

The Collinwood Observer

Proud Member of the Observer Media Family of Community-Owned and Written Newspapers & Websites

Volume 10 • Issue 12

December 2018

Cooking with Cops Finals



We got the camera crews in the kitchen and on the main stage, TV20 reporting, and 5 excited teams of youth, officers and Tri-C culinary students. Teams have 45 minutes to create their creations from a host of ingredients. This is legit ... Chopped Kids

Cleveland style!!

Program started with a small grant in Collinwood from Cleveland Neighborhood Progress and goes citywide with support from the Cleveland Police Foundation, Tri-C, Cleveland Metropolitan Schools and others. Proud we launched this program at Collinwood Nottingham Villages Development and the Five Pointes Community Center. Congrats to everyone but rooting for Hannah Gibbons School in Nottingham and Wade Park School.

Inquiry-Based Learning at Oliver H. Perry



by Brittani Irvin

Oliver H. Perry is so excited about our shift towards inquiry-based learning. Our fourth and fifth grade classes participate in weekly mini-courses with our community partners, Center for Arts-Inspired Learning and GigaLearn. Students had the option of photography, screenprinting or Gamebot for a ten week mini-course during the school day. In addition to mini-

courses, students in all grades are creating questions about what makes them curious and teachers are utilizing those questions to guide instruction. We are looking forward to our move into a new building in January. In our new building, we have a project lab on the third floor and collaborative learning spaces on each floor to take our inquiries to the next level. Enroll your child today!

Winter Break HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

FREE LUNCH & FUN

FOR KIDS & TEENS

WHERE FIVE POINTS COMMUNITY CENTER
813 East 152nd Street
Cleveland, OH 44110

WHAT

- Hot lunch
- Games and entertainment
- Arts and crafts
- Holiday gifts

DATES Wednesday, December 26 - Friday, December 28

TIME 11:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Space is limited. Register now.
To RSVP or for more info, call 216-268-2138.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Brought to you by
Greater Collinwood Development Corporation
Formerly Collinwood & Nottingham Villages Development Corporation

This event is FREE
****Registration Required****
santacometocollinwood.eventbrite.com

When: Saturday, December 15, 2018
9am to Noon

Where: Slovenian Home, 15810 Holmes Avenue,
Cleveland, OH 44110

Join us for crafts, games and pictures with Santa!
Food donated by Gus's Diner 185

For more information
contact: Kristian Hunter
at 216-268-2138

VENUE IS NOT ADA ACCESSIBLE

Community

You’re invited to Family Math Game Night

by Sharon Kidd-Lewis

You are cordially invited to attend New Tech Collinwood’s Family Math Game Night on Wednesday, December 19, 2018 from 3:00-5:00pm. The event will be held in the multi-purpose room.

Family Math Game Night will promote interest and mastery math, as well as, aid in building strong family-school partnerships. Students and families will participate in fun and educational math games that will reinforce what is taught in the class room. This event will highlight our school math curriculum and standards. Parents will have an opportunity to learn first-hand more about the school’s current math curriculum and how they can be of support to their child throughout this learning process.

Families will participate in games that

will focus on multi-step equations. Math standard a.rei.1 explains Explain each step in solving a simple equation as following from the equality of numbers asserted at the previous step, starting from the assumption that the original equation has a solution. Construct a viable argument to justify a solution method.

We will also solve “real world: math problems, practice linear equations and complete math riddles. Families will also learn math techniques that can be used during out-of-school time to help scholars improve their overall math understanding.

This is a family friendly event and open to all families in the Collinwood community! Follow us on Instagram @NewTech-Collinwood for event updates and school information!

We look forward to learning with you!

Public Input Needed for Euclid Creek Watershed Plan

by Elizabeth Hiser

Public input is needed to help update a watershed plan for the Euclid Creek watershed. A watershed plan is a comprehensive plan for achieving water resource goals for a geographically defined watershed. The Euclid Creek Watershed encompasses 23.3 square miles in northeastern Cuyahoga County and a part of Lake County. It covers portions of 12 communities including Beachwood, Cleveland, Euclid, Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Mayfield, Mayfield Heights, Pepper Pike, Richmond Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid, and Willoughby Hills. Euclid Creek watershed includes 40+ miles of stream, 30 miles of which is open channel and 10 miles of which is culverted or buried, as far as 8 miles away from the Creek’s confluence with Lake Erie, our source of drinking water, at Wildwood Park in Cleveland. The watershed is nearly 85 percent developed. Non-point source pollution challenges include stream sedimentation / siltation, habitat alterations, stream ditching or channelizing, and other flow regime alterations stemming from high levels of impervious cover such as roads, driveways, and rooftops. Updates to this plan are led by Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District with funding from Euclid Creek Watershed Council and Friends of Euclid Creek through a Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District grant.

