



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"

Senior Speeches: A message from Mr. Michael Obel-Omia, Head of the Hunting Valley Campus

Having heard from almost half of the class, we have already been treated to a wide variety of speeches; most of them have revolved around food, however! One boy spoke beautifully about his brother, his hero, who suffers from cerebral palsy, and his remarks were followed the next day by a boy who explained why he was a vegetarian. A third explained why he will drive with more care after receiving multiple tickets while a fourth powerfully thanked his mother for the sacrifices she made so that they could come to America and improve their lot. His speech contrasted one boy's homage to a father whom he never knew: the surgeon died when the boy was only a few months old. One warned against abusing one's body, while another

one poetically described the challenges of making it to assembly on time. Still another boy wonderfully described the importance of working hard now; it is never too late. Senior speeches are a vital part of our community, inspiring boys and adults alike, and I am grateful for the time and effort that the boys, their sponsors, their preparers, and faculty advisor Dr. Philip Kokotailo give to this important, transformative right of passage moment. Listening to these boys, I am reminded that nothing is more important to them than their relationship with you. Seeing you at games and events, I appreciate your interest in and dedication to your sons; it means a great deal to them to know that you are invested in their lives. Continue to be there for them; regardless of what they say or how they act, they want you to be a part of their lives. They look for you in the audience and in the stands. Be there for them.

USPA Thank You

On behalf of all the boys at the Hunting Valley campus and their parents, I want to extend a public "Thank You" to the following parents who have chaired USPA activities for the first half of the school year. Many other parent volunteers have worked with each of these chairpersons helping to organize and staff events. Because all of you have so generously donated your time and talents, we are all more informed and connected with each other and our sons' school. Again, thank you.

- Kelly Biggar and Olivia DemasPrep Shop
- Hilary Bell..... Welcome Coffees
- Noelle Whitehouse..... Blazer Bargains
- Judi Shapiro.....US Families Day
- Linda Chittock and Myra Hughes.....School Decorating
- Clare Paquelet and Nöelle Fazio International Dinner
- Betsy Stueber, Deborah Little, Nancy Kramer, Deborah Perkins, Lynn Danzig and Joan Finnell..... Valley Voice
- Colleen Goss and Ed France,
- Susan and Greg Althans Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale
- Barbara Arison.....9th Grade Parent Party
- Amy Becker.....10th Grade Parent Party
- Paula Polakof.....12th Grade Parent Party
- Dale Naylor and Barbara Arison..... Faculty & Staff Appreciation

Terry Stoller
USPA President

Future Dates

Wednesday, January 3

- Classes Resume

Friday, January 5

- 9th Grade Parent Coffee 8:30 a.m. in the Callow Room
- The Mountain School Presentation 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 10

- 11th Grade Parent Coffee 8:30 a.m. in the Callow Room

Thursday, January 11

- 10th Grade Parent Coffee 8:30 a.m. in the Callow Room. *Note change of date!*

Friday, January 12

- 12th Grade Parent Coffee 8:30 a.m. in the Callow Room
- End Semester I

Monday, January 15

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day ~ No Classes

Tuesday – Friday, January 16 – 19

- Semester Exams

Monday, January 22

- Begin Semester II

Thursday, February 8

- Junior Class Parent Dinner 5:30 p.m. in the Stouffer Dining Hall
- Junior Class Parent College Night 7:00 p.m. in Gund Auditorium

Friday – Monday, February 16 – 19

- Mid-Winter Break ~ No Classes

Senior Section

Friday, January 12

Coffee and discussion with Mr. Michael Obel-Omia and Mrs. Margaret Mason, following morning assembly, approximately 8:30 a.m. in the Callow Room. Look for the short questionnaire on curfews as you enter!



Junior Section

Wednesday, January 10

Coffee and discussion with Mr. Michael Obel-Omia and Mrs. Margaret Mason, following morning assembly, approximately 8:30 a.m. in the Callow Room. Look for the short questionnaire on curfews as you enter!

