



# The Valley Voice

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

## Heard in "The Valley"

**S**enior Projects: A Message from Michael Obel-Omia, Head of Hunting Valley Campus

This autumn the Student Life Committee led a review of the Senior Project program, hoping to strengthen it and improve it for our students. As the mission statement notes: "The Senior Project is an opportunity to help US seniors make the transition from our School community to the larger world and to use the skills, knowledge and experience that they have gained in the classroom. We feel that this is best accomplished through two avenues: career exploration and community service." Community service consists of volunteering at a civic or nonprofit organization, and such service includes but isn't limited to serving/delivering meals, tutoring, and building schools, hospitals or churches. Career Exploration encourages examining the relationship between academic achievement, abilities and interests to career prospects; and such exploration includes, but isn't limited to, interning in a field that the student may pursue in college.

With that in mind, we are hoping that boys will spend January and February speaking with their sponsors, housemasters, teachers,

other trusted members of the community, and you about potential projects. We are also hoping that you, local businessmen, attorneys, judges, doctors, chefs, teachers, professors, etc., will consider offering an opportunity to a senior boy. No, your own son cannot volunteer for you (and would you want that?), but we would greatly appreciate your sharing your vocation with one of our seniors. Perhaps you run a non-profit organization and could use a young man's videotaping expertise for a promotion you hope to produce; perhaps you work in a courthouse and could provide an intriguing perspective on the justice system; perhaps you trade bonds or stocks and could introduce this fascinating world to one of our boys; perhaps you work in the front office of the Indians, the Browns or the Cavaliers and could fulfill the dream of some boy to work in sports. There are so many interesting careers in our community, and our hope is that you will telephone us and communicate your interest in helping one of our boys learn the basics of a trade and share your passion for what you do.

Please contact Mrs. Mason or me with your opportunities. We shall share them with the appropriate people.

## Parking Space and Extra Change for After-Prom

**G**et your raffle tickets and cut your son's cold walk from the parking lot. Each month a ticket is chosen and the winner may park his car in the front visitor's parking lot. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and are available in the receptionist office.

Have spare change? Ten large Distallata bottles, one for each

house, have been placed around the school to collect spare change. The house that collects the most change will receive Chipotle gift certificates.

All proceeds from both of these fundraisers go towards After-Prom. Thanks for your support of a fun and safe After-Prom.

## Future Dates

### Tuesday, February 6

- American Math Competition 7:30 – 9:15 a.m.

### Thursday, February 8

- Junior Parent Dinner 6 p.m. (Stouffer Dining Hall)
- Junior Parent College Night 7:00 p.m. (Gund Auditorium)

### Friday, February 16 – Monday, February 19

- Mid-Winter Break ~ No Classes

### Wednesday, February 21

- USPA General Meeting 7:15 p.m. (Lecture Room) Topic: Mr. Murray discussing the Strategic Plan for University School

### Tuesday, February 27

- Sherman Prize Speaking Contest 8:00 a.m. (Gund Auditorium) See Article.
- Spring Sports Parent Meeting 7:00 p.m.

### Monday, March 5

- Faculty Work Day ~ No Classes

### Friday, March 16

- Spring Break begins after last class

### Monday, April 2

- No Classes – Professional Development Day

### Tuesday, April 3

- Classes resume

### Saturday, April 14

- Parent/Sponsor Conferences

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

## Junior Section

### Friday, February 2

- Registration deadline for the March 10 SAT test

### Thursday, February 8

- Junior Parent Dinner 6:00 p.m. (Stouffer Dining Hall)
- Junior Parent College Night 7:00 p.m. (Gund Auditorium)



## Sophomore Section

### Monday, March 12 – Friday, March 16

- Ohio Graduation Testing - Testing takes place the week of March 12 in the morning. Boys are in school the entire school day.

## Sunshine Committee

**T**onya Heyman, chair of the USPA Sunshine Committee, is only as good as the information she receives. If you know someone who needs help, or a sympathy, congratulatory, or get-well card, Tonya is on the job. Call her with any news about the Hunting Valley School community. Her phone number is 440-338-6968.

## ANNUAL "FUNd" FACTS

### Did You Know?

You can give your Annual Fund gift online!

Please go to [www.us.edu](http://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!

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

Thank You!

## Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale Thanks

**T**he 2006 Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale was a great success! With all of the tireless help from many volunteers, we were able to raise more than \$12,700 for After-Prom. There are so many people to thank: first and foremost our co-chairs, Susan and Greg Althans. They 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, while juggling hockey schedules for Trace and Sam. Special thanks go to senior parents Darrell Erdman and Shirley Lanzieri, who graciously gave their time again this year when they were supposed to be "coasting to the finish line." Thanks

to Cyndi Hatch, Noha Ryder, Diane Coletti and Terry Stoller, who bravely handled the nerve-wracking cashier job; to Tod White, who took time off from work and braved the cold to help us unload 310 trees. As always, thanks to Duane and James Kasten who showed up every day to carry and load trees. Thanks to so many of our boys and their parents who came out to help our "customers" select the perfect tree and then get it securely tied onto their cars. Thanks also to everyone who bought a tree, wreath or pine roping from us. You made the sale the success it was! We're so grateful to all of you!

