Future Dates

Saturday, April 29
Junior/Senior Prom, check www.upper.us.edu for a complete schedule

Sunday, April 30
US 1:00 Jazz Ensemble & Combo, 5:30 p.m., Nighttown Restaurant

Monday, May 1 – Friday, May 12
AP Exams

Thursday, May 11
Spring Musical, “Blood Brothers,” 7:30 p.m., Gund Auditorium

Friday, May 12 & Saturday, May 13
Spring Musical, 8:00 p.m., Gund Auditorium

Tuesday, May 16
Soiree Musicaire, 7:30 p.m., Gund Auditorium

Sunday, May 21
Glee Club Senior Concert, 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 24
- Strnad Presentations, 8:05 a.m.
- USPA Old Board/New Board Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Stouffer Dining Hall
- Glee Club Concert with Laurel Chorus, 7:30 p.m., US Shaker Campus

Friday, May 26
Jazz Club Night, 7:00 p.m., Music Room

Monday, May 29
Memorial Day – No Classes

Tuesday, May 30
Honors Assembly & Last Day of Classes

Wednesday, May 31 – Friday, June 2
Final Exams

Thursday, June 1
Fall Sports Teams Parent Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, June 2
116th Commencement, 10:30 a.m., Weatherhead Gymnasium

Saturday, June 3
SAT I & II, 8:30 a.m., HV
CCIS Social, 8:00 – 11:00 p.m., HV

Monday, June 5 – Tuesday, June 6
Final Exams

Check www.us.edu for a complete calendar

A Letter from the Headmaster

In my welcome-back remarks to the faculty on April 2 after our recent spring break, I described two experiences that made me feel especially positive and optimistic about the arrival of spring.

On one of the final mornings of vacation, I wandered down to the playing fields and felt a familiar surge of wellbeing wash over me as I watched baseball practice. I have this special love of high school baseball. Not simply because I enjoy the sport, but as a teacher over the years, baseball, not warblers or crocuses, has been the harbinger of spring. Emerging from a winter of heavy snow, endless papers to correct and college recommendations to write, the distinctive sound of batting practice would finally penetrate my hibernal mindset to tell me that spring had arrived and that graduation was only weeks away. It is an annual epiphany that I associate with the ping of aluminum bats.

So as I watched Andy Jalwan hitting grounders to the outfield, it occurred to me that although vacation had come and gone, I could take heart in the knowledge that the year is two-thirds over, and the final weeks are sure to pass in the wink of an eye.

The second experience conjures up a nobler image. On the final evening of vacation, as my son James and I came out of the gym after playing squash, we saw an enormous bald eagle perched in a tree over Lake Kilroy, probably hoping to poach one of Terry Harmon’s fat brown trout. Without overplaying the metaphor, it did occur to me that the eagle’s august presence watching over us augured an excellent, trouble-free spring term.

There are even more important reasons to be optimistic, however, and they are closely tied to my experiences getting to know this school over the past seven months. In particular, I am so deeply impressed with my remarkable colleagues, the teachers who work hard each day to make this a caring community where boys acquire confidence and where friendships thrive.

Even with all the pressure today on kids to perform and to excel, I commended the faculty in my April 2 address for helping kids to find a balance: for understanding the importance of an afternoon spent carrying sap buckets with the only visible reward being calluses on one’s hands; for sticking to a model where our classroom teachers also coach our teams because we know that coaching is a special form of teaching; and for remaining committed to the goal of producing happy kids whose confidence comes in part from the knowledge that they are known and loved.

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**Senior Section**

Friday, April 28
Last day for seniors

Monday, May 1
Senior Experience begins

Thursday, May 11
Luncheon for mothers of seniors at Ann Neville’s house. Invitations will be going out shortly; RSVP to Ann Whitney.

Wednesday, May 17
Senior breakfast in school dining hall. Starts at 8:15 a.m.; invites with details will be sent soon.

Thursday, May 25 and Friday, May 26
Senior oral reports

Tuesday, May 30
Class of 2006 family barbeque for seniors and parents barbecue at Smythe Pavilion. Invites and details will be going out in the next few weeks.

Friday, June 2
116th Commencement at 10:30 a.m. in the Weatherhead gymnasium.
Due to limited seating, attendance is reserved for ticketed senior family members and their guests, current juniors and the US Glee Club.

Each boy must be dressed in a dark blue blazer, white shirt, white pants, dark shoes and socks, and a striped US tie. Ties have been ordered and are available from the Prep Shop for boys who do not have them. If you need assistance in locating stores that carry the needed apparel, please call Ann Friebertshauser and she will make recommendations.

