



The Valley Voice

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

Future Dates

Wednesday, February 8

- USPA General Meeting has been rescheduled (see below)

Wednesday, February 15

- USPA General Meeting at 7:15 p.m.
Topic: Internet: A Double Edged Sword (see article)

Friday, February 17 – Monday, February 20

- Mid-Winter Break – No Classes

Tuesday, February 21

- Classes resume

Tuesday, February 28

- Sherman Prize Speaking Contest 8:00 a.m. in the Gund Auditorium
- Spring Sports Teams Parent Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, March 6

- No Classes – Faculty Work Day

Thursday, March 9

- Winter Sports Dessert 7:00 p.m. in the Stouffer Dining Hall

Friday, March 17

- Spring Break begins after last class

Monday, April 3

- No Classes – Professional Development Day

Tuesday, April 4

- Classes resume

Check www.us.edu for a complete calendar

Internet: A Double Edged Sword

Are you familiar with internet activities such as blogging, online communities, and the websites *facebook.com* and *myspace.com*? On Wednesday, February 15 at 7:15 p.m., The USPA meeting will feature Sherrie Loveman, Director of Academic Technology, presenting: Online Safety, Parent Recommendations, Student Recommendations: An Evening of Discovery and Problem-solving. This program will be an information session on the “new media.” It is an intriguing time—the

Internet is changing the way we learn and work, especially in higher education and business. How do we take advantage of these technologies and find ways to use them in an educational format for teens, so we don't end up teaching in a way that makes our students disconnected? Can we relate to their world? Together we will begin to see the advantages and disadvantages of online communities and the cultural adjustment for teens and their parents. Please join us for this important presentation.

Christmas Tree Sale Thanks

The 2005 Christmas Tree Sale (benefiting After-Prom) was a great success and, as would be expected of an event of this size, there are lots of people to thank. Co-Chairs Colleen Goss and Ed France worked long hours before the sale making sure every detail was covered, then capped it off by working even longer hours on all three days of the sale. Darrell Erdman bravely volunteered to help unload the 300 trees. Janeen Frank not only rounded up scores of volunteers, but she manned the ca-

shier's desk for hours on end, as did Chris Frazier and Shirley Lanzieri. So many of our boys and their parents came out in the bitter cold to help our “customers” select the perfect tree and then get it securely loaded onto their cars – too many volunteers to name, in fact, but thank you! Thanks also to everyone who bought a tree, wreath or pine roping from us. We're nothing without sales! We're so grateful to all of you!

Ginger & Stuart Van Wagenen

What to do with the Flu?

Cold and flu season seems to peak in January and February, and it is not unusual for a boy to miss a day or two of school. It is best to keep your son home if he is ill, rather than spread the virus. Remember good hand washing during this time of the year is so important.

The amount of work a student can miss even on one day can seem staggering. Students are responsible for all class work and homework assignments missed during their absence. Except in the case of a significant extended illness, major papers and/or similar scheduled assignments may be expected to be delivered to the school

on the scheduled due date. Students should also contact classmates and/or email their teachers to keep up with their assignments as much as possible.

Should the student have an extended illness, he or his parents should make arrangements with the student's sponsor to collect weekly assignments and necessary materials.

Upon returning to school, it is the student's responsibility to seek out his teachers and review the missed assignments and establish a schedule for completing tests and any other missed work. Then comes the hard part, catching up with all that work!

Junior Section

Wednesday, January 25

CCIS College Panel, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Fairmount Temple.

The panel will include deans of admissions from Cornell, U. Penn., Kenyon and OSU to examine a wide range of topics pertaining to college admission. Due to space limitations, this program is for juniors (and parents) only.

Thursday, February 9

Junior College Night (Parents only), 7:00 p.m. at US.

This program will familiarize parents of US juniors with college admission procedure and guidelines as they are handled by University School.

“Do You Re-Gift?”

Perhaps now is the time to start. That gift certificate to your least favorite restaurant or a store or salon you don't frequent could make an excellent After Prom prize. After-Prom prizes are exclusively dependent upon donations. With that in mind, the committee would like to encourage the practice of re-gifting.

College insignia items such as t-shirts, ball caps, gym shorts and hoodies that you can pick up at the campus bookstore during college visits also make perfect prizes for

both guys and girls.

Donations to After-Prom are deeply appreciated as well as tax deductible and can easily be dropped off with Ms. Janice Kalman at the school reception desk or arranged for pick up by contacting a member of the prize committee (Michele Demetriou at 440.319.1500 or Deb Evans at 440.543.0821 or Maureen Howell at 440.951.1187. Please be sure to attach your name to your donation so the committee can send an acknowledgement for your gift.

American Mathematics Competition

On Tuesday, January 31, 2006, the American Mathematics Competition Examination will be given nationwide. The US Mathematics Department is providing all AP students the opportunity to participate in this competition here at University School. The main purpose of the competition is to spur interest in mathematics and to develop talent through the excitement of solving challenging problems in a timed, multiple choice format. The problems range from the very easy to the extremely difficult.

The competition is not an end in itself. Outstanding performance on it is neither necessary nor sufficient for becoming an outstanding mathematician. The abil-

ity to gain insights and do computations quickly is a wonderful talent, but many eminent mathematicians are not quick in this way. Also, the multiple choice format (necessary for the prompt scoring of over 300,000 examinations) benefits those who are shrewd at eliminating wrong answers and guessing, but these are not particularly mathematical talents. In short, students who do not receive nationally recognized scores should not shrink from pursuing mathematics further, and those who do receive such high scores should not think that they have forever proved their mathematical merit. This examination, like all mathematical competitions, remains but a means for furthering mathematical development.

