



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

ALUMNI NIGHT BASKETBALL

Leo vs. St. Laurence

Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.

ACT TEST AT LEO

Feb. 7 at 8 a.m.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Feb. 12 from 1-3 p.m.

Dear Leo Family,

We do not believe in resting on our laurels here at Leo High School, so the Christmas break kept us busy with service projects, basketball tournaments, wrestling meets and, last but not least, the compilation of first-semester grades.

We went about our business with a smile, because the week leading up to the break was truly a special one.

On Wednesday, Dec. 17, a delegation from the Chicago Bears visited Leo to salute **Mrs. Aurora Latifi** as a “Hero in the Classroom.” **Josiah Jones**, a 2011 Leo grad who is attending UIC on an engineering scholarship, wrote a wonderful letter nominating his former math teacher, and Mrs. Latifi was chosen for this most fitting honor from among several hundred nominees.

That same evening, a large crowd packed the Leo auditorium for the Leo Gospel Choir’s annual Christmas Concert. The auditorium was set up for approximately 150 guests, but two trips to storage for additional chairs were required to accommodate a crowd that exceeded 200. The choir, under the expert tutelage of **Mrs. La Donna Hill**, did not disappoint, with solo performances by **Terrence Lee Jr.**, **Chris Callaway** and **Aamir Holmes** among the highlights of a festive, entertaining evening.

Two nights later, the Leo basketball team played host to Brother Rice at St. Xavier University. The showdown between longtime Catholic League rivals was Leo’s home game, but we moved it to St. Xavier to accommodate an anticipated large crowd. And everything fell into place for the Lions—we won 55-53, before a spirited turnout of approximately 1,200 who started cheering with the choir’s powerful rendition of the National Anthem and didn’t stop until well after **Kewan Smith’s** game-winning, buzzer-beating shot.

Afterwards, alumni from both schools attended a convivial pizza-and-drinks reception at Brother Rice.



As we celebrate our achievements, we reaffirm our commitment to giving back.

On Saturday, Dec. 20, **Coach Holmes**, eight Leo students and a delegation from the Parents Club reported to St. Sabina to assist Father Mike Pflieger with a turkey-and-toys giveaway for some of our neediest Auburn-Gresham neighbors.

On Christmas Eve, **Coach Adams, Coach Pass** and 14 track athletes renewed their association with St. James Shelter by helping prepare the facility at 29th and Wabash for its annual Christmas dinner. Leo Men set up tables and put together food baskets for the guests, then returned on Christmas Day to assist with serving the meal and distributing the food baskets.

Christmas became a little more special for the littlest visitors, whose gift bags included Leo-themed Beanie Baby toys courtesy of Leo's Ty Warner Entrepreneurship Program.

Finally, On Jan. 19, six Leo students celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Day by participating in an interfaith service project that featured a visit to elderly residents of the Claremont Skilled Care and Rehabilitation Center in suburban Buffalo Grove.

As these events were unfolding we were preparing to admit a freshman class that should exceed 50 students based on the turnout for the Jan. 10 Placement Exam and a follow-up test on Jan. 17.

***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 the New Year,

Dan McGrath '68

Leo High School President