

Our Lady Queen of Peace School
Parent Letter
August 13, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 14th- K-8 1st day of school- **12:00PM Dismissal**
August 16th- Panda Express Fundraiser For Roof
August 19th- PreK 4 first day
Parent & Student Band Orientation
Bowling Team Practice
August 20th- PreK 3 first day
August 21st- Chicken & Beer Planning Meeting
August 24th- Believe In Belize Golf Tournament
August 25th- School Pictures-Free Dress Day
Mum Fundraiser Orders Due
August 26th- Bowling Team Practice
August 28th- Bowling Team Practice
September 1st- **No School**
September 6th- Soccer Games Start
Parish Hog Roast
September 8th- School Board Meeting @ 6:00
September 9th- OLQP Parish Auction Planning Meeting
September 11th- Bowling League Begins
September 12th- **12:00PM Dismissal**
September 15th- Mom's Club Outing

Attachments: Belize Golf, Spirit Shirt Orders, Chicken Dance, Mum Fundraiser Flyer (2) Space Camp lunch, cookbook, September Hot Lunch, Green schools, Panda Express Flyer

Our Lady Queen of Peace faculty and staff are looking forward to a fantastic 2025-2026 school year. We look forward to seeing our K-8 students tomorrow and our PreK students next week!

3rd GRADE CONFIRMATION DATE

We have received the confirmation date for our current 3rd grade class. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, December 6th. Look for more information from Mrs. Niedbalski.

WELCOME FOLDER PACKET

On your child's desk was a folder with important information in it and forms that need returned for the school year. One side of the folder will say "Left At Home" and the other side will say "Return To School". Please try to return all forms that your child needs completed for the school by their due dates.

BEFORE & AFTER CARE

The Before and After Care program will be open on Thursday, August 14th at 7:00AM. The After Care program will begin at 12:00 on Thursday. If you are sending your child to After Care, please remember to send lunch with them. Regular hours for the Before and After Care program will begin on Friday, August 16th. (7:00-8:15 AM and 3:00-6:00 PM).

Panda Express Fundraiser

This Saturday (8/16/25) is our Panda Express Fundraiser to go towards our new roof fund. Panda Express will give OLQP 50% of proceeds to OLQP that day. For the sale to count, you will need to show the paper flyer or show it by pulling it up on your phone. If placing an online order you will need to use the code provided on the flyer (see attached & a copy is in the welcome packet) for the sale to count. Please share this fundraiser with family and friends.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Staff will be at the Preschool door, the door in the primary wing, and at the Enrichment Center/gym entrance to let students in each morning. Pull into the parking lot off of Butcher Street and then proceed to either the primary wing door or Enrichment Center/gym door. **If you need to get out of the car, please park away from the doors so we can keep traffic moving.** If you have a child in preschool and an older sibling, they may all enter through the preschool door.

BETHALTO WATER

Thankfully our water remains clear. Installation of the water bottle filling station in the gym was completed today. We do have bottled water in each classroom that students can use to refill the water bottle they bring from home if needed. Remember to please send full, spill proof water bottles with your child each day.



STUDENT SERVICE HOURS

Just a reminder that our 4th-8th grade students have service hours to compete for the school year. Students in 4th & 5th grade are required to accumulate 10 hours yearly. Students in grades 6-8th are required to complete 15 service hours yearly. Hours can begin to be earned starting May 1st of each

school year and need to be completed by April 30th of the next school year. Example, for the 2025-2026 school year, service hours can be earned from May 1st, 2025 until April 30th, 2026. Once logs are completed they can be returned to the school office. Examples of student service hour opportunities:

- Serving at Mass on the weekend
- KC Chicken Dinners (3rd Sunday of every month)
- Smorgasbord (1st weekend in December)
- Fish Fry (Fridays during Lent)
- Share the Word (Sundays at 10:30AM Mass)
- Help with a food drive
- Work in the food pantry
- Independent service projects

Some examples that do not qualify are: class service projects, getting paid for the service. Student Service Hour Logs were included in the folder packet at Open House Sunday.

GREEN SCHOOLS

In conjunction with the Madison County Green Schools program, and with Kelly Villalobos as our school coordinator, we have several recycling projects for the school year. Participating in these programs can offer our students and families numerous educational, spiritual, and environmental benefits. We will be collecting glasses, aluminum drink can tops, keys, and tennis shoes for the Lions Club. We will also be collecting type 2 containers to be recycled for a "Buddy Bench", bottle caps, plastic bread tabs, and "soft plastic" (grocery, ziploc, bread, and cereal bags, as well as pallet and bubble wrap.) By participating in these activities, not only will your children learn to be responsible for the environment and help others, we will also have a chance to win Green Team and Coordinator of the Year which each come with a \$500 stipend. See the attached flyer for more information.