We are seeking input on the following:

- Eroding sections of streams
- Areas for improved management of stormwater and flooding
- Areas to protect for public greenspace and wildlife habitat
- Anyone can provide feedback by attending an open house or emailing input to ehiser@cuyahogawcd.org.

Open houses are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. with a short presentation at 7:00 pm.

Thursday, December 6, 2018 Mayfield Library 500 SOM Center Rd Mayfield, Oh 44143

Monday, December 10, 2018 Beachwood Community Center 25325 Fairmount Blvd Beachwood, Ohio 44122

Please RSVP by calling Elizabeth Hiser at 216-524-6580 x1002 or emailing ehiser@cuyahogawcd.org

As part of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency’s nonpoint source pollution control program, plans are being developed at the subwatershed level. These plans are called nine-element nonpoint source implementation strategy plans (NPS-IS Plans). Projects addressing erosion and water quality concerns need to be included in these plans to be eligible for some sources of federal funding such as grants awarded under the Clean Water Act S and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Major benefits of creating NPS-IS plans include 1) improved planning for watershed restoration and protection, 2) building consensus by collecting and analyzing data and information together, 3) identifying the most needed projects, and 4) developing grant-eligible projects with the components necessary for the greatest long-term benefits.

More info about the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency’s Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program is available here: <https://epa.ohio.gov/dsw/nps/index>. This page includes a list of all subwatersheds that currently have plans.

For more information, contact: Elizabeth Hiser Euclid Creek Watershed Program Manager Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District ehiser@cuyahogawcd.org 216-524-6580 x1002 cuyahogawcd.org

Community



2018 Winter Break Lunch Program

FIVE POINTS COMMUNITY CENTER
Join us for this awesome **FREE** holiday event!

Wednesday Dec 26	Thursday Dec 27	Friday Dec 28
		
Jill's Crafts 	David the Magician 	Jungle Terry 
Snacks 	Snacks 	Snacks 
Games 	Book Bonanza 	Holiday Gifts 

NEW TECH COLLINWOOD

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR FAMILY MATH GAME NIGHT

Wednesday, December 19, 2018
3:00-5:00PM
Multi-Purpose Room

Refreshments will be provided.

@NewTechCollinwood

PosterMyWall.com

“The holiday season is a time for storytelling, and whether you are hearing the story of a candela staying lit for more than a week, or a baby born in a barn without proper medical supervision, these stories often feature miracles.”
– Lemony Snicket



New Year, New You!

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Cuyahoga Community College

Metropolitan Campus 2900 Community College Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115

17/2308

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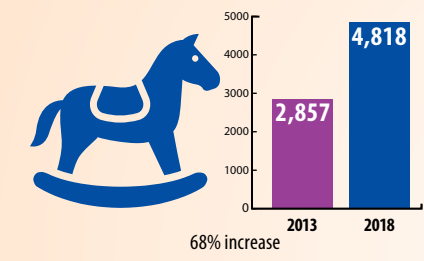


22460 LAKELAND BLVD. EUCLID OH 44132
DAUGHERTY@DAUGHERTYCONST.COM WWW.DAUGHERTYCONST.COM

CLEVELAND SCHOOLS PROGRESS


The Cleveland Metropolitan School District is improving under *The Cleveland Plan*

Increased Enrollment in High-Quality Preschool



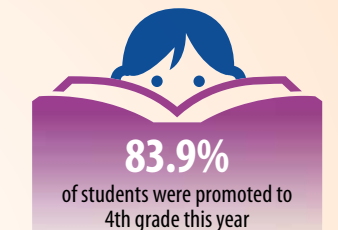
68% increase

K-3 Literacy Improvement



Ranked higher than 113 Ohio districts

Third Grade Reading Guarantee



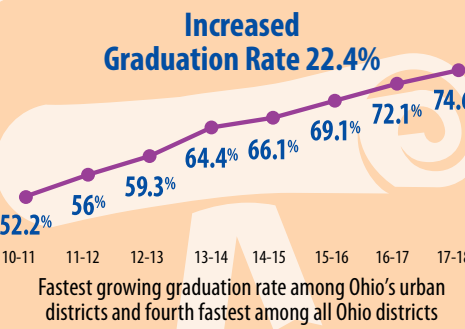
83.9% of students were promoted to 4th grade this year

