

FAMILY MATTERS



Summer 2017

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Live concerts & movies all summer in Jefferson

by Veronica Favela

The lineup is set - Jefferson Rocks West Park has your summer entertainment covered!

Bellaire Puritas Development Corporation, in collaboration with Councilman Kazy, is excited to bring you eight weeks of free concerts and movies in the park. Kicking things off is the movie *Trolls* on June 22nd, and wrapping up the summer with a rock show featuring The Breakfast Club and classic 80's movie, *The Princess Bride* on August 10th.

disco inferno

Enjoy a summer of 70's, 80's, and 90's jams from four band who play across the country, but are lucky to call Cleveland home. The Spazmatics is a chain band that plays 80's music, specializing in the electronic



instrumentals that was recreated in nerd-perfect style by the band's founders, middle school science teachers. Toast is a cover band that mostly plays 90's

favorites like Foo Fighters, Green Day, Weezer,

see Concerts pg 3



JMCBL to place 30 seniors as interns this fall at Cleveland businesses as pilot

by Ian Heisey

Starting in the fall of 2017, the John Marshall High School of Civic and Business Leadership will be connecting students to area businesses for an internship program for qualified seniors. Students will not be paid but will earn school credit for the internship that will be 12-20 hours per week. Principal Sara Kidner said there will be about 30 students that will be placed as interns in area companies and more internship hosts are needed and are being recruited.

According to Monisa Mason, the Business and Community Coordinator for the school, the goal of this internship program is, "to provide opportunities and exposure for our students within their specified career interests, ranging from sales/marketing and finance to entrepreneurship, non-profit management and health care; to prepare them as they

see Internship hosts needed pg 2

High School Fair offers support, guidance

Story by Justin Glanville Photos by Julie Van Wagenen, both on behalf of the Cleveland Transformation Alliance

The summer before his first year at John Marshall High School, Antonio Perez was terrified.

"I was the nerdiest, shyest person in the world," he told an audience of middle school students and their parents at the West Side High School Fair, organized to help families make an active and informed high school choice. "I had no idea whether I'd be accepted."

He thought his temperament would make him stand out in a large school full of kids who he imagined would be bolder and tougher than him.

But once he started classes, he realized something: Everyone else was terrified, too.

"There were a lot of people who were unique in different ways," he said. "I saw they were just like me. They were wondering if they'd fit in, who they'd make friends with."

No one made fun of him in the halls, or in his

classes. He discovered there were clubs for students from all kinds of different backgrounds, identities and tastes: a gay-straight alliance, a chess club, a Special Olympics team.

Even the school mascot is kind of nerdy: The Lawyers.

see High School Fair pg 7



The student panel at the West Side High School Fair, left to right: Angelise Irizarry (Bard High School Early College), Bianca Molina (John Marshall School of Civic and Business Leadership, JMCBL), Oscar Malave (New Tech West), Gonzalo Villafan (John Marshall), Kamila Reyes (John Marshall School of Information Technology, JMIT), and Antonio Perez (John Marshall School of Engineering, JMENG). Steven Lake, on the far right, from the Cleveland Transformation Alliance moderated.

R.G. Jones pre-K-8 progress recognized by CMSD

by Ian Heisey

As 8th graders at Robinson G. Jones School will be moving on to the high school of their choice in a few months, the school itself has graduated and will be moving out of the "Investment School" status next school year because of its progress.

The school has been part of the Wraparound strategy since 2013 through a partnership between United Way and CMSD and has been one of 23 "Investment Schools." This initiative provided a site coordinator, Mary Jo Cotner, employed by Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation (BPDC) and located at

R.G. Jones, to coordinate resources for students and family engagement activities.

Parent leader and vice-president of the School Parent Organization, SPO, Tomesha Walker said she has seen a change in the culture of R.G. Jones and in what is offered including the addition of community partners, after-school activities, and holiday-themed events. She also appreciates the encouragement of literacy enjoyment for the entire family through author readings and book signing events.

"Multiple activities with full gyms of families is a

see RG Jones pg 7

Youth voice: Students advocate at the Statehouse

by Vanessa Lange

Health and safety in schools, environmental issues, and youth employment were just a few of the issues that youth advocates discussed with legislative staff at the Statehouse in Columbus on March 30th, as part of Voices for Ohio's Children's annual MyCom Advocacy Day.

Four youth represented the West Park neighborhood at this event and spoke to their own experiences and concerns, along with youth from around the Greater Cleveland community.

In addition to the roundtable discussions with staffers, three legislators stopped by to introduce themselves and speak with the students: Representative Stephanie Howse, Representative Bill Patmon, and Representative John Barnes. The legislators and their staff emphasized with the youth the importance of reaching out to their representatives to tell them their concerns and ideas, by phone, email or letter.

Later in the day, the youth took a tour of the Statehouse... see Youth voice pg 2

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Summer Job Jumpstart gives young adults experience

by Vanessa Lange

April 29th, Gunning Recreation Center on Puritas played host to the West Park MyCom Summer Job JumpStart, organized by Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation (BPDC). At a glance:

- **92** youth ages 14-20 spent their Saturday learning employment skills, getting interview practice, and talking to employers and community agencies.
- **28** community and business volunteers helped with registration, mock interviews, and lunch.
- **14** businesses and **6** community agencies staffed tables at the fair and talked to youth participants about employment and volunteer opportunities.

One participant provided this response about the event: "It was great. They gave me a lot of feedback and advice I could use for my real job experiences or interviews."

Thank you to all the volunteers, businesses and organizations that helped make this another successful year!



The Marriott's Greg Huber is pictured above interviewing teens. Students in the middle photo are learning about online applications. Tom Link (left, plaid) is one of many volunteers doing mock interviews.



Youth voice cont. from front page

house, including the House Chambers.

The students learned about the construction of the Statehouse building (which took 25 years to compete), and about the two Ohio Governors who later became President of the United States (Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinley).

Voices for Ohio's Children advocates for public policy that improves the well-being of Ohio's children and their families. The organization serves as MyCom's lead agency for advocacy and provides advocacy training for youth each year, in addition to the annual trip to Columbus. For more information on Voices for Ohio's Children, and their 2017 policy agenda, visit www.raiseyourvoiceforkids.org.

