Ask the Valley Voice

Dear Valley Voice,

I didn’t receive my CCIS Calendar this year. My son swears he didn’t lose it. What happened?

A “Dateless” Mom

Dear Mom,

Your son did not lose his CCIS calendar. The CCIS organization now includes 13 area schools, making its calendar more complex and cumbersome. Within this shared space, it has become almost impossible to include all the dates of interest to US families. The US calendar, available through the website www.us.edu, contains more detailed information on the US schedule of events.

The CCIS calendar, although no longer distributed through the schools, is still available through the CCIS website, www.ccis-ohio.org/calendar or through the CCIS link from the US website. CCIS families are invited to download and print their own copy of the calendar.

Do you have a question about University School? Are you uncertain where to direct a particular issue or concern? Do you need more information about an academic procedure, program or extracurricular activity?

ASK the Valley Voice!

Send us your school-related questions via mail, fax or email. We will answer your questions in the Valley Voice as space allows.

Mail: Ask the Valley Voice
c/o Marcia Grant
University School
2785 S.O.M. Center Road
Hunting Valley, Ohio 44022

Fax: 216.831.0402
Attention: Valley Voice

Email: mgrant@us.edu

Enthusiasm Abounds

The halls of US have quickly come alive again with the start of the new school year. After much too quick a summer, the fall has taken on a life of its own. The USPA committees have already been very active. Emily Lucas, the volunteer coordinator, spent much of the summer organizing volunteers for the coming year. The New Family Welcome Committee, led by Myra Roberson and Beth Sanborn, contacted all new families before the start of school to welcome them and answer questions. They also joined the Point Parents of each respective grade, Barbara Good, Lori Compton, Janet AuWerter and Barb Nieser, in hosting the Welcome Back Coffees. It was so nice to meet so many of the new families as well as old friends on those last days of summer.

Afterwards, the Blazer Bargain Committee of Elizabeth Stover-Starrett and Rose Lancy were able to offer wonderful bargains on those gently used navy blazers and bring in record sales for USPA activities. Likewise, the Prep Shop leaders, Anne Neville, Kate Kinkopf and Megan Cohen, and their able committee of volunteers manned the store and offered their new merchandise to many enthusiastic families.

As you walk the halls of US, I hope you have noticed how nicely decorated the school is thanks in large part to Jennifer Merriman, School Decorating Chair, and her enthusiastic committee. The faculty and staff certainly noticed the start of this new year marked by the wonderful treats provided by the Faculty/Staff Appreciation Committee led by Shirley Lanzieri and Judy Winston.

The start of the school year also brought a record number of attendees to our first USPA general membership meeting of the year. We had a very full agenda with reports from most committees and an update on the “State of the School” from Doug Lagarde, Director of the Upper School, Mrs. Margaret Mason, Dean of Students; and Mr. Phil Thornton, Assistant Headmaster. One important highlight of that night was the approval of the revision of our By-laws. The entire Executive Board worked diligently throughout the summer to make this happen. A special thank you goes out to Tracie Moore, (Al'se '01 and Tom '03), who worked tirelessly over the summer and to the last minute helping us to achieve our revision goal. Tracie proves that enthusiasm for the USPA doesn't end with graduation.

As you read this jam-packed issue of the Valley Voice, remember also the monthly efforts of our fine editors Sue Slovich, Maureen Howell, and Audrey Morris. Many people make this organization what it is. I hope you will volunteer to be a part of the enthusiasm that is the USPA.

Are you curious to know what happens in the hallowed halls of US? If so, you will want to attend our next General Meeting on October 7th at 8 AM. At this morning meeting we will join the students and faculty at morning assembly to see how our boys start their day and perhaps witness a Senior Speech. Afterwards we will have a short breakfast meeting with coffee, juice and muffins to hear about ongoing USPA projects and school updates from Mr. Lagarde. This is a great opportunity to see our boys in their element. I hope to see many of you there.