4.3% increase

74.3% graduation rate for Hispanic Students

CMSD Hispanic students outpace their peers statewide by 0.7%

Increased Graduation Rate 22.4%

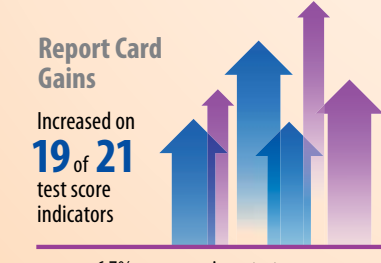


Fastest growing graduation rate among Ohio's urban districts and fourth fastest among all Ohio districts

75.2% graduation rate for African-American Students

CMSD African-American students outpace their peers statewide by 6.8%

Report Card Gains




Increased on 19 of 21 test score indicators

6.7% average gain on test scores

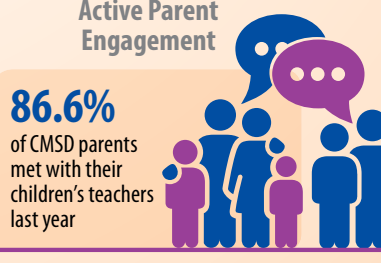
Reduction in Off-Track Attendance


22% fewer students missing more than 10 days in a school year over the last 3 years



Active Parent Engagement

86.6% of CMSD parents met with their children's teachers last year





ClevelandMetroSchools.org

Follow our progress @EricGordon_CEO

A CMSD Communications Publication – 9/27/18

Collinwood Rec Center

Rummage Sale will be on Monday, December 17th 2018. Anyone interested in having a table for this event to sell gently used treasures and other items for the holiday are able to rent tables. Also, donations of baked goods needed for the bake sale. ***See Front desk***

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 <p>Advent begins</p>	3 <p>Starting Hanukkah!</p>	4 	5 <p>MOVIE DAY "It's a Wonderful Life" (9am – 11am)</p>	6	7 <p>Feed the Brain (9am–10am)</p>	8 <p>MEDICARE DEADLINE It's The Last Day for open enrollment</p>
9	10	11 <p>Jannie's annual Christmas Luncheon Potluck Style (bring a covered dish) 1pm- 3pm</p>	12	13 <p>Cleveland EMS Free Screenings, BP, Cholesterol & Glucose (1pm–2:30pm)</p>	14 <p>Walking Club Drawing (7am-10am) and Christmas Party (11am–1pm)</p>	15
16	17 <p>RUMMAGE SALE (4pm–7pm) Tables available *See front desk *</p>	18	19 <p>Senior Fitness Class Xmas Gift Exchange Game Style Bring \$5 unisex wrapped gift Bowing Outing (11:30am until)</p>	20	21	22 <p>SUPER SATURDAY Last Saturday before Xmas to target last minute shoppers</p>
23	24 <p>Thank the Naughty Dearest Merry Christmas</p>	25 <p>25 CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY</p>	26 <p>KWANZAA starts</p>	27 <p>NO Walking Club (Dec 26th 2018 til Jan 2nd 2019)</p>	28 	29
30 	31 <p>NEW YEAR'S EVE</p>					

Collinwood Recreation Center Older Adult Calendar
 16300 Lakeshore Boulevard Cleveland OH 44110

Phone: 216-420-8323

Donations gratefully received

Contact Us at
216/420-8323

**Collinwood's
RUMMAGE
Sale**

*****Cash Only*****

WEDNESDAY
December 17th 2018
(4PM - 7PM)

Collinwood Recreation Center
16300 Lakeshore Boulevard

Fundraising proceeds
benefiting Collinwood Senior
Fitness Program and it's
Operational Costs

Exhibitor/Vendor Tables available – Space is limited.

REGISTER NOW!

Vendor Tables
Bring own table - \$20
Purchase table - \$30

REGISTER NOW!