Neighborhood Family Practice opens a new Puritas clinic

by Rachel Napolitano

West Park now has nurse midwifery services and expanded family planning, behavioral health, and medical services with Neighborhood Family Practice (NFP). NFP views the clinic as the medical home of their patients as they try to provide comprehensive and culturally-appropriate care for all their patients, including the large refugee population of the west side.

NFP started serving up high-quality health care in West Park in 2014 as a result of the federal Affordable Care Act's (ACA) grant funding. They outgrew that space as a Federally-Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that serves patients with most insurances,

see NFP Puritas clinic pg 8

Reading recommendations for young adults

by Jeanna Sauls, youth librarian, West Park branch of Cleveland Public Library

Three books available at the library:

Insignia by S.J. Kincaid – The first in a trilogy of science fiction novels about teens fighting WWII in space using virtual reality equipment.

Skin I'm In by Sharon Flake – A realistic fiction novel about a young African-American girl struggling with low self-esteem because of her dark skin.

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson – This realistic fiction novel follows the story of a high school student ostracized by fellow students for calling the police to break up a party. She refuses to tell anyone why she called, and eventually refuses to "speak" at all. A powerful story about date rape.

Internship hosts needed cont. from front page

transition from high school to real world experiences, whether college, the workforce or military."

Mason said the program is an opportunity for companies to help groom and prepare today's youth and tomorrow's leaders as well as to network with other internship hosts.

Principal Kidner said that the internships will likely start in mid-September after students go through a curriculum on job skills to prepare them for their internship. The work schedules will be set based on the needs of the site and what is possible for the student, and there could be evening and weekend work times arranged.

"If a company or agency is interested in supporting young people in their career preparation but cannot host a student, there are other opportunities such as 'lunch and learns'..."

"We are very flexible about figuring out the training piece to make sure they have skills specific to what they need to accomplish depending on the placement," Kidner said.

Kidner, who in a previous job coordinated the internship program for St. Martin De Porres High School, said that providing students exposure to the world of work is very important.

"Not only are they meeting you, they are meeting who you interact with on a daily basis," she said.

Current placements include the Cleveland Leadership Center, IDEA Stream, Cleveland Transformation Alliance, Greater Cleveland Food Bank, and Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation. The school is still recruiting companies to consider hosting interns.

If a company or agency is interested in supporting young people in their career preparation but cannot host a student, there are other opportunities such as "lunch and learns" at the school where students can learn about different professions and ask questions.

To learn more about the internship program contact Monisa Mason at 216-838-6058 or Monisa.Mason@clevelandmetroschools.org.



Left to Right of the West Park delegation to the Ohio Statehouse March 30th: Guillermo Rivera (Cleveland Central Catholic), Azeez Ayoade (John Marshall School of Civic and Business Leadership, JMCBL), Joselyne Muregwa (JMCBL), Hope Rivera (John Marshall School of Information Technology, JMIT) with Vanesaa Lange, youth development director at Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation. All are members of the West Park MyCom Job Club. They are standing on a map of Ohio made up of different types of stone to illustrate each of the state's 88 counties.



MyCom youth from across Greater Cleveland came together for Global Youth Service Day on Saturday April 22nd at the Kinsman Farm. Volunteers helped paint storage sheds and ready plots for planting. West Park youth Paradise Black and Hope Rivera participated.

Concerts cont. from front page

and Sublime. Disco Inferno's set is sure to get people on their feet and be a blast from the past, and last but certainly not least, we end the summer with The Breakfast Club playing the likes of The Cure, U2, Bon Jovi and Guns & Roses.

Movie offerings include one of the year's biggest Oscar contenders, *Hidden Figures*, perfectly paired with the nerdy chic Spazmatics band, as *Hidden Figures* is almost completely set at NASA, revolves around mathematician female protagonists, and harkens to the days of the agency's first computer. You can also catch fan favorites *Rio* and *Shark Tale*, as well as throwback movies *The Sandlot*, *Big*, and more!

Plus, catch a special screening of *Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb* as we move temporarily to McGowan Park on Tuesday, August 1, during our celebration of the National Night Out Against Crime. (McGowan Park is at the east end of McGowan Avenue, off of W. 130th Street.)

Lawn chairs, blankets, and cash for food trucks encouraged!

All festivities start at 7pm with movies beginning each night at 9pm. Jefferson Rocks West Park will be located in Jefferson Park at 13200 Lorain Avenue. Contact Veronica at 216-671-2710 with questions.

June 22:

Trolls

June 29:

Band – Spazmatics, and *Hidden Figures*

July 6:

Shark Tale

July 13:

Band – Toast, and *Big*

July 20:

Rio

July 27:

Band - Disco Inferno, and *The Sandlot*

August 1

Special Feature in McGowan Park: *Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb*

August 3:

How to Train Your Dragon 2

August 10:

Band - Breakfast Club, and *The Princess Bride*



PARENT TOOLKIT ONLINE

by NBC News Education Nation

www.parenttoolkit.com

For parents of youth in PreK to 12th grade

Historic graduating class of comprehensive academic program at John Marshall

by Rachel Napolitano

The John Marshall High School (JMHS) Class of 2017 has earned a quarter of a million dollars in free money to pay for college and more than half of that is merit-based, according to Megan O'Connor.

O'Connor, Educational Talent Search Advisor from College Now Greater Cleveland works at John Marshall High School and assists students in being ready to apply and get accepted to post-secondary schools. Part of that assistance is supporting students to apply for scholarships.

Fourteen seniors are receiving the College Now scholarships.

"Many seniors have been awarded scholarships by local colleges such as Baldwin Wallace, Cleveland State, Notre Dame, and John Carroll and have decided to remain in Cleveland to continue contributing to their hometown. 60% of the senior class has applied to at least one college... One student is travelling as far north as Michigan and one travelling as far south as Cincinnati," O'Connor reports.

