



The Valley Voice

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

Welcome to *The Valley Voice*

Welcome to the Hunting Valley newsletter of the University School Parents' Association (USPA)! The Valley Voice is developed by parents and staff to provide information of interest and import to US families and is not intended to report on school events such as sporting events and club competitions covered by other publications. Look for the newsletter every month through February and bi-monthly thereafter.

Important dates for the HV campus will always be listed in the right column of the front page. In addition, individual class boxes will contain information of interest to that particular class. We strongly encourage you to visit the intranet website <http://upper.us.edu> for daily announcements, athletic events, college visits, and much more. The editors welcome your feedback, questions, and comments. Our email addresses can be found alongside our names on the last page.

The USPA

The USPA offers parents a great opportunity to meet each other, to stay informed about issues and events at school, to support students, and to support the school. USPA general meetings are held throughout the academic year and are open to all parents. The general meeting format includes a guest speaker (sometimes student) addressing a current topic of interest to Hunting Valley parents and a brief business update. There are also periodic updates from Michael Obel-Omia, Head of the Hunting Valley Campus, and Margaret Mason, Dean of Students.

A calendar of USPA sponsored events and meetings, and the USPA officers and committee chairs appears in the University School Directory and on the US intranet website, <http://upper.us.edu>. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the USPA activities or committees, please call or email the committee or event chair or you may contact Deborah Perkins-Boyd, USPA President. We welcome your involvement.

Founder's Celebration Day

The school was established in 1890 by Headmaster Newton Anderson, (1890-1900), who deplored the practice of sending boys away from home for the purely classical education of an Eastern boarding school. He convinced 70 public-spirited Clevelanders to pledge \$100,000 for his concept of a day school that would blend traditional education with a training in the manual arts and a rugged athletic program to produce well-rounded and practical leaders for industry and commerce. The School's first building was erected on 10 acres at the corner of Hough Avenue and East 71st Street. *

Grades 6 – 12 will celebrate Mr. Anderson's legacy on Friday, September 21. Students will gather for a day of fun, camaraderie and friendly competition among houses. Middle school boys join their upper school housemates (via school bus) at the Hunting Valley campus for games such as battle ball, tug-of-war, capture the flag, earth ball relay, and soccer, as well as a picnic lunch. The day culminates with an awards presentation. The boys will be dismissed at 2 p.m. but normal bus schedules will be observed. Boys should wear their house t-shirt, comfortable pants or shorts and sports shoes.

If your son has grown out of his house shirt, or if he simply needs an extra, it can be charged to your account. House shirts are available, among other times, the week of Founder's Day for \$10.

*From Wikipedia

Future Dates

Wednesday, August 22

- Freshman Soccer Practice Begins 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, August 29

- New Student Orientation 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 9th Grade and New Parent Orientation 9:00 - 11:15 a.m. in the Callow Room. Formal program begins at 9:15 a.m.
- Blazer Bargains 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Lower Commons
- Senior Class Dinner 6:30 p.m. in the Stouffer Dining Hall

Thursday, August 30

- Classes Begin
- 10th Grade Parent Coffee 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. in the Callow Room

Friday, August 31

- 11th and 12th Grade Parent Coffee 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. in the Callow Room

Monday, September 3

- Labor Day ~ No Classes

Wednesday, September 5

- School Photos
- USPA General Meeting 7:15 p.m. in the Stouffer Dining Hall. "The State of the School" with Mr. Obel-Omia

Thursday, September 6

- Senior Parent College Program 7:00 p.m.

Saturday September 8

- 118th Homecoming / Fall Family Festival 11:00 a.m. at the Athletic Fields
- Homecoming Dance 8:00 - 11:00 p.m. in the Stouffer Dining Hall - Date optional

Monday, September 10

- New Parent Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Wean Library

Tuesday, September 11

- School Photo Make-ups at Lunchtime

Thursday, September 20

- Parent Open House 6:45 p.m.