New York City Trip

July 18th thru 21st 2019
Come join Us for Fun in the Big Apple

**Registration begins
 OCT 15th 2018
 Inquire at Front Desk**

Collinwood Senior Trip to New York City

Immerse yourself in the bustle of Manhattan, NY where Madison Square Garden, Times Square and Central Park is all within walking distance. Enjoy a fun-filled package that includes motor coach transportation, hotel accommodation, daily breakfast, bus guided tour of NY City, a Broadway show featuring the Lion King, tours of Ellis/Liberty Island, and a boat tour up the Hudson River.

MEMBERS ONLY

Limited Packages available!!!

Double suite package	\$885/person
Triple suite package	\$760/person
<i>(\$200 Full deposit/guest required to confirm a reservation)</i>	

**NO
CHILDREN
NO
EXCEPTIONS**

*****Note: YOU must have a room-mate at the time of registration to book*****

All registration forms and trip inquiries must go through trip coordinator, Shenese Wilson, 216/420-8323

Community

Why the Defeat of Issue #1 is Especially Troubling in Ohio

by Alexander Chavers

Ohio voters decided the fate of Issue #1 this November, with 63.4% voting “No”. A “Yes” would have radically shifted Ohio drug law by reclassifying many drug-related offenses (such as obtaining, possession, and use) as misdemeanors, rather than felonies.

The defeat of this measure is significant for one primary reason in Ohio: off all states, ours has the second highest rate of opioid-related deaths. According to a state report, that number had reached 4,854 by 2017. Montgomery was the county that topped the list, with a record of 521 overdoses.

Addiction is a problem, nationwide: and it is especially a problem at home. Solving that problem requires more than just a punitive approach; it requires a humane one.

For years criminalization, both at the state and federal level, has been the primary response mode for drug-related issues. Labels, such as "felon" are used on many non-violent offenders, placing them into the same category as rapists and murderers. While this may be a temporary measure to solve a public crisis, it ends up doing more harm, ultimately, than protection.

Rather than focusing on rehabilitation, it merely places a criminal label on those who are often struggling with addiction problems. Rehabilitation is what Issue #1 stood for: a more treatment, rather than punitive-focused approach to the drug crisis.

In addition to the misdemeanor clause, its provisions included prohibiting jail time for drug offenses until the third offense in 24 months, and allowed individuals previously convicted of drug “felonies” to petition the court to reduce them to misdemeanor. Another one of the law’s provisions would have requiring any projected savings to be re-allocated to state rehabilitation programs and crime victim funds.

Other states that have “defelonized” drug possession include California, Connecticut, Utah, Alaska, and Oklahoma, according to the Urban Institute Justice Policy Center.

Issue #1 was very divisive among party lines. Many prominent Ohio Republicans, including now-governor Mike DeWine, opposed Issue #1, while most Democrats, including gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray, came out in support of it. The measure also drew considerable support from many social justice organizations and out-of-state philanthropy groups, including the Facebook-owned Chan Zuckerberg Initiative.

As predicted, much of the opposition played up the “too soft on crime” narrative. While certain prominent Republicans like Newt Gingrich surprisingly broke with ranks to support Issue #1, others, such as Ohio Chief Justice Maureen O’ Connor, stuck to partisan lines. According to O’ Connor, the measure would weaken the drug courts, and their power to use incarceration as a coercive method to get offenders into treatment.

Another one of the overarching fears was that Issue #1, if passed, would embolden local drug traffickers in Ohio. With more leniency, they would be more likely to come and set up businesses in Ohio. The only problem there is that much of this "business" occurs not only on the streets but in offices by local prescribers as well.

Some of it is even through Medicaid: according to a report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, between June 2016 and May 2017 alone, “nearly one-in-six”, or sixteen percent of Medicaid beneficiaries were given opioid prescriptions. Of these, 21,146 either had cancer or were in hospice care at the time; 40,500 of the recipients were 18 or younger.

Another startling number, by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, echoes the pharmaceutical “business” of prescribing in Ohio: in 2015, Ohio providers gave 85.8 opioid prescriptions per 100 persons (9.96 million in total). This number superseded the national U.S. rate that same year, of 70 opioid prescriptions per 100 persons.

