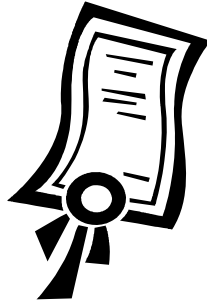


OLSS CONTEST WINNERS' CIRCLE



OLSS Graduate Receives CYO Shining Star Award

Congratulations to Nicolas Tritto OLSS Class of 2010 who recently was presented with the CYO Shining Star Award. This prestigious award is presented to students who have made a positive impact in their community. The students are nominated by the school principal. In October 2009 Nick suffered a serious life threatening medical problem. From the time Nick was presented with this problem his attitude was positive and his determination to overcome the obstacles that faced him was incredible. He has become an inspiration to the OLSS school community. Adults and students witnessed how life can change in a split second. Nick along with his family showed us that a strong faith in God and always focusing on the positive are key elements in meeting the challenges of life. Congratulations, Nick!

Our Own Spell Check

Spelling is not a forgotten subject at OLSS. We have our own spell check system – the students. Recently, students in grades 5 to 8 represented their class in the OLSS Spelling Bee. There were difficult words but all the contestants held their own. We congratulate our contestants:

**Grade 5 Michael Caprioni James Strong
Jack Adragna Alyssa Esposito
Grade 6 Michael Matrangolo Gianna Marchisella
Michelle Askew Nicholas Meys
Grade 7 Gianna Gasparino Robert Ruskowski
Robert Regiero Julia Rodriguez
Grade 8 Brianna Bell Marisa Pugliese
Regina Tripodi Joseph Del Duca**

A special congratulations to our winners Joseph DelDuca (school winner) and Marisa Pugliese (first runner-up) who represented OLSS at the Catholic School District-wide Spelling Bee on December 9.

Holiday Christmas Card Winner

Across the United States, Riverside Publishing Company sponsored a Holiday Card contest. Congratulations to OLSS Grade 7 student Tyler Nieves who was one of three first place winners. Tyler will receive a \$100 Visa gift card as well as a box of cards that she has designed. The school will receive \$500 of Riverside Publishing Company money. If you go to www.riversidepublishing.com, you can view Tyler's card entitled "Peace". We are proud of Tyler's accomplishment!

A Patriotic Winner

Congratulations to OLSS Grade 7 student Antonio Greaves who is a third place winner in the *2010 Victor L. Prevosti Scholarship Award Contest*. Victor Prevosti was a proud patriot who worked tirelessly for our veterans and gave generously of his time to educate our youth. He valued the importance of our youth understanding their role as young American patriots. The topic of this year's essay was *The Pledge of Allegiance*. Antonio's essay was an example of the importance of patriotism. Antonio was awarded a \$100 savings bond. We are proud of Antonio's accomplishment!

Future OLSS Historians

In honor of the 275th anniversary of the birth of Paul Revere, the Daughters of the American Revolution have sponsored a *Memoirs of Paul Revere Essay Contest*.

Congratulations to the following students:

Christina Alaimo Grade 7 Chapter Winner

Dylan Marashaj Grade 8 Chapter Winner

Allison Gass Grade 6 First Place- State Island Level

The essay written by Allison Gass is now being submitted to the New York State level of the contest.

OLSS Students Move to the Next Round

Why I Am Proud To Be an American Essay Contest sponsored by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America offered our students an excellent opportunity to explore this idea. We are proud of the many students in grades 5 through 8 who participated in this contest. The essays of John Di Martino (Grade 5), John Perotta (Grade 5), Christian Contessa (Grade 7), and Victoria O'Connell (Grade 7) were advanced to the District level on a quest for a

National winning. John DiMartino has recently been selected as one of only three District winners. His essay has now been entered into the NYS level of the competition. No matter how far they go we are very excited about their accomplishments!

OLSS Science Fair Winners 2011

Approximately 60 OLSS students from grades 5 to 8 participated in our 2011 Science Fair. The scientific method, inventions, and engineering design were showcased. Once again our children worked to their fullest potential to apply what they learned in science class to real world problem solving. Congratulations to all!