Kathleen Jung
kjung@aol.com
216.595.9163

Future Dates to Note

Tuesday, October 7
USPA meeting (morning assembly followed by brief business meeting), 8:05 am

Saturday, October 11
SAT I and II at US, 8:30 am

114th Homecoming/Fall Family Festival, 11:00 am and Homecoming Dance, 8:00 - 11:00 pm

Monday, October 13
Columbus Day – No classes

Tuesday, October 14
Senior College Visit Day – no classes for seniors

Test Prep Day – Grades 9-11

Tuesday, October 21
Testing Day - Grades 9-11

Thursday, October 23
Fall Play, The Year That Trembled, 8:00 pm

Friday, October 24
USPA International Dinner in Stouffer Dining Hall, 6:30 pm

Fall Play, The Year That Trembled, 8:00 pm

Saturday, October 25
Fall Play, The Year That Trembled, 8:00 pm

Monday, October 27
No classes

Thursday, October 30
Glee Club Fall Concert, 7:30 pm
Saturday, October 11th promises to be a fun-filled day on the Hunting Valley Campus as it marks University School’s 114th Homecoming. Events are planned for the enjoyment of the entire family.

The day will start at 12:00 pm with the Family Fall Festival. There will be games to delight young and old including a 28-foot rock climbing wall, a 40-foot chaos slide and obstacle course, a 25-foot titanic slide, a human foosball game, and a two-lane bouncey run. Parents, come dressed to participate!

The Family Picnic begins at noon in the Smythe Pavilion. US parents, siblings, and alumni are all welcome to picnic from noon until 4:00 pm. Sample Prepper Chili, enjoy hot dogs, roasted marshmallows, cider, dessert and soft drinks. You will be entertained by the US Jazz Band and will even have an opportunity to shop at the US Prep Shop.

Athletic events begin at 12:30 pm when freshmen, junior varsity and varsity soccer teams challenge the Western Reserve Academy teams. After cheering our soccer teams on to victory, use whatever remains of your cheering voice to support the varsity football team as they take on Willoughby South at 2:00 pm.

Capping off the day’s events is the Homecoming Dance. The dance will be held on the Upper School campus Saturday evening beginning at 8:00 pm. Freshmen through senior boys and their dates are welcome to attend. Those attending must arrive no later than 8:30 and stay until 11:00 pm.

Extending the weekend festivities, on Monday October 13th University School will host the second annual Alumni and Parent Golf Outing at the Sand Ridge Golf Club in Chardon beginning at 12:30 pm. This has been an extremely popular event. If you have any questions about this event, please contact Mr. Jeffrey Starrett, Director of Alumni Relations, at the US Alumni Office.

The 114th Homecoming promises to have something for every US family. Hope to see you there. Go Preppers!

Davey and Strnad Fellowships

Independent study is an opportunity that many juniors and seniors can pursue individually or as a member of a team through Strnad and Davey Fellowships.

The Strnad Fellowship Program, established by Mr. and Mrs. James J. Strnad to foster and recognize creative inquiry, enables talented upperclassmen to undertake projects of research, study, or inquiry beyond their typical course of study. The aim of the Fellowship is to provide an educational experience that would not be available outside the Fellowship program. To be considered for a Strnad Fellowship, students need to show outstanding interest and ability in the project discipline they wish to pursue. Students should have completed the available “advanced academic program of the school” for the discipline in which their project is proposed. Fellows are typically selected from the senior class from applications made during the spring of the Fellow’s junior year. Two-year fellowships are sometimes awarded to juniors in the spring of their sophomore year for projects that require more time to pursue, or where applicants possess “exceptionally outstanding qualifications.”

There are twenty-two Fellowship approvals for the 2003-04 academic year. This year’s fellowships include: “Reach for the Stars: Creating an Astronomy Program for the School Community,” “Bladesmithing and the Forging of a Longsword,” “Keyboard Music Through the Ages,” “Constitutions 1786, 1945, and the Present,” “Squash: The Sport,” and many others.

