# THE ROYAL TIMES Academy of Our Lady of Grace

## **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

BY: FATNA LAHBICHI





Fr. Peter blesses the children with the holy water.

Fr. Peter reads a prayer.

Sunday, September 8, was a lovely Sunday morning for the children of AOLG and the parish. Father Peter hosted the "Blessing of the Backpacks". This is a beautiful tradition that Fr. Peter has shared for many years with the children.

The church was packed due to the abundance of children coming to get their backpacks blessed for the new school year. At the beginning of the mass, all the kids lined up at the back of the church and walked down the aisle with their backpacks. They then sat down by the altar, and Fr. Peter began to say a prayer blessing the children. Once he finished saying the prayer with the children, he blessed them with the holy water.

### "Blessing of the Backpacks" Cont'd. from pg. 1 By Fatna Lahbichi

Before anyone left, everyone received a little keychain to put on their backpacks for the whole school year.

Children love the "Blessing of the Backpacks" tradition. From the first time the students begin studying at AOLG, they then continue to return year after year to be blessed.

## **Handbag Bingo**

Not only is the School Communication Committee (SCC) great at organizing fun events for students, but they also organize amazing fundraising events for adults.

On September 27, the SCC held their much anticipated Handbag Bingo. Over 130 bingo players gathered in the AOLG school gym to play ten games of bingo in order to win a handbag. Bingo players were also able to participate in raffles for designer bags including a Louis Vuitton wallet.

All proceeds from the event go to the school for school improvements.

The event raised almost \$10,000 for the school.

The next bingo event will be November 15th.

Many thanks to the SCC for all of their hard work and dedication to improve the school.





By: Gia Miletic

# Ms. Tover

By Rocco Ranaudo and Antonio Lindsley

Ms. Jover is a fifth grade teacher at the Academy of Our Lady of Grace. This is her first year teaching.

Growing up, she attended AOLG from Pre-K3 to 8th grade. Her teachers included: Mrs. Cuoco, Ms. Pisciotta, and her favorite teacher, Ms. Kathy.

Some of Ms. Jover's activities included: Beta Club and she played basketball. Her team even won the Championship.

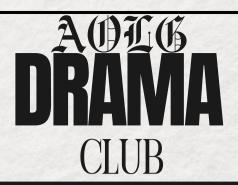
After graduating from AOLG, Ms. Jover went to High Tech in Secaucus and then graduated from Montclair State University.

What does Ms. Jover do on her free time?
When Ms. Jover is not teaching, she loves to play pickleball and is very good at the game. She also likes to spend time with her family, sister, dad, and mom, and friends. The sports she enjoys watching are: basketball, baseball, and football.

Ms. Jover's favorites

Ms. Jover's favorite book is "It Ends With Us," by Colleen Brooks, and her favorite subject is Grammar. Her favorite restaurant is Ciao Bello. Her favorite food is pasta. Her favorite sports teams are: the Yankees, Celtics, and the Miami Dolphins. Finally, her favorite color is pink.





#### **SUPPORT AOLG**

**DRAMA CLUB!** 

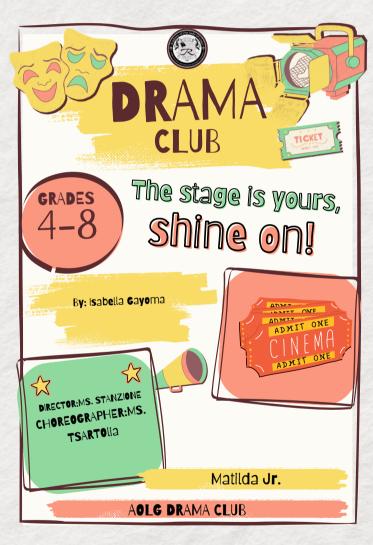
The AOLG Drama Club would appreciate support for the next show, "Matilda Jr."
The musical is based on the book "Matilda" by Roald Dahl.

The show will be on January 17-19, and the club invites everyone to see the play.

The Drama Club includes students from grades 4-8th and is filled with a positive environment.

Also, the club wishes to thank Ms. Stanzione and Ms. Tsartolia for being the director and choreographer.

Furthermore, the club is grateful to the teachers for making the musical possible and and for all of their hard work.



By: Isabella M. Gayoma WHAT IS
MATILDA, THE
MUSICAL?

Matilda is no ordinary girl. She is a 5 year-old with an 11 year-old mind. Also, she has a power called "Telekinisis."

As a new student in her school, her teacher, Ms. Honey, is amazed by Matilda.

Ms. Honey's step- aunt,
Agatha Trunchbull, is
the headmistress of
Crunchem Hall. She is
an English Olympic
Hammer throwing
Champion. The big
kids say that Phys Ed,
(Physical education) is
the Trunchbull
speciality.

# Be The Change

## By Andrea Chucaralao

"Be the Change" at AOLG emphasizes the importance of personal growth and self-improvement. It encourages individuals to constantly seek ways to better themselves, whether it is by acquiring new skills, expanding their knowledge, or developing new habits.

