



THE ROYAL TIMES

Academy of Our Lady of Grace

TOYS FOR TOTS

By: Alana Mederos

On November 25, AOLG students participated in "Be-the-Change" day. The students were asked to bring in new, unwrapped toys for the Toys for Tots program.

Toys for Tots is run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve, which distributes toys to children whose parents are having financial problems.

AOLG agrees that Toys for Tots was a fun idea to help local children who do not have very much.



Royal Retiree Volunteers

The Royal Retirees assisted in collecting and loading the toys.

With gratitude, the AOLG community thanks The Royal Retirees for all of their help during this event.



7th grade student, Gia, with her Mom, Terese.

YOUTH GROUP BREAKFAST WITH SANTA





YOUTH GROUP BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

On Saturday, December 7, the Youth Group held their annual Breakfast with Santa. This event happens once every year, and young kids find it very entertaining.

Children play Christmas themed games, color at a coloring station, and take pictures with the one and only Santa, an elf, and Mrs. Claus. There were also many favorite characters walking around the gym, greeting everyone, such as: Olaf, Rudolph, and Pooh.

The doors opened at 9:00 a.m., and the kids rushed inside. After playing the Christmas themed games and coloring at the station, each family's table enjoyed many sweet treats such as donuts and crumb cake. The food was so delicious that almost all of it was finished by the end of the event.

The families also enjoyed a hot chocolate station with whipped cream, lots of marshmallows, and coffee.

When everyone arrived, they first gathered together and read the Christmas story. After finishing the Santa story, Mrs. Claus and the elf appeared. They then went on the stage and sat in a nice big chair by a Christmas tree to take pictures with the children. The children could hardly wait until it was their turn.

Breakfast with Santa is an amazing event, and it really puts everyone in the Christmas spirit.

By: Gia, Vasi, and Luci



GINGERBREAD DECORATING CONTEST



Everyone had one hour to complete their gingerbread houses.

In spite of just one hour, all of the houses turned out beautifully.



By: Catalina Davila



Budgeting for the Holidays

By Andrea Chucaralao

Budgeting for a holiday shop at school can be a fun and educational experience, teaching valuable financial skills. Start by setting a clear budget based on how much money is available to spend. Make a list of people to buy gifts for and prioritize them, considering any specific items they might like. Research potential gifts and their prices to get an idea of how much might be needed to spend on each person.

Allocate the budget accordingly, ensuring to leave a small buffer for unexpected expenses. Consider combining funds with friends for group gifts to save money. Use cash instead of a credit card to help stick to the budget and avoid impulsive purchases. Finally, keep track of spending by saving receipts and noting each purchase. This approach will help manage one's finances effectively and make the holiday shopping experience enjoyable and stress-free.

Ho ho ho!



“BY THE NUMBERS”- OLG’S ANNUAL THANKSGIVING MASS

DECLAN BELLUCCI - 4J

The Annual Thanksgiving Mass took place at Our Lady of Grace Church on the Tuesday night before Thanksgiving. Father Peter said that this tradition has taken place for more than 25 years.

The fourth grade students performed the First Thanksgiving on the altar. There were 47 Pilgrims and Native Americans represented in the play and chorus. [This year’s fourth grade class is the biggest class in the school.]

The students in the other grades also dressed-up and brought dry goods as the offertory. Several dozen cans were collected that night. The food was donated to the food pantry.

After Mass, the 7th graders served over 100 donuts and juices to the families.



Miss Staub, 4J and some of the performers from her class.
Photo: Stephanie Bellucci

Some of the food collected for the pantry.
Photos: Declan Bellucci



Principal D'Amico with daughter, Catherine, 4th Grade
Photo: Declan Bellucci



YOUTH GROUP FRIENDSGIVING

BY FATNA LAHBICHI AND SKYLAR GAYOMA



During the youth group Friendsgiving, everyone gathered and ate thanksgiving together.

Before eating, all formed a circle and prayed together with Father Peter.

After praying, everyone went to the cafeteria and started the feast.

All of the youth brought a dish to share for people to try and enjoy.

Youth group members help themselves to the good food.



All of the Friendsgiving participants pose for a group photo.



Before the meal, everyone prays in a circle with Fr. Peter.

Matilda Jr.



By: Alana Mederos

The AOLG production of Matilda Jr. is a creative way for students to express their talents and emotions. It is also a good start for students who want to become actors or performers in the future.

The entire cast and crew of Matilda Jr. have been working hard in preparation for the show. Opening night is on January 17 at 7 p.m. Additional shows will follow on January 18 and 19.

Tickets will be available to purchase on CheddarUp in early January.



