

The LCA Weekly

January 14 2010 Edition



Calendar

January 14	Choir Practice, 2:45 – 3:45 p.m. Market Day Pick-up, 7 – 8 p.m.
January 15	End of Second Quarter Ski Club High School Applications are Due Back to School
January 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – NO SCHOOL LOFT Pizza Skate, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
January 19	H ₂ O Meeting, 3 – 3:40 p.m.
January 20	Faculty Meeting – EARLY DISMISSAL at 2:30 P.M.
January 21	Choir Practice, 2:45 – 3:45 p.m.
January 22	Ski Club REGISTRATION FORMS DUE

News

Registration for Fall 2010 Has Begun!!!

The time has come to begin registering for fall 2010. The Board of Directors formally approved the Finance Committee's tuition recommendation for 2010-11 at its January 11th meeting. Registration forms have been prepared and are included in today's take-home envelope. Also included is a comprehensive guide to tuition and fees for next year.

PLEASE NOTE: Registration forms MUST be returned by Friday, January 22nd. This is particularly important for parents seeking spots in the preschool or kindergarten classrooms. Demand has been very strong for these spaces, and once open registration begins on Sunday, January 31, they are only available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Last Call! Parent Ambassadors for the LCA Open House Events...

With our open registration period set to begin, we have begun planning for our annual Open House events. **This year's open houses will take place on Sunday, January 31 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and on Wednesday, February 3 from 9 until 11 a.m.** We would like to have a group of parent volunteers on hand at this year's events to speak with visitors, help show them around the school, and talk about their experience as LCA parents. If you would be interested in helping out, email to Director of Admissions & Marketing Paul Nickels at pnickels@lakewoodcatholicacademy.com or call him at 216.521.0559, ext. 3028.

...And a "Friends and Family" Call to the LCA Community!

In today's take-home envelope each family will receive a copy of our Open House postcard mailer. These were mailed to nearly 15,000 families along the West Shore, inviting them to visit LCA at either of the open house opportunities or to come to the school for a personal tour. If you know of a friend or family member considering Catholic education for their children, we hope you'll pass along the card! If you would like additional cards, there are plenty available – just call Director of Admissions Paul Nickels at 216.521.0559, or email him at pnickels@lakewoodcatholicacademy.com and he'll send you as many as you need. There is no more powerful advertisement for Lakewood Catholic Academy than parents talking to parents!

2010-11 PSAS Financial Aid Form is On Line Now...

It is not too early to begin thinking about financial aid for the 2010-11 school year! Remember that no financial aid can be awarded unless a PSAS form is completed. That form is now available for download on the LCA website. The web-based form is a "writeable" PDF document. This means that users can open the form, save it to their own computer, and type information directly into the form, saving it as they proceed. For those who do not have access to a computer, paper forms are available in the Main Office. The form is at www.lakewoodcatholicacademy.com/psas201011.pdf. If you have any questions about how to download or save the PSAS form, do not hesitate to contact Director of Admissions Paul Nickels at 216.521.0559, extension 3028 or by email at pnickels@lakewoodcatholicacademy.com.

Second Annual Grandparents Day is Set for February 12th

Lakewood Catholic Academy will host the Second Annual Grandparents Day celebration on Friday, February 12th. As we did last year, the day will begin with a community Mass in the morning, followed by an opportunity for grandparents to visit their grandchildren in their classrooms. Watch for more information as we draw closer to the date.

Pizza Skate Is On for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Ice skating and pizza – sounds like a great recipe for a day off! LOFT will sponsor an LCA "Pizza Skate" at Serpentine (Winterhurst) Arena on Martin Luther King Jr. Day – that's this coming Monday, January 18th. Check out the flyer in this week's envelope for details.

Kudos to Our Model UN Team...

Congratulations to all the members of our Model United Nations Team, which competed last week at the annual competition held at John Carroll University. Fifteen LCA junior high students participated, honing their debating and communications skills and learning a lot about issues facing the world. Grace Powers and Katie Basalla (representing Singapore) and Michael Kay and Peter Jones (representing Morocco) won Honorable Mention in the United Nations Conference on Trade & Development Section, while Allison Rogozinski and Rose Dolan (representing Lesotho) and Alesha Vovk and Audrey Dahill (representing Lichtenstein) received Honorable Mention in the World Health Organization section.

