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# The Collinwood Observer

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Volume 6 • Issue 11

December 2014

## Giving Back on Two Wheels at “Cranksgiving”



The End Result! Fifty cyclists gathered with food for the needy at Cranksgiving.

by Edward Chenock

In addition to events like Cleveland Critical Mass, as the area's bicycle community continuously grows, creative events to promote bicycles and their presence on our roadways are held. On a mild, rainy Saturday

morning in November, nearly 50 local cyclists gathered at the Beachland Ballroom in Cleveland for the third annual “Cranksgiving.” It is a nationally renowned bicycle event that usually takes place the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Cleveland is one of 70 cities nationwide that hosts this event, including Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, and Washington, DC.

The objective of the event was to spend up to \$15 on canned goods and non-perishables and bicycle 15 total miles to local grocery stores. The travel itinerary included grocery stores in Cleveland's North Collinwood neighborhood, most of Euclid's local grocery stores, and as far east as Shoregate Shopping Center in Willowick. This included both Dave's Supermarket locations along Lakeshore Boulevard, Shwebel's Bakery Outlet on E. 200th Street, and Giant Eagle in Willowick. This was the third year in a row Cranksgiving happened, and was the first time that Cranksgiving came to the northeastern side of town. Last year it took place in Cleveland's West Park neighborhood, which also encompassed Fairview Park, Rocky River, and Lakewood.

“We organize the event each year not only for the cycling community to help feed hungry families during the holiday season,” says Jeffrey Sugalski, the Cranksgiving coordinator through the local bicycle nonprofit Bike Cleveland, about the general purpose of Cranksgiving. Cyclists bought generous amounts of food to be split among local hunger centers within the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland. Cranksgiving was successful with raising an estimated value of \$2,500 in food.

“It is also to demonstrate that cyclists can do many of the things that motorists do, including grocery shop on one of the busiest shopping days of the year,” says Sugalski about the importance Cranksgiving is to Cleveland's growing bicycle community. This is important as commuting by bicycle is becoming a popular means of commuting in major cities nationwide. It is also an opportunity for cyclists to give back to the community and provide food for those less fortunate while giving thanks.

## Santa Claus is Coming to Town



by Julia DiBaggio

Santa is coming to North Collinwood for a special breakfast with the kids. What would Christmas be like without photos with the jolly guy in red, a chance for kids to tell him their number one wish and presents they are hoping for? Come join us for breakfast with Santa on December 13, 2014 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School. Photo ops and fun activities are

included with a \$5 dollar ticket purchase. To purchase tickets in advance, call Julia DiBaggio at 216-481-7660.

Date: December 13, 2014

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: Villa Angela-St. Joseph, 18497 Lake Shore Blvd.

Cost: \$5.00 per person

## Video Game and Record Exchange Moves to New Location



by John Copic

The Video Game and Record Exchange store has been located for the past 15 years in the Martin's Mens Wear retail block. They have recently moved south and reopened in the remodeled former Shore

Carpet building. Co-owners Adam Harvey and Rob Winner worked very hard to redecorate the space into a pleasant shopping area.

In the new spacious showcases there are thousands of CDs, and all used CDs are now half price. Looking for an old movie? There are hundreds of DVDs on display, and all five dollar DVDs are now on sale for two dollars. But where the store truly shines is in the amazing selection of used video games available. There are games for every gaming system, there is an wide selection, and the prices are reasonable. Also available are controllers, power supplies, and all gaming systems.

If you are looking for that perfect Christmas gift be sure to stop in at the new Video Game and Record Exchange at 854 E. 185 Street, open Monday through Saturday 11 AM to 6 PM.

## Taste the Neighborhood Award Nomination

by Julia DiBaggio

North Collinwood is the home of many incredible people. That's why each year we like to show how much we appreciate everything ordinary people do to make Collinwood great, by recognizing a few individuals and businesses each year at our annual Taste the Neighborhood and Awards Ceremony. Share your nomination to honor residents, block watches and businesses for their accomplishments that make this a better community to live. Deadline: December 30, 2014

**AWARDS CATEGORIES:**

**Outstanding resident:** Regular folks who go that extra mile.

**Amazing Block Watches:** Neighborhood groups that have made great achievements throughout the year.

**Best Business:** Celebrate the achievements of your favorite local business and their owner.

**Investment of the Year:** What change this year helped make Collinwood such a great place.

**Collinwood Hall of Fame:** Recognition of one person's dedication and devotion to the betterment of the neighborhood.

Contact Julia DiBaggio with your nomination and their contribution at 216-481-7660 or [jdibaggio@northeastshores.org](mailto:jdibaggio@northeastshores.org)

## UpStage Players' Musical Auditions

by Matthew Orgovan

Auditions for UpStage Players' performance of Once on This Island will be January 3 and 4, 2015.