*Colleen Goss & Ed France*

## What To Do With the Flu?

**C**old and flu season seems to peak in January and February, and it is not unusual for a boy to miss one or even two days of school. As tempting as it is to allow your son to talk you into sending him into school with a fever, it serves him and the community better to have him stay at home when he is ill; his attending school will impede his body's ability to fight the virus and infect his classmates and our community. One of the best ways to prevent or slow the spread of this virus is to wash hands vigorously many times a day.

should contact his classmates and his teachers to keep up with the daily assignments. He will be expected to complete major papers and similarly scheduled assignments on time via email, a sibling, parent or trusted classmate.

Should your son have an extended illness, arrangements should be made with his sponsor to collect weekly assignments and necessary materials.

Upon returning to school, it is his responsibility to seek out his teachers, 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!

The amount of work a student can miss even on one day can seem staggering. Your son is responsible for all class work and homework assignments missed during his absence. He

## Where the Heck are My Keys???

**H**mmmm, where are my keys??? Pockets? No. Backpack? No. Well you are lucky if this is a question your son asks himself before Ms. Janice Kalman goes home. Ms. Kalman has every type of key you might want and maybe even your son's car key if he lost it at school (and didn't lock it in his car). She also has cell phones, MP3 players, calculators and even some jewelry. So, the first stop on your son's missing item quest is Ms. Kalman; second on his stop would be to the Plant Services Coordinator,

Mrs. Patricia Morris. Plant Services also has some great items. The last place to look for those more valuable items, like books, is the lost and found box and bookcase at the end of the first floor hall.

Now, on a more serious note, if your son knows for a fact that he did not "lose" something and perhaps it has gone missing through another mechanism, please report it immediately. Talk to a sponsor, Mrs. Mason, or Mr. Obel-Omia. They want to know if valuable items are disappearing.

## American Mathematics Competition

The American Mathematics Competition Examination, sponsored by the American Mathematical Association, will be given nationwide on February 6. The US Math Department is providing all students in honors-level mathematics classes the opportunity to participate in this competition here at US. 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 the examination is neither necessary nor sufficient for becoming an outstanding mathematician. The ability

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 more than 300,000 examinations) benefits those who are shrewd at eliminating wrong answers and guessing. However, these are not particularly mathematical talents. According to Mrs. Wielenberg-Ajagu, chair of the Math Department, students who do not receive nationally recognized scores should not shrink from pursuing mathematics further, and those who do receive high scores should not think they have forever proved their mathematical merit. This examination, like all mathematical competitions, remains but a means for furthering mathematical development.

## Class of '35 Political Awareness Essay Contest

This year marked the 22nd annual Class of '35 Political Awareness Essay Contest. The goals of the contest are to foster the habit of clear thinking about political issues past and present, to reward distinction in the art of expository writing, and to provide the opportunity to undertake original research.

The contest is open to all Hunting Valley Campus students. Papers on current political issues of local, regional, national or international import as well as discussions of more strictly historical events and problems all fall within the scope of the contest. The essay must be between 1,000 and 2,000 words (typewritten and double-spaced). Faculty members serve as contest judges.

The first place winner's name is engraved on a citation plaque, which is on permanent display along with a commemorative Revere bowl in the administration wing. First, second and third place winners also receive monetary awards.

This year's winners were announced at a special morning assembly on January 8 at which Michael Goldberg '88 spoke.

### First Place

Vinay A. Prasad '09      Diagnosis and Treatment of the Health Care Crisis:  
The Case for a Single-Payer Plan

### Second Place

Matthew E. Rothfusz '09      Minimum Wage, Maximum Quality:  
The Case for State Regulation of Minimum Wage

### Third Place

Alexander C. Weber '09      North Korea: A Sensitive Situation

### Honorable Mention

Brett A. Carr '09      America's War on Drugs

Nathaniel J. Forrester '09      Hurricane Katrina: A Disastrous Response to a  
Natural Disaster

John S. "Steve" Shipitalo '09      America and Nationalized Healthcare

The essay contest was initiated and endowed by the Class of '35 at their 50th class reunion as a lasting gift that would academically inspire students.

## Sherman Prize Speaking Contest

The Sherman Prize Speaking Contest, in its 103rd year, is a prime example of how University School emphasizes the importance of developing oratorical skills.

The contest is open to all juniors, and a large percentage usually enter the competition. English teachers include speech preparation as a regular assignment in their classrooms. They offer 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. The speech should be from six to eight minutes in length. Three faculty members listen to all of the speeches and select six finalists based on their content and delivery.

The finalists will speak at the February 27 morning assembly. Three prominent individuals from outside of the University School community will select the three prize winners. The top three winners will receive a monetary award, and the three runners-up will receive a book. The first place winner's name will be engraved on a plaque hanging outside of Gund Auditorium. Parents are welcome to attend the Sherman Prize Speaking Contest on February 27 at 8:05 a.m.

