

January 2009

Dear Members of the Our Lady of Lourdes Community,

It's hard to believe that it was a little over a year ago when we launched our campaign to raise funds to create a Library Media Center here at Our Lady of Lourdes School! It was an exciting process that involved hundreds of families and individuals. In April we celebrated our success with a wonderful Gala. Many of you pledged funds to be given over the upcoming months and years. We are so appreciative of your continued support!

Isn't it incredible how things can change in one year? We have a new President. We have new legislators at the national and state level, and we have an economy in turmoil. Many of us have had to regroup and reconfigure our own families' financial plans. As we move forward with our Strategic Planning Committee, we find that we need to re-examine our goals for the Library Media Center as well.

The hope was that we could match the funds raised last year and begin work on expanding our building space with the new center in the summer of 2009. We know now that under the current economic conditions it would be foolish to anticipate that we could raise an additional \$250,000 this year, or even over the next two years. Recently, the Library Media Center Committee met to review some ideas for the Center and to explore options within the building space that we currently have. At this point, we will proceed with plans for renovations within the existing building space. Any final plans will include a handicapped accessible entrance, some renovation of the current library space for a classroom or computer lab, a Mary Weadon-Phyllis Cleveland Reading Corner and an area designated for a collection of Religious books and artwork. All other options within the space of the current computer lab and Mrs. Merkel's classroom are open.

Members of the committee have visited other libraries, and we have viewed slides of those libraries and gotten some great ideas. Recently, I spoke with a contractor who advised that we can begin applying for permits once we have plans drawn up. His estimate is that the permitting process can take up to 6 months. We will proceed in this manner and share information as we begin to flesh out our plans. If you would like to participate in the planning process, please contact Ms. Moore and she will include you in their work.

Our Principal's Appeal this year will be a low-key event – a 5K run and activities here at school for the children. Any profits from this event will go toward the Library Media Center. We are currently soliciting sponsors for the event.

As we collect more information, and move forward with ideas and plans for the new Library Media Center we will share them with you. Thank you again for your continued support of our school. You truly are making an investment in the future when you invest in the education of the children of Our Lady of Lourdes School.

God bless.