

Hoop Dreams!

LMS fields first boys basketball team

If sports are a metaphor for life, then the LMS boys basketball team learned many life lessons this season.

Playing in their first tournament in November, the boys handily won their first game and generously complimented the other team on its efforts.

The second game didn't go as well.

"We were never in it. It was like a punch in the face," says Coach Dave Gaglione. "Once we got behind, we just couldn't get back in. The kids were really down after the game."

But the team rallied in the third game and worked hard to counter the weaknesses the loss had exposed. They won the game, a trophy and a big boost of confidence.

Perseverance – first lesson learned.

"Life is always going to knock you around. As young as they are, many of these players have already experienced the hard knocks of life," says Coach Gaglione. "Sports provides them the opportunity to see how far diligence, hard work and a right attitude can take them."

Last school year, Coach

Gaglione started regular practice and the team played a few scrimmages. The program took off this year as the team played in 16 games wearing new uniforms and cheered on by a newly formed cheerleading squad. As of press time, their record stood at 13-3.

Coach Gaglione, who also teaches middle school math and science, sees a changed disposition among his players since the beginning of the season. "The kids hold themselves a little taller. They feel the responsibility of representing LMS to the community. They take it seriously."

The program has gotten enormous support from the player's families who are thankful that LMS has added sports to its offerings. And the greater school community got to show its team spirit at a first-ever pep rally.

Coach Gaglione is appreciative of his volunteer assistants, the fathers of two of his players and Mr. Joe King, LMS's long-time substitute teacher.

To say thanks to his coaches and to celebrate the team's success, Coach Ga-



Coach Gaglione outlines strategy during a time out.



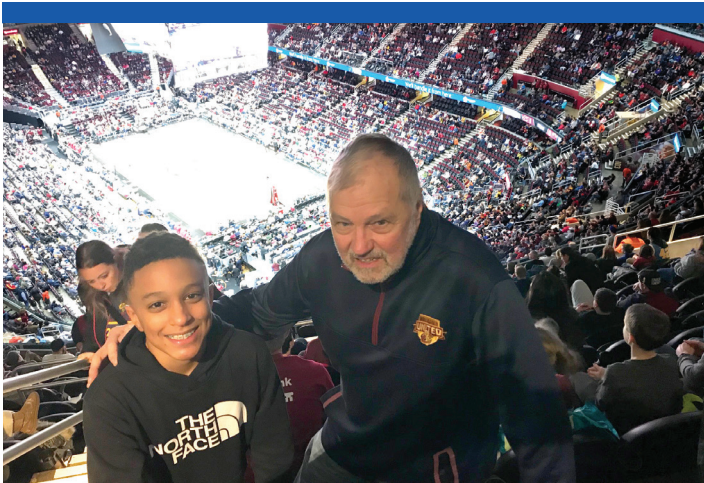
The Main Campus gym was rocking during the school's first pep rally in December.



Tammy Miller, of Thrivent Financial, sponsored a pizza party for the team in December.

gione arranged a pizza party at Dino's in Brooklyn a few days after Christmas. The party and gift cards for the volunteer coaches were sponsored by Tammy Miller, of Thrivent Financial of Westlake.

"It was an awesome gesture," says Mr. Gaglione of the party. "And it was great for the team to share some down time and reflect on the season."



Mentor Paul Hervey and KorteZ, a 6th grader, enjoy a recent Cavs game with other mentors and classmates.

Mentoring Program Helps Boys Find a Better Way

How do you help fatherless children experience the love and faithfulness of their Heavenly Father? The Joshua and Caleb Leadership Center (JCLC) and LMS believe part of the answer lies in mentors.

Seven of Luther Memorial's boys are now paired with a mentor through JCLC, which is run by Pastor Jerry Mitchell, of Trinity Lutheran Ohio City.

JCLC, which meets at the school's Main Campus, works to redefine the worldview of boys who grow up without a strong father figure.

Paul Hervey, Trinity member, was tapped by Pastor Mitchell to serve as one of the JCLC mentors. Mentors must attend two meetings a month, as well as scheduling one-on-one time with their child when possible. Building a relationship between mentor and child is a slow, intentional process. Mr. Hervey and KorteZ, the child he mentors, are just starting to know and trust each other.

"KorteZ' mother has a heart of gold, so from that perspec-

tive he's lucky. But a reliable father figure is missing from his life and his mother's work schedule leads to a disruptive home life," says Mr. Hervey. "It's not a healthy situation."

Mr. Hervey, whose own father died when he was a young child, knows the pressures on single mothers and the challenges of growing up without a father. Having raised two sons, Mr. Hervey believes boys need good male role models in their lives to become well-rounded men and to understand the Biblical view of marriage.

"Once I retired, there were many ways I could serve in the church. I wanted to do something that felt personal, that was close to my heart," says Mr. Hervey. "I hope that in some small way I can make a difference to KorteZ."

"What a blessing these mentors are to our students," says Mrs. Nicole Levy, executive director. "My husband is a JCLC mentor, and though it is a big time commitment, he finds it incredibly rewarding."

Christmas Hope Shared Boldly

With over half of its student body non-Christian, Christmas at West campus becomes a key witnessing opportunity for teachers and staff.

Most of the non-Christian students are from Nepali or Bhutanese families who practice Hinduism or profess agnosticism or atheism.

This year's Christmas program, called "Broken Pieces," spoke of the sinful world we live in and how God through His Son came to make it whole again and make us, his children, whole in Him.

