

Clelian Heights Newsletter



January and February 2011 50th

Anniversary

Clelian Heights...An Exceptional Place for Exceptional People!

New Years Prayer

Thank you Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.

Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.

The year ahead is empty
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And the happiness it brings.

Please give the leaders of our world
A courage born of peace
That they might lead us gently
And all the fighting cease.

Please give to all upon this earth
A heart that's filled with love
A gentle happy way to live
With Your blessings from above.

~ Charlotte Anselmo ~

Clelian Heights



Clelian Heights Turns 50... 2011 marks the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Clelian Heights School for Exceptional Children.

Opening its doors in 1961, Clelian Heights has been serving children and adults with **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities** for 50 years. Founded by a community of religious Sisters known as **the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**, the mission of Clelian Heights is to provide **spiritual, educational, vocational, and residential programs** for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities that **enhance the quality of life and maximize their potential for independent living**. In 1961, this began with a staff consisting of four Sisters and a student body close to that number. Today, Clelian Heights touches the lives of over **190 students and adults from 8 counties and 21 school districts in Western Pennsylvania**. Providing the same individual attention and instruction for the students and clients as in 1961, Clelian Heights now has a **staff of over 125 professionals**. Please save the following dates in order to celebrate Clelian Heights 50th Anniversary:

- **Sunday, March 27, 2011 at 1:00 pm** there will be a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated at Clelian Heights.
- **Friday, May 20th at 6:00 pm** - Awards Dinner at the Four Points Sheraton



Students/Residents/Workers of Clelian Heights Celebrate Christmas... This year, the holiday festivities at Clelian Heights started on December 2, 2010, with a special concert performed by the students of **Queen of Angels School**. The

musical selections chosen by the choir, in fact, helped to get everyone into the Christmas spirit. The annual Christmas Parties at Clelian with the **Kiwanis** and the **Export/Murrysville Rotary Clubs** offered our residents a chance to enjoy a dinner with these special friends and benefactors of Clelian Heights. Santa and a holiday sing-a-long highlighted both events with a visit. Many of the classrooms paid a visit to **Westmoreland Mall** for Christmas shopping, a ride on the train through "Christmas Land", lunch and to see Santa. Parents, students and staff gathered together in Clelian Heights Gym on Friday, December 17, 2010 for the annual **School Christmas Performance**. This was truly an amazing event bringing many to tears. Several parents feel that this event without doubt marks the beginning of the Christmas Season for them. Monday, December 20, 2010 was perhaps the most exciting day for everyone at Clelian. This is when **Santa arrives by helicopter**. The cheers were deafening as the students awaited their special visitor. After the landing, all proceeded to the Gym where everyone had one-on-one time with the man in red. **Frosty the Snowman** and **Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer** entertained the crowd while all waited their turn with Santa. Numerous people were responsible for this extraordinary event. **Ed Kilkeary of LJ Aviation** provided Santa and helicopter ride to Clelian. **Rizzi DeFabo** and a co-worker from **Rizzo's Restaurant** took time from their busy schedule to dress as the famous **Christmas Characters - Frosty and Rudolph**. **Commissioner Ted Kopas and his staff** were responsible for providing Santa with a gift to give each of the clients and students. It is evident that the generous support of the Westmoreland Community made this an exceptional and memorable event for all at Clelian. Another Christmas celebration took place on the evening of December 21, 2010 when the clients, families and staff of the **Clelian Center**

gathered at **The Lamplighter for their Annual Dinner Dance**. There was much enthusiasm in the air as all danced the night away! This annual event is always noted as a real family affair... and a wonderful way to begin the Christmas vacation.

Franklin Regional's Girls Basketball Team and Clelian Heights Students Become Buddies... In November, the **Lady Panthers, Franklin Regional's Basketball team**, came to **Clelian Heights** to share an afternoon of sports activities



with **Homeroms 105, 106 and 107**. This event included many warm up activities that the Lady Panthers use during their basketball practices. With the help of their new friends, the Clelian students really learned some new basketball skills. A wonderful bond of friendship seemed to develop from this event. **On January 6, 2011**, the same students along with the newly established **Clelian Heights Cheerleading Squad** were invited to an evening game at Franklin Regional High School. Before the game, Clelian Heights' students were introduced along with their Franklin Regional Buddies. The applause from the crowd was thunderous. During "half-time", the **Clelian Cheerleaders** teamed up with the Franklin Regional Cheerleaders to perform some very special dance routines. The **Clelian Heights Varsity Basketball Team** then took the court for a five-minute scrimmage game. This event will be remembered for a long time in the hearts of all that witnessed this wonderful event. The Clelian Heights students were without a doubt, the STARS that evening, radiating their great spirit of love to all!

Winter Olympic Games... This year, the Special Olympics winter games will take place from February 13th - February 15th at Blue Knob Resort. The following athletes from Clelian Heights will be participating this year:



Michael Anthony, Gregory Baker, Amber Boggs, Alan Close, Tanya Levic, Ky Mozelewski, Zach Proskin, Amy Silvis and Matthew Wilson. Coaches, Gwen Diddle and Jennifer Garcia will

accompany these students/adults to this annual event. We wish them much luck as they compete in this Cross-Country Skiing Event.