**WHO:** Children ages 7-15 can audition for the production.

**WHEN:** January 3 and 4, 2015 at 10 a.m.

**WHERE:** 17109 Lakeshore Blvd., Collinwood/Cleveland

This is the Cleveland Public Library Nottingham-Memorial Branch (which is the former Villa Angela High School). Pull around to the left side of the building towards the back. Plenty of free parking.

**WHAT TO BRING:** Water bottle and a great attitude!

**HOW TO PREPARE:**

\* Choose a song from a Broadway musical.

\* Practice singing every day.

\* Make eye contact when singing.

\* Remember to use facial expressions!

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## Events

### Unified Martial Arts Academy Open

by Julia DiBaggio

*"I come to you with empty hands, I have not weapons, but should I be forced to defend myself, my principles or my honor, should it be a matter of life or death, or right or wrong, then here are my weapons, karate, my empty hands."*

These words appear on one of the many Hall of Fame plaques earned by Grandmaster Joel Dvorin, owner of Unified Martial Arts Academy located at 686 East 185th St, Cleveland, OH 44119.

Under the direction of Grandmaster Joel Dvorin, Master Harvey Fierman and Master Sean Southwick, Unified Martial Arts teaches a combination of Tae Kwon Do, Kempo and Judo, with students ranging in age from 5 to 50. Grandmaster Dvorin has black belts in Tae Kwon Do and Kempo, and is the North American President of the Unified Martial Arts Federation and the Founder of TJBMA and has 60 years in the martial arts. Master Harvey Fierman has over 40 years of training and teaching in art of Judo. Master Sean Southwick has over 20 years of Tae Kwon Do Training and Teaching and after living in Israel has been trained in Krav Maga.

The academy teaches different styles each concentrating on a specific discipline. Tae Kwon Do is made up with 60-70% of leg and foot techniques, Kempo is over 60% hand and arm techniques and Judo consists of throws, takedowns, chocks, locks along with learning how to fall and roll properly. These forms complement one another, Unified Martial Arts can teach self-defense within a short period of time, even though it takes years to become a black belt.

Levels of knowledge are indicated by belt ranking, from white belt to Black belt. There are 10 colored belts and 10 black belts. Each is reached by showing knowledge of the basic techniques for that belt ranking.

Students also learn kata's (prearranged fighting forms) sparring and the use of weapons such as the bow, sword, sai's and kama's. The academy does not advocate fighting, but teaches students "street wise martial arts" if a student finds him or herself in a dangerous situation. The academy also does many tournaments during the year.

The biggest challenge in the martial arts for young or old is that the martial arts is a year long commitment and must be worked in with other sports that children want to do during the year. Unified Martial Arts is open 6 days a week and also offers private lessons during the day.

Unified Martial Arts has relocated from Cleveland Hts to its new home, and is now located at 868 E 185th St Cleveland, OH for more information please call at 216-256-4298 or stop in and see Master Joel Dvorin, Unified Martial Arts is open Monday-Friday at 5:00 p.m. and Saturday at 10:00 a.m., bring this article with you and get ½ off the price of a uniform



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OUR LADY OF THE LAKE SCHOOL

Pre-K through 8th Grade

Faith

Academics

Community

Sharing Gratitude

Kindergarten through 4th Grade students at Our Lady of the Lake held a special Thanksgiving prayer service in November. They shared their gratitude by building a Thanksgiving Tree at the front of the church, decorated with dozens of leaves, each one

listing a special thought about how grateful our students are for the abundance in their lives, and the gift of family, friends and community. It's a very special reflection at this time of year. These wonderful kids are truly something to be thankful for!



