



THE ROYAL TIMES

Academy of Our Lady of Grace

Eighth Grade Graduation: A New Beginning **By: Andrea Chucaralao**



Eighth grade graduation is a noteworthy milestone in a student's academic journey. It signifies the end of middle school and the exciting transition to high school. Although it is not the conclusion of education, it marks a substantial step forward in development.

Graduation represents accomplishment. Students have dedicated considerable effort throughout middle school to learn and mature. It is a moment to acknowledge hard work and commitment. It also signifies preparation for more advanced studies. The skills and knowledge acquired during these early years will serve as a solid foundation for future success in high school.

One of the most rewarding aspects of graduating is the sense of achievement. Successfully completing middle school is a challenge and overcoming this challenge brings immense satisfaction. Graduation also presents an opportunity for students to contemplate their personal growth. They can reflect on how much they have matured and the knowledge they have gained over the years.

As well, graduation unlocks doors to new and exciting experiences. High school provides a broader range of academic and extracurricular activities. Students are able to explore their interests and pursue new skills. This transition is an exciting time with potential.

Graduation is a time for students to celebrate with family and friends. It is an occasion to acknowledge the support of those who have assisted them throughout their middle school years. Sharing this significant milestone with loved ones makes it even more meaningful and memorable.

Finally, Eighth grade graduation is a significant event that marks the beginning of a new chapter. It is a time to celebrate past accomplishments and look forward to the future with optimism and determination.



**The Kindergarten class of 2025 poses for a picture.
(Provided by Ms. Courtney.)**

Kindergarten Graduation **By: Andrea Chucaralao**

Graduation from kindergarten marks an important moment in a child's life. It signifies the completion of their first formal educational experience and the beginning of their journey through school. This is not just an end, but a significant starting point for future academic and personal growth.

Kindergarten provides a crucial foundation for later learning. During this year, students are introduced to essential social skills, such as cooperation, sharing, and respect for others. They also begin to develop fundamental academic skills in literacy and mathematics. Learning to recognize letters, numbers, and basic concepts prepares them for more complex topics in later grades. The structure of a classroom setting helps children learn how to follow instructions and manage their time, which are essential for academic success.

Moving on to First Grade

The move to first grade represents a step up in academic expectations. Students will be expected to build on the skills they learned in kindergarten. Reading becomes more complex, and math concepts become more advanced. First grade also introduces students to new subjects and learning environments. This transition requires both academic and emotional readiness. Graduating from kindergarten demonstrates that a student has acquired the necessary skills and maturity to succeed in the next phase of their education.

A Time for Celebration

The kindergarten graduation ceremony is a special occasion to recognize the hard work and achievement of these young students. It provides an opportunity for families, teachers, and the community to come together and celebrate this milestone. It is a time to acknowledge the progress each child has made and to encourage them as they move forward. It reinforces the importance of education and inspires them to continue learning and growing.

Looking Ahead

Graduating from kindergarten is just the beginning of a long and exciting educational journey. As the students enter first grade, they will face new challenges and opportunities. By building upon the foundation they established in kindergarten, they will be well-prepared to succeed academically and to develop into responsible and engaged citizens. The future holds great promise for these young graduates as they continue to learn, grow, and make a positive impact on the world.

Kindergarten graduation is more than just a ceremony; it symbolizes a significant accomplishment and the exciting start of a student's formal education. The skills and experiences gained in kindergarten lay the groundwork for future success in first grade and beyond. It is a time to celebrate the hard work of the students and their readiness for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

AOLG FIELD DAY 2025

AOLG Field Day 2025 was a rewarding time for the students. This year, just like last year, they enjoyed all of the activities.

Additionally, the weather was beautiful, and some of the Royal Retirees helped give out ice pops and cheer the students on while completing the activities.



Some of the stations the students enjoyed were: the obstacle course, bouncy house, water activities, hydration station, volleyball, tug of war, and kickball. Many of the students agreed that the water activities were their favorite stations.



BY: GIA AND VASI

LAST DAY PARTY!



At the party, everyone enjoyed pretzels, munchkins, chips, and juice. They also watched "High School Musical 2," which takes place during summer break.