If the fear of “drug business” was a governing factor in the opposition to Issue #1, then it should also take into account where the business occurs behind closed doors. However, contrary to this fear, Issue #1 WOULD NOT have reduced penalties for people found trafficking. Instead, it would keep in place the “felony” classification for those convicted of sale and distribution.

For lower-level offenders, though, the label “felony” comes with many long-term consequences. Among these obstacles are finding a job, receiving welfare assistance, voting in elections, or being eligible to take out loans.

Who do these consequences affect the most: poor people. Ohio, in case you did not know, covers part of Northern Appalachia, one of the poorest regions in the country, and also one of the regions most affected by the opioid crisis, as noted by the NIH.

Overall, four times as many people are arrested for possessing, rather than selling opioids, according to Human Rights Watch. Even in cases where the possession is only a small amount, offenders will still receive a felony conviction.

In many cases, the "criminal" targets have been African-American. Unfortunately, while the framing of substance abuse as a human rights issue is long overdue, it is one that was absent when most of the victims were black. As a result, black

communities have and will continue to bear the brunt of "suspicion" by any mea-

sures aimed against criminal justice reform.

This age-old drug policy is dangerous, especially for those it has targeted in the past. Now it is dangerous in the face of a new, national epidemic. Ohio's rejection of Issue #1 is a decision that will only end up harming those who fall into communities most affected by substance abuse: lower-income and people of color.

Is incarceration the answer? 11% of inmates with substance use problems find adequate treatment at federal, state prisons and local prisons, according to a 2014 report by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University.

Additionally, an analysis by the Pew Charitable Trusts, comparing data from all 50 states, found no relationship between drug offender imprisonment rates by state and three key areas: rates of drug use, arrests, and overdoses.

The failure of Issue #1 should be a rallying call for us to reframe the narrative of substance abuse: especially in Ohio. This requires pointing to the failure of the War on Drugs policy, not just now, but back to the 1980s, during its weaponization against communities of color.

Treatment over penalization needs to be

the solution. In November 2018, a majority of Ohio voters said "No" to a measure supporting that: a measure reducing drug penalties that would have reallocated eventual savings towards the goal of rehabilitation, rather than incarceration. Our collective "No" rebukes that effectively. It continues a policy and a mindset that is dangerous for those struggling with substance abuse. It paints them more as a human threat, than a person in need of help.

“Just Say No” is not an answer in 2018.
Neither is imprisonment.



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OUR LADY
OF THE LAKE SCHOOL
Pre-K through 8th Grade

Faith | Academics | Community

OLL School Gives Back With Food Drive



The theme at Our Lady of the Lake School is “We Are Called” -- and the students put it into action every day. Recently, they planned and organized a food drive, to help provide meals for hungry people in the community

who might otherwise go without during the holiday season. By living their faith and answering the call, OLL students learn to be thoughtful and caring citizens.

Elf Jr a Big Success for OLL Parish Players



Every year, Our Lady of the Lake produces a show featuring the talents of students and parishioners, and each year their production draws big crowds. Their recent presentation of Elf Jr! was no exception, bringing in record audiences and raising nearly \$10,000 to support the theater program.



Under the guidance of Youth Minister Rita Testa, and a dedicated team of volunteers, more than 40 cast members really had a chance to shine onstage at Shore Cultural Centre. Director Bonnie Frye did a wonderful job cultivating the talents of the full ensemble, and audiences gave rave reviews.

OLL Produces Christmas CD



Members of the OLL choir rehearsed for months to create their first Christmas CD.

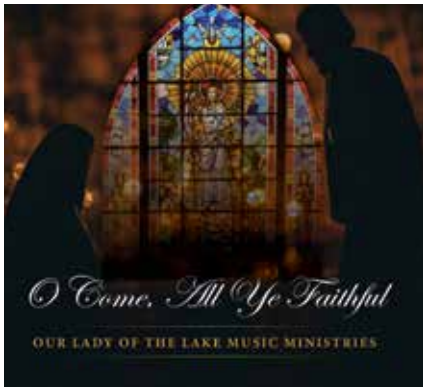


Music Minister Melissa Gali-Bird was the guiding spirit behind the CD project.

people to share in the gift of music, and the very special message of Christmas.

To buy your copy, or learn more about music ministry at Our Lady of the Lake, visit www.OLLEuclid.org or email Melissa Gali-Bird, Music Minister: Melissa@OLLEuclid.org.