Selene Szczepanek reported that the

see Marshall pg 6

Directory of West Park Youth Resources

Art & Performance

America SCORES-poetry & spoken word	216-881-7988
Art House, Inc.	216-398-8556
Bellaire Puritas Development Corp./ West Park MyCom	216-671-2710
Brady Campbell Irish Dance School	216-926-4423
Center for Families and Children-RapArt	216-252-5800
Joyful Noise Music School	216-952-4398
Rockport Teen Center	216-623-7053
Schools As Neighborhood Resources	216-658-1360

Academic

America SCORES-writing enrichment	216-881-7988
Building Hope in the City	216-281-4673
College Now	216-870-8611
Riverside Park Afterschool program	216-476-4172
Rockport Branch Library and Teen Center	216-623-7053
Schools As Neighborhood Resources	216-658-1360
RG Jones Wraparound	216-920-7143
West Park Salvation Army	216-252-3593

Employment

Bellaire Puritas Development Corp./ West Park MyCom	216-671-2710
Youth Opportunities Unlimited	216-566-5445

Religious

Blessed Trinity Youth Ministry	216-671-5890
Second Calvary Baptist Church Youth Ministry	216-252-1050
St. Paul AME-Youth Ministry Programs	216-941-6767
Gateway West Community Church U-Turn Ministries	440-941-4238
West Park Salvation Army	216-252-3593
West Park United Church of Christ Youth Group	216-671-7228
West Park Evangelical Friends	216-251-6976

Youth Leadership

AmazinnMe Bridge Program for Girls	216-209-0760
Bellaire Puritas Development Corp./ West Park MyCom	216-671-2710
Boy Scouts	216-861-6060
Girl Scouts of NEO	800-852-4474
Operation StandUP	216-282-5822
West Park YMCA & Teen Center	216-941-5410

Sports

All American Karate	440-331-0009
America SCORES-soccer	216-881-7988
Cleveland Bombers Sports & Mentoring	216-800-1823
Gunning Recreation Center	216-420-7910
Gunning Gators (football & cheerleading)	216-47-8456
Halloran Recreation Center	216-664-4187
Impact Youth, Inc.	216-387-0187
Schools as Neighborhood Resources at John Marshall	216-838-6000
Tri-League	216-476-8456
Valley Riding Inc.	216-267-2525
West Park YMCA & Teen Center	216-941-5410

Other Offerings

Center for Families and Children (counseling)	216-252-5800
Cleveland Metroparks	440-734-6660
Neighborhood Education Committee	216-671-2710
Rockport Branch Library	216-623-7053
West Park Community Coalition Computer Lab	216-941-5050
West Park Kiwanis school-based programs	216-252-1364
West Park Branch Library	216-623-7102
Hasani Management gardening program	216-245-5167

Preschools and PreKindergarten Opportunities in West Park

Business Name	Street Address	Phone number	Contact	Type Of Care	Step up to Quality Rating
Angels on Earth Child Care Center	13439 Lorain Avenue	216-476-2273	Anife Redzepi	Child Care Center	Three Star
Artemus Ward Pre-Kindergarten Program	4315 West 140th Street	216-838-0110	Early Childhood Office	Preschool Program	not rated
Bellaire Head Start Center	12502 Wanda Avenue	216-252-6511	Kelly Demarco	Child Care Center	Five Star
Birchwood School of Hawken	4400 West 140th Street	216-251-2321	Cindy McNaughton	Preschool Program	not rated
Care-A-Lot Day Care & Achievement Center	4698 Rocky River Drive	216-205-4984	Sandra Diaz	Child Care Center	not rated
Clara E. Westropp Pre-Kindergarten Program	19101 Puritas Avenue	216-838-0110	Early Childhood Office	Preschool Program	not rated
Douglas MacArthur Girls Academy Pre-K Program	4401 Valleyside Road	216-838-0110	Early Childhood Office	Preschool Program	not rated
Future Kids Care Activity Center	16940 Lorain Avenue	216-941-5990	Jamila Jabr	Child Care Center	not rated
Garfield Pre-Kindergarten Program	3800 West 140th Street	216-838-0110	Early Childhood Office	Preschool Program	Five Star
Home-Based Early Learning Program	your home	216-651-2037	Tonya Thompson	Pre-school Program	not rated
Little Critters Early Learning Center	12625 Lena Avenue	216-252-2600	Brenda Dillingham	Child Care Center	One Star
Nature's Way Child Care Inc.	14010 Puritas Road	216-671-0572	Patricia Arch	Child Care Center	Three Star
Newton D. Baker Pre-Kindergarten Program	3690 West 159th Street	216-838-0110	Early Childhood Office	Preschool Program	Five Star
Puritas Head Start Center	14402 Puritas Avenue	216-476-3201	Bertha Simmons	Child Care Center	Five Star
Puritas Park Child Enrichment Center	14045 Puritas Avenue	216-251-8300	Lydia Floyd	Child Care Center	not rated
Riverside Head Start	17800 Parkmount	216-267-4731	Samatha Whatley	Preschool Program	Five Star
Riverside Pre-Kindergarten Program	14601 Montrose Avenue	216-838-0110	Early Childhood Office	Preschool Program	not rated
Robinson G. Jones Elementary Pre-Kindergarten Program	4550 West 150th Street	216-838-0110	Early Childhood Office	Preschool Program	Five Star
Shining Stars Learning Center LLC	12530 Lorain Avenue	216-671-5437	Barbara Banks	Child Care Center	not rated
St. Mark Preschool	15724 Montrose Avenue	216-521-4115	Tracey Patton	Preschool Program	not rated
The Appleseed	3466 Rocky River Drive	440-582-0575	Sandy Bethlenfalvy	Preschool Program	not rated
Valley View Boys Academy Pre-Kindergarten Program	17200 Valleyview Avenue	216-838-0110	Early Childhood Office	Preschool Program	not rated
Watch Us Grow Development Center	13540 Lorain Road	216-688-0555	Victoria Glover	Child Care Center	not rated
West Park Discovery World Inc	3909 Rocky River Drive	216-671-7229	Gayle Kovach & Nora Litchney	Child Care Center	Five Star
West Park Lutheran School Pre-Kindergarten	4260 Rocky River Drive	216-941-2770	Cheryl Poppe	Preschool Program	not rated
YMCA West Park Learning and Enrichment Center	15501 Lorain Avenue	216-941-5410	Megan Scott	Child Care Center	not rated

