



**Saints Service
Organization**
Lakewood Catholic Academy

Connections

news & notices from LCA's volunteer network

january, 2012



Upcoming SSO Events

Adult Social

January 27, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Sullivan's

LCA Open House

January 29, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
LCA Campus

Teacher Appreciation Week

January 30 - February 3

Night at the Races

March 3, LCA gym

Annual Service Day Helps Clean Up in Lakewood

In This Issue

All-School Service Project

Pizza Skate

Toboggan Night


1st Communion Garden

Book Fair

Elf Shelf &
Breakfast with Santa

Students, parents and LCA staff were out in force in Lakewood on November 4 for the annual All-School Service Project, a leaf-raking service offered to older and homebound residents in the city. Co-Chairs Marie Morabeto and Gretchen Bulan managed an army of volunteers and mapped walking routes while teachers and Dean of Students Mike Fletcher organized student groups and also chaperoned the groups to their assigned houses.

Student groups of about 15 along with parent volunteers and teachers raked the yards of 38 homes in Lakewood as well as the grounds of two of our founding parishes, St. Luke and St. Clement. In total, participants included 29 faculty/staff members, 40 parent volunteers and 460 LCA students in grades 1 – 8. Cool, sunny weather added to the cheerful scene of students walking to their destinations to provide a special service to grateful homeowners.

In the days after the service project, LCA received many messages of appreciation from homeowners, which were read during the day's announcements by Mike Fletcher. One special note of thanks from a grateful Lakewood senior even appeared in the Plain Dealer on November 10. 



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Pizza Skate: A “Cool” Way to Spend MLK Day



Pizza Skate at Serpentine Arena has become an LCA tradition on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday each year. This year, 292 skaters attended, including many younger students and first time attendees. LCA had one entire rink dedicated to the event, giving skaters plenty of room on the ice to skate and play with friends. At lunchtime, Angelo's pizza and drinks were served from an internal room just off the ice rink, so skaters could get right back to the fun after re-fueling with lunch!

Chairperson Kate Sessions set up a check-in table staffed with parent volunteers and was on hand for the entire event coordinating food and helping parents and students. Since the event, she has received many comments of thanks and Kate guarantees that this popular event will continue for future school years. ❄️



Toboggan Night Brings Thrills, No Chills!

Unseasonably warm January weather was a bonus for riders at LCA's first Toboggan Night at the MetroParks Chalet in Strongsville on January 13. The event was planned by co-chairs Maria Pauer and Christina Gerwitz for students in grades 4 – 8 and their families. The first-time event had an attendance of over 50 families and 113 toboggan riders. Feedback from riders was very positive and many requested the night become an annual event for the upper grades.



“Despite the grueling workout of climbing 100+ steps, the on-again, off-again rain and carrying the very heavy toboggan, kids – and parents – could not seem to get enough of it!” said Maria Pauer.

Maria also reports that an automatic toboggan-carrying conveyor belt will be installed at the Chalet by next winter! What a great school and family outing! ❄️



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New Green Initiative: An Annual 1st Communion Garden



One of the events SSO's Green Initiatives organizes is the planting of a 1st Communion Garden each fall by the second graders. This big year of spiritual growth for the second graders begins as a seed of cumulative preparations for the Sacrament. As they prepare all year to make their 1st Communion, the garden will "bloom in spring" along with the receiving of the sacrament of First Holy Communion. The garden is an outward symbol of all their preparations.

The first time a Communion garden was planted was by the current fourth graders in the front yard flower bed. The beautiful flowers were a welcome sight in the spring. The garden could use an annual replenishing after the effects of cold weather and furry friends feasting in the garden. Thanks to SSO and the generosity of second grade parents, this year's second grade class planted bulbs in the same front flower bed on a warm and rain-free fall day. Each second grader had the opportunity to learn a little about what bulbs really are (big seeds) and experience how to plant them by doing it!

We hope that these symbolic seeds will be nourished over the winter and grow into beautiful flowers in the springtime. I especially want to thank Laura Jensen for all her help coordinating this with the second grade class and Julia Artbauer for her planting expertise. 🌱

Submitted By: Marianne Quasebarth Usiak, Green Initiatives Chair

Save the Date - Saturday, March 3

Saddle up and get your pony to the gate – Night at the Races returns Saturday, March 3.

All proceeds benefit the programs and events of the Saints Service Organization.

We hope to see everyone there for a night of fun and friends to benefit a great cause.



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Book Fair Raises Important Library Funds



This year's Scholastic Book Fair was held during the week of November 7, with different events planned each day to involve students at all grade levels and their families. Special events included an evening storytime with Mrs. Arbezniak, Grandparents' Day, visits from Clifford and a student trivia contest.

These events and the wide selection of Scholastic books at the fair promoted the benefits of reading and gave a huge financial boost to LCA's St. Augustine Library for use on library materials and new books. Book Fair sales increased 12% over last year's sale and the library received \$7,000 from the proceeds.

Chairperson Caron Viglianco said student volunteers were a great help this year and helped to bring interest from other students. Over 30 students and nearly 50 parents helped out during the week. With the book fair held at a very busy time of year at LCA, it is a testament to the value of this event that so many volunteers devote their time to making it a success each year.

"I would especially like to thank Laura Arth as my co-chair, Rebecca Rumsey for her creative ideas and beautiful flyers and Melissa Metzger for the fabulous decorations," said Caron.

Mark your calendars! Caron and her committee are also planning a "Library Bazaar" on May 19 to further benefit the library. The event will feature a used book sale as well as a summer reading fair by Scholastic Books. Scholastic will offer a "buy one, get one free" sale on books. 🦋

Christmas Events Spread Holiday Cheer

Many LCA families skipped the busy malls on December 10 and enjoyed Christmas shopping and a relaxed visit with Santa at this year's Elf Shelf and Breakfast with Santa. At the Elf Shelf, shoppers appreciated the variety of items and the price ranges that met every budget. Elf Shelf Chair Terri Griffin says this is one of her personal goals for the event. "I want everyone to be able to find a gift," said Terri.

Student volunteers were invaluable with Elf Shelf set-up, moving tables and merchandise from storage to the gym on Friday night before the event. Students also helped with gift wrapping at the event. Parent volunteers helped with set-up and checkout. New ideas for next year's event include adding items with a personal touch, including items made by students, like water color paintings or painted pottery pieces.

Before or after shopping, many families enjoyed a delicious breakfast in the cafeteria, catered by Sweet Melissa's. A winter wonderland greeted guests at the sold-out breakfast, where children had visits and photos with Santa and parents had the chance to meet and socialize with others. This combination of events is always a wonderful way to get into the Christmas spirit! 🦋