Wednesday, January 24

7:00- 8:30 p.m. CCIS Junior College Panel, Fairmount Temple
The panel will include deans of admissions and/or senior admissions officers from Case, Indiana University, Columbia University, and Middlebury College. The panel will examine a wide range of topics pertaining to college admission. Due to space limitations, this program is for juniors and their families only.

Thursday, February 8

5:30 p.m. Junior Class Parent Dinner in the Stouffer Dining Hall (invitation to follow)
7:00 p.m. Junior Class College Night in Gund Auditorium

ANNUAL "FUND" FACTS

Did You Know?

The average gift from parents to last year's Annual Fund was \$539.
Every gift, regardless of size, is crucial to the success of the Annual Fund.
Your gift truly counts. That's why we're counting on you!

There are many ways to give a gift today:

Online: Go to www.us.edu and click on the "giving to US" link
By phone: Call Sue Slovic at 216-831-1984 x7314
By mail: University School, 2785 SOM Center Rd., Hunting Valley, OH 44022
In person: Stop by the Office of Advancement on the Hunting Valley campus

Thank you for helping excellence endure at US!

Class of '35 Political Awareness Essay Contest

The Class of '35 Political Awareness Essay 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 undertake original research. Mr. Murray announced the competition at the November 28 morning assembly. Papers on current political issues of local, regional, national, or international import as well as discussions of more strictly historical events and problems fall into the scope of the contest. The competition is open to all Hunting Valley students

"Pitch In" & Save a Tree

With the help of science teacher Ms. Amy Yavor, US has embarked upon a recycling program. There is now a large collection bin located by the loading dock near the athletic wing off the student parking lot. The school will be collecting paper to place in the bin. In addition, the following items may be brought from home and placed in the bin: newspapers, magazines and catalogs, general office paper, junk mail and envelopes, self-stick notes,

Mabian Ads and Pictures

There is still time to send in candid photos of your son and his schoolmates engaged in US-related activities! The *Mabian* staff is especially interested in ones where the essence of the moment is most evident.

Please consider supporting the *Mabian* by purchasing a business or personal ad and sending your best wishes and congratulations to seniors in a memo-

Goodbye Vending Machines, Hello Rotunda Café

Yes, you heard it first here in the *Valley Voice*. Over winter vacation, the drink and candy vending machines in the athletic wing will be removed to make room for a more accessible office for the school nurse, address nutrition and health concerns for our boys, and eliminate the frustrating mechanical and administrative issues related to their function.

Instead, the school will open the snack bar area in the field house rotunda for a short period after school where healthy drinks and snacks will be available for sale. (The hours of

and the essays are due December 11.

At the Monday, January 8 morning assembly, the winners of the contest will be announced and Michael E. Goldberg '88, will be the keynote speaker. Mr. Goldberg is the managing partner of the Bridge Investment Fund LP. He will speak about his experiences working with the elections in South Africa and will explore the opportunities/challenges regarding the United States democracy promotion in the world today, with the situation in Iraq being front and center.

computer paper, posters and folders, and fax paper. The school makes a small amount of money for every ton collected, but more importantly, as a community we can save 17 trees (which take 14 years to grow), 2 barrels of oil, 4100 kw-hours of electricity, and 3.3 cubic yards of landfill for every ton of paper collected! The recycling service is free for now, but unless we produce at least two tons of paper every two weeks, it could be removed. So pitch in!

Ad space is available in sizes ranging from business cards up to a full page. They can be reproduced in either black or white or color. Prices for ads are: \$500 for a full page; \$235 for a 1/2 page; \$160 for a 1/4 page, and \$90 for a business card (1/8 page). Please contact *Mabian* faculty advisor Dr. Jonathan Briggs at jbriggs@us.edu if you have questions.

operation are to be determined but will be roughly 2:40 to 4:15 pm each school day.) New tables and chairs will be added for café ambiance.