Understanding preschool options and ratings by Rachel Napolitano

Research shows enrolling a child in preschool is one of the most important tools a parent or guardian can give a child. The PRE4CLE Plan, created with input from researchers, teachers, foundations, and civic organizations, contributed to the chart of preschools and pre-Kindergartens (pre-K) available above. The PRE4CLE Plan is part of the Cleveland's Plan for Transforming Schools. The last column, "Step Up to Quality Rating (SUTQ),"

is part of the comprehensive strategy to rapidly and efficiently expand access to high-quality preschool in Cleveland for 3- to 4-year-olds. (More information at www.pre4cle.org)

Preschool can occur in many settings, even in your home. SUTQ is a tool to measure and promote quality, not merely health and safety conditions, for preschool programs. Programs funded by the Ohio Department of

Education (ODE) must be rated. ODE only rates 5 Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) pre-K's at a time, according to CMSD, so some are not rated yet. (All received five stars.) All state-licensed programs may voluntarily participate in SUTQ.

One star is an indication of a center's interest in having a quality program. Five stars is the highest quality rating that the state bestows.

Not required to be rated is the Home-Based Early Learning Program, a unique option through the The Centers for Families and Children with Head-start curriculum in a child's home.

CMSD pre-K registration started in March. Schools are typically limited to 20 students. Registration occurs at each school only for children in their zip code, as there is no transportation available for pre-K students.

West Park Summer Events, Camps, & Programs

Family Events

Healthy You, Healthy Families

The Cleveland Clinic presents a discussion with health experts about safe baby care (with resources) for parents, grandparents, and babysitters. Safe Sleep; Dads Boot Camp; Infant CPR; Family Planning; Breastfeeding; Car Safety. Free lunch, door prizes, and a chance to win a pack and play.

Date: Friday, June 9

Location: 17800 Parkmount Ave., 12-2pm

Contact: Rosemary (440) 331-0618

Asphalt Cinema

Interactive art and games. Movie at dusk. Safety fair August 18th.

Date: Fri.'s June 16, July 21, Aug. 18

Location: Impett Park (W. 155th St. and Montrose Ave), 6:30pm

Contact: Marilyn (216) 252-6559

Jefferson Rocks West Park

Movies every week at dusk. Live bands before every other week's movie

Date: Thursdays June 22 - August 10

Location: Jefferson Park (W. 132nd St. and Lorain Ave)

Contact: Veronica (216) 671-2710

Independence Day Parade

One of Cuyahoga County's largest 4th of July Parades!

Date: Tuesday, July 4

Location: Kamm's Plaza (Rocky River Drive and Lorain Ave), 9:30am

Contact: Marilyn (216) 252-6559

Cleveland Metroparks Bike Festival and Night Ride

Bike rodeo, parade, festival, and free bike lights

Date: Saturday, July 8

Location: Mastick Picnic Area (Valley Pkwy), 6:00-10:00pm

Contact: Veronica (216) 671-2710

Free summer field trips for 6th-12th graders

by Vanessa Lange

Middle school and high school students are invited to join Bellaire Puritas Development

Corporation this summer for free college and career exposure field trips.

Trips will range from a day-long trip to Kent State University on Wednesday, August 2nd from 9am to 3pm, to local trips to the Superelectric Pinball Parlor, an urban farm, and Tri-C's Hospitality Management program. The Kent State trip includes a campus tour and a visit to its fashion museum.

Trips will explore career pathways in the arts, health, hospitality, business and more. Youth are invited to attend all field trips in the series, or they can pick and choose. A full schedule of weekday field trips will be available by mid-May.

Contact Vanessa at Bellaire Puritas Development Corporation for more details by emailing v.lange@bpdc.org or by phone at 216-671-2710 x218.



Annual Ice Crime Social

Safety fair, ice cream social & movie

Date: Tuesday, August 1

Location: McGowan Park (Erwin and W. 121st St.), 5:30-8:30pm

Contact: Veronica (216) 671-2710

Cleveland Public Theatre STEP Performance

Original theater production created and performed by Cleveland youth.

Date: Wednesday, August 2

Location: Riverside Park Estates (17800 Parkmount Ave), 2:00pm

Contact: Rhonda (216) 476-4172

Summer Camps & Programs

Camp Forbes

One week of FREE sleep away camp, M-F. Register by May 31st.

Dates: Vary by recreation center

Ages: 9-13 (Cleveland residents only)

Contact: Your recreation center or (216) 263-5325

Salvation Army Summer Camp

Field trips, swimming, outdoor play, arts & crafts, Bible, reading/math/computer enrichment. Before and after care available at additional cost. Weekdays. County vouchers accepted.

Regular cost: \$100/week

Ages: 5-12

Dates: June 21-August 4

Location: 12645 Lorain Ave, 9:00am-3:00pm (lunch included)

Contact: Debbie (216) 252-3593

Camp Riverside Park

Free for CMHA residents & the neighboring community. Sports, dance, yoga, art, & academic enrichment. M-F

Ages: 5-13

Dates: June 12 - July 28

Location: 17800 Parkmount Ave., 9am-3pm (breakfast & lunch included)

Contact: Rhonda (216) 476-4172

West Park YMCA Summer Day Camp

Field trips, swimming, academic enrichment. Vouchers accepted and financial assistance available. M-F

Ages: 6-12 years old

Dates: May 31 - August 9

Time: 7:00am - 6:00pm

Location: 15501 Lorain Ave

Cost: \$140 per week

Contact: Meghan (216) 941-5410

West Park YMCA Program Camps

Performing arts and visual art activities, swimming. OR different sport each week including basketball, soccer, baseball & flag football. M-F only

Dates: Fine Arts: June 5 - June 30;

Sports: June 5 - August 18

Location: 15501 Lorain Ave, 9am - 4pm

Cost: \$125 per week

Contact: Melissa (216) 941-5410

Partners for Student Success

Academic enrichment, drumming, field trips and more. FREE, weekdays

Ages: 11-14 years old

Dates: June 5 - June 30

Location: Artemus Ward, 4315 W.

