while developing honor and character. "Our teams, clubs and activities foster responsibility, good will, dedication and hard work," Kerr said. "It's like our unofficial motto states, 'We work hard; we pray hard; and we play hard.'" Students guided by their teachers discover their own passion for learning in and outside the typical classroom walls. "I love my school," said the smiling fifth grader Lauren Tekely from St. Clairsville. "So does my mom, my dad, and my grandparents. There's always something fun going on or to work towards." "We are the people of Peace," Kerr said.



## *Our Lady of Peace School Students' Residency Map*

### Platinum Level:

Dr. John Battagino Jr.  
James & Peg Blatt and family  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Curran  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Huggins  
Philip Reilly  
Fr. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr.  
Bruce & Sondra Wilson

### Gold Level:

Mr. & Mrs. Rick Schneid and Family

### Silver Level:

Camella Battagino  
Virginia Battagino  
Bishop Michael J. Bransfield  
OLP K of C  
OLP Ladies Auxiliary  
John E. Mazelon  
Janet Orkoskey  
Dr. & Mrs. James Schnupp  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Thalman

### Bronze Level:

Mr. & Mrs. Lance Bibey  
Curtis & Rita Bowers  
John & Janet Callahan  
Ron & Barb Klug  
Mrs. Grace Kolibash  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Leffe  
Beatrice Marquart  
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Marquart  
Dr. Gregory Merrick MD  
Mr. & Mrs. Curt Oliver  
Leveltek Processing  
Mr. & Mrs. William Sechrest  
Ms Lori Simon  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Wiethe  
Mary Ann Wolf

### Friends Level:

Ms. Jane Albert  
Altmeyer Funeral Home  
Anne Amrhein  
Mrs. Kathleen Antonucci  
Berry, Kessler, Crutchfield,  
Taylor & Gordon  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael W. Benson  
Mr. & Mrs. Denzel Bibey  
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Biro  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Blake  
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Bloch  
Keith & Mary Bonenberger  
Sara & Edward Bowman  
Mrs. Carolyn Capage  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Carp  
John & Donna Clark  
Dougand Christy Costain  
Jeff & Patty Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Doran  
The Honorable Michael Ferro  
Sharon Flowers  
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Fowler  
Michael Gantzer  
Chris & Jodie Gardill  
Bob & Debbie Gessler  
Toki Gladkowski  
Grace Gossett  
Grisell Funeral Homes  
Mr. Stephen & Dora Gulajski  
Mr. & Mrs. Brad Hartley  
Judy & Okey Hays  
Joe & Patty Hickman  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Holmes  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Humway  
Dr. Richard & Cece Irvin  
Mark & Jennifer Jarrett  
Mrs. Mary Jo Keim  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Kemp

Phil & Stephanie King  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Kirkland  
Patricia Kleinedler  
Mary Cath & Yvonne Klug  
Steve & Pat Kosek  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Krone  
Kucera Heating & Plumbing  
Marist Sisters  
Curt & Sherri Mason  
Mr. & Mrs. John Mazelon  
Steve & Carol Mazure  
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel McCullough  
Paul & Marcella McGinnis  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Megna  
Betty Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Morando  
Gary Mulhern  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Mulhern  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Patrick  
Mr. & Mrs. William Pack  
Valerie & Gary Pickett  
Dave and Rhonda Polinski  
Ed & Rosemary Polli  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Potts  
Sue Protich  
Shirts N More, Jim & Tracy Nolte  
Mrs. Hazel Ralbusky  
Bridget Rine  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rodak  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Roth  
Emily Saseen  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Schellhase  
Mike & Lisa Schlanz  
Mr. & Mrs. Edmund J. Schodzinski  
Craig & Renee Schneid  
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Skrzypek  
Mr. & Mrs. James Smith  
Mrs. Debby Stauver  
Mary Stein  
Mrs. Erma Tatar

Mr. & Mrs. Andy Thalman  
Joseph & Patricia Trubiano  
Mr. & Mrs. Bernie Twigg  
Mr. & Mrs. Tony White  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Whitelatch  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wilson  
Stacey Woody  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Wycherley  
Yahn Electric, Ed Yahn  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Zien

