



# The Valley Voice

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

## Parents, The USPA Appreciates You!

**S**o far this year, nearly 150 parents have stepped forward to volunteer with the USPA! They are serving as officers, class parents, committee chairs, and committee members. They embody the USPA mission: to work together with the school for the benefit of the boys. Their time and talents are sincerely appreciated!

What follows is a brief look at the many accomplishments of our USPA volunteers during the first semester of 2007-2008. With smiles and warm greetings, Susan Althans and Ramona Match's team hosted coffees for more than 100 freshman/new upperclassman parents and about 100 returning upperclassman parents at the Welcome/Welcome Back Coffees in August. Simultaneously, Noelle Whitehouse was in the Commons making sure our growing boys were properly attired for the start of school. Noelle and her Blazer Bargains Committee sold blazers and khakis and raked in profits that were a whopping 60 percent higher than last year! Not to be outdone, Marilyn Anderson, Heidi Cregar, and Julia Neff changed the inventory and the hours of the Prep Shop and proceeded to set sales records at every event! Julie and Dan Cronin brought our campuses together and made Homecoming an enjoyable family day for the entire US community. Our Class Parents, led by Cathie Martin, Ann Whitney, Rose Grisko, and Ramona Match, successfully planned fall parent parties, fed dozens of bagels and donuts to hungry boys, and treated seniors to a Chipotle lunch. Barbara Rosman's Sunshine Committee served in another way—providing care and assistance to our US families in need. Planning for the Junior/Senior After-Prom, led by Committee Chairs Amy Becker, Marianne Crosley, and Sharon Dean, is in full swing with tremendous fundraising successes to date—Lottery (Kathleen Visconsi and Margy Hopkins), Ladies Night Out, and the Tree Sale (Meg Norchi, Ellen Rothfus). Thank you to all of you who responded to Betsy Stovsky's calls for After-Prom helpers. Toni Pollock and Karen Hogan pulled off a delightful and delectable International Dinner just before the fall play. Hope you didn't miss that! Jayne Herak and Patty Shroyer provided some much-anticipated treats to US faculty and staff. Margy Hopkins and Myra Hughes' decorating work around the school is a pleasing reminder of each season. *The Valley Voice* team (Adrienne Deckman, Nancy Kramer, Deborah Little, Lynn Katz Danzig, and Joan Finnell) has kept us both informed and entertained with each issue. We thank David Turben for his sports photos and his generosity to the USPA. We also thank the parents who assisted with our effort to connect with our greater Cleveland community by donating 58 uniform khaki slacks and dress shirts to the Cleveland City Schools.

Again, we applaud you, our dedicated volunteers. As always, please feel free to contact me, or any other officer (Betsy Stueber, Cyndi Hatch, Noha Ryder, Suzanne Shoger, and Terry Stoller), with your ideas, comments or questions.

*Deborah E. Perkins-Boyd*  
President, USPA (HV) 2007-2008

## Semester Exam Week

**S**emester exams are scheduled to begin the day after Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Tuesday, January 22 and continue through Friday, January 25, 2008. 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 by sign-up only 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.

## Future Dates

### Tuesday, December 18

- Holiday Jazz Jingle Jam 7 p.m. (Lower Commons)
- Deadline for Political Essay Contest - open to all HV students

### Thursday, December 20

- Holiday Concert 7:30 p.m. (Gund Auditorium)

### Friday, December 21

- Winter Recess Begins - Classes Dismissed at Noon

### Saturday, December 22

- Alumni Holiday Luncheon 11:30 a.m. (Stouffer Dining Hall)

### Tuesday, January 8

- Classes Resume

### Friday, January 11

- 23rd Annual Political Essay Contest (Assembly)
- Winter Formal 8 – 11 p.m. (Stouffer Dining Hall)

### Friday - Saturday, January 11 - 12

- Winter Sports Festival "Salute to Our Coaches II"

### Tuesday, January 15

- Last Day for Papers & Tests

### Friday, January 18

- End Semester I

### Monday, January 21

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No Classes

### Tuesday – Friday, January 22 – 25

- Semester Exams

### Monday, January 28

- Begin Semester II; Grades Due 8 a.m.

### Wednesday, February 6

- USPA General Meeting 7:15 p.m. (Lecture Room) Topic: International Travel Opportunities for US Students - Mr. Murray

### Friday – Monday, February 15 - 18

- Mid-Winter Break - No Classes

**Thanks! Merci! Danke! Grazie! Gracias! to our Wonderful Faculty and Staff!**

## Heard in the Valley by Michael Obel-Omia

For many (if not all) parents, the most challenging moments of parenting are dealing with our child's disappointments. As a father of three children, I sometimes want to wave a magic wand that would allow me to keep all disappointments from them. But I realize that disappointments – failures, even – are very much a part of growing up and preparing for the challenges ahead.