140th St., 9am-2pm (lunch provided)

Contact: Ian Heisey (216) 671-2710

AmazinnMe

Girls mentoring and character development. Meetings alternate between the West Park library and the YMCA. FREE, Saturdays, year-round

Ages: 11-17

Location: 3805 W. 157th St. and

15501 Lorain Ave, 12:30-2pm

Contact: Tasha Fairley (216) 926-6054

West Park MyCom College and Career Exposure Field Trips

Field trips for middle and high school students to Greater Cleveland colleges and workplaces. FREE

Age: 11-18

Dates & times: Varies-call for dates

Pick-up and drop-off location: Artemus Ward, 4315 W. 140th St.

Contact: Vanessa (216) 671-2710

Art House Portfolio Workshop

Professional assistance for high school juniors and seniors to create an art portfolio for applying to colleges and jobs. Two field trips included. FREE, M & W's

Dates: June 26 - August 2, 2017

Location: West Park Library, 3805 W. 157th St., 11am-12:15pm

Contact: Vanessa 216-671-2710

7 tips for baby's 1st birthday

by contributing author, Tomesha D. Walker, West Park resident, executive doula, international author and speaker, who serves expectant mothers supporting them to have successful pregnancies & lower infant mortality.

Let's take a look at what we can do to help babies make it to their first birthday with our

"Successful First Birthday" countdown

Seven - Mama Mishaps & complications.

Many problems as moms come from accidents, disease, and physical ailments. Starting and continuing provider approved exercise, medical care early in pregnancy, following your provider's advice, often help to lessen this danger.

Six - Habits, Make or Break?

Good and bad habits affect your pregnancy. Drinking water or not smoking can greatly affect you and your baby's health. Wonderful choices like these support more outcomes that are positive.

Five - Keeping the Bun in the Oven

Next, premature births. I remember the terror and uncertainty of having a preemie. Daily techniques lessening negativity, inside and out, support staying in the womb and surviving the first year. This could go a long way to support development by giving the little one longer to cook and grow.

Four - Trips and Falls

Be careful! Welcome to a nice belly.

Putting on jeans gets harder, seeing your feet below becomes difficult. Remember to keep tidy, get help and watch your step, lol.

Three - Self-care

Surprise! Learn how to relax & rest. Remember that self-care is baby care. When you are relaxed and in a good place it brings peace for you both.

Two - Support

The world moves so fast, people seem far apart. Connect with mother's groups. Ask family and friends for support. Someone to talk with, a safe person to watch the baby while you take a nap. Keep your sanity, providing the best of you for your baby.

One - Know Yourself

Paying attention to body, mind, belief, like and dislikes, will allow an enjoyable and fulfilling pregnancy and baby's first year.

Use these tips as happier and healthier life choices for you and your little one., found within the book "First Year? No Fear!" (by local youths and myself), written to decrease infant mortality. Join us in this, share and get a copy of the book, available at www.firstyearnofear.com or text FirstYear to 216-273-2828.

Top destinations for family fun

Parks & recreation

Gunning Recreation Center, Pool, Playground, and Fields: 16700 Puritas Ave., 216-420-7900, free admission, sports, playground, and lunch

Halloran Rink, Pool & Gazebo: 3550 West 117th St., 216-664-4187, free activities like sports, \$1 skate rental and admission, 25¢ to skate with your own skates.

Impett Park, Pool, Playground & Fields: W. 155th St. & Montrose Ave., 216-664-2570 basketball and tennis courts, walking paths, and fields. Staff & free children's lunch M-F.

Jefferson Park, Playground, Courts & Fields: Lorain Ave. & W. 132nd St., 216-664-2570, walking paths, tennis and basketball courts. Staff & free children's lunch M-F.

Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Reservation: entrance at Puritas Avenue and Grayton Road, 440-734-6660, nature center, programs, fields, trails, golf, pavilions and picnic tables, playgrounds, splash pools, fishing, outdoor exercise equipment, boating, free except for golf and some

classes/workshops/showings/rentals.

Emery Park: W. 130th and Emery Ave., 216-664-2570, spray basin, basketball courts, baseball courts.

Crossburn Park: Crossburn Ave. and W. 130th, 216-664-2570, spray basin, basketball and tennis courts, baseball. Staff & free children's lunch M-F.

Valley Riding, Inc. (nonprofit AKA Rocky River or Puritas Stables): 19901 Puritas Ave., 216-267-2525, group lessons, group tours, therapeutic riding, camp, prices vary.

West Park YMCA: 15501 Lorain Road, 216-941-5410. Sports, exercise classes, and an indoor pool.

Libraries

Cleveland Public Libraries: The West Park, and Rockport branches are located in West Park. Books, movies, technology, arts and crafts, and the summer reading club from June 5-July 31. For more information, call:

- Rockport -- 216-623-7053

Also has Friday movies at 1pm, Construction Club and science programs.

- West Park --216-623-7102

School bragging corner

by Rachel Napolitano

Artemus Ward student drummed at Neighborhood Family Practice's grand opening of the new Puritas clinic, in front of their city councilman, county councilman, state legislators and US Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur. The performance was covered in The Plain Press.

Puritas Community Middle School's principal, Meg Colwell, brags that 8th grader Hailey R. won 1st place among 8th graders in the statewide Buckeye Hope Writing Contest. (The Buckeye Community Hope Foundation organized the contest among its 47 Ohio charter schools.) Eighth graders took the 1st (Jabari) and 2nd Place (Savion) awards in the World Water Day contest conducted by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

Global Ambassadors Language Academy (GALA) founder, Meran Rogers, brags that the school is growing and recruiting for K-2 now. Families interested in enrolling are invited to attend an upcoming Open House on: Thurs., May 25 or June 15 at 5pm or Sat., June 17 at 10am.