The Davey Fellowship Program, thanks to an endowment in the name of Hugh Davey ’64, extends independent study opportunities to an “elite group of creative writers.” The Program is open to students in 10th through 12th grades. Applications to the Program are due in April by filling out an application and presenting a portfolio of work to Mrs. Janice Fazio. Students can write short stories, plays, poems, novels, song lyrics, or essays. A student may pursue his particular interest under the advisement of a faculty member who has a special expertise in the area of interest. A particularly interesting aspect of the program is that it invites speakers of various writing professions to speak in Assembly and, on occasion, to members of the program on an individual basis.

Dinner Theatre

An exciting evening of international cuisine and theatre is in store for those who attend the International Dinner and take in the fall play, The Year That Trembled, on Friday, October 24th.

The International Dinner will begin at 6:30 pm, hosted by the USPA in the Stouffer Dining Hall. Families are welcome and asked to bring an international dish, serving 10, along with a copy of the recipe to share. Co-chairs Emily Lucas and Mercedes Villiare suggest that you use a disposable dish, as this will facilitate clean up and moving on to the Gund Auditorium by 8:00 pm. More details are available in the flyer accompanying this newsletter or by contacting Mercedes Villiare at 216.595.9216 or mbenzm1203@iacol.com.

The drama is a ‘coming of age’ story and war chronicle set in the heartland of America during 1970 amid the Vietnam War and its draft lottery. The author, Scott Lax, is a Chagrin Falls native. He first wrote the novel, then wrote the screenplay for the cinema production. He will now be working directly with director Carol Pribble and our cast, creating an original play for US. This will be the first time this story will be performed as a live theatre production. It promises to be an outstanding opportunity for cast and audience alike. It will also be performed Thursday, October 23rd and Saturday, October 25th at 8:00 pm in the Gund Auditorium.

How Well Do You Know Your School?
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions…

Look in the Book

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

Up-to-date information, including morning announcements and class lists, can be obtained on the US website: www.us.edu. In some situations, school closing information will be posted on the website.

Leave a Message

To report absences due to illness or emergency, dial 216.831.2200. For direct access to the voicemail system at Hunting Valley, dial 216.831.1984. Both numbers are accessible twenty-four hours a day. Please be advised that urgent messages only will be taken by the school receptionist (no social messages for students will be accepted!). You may leave a written message for your son by placing it in his mailbox located in the Upper Commons to the right of the stairs.

Leaving School

Medical and/or dental appointments should be scheduled during lunch period whenever possible (approximately 12:00-1:00 pm). Boys must sign out with the receptionist before leaving school. A notice from the doctor is required upon returning to school in order to receive an excused absence. Only seniors are permitted to leave campus during lunch. All underclassmen are required to eat lunch in the Dining Hall.

Snow Days

School closings will be announced over local radio and TV stations. USPA, through class representatives’ “phone tree,” also provides courtesy phone calls. Please look for the flyer enclosed with this issue of the Valley Voice listing the phone tree for your son’s grade level.

Sports Info

Directions to athletic events may be obtained at 216.831.1984, ext. 7402. Athletic schedules are available by calling ext. 7401. Written directions and schedules may be obtained in the Athletic Office or on the US website (www.us.edu). There is a Sports Dessert at the end of each season for the lettering varsity players and their families. Invitations are mailed by the school.
Changes for the Mabian

Manually, you may have heard by now that the Mabian has changed its release date to the beginning of November. This was a decision that the Mabian's Advisor, Ms. Mayuri Reddy, along with the school's administrators and the Mabian's editorial staff, arrived at after polling the upperclassmen. Previously the Mabian was released in May, and the spring release date, while corresponding with the end of the school year, resulted in the exclusion of spring sports, prom, and graduation photos from appearing in the issue. After soliciting the opinions of the upperclassmen, it was decided that comprehensiveness triumphed the availability of the Mabian in the spring. The new fall release date allows all students, not only seniors, to have their entire year in one yearbook. When the Mabian came out in the late spring, seniors had to buy two yearbooks in order to document their entire senior year. The early November release also allows for the inclusion of where the graduating class will be attending college.