2011 Science Fair: Our Lady Star of the Sea School

Grade 5 Winners: Scientific Method

Michael Venetsky	“Which paper towel has more absorbency?”
James Strong-Eugenio Buccini	“Which battery lasts the longest?”
Nicholas Campanella	“Which electromagnet will spin fastest?”

Grade 6 Winners: Inventions

Carolyn Dunn-Kristen Simone	“Lost and Found Software”
Margeaux LaForte-Madysen Martin	“DS Game Ring”
Kristen Fontana	“Perfect Pop-up Toast”

Grade 7 Winners: Scientific Method

Julia Lazzara	“The Effect of Different Colored Light on Plant Growth”
Julianna Gallo-Victoria Gallo	“Oil Spills: Clean-up Efforts”
Madison Asaro-Victoria Asaro	“Which cream will retain the most moisture?”

Grade 8 Winners: Scientific Method

Gabrielle Barone-Gianna Principe	“All Soaked Up!”
Leonardo Cavicchio	Which type of antifreeze is the least biologically harmful?”
Andrew Lunarola	“Battle of the Lungs”

Grade 8 Winners: Engineering Design Proposals

Michele DiPaolo	“Water Harvester”
Luke Ammirati-Thomas McKeveny	“Turbine Terrain Park”
Martin Prendergast-Thomas Bruno	“Cromwell Recreation Center”
Erin Checkosky	“Haiti Earthquake Revitalization Project”

OLSS Science Olympians

Students of Our Lady Star of the Sea School have once again demonstrated they are among the “best of the best” when it comes to applying science knowledge and skills,

working collaboratively in groups, and modeling good manners and sportsmanship. The backdrop for this most recent example was the 2011 Catholic Schools Science Olympics held in April 2011.

Twenty-nine schools each sent a team of fifth and sixth grade students to compete in hands-on, written, and verbal challenges designed to show a comprehensive understanding of science as well as the ability to apply that understanding. We are happy and proud to report the Science Olympic Team from Our Lady Star of the Sea School has been awarded third place in the competition for the second consecutive year! The members of this year's team are Michelle Askew, Erin Carey, Victoria Caruso, John Curcio, Noelle Mele, Chloe Trang, Juliana Tritto, and Michael Venetsky. These dedicated team members put in numerous hours of effort to explore, inquire, and work as a team under the guidance of their science teachers Mrs. Elaine Baumann and Mrs. Barbara Grimaldi. High school student mentors and team alumni also joined this rewarding effort.

Each year Catholic School students are invited to create an original design for the cover of the Science Olympics Program. It is with tremendous pride that we announce Kristen Fontana of the sixth grade class of Our Lady Star of the Sea as the winner of the program design competition! Kristen's design was chosen from numerous entries and it adorned the 2011 program.

OLSS Student Inventors

***"Every great advance in science has issued from a new audacity of imagination."*-
John Dewey**

We extend kudos for two of Our Lady Star of the Sea School's young scientists/inventors. Noelle Mele and Allison Gass, both sixth graders at our school, were chosen as finalists in the 2011 Antonio Meucci Young Inventors' Competition. The girls entered the competition with their innovative projects produced for science class. Students in the sixth grades took part in an Invention Convention and designed new or improved products to assist people in their daily lives.

Noelle and Allison had their projects chosen from over 100 applicants to the competition from public, non-public and private schools. On Sunday, June 12, 2011 they presented their projects to a panel of judges. Criteria for scoring included originality, project design sketches, presentation, prototype and interview; judges looked specifically for simple, creative solutions to common problems and students' understanding of the scientific principles behind their inventions. It is with great pride that we report that Allison Gass was awarded Second Place and \$100 in the competition for her invention, The Attic Caddy. Noelle Mele captured First Place and \$250 plus a special prize for her invention, Screen Savior~ The Green Screen. Mrs. Cummings, Mrs. Tortorella, Mrs. Grimaldi, our middle school science teacher,

and the entire Our Lady Star of the Sea School Community, congratulate these young ladies on a job well done!