Mmm... Mmm... Good!

This slogan brings back memories for many of Campbell Soup products. However, whenever you walk down the Ground Floor at Clelian Heights, this same thought will definitely come to mind! Clelian Heights' daily living classes are making the most of our newly renovated Home Economics Room. Students are being taught kitchen safety and hygiene, as well as, learning to use a variety of tools and appliances used in food preparation. They have made a variety of toaster snacks and are now using the ovens. Crescent rolls, cinnamon rolls, bagels and English Muffins are just a few of the items they've made. Classroom 108 baked a basket full of muffins and made cinnamon honey butter for a family Christmas gift. Mangia, Mangia!



Clelian Heights Girl Scouts... It's a defining moment when a Girl Scout becomes aware of her own achievements and is ready to tackle the accomplishments of a badge with the tools at hand. This past Girl Scout meeting, Pam one of the Troop Leaders, considered it a blessing to sit back and be in awe of how these girls have truly gained confidence in tackling their tasks. She visually noticed an improvement in their perceived sense of self. Their group interaction skills have soared. Gone are the days of non-activity which is now replaced by zealous desires to participate. The Girl Scouts are now actively stepping up to the plate, displaying much confidence and self-esteem. Participating in Girl Scouts has equipped these girls with the tools necessary to develop courage, confidence and character – three important keys to leadership. Girl Scouts provides activities that allow the girls to develop through exploring, learning, leading, creating and helping their fellow scouts. Pam feels tremendously blessed for having the privilege and opportunity to work with these girls.



Visit us at www.clelianheights.org

Proceeds of Dress-Down Day to Support Project Bundle Up... Thanks to all who participated in the dress-down day in January. Students, Clients and Staff were able to donate \$202.00 to this necessary and worthy cause.

Winter Weather... We have certainly had our share of school delays and cancellations during the month of January. Hopefully the worst is behind us! However, since the students at Clelian Heights School belong to many different School Districts, we ask that during inclement weather you follow your home districts. But please also be aware of the possibility that Clelian Heights might have a delay or closing that may not align with your District. Check WTAE, KDKA, and WPXI for all delays and closings. For Buses and parents that transport their children, drop off time for a two-hour delay is between 10:30 am and 10:45 am. Because our staff also comes from the same surrounding areas, we are unable to cover your child any earlier than 10:30 am.



Students from Clelian Heights prepare to take the PASA... The Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA) is a statewide alternate assessment designed for students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Specifically, it is intended for those who are unable to participate meaningfully in the [Pennsylvania System of School Assessment \(PSSA\)](#) even with accommodations. By administering the PASA to students with disabilities, schools achieve compliance with federal laws and the Pennsylvania School Code that require that all students participate in the statewide accountability system. The PASA is an individually administered test given each spring to students by their teacher or another certified Test Administrator who knows the student well. Test administration can be adapted so that even students with the most severe disabilities can participate in the assessment and receive a score. The test, administered to students in the equivalent of grades 3 through 8 and 11, consists of 25 test items related to reading standards; 25 test items



related to math standards; and, for students in grades 4, 8, and 11, approximately 25 test items related to science standards. Each test item represents an authentic, relevant, and age-appropriate skill related to reading, mathematics, or science. There are three levels of difficulty for each content area. Level A contains the least complex reading-, math-, or science-related skills. Level B consists of intermediate skills, and Level C consists of the most complex skills. Like the PSSA, the PASA is designed to take a snapshot of students' typical performance on a small sample of academic skills derived from the PA Academic Standards.

Student performance is recorded via video or narrative notes and submitted for scoring to the contractor at the University of Pittsburgh. Teams of scorers (comprised of practicing teachers, administrative school personnel, and college/university faculty) are trained to use a scoring rubric to evaluate student performance. Once scoring has been completed, aggregated results are submitted to the state for inclusion with scores from the PSSA. In addition, PASA reports are generated at the state, home district, service provider, and student levels. This year, the PASA will be administered from February 14th to March 25th at Clelian Heights

Upcoming Events

Friday, February 4th

Full Day of School – Snow Make-up
Steelers' Dress Down Day and Party
11:45 - Early Dismissal for Clelian Center

Sunday, February 13th -Tuesday, February 15th
Skiing Special Olympics

Monday, February 14th

Afternoon - Valentine's Day Party

February 14th - March 25th

PASA Testing in Reading and Math for
All students in Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11

Friday, February 18th

No Workshop
11:45 - Early Dismissal for School

Monday, February 21st
Presidents' Day – No School or Workshop

Monday, February 28th
7:00 - Faith and Light Meeting

Friday March 4th
11:45 – Early Dismissal – Staff Training

A Special Thanks To...

- Mr. and Mrs. K. Geehring for donating a 32 inch flat screen TV
- To all who donated used cell phones during the month of January.



Wish List

- 32 inch Flat Screen Televisions for the Classrooms
- Hand operated can openers for the Home Economics Room
- New or used blender or food processor
- Gasoline Gift Cards
- Gift Cards to McDonald's, Wendy's, etc.

Happy Valentine's Day!



Admission, the provision of services and referrals of residents are made without regard to race, color, age, religious creed, disability, sex ancestry or national origin.