

**Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy**  
**Home Academy Association (HAA) MEETING AND NOTES**  
Email: [haa@olmercyca.com](mailto:haa@olmercyca.com)

November 14 at 7:00PM

COLOR KEY: MEETING AGENDA *MEETING NOTES* *ACTION ITEMS*

I. **Welcome, Opening Prayer & Sign-In**

II. **Principal Report (10-15 minutes)**

A. Thanksgiving Luncheon/Thanksgiving Food Pantry

1. **Reminder to sign up and bring in food items.**

B. HAA Survey

1. Question: Is the survey anonymous? Answer Ms. McCann: Yes, it is. We have had 47 responses to date. **I can update the survey description to include that it is INDEED anonymous.**
2. Question: Can we include the grade? Answer Ms. McCann: We considered it but thought it best to keep it totally anonymous. **Moving forward we can include grade specific if that is preferred,** and we do think it will be helpful in assessments.
3. Question: The Wish List options were all descriptive, except for the last two regarding Security and Catholic Identity/Awareness. Can you elaborate on those? Answer Ms. McCann: **I can update the survey to show more details,** but here is the description of each:
  - a) The security needs are listed as walkie talkies and glass door replacements that will cost \$10k
  - b) The Catholic Identity would be religious programs, retreats and educational opportunities. The budget has not been determined.
4. Suggestions presented to create a specific fundraiser for the security needs since it is a concrete deliverable with a long shelf life. Parents volunteered to also do research on donations and government used devices for lesser cost.

C. Mission and Vision

1. An updated version of the drafted Mission/Vision for OLMCA was shared by the committee. Feedback included thoughts on reorganizing content into a message that would consider OLMCA priorities, paragraph readable format with smoother flow (as opposed to list-like format), ideas to include emphasis on academic excellence and the ability to deliver one-on-one attention to student's needs.

D. Event Update: "Breakfast with Santa" Sat. Dec 7th at 10 am- 1 pm

1. Lilian Coca is the event Chair; admission is \$10 and include and pancake breakfast and photos with Santa Claus. In addition, she is planning activities that include a Hot Cocoa Bar, Music and dancing, gingerbread workshop, face painting, and crafts.

2. Volunteers are needed for all stations, as well as setup on Friday, and cleanup after event ends. Ms. McCann to send out Sign Up Genius, as well as Flyer next week.

E. REMINDER for Volunteers:

1. Paid employees AND VOLUNTEERS need to revisit policy and sign the last page of the ANTI HARASSMENT POLICY agreement and send it in with your child to home
- F. Student Council: The newly formed Student Council will now be attending the morning HAA meetings, as they are a voice in our school community and desire a seat at the table.

III. Class Parent Roundup (10 minutes)- Mrs. Paula Deist Contact: [plovhd@hotmail.com](mailto:plovhd@hotmail.com)

- A. Comment from parent: Child sees brown water when opening water fountain; parent asked if this has happened before. Ms McCann confirmed she has never heard of this being an issue before and will look into it further with the custodian. Suggestion that was related to pipes not being used for an extended time; common in apt buildings as well.
- B. Question from parent: Why did they cancel the dance party event (assumed reference to Winter Wonderland)? Answer Ms. McCann: This year we are combining the dancing activity at the Breakfast w Santa event, since many asked to have that event again.
- C. Question from parent: Can we consider a way to allow parent to attend these meeting online/via conf call given the high number of working/single parents at our school? Answer: Ms. McCann and Melissa Rober: Yes, we can do a trial for our December meeting.
- D. Question from parents: Are there plans to improve After School Basic Program? Everytime I pickup my child there seems to be chaos, crying and no structure. Answer Ms. McCann: We are trying to figure out ways to improve the program given the challenges of the adult to child ratio (4 adults for 30 kids), as well as the younger children getting restless when in school until 6pm. Ms. McCann will provide further updates on progress. Discussion and suggestions:
  1. Communicate schedule/structure (snack time, homework time, play time, w activity details internally and externally
  2. Consider volunteers to help provide programming
    - a) retired parishioners in a Trio Exchange program, allows cross generational learning and connections through use of art, board games, crafts, etc.
    - b) students studying Education in Honors programs at Molloy
- E. News from 8th Grade parents: Students are happily fundraising for the 8th grade graduations needs which include a ring ceremony, a trip to the Rocking Horse Ranch, and their Dance (estimated \$500 per student.) They are running several bake sales and raffling items until June. They are also designing their own sweatshirts this year for the first time and are very excited.

**IV. HAA Committee Round up (20-30 minutes)**

(Committees breakup into groups and discuss needs, next steps)[HAA COMMITEES](#)

Committee Name	Committee description	LAST DISCUSSED
Mission and Vision	Helps define and the vision and mission for OLMCA, including meeting spiritual wellness (i.e. attending mass, supporting church events, parish and community)	Setting up a "ASk Me Anything" discussion with students during Cathlic Schools week to explore questions about the Catholic Faith.
Fundraising and Events	Manages fundraising strategy, financials and planning with Principal and Event sub committees. Works with Ms. McCann to manage and communicate event calendar, as well as partners with point person for each event subcommittee for planning and logistics.	Plans for sharing strategy details in via email in Dec.
Health and Wellness	Considers ways to implement mindfulness of healthy living throughout the school community through nutrition, exercise, mental wellness,	NO DISCUSSION
#DaddyDuties	Helps connect and engage the men and fathers, grandfathers, uncles, godfathers, etc in school community.	John Christie will be sharing the committees first volunteer initiative
Green Team Committee	Shares and develops plans to reduce the school's global footprint and preserve the natural environment. Considers ways to reduce waste and improve energy efficiency for our school and the planet. Includes managing the Uniform Exchange Program, which recycles donated uniforms.	Alicia's garden club is meeting Friday. She is working on the composting lunch scraps.
Culture & Arts Committee	Considers ways to support diversity, culture and inclusion for all events and activities. Includes strategy for "International Festival" or "Culture Festival" event.	NO DISCUSSION
Publicity and Marketing	Works closely with Principal and Board to communicate news and information within the school, as well as externally.	NO DISCUSSION
Sunshine	Does things to help people feel better. Includes welcoming new families and becoming their "buddy, writing notes, gifts, and executing small tokens of appreciation within our school community, especially those who have experienced a life change.	NO DISCUSSION