Through a translator,

parents and guests at the program were encouraged to write prayer requests on a sheet of paper and bring them to the altar.

"It was gratifying to see many parents come forward," says Principal Marty Beckman. "God is working on hearts here. We don't always see the fruit of our efforts as much as we'd like, but we have to trust God is at work."

Staff are following up with parents who participated in the prayer requests to take the next step in sharing the Gospel with them.



Many of the Nepali and Bhutanese girls wore traditional dresses at the Christmas program.



Beginning and advanced orchestra students shared their instrumental talents with families and guests at the Christmas program.

LMS Looks for "Big Win" at Annual Fundraiser



Run, don't walk—come join the fun at our sports-themed Annual Spring Gala & Auction, Sunday, April 28, at Stillwater Place at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Mike Snyder, of Wills and Snyder in the Morning on WTAM 1100, will serve as our emcee and auctioneer.

Festivities kick-off at 5 p.m. with a casual buffet and silent auction. Savor all the fixings of a great picnic—barbequed pulled chicken, hamburgers, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, etc. Bid on an assortment of auction baskets - from day trips and restaurant gift cards to sporting events and spa/salon baskets. Enjoy a sports-themed dessert while the Cleveland United Mass Choir, a local Gospel choir, entertains. The evening ends with our Fund-A-Need (see related story) and exciting Live Auction.

Guests are encouraged to wear their favorite sports jersey!

Invitations will be mailed in March. Hope to see you there!



Help Make the Gala a Success

Buy a ticket to the Gala and bring a friend: Tickets are \$50/per person (includes buffet, Zoo/Rainforest admission on the 28th and auctions)

Donate an auction item (i.e., jewelry, restaurant gift cards, sporting event tickets, theater tickets). Contact Peggy Sexton at 216-749-5300 or development@lmslancers.org if you can help us out!

2019 FUND-A-NEED: Healthy Kids Equal Healthy Futures

Our 2019 Fund-A-Need will raise money to support Luther Memorial's sports programs (basketball, track and volleyball) and wellness resources that help our parents raise healthy kids.

Rising enrollment at LMS has made it possible to field competitive teams in boys basketball and girls and boys track. Volleyball in our newly renovated gymnasiums is in the pipeline as well.

Sports program expenses include travel costs; conditioning camps; equipment and uniforms. By offering sports programs, LMS is a more attractive school choice for many families.

Wellness resources for families that we plan to offer include workshops and materials on nutrition, exercise, and children's mental health.

Our goal is to raise \$15,000 through our Fund-A-Need. Gala attendees can give at the event. Non-attendees are encouraged to donate to this cause using the return envelopes in this newsletter or in the Gala invitation, which will be sent in early March.

We ask that you prayerfully consider giving to our 2019 Fund-A-Need. Thank you!

PARENT SPOTLIGHT



Mrs. Brenda Lopez, mother of LMS alumnus Eli, a freshman at Lutheran West; and 4th grader Anjelica, answers a few questions about LMS.

Why did you choose LMS? I chose LMS because it's a Christian school that teaches Bible principles. It was recommended to me by my brother and his wife whose children attended LMS.

Who have been your favorite LMS teachers?

Mrs. Missy Beckman and Mr. Dave Gaglione have been such great examples of what a teacher should be -- caring and loving and willing to go above and beyond to help your child succeed. I can't thank them enough for all they did with Eli to get him to succeed.

How is Eli's freshman year at Lutheran West going?

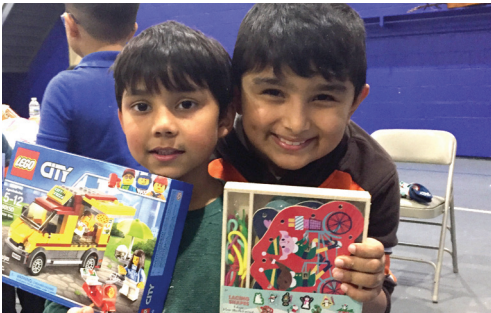
Eli is loving Lutheran West and enjoying the high school life and meeting new friends and playing sports. I think that you're never really prepared for going to high school, because it's all so new; however, LMS did prepare him as much as they could.

What do you do for a living? I work for University Hospital as a patient care assistant on a cardiac step-down floor. I love my job to the fullest. I will graduate from nursing school as a registered nurse in the spring and continue working on the cardiac floor. The future looks bright!

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Return Service Requested



West Campus students were surprised with presents from the members of Mt. Calvary Lutheran at the Christmas family day event in December.



LMS welcomed Kevin Creutz, new superintendent of schools for the Ohio District LCMS, as part of an accreditation team visit in December. In its report, the team recognized the school as a "vibrant ministry" demonstrating "genuine care and concern" for the needs of all of its students.

Into the Woods

Students unplug on fall camping trip

Thank you to all who supported our 2018 Fund-A-Need. Because of the generosity of our

donors, our 7th and 8th graders got to spend three beautiful October days free of technology at Hiram House Camp in Chagrin Falls.

God's amazing creation was on full display with starry nights and colorful foliage. The kids enjoyed a late night hike guided by the stars; tie dying t-shirts; maneuvering the low ropes course and climbing wall; skits and games.

"What a great few days we had with the kids. It was fun to have the two campuses together and watch new friendships form," says Mrs. Nicole Levy, Executive Director. "I was so proud of our kids. Camp staff commented several times on how well-behaved, respectful and polite our students were."

LMS 5th and 6th graders will head to Hiram House at the end of April.



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