



# 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

### Tuesday, January 3

Classes resume

### Friday, January 6

9th Grade USPA Parent Coffee

### Monday, January 9

10th Grade USPA Parent Coffee

### Wednesday, January 11

11th Grade USPA Parent Coffee

### Friday, January 13

End of Semester I

12th Grade USPA Parent Coffee

### Monday, January 16

Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No classes

### Tuesday, January 17 – Friday, January 20

Semester Exams

### Monday, January 23

Semester II begins

### Wednesday, February 8

USPA General Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Topic: Presentation of the Strnad & Davey Fellows opportunities

### Friday, February 17 – Monday, February 20

Mid-Winter Break – No Classes

### Tuesday, February 21

Classes resume

Check [www.us.edu](http://www.us.edu) for a complete calendar

## January Coffees

In lieu of a general meeting this month, the USPA will offer four separate grade-level coffees. Be sure to attend these informative discussions with guest speakers Doug Lagarde, Associate Headmaster, Head of the Hunting Valley Campus, and Margaret Mason, Upper School Dean of Students.

Coffees will begin at 8:30 a.m. immediately following morning assembly,

which you are welcome to attend. The coffees will be in the Callow Alumni Room, located across from the squash courts in the Kilroy Field House.

### USPA Coffees

9th grade

Friday, January 6

10th grade

Monday, January 9

11th grade

Wednesday, January 11

12th grade

Friday, January 13

## Semester Exam Week

Semester exams are scheduled for January 17-20 this year. During exam week, regular classes will not be in session, and days will be of varying lengths for each boy. Please look for a letter in the mail from Doug Lagarde explaining the procedures and providing times and room assignments for exams. Lunch

will be offered only by sign-up for boys who need to be at School during lunch-time (see exam schedule). Shuttles will run between the two campuses; check exam schedule for times. According to Mr. Lagarde, the best advice for our sons during exam week is to get a good night's sleep and pace their studying.

## US Faculty/Staff Appreciation

You have season tickets to the Cleveland Orchestra, Great Lakes Theater Festival, the Cavs, etc.

You can't go at the last minute. What do you do?

Contact Paula Polakof, 216-464-6682 or

[ppolakof@yahoo.com](mailto:ppolakof@yahoo.com)

She will find a US faculty or staff member who would love to use the tickets!

## Senior Section

### Friday, January 13

12th Grade Parent Coffee and Discussion with Doug Lagarde and Margaret Mason, at 8:30 a.m. in the Callow Room immediately following morning assembly.

### Saturday, January 28

SAT I & SAT II (other sites)

Senior class parents will be providing snacks for the first day of semester exams

## Politics as Usual

A highlight on the winter calendar this year is the 21st annual Class of '35 Political Awareness Essay Contest. The contest is designed to foster the habit of clear thinking about political issues past and present and to reward distinction in the art of expository writing while providing the opportunity to under-

take original research. The competition is open to all Upper School students and the winners are announced at a morning assembly. Each year a noted community leader addresses the students. Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones was the keynote speaker at last year's assembly. Details to follow.

## ANNUAL "FUNd" FACTS

### Did You Know?

Our Goal is 100% Parent Participation in the Annual Fund. EVERY gift counts, no matter the amount.

To date, 20% 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.

Thank You!

## Davey and Strnad Fellowships

The Strnad and Davey Fellowship programs offer significant opportunities to a unique group of ambitious students to pursue independent projects under the tutelage of a faculty advisor. These projects allow for exploration of a topic at a college level.

The Strnad Fellowship involves projects of advanced research, study or inquiry well beyond classroom work. To qualify, a student must have taken the available advanced academic courses offered by the School that relate to the topic. To participate, a student must submit a detailed application in the spring that demonstrates his interest in a topic and his ability to complete the

necessary research. The Strnad Fellowship Head is David Devore.

The Davey Fellowship is designed to offer a variety of opportunities to an elite group of creative writers. The program is open to boys in the 10th through 12th grades. A student applies to the program in the spring, filling out an application and presenting a portfolio of his work, which is then reviewed by Jan Fazio, who makes the decision to accept his proposal. A boy has the option of exploring his creativity in writing short stories, poems, plays, novels, song lyrics, or essays under the advisement of a faculty member who has a special expertise in the area of interest.

## Junior Section

### Wednesday, January 11

11th Grade USPA Parent Coffee and Discussion with Doug Lagarde and Margaret Mason, 8:30 a.m. in Callow Room immediately following morning assembly.

### Wednesday, January 25

CCIS Junior 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 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 procedures and guidelines as they are handled by University School.

## US Publications: The Write Stuff

US provides its students with a plethora of writing opportunities and stands out in the breadth and depth of publishing opportunities available. Each publication offers something unique not only for those who write for them, but for those who read them as well. Boys are encouraged to participate in contributing to these publications and signup is typically at the beginning of the academic year.

The publication most parents are most familiar with (besides the *Valley Voice*) is *The University School News*. The *US News* was established in 1898 and is the oldest high school newspaper in Ohio. It is a newspaper written, edited and published by students. Students develop ideas for articles, assign articles to other students or write them themselves, edit the articles, lay them out using PageMaker software, and assemble and distribute the final product to the School. Copies are also sent to parents and interested alumni. The *US News* is published every three weeks. The faculty advisor is Justin Kleinheider.