This focus on personal development not only benefits the individuals themselves, but also contributes to the overall growth and success of AOLG.

Furthermore, the "Be the Change" philosophy fosters a sense of unity and shared purpose among the members of AOLG. It reminds everyone that the school is part of a larger whole, and that one's actions can significantly impact others. This sense of interconnectedness promotes a culture of mutual respect, empathy, and collaboration, which are essential for a thriving community.

Lastly, "Be the Change" at AOLG is



Daniella in her be kind shirt

about leading by example. It is about showing others what is possible when one takes responsibility for one's actions and strives for excellence. By embodying this principle, one can inspire others to do the same, thereby creating a ripple effect of positive change.

## Witch's Night Out By Abigail I. and Alana Mederos







### A Spooky and Fun Night

For everyone who went to "A Witch's Night Out," they absolutely had a scary good time. "Witch's Night Out" was an AOLG Drama Production for moms and daughters to have a fun and memorable night.

Activities, such as wand making, became a creative event for all witches. Food, fun, and games took place throughout the whole night of fun.

A costume contest was held to see who had the spookiest and most original costume. One of the winners for the most original costume was the infamous trio from Hocus Pocus, the Sanderson Sisters.

Truly, it was a very magical, fun, and unforgettable night.

# "BY THE NUMBERS"-SPORTS DAY DRESS-UP

#### BY DECLAN BELLUCCI - 4J

Friday, October 4, 2024, was Sports Day Dress-Up. In order to see how many people dressed up to represent a certain sport, all 23 homerooms were included in a count. Eleven homerooms participated, from PreK-3M to 8L.

One would assume that because currently baseball and football are in season, kids would wear those sports uniforms the most. It turns out that soccer was the favorite sport. There were 70 students wearing soccer clothing. Students wore t-shirts, sweatshirts, jerseys and full sports uniforms.



4J students representing basketball. Photo: Declan Bellucci

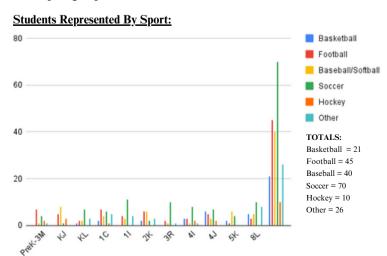
4J students representing soccer.



Some students even wore their AOLG team uniform.

One can see on the chart below the way the numbers stacked up.

This was a great theme for a dressup day because so many students play sports or watch them for fun.



## Getting to Know Ms. Staub By Vasiliki Papageorgiou

Ms. Staub is a fourth grade teacher at the Academy of Our Lady Of Grace. It is her fourth year teaching, and she is a wonderful teacher.

Ms. Staub was inspired to teach because as a student, she always loved school and the aspect of learning. She was also inspired to be a teacher because of her desire to help others. When she was in college, she worked with individuals with Autism through her sorority. This made her fall in love with special education and supporting those with special needs.

#### Facts and other fun details

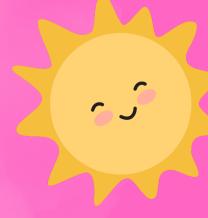
Ms. Staub is originally from Wayne, New Jersey. She moved to the Edgewater area the summer after Sixth Grade. From Seventh to Eighth grade, she was a student at the Academy of Our Lady Of Grace where she now teaches. Her ethnic background is a mix of Italian, Irish, and German. Ms. Staub has one older sister and two half brothers. She is also still best friends with her mom. Her favorite color is blush pink, and she also loves the color yellow because she associates it with happiness!

Her birthday is May 15. She had two chihuahuas, who she loved, named Paradise and Fendi. Unfortunately, she lost both a few years ago. Ms. Staub currently has a cockatiel named Baby, who she nicknamed Dude.

Aside from school, Ms. Staub also makes and sells custom cakes and cupcakes that are dairy free.

Ms. Staub is an amazing teacher and has many great qualities.









On that day, students give their grandparents a card and hug.

Everyone enjoys the good food; and the grandparents enjoy hearing their grandchildren sing.

Although sometimes grandparents cannot attend, students are always welcome to sit with friends and their grandparents.

Grandparents day. Every year, AOLG has a tradition of inviting the grandparents to spend time with their grandchildren. One can bring grandma, grandpa, or both.

Ms. Stanzione prepared the songs which all the kids sang. The SCC set up the tables, organized the event, and brought the food.







The "Royal Times Club" pauses from their work to pose for a picture.

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

The "Royal Times Club" has standing room only during meetings, thanks to many new and returning members.

Since the first meeting in September, the Royal Times Club members learned and practiced many different journalism skills. They have been learning how to: write articles, interview, take photos, write photo captions, and create Canva pages for the newspaper.

God willing, the club members are looking forward to their bylines appearing in the "Royal Times" newspaper during the school year as they report about many of the happenings at the Academy of Our Lady of Grace.

As for next month's paper, they are already beginning to prepare.