Two GALA students, "Emma Votruba (First Grade) and Harrison Rogers (Kindergarten), performed at the annual K-12 Chinese Essay and Speech contest hosted by the Confucius Institute at Cleveland State University. Both students were required to submit essays with more than 100 Chinese characters and read their essays in front of a panel of judges and audience. Emma Votruba received 'Third Place' and Harrison Rogers received 'Honorable Mention' within the category of elementary school K-5 students. We are extremely proud of

GALA teacher Lu Laoshi and these two young students" with "only eight months of... GALA's Mandarin immersion program."

Mindy D. Kidd, principal at Westpark Community Middle School reports she had students compete and place at CONSEF, a series of STEM competitions for students. The conference is sponsored by Concept Schools. Gold Winners were Hannah C. and Aidan S.; Silver Winners were Arianna G., Wesley B, and Logan C.; Bronze winners were Audrey W and Aidan N.

In the Buckeye Hope Writing Contest, Westpark Community student Morgan J. won the overall high score of 3rd-high school students as a 7th grader.

One John Marshall School of Information Technology (JMIT) team earned a White Ribbon in the Cleveland Clinic's Math Xpressions contest. Juniors toured Boston colleges and Boston information technology businesses in April. JMIT plans on hiring these rising seniors for summer tech work.

Marshall cont. from p. 3

last week of April the seniors went to Washington, D.C.. May 1st, the seniors boarded Lolly the Trolley to take a tour of Cleveland.

The senior awards assembly is Wednesday, May 17th at 8:30 am in the cafetorium. Breakfast will be served to graduates and their families.

Faculty from the Senior Class Committee, comprised of Selene Szczepanek, Maxine Matovic, and Kimberly Greytak, reported that this historic last class from the traditional

Betsy DeVos praises STEM program at John Marshall School of Engineering

By CMSD News Bureau

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos held up one of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's STEM programs as an example of successful innovation in public education during a speech March 9.

DeVos, in an address at the Council of the Great City Schools legislative conference in Washington, D.C., said CMSD's use of the Project Lead the Way program opens doors for students to have successful careers.

"Children learn relevant subjects such as coding, robotics, and in some cases, 3D printing," DeVos said. "This type of hands-on experience encourages students to engage in ways the traditional classroom often does not, and it introduces them to skills and subject areas with high-potential futures."

Project Lead the Way is the nation's

leading provider of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education programs. PLTW forms partnerships with public schools, higher-education institutions and the private sector to increase opportunities for students in engineering and technical fields. PLTW is offered at eight District schools, but only one in West Park, John Marsahll School of Engineering.

DeVos also recognized CEO Eric Gordon, who was attending the conference and in the audience during her speech.

"I'd like to give him a special thank you for his work in helping encourage this program," DeVos said. "He's also the reigning CGCS urban educator of the year. Thank you, Eric, for leading in this area."

high school academic program will be taking the stage Monday, May 22nd at the Cleveland Public Auditorium for commencement. Admission by ticket only. In early Spring, Matovic estimated about 175 John Marshall Lawyers will be in this graduation class.



After this May, seniors at John Marshall will graduate from the three respective small schools that have been phased into the new school building: the School of Engineering (JMENG), the School of Civic and Business Leadership (JMCBL), and the School of Information Technology (JMIT).

The future graduates of the new small schools and this year's graduating class will all join the proud and strong Lawyer alumni network. At an open house last year 1500 alumni attended!

True2U program at local 8th grades is seeking mentors

submitted by Cleveland's Neighborhood Leadership Institute

"One cannot ask for a more meaningful, all-encompassing role in the present time than this, with so many personal interactions, surprising learning moments, and unexpected mental challenges included in this experience. So, if you are one of those people looking for fulfilling, meaningful, continuing personal enrichment that is not easy or simple but infinitely rewarding then the True2U mentor program is for U," says Jeff Buchman, Lubrizol True2U Mentor.

The True2U program is an innovative mentoring and career awareness program that prepares eighth grade students for the transition from middle school to high school. It began at the start of the 2015-2016 school year and served approximately 800 youth in 22 Cleveland Metropolitan School District schools during its first year. During the 2016-2017 school year the program served 1,700 students in 44 schools.

Mentoring is delivered using a unique advisory model in which groups of approximately 12 students are led by a team of two or three mentors. The advisory groups meet at the schools for three hours each month and mentors facilitate a structured curriculum that helps students think about career options and how they can use high

school as a pathway to their future.

The curriculum is inspired by Stedman Graham's Teens Can Make it Happen and focused on personal development and career exploration. True2U's formal curriculum is delivered by mentors over the course of the school year during seven three hour-long modules.

Mentors are encouraged to work with their mentor partner(s) to prepare for the in-school sessions and are supported throughout the year by True2U program staff with training sessions before each in-school session, YouTube training videos, and online mentor resources.

All True2U students participate in an out-of-school experience, a day-long field trip to a Northeast Ohio organization in the morning and a post-secondary option in the afternoon.

True2U is the shared vision of community leaders from MyCom – the youth development initiative of the Cleveland Foundation, Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Greater Cleveland Partnership, Neighborhood Leadership Institute, and the Northeast Ohio Faith-Based Collaborative, Inc. Together, they work to recruit mentors from the business community, churches, and civic organizations.



CMSD, college scholarship finalist

by Rachel Napolitano

Say Yes to Education, which was founded in 1987 and now has established full-tuition college scholarships and high school support services to four urban schools and three school districts on the East Coast, has named Cleveland as a finalist for its fourth community-wide chapter and a possible investment of \$15 million.

The grant comes with their expert help in running these programs born from 30 years of experience that started in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This exciting news would mean that children in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD), if accepted into eligible college or other post-secondary schooling, would attend for free. It would also mean that as soon as 2018, teens in the district could receive supportive services to better equip them to achieve in school and life.

CMSD officials traveled to New York to meet with the Say Yes to Education Foundation in January and February and the district's finalist status was announced in March. The city spent nine months having conversations with Say Yes staff before it was invited to even submit a detailed application in 2016.

Louisville, Kentucky is also in the running, however the national program is not committed to a timeline for its decision nor has it committed to funding a fourth community-wide chapter out of this round of applicants.

