



The Valley Voice

A publication of the USPA developed by parents and staff to provide information of interest and import to US families

Service to the School and Community

As a way to help our sons become well-rounded, contributing members of society, US provides a number of opportunities for service to the school as well as to the larger community.

Each year, Hunting Valley Campus students are required to perform school service. This consists of one week each semester where students stay after school for about 15 minutes to straighten classrooms and common areas. This school service is organized by Ms. Monica Boczek.

Boys are also expected to perform four hours of Cadmean service (service to the school community) each year. Cadmean service can include assisting at athletic events as a timekeeper or ball boy, or working the concession stand. It may also include

assisting the Theater Department by ushering, set painting, or serving on stage crew. Boys who perform eight additional hours of in-school service, above the required four hours, can become members of the Cadmean Society. These hours are monitored by seniors Eric Walk and Landon Polakof and by the boy's housemaster and logged by Ms. Janice Kalman in the Cadmean Society log.

The Aurelian Society, headed by seniors Ben Kurland and John Evans and Mr. David Cicerchi, organizes several school-wide community service projects. To earn membership in the Aurelian Society, boys need to perform eight hours of community service per year beyond the time spent in school-sponsored activities. Documented Aurelian hours need to be turned into the student's housemaster.

all junior and senior boys and their dates. Whether or not you will be making a purchase, please come and share the cheer and goodwill of the season with other US families and friends.

We can still use your help. Consider volunteering for one of the sales shifts or baking some goodies to keep customers and volunteers well fed. Please call Betsy Stueber at 216-321-9550 or stueber4@aol.com to help with the sale. Contact Colleen Goss at 216-272-4860 or cfgoss@faysharpe.com to offer your baking talents!

We hope to see you there!

Future Dates

Saturday, December 2

- USPA After-Prom Tree and Wreath Sale
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Smythe Pavilion)

Saturday, December 9

- USPA After-Prom Tree and Wreath Sale
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Smythe Pavilion)

Sunday, December 10

- USPA After-Prom Tree and Wreath Sale
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Smythe Pavilion)

Tuesday, December 12

- Holiday Jazz Jingle Jam 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 14

- Holiday Concert 7:30 p.m. (Gund Auditorium)

Friday, December 15

- Winter Recess Begins
Classes Dismissed at Noon

Saturday, December 16

- Alumni Holiday Luncheon 11:30 a.m. (HV)

Wednesday, January 3

- Classes Resume

Friday, January 12

- End Semester I

Monday, January 15

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School

Tuesday, January 16 - Friday, January 19

- Semester Exams

Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale

The snow is flying, the holidays are upon us, and the Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale is almost here! This year the sale will be held Saturday, December 2 and December 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, December 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be an excellent assortment of Fraser and Douglas Firs, Blue Spruce, and Scotch Pines, as well as plain and decorated wreaths, pine roping and bows.

All profits from the Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale fund a portion of the After-Prom party. With your help, the After-Prom will be a fun, safe and memorable evening for

Senior Section

Friday, December 1

Deadline for all seniors with a college application deadline of January 1 to have their secondary school report forms submitted to Mrs. Eileen Perkins and their teacher recommendation forms turned in to their teachers.

Sunday, December 10

Deadline for yearbook senior pages. Seniors who turn in the pages late will be fined!

Friday, December 15

Deadline for the two graduation forms that were sent home. First form requests your input on how you would like your son's name to appear on his diploma. If this form is not received, your son's name will appear as it is listed in the US directory. Second form is the order form for US commencement announcements. Both forms are to be returned to Mrs. Ann Friebertshausen.

Saturday, December 16

Alumni Holiday Lunch at the Hunting Valley campus. All members of the Class of 2007 are invited to this festive event. RSVP to Jeffrey Starrett at jstarrett@us.edu.

Friday, January 12

8:30 a.m. - 12th grade USPA Parent Coffee and discussion with Michael Obel-Omia and Margaret Mason.



Junior Section

Wednesday, January 10

8:30 a.m. - 11th grade USPA Parent Coffee and discussion with Michael Obel-Omia and Margaret Mason.

Thursday, February 8

- Junior Class Parent Dinner
- Junior Class College Night

The Daniel W. LoPresti '03 Philanthropic Board

The Daniel W. LoPresti '03 Philanthropic Board is now in its second year of operation and is requesting proposals for consideration. This year, the Board is responsible for allocating approximately \$5,000 in grant funds to worthy causes in our community. The Board's intention is to improve the quality of life of children in poverty in the Greater Cleveland area – with an emphasis on education.

The Board's purpose is to educate students about the importance of philanthropy and to give them first-hand experience in the process. Ultimately, the Board provides a concrete way for the students to put into practice the University School Motto: Responsibility, Loyalty and Consideration.