Rest Stops on the Journey of Faith

Retreats can be a wonderful time to reflect and share with a faith community, bringing members closer both in their spiritual relationships and to each other. In November, 35 members of Our Lady of the Lake Parish participated in an 8-week retreat entitled, "Praying with St. Ignatius," lead by a team from the Jesuit Retreat House.

Each Monday evening session began with prayer and guided meditation, followed by teaching along the lines of the theme for each evening and small group sharing at the tables. Participants formed around tables, and worked together throughout the retreats. Many found their table experience to be among the most rewarding blessings from the retreat. Spiritual "homework" each week included a "Prayer Theme," Scripture passages which reflected that theme, related brief readings, an introduction to another type or style of prayer, and guides to cultivating a spiritual discipline as described by St. Ignatius of Loyola in his Spiritual Exercises. Those who wished to also kept a spiritual journal, which they could then share during their table group time.

Comments from participants reveal that this 8-week commitment was well worth the time, energy and discipline required, including comments like:

*"This retreat has been a gift."*

*"I feel I was meant to be here - to meet and exchange and pray."*

*"The retreat gave definition and direction to my prayer life...making my daily life a prayerful ministry was a beautiful insight."*

*"Time well spent!"*

Time spent with our faith community always feels like time well spent. Our Lady of the Lake looks forward to another rewarding advent retreat on December 6. If you'd like more information about retreats, or any of our many faith formation activities, please feel free to call the Rectory or email Shawn Witmer at shawn@ourlady-ofthelakeoh.org. We would be happy to welcome you, as well!



Sixth Grade Rocks



As part of an enriched curriculum, Our Lady of the Lake School takes advantage of some of Cleveland's array of cultural offerings, to offer their students new educational opportunities. The sixth graders at Our Lady of the Lake recently enjoyed an insightful fieldtrip to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. Their adventure began with an interesting class entitled "The Message: the Birth of Hip-Hop Culture." This historical and musical journey started


in the 1970's in the Bronx, New York. The students could follow the early musicians with their themes of social justice. They enjoyed listening to the music and seeing how the innovative technology of the time challenged traditional music.

After the class, the students explored the Hall of Fame exhibits. They were delighted to see and hear familiar items and were surprised by all the new things they discovered.

Staying Centered

Our Lady of the Lake second graders, under the direction of Miss Zbiegien, spent some time outdoors this year engaged in centering prayer. Centering prayer gives the person praying the chance to simply be quiet and happy in God's presence. Nothing is said, all one has to do is focus on God and His great love for us. In our busy world,


learning how to quiet ourselves can be a real challenge. As you can see, the children are doing a great job! During the hustle bustle of this season, it's important to remember the things that keep us grounded, and give us peace. If you know a second grader from Our Lady of the Lake School, ask them to show you how to pray like this.



St. Jerome Church

Collinwood's Catholic School

15000 Lakeshore Blvd. Cleveland, OH 44110



WORSHIP WITH US THIS SEASON

Advent Vesper Service, Monday, December 1 - 7 p.m.  
Bishop Roger Gries, OSB, presiding

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass, Wednesday, December 24 - 4 p.m.  
Prepare for the feast at our family service

Christmas Eve Musical Prelude, Wednesday December 24 - 11:45 p.m.  
Come early to hear the joyful sounds of the season

Christmas Midnight Mass, Thursday, December 25- 12 a.m.  
The tradition continues at our 95th annual midnight celebration

Christmas Morning Mass, Thursday, December 25 - 10 a.m.  
Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

New Year's Eve Vigil Mass, Wednesday, December 31 - 4 p.m.  
Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary

New Year's Day Morning Mass, Thursday, January 1 - 10 a.m.  
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:00 to 3:45 p.m. before Mass

Collinwood Cluster Advent Penance Service, Monday, December 15, 7 p.m.  
This year's service is held at Holy Redeemer Church, Kipling Avenue

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Preschool is for Life Skill

by Phillip Dank  
Acalay is a term used inside of the St. Jerome Preschool, which is part of St. Jerome School

15100 Lakeshore Boulevard Cleveland, consists of boys and girls ages 4 and 5. Acalay is a term which says it

all! Academic plus exploratory play. This term has been previously coined by other educators. Themed units are

instructed with a creative flair based on educational Common Core Standards. Students have produced

wearable firefighter hats. Student created stick puppets are utilized with supplemental follow up instruction.