As I noted to my sophomore English class recently, everything that we do in class is a rehearsal for their life after University School. The reading quizzes are administered to ensure that they are prepared for the thoughtful discussions that will occur that day. The deadlines for papers are enforced to make sure there is equity in the amount of time that students have to work on the task. The discussions in class are conducted to strengthen their voices and to teach them how to listen to various opinions and rethink their positions. All that occurs within a class prepares them for their work ahead regardless of their chosen professions: the daily quizzes teach preparedness, the deadlines teach accountability, and the discussions teach working well in a group. What profession doesn't deal with all three of these skills daily?

Another important preparation for our children is dealing with, accepting, and moving forward from disappointments. The moments that are potentially most challenging and disappointing for our children – auditioning for a role in a play and not earning it, trying out for a sports team and getting cut, working hard to prepare for a quiz or test and still doing poorly – are also perhaps the most instructive moments in a child's life. In addition to moving forward from disappointments, learning to hear criticism, process it, and grow from it might be the most valuable lessons that our children gain from their years at University School. No one likes to see a child fall or fail, but it is in those moments that our child's character emerges.

I like to think that our job as parents is to help our children learn to deal with, accept, and learn from disappointments. When your son struggles, try to listen to him, hear his pain, and sympathize. Let him process it and consider solutions. My first instinct with my own children is to call the school and attempt to fix the problem for them. Doing so limits my child's ability to answer for him/herself and curbs his/her voice. When a sponsee comes to me with a problem, I often say to him, "That is hard; how do you plan to fix it?" Saying that to him empowers him and lets him know that I trust his judgment. He needs to think creatively to solve his problems, and he needs to know that I am here to help him with his problem and to support him through this problem, not solve it for him.

It is important for our children to experience challenges and disappointments. Our work, I think, is to help them navigate the experience, but not to direct their action or take the steering wheel away from them and guide the ship. Rather, as we move from our executive role in our sons' lives – the role in which we make all the decisions for them – to our advisory role, we need to trust their judgment, encourage their voice, and let them fall down and get up on their own. Doing so helps them become men who will contribute meaningfully to our world.

### January Black & Maroon Sale

Present the coupon printed below to save 10 percent on any purchase in the Prep Shop during the month of January! The Prep Shop will be closed during the winter recess and will reopen on Tuesday, January 8, 2008.

**Clip & Save!!**  
**C - O - U - P - O - N**  
**Good for 10% Off**  
**Any Purchase in the Prep Shop**  
**During the Month of January, 2008**

## For Those Business-Minded US Boys...

by Mr. Greg Malkin

For those students interested in the business world, University School offers a wide range of activities.

Each month, we have a lunch-time presentation on a business topic by a Cleveland-area business leader. Past guest speakers have discussed innovation, business law, marketing, and other topics. Our first speaker this year was Albert Ratner, chairman of Forest City Enterprises, and best known for his development of Tower City.

Participants in the Entrepreneur Cup competition, an extra-curricular activity, develop an idea for a new business and create a business plan to launch and grow their business. The competition culminates in April with a presentation before a panel of judges from the Cleveland business community. Leading up to the competition, students attend a series of lunch-time workshops covering the primary elements of an effective business plan. This is a great activity for students who are busy before and after school.

An exciting new summer activity is the Morgan Apprenticeships. Students develop entrepreneurial skills and gain valuable real-world experience by working with successful entrepreneurs. Apprenticeship duties provide opportunities to observe directly, to experience, and to learn about the challenges facing entrepreneurs. Applications will be available in January, 2008.

Another summer activity is BizCamp. 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. At BizCamp, students learn about all aspects of running and starting a business. There are lots of fun activities related to business and money. The camp runs for two weeks in June. Applications will be available in January, 2008

For students looking for an in-depth study of business, we offer the Financial Modeling Course. This is a full-year elective course intended for students interested in a career in management or in starting their own business. Four major topics are covered during the year: Strategy, Management Accounting, Marketing, and Business Communication. This class is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

If you would like more information about any of these entrepreneurial activities, please contact Mr. Greg Malkin ([gmalkin@us.edu](mailto:gmalkin@us.edu) or 216-831-2200 x7362).

### College Night for Junior Parents

At the Junior Parents College Night in February, some of the topics will be:

- US philosophy of college counseling
- How admission decisions are made
- The timeline of college counseling for both the junior and the senior year
- The role of parents in the college process
- The role of students in the college process
- The role of the college counselor in the college process
- How to construct a good college list
- How to go on a college visit
- Standardized testing
- A list of tools and resources our sons can and should use in the college process

Literature pertaining to the college search will be available.