Friday, September 21

- Founders' Day ~ Grades 6 - 12

Monday, September 21

- Grades Due for Freshmen & New Students and Comments for Under 70

Senior Section

Friday, August 31

- 11th and 12th grade Parent Welcome Back Coffee in the Callow Room. Drop In between 8:00 – 10:00 am. Short program at 8:30 a.m.

College Visits

Check the website, <http://upper.us.edu>, for a comprehensive, up to date schedule of colleges visiting the Cleveland area.

Don't forget required summer reading

Junior Section

Friday, August 31

- 11th and 12th grade Parent Welcome Back Coffee in the Callow Room. Drop In between 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Short program at 8:30 a.m.

Don't forget required summer reading

Sophomore Section

Thursday, August 30

- 10th Grade Parent Welcome Back Coffee in the Callow Room. Drop by between 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Short program at 8:30 a.m.

Required Summer Reading

- *Lost Names* by Richard Kim
- *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel
- Sophomores should also read the July and August issues of *Time* or *Newsweek* or other sources of current news.

Freshman Section

Wednesday, August 29

- New Student Orientation 9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- 9th Grade and New Parent Coffee 9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. in the Callow Room. Formal program begins at 9:15 a.m.

Monday, September 10

- New Parent Meeting 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Wean Library.

Thursday, September 20

- Parent Open House 6:45 p.m.

Required Summer Reading

- *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer
- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

Visitors From Kenya - Undaunted by Bureaucracy!

A Message from the Headmaster

I would like to take this first of many opportunities to welcome everyone back from the summer and I look forward to another great year. With a bit of time for a respite in Rhode Island with my family, it has still been a busy and productive summer in many areas, and I look forward to the start of this school year with special anticipation as we move forward with a number of exciting projects.

Even as we are preparing in the Annual Report to publicly launch the Strategic Plan, "The Next Era of Excellence at University School," we are already pushing ahead with certain initiatives. On the international front, I am very pleased to announce that we are preparing to welcome two post-graduate students from the Starehe Boys' Centre in Nairobi, Kenya.

Although we have yet to meet face to face, I feel I have come to know Wahinya and Beneah through our extraordinarily complex email exchange over the past two months. It has been an education in patience with the slowly grinding wheels of bureaucracy, but we are nearing the end of the process. We have been helped by so many people along the way, and I want to especially thank our very own Senator George Voinovich and his wonderful staffers who were a tremendous help in securing visa appointments for these boys.

We have carefully worked our way through the maze of I-20 forms, made sure we paid our SEVIS fee in order to apply for an F-1 visa on form 901 (in dollars or Kenyan Shillings we first had to determine), we made sure we obtained form 797C, which is the receipt for the payment of the SEVIS fee, and then of course we had to take care of form 134, the affidavit of financial sponsorship, and then there are the proper medical forms attesting to a full set of vaccinations, an official letter of acceptance from the school, and before I forget, the boys needed to obtain the printout of the confirmation of their consular appointment, without which they will not be permitted to pass by the guards at the gates of the embassy in order to present all of the above paperwork at their interview to determine if they are to be granted a visa. Whew!

So we are nearly there, and the appointments are scheduled for August 13. By the time this article is printed, we will have the final answer. I remain hopeful and, in fact, feel quite inspired by the gumption, patience and tenacity of these boys, soon to be our guests for the year. Their words of appreciation in their various emails express much of this:

- Thank you very much for the opportunity you have given me to study in University School. I have visited your website and am convinced it is a great learning institution. (Beneah)
- I went through the testimonials given by former students and their parents, I was exhilarated to note that you are able to send students to leading universities in the world like Harvard and the likes. My dream of joining M.I.T or Harvard now appears real. (Wahinya)
- Concerning the progress I have made so far, there is a small hitch as the only visa interview date available is 30th August. I will be visiting the America Advisory Centre tomorrow (24th July) to see whether they can intervene and bring the date earlier. I will inform you of the outcome immediately. (Wahinya)
- My family comprising of my father, mother, sister and little brother are equally excited and can hardly wait to see me off in August. (Wahinya)
- We are amazed and truly thankful for the efforts you are putting from your side in trying to secure earlier visa appointments for us. We are all ears now, waiting to hear of any developments from that side. (Beneah)