Last year, grants were awarded to the E-City Program, which educates low-income adolescents in entrepreneurship; to the Trinity Lutheran Church "Back to School" event, which provides students

with clothing and supplies for school; and to George Washington Carver Elementary, the St. Agnes Soup Kitchen, and the St. Vincent Charity Day Care Center – all of which US students have directly known through community service in recent years.

For more information or to receive a brochure and grant request form, please contact Wendie Forman at 216-831-1984, ext. 7319 or at wforman@us.edu.

The 2006-2007 Daniel W. LoPresti '03 Philanthropic Board: officers are Brandon Sharp, President; Marc Howland, Financial Officer; Eddy Zaia, Secretary. Members include Josh Adler, Trace Althans, Ben Bold, Josh Bronstein, Michael Chilcote, John Evans, David Froimson, Brandon Jackson, Jared Jones, Ben Kurland, J. Michael Mentrek, Rick Morgan, Nick Riback. Faculty Advisors are David Cicerchi, Wendie Forman, and Terrance Kessler.

Your Opinion Matters

In the next couple of weeks you will be receiving an email with the link to the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) survey. The link will be sent using the email address you provided on your school enrollment form. (If you don't have an email

address or you need to update your email address, please contact Debbie Linich at 216-831-2200 x 7326. Please take the time to complete the survey. Your opinion matters for both the School's strategic planning and accreditation processes.

ANNUAL "FUND" FACTS

Did You Know?

Our Goal in the 2006-2007 Annual Fund is 100% Parent Participation (as well as raising \$1.8 million)!

EVERY gift is important, no matter the amount.

To date, over 30% of US families have pledged or made a gift to the Annual Fund.

Your gift today will bring us closer to our goal of 100% participation.

Gifts received by December 31, 2006 result in a tax benefit to you and have an immediate impact on the school's operating budget!

We are a better school because of you.....

Heard in "The Valley"

A message from Michael Obel-Omia, Head of the Hunting Valley Campus

Let me say a word about the "D" issues that I mentioned at USPA meetings and at curriculum night: dressing, driving, drinking, dances, and drugs. We are committed to addressing them, because they are vitally important to your son's maturing responsibly and contributing appropriately to the communities that he will inhabit and inherit. Remember, give your sons consistent and clear messages by supporting us concerning his dress, his driving, and his abstaining from drink and drugs.

We can now add dates to the "D's" as there has been a good deal of discussion concerning US boys' responsibility concerning their dates. Your son should be aware that he is responsible for his behavior and the behavior of his date. Please read the handbook concerning dates, drinking, and drug use, but let me clarify one pressing issue: when a boy brings a date to

a US dance, he is responsible for her behavior. Regardless of how long he has known the girl, he is responsible for her and will answer for her behavior if it fails to conform to our standards. This expectation is reasonable, but many have wondered about it. Know that your son must invite young women who understand, respect, and embrace our policies. As a guest of the community, she is subject to our rules and expectations. If your son doesn't know the girl well, I suggest that you call her parents and let them know our policies and share with them your interest in and concern for their daughter adhering to our expectations and values. The conversation may be hard, but it is vital.

I hope that this clears up any misconceptions. You are, of course, welcome to write me with your comments and suggestions.

Raising money for the Starehe Boys Center in Nairobi, Kenya

For \$10,000, US can permanently endow a much coveted spot for an African boy at Starehe. This would allow a young, impoverished African boy to be given an education. With the support of the prefects, a number

of fund-raising initiatives are being undertaken. Among them are dress-down days, a winter dance, and sponsoring a faculty members in the Cleveland Marathon. More information forthcoming.

Spring Break Trips - 2007

Open to US Boys

A trip to Italy has been scheduled from March 17 - 25. The purpose of the trip is to gain cultural, historical and geographical knowledge of the country. Eight to twelve boys from grades 9 - 12 will be the desired number for this trip. Please contact either Ms. Steeber or Dr. Keefe for more information.

Also, a trip to Honduras has been scheduled from March 17 - 25; the purpose of this trip is humanitari-

anism, cultural, geographical and language immersion. There will be two faculty members escorting 6 - 8 boys from grades 8 - 12. Please contact Mr. Howard Kelly for more information.

There may be some sports teams traveling during spring break but the details have not yet been decided.

Look for more information in the next *Valley Voice*.

Sophomore Section

Monday, January 8, 2007

8:30 a.m. - 10th grade USPA Parent Coffee and discussion with Michael Obel-Omia and Margaret Mason.



Freshman Section

Friday, January 5

•8:30 a.m. - 9th grade USPA Parent Coffee and discussion with Michael Obel-Omia and Margaret Mason.