## Davey and Strnad Fellows

**N**otable among the many opportunities afforded US boys to undertake independent inquiries into areas of interest similar to those offered at colleges are those provided by the Strnad and Davey Fellowship programs. Both of these programs offer significant opportunities to a unique group of ambitious students to pursue independent projects under the tutelage of a faculty advisor.

The Strnad Fellowship program, endowed by Mr. and Mrs. James J. Strnad, enables students to undertake advanced research, studies, or inquiries that extend well beyond classroom work. To qualify, a student must have taken the available advanced academic courses offered by US relating 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. Prospective Fellows attend a seminar in January prior to the spring application deadline during which they develop and refine their proposals. Each Fellow also assumes responsibility for presenting a detailed accounting of his project at a spring assembly.

Current Strnad Fellows are exploring micro- and macro-photography, applied arts including welding and glass-blowing, issues in the biological sciences involving leptins, nano-particle based dyes, and cerebrovascular research, and issues in environmental sciences relating to biospheres and wildlife reintroduction. Overseeing the boys is Strnad Fellowship Faculty Advisor Mr. Devore.

The Davey Fellowship program 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. Prospective Fellows apply in the spring by filling out an application and presenting a portfolio of work to be reviewed by Davey Fellowship Faculty Advisor Ms. Fazio, who makes the final decision. Each Fellow's exploration into his particular area of interest, whether expressed in short stories, poems, plays, novels, or song lyrics is guided by a faculty member who has a special expertise in the area of interest. Among the many projects undertaken by past Davey Fellows include collections of poetry, a collection of short stories about the states of dreaming and waking, and a science fiction-themed novella.

## New Vending Machines

**U**S students face incredible demands during the weekday from academics, extracurricular activities and sports. School vending machines are often the only source of extra fuel for the extended school day. The Wellness Committee sought to supply the new vending machines with lower sugar, lower fat, high-nutrition fare. Conveniently located in the athletic wing, one machine supplies drinks (water, Gatorade® and Vitamin Water®). The second machine offers, among other items, the new Generation Max™ snacks, baked pita chips, pretzels, rice cakes, and granola bars. There are plans to add other healthy options as they become available.

## Student Diversity Leadership Conference

**S**ix students were selected to represent US at the 14th Student Diversity Leadership Conference in Boston, Massachusetts, which was held November 28 through December 1, 2007: Audley Mackel IV (12), Alex White (12), Justin Chappell (11), Gregory Groves (11), and Thomas Boyd (11). 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 five student representatives participated in meetings and workshops, US faculty and staff representatives joined other adults at the concurrent 20th People of Color Conference to work on strategies and skills that will create and sustain diverse, inclusive school communities. Our faculty and staff representatives were MCO Faculty Advisor Tracy Crough, REACH Director Terry Lipford, and Mr. Obel-Omia, who served on a think tank committee to support the National Association of Independent Schools national conference to be held in Chicago in 2009. Our two post-graduate Kenyan students, Wahinya and Beneah, accompanied Mr. Obel-Omia. The US group stayed an extra day to allow the students an opportunity to explore Boston. In addition, the students had a chance to socialize outside the workshops and diversity-related activities at a dance held one night during the conference. 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.

## Senior Section

### Friday, January 18

- 12th Grade Parent Coffee "Departing" 8:30 a.m. (Callow Room)

## Junior Section

### Wednesday, January 16

- 11th Grade Parent Coffee "Preparation" 8:30 a.m. (Callow Room)
- Junior Class Dinner 6 p.m. (Stouffer Dining Hall)
- Junior Class Mandatory College Meeting 6:45 p.m. (Wean Library)

### Thursday, January 24

- College Fair for Juniors & Families 7 – 9 p.m. (Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple)

### Wednesday, January 30

- CCIS College Program for Juniors & Parents 7 – 9 p.m. (Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple)

### Thursday, February 7

- Junior Parent College Meeting 7 p.m. (HV)

## Sophomore Section

### Monday, January 14

10th Grade Parent Coffee 8:30 a.m. (Callow Room)

The grade-specific issue of "Challenges" will be discussed. Mrs. Mason and Mr. Obel-Omia will lead the discussion regarding our sophomore "in-betweens" who are challenged to make a way for themselves and be noticed on campus. Please join your fellow sophomore parents to learn more about this challenging time in our sons' lives.