Special snacks to enhance the units have consisted of edible ladybug cookies and marshmallows with apples

representing teeth inside of a mouth. The daily schedule includes large group and small group activities

strictly based upon preparatory skills need for success in future years as a student. Time permits for singing as

we play triangles, bells and rhythm sticks. We also count numbers utilizing these musical instruments.

Students transition smoothly into Kindergarten with a background of basic skills that are taught here. These

basic skills include identifying alphabet letters and the corresponding sounds which these letters create.

Identification of numbers and a sense of number quantities. Social skills are often overlooked when instructing

younger students. St. Jerome School's philosophy of educating students in a setting of faith-based principles

assists with students gaining these social skills

Psychodynamic Therapy



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# Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

*Faith. Family. Future.*

## ‘Chopped’ winner and alum returns to VASJ

“Have you made the Joe’s sign yet? Because I have!” That is the question James Major ’90 couldn’t wait to ask his former classmates after his recent visit to VASJ.

Major, executive chef for the Cincinnati Reds and recent winner of the Food Network’s reality TV show “Chopped,” has had the honor of seeing his name in many lights and on many signs and scoreboards. But pulling up to Lakeshore Boulevard and East 185th Street and seeing his name on the sign at VASJ tops them all. “That’s the coolest thing,” Major said.

Major described his visit to VASJ as magical. “You spend four years trying to get out of here and a lifetime trying to get back,” Major said. “It’s been fantastic to see the place. It looks great and smells a lot better – the ladies have brought a nice scent with them,” Major joked about the school being all-boys when he graduated in 1990.

Before going to the Cincinnati Reds, Major served as the executive chef for the Cleveland Indians for six years. He also catered last year’s Super Bowl in New York. Major has been at the top of his cooking game long before taking top “Chopped” honors.

Despite his talent and success in the kitchen, Major didn’t know right away that his calling was cooking. In fact, he was just 10-15 hours short of a law enforcement degree when the Food Network came out. While watching the professional chefs on the channel, a little spark went off. “The TV chefs got me on track,” Major says.

It made sense. He had been working in restaurants since the age of 14 and cooking with his family even earlier than that. “The only place I’ve ever worked is in kitchens,” Major says. “It’s all I’ve ever known and I love it.”

He looked into culinary arts programs and quickly realized it was



James Major '90, executive chef for the Cincinnati Reds and recent winner of The Food Network's cooking show “Chopped,” poses with students in one of VASJ's culinary arts courses when he returned to his alma mater for a cooking demonstration.

something he couldn’t afford. So he joined the Navy as a means to attend culinary school. “The Navy really molded me as a chef,” Major says. “When you’re cooking for people in the middle of the ocean, you don’t want to screw it up.”

He learned a lot of other important lessons in the Navy which he shared with the students in VASJ’s culinary arts class. The most important thing he learned in the Navy is the importance of never giving up. “I quit my first run and I vowed I would never quit again,” Major says. “No matter how painful it is, cross the finish line.”

Major came to VASJ to share his experiences competing and winning on the show “Chopped,” and to give a cooking demonstration of his winning entrée, the Roman Coliseum Sausage Sandwich. But he ended up teaching the students at VASJ much more than



James Major '90 enlists the help of VASJ students Javari Hines '17 and Jeffrey Grudzinski '15 to prepare his award-winning Roman Coliseum Sausage Sandwich.

how to blend the perfect Pesto or cook the tastiest sausage.

“You’re going to hear people say,

“You won’t. You can’t. You’ll never,”” Major says. “Never ever let them stop you from your dreams.”

