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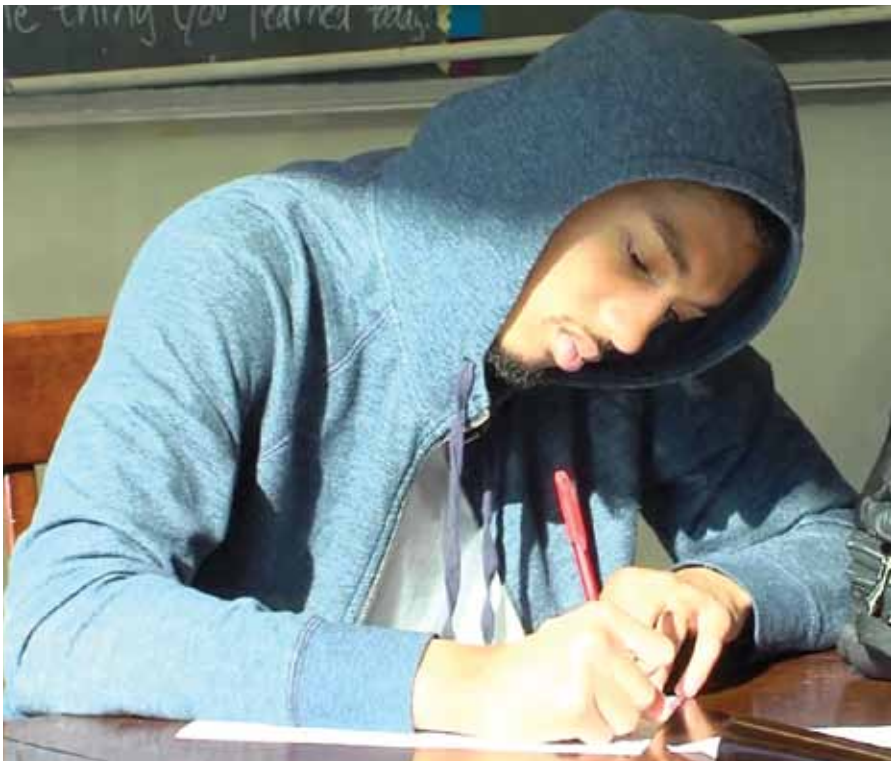
The Collinwood Observer

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January 2015

Cleveland Students Compete in “Stop the Hate” Songwriting Competition



Collinwood High students recently rehearsed their original songs for the “Stop the Hate, Sing it Loud,” songwriting competition sponsored by the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage.



by Michael Scott

Recent national headlines continue to spark protests across the country, including here in Cleveland, but CMSD students are using a different approach to send a message: music.

Several District schools participated in “Stop the Hate, Sing it Loud,” a songwriting competition through the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage. Teaching artists from the nonprofit organization Roots of American Music visited the schools to help students create an original song with an anti-discrimination or anti-bullying theme.

Afi-Odelia Scruggs worked with the Collinwood High School students and made sure they took the task seriously.

“I challenge the students to do what I call

a ‘call to action,’ which is the song has to tell somebody what you can do to combat hate,” Scruggs said. “I really try to make the kids aware that the words they say to their peers can be hateful and they can be very damaging, and you really want to be aware of what you say,” Scruggs said.

The songwriting process includes a visit to Maltz for inspiration, collaborating on lyrics, creating a beat, and recording the song with the help of the teaching artist. Students performed their original songs in front of judges Wednesday at the Bohemian National Hall.

“I hope it inspires young people our age to make a difference,” Collinwood High School junior Dayuanna White said.

Speak Your Mind

The Euclid Observer is a completely community-written paper. If you would like to contribute, go to [www>EuclidObserver.com](http://www.EuclidObserver.com), click on Member Center, sign in, and start writing. We are interested in your ideas, questions, issues, projects, dreams, etcetera. Share them with your neighbors by become a writer (or photographer or illustrator) for the Euclid Observer.

Eastside Greenway Plans to Connect 19 Greater Cleveland Communities with Bike and Pedestrian Paths

by James Sonnhalter

Imagine living close to a trail system that connects neighborhoods throughout the eastern portion of Cuyahoga County with employment centers, transit, services, parks and green spaces. Imagine walking or biking to school, work, the store, or a park. Imagine being able to bike from the Euclid Creek Reservation to the Shaker Median Trail, or from Rockefeller Park to the North Chagrin Reservation. Imagine the Eastside Greenway.

The Eastside Greenway will increase pedestrian and bicycle connectivity in and between the eastern portion of Cleveland and 18 suburbs: East Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, University Heights, Beachwood, Pepper Pike, Richmond Heights, Highland Heights, Highland Hills, North Randall, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Euclid, South Euclid, Lyndhurst, Bratenahl, Orange Village and Warrensville Heights. Leaders from these cities are working alongside planners and other regional organizations, like the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, LAND studio, the Cleveland Metroparks, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and Bike Cleveland, to develop a plan for the greenway that can be used to guide the way to implementation.