## Freshmen Section

### Thursday, January 10

- 9th Grade Parent Coffee – "Transitions" - 8:30 a.m. (Callow Room). Freshman parents are welcome to attend the 8:05 assembly before the coffee.

## Class Of '35 Political Awareness Essay Contest

This year marks the 23rd annual Class of '35 Political Awareness Essay Contest. 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. The goals of the essay 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 competition, which was formally announced at Morning Assembly on November 26, is open to all HV students. Since politics can be defined as the complex relations between people in society, the number of possible topics is exceedingly large. 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.

All candidates are encouraged to consider how their investigations have helped shape their understanding of the nature of politics and of the present. The essay must be between 1,000 and 2,000 words (typewritten and double-spaced) and must be submitted, along with a summary, by noon on December 18. Though faculty members serve as contest judges, questions about the contest should be directed to Mr. Obel-Omia.

The first-place winner receives a monetary award and a silver bowl, and his 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 and certificate awards.

Winners will be announced at a special morning assembly on January 11, 2008, at which a noted community leader will address the students.

## True and False

True, there is a winter formal on January 11, a date is not required for entrance, but a coat and tie is.

True, Wahinya and Beneah have joined their second set of host families. Wahinya is with Sam Eisele's family and Beneah is with Dan Smith's family. Again, if you have any extra tickets to events in and around Cleveland they are greatly appreciated. Contact the families directly.

True, a 17-year-old driver has a curfew. They may not drive between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. Exempt are official functions sponsored by their school and for any emergencies.

True, 11:30 p.m. was the most common curfew for US students when parents were polled at a USPA meeting last year.

True, 16-year-old drivers may not have more than one non-related passenger in their car.

True, 250 families had groceries delivered by our US boys to make their Thanksgiving dinners. The cost of the project is between \$6000 and \$8000. An ice cream sale raised \$200. Each house is expected to raise and donate \$600. Any deficit is made up by the kitchen in savings from the spare lunch.

False, deer get out of the way for cars. In fact, there have been many accidents and near misses. Here are a few driving tips to tell your boys when deer are around.

- 1) DON'T VEER FOR DEER
- 2) Follow the S rule,
  - **Stomp** hard on your brake pedal (like you are crushing an aluminum can)
  - **Stay** on your brake, and
  - **Steer** carefully. A little steering goes a long way when your ABS (automatic braking system) is activated.
- 3) Deer are most active during sunrise and sunset hours: be alert.

## US Publications Update

What do famed novelist Ernest Hemingway, film director Cameron Crowe, author Kurt Vonnegut, and science fiction pioneer Isaac Asimov have in common? They and dozens of other luminaries started their brilliant careers in the same way: by having their work appear in a high school newspaper or other publication. US is fortunate to have a tradition of publishing that includes three different publications, each of which reflects a different sensibility of its students, and all of which look forward to the participation of a wide cross-section of US boys.

The work of US boys is regularly published in the *The US News* and *The Record*. *The US News* was established in 1898 and is the oldest high school newspaper in Ohio. Students develop ideas, write, and edit articles, use desktop publishing software to create a layout, and assemble and distribute the final product. Guided by faculty advisor Mr. Kleinheider and Editors-In-Chief Jared Jones '08 and Ben Finnell '08, *The US News* covers local, state and national news and sports. Published between 8 and 10 times a year, *The US News* also offers opportunities for editorial writing including arts reviews and opinion pieces. Boys who are interested in becoming involved can contact either of the editors or attend one of the article sign-up meetings that are announced during morning assembly.

*The Record* provides an opportunity for US boys to participate in a different kind of publication. *The Record* has been publishing the creative work of US students, including short stories, poems, photographs, and drawings, since US was founded in 1890. Like *The US News*, the content for *The Record*, which is published every spring, is selected through an editorial process overseen by Editor-in-Chief Michael Chilcote '08, and is advised by faculty members Mr. Kessler and Mrs. Loveman.

The third in the trio of student publications and the one that is most reflective of the personalities in each year's graduating class is the *Mabian*, which derives its name from the school colors of maroon and black. The *Mabian* has been published every year since 1919. Though the publication of the 2006-2007 *Mabian* was delayed, it will be available on December 22 to students who have prepaid. Other students will need to see Mr. Franc.

Plans are also well underway for the 2007-2008 *Mabian*. Boys who are interested in becoming involved in planning and development for the new edition should contact faculty advisor Mr. Franc, '76, or Editor-in-Chief Toby Manders, '08.

### ANNUAL "FUND" FACTS

Your gift truly counts.  
That's why we're counting  
on you!

*Remittance envelope is  
enclosed with this mailing*

### *The Valley Voice*

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