The release date is not the only change for the Mabian. The new issue represents a return to a more traditional aesthetic for the publication. The 2003 issue has a classic maroon leather cover with embossing. The desire to create the most tasteful publication within a specified budget is the driving force behind this change, and it is an approach that requires a myriad of skills that can only enhance the endeavor going into the future.

Now for the question many parents have been asking: how are last year's seniors going to get their copies if the yearbook comes out in November? The school has arranged to make the pick up of the Mabian an event in itself, co-hosted by the Mabian and the Alumni Office. The Class of 2003 Mabian Pick-up Brunch will be held on Wednesday, November 26 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Hunting Valley Dining Hall. Invitations will be mailed out to members of the Class of 2003 in late September. The Alumni Office asks that parents please forward these invitations to their sons, and instructions for how they should obtain their yearbook will be included on the invitation.

Look for the Mabian in early November. Students can pick up their copies from Ms. Mayuri Reddy or by contacting Editors Ben Wong (12) or Kevin Huang (11).

As for the Mabian 2004 issue, Advisor Mayuri Reddy will be joined by Dr. Jonathan Briggs, who will co-adviser the Mabian.

Parents of seniors are encouraged to initiate the process of getting through photos now, as senior pages will need to be collected by December 19, before winter break. In addition, the Mabian is always interested in copies of photographs of school-related events. Sports photos are always in highest demand; however, any school-related activities would be appreciated. If you would like to donate photographs, please contact Advisor Mayuri Reddy at 216.831.2200, ext. 7409.

Parent Coffees Well Attended

At the school year begins, many of us are filled with not only our own unique memories of returning to school and what it signifies, but with aspirations for our sons that the new academic year will be a fruitful one, filled with opportunities for growth of all kinds. To celebrate this, Upper School parents met at the Smythe Pavilion under beautiful summer skies for the official round of parent coffees sponsored by the University School Parents’ Association (USPA). The turnout was impressive as parents welcomed the occasion to renew old friendships and to get to know the parents of boys that have recently come to the school. The point person for each grade really made their respective event come together with great success. There were delicious home-baked goods and a class photo presentation that does not happen without a lot of planning. Thanks to all those parents who helped to make these coffees so inviting. We all look forward, as parents invested in our sons and their school, to a positive, productive and a.miable school year.

College Representatives Visit US

This fall, college reps from all over the country will visit our school. There will be more than 33 such visits in October alone. For many students, this is a wonderful introduction to a school they may not know or might not have been able to visit. It is also a good opportunity to follow up a campus visit.

Juniors and seniors are encouraged to meet with the representatives during their free periods. In order to help the boys with their scheduling, all upperclassmen receive a flyer every Friday with details about the college presentations for the upcoming week, along with a brief overview of each college. As an added reminder, each day that a college representative is on campus, an announcement will be made in the morning assembly and then again at lunch, for afternoon sessions.

For parents, these visits are also listed in every month's Valley Voice calendar and are also posted on the Hunting Valley website at www.upper.us.edu
Parents Can Give a Contribution to University School
Parents have an opportunity to make a charitable gift to University School through the 2003-04 Annual Fund. Having made an important and expensive investment in our students' future, why are we asked to give a contribution to the School? The tuition provides only 75% of the School's annual operating revenues.

Our Annual Fund emphasis with our parents is on PARTICIPATION. Each family is asked to make a gift to our School, appropriate to your financial circumstances, and know that every gift, regardless of amount, affirms our strong commitment to the dedicated faculty and excellent programs provided our sons at US.

As we look forward to this school year and campaign effort, we encourage all parents who wish to volunteer but have not been contacted to please call Barbara Good, at 216.991.0609.

We, the Parent Annual Fund Committee, give our support to University School through the Annual Fund campaign, knowing US truly does make a difference in our sons' lives.