Continued on page 4

Blazer Bargains

Because it will be stuffed into his locker each day after morning assembly, you will want to get an exceptional deal on your son's blazer. How does \$20 sound? A sale of gently used blazers, shirts, and ties will be held at the HV campus in the lower commons on Wednesday, August 29 from 9 a.m. until noon and on Thursday, August 30 from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Donations of clean blazers, shirts, and ties may be dropped off to Jeff Starrett in the Alumni Office from August 17 through August 29.

All proceeds from the Blazer Bargain sale benefit the USPA. If you have any questions or would be interested in helping the day of the sale, please contact Noelle Whitehouse at ntwhitehouse@sbcglobal.net or 440-247-4808.

Homecoming

Join in the fun and help root US to victory on Saturday, September 8 for the 118th University School Homecoming. Festivities kick off at 11 a.m. with the Fall Family Festival. All ages will enjoy magicians, jugglers, the Euclid Beach Rocket Car, the inflatable rock wall, and more! The picnic starts at noon and will feature a buffet of hot dogs, fruit, pasta, apple cider, and the ubiquitous Prepper Chili! The Prep Shop and the US Jazz Band will be on hand. Frosh, JV and Varsity Soccer vs. Bay Village will begin at noon and Varsity Football vs. Akron East will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Smile

Wednesday, September 5

Wear a white shirt, school tie, blue blazer and khaki pants.

All students are required to be photographed. Photographs will be used by the school for student ID cards and composites for each grade level. You are not obligated to purchase a photo package. Parents should have received Life Touch Studios information and a payment envelope in the August mailing. If you would like a photo package, the payment must be sent in with your son on September 5. Make-up photos will be taken on Tuesday, September 11 at lunchtime. Retakes will be scheduled for a date after the photo packets are received.

Parent Night

Thursday, September 20

Want to be a student again? This is your chance. Seeing friends in the hallway, getting lost and being late for class, are all activities you can enjoy once again at parent night. The grown-up part to the evening is meeting your son's teachers and hearing about their plans for the year.

Arrive, pick up your folder with your class schedule and your name tag and the fun begins. You will be so tired after the evening, it's a guarantee you will not give up your day job.

PACT by any other name

Parent representatives to CCIS have replaced PACT. Ann Sords and Karen Hess are the new representatives from the Hunting Valley Campus; stay tuned for more information.

Information is US

Look in the US Directory/Handbook

The US Directory has all of the email addresses for all faculty and staff of the Hunting Valley Campus. The Student Handbook, located in the back of the US Directory, contains information about daily schedules, the school calendar, rules and regulations, etc. The Handbook holds the answers to most questions regarding University School's policies and procedures.

Look Online

General school information can be found at www.us.edu. 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>.

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, for one reason or another, couldn't be read at assembly. They can be submitted directly by HV faculty or staff. If parents or students wish to post an announcement, they must submit their request to 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/>.

Emergency broadcast information

If there is a school-wide emergency, the school will activate its automatic call and email function to immediately notify parents/guardians of the situation. It is imperative to tell the school of any email or phone number changes.

Online Test Calendars

Instead of posting the paper test schedules on the faculty room window, we have put them 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. Parents should ask their sons for their son's network username and password, or ask their son to log on for them.

Junior Parent Alert

Attention Junior Parents: believe it or not - it is time to plan for After-Prom 2008. As is tradition, the Junior parents plan, raise funds, and host the event.

Please volunteer your time - we need volunteers and chairs for the following committees:

- Fundraising
- Decorating (co-chairs Linda Chittock and Ann Gross)
- Food
- Entertainment
- Communications (graphics or communications experience useful)
- Logistics (needs good organizational skills)
- Favors
- The big night - Help with set up, work the event, and clean up

Please contact Julia Neff or Betsy Stovsky to find out more about the committees or to let us know what committee you would like to work on.