DRESS CODE

Please review the uniform guidelines found in the Policy Handbook on our website regarding dress code. Pay close attention to sock color, make up, and OLQP sweatshirts. Please make sure shoes have non marking soles. Follow the link below to look at the Student Handbook.

<https://www.olqpbethalto.org/student-life/student-handbook-k-8th-grade.cfm>

SPIRIT DAYS

Thursdays will once again be Spirit Days. Students may wear their Spirit T-Shirts on Thursdays with their uniform jumpers/skirts/shorts. Contact the office or Becky DiPaolo with any questions. Students may wear previous year's shirts if they wish. Order form is attached below. Orders are due in the school office by Friday 8/15/25. **No late orders will be accepted** by Eleveteen Designs (Becky DiPaolo). This year is a preorder only sale.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Below is the link to our website where the school supply lists are posted for each grade.

COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER FOR NEW ROOF

We are excited for our newest school fundraiser. The school is creating a custom parish cookbook featuring favorite recipes from our parish. These cookbooks will be professionally published and are sure to be a treasured keepsake for us all. Money raised will be used toward a new roof for the school that is needed in the near future. We are hoping to raise \$7,000 from this fundraiser but we need YOU to participate by submitting recipes and then purchasing cookbooks for your family and friends.

Please submit 3-5 of your favorite recipes so you can be represented in our cookbook. Many recipes from all members will ensure that our cookbook is a success. It would be nice if every school family could be represented in the book. We are using Morris Press Cookbook's web site to easily submit recipes online. This route is the easiest way for everyone. Scan the QR below or enter the website to get started. If you do not have Internet access, our committee can enter them for you. Submit hard copies of your recipes to Chrissy Woodiel in the school office. You can email them (cwoodiel@olqpbethalto.org), drop them off in the church office in an envelope marked "cookbook, for Chrissy Woodiel", or drop them off during school hours starting 8/14/25.

Please submit your recipes online or hard copies by Thursday, 9/4/25 so we can meet our deadline.

Cookbooks will be shipped within 4-6 weeks after recipes are submitted.

Thank you from all of us here at OLQP School!

To Submit Recipes Online:

- Go to www.typensave.com or scan the QR code below and click 'Login.'

- Enter the User Name: **Ourlady**
- Enter the password: **garlic751** and click 'Submit.'
- Enter your name and click 'Continue.'
- Click 'Add Recipes' to begin adding your recipes.

Recipe Writing Tips:

- When adding recipes, review the "Tips" and use standard abbreviations.
- Only enter 1 ingredient per ingredient line.
- List ingredients in order of use in the ingredients list and directions.
- Include container sizes, e.g., (16-oz.) pkg., (24-oz.) can.
- Write directions in paragraph form, not in steps.



SCAN ME

- Use names of ingredients in the directions, e.g., “Combine flour and sugar.” DO NOT use statements like, “Combine first three ingredients.”
- Include temperatures and cooking, chilling, baking, and/or freezing times.
- Additional comments about the recipe (history, nutritional data, suggested uses, etc.) are not allowed unless a “Recipe Note” field is visible. Enter extra recipe content in that field.

COOKBOOK SPONSORS

We are looking for individuals/businesses who would like to advertise/sponsor a page in the cookbook. If you know of a business who might like to advertise in our book please reach out to them. Prices are shown below. It would be great to have some families go in together or even a class to make an advertisement in the book. The more advertisements we sell the more profit we can make from the fundraiser. Contact the school office for info and a form for the sponsor to fill out(cwoodiel@olqpbethalto.org). Your donation is tax deductible.

Full Page-\$100

½ Page- \$60

⅓ Page-\$40

¼ Page-\$30

⅙ Page-\$25

Patron-\$15

OLQP SCHOOL BAND

We are so excited to announce that OLQP will be starting a school band. Grades 4th-8th can participate. We will be holding a Parent/Student Band Orientation on Tuesday 8/19 from 6-7pm in Dr. Woodiel’s classroom. If you have any questions about band, please email Dr. Woodiel (lwoodiel@olqpbethalto.org). See Becky Diapolo of Eleventeen Designs to order the official OLQP Band Spirit Wear shirt design shown below.



CMG CONNECT

The **CMGConnect** online training replaces the former Safe Environment Program (VIRTUS “Protecting God’s Children”) that was previously offered through our Archdiocese. Individuals are now required to complete all Safe Environment Training online.

CMG connect is a new web-based platform that will assist the Diocese to ensure that all employees and volunteers who are in a position of trust with children and vulnerable adults within our schools

and parishes are trained to recognize behavior patterns of potential abusers and provide proactive measures for preventing abuse in any context. **This class needs to be completed before volunteering at the school and to complete service hour opportunities.** Attached below is info about how to complete the class and the website to do it at.