Bingo Volunteers Wanted & Needed!

As we move into the second half of the school year, the Bingo Program is seeking new volunteers. We have some immediate needs in the program, and it is important that we begin to replace our "graduating" parents with new volunteers! Please consider working a shift once a month, or even splitting a position with a friend! You can learn more about the various volunteer positions at www.lakewoodcatholicacademy.com/bingo.htm. You can also send an email to bingo@lakewoodcatholicacademy.com and we'll be in touch! Thanks in advance for helping with this critical fundraising program.

In This Week's Packet:

- Registration Letter & Form
- 2010-11 Tuition Schedule
- Open House Postcard
- Track Conditioning Program Flyer (Grades 6 - 8 only)
- LOFT Pizza Skate Flyer
- Regional Junior High Dance Flyer (Grades 7 & 8 only)



January 14, 2010

To Our Lakewood Catholic Academy Families,

With what seems like unprecedented speed, we have reached the midpoint of our fifth year of educating children at Lakewood Catholic Academy, and the time has come to begin registering for the fall of 2010. The Board of Directors formally approved the Finance Committee's tuition recommendation for 2010-11 at its January 11th meeting. Registration forms have been prepared and are included in today's take-home envelope.

Our annual Catholic Schools Week open house event – which marks the beginning of open registration – is set for Sunday, January 31st from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. It is important that prior to the beginning of open registration, we hear from current families about their intention to register for next year. While it is important in every case, it is particularly so for families planning to bring children into the preschool or kindergarten program, which have filled quickly in recent years. **The registration forms are due back to school by Friday, January 22nd.**

In addition to some changes in our tuition and fee structure, there will be some changes to our processes and procedures this year. These changes are designed to give us a better handle on precisely how many students to expect in the fall. It is critically important to the budgeting process that we have firm enrollment commitments for the upcoming year so we can properly align our staffing needs.

Tuition

Included in this week's packet is a comprehensive chart of tuition and fees for the 2010-11 year. The annual tuition rate for the first child of a family who is a member in good standing at one of our supporting parishes will increase \$125 to \$3,445. (This is the same rate of increase as last year – about 3.6 percent.) There will be a slight reduction in the multiple child discount for the first additional child – from 20 percent to 15 percent. All other multiple child discounts – 35 percent for the third child and 50 percent for the fourth and fifth child – will remain unchanged. Should you have more than five children at LCA, the remaining children will attend without cost. Tuition for non-parishioners will remain at its current level of \$4,890 per child.

Fees

There will be no increase in the registration fee, which remains at \$120 per student with a family cap of \$300. However, **timely payment of registration fees will be critical** – families must pay the registration fee no later than April 1st, or they will not be considered registered and may face a waiting list. There will be several payment options:

- A family may submit cash or a check with their registration form and pay the registration fee immediately.
- A family may submit a check post-dated for April 1, 2010 with their registration form. (The check will NOT be deposited until April 1.)

Should either of these options present a difficulty for your family, please contact Admissions Director Paul Nickels at 216.521.0559 to discuss alternative arrangements.

Remember that a family who has not paid a registration fee by April 1st will NOT be considered registered for the 2010-11 year. This policy will be strictly enforced as a critical component in our planning for staffing and budgets, as it provides an accurate understanding of how many students will be attending in the fall.

The technology fee, which has been unchanged for two years, will increase from \$30 to \$50 for the first student, with a family maximum increase from \$70 to \$100. The increase reflects a significantly improved technology environment at the school, including ActivBoards in two-thirds of the classrooms, as well as PCs that are less than two years old in each classroom. We will also be improving the software on our Computer Lab PC's this year.