## Cheerleaders take first place at mount cheer competition

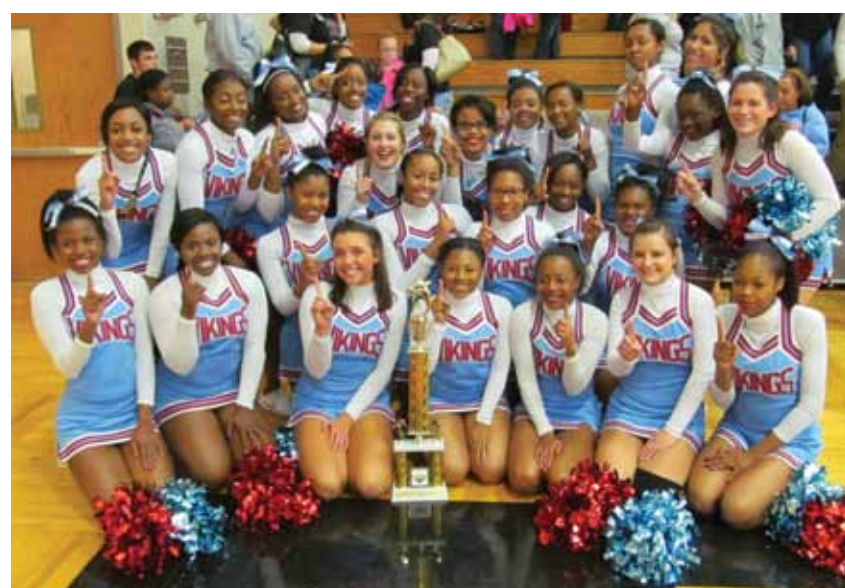
The VASJ cheerleaders took first place in the Varsity Large Mount Division at the Champion Cheer Central Competition held at North Canton Hoover High School on Sunday, November 2.

The talented squad, under the direction of Coach Tori Ung, had some fierce competition with the other high school cheerleading teams in their division. Competing under pressure is nothing new to the Vikings, though, who have a great deal of experience with winning in mounting tournaments.

*The talented squad, under the direction of Coach Tori Ung, had some fierce competition.*

The squad cheers together during the football and basketball seasons, giving them even more time to develop chemistry.

The Viking cheerleaders won VASJ’s 20th state trophy after winning the competition in 2013. The squad also won in 2010 and finished second in 2011 and 2012.



VASJ cheerleaders celebrate their first-place win at the Champion Cheer Central competition held at North Canton Hoover High School on November 2.

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# Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

*Faith. Family. Future.*

## Leadership students hold shoe drive

Would you ever think that your old shoes could benefit the lives of others? VASJ’s Teen Leadership Corps class is participating in a fundraiser where there is nothing to buy or sell, all they need is your support and gently-worn shoes. Their goal is to collect 7,500 pairs of shoes which will be donated to under developed countries like Ghana, Haiti, and Bolivia through the organization Funds2Org.

The donated shoes will allow individuals in impoverished nations to create their own micro-businesses by repurposing the used shoes and marketing them, enabling them to make an income to pay for educational expenses, housing, food, clothing, and more.

Not only will the shoe drive help those in under developed countries, but will also benefit local charities by allowing VASJ’s Teen Leadership Corps to serve more people. The TLC class will receive 40 cents for each pound of shoes collected which they will use to fund additional service projects throughout the year such as cooking for and supporting places



VASJ's Teen Leadership Corps will be collecting shoes from November through January 2015 to help those in impoverished nations.

like Hospice, Ronald McDonald House, and other local non-profit organizations.

The fundraiser began on November 1 and will continue through January 31, 2015. All donations may

be dropped off at VASJ’s Main Office.

VASJ’s Teen Leadership Corps is asking the community to take a step toward helping those in need this holiday season and donate a pair of shoes to this worthwhile cause.

## Viking Views



by Richard Osborne

Earlier this year, a local television station called VASJ a “cool school.” No doubt about it, they got that right.

We seem to be on everyone’s radar lately. From the *Observer to Cleveland Magazine*, from *Crain’s Cleveland Business* to the *Catholic Universe Bulletin*, and from *The Plain Dealer to Reader’s Digest*, media outlets near and far have picked up on the extraordinary story of VASJ’s growth and strength.

The outstanding new online publication *Belt Magazine* recently asked: “What’s Behind the Surprising Success of Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School?”

No one knows the answer to that question better than our students.

Carlie Beard ’16 – cheerleader, student ambassador and peer minister – put it this way: “I didn’t consider any other high school because I knew this was the place for me. God put the people at VASJ into my life to help me.”

Carlie, incidentally, was on the cover of *Cleveland Magazine’s* recent “Private Schools” issue.