**Parents of Juniors and Glee Club Members**

The University School 116th Commencement is Friday, June 2 at 10:30 a.m. in Weatherhead Gymnasium. All juniors and Glee Club members are required to attend graduation. Navy blue blazers, white shirts, US school ties and khaki pants are the required attire of the day along with dark socks, dress shoes and a belt. The ceremonies are expected to conclude shortly after noon.

**2006-07 Prefects**

There are 10 senior prefects on the Hunting Valley campus -- one for each house -- where they serve as student leaders. Boys apply for the position at the end of the first semester of the junior year. As the seniors leave in May to pursue senior projects, the new prefects assume their prefect duties.

To outgoing U.S.P.A. President, Dale Naylor, thanks for a great year!

**Summer Opportunities**

Summers are a time for exploration and experiences outside the confines of the classroom. Athletes often attend numerous sports camps and compete in summer leagues. Some students gain valuable work experience; other students head for challenging adventures in the mountains. Colleges also offer a range of programs for high school students, and older students can sometimes earn college credit for their efforts.

“The primary goal of a summer experience,” according to Whitney Lloyd, “is that it complements rather than duplicate what the boy is doing at school.” Ideally, it should reinforce something that is meaningful for the student. Colleges love to see kids who are doing something that has an impact on a student.

Beginning each January, the College Guidance Office receives promotional literature about a wide variety of summer programs. Students can also check college websites for offerings, dates, fees, and the like. A search engine such as Google will also reveal non-academic programs.

Summer is also a good time to demonstrate leadership skills as a camp counselor, for instance. US varsity coaches hire counselors for the various sports camps at US and interested students can contact the specific varsity coach or Ron Grant at the Upper School to find out more.

If someone is interested at helping with the Day Camp at the Shaker campus, he should contact Bill Champ, the Day Camp director at Shaker. For computer camp at the Shaker campus, he should contact Bob Morgan, and for the REACH Program at the Upper School the contact person is David Stewart.

Don’t let opportunities pass you by! Boys should do something meaningful and make good use of their time to grow physically, intellectually or socially.

**Junior Section**

Tuesday, April 25
Service Day – No Classes

Saturday, April 29
Junior/Senior Prom
Check www.upper.us.edu for a complete schedule.

Friday, June 2
Commencement, 10:30 a.m. in Weatherhead Gymnasium.
Check article in this issue of the Valley Voice for details.
USPA Thank You

On behalf of all the boys at the HV campus and their parents, I want to say a public "Thank You" to the following parents who have worked to chair USPA activities for the second half of this school year. Working with these chairpersons, there are many other parents who have helped 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.....

Jane Biggar ........................................ Sunshine
Ann Sords & Michael Sreshta ...................... P.A.C.T.
Paula Polakof ..................................... Faculty & Staff Appreciation
Claudia Fulton & Justine Starrett ............... Commencement
Kelly Biggar and Olivia Demas ......... Prep Shop
Linda Chittock and Myra Hughes ....... School Decorating
Jane Meyer, Audrey Morris,
Jane Peterson and Betsy Stueber ........ Valley Voice
Chris Frazier, Shirley Lanzieri, Tanya Tuffuor ....... After-Prom
with critical help from MANY, MANY others!

I also want to extend a very heartfelt thank you to Doug Lagarde and Margaret Mason who support the USPA in all we do. Doug and Margaret’s guidance are invaluable to all of us serving the USPA. We will miss Doug mightily next year as he takes the headmaster role at the Severn School in Maryland.

Finally, I’d like to thank Terry Stoller, incoming president for 2006-2007, for all her support this past year. Terry has worked closely with me this past year and will be a wonderful representative for the parent community next year.

I have had a wonderful year serving as your president and thank you for the opportunity. One of the perks of the job has been getting to know a number of US families that I had not previously known. It is so gratifying to know our parents are supporting the school’s mission, our sons and their experience at US. Have a wonderful summer!

Dale Naylor, USPA President

Cum Laude Society

What Phi Beta Kappa is to college, Cum Laude is to the independent school. The purpose of the Society is to recognize and honor high moral character and exceptional scholarship. Membership in the US chapter of Cum Laude is limited to seniors who have been in residence at least two consecutive years and who have carried a particularly challenging academic program with honor and distinction. The number of boys elected to membership varies from year to year (this year 16 boys were inducted), but under no circumstances may it exceed 20 percent of the senior class. New members are elected in the spring based on grades in the junior and senior year.

Performing Arts

Spring provides the US community with numerous opportunities to recognize the talents our young men have developed in the performing arts and to enjoy the fruits of their persistent efforts and dedication.

US 1:00 Jazz Ensemble (17-member group comprised of trumpets, saxophones, trombones and a rhythm section), Combo (improvisers from the larger group) and two student vocalists will perform with jazz saxophonist Sam Morrison, who was a member of the legendary Miles Davis Band on Sunday April 30, 5:30 p.m. at Nighttown Restaurant (12387 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights). Tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for students and are available by calling Nighttown at 216-795-0550 or visiting www.nighttowncleveland.com. Seating is limited.