In the beginning, they played a few games, such as, "Guess the student" and "Step on the line." They also did the "Thumb Grab," which showed off their bracelets and that they are a big class family.

The students hope everyone has a great summer. Until September!



[In addition to the movies and snacks, the students also received goodie bags which contained: a hand made hair tie or Pokémon cards, Doorable Disney figurines, and a note with a pen and erasers.]



By: Isabella Freda
and
Mary Leach

“BY THE NUMBERS”- AOLG CELEBRATES 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAKE-A-WISH

DECLAN BELLUCCI - 4J

In late April, AOLG celebrated “Be-The-Change” Day in a big way, because it marked the 45th anniversary of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

All the students came together to help make wishes come true for kids with critical illnesses through the NJ chapter of Make-A-Wish. (MAWNJ)

Students and their families contributed monetary donations and raised \$1,000. The students also created a beautiful "Wish Wall" filled with 337 colorful stars. Each star had a wish or a kind message on it. It looked magical in the hallway.

Many families at AOLG have been touched by Make-A-Wish, and some even had wishes granted for someone close to them. It felt really good to help an organization that means so much to people in the school. It also means a lot to mom, Mrs. Bellucci, as she is a volunteer Wish Granter with MAWNJ.

Way to go, AOLG! AOLG showed that even small acts can make a big difference.

Some of the beautiful stars on the AOLG Wish Wall

Photo: Declan Bellucci



Father's Day

By: Andrea Chucaralao



Father's Day is an important day celebrated annually to honor fathers and father figures for their contributions to the lives of children. It is a time to reflect on the guidance, support, and love they provide. While it is easy to get caught up in daily routines, Father's Day provides a specific opportunity to pause and show gratitude.

Why Father's Day Matters

Fathers play a crucial role in families and communities. They often serve as role models, mentors, and providers. Father's Day acknowledges these diverse roles and the sacrifices fathers make. It is also a chance to strengthen the bonds between fathers and their children, fostering positive relationships that can last a lifetime. [Remembering that not all students have a father at home, extending the sentiment to any positive male role model is an inclusive gesture.]

Meaningful Ways to Celebrate

- Write a heartfelt card or letter expressing appreciation in one's own words.
- Spend quality time together. Engage in an activity one's father enjoys, like playing a game or going for a walk.
- Help with chores. Offer to assist with tasks around the house to lighten their load.
- Prepare a special meal. Cook breakfast, lunch, or dinner, or bake a favorite dessert.



Celebrating Father's Day does not require expensive gifts. The most meaningful gestures often come from the heart. Consider what one's father values most and tailor the celebration accordingly. A thoughtful, handwritten letter expressing gratitude can be far more impactful than a store-bought item. Quality time spent together and engaging in shared activities, creates lasting memories. Helping with chores demonstrates consideration and support for the work they do. If one's father figure enjoys cooking, consider assisting them, even if just fetching ingredients. The key is to show genuine appreciation in a way that resonates with him.

Many students have special memories of their fathers. Some recall learning to ride a bike with their dad's steadying hand. Others cherish the bedtime stories read with funny voices. Maybe working on a school project or getting help with homework. These experiences, big or small, shape who one is. For those without a father figure at home, these roles may be filled by grandfathers, uncles, or coaches, and are equally deserving of recognition. It is important to acknowledge and appreciate these individuals who provide guidance and support in one's life.

Final Thoughts

Father's Day is a reminder to appreciate the important men in one's life. Whether it is a father, stepfather, grandfather, uncle, or another male role model, one should express gratitude. A small gesture of appreciation can make a big difference.



Andrea works on one of her articles for the June edition of the “Royal Times.”



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

The “Royal Times Club” members continue to produce articles and photo pages through Canva. [Canva is a graphic design platform which allows the students to create their own layout pages for the paper.]

As the year finishes, the word “faithful” reflects the students’ work throughout the year. They were very busy with many end of the year activities, but they continued to remember their deadlines and brought articles and pictures to completion.

After working diligently this past school year, the students are looking forward to a refreshing summer in order to regroup for the next round of Royal Times papers during the 2025-2026 school year.

May the AOLG community have a safe and blessed summer.

Until next school year.