The Parent Annual Fund Committee

Laura & Rick '69 Marshall, Class Agents '04
Dotty & Mark Dworkin, Class Agents '05
Suzanne & Chris '75 Smythe, Class Agents '06
Claudia & Dave '74 Fulton, Class Agents '07
Wendy & John '73 Naylor, Class Agents '08
Jim & Bob '66 Atkmar, Class Agents '09
Susie & Mark Mead, Class Agents '10
Elizabeth & Jeff '75 Starrett, Class Agents '11
Toby & Doug Lagarde, Class Agents '12
Susie & Greg Taylor, Class Agents '13
Elizabeth & Pete Voudouris, Class Agents '15
Heather & Scott '79 Goldberg, Class Agents '16
Leslie & John Dunn, Parent Tower Society Chairman

After-Prom Fund Raisers
Supporting the After-Prom and providing a safe and memorable evening for our boys and their dates requires a great deal of planning, effort and financial support. The USPA contributes to the After-Prom through the proceeds of its two fund-raising events: the Chocolate Sale and the Christmas Tree Sale.

Our Fall Fundraiser, the Harry London Chocolate Sale, will tempt you with delicious chocolate treats packaged and suitable for holiday gift giving. The candies also make excellent care packages for college students away from home. Look for order forms included with this mailing. Chocolates will be delivered before Thanksgiving. For more information contact Heath Mason, Candy Sale Chairperson, at 216.932.5898.

Also, mark your calendars for December 6, 7 or 13th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm to buy your Christmas trees and wreaths at the Smythe Pavilion. We will have a nice assortment of trees, wreaths, kissing balls, winterberry and centerpieces. There will be many new items to decorate your home this year. If you have any special requests - very small or large tree, specific wreath size, cemetery wreath stand, extra long garland, etc. - it can be ordered and held aside. Please call Deborah Little and Tyler Miller at 216.991.8278. Chestnuts will be roasting by the open fire. Jack Frost will nip at your toes and nose, but there are a lot of laughs, hot chocolate and good cheer.

The Parent Annual Fund Committee

A WORD FROM PACT for Parents: The Anti-Drug.com
Good News: You can help keep your kids safe from drugs. Two-thirds of kids say that losing their parents' respect is one of the main reasons they don't use drugs.

Marijuana Facts:
• Young teens are trying marijuana at a time when their bodies and brains are still developing.
• In the past decade, the number of 8th graders who have used marijuana has doubled.
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What else can I do to keep my kids away from Marijuana?
• Be involved in your kids' lives. Ask WHO, WHAT, WHEN AND WHERE.
• Eat dinner together, listen to music, watch a ball game, do chores.
• Set a firm rule of no drug use in your family.

What to say if your child says:
• "Marijuana is harmless" - Smoking marijuana is at least as bad as smoking cigarettes, and you already know how dangerous tobacco is to your health.
• "It's not addictive" - More kids enter drug treatment for marijuana than for all other illicit drugs combined.
• "If I smoked marijuana, I'm not hurting anyone else" - Marijuana trafficking is a big, often violent business, at home and abroad. And if you get caught, it will really hurt your parents.

A Long with falling leaves and cooler weather, another autumn tradition at US is required standardized testing. This year’s scheduled tests are as follows:

Saturday, October 11
SAT I and II will be administered at the Hunting Valley campus. Registration is required and can be made at www.collegeboard.com

Tuesday, October 14
This is PSAT and SAT preparation day for grades 10 – 12. Grades 10 – 12 will be dismissed at the half-day, while freshmen will participate in various outdoor and class building activities as well as a cookout lunch.

Tuesday, October 21
Testing, grade 9: Freshmen will be taking the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test, which measures a student’s potential to do well in school. Results will be available in early December. Contact Margaret Mason after Thanksgiving to schedule a time to go over your son’s results.

PSAT Testing, grades 10 & 11:
Saturday, November 4
SAT I and II are offered, but not at Hunting Valley.

The PSAT serves as the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test for juniors only. It will serve as a practice test for sophomores. The fee for the test will be charged to each boy’s bill book. The boys may use calculators for the math section.

Mr. Lagarde has announced and explained these tests to the boys and will continue to remind them in the coming weeks. If you have any questions, please call Margaret Mason, Dean of Students, at 216.831.2200, ext.355 or e-mail her at mmason@us.edu

The Valley Voice
University School
2785 SOM Center Road
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216.831.2200
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