With planning currently underway, the

project team will be hosting a second round of public meetings to share project updates and solicit feedback from the community in early 2015 and you are invited. The same content will be presented at each meeting, so choose the date and location that works best for your schedule. The meeting dates are as follows:

January 28, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m: Happy Dog at

Euclid Tavern, 11625 Euclid Ave, Cleveland

January 29, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m: Beachwood

Public Library, 25501 Shaker Blvd, Beachwood

February 2, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m: Waterloo Brew,

15335 Waterloo Rd, Cleveland

February 3, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m: University

Heights Public Library, 13866 Cedar Rd,

University Heights

At the meetings, a brief overview of the project will be provided as well as the results of the completed inventory and analysis. Alternative routes for the greenway network will be presented and the project team will solicit feedback on route alignments as well as route priorities from community members. This feedback will be taken into account as the plan is finalized in the first half of 2015. A third round of public meetings, in which the final greenway plan will be presented to the public, will take place in May 2015. More information on the Eastside Greenway can be found on the project’s website at www.eastsidegreenway.weebly.com.

Chris McGrath Honored with Community Service Award



Our Lady of the Lake is proud of “community hero” Chris McGrath

by Dana Heil

Anyone that works with volunteers knows that often they go about their business of making a difference and assisting others relatively unnoticed. Well that just changed for Chris McGrath when he received the Community Service Award from Euclid Hospital.

Chris accepted the award surrounded by family, friends and those that have benefited from his hard work over the years. Some of those that have benefited from Chris’ dedication include:

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High school where Chris graduated in 1969,

St. Christine Church and Our Lady of the Lake Church where Chris serves as a Eucharistic Minister, Usher and a member of the Parish Life Committee.

Collinwood neighborhood where Chris and his wife, Linda, have lived for 30 years. It is there they raised their children, Erin, Katie and Matthew and enjoy their grandchildren Liam and Regan.

When he is home, McGrath focuses on many community initiatives including Block Watch, assisting neighbors with housing issues, and working to keep his community safe by checking on his neighbors and keeping an eye on vacant homes. He also serves on the Board at the Collinwood Recreation Center.

“When I heard about this award, I was very humbled,” McGrath said. “It actually brought tears to my eyes.”

In typical fashion, McGrath recognized the many others who do so much for the community. In particular, he spoke of fellow Viking parent and longtime volunteer Jim Tobin, who played an integral part in McGrath’s quick treatment for the stroke he suffered over a year ago.

Although the things that McGrath does while volunteering are useful, most people would agree that it is the great love for his community that he demonstrates while serving that makes him special. Chris acts as an ambassador for all of the organizations that he serves. He continues to be committed to making Euclid where he works and Collinwood where he lives safer, friendlier places, all the while providing a great example for others and encouraging those around him to do the same.

So we at Our Lady of the Lake Church add our congratulations and heartfelt thanks for all that you do, Chris!

Community

The Collinwood Observer

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To submit a story, go to www.collinwoodobserver.com, click on Member Center, sign in, click on Submit Story, and start writing.

Next deadline: January 25, 2015. You can mail your stories to the Collinwood Observer office at 650 E. 185th Street, Cleveland, OH 44119.

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Ugly Sweater Party



The night's big winner!

by Julia DiBaggio
On December 13, 2014 Santa Claus joined over 200 Collinwood residents for breakfast at Villa Angela-St. Joseph in partnership with Northeast Shores. The VASJ cafeteria was packed with the largest turnout ever for this event. Over 75 families came out for an amazing breakfast donated by Gus' Diner 185. The children enjoyed crafts, games, story time, and of course, pictures with Santa. If you thought the morning couldn't get any better, the Cleveland Police Foundation and 5th District Police Officer's came out to the event and brought coloring books, badges, and Mitchell's Ice Cream. This holiday season, Northeast Shores is thankful for having so many partners dedicated to making these family events memorable.

Get Ready to Taste the Neighborhood

by Julia DiBaggio
Save the Date for this year's Taste the Neighborhood, February 17, 2015 at the Lithuanian Hall. Join Northeast Shores to sample foods from our neighborhood's many restaurants and eateries. From ribs and wings, to sausage to soup, there is something for everyone.
North Collinwood is a fantastic place to live because of the people. That is why every year we recognize the outstanding residents, neighborhood associations, businesses, and investments from the past year that have improved the quality of life for residents in North Collinwood. If you

would like make a nomination for any of the above categories, please do so by January 24, 2014.
To purchase tickets, or for additional information, contact Julia DiBaggio at 216-481-7660 or jdibaggio@northeastshores.org



Enjoying Collinwood flavor.



Friends and neighbors catch up.

Become a Member

by Carly Marginian
Mark your calendar for Northeast Shores' Hey you! yeah you! It's a new year and membership enrollment with Northeast Shores Development Corporation is upon us! For a small membership fee, not only will you receive information about the latest events happening in the neighborhood, but you will also receive specials from local merchants that are only available to members of Northeast Shores. But wait! There's more!
Did you know Northeast Shores competes with over 30 community development corporations in Cleveland for funding. A strong Northeast Shores membership base shows a committed neighborhood to these funders, and lessens the burden of competing for the shrinking pool of public funds.
Not only does your membership help when it comes to funding. But your presence in our community contributes to the positive character and well-being of our neighborhood. If you are interested in participating in our efforts to make North Collinwood a better community, please complete the Membership Form and mail it to the Northeast Shores office along with your membership fee, which is a tax deductible donation.