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Join us for Christmas!




Join us for Christmas at Our Lady of the Lake.
All are welcome!
Evening Prayer Sundays 6:30pm beginning Dec. 2
Dec 7: Vigil Mass 6:00pm
Dec 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception 10:00am
Dec 24: 4:00pm, 7:00pm and Midnight
Dec 25: 10:00am
Dec 31: Vigil Mass 6:00pm
Jan 1: 10:00am

Our Lady of the Lake | 19951 Lakeshore Blvd | (216) 486-0850
www.OLLEuclid.org



100 YEARS
ST. JEROME
CHURCH
1919-2019

St. Jerome Church
The Beacon on the Boulevard
Collinwood's Catholic School
15000 Lake Shore Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44110



Classes of 2000 to 2018 Reunion



Calling all 2000-2017 graduates of St. Jerome School. We hope you will attend a centennial reunion on Sunday, January 27, 2019. Help spread the word!

by Adele Markert

Mark your calendar for Sunday, January 27, 2019 when the St. Jerome School classes of 2000 to 2017 will gather for a reunion

as part of Catholic Schools Week. The reunion will begin with 10am Mass followed by an Open House at both the convent and school. Light refreshments will be served.

So Many Memories



by Adele Markert

The first of the Centennial reunions was held November 4th for the classes of 1922-1959. Memorabilia ranging from Monsignor Hammer's vestments to pictures pamphlets and articles throughout the years were on display in the convent. Nearly 100 Alumni attended with their family members and enjoyed refreshments while catching up with old friends. Two members of the Class of 1940 were present, and while she was unable to attend Sister Joann (Josephine) Kessler, OSU sent her regards. It was determined that she is the oldest living alumni that we have heard from.

A 1940 graduate of St. Jerome School, Sister Joann (Josephine) Kessler, OSU also taught at St. Jerome from 1962-1964.

Class Friendsgiving



by Katie Coan

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, the St. Jerome first graders had a feast of their own. The feast was organized by the first grade families. Some of the foods we feasted on were turkey, chicken, macaroni and cheese, sweet

potatoes and mashed potatoes. Before we feasted, we all went around the room and shared one thing we were thankful for. In the eyes of a first grader here are some of what they are thankful for are: Family

Joy to the World!



by Adele Markert

We invite you to join us as we prepare for and celebrate the joyous coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Immaculate Conception

Vigil: Friday, December 7th 7pm

Saturday, December 8th 8:30am

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24th

4pm & 10 pm

Christmas

Tuesday, December 25th, 10am

Solemnity of Mary,

The Holy Mother of God

Vigil: Monday, December 31st 4pm

Tuesday, January 1st 10am

Magic Winds



Frank Rosenwein, principal oboist for the Cleveland Orchestra will perform with City Music Cleveland at St. Jerome Church on December 12th at 7:30pm.

by Adele Markert

We are delighted to host another fabulous concert on Wednesday, December 12th featuring Frank Rosenwein, principal oboist for the Cleveland Orchestra, who will perform Richard Strauss' *Oboe Concerto in D Major*, a lyrical work that sprung from the hopeful time just after WWII. Stefan Wil-

lich returns to conduct.

Rossini's *L'italiana in Algeri Overture* and Mozart's *Symphony No. 39 in E Major* frame the program. Doors open at 7pm with the concert beginning at 7:30pm. There is no admission, a free will offering will be taken up. This and all City Music Cleveland concerts are family friendly.



Friends
Teachers
Candy
Toys
Cousins
Brothers and sisters

Thanksgiving is a time to remember all that we have and all that we are thankful for. By doing this, we hope to be reminded of all that we have.

CONTACT US | stjeromecleveland.org | Follow us on Facebook | Phone: 216-481-8200





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216.481.1500 www.imaginebellaacademy.org 19114 Bella Drive, Cleveland, Ohio

Fall Festival



Time to get those costumes for the Fall Festival! Did you dare enter the haunted house?



Fun and Games at the Fall Festival! Face Painting too!

Muffins for Moms



Thank you Moms! We appreciate you!

On November 16th, Imagine Bella celebrated all the Moms with a special "Muffins for Moms" coordinated by the Imagine Bella

PTO. Thank you Moms for all you do to love and support your scholars!

Stuff the Turkey



Here is our chart for tracking our progress. We beat our goal!