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

## Prep Shop

All things Prepper all the time. Lacrosse, tennis, baseball, and track and field are all spring sports, and with spring sports come winter rains and snow. So PREPare yourself now for the deluge. US Ponchos, US rain coats, US umbrellas, US stadium seats, US scarves, US mittens, US hats. Just ask US -- we have what you need. Winter is bound to come this spring when you are watching your son competing in his sport -- so be PREPared. Maroon is the new black for you fashionistas out there.

The Prep Shop at the Hunting Valley campus is open daily Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. The Prep Shop takes orders for varsity letter jackets all year long. A jacket is usually completed about 2-3 weeks after the entire order has been placed.

A "Spring Blowout Sale" of selected items will take place during the week prior to spring break, March 12 through March 16 and also during Parent Conferences on Saturday April 14. Alumni, family, and friends are reminded that the Prep Shop is on line at [www.us.edu](http://www.us.edu).

Please direct comments or inquiries to Kelly Biggar at 440-442-9866 or [biggarrmb@adelphia.net](mailto:biggarrmb@adelphia.net) or Olivia Demas at 220-659-3001 or [oliviapd@aol.com](mailto:oliviapd@aol.com).

## Clubs at US

University School provides an opportunity to its students to participate in a wide variety of clubs and organizations. Students who participate benefit from fraternizing with similarly-interested peers while having an opportunity to gain leadership skills. Information on some clubs and organizations can be found in the US Handbook. US encourages boys seeking to form a new club to do so, and often throughout the year students who share an interest in a particular subject or areas will form an informal group that may meet intermittently.

Information on these groups is announced at morning assembly and is posted on the electronic bulletin board. Below is a list of current organizations and publications, along with their advisors. If a student is interested in joining an organization, he can see that particular advisor or talk to his sponsor for direction. According to Mrs. Mason, it is important that students recognize that many of the clubs do not require a commitment and, indeed, anyone is welcome to attend meetings at any time.

<u>Club</u>	<u>Advisor</u>
Mock Trial	Mr. Cate
Multicultural Organization	Mrs. Crough
Outdoor Projects	Mr. Harmon
Piano Club	Mr. M. Kessler
Science Olympiad	Mr. Carle
SHOUT	Mrs. Hodson
Ski Club	Mr. Costello
Society of Skeptics	Mr. Paik
Speech and Debate	Mr. Paik
Stage Crew/Players	Mr. Masley, Mrs. Pribble
The Entrepreneurial Club	Mr. Malkin
The Epicurean Club	Ms. Steeber
The Film Society	Robbie O'Neil (Student)
Writing Forum	Mr. T. Kessler, Mrs. Loveman

## Volunteers Needed

**Saturday, May 5**

**After-Prom**

**Junior-Senior Parents**

Parents (both moms and dads) are needed throughout the day, Saturday, May 5 and from 6 p.m. until 2:30 a.m. Sunday morning for After-Prom. Jobs will include check-in at the school, security check downtown and at the After-Prom location, security help, food service, game tables, and assistance with other activities and games. This is a parent-run event, and we need all of you to make this evening a success. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Betsy Stueber at [stueber4@aol.com](mailto:stueber4@aol.com) or 216-321-9550 or you may complete this form and leave it with or send it to the reception desk at the Hunting Valley campus. Please make this a couples effort; we need both the moms and dads.

### After-Prom Volunteer Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

When and where you would like to work \_\_\_\_\_

## Ohio Law Puts New Limits on Teen Drivers

Substitute House Bill 343 was signed into law by Governor Bob Taft on January 4, 2007, with changes taking effect on April 4, 2007. Violations are misdemeanors and carry fines of up to \$150. Because police can cite drivers who violate the new law only after spotting another violation, parents become the primary enforcers of the new law for their teens. New provisions include:

Sixteen year olds (Probationary License)

- May not drive with more than one non-family passenger (except when driver is with a parent or guardian).
- May not drive between midnight and 6 a.m. Exemptions exist for going to/from work (teen must carry a note from the employer), official school-sponsored functions, and emergencies.
- If driver commits a moving violation during the first six months after obtaining a Probationary License, teen may not drive for up to six months, unless accompanied by parent or guardian.

Seventeen year olds (Probationary License)

- May not drive between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. Exemptions exist for going to/from work (with a note), official school-sponsored functions, and emergencies.

The Journal of Safety Research reports that motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and injury among teenagers. Studies show that the risk of a crash among teenage drivers is greatest in the first few months after licensure, at night, and when there are other teenage passengers in the car. Ohio has a three-phase graduated licensing system (GDL) for new drivers consisting of a learner's permit (driving only while supervised by a fully-licensed adult), a provisional license (unsupervised driving with some restrictions), and full licensure. AAA reports that Ohio is now one of 36 states to include a passenger limit with its GDL system.

Further details and a copy of the law may be found at [www.ohioteendrivers.org](http://www.ohioteendrivers.org).

### The Valley Voice

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