Third Time's the Charm



by Carly Marginian
Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, get ready to jump for joy! Northeast Shores is proud to announce that the LaSalle Theater has finally been awarded tax credits through the State of Ohio!
John Kuntz, from The Plain Dealer, writes: "In Cleveland's Collinwood neighborhood, Northeast Shores Development Corp. finally won \$250,000 from the state for an overhaul of the LaSalle Theatre on East 185th Street. It was the nonprofit neighborhood group's third attempt to secure credits for that project.
'I've been pretty pregnant for over a year now,' Brian Friedman, the group's executive director, said of his repeat applications for an award. 'So now, I get to induce labor.'
The credits bring Northeast Shores close to a \$3.2 million funding goal for the project, which will transform the vacant theater into a performance and productions event space with four storefronts on the street and five apartments upstairs. Construction could start next year, and the restored venue might open in early 2016."



Community

Collinwood Branch Library Programs

by Monique Christian-Long
January Programs at the Collinwood Branch Library
Dream Big Like Me Contest Tuesday, January 20, 2015 3:30 p.m.
Teens 13-19 years old create a 1 to 2 minute video to display how they will continue to Dr. King's dream of equality for all. 4 Winners will be chosen to receive a Kindle Fire HD tablet and given an opportunity to perform.
America Reads FREE After School Tutoring
Students in K-8 can get assistance with their homework. College students from Cleveland State University assist with any subject and/or research project. Mondays-
Thursdays from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Resumes January 5, 2015.
Kids Café Snack Program- Resumes January 5, 2015
The Cleveland Foodbank in collaboration with the Cleveland Public Library offers FREE after school meals for ages 18 and under. Monday-Friday from 3:30-4:30 p.m.
FREE GED Classes – Resumes January 26, 2015
The GED class will have two sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please contact 216-371-7138 or visit www.tri-c.edu/ged for more information on registration and enrollment.

Welcome to the Collinwood Health Center

by Karen Butler
Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services (NEON) invites you to utilize the services of the Collinwood Health located at 15322 St. Clair Avenue. We offer a dedicated team of caring professionals and a wide array of health care services to meet the needs of you and your family. Our hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m, Monday through Friday with night and weekend hours offered at the Hough Health Center. Please call us at 216-851-1500 to make an appointment.
Established in 1967, NEON is one of the oldest and largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) in the country with seven locations, a dental van and multiple outreach sites including nursing homes and schools. Prevention and early detection are the cornerstones of NEON's service delivery model.
NEON provides affordable, high-quality primary care services to the uninsured as well as to individuals and families with insurance coverage. "Our mission is to enhance the quality of life of Northeast Ohio residents by providing comprehensive and excellent health care in a culturally sensitive and caring environment," stated Mr. Willie F. Austin, NEON's President and CEO.
NEON accepts a number of payment arrangements for services including Medicare and Medicaid. Managed Care Plans include CareSource, Buckeye Health Plan, UnitedHealthcare, Molina Healthcare, and Paramount. NEON also accepts Medical Mutual of Ohio, Anthem BC/BS, CIGNA and other commercial insurance plans. Services are also available on a sliding fee scale, based on income and family size.

Recreating Our Village

by Monique Christian-Long
We have all heard the saying that it takes a village to raise a child. Here in Cleveland the young professionals have taken this mantra to heart. Therefore, demonstrating this by creating programs that relevantly impact our city's youth. The contribution of the current professionals into the future generations is revamping the village that is raising our children and deserves acknowledgement.
The Cleveland Public Library recently hosted an event called Man Up, Cleveland to equip and empower young men to become our future leaders. Attendees were from schools all over the city including Shaw High School, Ginn Academy, Martin Luther King, Mary M Bethune, Franklin D Roosevelt Academy and Paul Revere, thanks to Mr. Banks of the Reading RAMM organization. These young men were able to learn financial responsibility; how to plan for goals; the importance of positively communicating; how to deal with stress and the importance of making good choices.
The guest speaker for the afternoon was Maurice Clarett formerly of the Ohio State Buckeyes Football Team. After viewing the documentary The Youngstown Boys, Erica Marks, the creator of Man Up, Cleveland was moved by his life story. Claret coming from a similar background; becoming a success; making mistakes and then returning to school was the perfect candidate to impact these young men.
Stephanie Wahome started the annual
Girls Health Summit in 2011 inspired by her mentees: Chanda Bynum, Martinique Mims, Angeleece Williams and Earlaina Kemp. The purpose is to connect young women with local resources that promote mental, emotional, physical and academic health. This year they held a panel of professional women who exhibited different areas of success Mikhaela Lashawn, a performer; Stephanie Howse, a politician; and Dr. Tyfiani Monford-Dent, a medical professional. The attendees were able to ask the panelist questions about their journey to success. They emphasized the importance of perseverance, individuality and mentorship.
"You are our future, if we don't sow into you we won't have one," Mikhaela Lashawn. The panelists were able to see themselves in the young women they were speaking to. The value of the young ladies was promoted and accentuated allowing their own potential to be revealed.
The success of such programs rests on the backs of countless volunteers and community organizations. It is because of their investments that our young people are able to be reached. Our community wants to say Thank You to: My COM, The Neighborhood Leadership Initiative, and Cuyahoga Board of Health, The Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, The Free Medical Clinic, MANSA Consulting, and Cleveland Shambhala Meditation Center, Making a Difference Consulting, RAMM Academy and the Cuyahoga Fatherhood Initiative.

Children's Program at Memorial-Nottingham Library

by Jeanne Coppola
Marshmallow Snow: Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 3:30 p.m.
Just for kids. If you want to have a great time, and make a winter wonderland, with snowmen, then come to the library and have lots of fun by using marshmallows and pretzel sticks to build a snowy sculpture.