-Continued on reverse side -

There will be a \$45 Tuition Management Systems convenience fee for those who wish to pay their tuition on a monthly basis. The fee will be incorporated into the total tuition cost and amortized over the ten-month payment period. There will be a discount of three percent available for those who pay tuition in full by July 31st. (We will also continue to offer quarterly and semi-annual payment options.)

And finally, we will begin tuition payments on July 1, 2010, rather than in August. This new payment schedule will enable us to maintain appropriate cash flow, as we pay faculty and staff throughout the year.

Financial Aid

As in past years, Lakewood Catholic Academy will augment the pool of financial aid available through the Diocese with its own funds. We strongly encourage families with need to apply for financial aid as early as possible. **LCA has committed to an improved financial aid allocation process this year – we will work hard to deliver an aid commitment well in advance of the end of the school year, but it is important for families seeking aid to expedite their application process.**

In order to obtain any form of financial aid, it is imperative to complete the PSAS (Private School Aid Service) form. The PSAS form is easy to complete, and is available now on the LCA website – just click the “Tuition and Financial Aid” tab on the front page. The form is an “interactive” PDF file that you can save to your computer and type into directly. If you need help downloading the form, contact Director of Admissions Paul Nickels at 216.521.0559, ext. 3028, or by email at pnickels@lakewoodcatholicacademy.com. For those without access to computers, paper copies of the form are available in the Main Office.

Look for more information about the financial aid process in coming weeks. And please remember that the information you submit to PSAS for financial aid consideration is NOT reviewed by LCA personnel, and remains strictly confidential. Any parent who will be sending their children to Catholic high school, or to college, will need to become familiar with the financial aid process!

Parishioner Status for St. James Families

As you know, our founding parishes have come to an agreement on how St. James parishioners can continue to receive the parishioner tuition rate for next year. If you are a St. James family and have NOT received a copy of the letter outlining the new policy, contact Paul Nickels as soon as possible.

Tuition Credit for Gift Certificate Program

Finally, we regret to inform you that, pursuant to a policy statement issued by Bishop Lennon, we will not be offering tuition credit for participation in the Gift Certificate Program, as we have in the past. Bishop Lennon has expressed a concern that providing tuition credit in this format creates potential negative tax issues for both parents and the Diocese. For parents, a tuition credit in this form can be viewed as taxable earned income that should be reported to the IRS. From the Diocese's perspective, the program as structured creates the possibility that LCA is earning Unrelated Business Income that the Diocese would have to report and pay taxes on, even though the Diocese is a non-profit organization. Given these concerns, we believe we have no choice but to end the tuition credit portion of the Gift Certificate program.

Selling gift certificates to raise funds for a non-profit entity such as LCA, by itself, is perfectly appropriate. We plan to continue this program and we hope you will continue to support LCA through the purchase of these gift certificates.

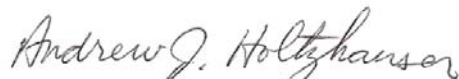
Your Commitment to Catholic Education is Appreciated

We find ourselves in an economic environment that continues to be difficult, as well as a changing parish environment here in our own community. We understand and deeply appreciate the commitment our parents make to improve their children's lives through faith-based education. The school's faculty and staff are 100 percent committed to providing value for your sacrifice. It is an extraordinary gift that you are giving your children. **THANKS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR MAKING THE CHOICE TO INVEST IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION.**

Sincerely



Michael Smith
Chairman, LCA Board of Directors



Andrew Holtzhauser
Chairman, LCA Finance Committee



2010 - 11 Tuition Information

Parishioner Tuition: Families who are enrolled as members of St. Clement or St. Luke parishes, including those currently in transition from St. James Parish, benefit from an annual parish subsidy to LCA, and thus pay a different tuition than non-members. A parishioner is defined as a family who is registered at one of the three churches, attends Mass, and supports the parish financially. PLEASE NOTE: Some parishes without schools are willing to help support a child's Catholic education. Contact Admissions Director Paul Nickels at 216-521-0559, ext. 3028, for more information.

