



Mr. Adam Satorius, of the Cleveland Classical Guitar Society, teaches guitar to LMS middle schoolers



## Guitars open up new musical opportunities

This school year, guitar lessons joins the list of arts enrichment opportunities offered at Luther Memorial. Forty-three middle school students have signed up to work with Adam Satorius, an instructor from the Cleveland Classical Guitar Society, once a week for the remainder of the year.

Mr. Satorius told students that his first introduction to the guitar was through the video game, *Guitar Hero*, when he was 12. Lessons on an actual guitar soon followed and ten years later he has a music education and classical guitar performance degree from the University of Cin-

cinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

His enthusiasm and talent may go a long way in inspiring LMS students on the instrument. "It's great to have so many kids interested in learning guitar," says Mr. Satorius. "Playing music with other people is a bonding experience, and a lot of fun."

Guitar is known as a great instrument for teaching music fundamentals because melody and harmony can be played at the same time. "Guitar is also used in all styles of music, making it easy to play music that the students know and are excited to learn," says Mr Satorius.

Mr. Satorius plans to seek out performance opportunities for the students. "By the end of May, I hope that students have learned how to play many different songs and feel comfortable playing in parts."

For 7th grader Jasiel Nunez, learning to play guitar will mean he can join his uncle and cousins when they play at his church. "My uncle taught me how to hold the guitar and strum, but I never got that far with it," says Jasiel. "Now I've got a guitar and a real chance to learn."

LMS's arts enrichment programming is funded entirely by donors. Thank you!

## Family Nights foster caring relationships

One hundred and thirty students and their family members turned out at the first Family Night of the school year at both campuses in early September to gather around a meal, hear God's Word and get to know one another better.

"Holding more family events throughout the school year and increasing attendance at them is a priority for our Family Ministry efforts this year," says Mrs. Levy. *(continued on p. 2)*



Family Nights bring families together for food and fun

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Marissa Reyes, LMS Class of 2011, organizes a game with students before the school day begins at the West Campus.

### New aide is a familiar face

Marissa Reyes wears many hats at Luther Memorial.

Half the day she's a lunch and recess aide, as well as an office worker responsible for maintaining school records at the West Campus. In the afternoon, she's an aide in the kindergarten room and in charge of the Main Campus after-school program.

Fortunately, she knows her way around Luther Memorial having spent nine years of her life here as a student. And in August she happily returned as an employee.

"I'm happy to be back," says Miss Reyes. "The kids are great. And the teachers always seem so happy and willing to do so much for each child."

Miss Reyes was part of the first class when Luther Memorial was "re-built" in 2002. She and her younger sister Ashley attended all nine years at Luther Memorial. Ashley is currently enrolled in the culinary program at Tri-C. Both sisters graduated from Lutheran West High School.

"Luther Memorial really gave me a solid foundation for high school. I learned so much about the Bible here and was on the receiving end of so much care from my teachers," says Miss Reyes.

During a time when she was feeling anxious about some difficulties at home, she remembers her teachers coming along side her with love and encouragement.

Miss Reyes is now in a position to do the same for a new generation of children as she becomes an important part of the LMS community.

### Family Nights (cont.)

"They really serve two purposes, first, it's a chance for staff to get to know our school families so that if discipline problems or other issues arise during the school year, a relationship with the family has already been established. That goes a long way in resolving problems effectively."

The second benefit of Family Night involves family members learning how to interact with one another. "Many of our families don't sit down together for a meal every night or think to turn off the tv and play games together as a family. We'd like to model a different way of being together as a family."

Since many of our families may have had a poor experience at another school before coming to LMS, it's important to acknowledge it can take time for families to feel safe, comfortable and friendly in a new setting, says Levy.

### Pass, set, attack!

#### Volleyball finds a home at LMS

Imagine learning a new sport for the first time and two weeks later playing in a tournament. That's what happened recently to our newly formed girls volleyball team.

Volleyball was introduced the second week of school as an additional after-school learning opportunity. Many who signed up had only a vague idea of how the game was played. Others had never played an organized sport before.

Their coach, Ms. Melissa Vodicka, 3rd grade teacher at the Main Campus, kept the first weeks of practice simple, concentrating on letting the girls get a feel for the ball. The goal was not to overwhelm them by introducing too many skills at once.

Predictably, the girls did not fare well at the pre-season tournament at Lutheran West, but there were still positive takeaways.

"The girls didn't like the way they played compared to the other teams. That served as a huge motivator to get better," says Coach Vodicka. "They begged me for more and longer practices. They worked together at recess. They've really impressed me with their enthusiasm."

Seventh grader Yrieliz Urdaz says she



LMS Staff serve families dinner at Family Night events

"In the past, we've broken the ice with charades, pictionary or a craft project moms and dads can do alongside their kids," says Mrs. Levy. "Quality family time spent playing games allows parents to nurture their children and develop a trusting and caring relationship, which is so important for our children's wellbeing."



7th grader Gisselle Ortiz practices volleyball after school with teammates.

finds the sport entertaining and strenuous. "I've never sweated like this in my life," says Yrieliz.

Yrieliz said the girls enjoy working with Coach Vodicka. "She's very strict, because she wants us to get better. We all really love her as our coach."

Coach Vodicka, who helped coach her own child's volleyball team at Bethany Lutheran School, sees volleyball as an opportunity to give girls who don't think of themselves as athletes, the chance to learn and grow in a sport.

"Volleyball is the ultimate team sport. You only get one contact with the ball before you have to hand it off to someone else," says Coach Vodicka. "Relationships are being built among girls who maybe didn't interact much before. It's gratifying to see."

