



Founded in 1956

# HASA HAPPENINGS

January 2012

## Happy 2012!

As we enter 2012, we wanted to remind everyone of the 2 hour of power pledge. Many families have fulfilled and/or exceeded their pledge of 2 hours of volunteer time to OLB and the parent organizations. Don't fret if you haven't yet because there are many more opportunities coming up for you to get involved. Please see the upcoming events listed below and let us know where you would like to help out.

### HASA Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

January 24th: Cooking for the Run the Race 10a-Noon\*

February 1st: Family Reading Night  
-setup\*  
-assisting during event  
-clean up\*

February 17th: Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

May 9th: Spring Beautification Day\*

May 10th: Spring Plant Sale Delivery Day\*

May 11th: Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

May 14th: May Crowning\*

May 24th: Family Picnic  
-setup\*  
-activities  
-clean up\*

\*does not require PGC/ BCI background check

## Upcoming Events

### January

12(R) **HASA Meeting**  
7:30pm

24(T) **January Service Project**  
Cooking for the Run the Race  
10a-11a or 11a-Noon

### February

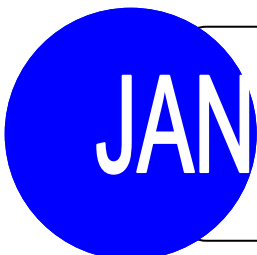
1(W) **Camp Read S'more**  
Family Reading Night  
6p-8p

9 (R) **HASA Meeting**  
7:30pm

13(M) **St.Valentine's Day Parties**  
10am \*CCO/TTT  
\*Preschool

14(T) **St.Valentine's Day Parties**  
10am \*AM PreK  
11am \*Kindergarten  
1:45pm \*PM PreK

17(F) **Teacher Appreciation Luncheon**  
11:30am-12:30pm



### Fun Dates to Know:

21-Hugging Day  
22-28 Family Fitness Week  
23-27 No Name-Calling Week



# OLB STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**Favorite Quote:** "We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do." -  
Mother Teresa

**What CD is in your car right now?** The Goo Goo Dolls

**Name 3 things you couldn't live without:** family, faith and my home

**What is one thing no one knows about you?**

When I was in first grade at St. Michael's, I was Mary in the Christmas program. The Star of Bethlehem fell and hit me on the nose...giving me a bloody nose backstage.

**What author do you enjoy most?** James Patterson

**Sweet/Salty/Savory/Spice :** Sweet

**Drama/Comedy/Reality/Discovery :** Drama

**Position at OLB:**

Preschool/PreK Teacher  
&  
Kind. Technology  
Teacher

**Number of Years at OLB:**

21 (wow that sounds old!)

**Hometown:** Worthington, OH

**Alma Mater:**

Watterson High School  
&  
The Ohio State University

**What is a funny statement that you heard from a student recently?**

As a child was leaving school she said that she was going to lunch with her Grandma at "Bob and Heavens" (aka - Bob Evans)



# GINA WACHINGER

# Camp Read S'More

## OLB Family Reading Night

February 1st  
6p - 8p

**Come for a night of family campfire fun!**

-*Draw Me A Story* returns for another unique story experience

-Crafts

-Campfire Snacks

-Games and lots of family fun

This is a unique experience where the whole family can come and enjoy an indoor campout with each other and other OLB Families.

**Bring a sleeping bag, flashlight/lantern and come in your pajamas.**

We are kicking off our February Family Service Project tonight —  
Bring one or more gently used books to be donated to St. Vincent Family Center.

*Look for more information regarding this service project!*

**We hope to see you all there!**



# Wall of Thanks

## \$\$ Dollars & Cents \$\$

We think it is important to keep you up-to-date on what HASA contributes to, gets donated, and if we reach our fundraising goals throughout the year.