These links will walk you through the process.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HLt_5aiak5FMMm3XUcrdQMR0fd3pkREj/view?usp=drive_link

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dwZE44STekkTPAiVw9miebKikXnzOiR4/view?usp=drive_link

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dwZE44STekkTPAiVw9miebKikXnzOiR4/view?usp=drive_link

HOT LUNCH/SPACE CAMP LUNCHES

We will begin serving hot lunch from the public school beginning on Tuesday, September 2nd. Look for more information regarding public school hot lunch and Space Camp sponsored lunch in the welcome packet on your child's desk at the Open House on Sunday, 8/10. Public school hot lunch this year will be \$3.00/meal and include milk. Ordering can be done by sending in the dates your child wants to order and the payment in a marked envelope labeled "Lunch Order" with your child to school. Orders can be done for an entire month at a time or every week. September's monthly order will be due by Thursday, 8/28 at 9am and weekly orders will be due the Thursday before the week you are wanting to be served lunch. Example: The order for the week of 9/1-9/65 will be due on Thursday, 8/28 by 9am.

In order to raise money to send the 7th and 8th graders to Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, (and so you don't have to pack lunches the first two weeks of school) students sponsor lunches during the weeks of August 18th and August 25th. All proceeds from these lunches go to sending the kids to camp next school year. A menu is attached. **Please turn in orders no later than Friday, August 15th.** PreK- feel free to email me your orders kknight@olqpbethalto.org.

FREE AND REDUCED HOT LUNCH

In your welcome packet on your child's desk at the Open House will be paperwork to fill out if you qualify for free or reduced lunch from the State of Illinois. The forms have what income levels will qualify for these benefits. If you qualify, **please return the form back to school by Thursday, 8/21/25.**

SERVICE HOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Below are a few service hour opportunities to get the school year off started. Reminder that each family is required to complete 20 service hours in PK4-8th. PK3 is required 10 hours per year. Completed hours are due by 4/30/26. Use the service hour log record sheet in your welcome packet to keep track of your service hours over the school year.

PSA BACK TO SCHOOL BASH-

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0944A5AC2EA5F49-57721156-back>

HOG ROAST- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0944A5AC2EA5F49-57720821-parish>

SANTA KOTTAGE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DAY-

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0944A5AC2EA5F49-57720902-santa>

BUILDING UPDATE

The building is looking great, and we are ready to welcome our students back! The flag pole has a fresh coat of paint. The majority of our doors are now accessible by key fob only. This will ensure we know exactly who is in the building at all times and that the doors cannot be left unlocked accidentally. I have been told the new gym doors are going to arrive soon. This will finish our security updates for the summer. Be sure to check out the library remodel. It received a new coat of paint and a new floor. An unseen project, the garage has been cleaned and organized. Thanks to all the volunteers who have worked this summer to help with these projects.

HARVEST KNIGHTS CHICKEN & BEER DANCE

The inaugural 2025 Harvest Knights Chicken & Beer Dance is on Saturday, 11/8. Tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased in the school office or online following the link listed.

<https://e.givesmart.com/events/Jpp/>

Tickets include: Moonlight chicken, drinks, dancing, and access to live auction items and raffle baskets. All proceeds go directly to the school. **There is an Early Bird raffle with a \$100 cash prize if you purchase your ticket before 8/14.** The Gusto will be the band playing for the evening. If you have any questions about the evening, please reach out to one of the chair members (Calvin & Craig Soong-Wilson, Augie & Alissa Diericx, Chris & Brook Stutz, Johnny & Caitlin Stutz).

The dance committee has an amazon wish list for donations they would like for raffle items. Follow the link below to donate.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1U449ZA1NJK6Q?ref=cm_sw_sm_r_un_un_YerrK6WhSw4yM

They also have a pampered chef party going on until 8/31/25. All host gifts/perks will be used for raffle baskets for the evening as well. Follow the link to grab some pampered chef item and help the school out in the process. <https://www.pamperedchef.com/party/fallharvestknight>

The next planning meeting is August 21st at 6pm in the Enrichment Room. All are invited to attend.

MUM FUNDRAISER

The mum fundraiser will start on Sunday, 8/10. In your welcome packet at the Open House will be info about the mum fundraiser and your order form to sell mums. Order forms are due back to the school office **no later than Monday, 8/25 at 9AM.** The delivery date will be firmed up with Market Basket once our order is submitted and we will let you know as soon as we know. Reminder: You can earn 1 family service hour for every \$100 you sell for school fundraisers.

GOLF SEASON

We just received dates for this season's golf matches this past week. Your child's coach will be reaching out soon with season info. Dates for matches are: 9/3, 9/10, 9/16, & 9/24 (9/30 for a rain

out date). Please contact Becky Diapolo of Eleventeen Designs if your child needs a golf shirt for matches. See attached order form to fill out.

