



**Saints Service
Organization**
Lakewood Catholic Academy

Connections

news & notices from LCA's volunteer network

november, 2011



Upcoming SSO Events

Book Fair - November 5 - 9

Breakfast with Santa
and Elf Shelf
Saturday, December 10, 2011

Toboggan Night
Thursday, January 12, 2012

Pizza Skate
Monday, January 16, 2012

Back to School Picnic Welcomes All Families to a New Year

On a beautiful, summer evening in late August, over 400 LCA parents, students and siblings gathered together for a picture perfect back-to-school picnic, hosted by the Saints Service Organization. All came with a great sense of excitement for the new school year to welcome our many new families and reconnect with old friends.

While parents enjoyed the weather and the company of friends, students took advantage of the beautiful campus backyard to play sports, enjoy our natural "playground," and share stories of their summer adventures. It was a true community gathering that showed new families the welcoming spirit of LCA.

The Pietrangelo family, new to LCA this year, attended the picnic and immediately felt a cheerful sense of community as they arrived for the event. Their children, in seventh and fourth grades, have since had a very positive transition to their new school.

"We have had an awesome experience transitioning into the LCA community as a new family this year, starting with the SSO back-to-school picnic. We were so surprised when we arrived and saw so many people there and we could not have felt more welcome as people introduced themselves and told us how excited they were to have us at LCA," said Wendy Pietrangelo.

SSO President, Leslie Andrews, and LCA staff put out the call for volunteers weeks ahead of the planned event. Many willing parents stepped up to help make the picnic complete by preparing a dish to share, flipping burgers at the grill, working on set-up and clean-up, making name tags and many other behind-the-scenes projects. A very special thanks goes to all who made the evening special. It was a great start to the new school year and the first of many more community-building SSO events for this year. ✨



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Volunteer Fair Helps Fill Important Posts for SSO Events

Each year, the SSO sponsors over 30 programs and events to benefit the students, faculty and programs of LCA. These activities are only successful through the generous gifts of time and talent given by parents and supporters of our school. Most events require a large group effort in order to make each event or activity special for students, parents or faculty.

The SSO's second annual Volunteer Fair and Dessert was held on September 15, showcasing the many volunteer opportunities available to parents. SSO chairs, as well as representatives from Athletics and the Auction, provided information to over 40 attendees at the event. Some programs, including the Library Volunteers program and the Teacher Appreciation program, were able to fill all of their volunteer posts on the night of the volunteer fair! Five lucky attendees won \$20 gift certificates to the LCA Bookstore as a thank you gift for attending and volunteering their time this school year.

There are still many ways to get involved at LCA, both in and outside of the classroom. SSO offers volunteer opportunities for everyone! To find a volunteer role that is right for you, you can find a complete list of programs and events on the LCA website, under "Saints Service Organization." The meeting schedule is also listed. All are welcome and encouraged to attend! 🦋



LCA a Winner at Annual "Run for Excellence"

The 7th annual "Run for Excellence" and Michalko Mile was a huge success with over 400 registered participants and 43 generous sponsors. This year's event offered much more than a racing competition for participants and visitors. Chairperson Jenny Reali and her committee expanded the race day into a community event filled with activities to interest runners and non-runners of all ages.

"Race morning brought us blue skies and sun!" said Jenny. "How lucky we were. We met our goal of 400 runners. That is outstanding. I want to thank all 43 generous sponsors and donors. We were very fortunate to have so many businesses and families support our race."

The LCA campus was alive with activity that showcased the outside grounds of the school and also presented a broad range of free activities and health and wellness information, courtesy of many local businesses and organizations.

Some of the attractions included live music along the race route and entertainment by the St. Ignatius Jugglers. Health and safety information tables from organizations like the Cleveland Clinic, Lakewood Recreation and many others provided literature and giveaways to the many participants. There were also many free treats to go around from places like the Sweet Spot, Root Café and Earth Fare.

