



LEO NOVEMBER NEWS



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Dec. 17 at 6 p.m.

BASKETBALL GAME

Leo vs. Bro. Rice

Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.

St. Xavier Shannon Center

OPEN HOUSE

Jan. 8 at 5:30 - 8 p.m.

ADMISSION TEST

Jan. 10 at 7:30 a.m.

Dear Leo Family,

As I sat down to write this it occurred to me that three months of the 2014-15 school year are already in the books. And we thought the summer had zoomed by. The old adage about time flying when you're having a good time is applicable here at Leo.

An Honors Assembly at which more than a third of the student body were recognized as Honor Roll students for the 2014 spring semester was an early-year highlight. So was the stellar performance of junior **SirLaurence King**, who qualified for the state cross country meet for the second consecutive year and finished 36th among more than 200 runners with a time of 15:46, his personal best for three miles. SirLaurence is also an accomplished student who ranks fourth in the junior class with a 3.67 GPA. He is as fine a representative of Leo as we have.

Football was a little quieter this season, at least compared with last year's deep run into the IHSA playoffs. That success and Catholic League expansion resulted in a "promotion" to the White Division for the Leo Lions, and we didn't prosper from it, ending the season on a three game losing streak for a 4-5 record. With five wins required for playoff participation, we missed out by a game. But senior **James Britten** was named Defensive Player of the Year in the White Division, and fellow seniors **Latrell Giles**, **Saheed Adewole**, **Zuriel Cook** and **Raheem Williams** joined him on the All-Conference first team.

I'm very proud of our school's academic performance, proud of our sports teams ... proud to be associated with Leo High School. Never more so than during the second weekend of November, when the history, traditions and future of Leo were on glorious display.



On Friday, Nov. 7, we held our annual Veterans Memorial observance. Leo, of course, has a rich tradition of military service, as exemplified by the War Memorial in our courtyard, which lists the names of 73 Leo grads who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. Twice that many were on hand for this year's Veterans ceremony, which featured the 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines presenting the colors, Leo freshman **Vidal Cargo** leading the singing of the Star Spangled Banner, and highly decorated Vietnam veteran **Jim Furlong '65** presiding at a wreathlaying ceremony.

The students had been dismissed for the day at 11 a.m. in observance of the Veterans Day holiday, but nearly all of them stuck around to witness the ceremony, to mingle with the alums in the cafeteria afterwards and to help the older gentlemen negotiate the traffic as they crossed 79th Street. This interaction of Leo Men spanning the generations is always an uplifting sight.



On Saturday, Nov. 8, Leo played host to a performance by the United States Naval Academy Women's Glee Club. As impressive as the young women were as singers, they were even more so as sharp, committed individuals as they addressed the crowd and described their daily lives and myriad duties at the Academy. You couldn't help but come away believing the country is in good hands with these young women as its future leaders. We were honored to have them as visitors to Leo.



Finally, on Sunday, Nov. 9, we held our second of three Open Houses to acquaint prospective Leo students and their families with our school. The turnout was the best we've had in the last several years of Open Houses, further proof that the uniquely valuable Leo Experience is something in which the young men of Chicago's South Side are increasingly eager to share.

No wonder. There has never been a better time to be a Leo Man. We may be 88 years old, but our best days are still ahead of us. Come join us in the Leo Family.

May God bless you.
With sincere best wishes,
Dan McGrath '68
Leo High School President