Families that are new to LCA must obtain a letter from their parish certifying their status as active parishioners in order to qualify for the parishioner tuition rate. Children who are re-registering simply note their parish affiliation on the re-registration form and the school will work with the parish rectories to confirm their continued status. In all cases where parishioner status is denied, it is incumbent upon the family to appeal the decision to the rectory, or to pay full non-parishioner tuition.

The parishioner tuition costs for grades Kindergarten through Eight are as follows:

Children	Cost for Child	Percent of Discount	Total Cost
First Child:	\$3,445.00	n/a	\$3,445.00
Second Child:	\$2,928.25	15 percent	\$6,373.25
Third Child	\$2,239.25	35 percent	\$8,612.50
Fourth Child:	\$1,722.50	50 percent	\$10,335.00
Fifth Child:	\$1,722.50	50 percent	\$12,057.50
Additional Children:	No Cost	100 percent	\$12,057.50

Half-Day Kindergarten: \$2,325.00 per child.

Non-Parishioner Tuition: \$4,890 per child grades Kindergarten through Eight; \$3,100 for half-day Kindergarten. No Multiple Child Discounts are available. This rate is for those who are not members of a supporting parish, or who do not qualify for parishioner certification.

Preschool Tuition:*

½ Day – 3 days per week (age 3 & 4):	\$160 per month
½ Day – 5 days per week (age 4):	\$240 per month
3 FULL Days (age 4 & 5):	\$320 per month
5 FULL Days (age 4 & 5):	\$475 per month

***Note:** Preschool tuition is not subject to multiple child discounts or separate parishioner/non-parishioner rates.

Additional Fees:

- **Registration Fee:** \$120 per child, maximum of \$300 per family. **DUE BY APRIL 1**
- **Technology Fee:** \$50 per child, maximum of \$100 per family.
- **Tuition Management Systems Monthly Payment Convenience Fee:** \$45 per family, per year.

LCA Track



What: Pre-Season Conditioning Program

Where: Franklin Elementary School Gym,
corner of Franklin Blvd. & Lewis Drive
(Enter school in the back, by the modular trailers)

When: Every Monday & Thursday, 7 – 8 p.m.
January thru early March

Who: Open to all LCA Students in
Grades Six through Eight

This year, we are joining forces with the Lakewood Middle School and St Mark's track teams to offer a comprehensive pre-season conditioning program. Rotating stations include core strengthening, stretching & Pilates, aerobic and plyometrics, all under the direction of coaches from LCA, St Marks and Lakewood.

Questions? Contact Alec Pacella at 216-235-1419
or by email at ajpacella@yahoo.com.

The LCA Weekly

January 7, 2010 Edition

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Calendar

- January 7 Preschool Parent Meeting, 7 p.m.
Model U.N. Competition, John Carroll University
- January 8 Ski Club Begins. Arrive at Old Stone House parking lot between 4 and 4:15 p.m. Buses
leave PROMPTLY at 4:30
Model U.N. Competition, John Carroll University
- January 11 Newspaper Meeting, 3 – 3:40 p.m.
Green Team, 3:10 – 4:30 p.m.
High School Applications Sent Home
- January 14 Choir Practice, 2:45 – 3:45 p.m.
Market Day Pick-up, 7 – 8 p.m.
- January 15 End of Second Quarter
Ski Club
High School Applications are Due Back to School
- January 18 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day – NO SCHOOL**
LOFT Pizza Skate, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- January 19 H₂O Meeting, 3 – 3:40 p.m.
- January 20 **Faculty Meeting – EARLY DISMISSAL at 2:30 P.M.**

News

Welcome to Fr. Workman!

Bishop Richard G. Lennon has appointed Rev. Joseph G. Workman as the Pastor of St. Clement Parish effective January 1, 2010. Father Workman was previously Parochial Vicar of St. Augustine Church in Barberton. We welcome Father Workman as he begins his ministry with St. Clement!

It's That Time.... Registration for Fall 2010 is Approaching!