No wonder everyone is noticing. The dedication and faith of our faculty, staff and students have produced these astounding results:

- VASJ remains the fastest-growing private high school in Ohio.
- For three years in a row, 100 percent of our graduates have gone on to college.
- Last year’s graduates earned an average of \$121,000 each in college scholarships.
- Our cheerleaders brought home the school’s 20th athletic state championship trophy.
- Student volunteers continued VASJ’s unmatched record of service in the community.

Next year, we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the merger of Villa Angela Academy and St. Joseph High School. The traditions established when VA was founded in 1878 and St. Joe’s was built in 1950 have flourished here at VASJ. Today, we are strong and confident as we look forward to an even more exciting future.

On behalf of all of our students, thank you for your belief in us over the years. We are enormously proud of our role in the Collinwood-Euclid neighborhood and beyond. All of us at VASJ wish you a happy and holy holiday season.

Richard Osborne, St. Joseph High School Class of 1969, is the president of Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School.



VASJ's Drama Club once again captivated and entertained audiences with their fall production of “The Bachelor King.” After months of preparation and hard work, the group of students gave four outstanding performances, including a dress rehearsal for local grade schools.

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# Thank you, Cleveland!

for voting  
YES on Issue 4

Be part of The Plan



## Imagine Bella Goes to Camp

25 Imagine Bella 3rd grade students went camping in October for an unforgettable trip! Imagine Bella students shared the

adventure with 3rd graders from 5 other Imagine campuses throughout Ohio.



25 Imagine Bella 3rd graders get ready to hit the road.



So many animals



## No Shave November



Mr. L, Principal Dutt, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Fiore participate in No Shave November at Imagine Bella

No Shave November was created to raise awareness for Men's cancer issues, but has expanded to cover cancer in all forms. Several male staff from Imagine Bella took part in this campaign.

According to the No Shave November website, "The goal of No-Shave November is to grow awareness by embracing our

hair, which many cancer patients lose, and letting it grow wild and free. Donate the money you usually spend on shaving and grooming for a month to educate about cancer prevention, save lives, and aid those fighting the battle."

Check out <http://www.no-shave.org/> to learn more and join us next year!

## Cheer Champions

Congratulations to the Lake Erie Sharks Cheerleaders for winning in the Termites Division of the Cleveland Muny League

Cheerleading Competition. Lake Erie Sharks Cheerleaders include first grader, Faith Beckham. Way to go Faith!

## Upcoming Dates

Winter Break | December 22, 2014-January 2, 2015

First day back in 2015 | Monday, January 5, 2015

Thursday, January 15, 2015 | Quarter 2 Ends

Friday, January 16, 2015 | No school

Monday, January 19, 2015 | No school

January 20 | Quarter 3 Begins

January 20-23 | Evening Conferences

## Imagine Bella Halloween Festivities

Imagine Bella cannot say thank you enough to our amazing parents and families! Over 80 families donated candy, parents volunteered to pass out candy in our parade, and even more families attended to join in the festivities. Imagine Bella students and staff dressed in costume and you can see many

great photos of the event on Imagine Bella Academy of Excellence's Facebook page.

2014 Halloween door decorating contest winners were Ms. Figueroa's 5th grade class (third floor) and Ms. Ianni's 2nd grade success group (second floor).



Ms. Ianni's 2nd grade success group door winner



Ms. Figueroa's 5th grade door winner



Batman (Mr. Fiore) vs. Joker (Mr. Williams)



Imagine Bella Mime (Mrs. Clark)



A squirrel (Ms. Shope) leads the class on the parade



Classifieds

<p><b>PAINTING--EXTRR - INTRR</b> <b>DRYWALL~TILE~HWFLOOR</b> <b>KITCHEN ~ BATH ~ BFINISH</b> <b>PLUMBNG~ HVAC~ELCTRCL</b> <b>ROOF ~ PORCH~ GARAGE</b> <b>CONCRETE~ TK~PNTNG~WTRPRF</b> <b>Complete REHAB- Violin Corr</b> <b>Add a bath in Bsmnt - \$4975</b> <b>216 -744 - 9347</b></p>	 <p><b>Antique Cedar Chest</b> <b>Must be Sold this Week</b> <b>This Item will go FAST</b> <b>Do not hesitate !</b> <b>YOURS for only \$50 !</b> <b>216.531.6790</b></p>
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