Say Yes will only fund communities who can find local funds to supplement the Say Yes award to make an endowment that will make the program sustainable into the future. It also requires communities to secure commitments from the city, county, local hospitals, business, and service agencies to provide support to every district student. The district would need to attract about \$100 million more dollars to make the scholarships last.

In Syracuse and Buffalo, community-wide chapters of this national program, the scholarships are available to high school graduates regardless of family income, at any state university or other participating out-of-state school.

There are 100 private colleges and universities that are members of the Say Yes Higher Education Compact in 21 states and the District of Columbia.

The program's website (www.sayyestoeducation.org) explains the private college and university tuition commitment as ensuring "that students whose annual family income is at or below \$75,000 are typically eligible, at a minimum, to attend tuition-free, provided they successfully navigate the institution's regular admission process. Say Yes students whose family income is above \$75,000 and who are enrolled in a Compact institution are eligible to receive annual grants, from the organization itself, of up to \$5,000."

West Park family gives back with a little free library

by Rachel Napolitano



West Park resident, Mariah Hanley, is a homeschooling mother of three boys, who frequent Gunning Recreation Center every day during the weekdays. Her family started doing monthly give-a-ways or activities to give back to Gunning after receiving so much. In March, they donated a large hutch that community members have donated books and games to for Gunning's patrons to use on-site, especially children. It was not the end of their giving back, though. They were recently spotted landscaping the grounds on a rainy Saturday!

R.G. Jones cont. from the front page



welcomed and exciting change for R.G. Jones," said Walker, who has a student in Pre-K and in Kindergarten at the school.

That pre-K program has also earned accolades. R.G. Jones has earned a five-star rating from the Step Up To Quality, SUTQ, system from the Ohio Department of Education, which is the highest rating a school can get for its pre-K program. SUTQ recognizes and promotes learning and development that meets quality program standards that exceed licensing health and safety regulations and are based on national research. (There are four other pre-K schools in West Park that have earned five stars.)

Parent Amanda Rodriguez, who has a son in 7th grade at R.G. Jones, and who is also a principal at another CMSD School in Cleveland, said she has seen a change in the culture of R.G. Jones.

"The increase of parental involvement activities such as the Bring-A-

Grown-Up-To-School-Day event allowed for parents and community members to have a deeper understanding in the programming implemented in the school such as the Leader In Me," she said.

The Leader in Me initiative, developed by Stephen Covey, began under

Principal Watts and involves students keeping track of their own data such as their attendance, spelling, sight words and multiplication facts. According to Watts, this approach helps the students see trends and to improve on them. This learning model was featured at "Leadership Day" on May 11th where students demonstrated what they have learned to guests and visitors to the school from other districts who are interested in learning more about the strategy.

Rodriguez said site coordinator Mary Jo Cotner has been able to reinforce community partnerships with the school and "establish a pipeline between the parents and the community and the school."

Some of these partnerships coordinated by Cotner include Fairmount Temple for tutoring; CWRU for health education; Fairview Hospital for food, fitness and fun as well as sponsorship of the Dancing Classrooms program; the Center for

Arts-Inspired Learning for digital story-telling classes; and KeyBank and Junior Achievement for financial literacy activities. Connections have also been made with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and Vision First. BPDC has offered support in a variety of ways including its housing program and HEAP office.

Parents were surveyed during the year and one of the concerns expressed included a need for an improved traffic plan. The school worked with BPDC, Councilman Brian Kazy, CMSD Security, the CMSD Safe Routes to School Program and the Cleveland Police Department to alter the traffic flow for a more efficient and safe arrival and dismissal from school.

Site Coordinator Mary Jo Cotner looks forward to the Wraparound program in the 2017-2018 school year. These improvements at R.G. Jones are translating into increased demand by families. Next year the school is projected to have 500 students which is about 50 more than this school year.



High school fair cont. from p. 1

Slowly, Perez started opening up to others. He made friends, joined the Army ROTC program. When John Marshall transitioned to a campus of three small specialty high schools at the start of his sophomore year, he enrolled in the School of Engineering and found himself in small classes full of other kids interested in science and technology.

"My friends changed my attitude about high school — but also about myself," he said, and smiled. "Now? I think I'm pretty smart and funny."

Perez was one of six high school students who shared their stories during a panel at the West Side High School Fair, organized by the Cleveland Transformation Alliance in partnership with Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

The other students — representing

New Tech West High School, Bard High School Early College (BHSEC) and the schools of Information Technology and Civic and Business Leadership at John Marshall — sounded themes similar to Perez's.

High school is hard, but not as scary as you think. Actively choosing a school allows you to thrive both socially and academically, while side-stepping negative outside influences.

"I feel like I'm encouraged to think of myself as being able to achieve great things," said Angellise Irizarry, from BHSEC. "I can go to poetry slams, or attend foreign language clubs, and from the beginning we're all told we're college material."

She explained how Bard's curriculum includes two years of accelerated high school followed by two years of on-campus college courses, ending with students receiving their associate's

degree from Bard College.

A parent's hand shot up.

"Isn't that too much work, condensing all that in four years?" he asked.

"It sounds like it would be, but it's not because they give us plenty of time and free periods to finish our work," she said.

Oscar Malavé from New Tech West shared how he appreciated his school's mix of computer-based learning, one-on-one instruction from



West Park resident, Mike McNeely, hears what the yet-to-open Campus International High School Campus downtown has to offer directly from its assistant principal, Amy Brodsky. Mike says, "I was exposed to different schools in the district at the event. I learned about what their core principles are. Bryanna, my daughter, is going to attend Mc2STEM, a high school that is located at Cleveland State University for junior and senior year. Freshman year is at the Great Lakes Science Center. Bryanna and her parents did not know where she would go before the fair since they "only had Catholic school experience". Going to the fair they learned a lot about CMSD. "It isn't like it was 20 years ago." -caption by Rachel Napolitano of Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation

campus, which opened in fall 2015, or to visit information booths representing other west side and downtown high schools.

Angela Yapp, who attended with her two sons, who are in 7th and 8th grade, said she was leaning toward one of the John Marshall schools for her younger son — but not for the older one.