The school has asked USPA to provide volunteers to staff the snack center. (The school will take responsibility for ordering and stocking.) We are in need of a chairperson and volunteers to staff the center's operations. If you are interested in helping as a chairperson or volunteer, please contact Terry Stoller (216) 751-2335 or terrystoller@sbcglobal.net.

Summer Camp for Students Interested in Business

University School has partnered with ECity for a unique summer experience. ECity is a non-profit organization dedicated to teaching entrepreneurship to low-income students in the city of Cleveland. Together, US and ECity are offering a joint summer business camp. Up to five US students can attend the camp along with 15 students from Cleveland high schools.

At BizCamp, students learn about all aspects of starting and running a business. There are lots of fun activities related to business and money. Successful entrepreneurs and business people provide coaching as each student works to create his/her own business. At the end of the camp,

there is a business plan competition with cash prizes.

Here's what one US parent had to say about last year's inaugural BizCamp: "We watched with pride as we saw our son present his business on stage as a poised, confident, and passionate young man...This program goes beyond our expectations and allows the boys to interact with students from various schools and backgrounds."

The camp runs for 2 weeks right after school ends, June 18 - 29. Camp is Monday - Friday, 8:30 - 5:00. For more information and an application for this year's BizCamp, contact Mr. Greg Malkin at gmalkin@us.edu, 216-831-2200 x7362.

Semester Exam Week

Semester exams are scheduled for Tuesday, January 16 through Friday, January 19, 2007. During exam week, regular classes will not be held. Days will be of varying lengths for each boy depending upon his exam schedule. Please look for a letter in the mail from Mr. Obel-Omia

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 lunchtime due to their exam schedule. Shuttles will run between the two campuses; check the exam schedule for times.

Faculty and Staff Appreciation Days

USPA volunteers Barbara Arison, Amy Becker, Lisa Lurie, Dale Naylor, and Paula Polakof are organizing volunteers from each grade to provide mid-day treats for our wonderful faculty and staff. Treats (but no tricks!) were provided on Halloween. Treats will be provided for the winter holidays in De-

ember, on Valentine's Day, and in the spring. Although Director of Food Services Stefanie Bartley and her staff do such a nice job each morning and afternoon, this is a great way to let the faculty and staff know how much we appreciate their efforts on our sons' behalf.

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 US 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 Mr. 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 that is reviewed by Davey faculty advisor Ms. Jan Fazio, who makes the final decision. 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.

Sophomore Section

Thursday, January 11

Coffee and discussion with Mr. Michael Obel-Omia and Mrs. Margaret Mason, following morning assembly, approximately 8:30 a.m. in the Callow Room. Look for the short questionnaire on curfews as you enter!



Freshman Section

Friday, January 5

Coffee and discussion with Mr. Michael Obel-Omia and Mrs. Margaret Mason, following morning assembly, approximately 8:30 a.m. in the Callow Room. Look for the short questionnaire on curfews as you enter!

Please Note

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Monday, January 15) is typically a time when some families try to get away for a long weekend. If you have not already made travel plans (or perhaps even if you have!) you will want to know that semester exams are held the following Tuesday through Friday, January 16 through January 19.

University's Attic

As part of University School's endeavor to aid the organizations that support tens of thousands of hungry families in the greater Cleveland area, Senior David Spotts organized a fundraising eBay auction entitled University's Attic. He would like to invite you to look into your attic, closet, or special collection to see if you have a item that you would like to donate to our fundraising auction (tax deduction forms available). Though the auction is not limited to autographed items, we have already received donations of items autographed by Whoopi Goldberg, Robert Kennedy, and the real Kramer from Seinfeld, Kenny Kramer. The proceeds of University's Attic will benefit the Cleveland Foodbank, an organization that provides food and support to community organizations that help feed the less fortunate families in the greater Cleveland area. If you cannot find an item of special interest that you would like to donate, cash donations are also appreciated. To make a financial or item donation, please contact either David Spotts '07 at DMSpotts10@aol.com or Mrs. Margaret Mason at mmason@us.edu.