Our Stuff the Turkey final count was 1,019 nonperishables! Thank you to all the families who were able to donate. Our class with the most donations was Ms. Biederman's class! Congrats to the third graders in Ms. Biederman's room for bringing in the most



Thank you families! Time to deliver our items just in time for Thanksgiving season!

items. All the items donated weighed in at 1,035 pounds! Thank you to everyone who helped us in reaching our school wide goal!#WorldChangers #GivingBack #RipplesOfKindness

Costume Parade



Time for the parade to begin!

On October 31st, students participated in a schoolwide costume parade. Thank you to all the families who donated candy to make this event possible! What a SWEET way to wrap up the month. Also, much appreciation to the families who helped things go

smoothly with costume changes before the parade and to pass out candy at stations to students. It was chilly outside so the parade went through the building. Check out some of the costumes in these photos.

V

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

Faith. Family. Future.

VASJ honors veterans with all-school assembly

"We're here today to honor our service members and to remember the sacrifices they have made and the courage it takes to defend honor, duty, and country," VASJ President Bill Cervenik '72 said at the all-school assembly in honor of Veterans Day.

Student Council President Harrison McCreight '19 led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Jim Tobin recognized all military members, past and present, within the VASJ family and identified the veterans who were in attendance.

"Take a moment to think about Veterans and their families, and what they have sacrificed in their lives to give us freedom," Tobin said.

Memorial candles representing the various wars and conflicts in which our veterans have served, were lit by our student government leaders.

Senior Class President Janessa White recited the Remembrance Prayer.

LTC Brian A. Ferguson served as the guest speaker. Ferguson has been active duty in the military for 19 ½ years and has deployed overseas three times.

"Tradition is about honoring



VASJ President Bill Cervenik '72 welcomes all in attendance at the school's 2018 Veterans Day Assembly. LTC Brian A. Ferguson, who has served active duty in the military for 19 ½ years deployed overseas three times, served as the keynote speaker.

and remembering," Ferguson said. "I jumped at the opportunity to come here today and speak about this tradition."

For Ferguson, serving in the military is a family tradition that dates back several generations, including his grandfather and his grandfather's grandfather.

You could hear a pin drop, and a few sniffles from those who were

overcome with emotion, during the playing of Taps.

VASJ President Cervenik asked for a show of hands from anyone who has family who has or is currently serving in the military. A majority of hands went up.

"Call them this weekend," he said. "Send them a note. Tell them, 'thank you.' And if you see a Veteran this weekend, go up to

them and tell them 'thank you,' too."

All students, faculty, and staff, remained silent while exiting the gym to show respect and honor to those who have served.

Many students stopped to shake the hands of the veterans who were sitting in the first row of the gym and quietly thanked them for their service.

VASJ to spread Christmas Cheer with collection drive



Each year, the VASJ community comes together for a 12 Days of Christmas collection to help people in the community who are in need of assistance.

This Christmas season, VASJ's Peer Ministers chose to support women and children in crisis and have selected five agencies that will receive the items collected.

The collection will take place from Thursday, November 29, through Friday, December 14, for the following agencies: Hitchcock

Center for Women, Family Promise of Greater Cleveland, WomenSafe, Laura's Home - Cleveland City Mission Women's Shelter, and Providence House.

The following products will be collected for the agencies: personal hygiene and hair care products, household cleaning products, baby wipes, diapers, paper products (toilet paper, tissue, paper towels), and disinfectant wipes.

For students, teachers, and

staff, there will be collection containers in each of the homeroom classrooms as well as in the faculty lounge.

For those in the community who would like to participate, there will also be a collection container outside of the main office.

If you are looking for ways to give back and do good this Christmas, please consider joining VASJ students and contribute to the collection drive.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT VASJ

VASJ Movie Night	December 15	Drama Club Spring Play	April 12-14
Founders Day Liturgy	January 22	Ladies Night Out	May 2
Scholarship Day	February 1	Awards Ceremony	May 9
Continue the Dream Benefit	February 23	Baccalaureate Mass	May 24
St. Joseph Day Mass	March 19	Class of 2019 Graduation	May 28
Admissions Open House	March 21	Alumni 2019 Golf Open	June 22
7th Grade Future Viking Day	March 28	Escape on the Lake 5K	July 13

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