Euclid Beach Blast 2015 Planning Kick Off Meeting!

by Stephen Love
It may only be January, but the Euclid Beach Blast is ready to kick off planning this year's event in full force! Last month, volunteers from last year's Euclid Beach Blast had an awesome brainstorm meeting, providing plenty of feedback, criticism and ideas to help make this year's Blast North Collinwood's premiere event on the Lakefront.
So please be sure to mark your calendars and/or RSVP on facebook for Wednesday, January 14, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Collinwood Rec Center (16300 Lakeshore Blvd. Cleveland 44110) for the Euclid Beach Blast 2015 kickoff planning meeting. We'll even throw in some delicious pizza and pop just for showing up...can't beat that right?
Whether you came to the volunteer brainstorming meeting, volunteered at the Euclid Beach Blast, came to the event last summer or just want to get involved in your community, we would love to have you join us!
Let's ring in the new year with a BLAST! For more information, contact: Stephen Love, Euclid Beach Blast Coordinator at euclidbeachblast@gmail.com or 216-571-0685
Don't forget to mark your calendars for Saturday, August 1, 2015 for the 6th Annual Euclid Beach Blast!
Also, if you have any pictures or videos from Euclid Beach Blast 2014, please email us or post them directly to facebook.



Thank you to a core group of fantastic Blast! volunteers who are already brainstorming ideas to make Saturday, August 1st, 2015 the best Blast yet!

Collinwood Student Pens Original Play

by Michael Scott
A Collinwood High School senior's play "From a Mess to a Message" will be presented at the school in January.
Drama Club advisor and teacher Coyan Smith said senior Johnathan Smith wrote the play and will co-direct both performances, 7:00 p.m. Friday, January 16, 2015 and 1:00 p.m. Saturday, January 17, 2015.
Admission to the play is free, but donations will be accepted at the door.
The cast includes high school students Kallynn Coleman, Deandre Watkins, Rob-

ert Moore, Timothy Griffin, Charlie Eppinger, Tahlia Eskridge, Talbert Williams, and Antonaie Taylor.
This play is about an African American family who deals with some of life's important issues, Coyan Smith said.
"Will this family survive when some of the family secrets are revealed, or will it fall apart?" she said in an email describing the play.
Collinwood High School is at 15210 Saint Clair Avenue, Cleveland.

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"You need surgery." Words no one wants to hear, but there is a good chance we will all need surgery of some kind during our lifetime. For those with other health problems, the likelihood may increase and the risk certainly does. This is particularly true for people with liver disease, including cirrhosis — a slowly progressive disease in which healthy liver tissue is replaced with scar tissue, eventually preventing the liver from functioning properly.



Charles Winans, MD

Charles Winans, MD, a Cleveland Clinic abdominal organ transplant surgeon, also has an interest in general surgery for high-risk patients, including those with liver disease. He performs surgery on these high-risk patients at Cleveland Clinic main campus and Euclid Hospital.

"Cirrhotic patients develop hernias, for example, due to the accumulation of ascites, or fluid in the belly," says Dr. Winans. "A construction worker may develop a hernia from straining due to constant heavy lifting. In those with cirrhosis, constant pressure from the fluid can cause a hernia." Medication and minimally invasive procedures may help in some cases. However, when surgery is needed, there are added complications for cirrhotic patients. Common procedures like removal of the gallbladder are harder, and entail greater risk both during the operation and recovery. Dr. Winans often is called in when internists or general surgeons recognize the situation is more complex.

"It's important for referring physicians and patients to be aware that this highly specialized level of surgical care — for conditions that can often go undiagnosed or may be considered untreatable — is available right here in the community," says Dr. Winans. "Euclid Hospital offers innumerable conveniences to patients and family members along with the extremely high level of care for which Cleveland Clinic is known."

For more information about Euclid Hospital, visit euclidhospital.org. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Winans, call 216.692.1500.

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OUR LADY OF THE LAKE SCHOOL

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Five Years as Our Lady of the Lake Looking Back and Looking Forward



by Fr. Joe Fortuna

As we begin the new year, we also begin planning for another important milestone, the 5-year anniversary of Our Lady of the Lake Parish. We'll begin our year-long celebration in February, and look forward to sharing each month with parishioners new and old, visitors, friends and the community. We can't help but look back at how far we've come, reflecting on the challenges we've faced together and the many good things that have happened along the way.

Our school has grown in wonderful ways, with new families, new programs and offerings, and new technology. We've been so fortunate to maintain small classes and personal attention, while also welcoming these wonderful new students who have enriched our school and our community. We have also been delighted to welcome our new teachers, and the array of resources they bring, from the early childhood program to languages and the arts. Quality Catholic education remains a vital mission of Our Lady of the Lake Parish. We are proud to be maintaining our more than 80-year history, and to be able to provide such a valuable resource to the community.

Our parish has also grown and flour-

ished in new ways. We have explored exciting ideas, like the possible launch of a Grameen Bank initiative, the introduction of community Prayer Walks, support of the new Euclid-Collinwood community building network, our first community concert on the rectory lawn, even a new Welcoming Ministry, that lets us reach out to new parishioners and visitors, and help them feel at home here at Our Lady of the Lake.