"He's more of a loner, a smaller-environment type of kid," she said. "So we'll see, but I think someplace smaller would be good for him."

That's exactly the kind of thinking the Transformation Alliance is trying to promote with its neighborhood school fairs, including three more being planned for late spring and early summer in other parts of the city, said Piet van Lier, Alliance executive director.

HOUSING FEEDBACK

I'm interested in:

- e-newsletter about housing
- rental opportunities
- buying a home in this neighborhood
- home repair fair
- taking a homebuyer classes
- volunteering as a Neighborhood Ambassador
- publicizing a story or person

Please contact me _____ about my interest(s) at:

Address _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Please return form to: 14703 Puritas Ave., Cleveland, OH 44135

West Park elementary school choice directory

SCHOOL	ADDRESS	PHONE	PRINCIPAL	WEBSITE
Al Ihsan Islamic School	4600 Rocky River Dr.	(216) 676-5006	Haleema Siddiqui	alihanschool.net
Artemus Ward School	4315 W.140th St.	(216) 838-6200	Christopher Myslenski	clevelandmetroschools.org
Birchwood School	4400 West 140th St.	(216) 251-2321	Charles Debelak	birchwoodschoo.org
Clara E. Westropp School	19202 Puritas Ave.	(216) 838-6250	Francie Watson	clevelandmetroschools.org
Douglas MacArthur Girls Leadership Academy	4401 Valleyside Rd.	(216) 838-8400	Victoria King	clevelandmetroschools.org
GALA (Global Ambassadors Language Academy)	13442 Lorain Avenue	(216) 315-7942	Dr. Jessica Gilway	gala-prek8.org
Garfield School	3800 W. 140th St.	(216) 838-6300	Dawn Imler	clevelandmetroschools.org
Luther Memorial School	12826 Lorain Ave.	(216) 749-5300	Nicole Levy	luthermemorialschool.org
Menlo Park Academy	14440 Triskett Rd.	(440) 925-6365	Beverly Veccia	menloparkacademy.org
Newton D Baker School	3690 West 159th St	(216) 838-6650	Wendy Rose-Geiling	clevelandmetroschools.org
Our Lady of Angels School	3644 Rocky River Dr.	(216) 251-6841	Kathy Krupar	olangels.org/school
Puritas Community Elementary & Middle Schools	15204 Puritas Ave.	(216) 688-0680	Meg Colwell	constellationschools.com
Robinson G. Jones School	4550 West 150th St.	(216) 838-6750	Melissa Watts	clevelandmetroschools.org
Riverside Elementary	14601 Montrose Ave.	(216) 838-6700	Paige Baublitz-Watkins	clevelandmetroschools.org
St. Mark School	15800 Montrose Ave	(216) 521-4115	Karen Cocita	stmarkwestpark.com
Valley View Boys Leadership Academy	17200 Valleyview Ave.	(216) 838-8900	Terrance Mitchell	clevelandmetroschools.org
West Park Academy	12913 Bennington Ave.	(216) 251-5450	Michael Jassile	www.the-academies.com
West Park Lutheran	4260 Rocky River Dr.	(216) 941-2270	Nancy Clark	holycrosslife.org/WestPark.cfm
Westpark Community Elementary School	16210 Lorain Rd.	(216) 688-0271	Sheila Delzani	constellationschools.com
Westpark Community Middle School	16210 Lorain Rd.	(216) 251-7200	Mindy Kidd	constellationschools.com
West Preparatory Academy	13111 Crossburn Ave.	(216) 772-1340	Jennifer Heyman	westacademy.org

Youth employment after summer

Youth Opportunities Unlimited, which annually hires over 3,000 youth across Cuyahoga County during the summer is not the only youth employment agency in town.

Centers for Arts-Inspired Learning also

has a paid Artworks internship that is offered in the summer AND again during the school year. Call them at 216-561-5005 to inquire about the Fall and Spring deadlines. More information is at www.arts-inspiredlearning.org.

Scholarships *cont. from p 6*

The support services would be similar to those now funded by the United Way at the CMSD-designated Investment Schools (that Robinson G. Jones had previously been labeled as, and that BPDC's Mary Jo Cotner has coor-

minated there).

For more on R. G. Jones, read the article on the bottom of the front page entitled: *R.G. Jones pre-K progress recognized by CMSD.*

NFP's Puritas clinic *cont. from p. 3*



Medicare, Medicaid, and even the uninsured. They bought a new building in 2015. They renovated the building with over \$1 million of ACA funding and were able to open on Valentine's Day at 14625 Puritas Avenue in a new building three times the size of their previous space in Puritas Plaza.

Now they have a larger staff and can serve a large volume of patients with more exam rooms and behavioral health offices. The family planning services are available to people who are not already patients of NFP. The nurse midwifery services were expanded with the help of a \$277,000 grant to create more quality prenatal care in West Park and includes: regular well-women exams, family planning including birth control and emergency contraception, treatment of other concerns like yeast infections, sexually

transmitted diseases, irregular periods, PMS and sexual health; menopause care; and support for women dealing with depression and partner/domestic violence.

Their April 10th grand-opening

involved neighborhood youth leaders drumming; local, state, and federal officials; patients; staff; and neighbors.

To become a patient, you can call them at (216) 928-1950 for the Puritas office and (216) 367-1004 for their other West Park office on W. 117th St. More information is available online at <http://nfpmedcenter.org>.



The Family Matters in West Park is produced by Bellaire-Puritas Development Corp., a nonprofit serving West Park.

14703 Puritas Ave.
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www.bpdc.org 216-671-2710

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Guest Contributor: Tomesha Walker

I WANT MORE YOUTH/FAMILY INFORMATION

My family is interested in receiving news about:

- youth programs (arts, leadership, job prep, college or career exploration etc.)
 neighborhood announcements

Name: _____

by e-newsletter at this email: _____

by mail at this address: _____

Please target information for youth with the birthdates of (mm/dd/yy)

_____/_____/____, ____/____/____, ____/____/____, ____/____/____

Please return form to: 14703 Puritas Ave., Cleveland, OH 44135