Choreographer: Marianna Tsartolia
Director: Emily Stanzione

HOOPS

Boys 7th and 8th grade Basketball Team

By Enrique Zuniga



Game 1	St. Anthony (NV)
Game 2	St. Elizabeth (Wyckoff)
Game 3	St. Mary (Rutherford)
Game 4	St. Peter (Riveredge)
Game 5	Mt. Carmel (RW)
Game 6	Nativity (Midland Park)
Game 7	St. Andrew (Westwood)
Game 8	AOOL Glen Rock
Game 9	St. Paul (Ramsey)
Game 10	St. Mary (Rutherford)
Game 11	Mt. Carmel (RW)
Game 12	St. John's Hillsdale
Game 13	St. Peter (Riveredge)



Spirit Wear

BY ISABELLA CORDERO

At the Academy of Our Lady of Grace, the blue spirit shirts and sweaters, enhanced with the word "Royals," have become a recognizable symbol of the school's pride and unity. These vibrant blue clothes are more than just a casual outfit – they represent the heart of the school's community and its commitment to further excellence. The "Royals" logo is a reminder of the Academy's tradition of academic achievement, personal growth, and leadership, with each student proudly wearing it as part of a larger community that values honor, faith, and hard work.

Whether worn on school spirit days, during athletic events, or as part of the school's daily dress code, these shirts and sweaters help strengthen a sense of belonging among students and staff alike. The blue color itself expresses both calm and confidence, while the word "Royals" expresses the ideals of royalty—honor, strength, and kindness to others. More than just a logo, the "Royals" spirit wear serves as a rallying point for the entire school, inspiring pride, togetherness, and a collective focus on upholding the AOLG's mission to develop students into thoughtful, big-hearted leaders, ready to make a positive impact in the world.



Skylar Gayoma, from 7J, shows her school spirit.



BY ISABELLA
FREDA

School spirit

SCHOOL SPIRIT IS
ABOUT FEELING
PROUD AND
CONNECTED TO
ONE'S SCHOOL AND
BEING A PART OF
SOMETHING
SPECIAL.

SPOTLIGHT ON MS. RODRIGUEZ

by: Isabella Gayoma & Alana Mederos



About Ms. Rodriguez

Ms. Rodriguez works at the Academy of Our Lady of Grace as a 3rd grade teacher. She loves her students and teaching very much.

Also, Ms. Rodriguez's birthday is April 27. Her biggest goal in life is to be a good role model for her daughters. She loves the sport baseball, and her favorite baseball team is the New York Yankees. Additionally, her favorite musicians are Ed Sheeran and Luke Combs, and she loves the genre of Country Music.

Furthermore, Ms. Rodriguez said she used to work in public housing before she became a teacher.

[The Royal Times reporters are truly grateful to Ms. Rodriguez for the interview.]



Meet Mrs. Ibrahim

By: Laylanne Arteaga and Hector Hernandez

Mrs. Ibrahim is one of the amazing Middle School teachers at AOLG. She teaches English Language Arts (ELA) and has been working with sixth graders for two years—first in New York and now at AOLG. Mrs. Ibrahim lives in New York with her husband. Although, she does not have children, she loves spending time with her family. In her free time, she enjoys baking delicious treats and relaxing with loved ones. Fun fact: her favorite color is red.

What makes Mrs. Ibrahim special?

She adores the welcoming school community and environment at AOLG. When it comes to teaching, Mrs. Ibrahim strikes the perfect balance between work and fun. She knows how to keep her class focused while enjoying the learning process.

Her journey to teaching started when she was tutoring. She realized how much she loved helping students learn and then decided to pursue a career in education.

One of her greatest strengths as a teacher is building strong relationships with her

students, while making them feel valued and understood. Her biggest challenge? Figuring out just the right pace for her lessons, but she is always working to improve.

Mrs. Ibrahim is a fantastic addition to AOLG because she is already building meaningful connections with her students and exceeding expectations. She loves using technology in her classroom, such as IXL on computers, to help her students learn in fun and interactive ways. Also, she thrives when her class listens, stays engaged, and works hard.

AOLG is blessed to have Mrs. Ibrahim as part of the school. She is passionate about teaching and making a difference in her students' lives every day.

FAMILY NO HOMEWORK NIGHT

BY ROCCO RANAUDO AND GINO RANAUDO

“Family No Homework Night” is a night where parents and their children take a day off from homework. They are able to relax and spend quality time together which would normally be spent doing homework.

Although many people want “Family No Homework Night” every night, “Family No Homework Night” is only on Tuesdays and takes place once every month.

It is a great night to do something with one’s family and create a strong bond between each member of the family. During “Family No Homework Night” some families watched TV and enjoyed each other.

Of course, AOLG students are looking forward to the next “Family No Homework Night.”





One of the new “Royal Times Club” members, Alana, diligently prepares for her next article.

What Has the “Royal Times Club” Been Doing? Signora O.

The “Royal Times Club” members have wonderful character. The “veterans,” returning from last year, gladly work with new members on joint projects. Even the youngest members diligently produce multiple articles and photo pages.

Their wonderful character can also be seen in the many volunteer organizations they participate in outside of school.

Truly, they are a refreshing group of students.

May God bless them, and their families, in the upcoming year of 2025.