There's so much more to do. Our Hunger Ministry, prayer groups, Genesis for our senior members and youth ministry for our young ones, all these and more form the heart of our parish, and we look forward to seeing them grow in the coming year. Thanks to our thoughtful and engaged Parish Council, we have been able to focus on four core mission areas that will guide us in the months to come: Family Ministry, Faith Formation, Celebration of the Sacraments, and Community. These are all areas in which we can continue to be an anchor and a resource in our community, grow in faith together, and welcome and support our families and our neighbors.

This is going to be an exciting year at Our Lady of the Lake. We look forward to making the journey together.

An Exciting New Year at Our Lady of the Lake School

by Principal, Rita Kingsbury

We look forward with anticipation to this coming New Year at Our Lady of the Lake School as we continue to offer our families a faith centered, quality educational program. Our commitment to STEM education is exemplified by the addition of over one hundred Chromebooks using Google Apps for Education. Many of these devices will be in the hands of our seventh and eighth graders, but we have also purchased enough for several to be placed in each classroom. Our iPad initiative continues to flourish in our fifth and sixth grades, with an extra classroom set used throughout our school. Even our Preschoolers have access to iPads! Our service learning program has been a wonderful addition in our building. We have a dedicated space for children to come and explore topics and opportunities

for service in our community and across the globe. This type of learning adds a new dimension to service possibilities. Our young people not only explore ways in which to help others, but also learn why problems exist in society, offering a much more systemic approach. With the help of a grant from the Talty Foundation, we look forward to more service learning opportunities, along with programming for our distance learning lab. We look forward to a bright future and New Year at Our Lady of the Lake as we nurture our children's spiritual life, along with expanding minds through our ever-growing technology initiative. Know that we will keep our Euclid community in our prayers through the remainder of this year and we ask you to keep us in yours.



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Save the Date for Life on the Lake!



Our Lady of the Lake's biggest fundraiser is coming up on February 7, 2015, and it looks like this year's party is going to be another great success. Last year, Life on the Lake: Races and Raffles raised more than \$38,000 to provide technology and enrichment funds for Our Lady of the Lake School. Thanks to this generous support, the school has been able to buy new Chromebooks, add new Spanish Language curriculum, introduce a Distance Learning Lab and much more. Enhancing the learning experience for our students and families is one of the important ways we support the mission of providing quality Catholic education in our community. And we couldn't do it without the help of all of our wonderful sponsors, donors, volunteers and supporters.

If you'd like to place an ad in our popular program, consider a sponsorship or buy tickets for the event, there's still time! It all happens February 7, 2015 from 5:30 p.m. to midnight, at the Irish American Club in Euclid. You can get more information by contacting Ann Kilroy at kilroy2012@roadrunner.com, or by visiting our Life on the Lake facebook page for complete forms and information.

Celebrating and Supporting Families



In a year in which Pope Francis has asked for conversation about families, Our Lady of the Lake will be going one step farther. We are creating opportunities to bring families together, and to talk about some of the things that matter most to us.

One opportunity will take place on Sunday, February 15th, when we'll host a family retreat that will offer our families support and community. We are encouraging families with elementary aged school children to worship at the noon Mass that day. But even if they are unable to do so,

we are inviting them to join us for a meal immediately afterward in the Church hall.

After the meal, the children will join in some fun supervised activities, while the parents and other adults will be invited to take time for quiet reflection on the scriptures of the upcoming Lenten season and some personal conversation with each other about the meaning of those scriptures for them, and their families.

This tried and true method of reflecting on and sharing about the scriptures has been a blessing for those who have tried it twice here in the past year, and we are convinced it will be a blessing for those who join together that day. It's a wonderful opportunity for parents and other adults to carve out quiet time and space and engage one another on an adult level. Everyone, parishioners and non-parishioners alike, is welcome. Even though walk-ins are also welcome, it would be great if you could let us know in advance that you are coming, preferably by February 1. We look forward to seeing you there.

To register for the Family Retreat, call Our Lady of the Lake Rectory at (216) 486-0850 or feel free to email Fr. Joe directly at joe@ourladyofthelakeoh.org.



Join us for Catholic Schools Week at one of our Open House times:
Jan. 25
11:00am-2:00pm
Jan 27
5:00-7:00pm
Tours, registration information and more. All are welcome!



St. Jerome Church

Collinwood's Catholic School

15000 Lakeshore Blvd. Cleveland, OH 44110



St. Jerome Church

Founded 1919

Upcoming Parish and School Events

January 3 & 4 - Food Pantry Collection After Weekend Masses

January 5 - School Resumes Following Winter Break

January 18 to 25 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 19 - No School in Honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 20 - PTU Meeting at 6 pm

January 21 to 23 - Respect Life Trip to Washington, D.C.

January 25, Sunday, - St.. Jerome School Open House 11 am to 1 pm

Come to visit Collinwood's ONLY Catholic School

January 26 to January 30 - Catholic Schools Week

January 30 - All School Mass — 8:30 am

Every Life is a Gift

Our belief is that every human life is sacred from conception to natural death. For the 22nd year, members and friends of St. Jerome's Respect Life ministry plan to attend the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. On Thursday, January 22, 2015, participants will march up Constitution Avenue to the United States Supreme Court building on Capitol Hill.

The event is televised in its entirety on EWTN.

Please call the parish office if you would like more information.

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St. Jerome School

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Mass Schedule

Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.

Saturday Evening Vigil: 4 p.m.

Sun: 10 a.m.