### November

#### Fall Fundraiser Invoice:

- We paid our invoice in the amount of \$2643.05 to Schoolhouse Funds

### December

- We raised \$429.68 from **Secret Santa** and through everyone's generous donations we raised \$231 to be used for future service projects
- Expenses incurred total \$1566.45
  - Thank you notes ordered: \$17.95 (gen sup)
  - Advent/All Saints Party Expenses: \$41
  - Kindergarten bussing to Mass at St. Timothy's: \$412.50
  - Contribution to Columbus Children's Theatre Performance Expense: \$500
  - Christmas Gift Cards for OLB Staff, Father Dettling, Sister Thomasina and Bob: \$345
  - Cash Box Money for Secret Santa: \$250 (has been returned to account after close of shop)

## SECRET SANTA Volunteers

\*You all provided a special time and memory for all those who came to shop. Thank you!

Susan Bakhshi

Stephanie Benjamin

Lisa Carpenter

Katie Conway

Denise Coyne

Sarah Dawson

Angela Flynn

Nikki Gallo

Kim Griffiths

Shelli Grimmelsman

Irene Koesters

Julie Kolibash

Erin Meats

Kathy Molloy

Eugenia Romero

Tricia Ryan

Lisa Serantes

*We couldn't have done it without you! Thank you!*

*\*please also see service project report for more appreciation to OLB families*

**Next HASA Meeting**

# January 12th @ 7:30pm

## ABC's of HASA



For

### Enrichment Funds

Teachers receive a yearly allowance to shop for their classrooms at the United Art and Education store.

## ABC's of HASA



For

### Drives

Donate one or more gently used books for our February Book Drive

# January Service Project



## Calling All Chefs!

**WHAT:** Cooking for "Run the Race"

Visit [www.brianmuhafoundation.com/RunTheRaceClub.html](http://www.brianmuhafoundation.com/RunTheRaceClub.html) for more information.

**WHEN:** Tuesday January 24, from 10 am to 11 am or 11 am-12pm  
(come for 1 hour or stay for both!)

**WHERE:** The OLB Kitchen  
(yes, we have a full kitchen!)

Continuing with our commitment to service and to teaching our children the value of sharing and helping those in need we are providing a meal for the Run the Race Program. Winter nights can be cold and many of these kids do not have a warm meal. So, we are providing them with a nutritious & enjoyable Turkey Chili dinner for the Racers but we need your help.



### More details...

- ❖ We will be making turkey chili with all the fixings for approximately 40 Racers.
- ❖ Want to help, but don't have the time on the 24th? Don't worry. A great way to get our students involved: bake homemade cookies as a family & send a dozen in on or by the 24th for the dessert!
- ❖ If you are able to help at either of the mentioned volunteer times, please email Eugenia Romero at [romero.25@osu.edu](mailto:romero.25@osu.edu) by January 20th.

**Complimentary childcare will be provided with plenty of fun!**  
Please let Eugenia know if you will have a child(ren) with you that day  
so we can plan for childcare staffing.

After reading this article in PTO Today and it hit me how fortunate we all are to have an opportunity to be involved at such an early stage in our children's lives. I thought sharing it was a good thing to do. Enjoy!



## One Last Dance

*A mom who got involved says thanks for the memories.*

**by Sharron Kahn Luttrell**

The email arrived on one of those gray-shrouded winter days when light-starved people reposition their desk lamps in a desperate attempt to absorb vitamin D. The message was from a fellow parent asking for volunteers to help plan the 8th grade semiformal. Outside it was bone-cracking cold, but the words “June dance” propelled me forward into warm breezes and fragrant night air.

It was just what I needed to lift me out of my winter darkness. And even more important, it would shed some figurative—but no less vital—light on my daughter’s school. The opportunities to volunteer had dwindled as my daughter moved up the grades so by the time she entered a new building in 8th grade, they were all but gone. School had become a shadowy place populated by faculty, staff, and kids whose names I didn’t know.

That evening my daughter wandered into the kitchen while I was packing the next day’s lunches. I told her about the email.

