



Student Life Department

Triannual Newsletter

December 2014



Stephanie Smith Albert, Director of Student Life

Season's Greetings Parents and Guardians,



I hope our newsletter finds you well and enjoying the beauty of the holiday season: bright lights, shimmering décors, snow, delicious eats and all the exciting festivities.

Importantly, nothing beats the warmth, love and laughter of family and friends during the holiday season. The best joy in the world!

I'm excited to announce our long overdue triannual Student Life newsletter: December 2014, March 2015 and May 2015.

We want you to know your child does more than just sleep during the evenings! We have a great array of recreational and educational activities, field trips and special events and programs happening throughout the months and we'll keep you in the loop via our newsletters. And, the best part, you don't have to wait three months to know what your child's doing, we now have Instagram to help you see cool pictures of your child's field trip or special activity the same day it's scheduled ☺ Our Instagram username is **OSDStudentLife**.

Enjoy our December Newsletter! We'll be back in March 2015! I wish you and your family a world of peace, joy and beautiful blessings this holiday month and the New Year!

Warmly,  
*Stephanie*



Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month 2014



Beautiful cake designed by Kroger

Our residential students enjoyed learning about Spanish/Latino investors, history and Spanish words posted around the dorm during the Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15). We invited Stacy Coli and Company to come out and teach us some Latino moves! We had a ball, see pictures below. This is one of our favorite months!





Since 2013, we have celebrated Thanksgiving with dinner, a variety show and a memorable slideshow. Our students enjoyed getting all dressed for this event. Look at the beautiful pictures of our night together as a family. We have a lot to be thankful for; our families, our friends, our school, our community and just being here to enjoy this holiday season.



Event Setting



Turkey Cupcakes



Students waiting with Anticipation



“Family Dinner Disaster”



“Timber—The Deaf Way”



“We’re Deaf NOT Animals!!!!”

“

# Game Night!



December 15, 2014

Our students enjoyed a fun night of Bingo with awesome prizes. Prizes given out: Gift cards to Kroger, Target, McDonald, six-pack Gatorade, stuffed animals, munchies and candies ☺





# Elementary Dorm News



**Left Picture**

On October 27<sup>th</sup> the elementary students held their Dorm Halloween Party in D5. All our boys and girls dressed in their finest costumes and looked their absolute spookiest! Even the staff joined in on the festivities. We enjoyed games, music and even "Ghoulish Treats."

**Right Picture**

We were busy the whole month of November teaching our kids how to be Thankful for what they have. We made a Thankful Tree, baked cookies for CCH and even wrote Christmas cards for our Troops overseas who won't be with their families for the holidays.



**Left Picture**

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, our elementary students traveled to the Columbus Zoo for Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo. Since it was dark and cold most of the animals were sleeping. However, there were over a million lights at the zoo with plenty of beautiful displays to look at and entertain us. Our kids had a wonderful time! Thanks to the cafeteria staff, we all enjoyed a delicious cup of hot cocoa and HUGE sugar cookies afterwards.



**Right Picture**

Every year for the past 3 years, an adorable little shelf elf named Joey has been coming to visit our dorm. He mostly hangs out in D5 but the elementary girls get to see him once in a while. He's a very mischievous elf, as you can see, he's always getting into something. The kids love Joey and always seem to behave just a little bit better when he comes in to town.



On behalf of the Elementary Students and Staff we would like to wish you all a **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**





MS Girl Youth Leaders: Reva Lorenzo, Mary Bachtel,

MS Boys Youth Leaders: Steven Barabas, Vilas Frank

# Middle School News!



Swimming at OSU Aquatics



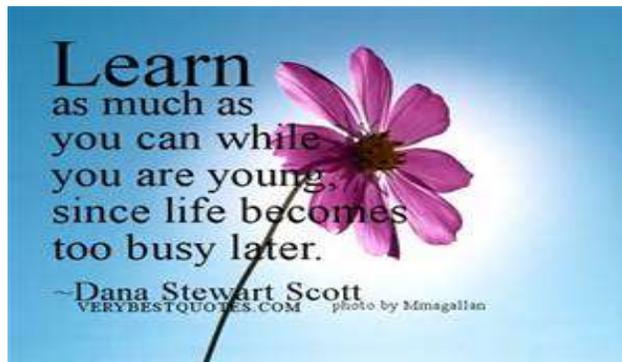
Columbus Zoo Wildlights



Thanksgiving dinner with OSD Family



Ice Skating at OSU



PRECIOUS MEMORIES.....What a fun time we had during the Fall Season! We had Thanksgiving Dinner with OSD Family whereas everyone was together ate and celebrated and acknowledged our thanks and love for one another. Oh, did I mention we were all dressed to the max! Yeah, we were looking good. ☺

We went swimming at The Ohio State University natatorium where the students played in an enormous pool with slides, bubbling burst from the pool's floor, and a jet action whirlpool!

The Columbus Zoo Wild lights were awesome, everywhere we looked it was full of different LED lights, beautiful arrays of decorations and exciting abstracts. Displays to dazzle our eyes were everywhere in the Zoo. What a beautiful wonderland of lights! The weather was fabulous... it was very comfortable and we were able to stroll around and really view the lights and enjoy the "Fantasy Land" outdoor exhibits.