A Lesson Learned From Aluminum Foil



by Monica Marolt

A piece of aluminum foil assisted the second grade children at St. Jerome School in a two-fold manner to learn about light. The children discovered the true meaning of Christmas and built critical thinking skills when dealing with electricity.

During our faith-building Religion lesson in second grade, we learned about people known as Saints. As a class, we listened and learned about Santa Claus through the story of St. Nicholas and his charitable ways. The children created an aluminum shoe to leave on their desks overnight only to discover the next day a special Sheppard's staff (candy cane) was in their handmade shoe. The children enjoyed their treat as they discussed the symbolism and their excitement of receiving one and how we should feel more excited about helping others. This led to creating



colorful holiday placemats that were given to a local nursing home to light up the client's holiday season. We read and learned about St. Lucia, patron of vision and light. The children came to know that through her strong conviction to faith, even though her eyes were removed, she never lost the light or vision of God. The children revealed to each other that no matter what happens physically, our light, vision, or faith comes from within ourselves and should not be present only at Christmastime, but throughout the whole year.

As we discovered our light from within, we also made on-hand discoveries about electricity. The children studied how electricity basically works, spoke about electric currents, recognized positive and negative charges and connections, identified strong conductors such as metals and water, and

picture-matched household items that require electricity. They conducted an experiment that employed their critical thinking skills when handed a C battery, a small light bulb, and a piece of aluminum foil. While working in small groups, the children had to create a way to use these items to turn on their light bulbs. The excitement grew as one-by-one the children were able to make their light bulbs flash. Then the groups combined the lights and power sources to see how bright their lights would shine and explained why. Yet, the validation of understanding came when several of the children made the connection and stated, "Ms. M., just like the light bulbs, when we become stronger in faith we shine brighter." Connections like these are truly electrifying. It is what sets St. Jerome's apart from the rest.

V Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

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2014 THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS 2014



THE YEAR 2014 got off to an amazing start in the Viking Village as the annual Founders Day Celebration in January featured the distribution of more than \$250,000 in scholarships to some 100 deserving VASJ students.



THE VASJ BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM competed in the program's 10th state championship, bringing home the state runner-up trophy in a classic D-III final that came down to the final buzzer.

Look At Us Now!



A SPECTACULAR SUMMER EVENT showed off the "new" Viking Village, including numerous upgrades and improvements throughout the venerable building at East 185th Street and Lakeshore Boulevard building. The transformation included a \$250,000 gymnasium remodeling, complete with new state-of-the-art bleachers. The school chapel was rechristened the Founders Chapel, honoring the founders of the school's sponsoring religious orders, the Marianists and the Ursuline Sisters. In addition, the upstairs library became The Villa Angela Heritage Room and now serves as a multipurpose room for meetings and special events. Other improvements included repainted hallways, remodeled restrooms and new cabinetry in the third-floor chemistry lab.



FUNDRAISING RECORDS WERE BROKEN at VASJ's Fourth Annual Classic Mixer, held in April. The school netted \$250,000 after all expenses were paid, making it the most successful fundraising event in the history of the school.



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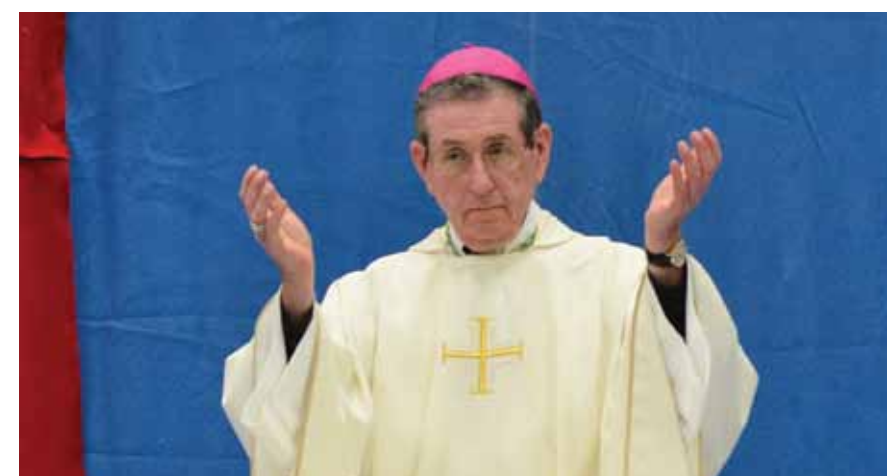


COLLEGE BOUND: For the third consecutive year, 100 percent of VASJ's graduating seniors headed to college. Members of the Class of 2014 earned an average of \$121,000 each in college scholarships.



VASJ CHEERLEADERS TOOK FIRST PLACE in the OHSAA Division IV Mount Championship held at Bowling Green State University in March. The Lady Viking cheerleaders competed against squads from throughout the state.

Bishop Lennon celebrates VASJ's Opening Mass



THERE WAS MUCH TO CELEBRATE at the start of the 2014-15 school year at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School – a summer filled with facility updates and renovations, including the new gym; an enrollment of 420, the highest it has been in years; a growing faculty and staff which includes several alums, and a new year filled with promise. For these reasons and more, the entire VASJ community came together on Thursday, August 28, as Bishop Richard Lennon celebrated the school's Opening Mass.



CHEF JAMES MAJOR '90, recent winner of the Food Network's reality TV show "Chopped," visited culinary arts classes at his alma mater. Major, executive chef for the Cincinnati Reds, prepared one of his winning dishes for students.