\$24,000

*Thank you!*

## Our Teachers and Staff 2014-2015



**Pre School** – Marybeth Pollack  
with Elaine Malloy as aide.

**Kindergarten** – Jessica Glenn (Class of '94)  
with Nancy DeFazio as aide

**1st Grade** – Lorri Schodzinski  
with Becky Berletch as aide

**2nd Grade** – Rhonda Neer  
with Becky Berletch as aide

**3rd Grade** – Becky Cox

**4th Grade** – Vanessa DeBlasis

**5th Grade** – Sue Cunningham  
with Sue Protich as aide

**6th Grade and Middle School Social Studies** – Sharon Flowers

**7th Grade and Middle School Science and Math** – Lisa Schlantz

**8th Grade and Middle School English and Spelling** - Renee Schneid

**P.E./Health** – Angela Murphy

**Art** – Amy Thalman

**Spanish** – Debbie Zien

**Piano and Robotics** – Richard Pollack

**Technology** – Von Cain

**Bells and Guitar** – Mike Oliver

**Reading Specialist** – Stephanie King

**School Secretaries** – Cel Schneid and Judy Hays

**Development Director** – Joyce Bibey

**Maintenance** – Rick and Paula Magruder

**Parish Secretary** – Cecilia Donahoe

### School Board Leadership:

Greg Marquart

Latrisha Whitelatch

Bob Potts

J.J. Murrin

Chris Gardill

Brad Hartley

Vickie Tekely

Heather Schneid, Class of '00

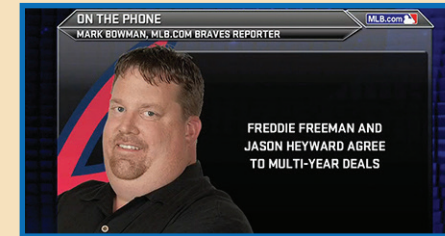
Tiffany Hoffman, Class of '95

Ray Thalman

## KEEP IN TOUCH!

We'd like to catch up on what is new and exciting in your life, as well as keep you informed about OLP events, opportunities and alumni news. Provide us with your updated personal/business - and for you younger alumni - school info. Share your news, accomplishments, and photos with us! Have an old picture from your Our Lady of Peace days? Send it to us at: [jbibey@olpschool.org](mailto:jbibey@olpschool.org) AND, Please, stop by to see us!

## PANTHER PAUSE: *Alumni News*



For the last 14 years he's been on the writing end of Major League Baseball, but this summer the table was turned so to speak. **Mark Bowman** was the one being written about on MLB blogs. Bowman a 1988 graduate of OLP was honored last summer with Mark Bowman Day at Coolray Field by the Atlanta Braves Franchise. Bowman threw out the ceremonial first pitch prior to Gwinnett Braves game against the Durham Bulls. Panther pride! Mark, we pray that the good Lord continues to inspire you and your writing.

Congratulations to 2002 Graduate **Jena Saseen** who completed her first year principal ship! Saseen was named principal of Our Lady of Fatima School in Huntington, WV, last summer. Saseen was last in our alumni newsletter in 2013, highlighting her adventures of teaching in China for more than a year. May Mother Mary guide you as you nurture your new Fatima family.



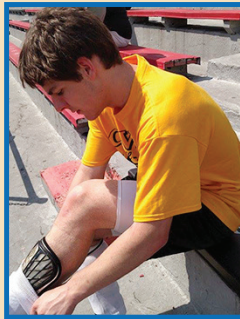
**Daniel Callahan**, OLP 2010, is completing his first year of at St. John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C. Our parish and school family is blessed to seminar-ians, Daniel and OLP Parishioner and PSR/RCIA teacher Justin Golna who will be entering seminary at Theological College in Washington, D.C. in the fall. May God bless them on their journey to become men who bring Christ to the world.

**Chase Harler**, OLP 2012, became the first commit for the Class of 2016 for WVU Men's Basketball! Harler a junior at Central Catholic High School, Wheeling, has been written about in dozens of articles nationally. He has credited his OLP Panther days for giving him a clearer focus on wanting to play basketball at the Division I level. Chase was also named the Gatorade Player of the Year for WV! He is pictured with his OLP Coaches, his father John Harler and Lance Bibey. Blessings and congratulations to you, Chase!



**Boyd Bibey**, OLP 2011, accepted a basketball and academic scholarship to attend Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan. He will play for the Concordia Cardinals, part of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. Bibey is still wearing #22 on his jersey just as he did here at OLP. He graduated with the CCHS Class of 2015 in May. He was the recipient of the Skip Prosser Award for exceptional athletes of character and faith. This award is given to one athlete at each of the high school, collegiate, and NBA levels. Boyd, may the Lord bless you on this exciting journey.

*Alumni News continued...*



Also from the Class of 2011, **Adler Roth**, was selected to represent WV in the OVAC All-Star Soccer Game at Harding Stadium in Steubenville. Adler will continue his athletics in college. He will be a distance runner for Geneva University in Butler, PA. Congratulations!!! May the dear Lord continue to bless your every stride.

Class of 2012 Graduate **Dylan Wojcik** led his Wheeling Park High School Patriots to the AAA golf state championship title. Wojcik was the AAA medalist winning by three shots. We are very proud of you, Dylan. May God continue to be your guide.



Our Lady of Peace School's **Noah Martinez** of the Class of 2015 earned the 2015 Aquinas Award.

Class of 2011 Graduate **Cheyenne Reinbeau** was selected as Bishop Donahue High School's winner. The Aquinas medal is awarded to students who characterize all that is good about our Catholic schools. Bless you both as you continue to be leaders down Christ's path.



Class of 2014 Graduate **Nikki Nolte** earned two state titles for CCHS in May for Track, winning the 4x200 and the 400 meter dash. As Fr. Dennis quotes St. Paul from 1Corinthians 9:24- *With Christ run as to win.*

# REUNION



CLASS OF **1984** WE NEED YOU:

Tom Brautigan and Jim Halavonich are planning a reunion/get-together with their classmates.

Please email your contact info to [jbibey@olpschool.org](mailto:jbibey@olpschool.org)

## OLP Facts 2014-2015 School Year:

Student survey:  
"OLP is awesome!"

226  
Students  
in grades  
PK-3 to 8th

New parent survey  
echoes this response:  
"OLP is the best  
decision we ever  
made!"

Tuition for 1  
Non-Parishioner  
Child  
\$3,530

Tuition for 1  
Parishioner Child  
\$2,865

Mrs. Becky  
Cox retires at the close  
of the 2014-2015 school  
year. She has devoted  
21 years to OLP - a true  
blessing to many!

159  
Families