The Ice skating rink at The Ohio State University was super fun and super exciting! Everyone skated around the rink demonstrating their various skating skills and unique skating styles...We were very impressed!

In addition to all of our after school, fun and exciting activities, our students also enjoyed our educational dorm programs. We have discussions such as what's going on around them in the world today and how they can cope, and endure as they experience indirect/direct aggression from peers, strangers and from the world in which they live and someday work.

Upcoming program activities are "Girls on the Run" & Basketball training.



## HOT OFF THE PRESS!

### High School News!

Helen Cook-Drosak, Jeannette Dreher, Kareem Harris, and Kevin MacFarland

Our High School students visits The Ohio State University (once a month) for a variety of fun and exciting activities. They learned how to play tennis, volleyball, whiffle ball and had swimming lessons. Our high school students really enjoy the events at OSU, the socializing and peer interactions there, is the best!

The Ohio School for the Deaf, had a bonfire on September 19<sup>th</sup> everybody really enjoyed it...the weather was perfect. The bonfire was the kickoff of our big Homecoming weekend. They had a lot of fun i.e. roasting our own hot dog, drinking hot cocoa, eating s'mores, basketball games, they even had a crowning ceremony and selected a new OSD 2014-15 Homecoming King & Queen.

#### **Congratulations to Mr. Michael Adkins & Miss. Abigail Aites our OSD King & Queen!**

Our High school students traveled to "Circleville Pumpkin festival", it was very huge event and the students really enjoyed the rides, parade and had lots of pumpkin flavored foods. A few weeks later, they traveled an hour from OSD to a haunted house in Washington Court House. They really enjoy going to the haunted house. It was SCARY...some of the students were really freaked out by the gruesome costumes. Many of the ugly monsters came-close to the students and tried to scare them. It was Ghoulish!

In addition to our exciting afterschool trips we in "The Student Life Dept" also focus on educating students through our Dorm Programs.

So far we have presented and discussed "Personal Hygiene" and "Safety in the Kitchen" i.e. how to properly and safely operate a microwave oven. Student learned what cooking items are/are not microwave safe and what materials such as aluminum foil must never be used in a microwave.

We later invited a Sorenson  representative to talk about videophones and how to accurately use them.

In January 2015, we will have a dorm program that is titled "Cyberbullying". We feel it is very significant to educate the students about what cyberbullying is and what to do if it happens to them.

Last by not least.... The high school boys had their Christmas party in the dormitory this year. They watched a movie and ate pizza. Wow, what fun they had! The high school girls chose to have their party in their dormitory as well and they made an assortment of delicious mouthwatering desserts and tasty dips for their Christmas party. The girls watched a great movie as well.

Here some pictures capturing the students fun events and happy moments. **Enjoy the pics!**  
**Happy Holiday and a Blessed New Year 2015**





# 4PLUS World News!

Greetings! The Holidays are approaching, and we are all anxious to be with our families and friends to enjoy a wonderful feast, open gifts, and fellowship. Our 4 plus program, thus far, has been eventful with our grocery shopping, cooking lesson, and dorm programs. We have taught 5 different conflict management styles. The COTA bus transportation training was introduced once to see how well they do themselves independently.

From September to October, we have completed our 8 sessions of Law 101 course. A few of Columbus Bar Association lawyers came to Ohio School for the Deaf and gave us "Legal Street" presentation. The presentations were fascinating.

We have covered:

- ✓ The levels of felony and misdemeanor including years of time,
- ✓ Property crimes and finding housing (rights),
- ✓ Crimes against persons,
- ✓ Assault, self-defense, weapons and years of time for the commit
- ✓ Stopped by the cop and employment law
- ✓ Search warrant/harassment, resisting arrest
- ✓ ADA
- ✓ Sex crimes and cyber bullying/pandering/rape
- ✓ Consequences of a criminal conviction

This upcoming winter quarter, we will be focusing on financial courses including budgeting, mortgage, loans, and investments. Stay tuned....

## 4 Plus Team



Kacie Hixson Carolyn Voelker  
Chris Johnson Bob Kolb Larry Diley

Ms. Kacie Hixson will be leaving Student Life to join the Outreach Department as an Administrative Assistant. Kacie has will be missed. We wish her the best in her new position!

We collect ...



We need your help...please cut out and donate Box Tops coupons to our school. The money will help us pay for incentives/rewards that will both the residential program and the school



## DARNEST THINGS



SAY...

### HOW TO GET A SECOND DATE:

"On the first date just tell each other lies, and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a 2nd date."



-Mike, age 10



### School closings:

Jan 9, 2015—Teacher's Professional Day

Jan 19, 2015—Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Feb 16, 2015—President's Day

March 16, 2015—Teacher's Professional Day



### Clothes—

Please pack warm clothes to bring back in January such as gloves, .....

Due to limited drawer and closet space in the dorms, bring enough clothes to last the week.

## Acknowledgement ...

Winter Woods Photo:	Jeannette Dreher
Student Life Staff Photo:	Terry Lineberry
Graphic Designer of the Newsletter Heading:	Tim Albert

## Special “Thank you” goes out to ...

Youth Leaders for their contribution to their individual dorm page and photos!

Activity Therapists for their photos contribution to this newsletter.

Lonnie Pitt, as co-editor of this newsletter