DON '70 AND MARY JO DAILEY were formally thanked by VASJ students during a special Mass in the school gymnasium in December. It is through the Daileys' generosity that the "new" gym was made possible.



VASJ VOLUNTEER CHRIS McGRATH '69 was recognized as the 2014 Community Service Award honoree. The program sponsored by Euclid Hospital highlighted McGrath's deep devotion to the Collinwood-Euclid community.

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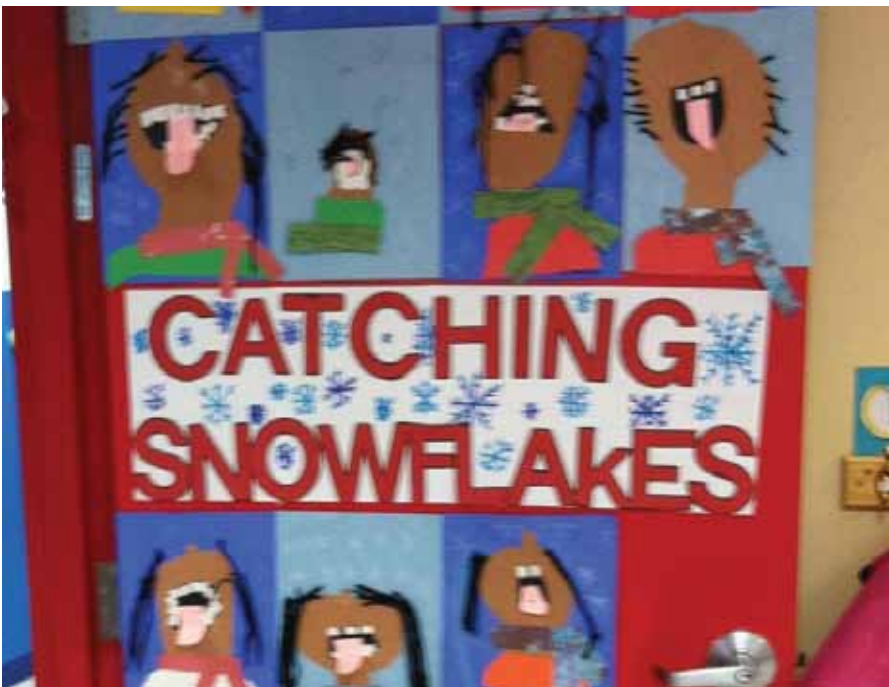
Winter Art Walk

Imagine Bella hosted a Winter Art Walk on the evening of December 16th. Members of the Choir club sang carols and other songs led by Ms. Michelle Ianni, Imagine Bella Music Teacher, while families enjoyed hot cocoa in the cafeteria. Classroom doors where decorated for the winter door contest and families created holiday crafts with their students. Staff and students also deco-

rated windows with artificial snow and the Holiday Gift Shop was open through the event. Ms. BreAnne Shriver, Imagine Bella Art Teacher, displayed student artwork throughout the building. Teachers updated families about student progress and Winter Break packets. Imagine Bella is looking forward to hosting families for another event in February.



First Grade Teachers Ms. Amanda Shope and Mrs. Mia Hall create holiday crafts with families and students



First Grade Teachers Ms. Amanda Shope and Mrs. Mia Hall create holiday crafts with families and students



Winter Door Winner- Ms. Billingsley's 2nd Grade, "Staching through the snow"



Beautiful windows and doors decorated for the Winter Art Walk



Winter Door Winner- Ms. Westfall's Polar Express Library Door

Upcoming Dates

Thursday, January 15, 2015 | Quarter 2 Ends

Friday, January 16, 2015 | No school

Monday, January 19, 2015 | No school

Tuesday, January 13, 2015 | PTA Meeting, 8:30 am, Cafeteria

Tuesday, January 20 | Quarter 3 Begins

January 20-23 | Evening Conferences

February 2-6, 2015 | Scholastic Book Fair

Friday, February 13, 2015 | No school

Monday, February 16, 2015 | No school

Monday, February 23, 2015 | Performance Based Assessment Window Begins (Grades 3-5 Math and Grades 4-5 ELA)

PTA Meeting Update

Imagine Bella PTA is meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in the cafeteria. The PTA is discussing planning the Spring Fundraiser, Teacher Appreciation Week, Winter Awards Ceremony, and Spring School Beautification Project.

Imagine Bella is working towards becoming a National Blue Ribbon School and seeking parent volunteers through the PTA and other projects to make it happen!

Academic Growth at Imagine Bella

Check out Imagine Bella's recent academic growth!

Highest Growth in Students At or Above Benchmark (From Fall to Mid-Term): Imagine Bella (Increased by 14%)

All students in grades K-5 take Quarterly STAR Benchmark Assessments in both Reading and Math. Imagine Bella's scores were compared to 16 other Ohio Imagine Schools and results are below.

Mid-Term STAR Math Awards:

Mid-Term STAR Reading Awards

Highest Learning Gain: Imagine Bella (1.08)

Highest % of Students At or Above Benchmark: Imagine Bella (46%)

Congratulations to all the students, teachers, and families for their hard work! Imagine Bella still has a long way to go to ensure all of students are at benchmark in both reading and math. Imagine Bella will continue to push students towards success!