Sherman Prize Speaking Contest

The Sherman Prize Speaking Contest, in its 102nd year, is a prime example of how US emphasizes the importance of developing oratorical skills. The winners will be announced on Tuesday, Feb. 28.

The contest is open to all juniors, and a large percentage generally enter the competition. English teachers include speech preparation as a regular assignment in the classroom, offering all students the opportunity to prepare and refine their speeches before the competition. Students may choose any topic suitable to both a student and an adult audience, then prepare and deliver a six- to eight-minute speech. Three faculty members listen to all the speeches and select six finalists based on the content and delivery.

This year's finalists will speak in the final round

at the Feb. 28 morning assembly. Parents are welcome to attend. Three prominent individuals from outside the University School community will select the three prize winners. The winners will receive monetary awards and the three runners-up will receive a book. The first place winner's name will be engraved on the plaque hanging outside Gund Auditorium.

The Sherman Prize was established in 1904 by Mrs. Henry S. Sherman. It was established in memory of her son, George Benedict Sherman, class of 1903, who died while a freshman at Yale. The Sherman family has also supported the Sherman Prize Speaking Contest in memory of another son, Henry S. Sherman Jr., class of 1925, who lost his life during his sophomore year at Yale.

Have Your Keys Gone Missing?

Ms. Janice Kalman at the front desk has a variety of items that have been turned in but never claimed. Her collection of missing objects ranges from the usual car and house keys to the more exotic MP3 player, calculators, cell phones and even some jewelry. If you've lost anything please contact Ms. Kalman to see if she has what you're looking for. It is also recommended that the boys look in the box at the end of the hall as well as the bookcase for missing books and note-

books. Plant Services Coordinator, Patricia Morris, also has a collection of missing objects, and while it is not as extensive as Ms. Kalman's, it is worth checking with her if what you are looking for is still missing. Eventually these items will get donated if they are not collected, so please investigate all missing items sooner rather than later. That said, the collection held by Ms. Kalman goes back quite a ways so if what you're missing was lost some time ago, it still might be worth checking with her.

ANNUAL "FUND" FACTS

Did You Know...

...that you can give your Annual Fund gift online?

Please go to www.us.edu and click on the "Giving to US" link. Use your Visa, MasterCard or American Express on this secure site to make a donation that will have an immediate positive impact on the lives of US boys.

EVERY gift counts!

Please contribute today and help bring us closer to our goal of 100% parent participation.

Thank You!

Sunshine Committee

The USPA's Sunshine Committee sends messages of congratulations or sympathy to members of the Upper School community. When you know of a family who is facing either difficult or joyous circumstances, please contact committee chair Jane Biggar (440-247-8556).

Sophomore Section

Mark your calendars

Monday, March 13 – Friday, March 17
Ohio Graduation Testing

Clubs at US

University School provides its students an opportunity to participate in a wide variety of clubs and organizations that provide invaluable benefits. Among these benefits are fraternizing with similarly interested peers, the acquisition of important skills and leadership opportunities. Information on some school clubs and organizations can be found in the school handbook as well as during Parent Open House Night in the fall.

US encourages boys seeking to assemble a new club to do so, and throughout the year various students who share an interest in a particular subject or area will form an informal group that may meet intermittently. Examples of new clubs are: the Film Society, which screens movies for all students on select Fridays after school, and the Epicurean Club, which confects tasty dishes and teaches the boys the invaluable skill of gourmet cooking. Other examples are the French Club, the Spanish Club and the Photo Club. Participants in the Entrepreneur Cup competition develop an idea for a new business and create a business plan to launch and grow their business

Information on these groups is usually announced at morning assembly with meetings held at break. Below is a list of current organizations and publications along with their respective faculty advisors. Should a student be interested in joining an organization, he can see that particular advisor, or he can talk to his own sponsor for direction.

Special Interest Clubs	Faculty Advisor(s)
Outdoor Projects	Mr. Harmon
Multicultural Organization	Mrs. Crough
Mock Trial	Mr. Cate
Piano Club	Mr. M. Kessler
Science Olympiad	Mr. Carle
Ski Club	Mr. Costello
Society of Skeptics	Mr. Paik
Speech and Debate	Mr. Paik
Stage Crew/Players	Mr. Masley, Mrs. Pribble
The Epicurean Club	Ms. Steeber
Writing Forum	Mr. T. Kessler, Mrs. Loveman
SHOUT	Mrs. Hodson
The Film Society	Mr. Stewart
The Entrepreneurial Club	Mr. Malkin

USPA Needs You

It's that time of year again – time to fill the 2006-2007 USPA Committee Chair positions. At US, all parents are members of the Parents Association and are invited to participate in all USPA general meetings and activities. Monthly general meetings afford parents the opportunity to learn more about US through committee reports, guest speakers and an update from the administration. Please consider sharing your expertise and becoming even more actively involved by chairing a committee and/or volunteering for the '06 – '07 school year. Some committees require a yearlong commitment while others are shorter term, one-time positions. The best way to express your interest is by completing the enclosed Parent Volunteer Form and returning it by March 15 to Terry Stoller at the address indicated. Also, if you know someone with expertise in a given area, please nominate that person for the appropriate position and the nominating committee will contact him or her. We can all enjoy a great 2006-2007

school year by working together. Busy people can accomplish great things! Thank you in advance for your contributions to the school and the boys!

The Valley Voice

University School

2785 SOM Center
Road
Hunting Valley, Ohio
44022
216.831.2200
<http://upper.us.edu>

Editors:

Audrey Morris
Jane Peterson
Terry Stoller
Betsy Stueber

Distribution:

Jane Meyer

Staff Support:

Marcia Grant
James Reeder
Sue Schervish