Spring Musical: May 11, 12 and 13 are the dates for this year’s spring musical, “Blood Brothers” which will begin at 7:30 p.m. on May 11 and 8:00 p.m. on May 12 and 13 in the Gund Auditorium. Theater Director Carol Pribble encourages parents to order tickets early. A flyer with ticket order forms will be sent out to the US community.

Soiree Musicale: An evening performance of the US Orchestra, 1:00 Jazz Ensemble and Glee Club will be held on Tuesday, May 16 in the Gund Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Glee Club Concerts: On Sunday, May 21 the US Glee Club and Prepper Chorus will offer their Senior Concert at 4:00 p.m. in the Gund Auditorium. A potluck dinner will follow the concert.

On Wednesday, May 24, 7:30 p.m., at the Shaker Campus, the US Glee Club and Laurel Chorus will perform Schubert’s Mass in G Major. Laurel’s director, Charles Carr, will conduct the piece.

US 2:00 Jazz Ensemble will be performing at Jazz Club Night on Friday, May 26, at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room. The group will be playing several classic jazz compositions including Bobby Timmons’ “Moanin’,” Dave Brubeck’s, “Blue Rondo A La Turk,” and Duke Ellington’s “Caravan.”
Letter from the Headmaster

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The world is an uncertain and highly competitive place, and we absolutely need to equip the boys to compete successfully and to strive for excellence. And we do. I visit classes that range from Japanese Tea Ceremonies to Constitutional debates to computer simulations of complex geometry problems; I watch the 8th Grade Speaking Contest and the Sherman Prize Speech finalists; I see remarkable theatrical performances, prize-winning visual art, and athletic teams competing at the state level; I see teachers sponsoring research at the Cleveland Clinic, creating clubs that link boys to Cleveland entrepreneurs, and chaperoning trips to far-away places where kids go on whale watches, eat tortillas, visit Greek ruins, and walk along the Seine. In all these areas, I see teachers demanding excellence from our students in the extraordinarily rich learning environment that is emblematic of this school, but not at the expense of confidence and self-esteem.

I see teachers demanding excellence from students, and I see teachers modeling excellence. I see that certain kind of excellence in our teachers that goes deeper than their wonderful talents and areas of expertise. It is a more subtle form that is at the heart and soul of this school, and this excellence is the time and care that they put into nurturing trusting relationships with the students. Letting a boy know he is known and loved can be as simple as saying, “I have time for you”:

- I have time for an extra help session;
- I have time to listen to your side of the story;
- I have time to offer extra commentary on an essay you have written;
- I have time to come watch your basketball game;
- I have time to know your name and ask you how you are doing every morning.

These are extraordinarily important gestures, and are all part of the excellence and the level of commitment that I see in the faculty.

And I deeply value this kind of commitment to the boys, this attention to their emotional lives, and to their lifelong happiness and confidence. So as we head into spring, and as I watch our teachers at work with the students, indeed, I have good reason to be optimistic!

Steve Murray

Prep Shop

Please keep the Prep Shop in mind while doing your spring and graduation shopping. US fleece blankets and sweatshirts will make terrific gifts for the senior heading off to college and dorm life. Many new spring items are available. Thanks to the wonderful efforts of Stephen Murray, Scott Smith, Sue Schervish, Nancy Furey and our Prep Shop volunteers we have (a) completely redesigned Prep Shop Online and (b) updated and expanded the inventory. You can shop online all year at: http://upper.us.edu/prep-shop/ for all your needs!

The Prep Shop will be open throughout May, with the last day to purchase items being Friday, May 26. As of May 1, account charges are suspended and payments only by cash or checks will be accepted. Finally, the USPA and the Prep Shop chairs, Kelly Biggar and Olivia Demas, would like to thank all the volunteers who supported the Prep Shop by working during lunch hours and at the many extracurricular activities of the school.

Fall Sports Teams Parent Meeting

The mandatory parent meeting for fall sports is scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is for the parents of athletes who are trying out for Varsity teams only, and those who should attend will receive invitations from the Upper School Athletic Department. The fall sports are football, soccer, cross-country and golf.

ANNUAL “FUNd” FACTS

Did You Know?

...we need $34,623 more to achieve our Parent Annual Fund goal of $281,000?

...the Annual Fund campaign ends May 31, 2006?

...your gift could be the one that puts us over the top?!

If you have made your gift to the Annual Fund, Thank You!

If you have not already done so, please make a gift or pledge today.

You can give online (www.us.edu), by phone (call Mary at 216-831-1984 x7316) or by using the envelope provided in this mailing.

Thank You!