The race was a great success, raising over \$11,000 in sponsorships that will go a long way to supporting the many activities and programs of the SSO. This success is only possible through the hard work and commitment of our volunteers. Thank you! 🦋



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Quality Time Shared on Grandparents' Day

Over 370 LCA grandparents and special guests had the opportunity to share in their grandchildren's school day on Friday, October 14. The visit began with a special all-school mass celebrated by Father Workman. This year, a worship program was put together by music teacher, Mrs. Podhradsky, and the third grade teachers to help grandparents to participate in the music and mass readings. Chairperson Leslie Mitchell said this addition was greatly appreciated by many who attended.

Grandparents also had the opportunity to join their grandchildren for their morning classes and some classes had special activities planned for the visits. Miss Murray's third grade class prepared a family tree project that students were able to work on alongside their grandparents. Other classes proceeded with class work, allowing grandparents to join in and see learning in progress.

SSO volunteers, including chair, Leslie Mitchell, and co-chair, Janet Nolan, made sure every detail was planned to make the day as enjoyable and convenient as possible for visitors to the school. Visitors were greeted by helpful SSO parent volunteers who offered assistance with check-in and refreshments. Also assisting throughout the day was a large group of student ambassadors who helped to guide visitors to specific classrooms and assist with elevator operations when needed. These students were key to the success of the day and really showed their commitment to service through their friendly assistance. Faculty and staff, including Mrs. Seeds, Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Deisler also contributed to the success of this year's Grandparents' Day.

Many special memories were created at this unique event. Thanks to all who made it possible! 🦋

All Saints Auction Approaches!

The LCA annual All Saints Auction is just around the corner on Saturday, November 5. We look forward to sharing a special evening with many LCA supporters as we honor our friends and benefactors, the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. We hope all families will take the opportunity to "get to know the Sisters" and their inspiring story by reading the recent e-mail message sent from school on October 18, titled, "The Legacy of Angels: Getting to Know the Sisters of Charity."

The annual auction is LCA's largest fundraising event of the year. While not an official SSO event, the auction relies on help from the SSO to fill the many volunteer positions on several planning committees. Funds raised by the auction are managed separately from SSO funds and are allocated by school administration to important improvements at LCA. 🦋





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Tricks and Treats Enjoyed at Fall Festival



Halloween came a bit early this year at LCA's Fall Festival on Friday, October 21. Spotted having fun at the event were Harry Potter, several mermaids and vampires, Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz, ghosts, monsters and fairies of every kind!

Over 300 students in preschool through grade 3 and their families came ready for some seasonal festivities and the event did not disappoint. The night was packed with fun – festival games, cookie decorating, the ever-popular cake walk, s'mores at the bonfire, pumpkins and refreshments.

Event Chair Carrie Litten and Co-Chair Kim Sinagra, along with many volunteers, kept the large crowd manageable by spreading the activities throughout several areas of the school. Both the gym and cafeteria were used for activities as well as the school's front yard for some dad-supervised s'more-making.



Many volunteers, both parents and upper-grade students, contributed to the fun atmosphere for our younger students. The school was filled with laughter, excitement and talk among groups of friends about great prizes won in the cake walk! Thanks to every volunteer involved, the Fall Festival was a treat for all who attended! 🦋

Hike It - Bike It - LCA Students Like It!

On Wednesday, October 5, over 300 LCA students took to the sidewalks to walk or bike to school for International Walk to School Day. A beautiful, sunny morning made the event even more enjoyable as students and parents shared time together during the walk.

Event Chairperson, Marianne Quasebarth, expressed thanks to all parents, students, faculty and staff for making the morning safe and fun for

everyone. A special thank you goes to Cleveland Clinic Foundation's Wellness Institute and David Pauer, who kindly donated 30 prizes which were raffled off to student participants. Parent helpers also welcomed the walkers with iWalk stickers as they entered school for the day. LCA is fortunate to be located in a very "walkable" city, making this annual event a great way to promote physical activity and celebrate the benefits of walking. 🦋