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Faith

Collinwood Neighborhood Catholic Ministries Gives Gift of Presence



Trena Richardson Antoinette Robinson meet at the CNCM House to knit lap robes for the elderly

by Sr. Madeline Muller

Every Friday afternoon, under the instruction of Kim Reynolds and Antoinette Robinson, several ladies meet at the Collinwood Neighborhood Catholic Ministries (CNCM) House (corner of Royal and St. Clair) to knit and crochet lap robes for residents of area retirement homes. According to Sr. Felicia Petruziello, CSJ, “This program not only provides an opportunity to build community among the ladies but also gives them a chance to be of service to the elderly in our community”.

Collinwood residents meet on Saturday morning every other week for seven sessions in two cycles at the CNCM House. Under the guidance of Mr. William Denihan and Mr. Douglas Rothschild, they learn to express themselves in creative ways through painting. Both men do this because they love to paint and want to share their joy. At the close of class Sr. Joan Gallagher, CSA hears “the sounds of joy as the finished paintings are displayed.

An expungement clinic is offered at the CNCM House in the spring and in the fall. Persons who may have up to two misdemeanors or one minor felony can get these crimes erased or expunged from his or her criminal record. Sr. Margaret Hartman, SND and has arranged for lawyers from the Cuyahoga County Public Defender’s Office to conduct the clinics. Sr. Mary Ellen Brinovec, OSU, executive director, states that “there have been over 200 calls inquiring about the fall expungement clinic. Clearly there is a need for this service.”

Sr. Mary Ann Baran, SND visits residents of the Euclid Beach Club Apartments three days a week and helps with the

community supper at Saint Mary’s Church twice a month. “My ministry is a ministry of being present and listening/being with folks, most of whom are elderly and poor.”

At the other end of the age spectrum, Sr. Mary Ellen Brinovec, OSU offers doula services to those Collinwood High School students who choose to be assisted. These services include doctor visits, labor and delivery. She states that “it has been very gratifying to be able to help in the birth of babies and to assist young moms with their nutrition and infant care. All of the families helped have been very grateful for the extra TLC they have received from their Doula.”

- According to Sr. Madeline Muller, HM, program developer, CNCM plans to establish the following new programs:
- “Cooking for Kids” will help young mothers, children and teens, learn ways to prepare healthy, tasty and nutritious meals.
- Improvisational Drama Workshops will help teens learn positive ways to resolve conflicts and in turn influence their peers.
- Drumming for Peace will empower the staff of Apples of Gold Child Care train children and eventually their parents to be agents of peace through drumming. Also, the staff of Mellinia Senior Centers will train residents and eventually their families to improve their communication skills through drumming.
- Computer drop-in Center will give Collinwood residents the opportunity to learn computer skills and resume writing when they drop into the CNCM House.

Collinwood Neighborhood Catholic Ministries was established as a result of the Women with Spirit exhibit and convocations that began in 2010. During the past two and a half years they have worked very hard to get to know the people of Collinwood, to be known by them, to listen, learn and respond to the unmet needs of Collinwood citizens

Are You Looking for Faith in 2015?

by Elva Brodnick

Hope this finds you all well, after all the hustle & bustle of this past holiday season!

Churches all over this Collinwood neighborhood of ours, celebrated Christmas in so many unique ways. Hopefully, we met you somewhere. (Trees, lights, angels - and kids; how could we not enjoy? How did you set up for Santa, if you were lucky enough to have kids available to show you how?)

If you’re in search of a congregation, you’re invited, in this 2015, to visit and explore all our many faiths here in the community. Looking for a new path for yourself, or thinking about coming back to an old faith, somewhere in the neighborhood may well be a congregation that fits. (If you look back at our list of congregations last issue, you may have been surprised at just how varied we are.) Try something, and see where it leads you - you may be surprised! If you’re looking for a church, do visit our neighborhood churches, watch here for news of what everyone’s doing, and be part of “Faith in Collinwood”.

Talking about neighborhood congregations, are you part of CAPA? All faith organizations here in the Collinwood community, should consider joining our Collinwood Area Pastoral Association (CAPA). By pooling our resources, we hope to make us all stronger - and by supporting each other, build faith in Collinwood. CAPA shows promise of becoming a wonderful benefit and support to not just each other’s congregations, but to our Collinwood community as well. (Those of you who have come to one of our meetings, know how

lively they are. If you haven’t come - we’ve missed you, and want to see you there.)

Our recent December 11th meeting (thanks to the Cleveland Food Bank for the meeting space) was a lively group, with everyone excited about being able to work together for positive change. By our spring meeting (date and place not set yet - so do make sure you’re on our contact list, so we can let you know), we will have plans in place to begin with.

If you haven’t been to a meeting, we invite you to join us. Just contact Mary Louise Daley at Councilman Polensek’s office ((216) 664-4236 or via email at mdaley@clevelandcitycouncil.org) and let us know how to reach you. (Also - if you’ve already been to a meeting, appreciate it if you’d also contact Mary Louise, just to verify your contact info as well. Just to be sure we can contact you! Thanks!)

Now about this column. Here’s your chance to introduce yourself to your neighbors! Tell your neighbors about yourself - your history, what you’re doing - and your faith. Who are you? Is there news about your congregation? Are you celebrating something special? Let fellow Collinwood neighbors know you’re here!

Until then, we can all work for peace. Peace within ourselves, peace with our neighbors; it has to start with all of us. Not just at Christmas, but everyday, in every - even small - way we can.

And enjoy!

Rev Elva Brodnick
carrollsell@gmail.com

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