Betsy Stovsky - rbstovsky@adelphia.net; 440-543-7409
Julia Neff - boiler49506@aol.com; 216-321-3050

Visitors From Kenya

Continued from page 2

- Once again we are grateful to you for the opportunity that you have given us to have a great academic experience at your institution. We look forward to meeting all of you at University School. The commitment and dedication that you've showed us has not only amazed us, but has also made us appreciate all that you are doing more. (Wahinya)

Of course, the other reason for my faith and optimism in this initiative has been the community response. We have six enthusiastic responses from host families and a number of additional families who have volunteered to host the boys during vacation times or to otherwise help the principal host families. We have set up the home stays in thirds, so each of our six families will host one of the boys for a trimester – fall, winter or spring. I want to express special thanks to our six families who are helping to inaugurate this program: Frerichs, Obel-Omia (Zachary – gr. K, Jackson – gr. 2), Pichanick (Brandon – gr. 12), Chittock (Connor – gr. 9, Cameron – gr. 11), White (Alex – gr. 12), Eisele (Sam – gr. 12).

So as I say, I look forward to welcoming everyone back. The summer has gone by like a shot, and the start of another exciting school year is upon us!

Steve Murray

ANNUAL "FUND" FACTS

Did You Know?

US Parents generously donated over \$315,000 to the 2006-07 Annual Fund.

Those extra funds enabled the school, among many other things, to

- make improvements to the Hunting Valley and Shaker campus facilities;
- fund faculty development to help keep teachers refreshed and informed; and
- provide updated computer hardware and software for all US faculty.

And Do You Also Know?

The current 2007-2008 Annual Fund is critically important to the quality of your son's education this year!

Tuition provides only a portion of the dollars needed to educate a US boy. Gifts made to the Annual Fund help bridge that gap.

Please make a gift or pledge today.

A gift of any size is greatly appreciated and honored.

Our goal is 100% Parent Participation!

You may give online (www.us.edu), by phone (216-831-1984 x7316) or by mail using the envelope provided in this issue of *The Valley Voice*.

Thank You!

The Prep Shop

New Hours

The Prep Shop reopens on Wednesday, August 29 for New Student Orientation and then will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 11:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday the shop will be open from 3:00 to 4:15 p.m. The Prep Shop has all things US for every member of your family. The shop is run by the USPA of the Hunting Valley Campus, and is located near the Stouffer Dining Hall 1:00 p.m. You may also shop during Homecoming on Saturday, September 8th and Parent Night on September 20th. Payments are made by cash or by completing the student's authorization - Permission to Charge - which is processed by the Business Office.

Any student who has lettered in a varsity sport can order the varsity letter jackets through the Prep Shop. Samples are available for sizing. Each jacket is a custom order since it includes the boy's name, class year and individual sports. If a student has not lettered in a sport, but expects to do so before he graduates, space is left for adding the sport when the time comes! If you would like to order a jacket in time for the holidays, please order in September. Don't wait until the November Sports Dessert Award ceremony, which will place you in the holiday rush.

The Prep Shop is staffed by parent volunteers and opportunities are still available. Please contact Marilyn Anderson, marilyn@marilynanderson.org, Julia Cregar, cregar@adelphia.net or Julia Neff boiler45906@aol.com. You can view and order items in the Prep Shop collection online at www.us.edu.

Lottery Raffle Tickets

Please support this fundraiser for the After-Prom, a memorable evening made possible by your generosity! Raffle tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Cash or checks made out to the "US After-Prom" will be accepted. The raffle mirrors the Ohio Lottery Nightly Pick Three drawings throughout the month of December, 2007. If raffle numbers match the winning number in the Ohio Lottery Nightly Pick Three, the winner wins \$100. Please call Kathleen Visconsi at 440-338-6147 or Margy Hopkins at 440-338-3007 to buy tickets or use the order form included with your mailing of the *Valley Voice*. Thank you for contributing towards a fun and especially safe After-Prom for our boys.

The Valley Voice

University School

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