SOCCER SEASON

We are excited for another fun soccer season starting soon. You will hear from your OLQP coach once they receive finalized rosters from Cloud-9. You do not need to enroll your child through Cloud-9, the school submitted registration forms of all students who were interested. The school will pay for part of the enrollment fee for the season. Parents' portion will be \$30 owed, made payable to OLQP, which will be due in September to the school. If for some reason you already registered/paid Cloud-9, please let the school office know (cwoodiel@olqpbethalto.org) and we will get you a refund for what the school covers. Please turn your Cloud-9 liability waivers that were on your child's desk at Open House into the office ASAP if you have not done so.

BOWLING SEASON

We are excited to announce that OLQP will be offering bowling as an extracurricular activity this year for grades Kindergarten-8th. If your child selected they were interested in this sport on their extra curricular activity sign ups for this coming year you should have received an email with information about the season. If for some reason you did not, please email the school office (cwoodiel@olqpbethalto.org). **A response from that email was due back by Thursday, 8/7** so we can reserve the correct number of lanes for the training session. We will be offering 3 introductory sessions before the league season begins. These sessions will be held at Bowl Haven in Alton on Tuesday 8/19, Tuesday 8/26, and Thursday 8/28 from 4-5:30PM. These sessions will be free if your child enrolls in the "Kids Bowl Free" Program and selects the Alton location as their preferred location. Follow the link below to do so. <https://www.kidsbowlfree.com/> Parents will be responsible for the lane fees for training sessions if they are not enrolled in the program. League games will be every Thursday at Bowl Haven from 4-5:30PM starting 9/11 and ending on 10/30/25. If you have not signed up your child and child is interested in playing, please email the school office to get added to the list (cwoodiel@olqpbethalto.org). The school will cover part of the cost of the league. Parents are responsible for \$60 and the fee can be made payable to OLQP. This fee will be due in September.

PRESCHOOL SOCCER

OLQP does not have a school sponsored soccer season for preschool but Cloud-9 graciously offered any preschool families who would like to play soccer this fall can enroll still and the late fee will be waived. Please reach out to Cloud-9 if you would like to enroll your child.

<https://www.cloud-9bethaltosportsleague.com/home>

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FOOD TRAILER

The Knights of Columbus will once again have their food trailer at the Bethalto Homecoming this year. We are excited to be back at the Homecoming! Please consider helping by working a shift (or two). This is a great opportunity for the Knights and OLQP to show a good presence in our surrounding community. All Brother Knights, their spouses, and any prospective members are all welcome to help.

You can sign up at the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E48AEAD2BA1F85-57567560-bethalto#/>

, or scan the QR code below:



You may also call Luke Kistner at (618)558-2689. We hope to see many of you throughout the weekend. Thank you all for your continuous prayers and support, God Bless!

I DOOD IT

We are excited to bring this parish fundraiser back to Bethalto Homecoming! It is a fun tradition- but we need your help to make it a success. We're looking for a couple or two to help supervise during the event. Contact Angie Waldo (awaldo@olqpbethalto.org) if you are able to help us out.

SCHOOL PICTURES

School picture order forms were sent home on Sunday, 8/10. School pictures are scheduled for Monday, 8/25. Free dress is allowed for picture day. Pictures will start at 8:30am and they will start with the youngest students first. If your child misses picture day, there will be a makeup day in November scheduled. You can order online anytime (if you order before picture day you get free shipping) or send in the payment to the school office at any time up until the day of pictures. If you do not order online before picture day you will receive a proof a few weeks after picture day to look at and you can order online at that time. Contact Chrissy in the school office with any questions.

UPCOMING MASS SERVERS

Saturday 8/16 4:30PM- Mya Bequette and Tinsley Busse

Sunday 8/17- 8:30AM- Logan and Conner Stutz

10:30AM- Ellie Waldo and Elliott Perez

Saturday 8/23- 4:30PM- Addison Villalobos and Josie Hagaman

Sunday 8/24- 8:30AM- Ellie and Carson Williams

10:30AM- Layne Frisch and Nora Militello

CHURCH NEWS

Believe In Belize Golf Tournament- Sunday, 8/24 at Woodlands Golf Club, See attached flyer for more details.

Parish Hog Roast- Saturday, September 6th starting at 5:30pm at the pavilion. The school is in charge of the Drink Bar and is looking for volunteers to sign up to serve drinks. See the service hour sign up above to grab a spot.

Let this new school year be a reminder to be more like Jesus. Be kind, caring, respectful, and inclusive of all students, parents, parishioners, and staff. Together, we can do great things!

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." ~ John 15:12