As we reach the midpoint of the current school year, the registration period for Fall 2010 is approaching quickly. With open registration beginning with Open House on Sunday, January 31st, we'll soon be asking our families to declare their intentions for next year. The LCA Board of Directors will meet on Monday, January 11 to set tuition, and we'll be sending home registration forms and tuition information with next week's packet. **Please note: PROMPT REGISTRATION WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT THIS YEAR! Forms must be returned by Friday, January 22nd.**

Math Competition: Selection Test is TOMORROW, Friday, January 8

Seventh and eighth grade students interested in local math competitions are encouraged to take a selection test this Friday, January 8, after school in Ms. Smith's room (224A). The test will conclude by 3:45 p.m. Junior high students are needed for three competitions: the MathCounts competition on February 20th at Cleveland State University, the St. Edwards's High School Math Classic in March, and the Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics Junior High competition in April. Anyone interested but not able to attend is encouraged to contact Ms. Smith at his or her earliest convenience.

Wanted: Parent Ambassadors for the LCA Open House Events!

With our open registration period set to begin, we have begun planning for our annual Open House events. This year's open houses will take place on Sunday, January 31 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and on Wednesday, February 3 from 9 until 11 a.m. We have long known that parents speaking to other parents are the most effective recruiters around! We would like to have a group of parent volunteers on hand at this year's events to speak with visitors, help show them around the school, and talk about their experience as LCA parents. If you would be interested in helping out, please send an email to Director of Admissions & Marketing Paul Nickels at pnickels@lakewoodcatholicacademy.com or call him at 216.521.0559, ext. 3028. Training, coffee & pastries will be provided!

2010-11 PSAS Financial Aid Form is On Line Now...

It is not too early to begin thinking about financial aid for the 2010-11 school year! Remember that no financial aid can be awarded unless a PSAS form is completed. That form is now available for download on the LCA website. The web-based form is a "writeable" PDF document. This means that users can open the form, save it to their own computer, and type information directly into the form, saving it as they proceed. The form is at www.lakewoodcatholicacademy.com/psas201011.pdf. For those who do not have access to a computer, paper forms are available in the Main Office. If you have any questions about how to download or save the PSAS form, do not hesitate to contact Director of Admissions Paul Nickels at 216.521.0559, extension 3028 or by email at pnickels@lakewoodcatholicacademy.com.

Pizza Skate set for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Ice skating and pizza – sounds like a great recipe for a day off! LOFT will sponsor an LCA "Pizza Skate" at Serpentine (Winterhurst) Arena on Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Monday, January 18th. Check out the flyer in this week's envelope for details.

A Note of Thanks to Parents and Teachers...

Thank you for participating in the 8th grade calendar sales. Our total profit for the calendars this year was \$7200. This will greatly help offset the cost of our trip to Washington, D.C. this spring. We appreciate all the effort that went in to this calendar and hope that you enjoyed some of the great prizes we had. I thank all of you who solicited donations and to those of you who purchased a calendar. -- Debbie Riddle, chair

Post-Christmas Kudos...

Congratulations to LCA's own Clare Geither! Clare entered the Cleveland Plain Dealer's Holiday Card contest and was awarded the grand prize out of more than 1,500 entries!

More Kudos...

Congratulations to eighth grader Mary Nekl, who is the recipient of both an academic scholarship and a special Christian Scholarship Award from Cleveland Central Catholic High School. Winners of this award model the mission of Cleveland Central Catholic through "leadership, service, and strong academic performance." Indeed, a sterling set of characteristics!

In This Week's Packet:

- LOFT Pizza Skate Flyer



LCA PIZZA SKATE!

Monday, January 18, 2010

(MLK Day – NO SCHOOL!)

Serpentini Ice Rink (a.k.a. Winterhurst)

10:00a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Early arrival- 9:30 a.m. for skates

\$6.00 per person - prepaid by Thursday, Jan. 14

\$8.00 after Jan. 14 or at the door

Price includes admission, skate rental, pizza, and drinks

Questions?? Kate Sessions 221-9454 or kgsessions@gmail.com

-----Return bottom portion to Main Office by Thursday, January 14-----

Checks payable to LOFT

Family Name: _____

Number in party _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Phone: _____

Skate rental: yes _____ no _____ # of skate rentals _____