She stiffened. “You can help out, but you are *not* going to chaperone.” The force of her words nearly knocked the peanut butter knife from my grip. I opened my mouth, but before I could speak, she added, “Because if you do, I’m not going.” She folded her arms across her chest and raised her eyebrows at me.

My first thought was, “Well, I guess that means you’ll miss the naked baby pictures I’ll be showing around to all of your classmates.” My second, almost simultaneous thought was of how when I was in 8th grade, the mere existence of my mother sent me into spasms of mortification. And my third thought was, Thank goodness I got in eight years of volunteering at my daughter’s schools before she slammed the doors shut on me. And thank you, too, to the PTO, which opened the doors in the first place, invited me in, and gave me something to do.

I nearly didn’t join the PTO. I figured all of those women (and they were all women) already knew each other and wouldn’t want an outsider nosing around in their business. I didn’t think I fit the part of a PTO parent. I like kids, but not nearly as much as I like my own. I’m disorganized. I can’t bake, or cook, or keep track of money. But I wanted to find out what was happening in my daughter’s elementary school, so I went to a meeting. From there it was easy to volunteer (they passed a sheet around and I signed it), and pretty soon I learned two things: first, the PTO actually wants people to nose around in their business; and second, everybody fits the part of a PTO parent—even me.

Joining the PTO is a great way to learn about your child’s school and to meet other parents. But being an active member does so much more. Decades of studies have shown that children whose parents are involved in their education have higher grades and are more likely to graduate than those whose parents aren’t involved. They have better attendance, are more motivated, have higher self-esteem, and are less likely to use drugs and alcohol or engage in violent behavior. When it comes to academic achievement, parent involvement is more critical than income,

*(Continued on page 7)*

education level, or cultural background.

There's a payoff for parents and schools, too. Involved parents tend to feel self-confident and in control. They meet new people, which strengthens and expands their social networks. They become better educated about child development, and they tend to have positive rapport with the school. Teacher morale increases and schools become stronger.

Being involved with your child's education doesn't begin and end in the school, of course. Parents need to show interest in their children's learning, read to them, and help with homework. But there's something about going into the classroom to help the teacher, or making posters for science night, or supervising the kids at recess that tightens the relationship between home and school for everyone—parents, children, and teachers. When enough parents join the PTO and put their collective creativity, talents, skills, and resources toward the same objective, they're capable of just about anything. I've belonged to two PTOs so far and have watched each perform magic many times over. Starting with nothing, they have created fairs and family nights, conjured programs and performances, bought equipment and supplies that make teaching easier or more interesting and school more fun. They've helped kids pay for field trips and thrown their organizing power behind campaigns to support our districts' schools.

But, as I realized that day packing lunches in my kitchen, joining the PTO is a limited-time offer. If you don't act soon, the opportunity will be lost forever. I'm so glad that I acted when I did. Because the eight years since my daughter had been a kindergartner had raced by and deposited her at the other side of childhood—the side that tilts much too steeply toward adulthood.

Of course, just because I'm the mother of a 14-year-old (which, by definition, makes me an embarrassment), I don't intend to stop being involved in my daughter's education. I'll just have to look harder for more opportunities to get into her school. I've already assured her that when I find some, we'll pretend we don't know each other—just like I did with my mom.

*Sharron Kahn Luttrell volunteers for parent groups at two schools in Mendon, Mass.*

# Service Project Report

Thank you OLB families for all your generous contributions to our service project this Christmas. We believe that Rachel Muha's words better express our gratitude:

*"Dear Friends At Our Lady of Bethlehem,*

*Thank you so much! The coats, boots, scarves, gloves, stocking stuffers and more are beautiful. They are making a lot of children very happy, keeping them warm and dry (especially in this constant rain!) and helping to make them feel loved.*

*What a generous and so-needed gift!*

*I hope your Christmas is a little happier and holier, knowing you did something for a stranger...*

*Love and prayers,  
Rachel"*

