

LEO FEBRUARY NEWS



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

BIG SHOULDERS LEND A SHOULDER DAY

March 4 at 9 a.m. to noon
REGISTRATION DEADLINE
FOR APRIL A.C.T. EXAM
March 13

PARENT CLUB MEETING
March 18 at 6 p.m.

Dear Leo Family,

February can be an uninspiring, doldrums-inducing month at many schools—the weather is cold, the holidays are over, summer is still a long way off ...

Not so at Leo. February turned out to be one of the busiest months on the school calendar as we celebrated Black History Month with several events, including a trip to a technology-in-music seminar sponsored by Commonwealth Edison and a Career Day panel put on by a most impressive group of young Leo alums.

More than a third of the student body was recognized at an Honors Assembly to salute first-semester honor roll students. The juniors received their class rings, Cubs broadcaster Len Kasper paid a visit to the Media Awareness class, and it proved to be quite a month for one Leo student in particular.

Senior year continues to be a memorable one for Leo's **Dexter Dale Jr.** On Feb. 14, Dexter earned a medal as one of the top 10 finishers in the First-Board competition at the Illinois Chess Federation's state high school tournament. First-board competitors are the No. 1 players for their respective teams. Dexter won six of his eight matches against the top high school players in the state in the two-day tournament to earn a top-10 ranking. As a team Leo finished 16th among more than 100 entrants.

Fellow senior **James Britten Jr.** gave Leo a state qualifier in wrestling as the Lions revived their wrestling program after a lengthy absence. Britten, an All-Catholic League defensive end who has signed to play college football at Northern Illinois University, competed as a heavyweight and earned a trip to Champaign with a third-place finish at the sectional level. He lost his first-round match in the state meet to John Barnes of Peru St. Bede's, then defeated Rodney Baker of Belleville Althoff in a wrestle-back match before experiencing elimination at the hands of Matthew Crandall of Oregon. Britten finished with a with a 27-9 record in his first season of wrestling competition since grammar school.

More than 20 Leo Alums took part in an informal Career Day at the school on Friday, Feb. 20. In conjunction with Black History Month, the alums met with small groups of students to discuss the college application process, dispense career advice and recount their own experiences at Leo and beyond. The alums and the students also had lunch together. Social Studies teacher **Rob Sills**, a 1995 Leo graduate, coordinated the program.

Twelve sophomore and juniors from Mr. Mesina's World Religions class traveled to Holy Name Cathedral on Friday, February 20 to participate in a Black History Awareness Mass sponsored by the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Catholic Schools. The Leo students were chosen to serve as ushers during the Liturgy.



Leo's juniors received their class rings in a ceremony held at the school on Tuesday, Feb. 17. Junior parents were invited, and several were in attendance as well. The Parents Club served refreshments after the ceremony.

Viviann Anguiano, Admissions Director for Arrupe College, visited Leo recently to

acquaint the students with Arrupe, Loyola University's new two-year program designed to make a Catholic college education more accessible and affordable to urban students. Classes will be held on Loyola's Water Tower campus in downtown Chicago and will be taught by Loyola-affiliated instructors. Upon completion of the Arrupe program, students will have an associate's degree and two years worth of credits that are transferable anywhere, including Loyola. Significant financial aid is also available.

More than two-dozen incoming freshmen came to Leo on Monday, Feb. 16 for an Activity Day designed to give students something to do on a day when schools were closed due to the Presidents' Day holiday. A three-on-three basketball tournament highlighted the day's activities. Beggars Pizza donated the pizzas the students ate for lunch.

The Big Shoulders Fund is sponsoring a Lend-A-Shoulder Day at Leo on Wednesday, March 4. Volunteers from Price Waterhouse-Coopers will visit Leo to take part in clean-up projects in and around the building and to offer academic advice and counseling to the students. Leo is a Big Shoulders-affiliated school, receiving scholarship aid from the private organization the late Cardinal Bernardin founded to provide assistance to Catholic schools in inner-city neighborhoods. Price Waterhouse-Coopers is one of its corporate sponsors, providing both financial support and volunteers for Lend-A-Shoulder Day and other BSF projects.

Leo, as we know, is a special place, and the word is spreading. We look forward to welcoming the Class of 2019 to the Leo Family. And it's not too late to join.

With best wishes for 2015
Dan McGrath '68
Leo High School President