Student Diversity Leadership Conference

Six students were selected to represent US at the 13th Student Diversity Leadership Conference in Seattle, Washington held November 30-December 2, 2006. Seniors Brandon Sharp and Matthew Tuffuor, juniors Audley Mackel and Alexander White, and sophomores Thomas Boyd and Ethan Johnson were accompanied by faculty advisor Ms. Tracy Crough and Head of the Upper School Mr. Michael Obel-Omia. Audley attended for the second time and participated as a peer facilitator. The SDLC gathers together student leaders from independent schools around the country to explore issues of diversity. The students share the challenges and rewards of their experiences in independent schools. While our six student representatives participated in meetings and workshops, US fac-

ulty and staff representatives joined other adults at the concurrent 19th People of Color Conference to work on strategies and skills which will create and sustain diverse, inclusive school communities.

The SDLC and POCC are initiatives of the National Association of Independent Schools. The conferences address both the need for people of color to come together for networking and support, and the need for schools to find ways to build and sustain inclusive environments. Our boys learned dialogue and leadership skills while networking with other students. They return empowered to develop action plans and strategies for creating further dialogue here at US, the CCIS Diversity in Action group, and in our larger community.

Spring And Summer Trip Opportunities

As Assistant Headmaster Mr. Howard Kelly reported in his letter to all parents of boys in grades 7-12, University School is striving to create an array of carefully chosen travel opportunities that will allow the students to connect with the world and stretch them beyond their immediate horizons. Although the application deadline has passed for the 2007 spring break trip to Italy, several opportunities are available for the summer. These include Cadiz, Spain 6/15-6/27 for boys currently in grades 9-12 (point person is Ms. Tracy Crough); China/Beijing 6/15-6/29 for boys in grades 9-12 (point persons are Mr. Karl Frerichs and Ms. Jasmine Rocco); and a Honduras trip for boys in grades 8-12, exact dates to be announced (point person is Mr. Howard Kelly). There are several other potential exchanges with Africa that are in development. Look for more details in the coming months!

Faculty Accolades

Mr. Alan Cate, a history teacher at the Hunting Valley Campus, has written a book called *Founding Fighters*. This is a book about the battlefield leaders of the American Revolution. It was published by Praeger Security International.

Mr. Chris Staats was named the Assistant Varsity Soccer Coach of the Year.

Congratulations to both of you!!!

US Publications

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 with which most parents are familiar (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, create a layout using PageMaker software, and assemble and distribute the final product. Copies are sent to parents and interested alumni. The *US News* is published every three weeks. The faculty advisor is Mr. Justin Kleinheider. The student editor is Andrew Morris and the assistant editor is Michael MacCombie.

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 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 John Evans, and the faculty advisor is Mr. Terrance Kessler.

The 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 co-editors are Benny Pinkas and Eric Walk and the faculty advisor is Dr. Jonathan Briggs.

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 Mr. Michael Obel-Omia and Mrs. Margaret Mason. There will be a short questionnaire on curfews given at the 9th and 10th grade coffees to be used in the discussion. So don't be late!

Coffees will begin at 8:30 a.m. immediately after assembly. The coffees will be in the Callow Alumni Room, located across from the squash courts in the Kilroy Field House.

9th grade on Friday, January 5

10th grade on Thursday, January 11 - please note the date and location change back to the Callow Room

11th grade on Wednesday, January 10

12th grade on Friday, January 12

The Valley Voice

University School

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

Editors:

Nancy Kramer
nancy@nancykramerlaw.com
Deborah Little
Millitt@aol.com
Deborah Perkins-Boyd
deborah_e_perkins@fanniema.com
Betsy Stueber
stueber4@aol.com

Distribution:

Lynn Katz Danzig
Joan Finnell

Staff Support:

Marcia Grant
James Reeder
Sue Schervish