Reminder

- If you purchased a 9th grade class T-shirt in late August at the 9th grade welcome coffee, a few class members' names were missing. Updated class T-shirts are now available. Your sons may exchange the old shirt for the corrected one by bringing the old shirt to the Prep Shop.

Online Testing and Education Reference Center

The Online Testing and Education Reference Center allows boys to take practice tests for the ACT, PSAT, SAT, SAT Subject Tests and AP tests and also to read any Peterson's Testing Manual for those tests. This can be accessed at any time through the Upper School homepage <http://upper.us.edu>. Go to the website and go to the following links, Academics, then Library, and finally Testing Center. The first option is to take a practice test. Your son will need a username/password only if he wants to save his practice test or to take the test in sections and return later to the same test. All tests can be graded, with all questions and answers explained.

The second option is to go to <http://upper.us.edu> then follow the link to Academics, then Library and finally to the LearningExpress link. The LearningExpress Library also has practice ACT, SAT and AP tests. To access this site, each student must again create his individual username and password. This site combines the test preparation skills and instruction with the practice.

Information Resources

Look in the US Directory

The US Directory has all of the email addresses for all faculty and staff of the Hunting Valley Campus. It also contains information about daily schedules, the school calendar, rules and regulations, etc. Answers to most questions regarding University School's policies and procedures can be found.

Look Online

Up-to-date information, including morning announcements, athletic information, class lists and more can be obtained on the Hunting Valley Campus intranet site: <http://upper.us.edu>.

To Report an Absence or to Leave a Message

To report absences due to illness or emergency, call 216-831-2200. For direct access to the voice mail system at the Hunting Valley Campus call 216-831-1984; both numbers are accessible 24 hours a day. If you have an urgent message for your son (changed appointments, pick-up times, etc.), please leave a message with the receptionist at the switchboard. She will post the message on the electronic bulletin board. Please remind your son to check the bulletin board frequently during the day to make sure there is no message for him. (Nothing personal will ever be posted on the electronic bulletin board.)

Online Bulletin Board

Two electronic bulletin boards have been placed in the Upper Commons and downstairs above the Faculty Room window. The bulletin boards display announcements that can be submitted directly by HV faculty or staff. If parents or students wish to post an announcement, they must submit their request to Ms. Janice Kalman, the Hunting Valley receptionist at 216-831-2200. The electronic bulletin boards display a web page, which can be viewed on and off campus by anyone at <http://www.us.edu/bb/>.

Online Test Calendars

Instead of posting the paper test schedules on the Faculty Room window, they are now on-line for student access. Students can access them from on or off campus by clicking a link on the Hunting Valley Intranet (<http://upper.us.edu>) under ALL for WEB OUTLOOK. Because students must log on (actually to our network), parents cannot see these test calendars unless they know their son's network username and password, or ask their son to log on for them.

Leaving School

Medical and/or dental appointments should be scheduled during the lunch period whenever possible (approximately noon to 1 p.m.). Boys must sign out with the receptionist before leaving school. A written or telephone notice from the parent to Ms. Kalman is required when a boy signs out. Only seniors are permitted to leave campus for lunch. All underclassmen are required to eat lunch in the Dining Hall.

Snow Days

School closings will be announced by local radio and TV stations. A snow day closing announcement will be posted on the US website and a recording will be placed on the main Hunting Valley Campus telephone (216-831-2200), if the phone system is operable. Radio and TV announcements will specify the Hunting Valley Campus and/or the Shaker Campus.

Sports Info

A schedule of all athletic events and directions to the events are available at <http://upper.us.edu>, the school's intranet website. Directions and schedules can also be picked up at the athletic office (216-831-1984 x 7332). Your best source of information about athletic event changes or cancellations is the website, which is updated immediately.

CCIS

Cleveland Council of Independent Schools www.ccis-ohio.org - "CCIS, a nonprofit tax exempt 501 (c) (3) organization, was founded in 1967 to promote cooperation among independent schools of northeastern Ohio in areas in which collaborative efforts might create greater benefits for all." Check out their website for future speakers, calendars of area independent schools, etc. It is a very good resource for parents of Independent School students.

PERFECT **P**RESENTS FOR
EVERY **P**REPPER –
SHOP AT **T**HE
WONDERFUL **P**REP
SHOP

The Prep Shop has fabulous items for the holidays. Everything US! New items include: Waste-baskets, tee-shirts, alarm clocks, flashing pens, luggage I.D. tags, pop-up umbrellas, V-neck pullovers. And for all of you sports fans who have to sit on cold bleachers for hours, check out the attachable bleacher chairs. You will be the envy of all; they are awesome! We will be open on conference day and every weekday from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Call Kelly Biggar or Olivia Demas if you need to come at another time or if you have a specific request.

The Valley Voice

University School

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