## Gala '20 heads upstream to Music Box Supper Club

If you haven't been to Music Box Supper Club on the west bank of the Flats in Cleveland, you're in for a treat. Join us at our **Annual Spring Gala & Auction on Sunday, April 26**, and check out the venue for yourself. We'll be in the upstairs concert hall with great waterfront views of the river and downtown with entertainment by the Cleveland Gospel Choir and an array of exciting auction baskets to bid on. Mark your calendar now to come and support urban Lutheran education. Hope to see you there!



## Girls find friendship and support at after-school program

Luther Memorial is excited to welcome Katherine Mitchell of the Joshua Caleb Leadership Center (JCLC) into our school community as she starts a weekly after-school youth group for our 4th and 5th grade girls at the Main Campus.

The group will focus on a weekly topic with a simple Biblical truth and crafts and activities that reinforce the day's theme.

The goal is to eventually connect these girls to an adult mentor, the touchstone of JCLC's mission.

"Every child needs loving adults in their lives to teach and encourage them through the challenges of growing up," says Mrs. Nicole Levy, Executive Director. "We are so blessed to have Katherine and JCLC here to love our kids and fulfill our school values of making disciples, increasing opportunities, speaking truth, healing brokenness and infusing joy."

JCLC, founded by the Rev. Jerry Mitchell, of Trinity Ohio City, was originally intended for boys, but the vision was expanded to include girls after Katherine, Rev. Mitchell's daughter, formed relationships with some refugee girls in Sunday School at Trinity. These girls and others now meet regularly with mentors through JCLC.

"As I got to know them and they allowed me to enter into their challenging lives, I saw things that broke my heart," says Miss Mitchell. "I was privileged and blessed by my upbringing and the parents I have. The more I work in the urban setting, and especially with refugee children, I'm seeing the complete opposite of what I knew to be normal as a child. I'm learning through these relationships to be empathetic."

A Young Life leader while a student at Wheaton College, Miss Mitchell's desire to work with underprivileged children grew

after graduation and eventually led her to pursue a master's degree in nonprofit administration and leadership from Cleveland State University. Working with JCLC was a logical next step.

Miss Mitchell is hopeful that the LMS 4th and 5th grade girls will want to be part of the mentoring program in middle school, similar to what Pastor Mitchell runs with LMS middle school boys. There is a commitment required from both mentor and mentee so that relationships can thrive.

"I am humbled by how God can use me and our other mentors to be a support and a light to show the hope that God provides," says Miss Mitchell. "We want at-risk kids to know the truth of who God is, who God has made them to be and what it means to pursue God's plan for their life."



Katherine Mitchell of JCLC with 4th grader Isabelle

## Timely training helps aide save choking victim

Joe Langa taught for 31 years at Holy Name High School. Since his retirement in 2012, he's worked as an aide there and at Luther Memorial. In all that time, he had never been CPR trained. When he heard that he could get certified at LMS along with the rest of the staff in mid-August, he decided it was time to do it.

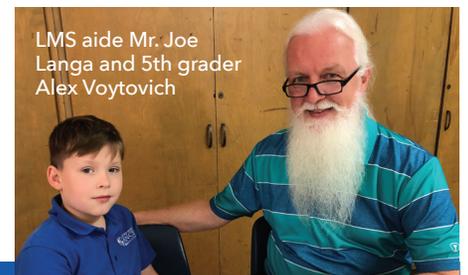
Just over two weeks later, he relied on that training to help Alex Voytovich, a fifth grader who was choking during lunch.

Alex's friends who were sitting with him at the lunch table noted the distress he was in when he stood up from the table and raised his arms above his head in an attempt to dislodge the chicken nugget from his throat. His friends called Mr. Langa over and told him they thought Alex was choking.

Mr. Langa performed two sets of back blows and abdominal thrusts until the food was dislodged.

Emergency rooms treat 12,000 children 14 years and younger every year for choking incidents. At least one child dies from choking on food every five days in the U.S.

"It was definitely a case of being in the right place at the right time. I still can't believe it happened and that I was able to help him," says Mr. Langa.



LMS aide Mr. Joe Langa and 5th grader Alex Voytovich

# Artist inspires with big personality and enthusiasm

Over the years, a varied rotation of professional artists from Art House in Brooklyn have shared meaningful, hands-on learning experiences with Luther Memorial students.

This semester, Claudio Orso is our artist in residence. With a natural exuberance— and a marked Italian accent—he expresses joy with art and life.

“Art changed my life. I’m trying to make it change others,” says Mr. Orso. “I believe you start understanding art when you share it with others. That’s why I teach.”

Mr. Orso, who creates wood block prints and ceramic sculpture in his studio in Cleveland, has taught in many different schools over the years. He says he’s impressed with LMS and the disciplined and structured environment here.

“Mrs. Levy shows a lot of empathy and respect for the children. How the students relate to adults reflects the leader and her example,” says Mr. Orso. “She’s a good captain with a genuine heart. I couldn’t be happier working here.”

“Some of these kids will make art in life. I feel it.”



Caption: Artist Claudio Orso gives a student pointers for drawing a self-portrait.



## Easy ways to help LMS

Did you know that Giant Eagle and Heinen’s will make a donation to Luther Memorial each time you make a purchase? It’s easy to sign up:



Go to [GiantEagle.com/afts](http://GiantEagle.com/afts) and enter your Giant Eagle Advantage Card number and Luther Memorial’s code: 2503.



Register your Tasteful Rewards card at [heinensrewards.com](http://heinensrewards.com) and select Luther Memorial.



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