The University School literary magazine, *The Record*, has been published since the School's founding (1890). In its present form, it publishes the creative work of US students whether it be short stories, poems, photographs or drawings. Once the editorial staff has sifted through the material and selected what is to be published, they use Photoshop and PageMaker software to format the impressive book. The editor is Douglas Smythe and the faculty advisor is Terrance Kessler.

The School's yearbook, the *Mabian*, derives its name from the school colors of maroon and black and has been published every year since 1919. The *Mabian* staff strives to create the most visually stunning book possible. The editor is Andrew Singer and the faculty advisor is Jonathan Briggs.

The boys have also started new publications over the years. This year, *Res Publicae*, a publication devoted to politics and current events was founded. The political forum's editor is David Opatrny. The faculty advisor is Alan Cate.

## Freshman Section

### Friday, January 6

9th Grade USPA Parent Coffee and Discussion with Doug Lagarde and Margaret Mason, 8:30 a.m. in Callow Room immediately following morning assembly.

## Daniel W. Lopresti '03 Philanthropic Board

To educate students about the importance of philanthropy and to give them firsthand experience in the process, University School has established The Daniel W. LoPresti '03 Student Philanthropic Board, in memory of alumnus Daniel LoPresti who died in an automobile accident last year. It was created in the fall of 2005 with an initial grant from Marty and Gerry Conway '49, and is supported by funds donated by the family and friends of Daniel LoPresti in his memory.

The LoPresti Board is unique because it is school based and empowers high school students to become actively engaged in the philanthropic process. The directors will learn the nuts and bolts of charitable giving while gaining skills in group decision-making, leadership, and communication and returning something tangible to the community.

The current officers are seniors Jeremy O'Reilly, President; Chris Knox,

Financial Officer; and Tony Hilal, Secretary.

In its inaugural year, the Board is soliciting proposals originating from the University School community that serves Northeast Ohio. The Board's intention is to improve the quality of life of children in poverty – with an emphasis on education.

It is expected that more than \$5,000 will be allocated during the 2005/2006 program year. Grant proposals are due by January 10. The Board will meet on February 13 to consider grant requests. If you are interested in submitting a grant request, an application form and brochure are available from Mrs. Wendie Forman, Associate Director of Advancement and LoPresti Board Advisor at 216.831.1984, ext. 7319 or by e-mail at [wforman@us.edu](mailto:wforman@us.edu).

## Sophomore Section

### Monday, January 9

10th Grade USPA Parent Coffee & Discussion with Doug Lagarde and Margaret Mason, 8:30 a.m. in Callow Room immediately following morning assembly.

## Mabian Ads and Pictures

There is still time to send in candid photos of your son and his schoolmates engaged in US related activities! Parents take some of the best photos. The *Mabian* staff is especially interested in ones where the essence of the moment is most evident. Some wonderfully expressive moments caught on film have already been submitted, so if you have some photographic time capsules you've been meaning to send in, the time is now!

Please consider supporting the *Mabian* by purchasing a business or personal ad

sending your best wishes and congratulations to our seniors in a memorable way. The yearbook staff would be most grateful for this type of support.

Ad space is available in sizes ranging from business cards up to a full page and can be reproduced in either black and white or color. Want to participate but need help with ideas? Have an idea but need some guidance on the "next step" details? Please contact *Mabian* faculty advisor Dr. Jonathan Briggs at 216.831.2200 ext. 7434.

## USPA Thank You

On behalf of all the boys at the HV campus and their parents, I want say a public "Thank You" to the following parents who have chaired USPA activities for the first half of this school year. There are many other parents who have worked with these chairpersons helping to organize and staff the events. Because all of you have donated so generously of your time and talents, we are all more informed and connected with each other and our sons' school. Hats off to...

- Kelly Biggar & Olivia Demas.....Prep Shop
- Sandy Erlanger & Clare Paquelet .....International Dinner
- Hilary Bell, Kathy Marsh & Deborah Perkins.....Welcome Coffees
- Elizabeth Stover Starrett & Jeff Starrett .....Blazer Bargain Sale
- Anne O'Shaughnessy .....Shaker Campus Fall Reception  
& After Prom Lottery
- Donna Vadnais.....Homecoming
- Linda Chittock & Myra Hughes .....School Decorating
- Audrey Morris, Jane Peterson, Betsy Stueber,  
Terry Stoller & Jane Meyer.....*Valley Voice*
- Ginger & Stu VanWagenen,  
Colleen Goss & Ed France.....Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale
- Susan Althans.....9th Grade Parent Party
- Cyndi Hatch.....10th Grade Parent Party
- Jane Pinkas .....11th Grade Parent Party
- Noha Ryder.....12th Grade Parent Party

Dale Naylor  
USPA President

## American Math League Competition

This February, US boys will participate in the annual American Mathematics Competition. In the 75-minute contest, sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America, students answer challenging, open-ended problems covering a wide range of mathematical concepts. In general, the complexity of the questions is extremely high, far beyond those found on the SAT, for instance.

The contest recognizes the highest scoring student and other high scoring students from each school and provides statewide

awards. The MAA regularly receives requests from top colleges and universities for the names of high scoring students. According to US Math Department Chair Peggy Wielenberg-Ajagu, the best parts of the competition are the discussion the contest generates among students and faculty as well as providing the boys with different yardsticks for measuring their ability and gauging their performance against a larger world.

This is only one of several math competitions available to US students.

### *The Valley Voice*

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