

LEO JANUARY NEWS



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

LEO OPEN HOUSE

January 6 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

LEO LIONS AT ST. FRANCIS

DESALES

January 8 at 7 p.m.

LEO PLACEMENT TEST

January 9 at 8 a.m.

Dear Leo Family,

The holiday season instills a strong sense of family in all of us, and as Calendar Year 2015 comes to an end, the Leo High School Family is alive, thriving and wonderfully supportive of its various members.

On Nov. 24, Thanksgiving Tuesday, Leo's student body received an unexpected lunch treat compliments of the Class of '63. **Tim McCarthy '67**, proprietor of Paddy B's Irish Pub and Grill in Orland Park, prepared a special lunch for our students, and '63 class members **John Chomiak, Jack Farnan, Jack Hannigan** and **Jim Justic** handled delivery and distribution before joining the kids for the meal.

If the Leo students were at all disappointed by this break from normal cafeteria fare, they didn't show it as they dug into a truly sumptuous feast. The black- and orange-frosted cupcakes Mr. Farnan provided were an added treat.

Four days later, a group of alums representing several generations assembled in the Turf Club at Hawthorne Race Course for Leo's first Day at the Races. Those who had the foresight to bet on Superstar Leo in the fifth race had their loyalty rewarded when the Superstar was elevated from second place to first after a foul claim against the apparent winner was upheld.

Win or lose, a good time was had by all. Good enough that organizers intend to make Leo's Day at the Races an annual event.

Another multi-generational alumni crowd was in the stands at St. Xavier University's Shannon Center for Leo's Dec. 4 basketball game against St. Rita. The Lions rolled to a 55-46 victory over the defending Catholic League champs in their conference opener, but what really brought the crowd to life was a spontaneous post-game meet-and-greet at which the players trooped into the stands to thank the grads for coming out and supporting the team.



The Lions displayed similar class and courtesy three weeks later, stopping by **Aamir Holmes'** house to check in on the injured guard and boost his spirits following a victory over Rich East in the first round of the Big Dipper holiday tournament in Richton Park.

Alums were a prominent presence in the crowd that filled the Leo Auditorium for the Leo Choir's delightful Christmas Concert on Dec. 16. Not too many alums or fans made the 100-mile trek to Spring Valley for the championship game of the Colmone Classic three nights later, but **Mr. Jack Farnan** again made his presence known by springing for a postgame meal for the victorious (and hungry) Lions before they headed back to Chicago with a nice trophy in hand.

The unmistakable, unshakable Leo Spirit manifests itself in various forms almost daily, but my favorite recent example took place about a week after our annual Veterans Memorial observance on Nov. 7.

In case you missed it, we awarded World War II hero **Jim Wilkins** the diploma he would have earned had he not dropped out of school to join the Navy and fight for his country in the spring of 1943. Upon learning through pure happenstance that Mr. Wilkins was without his diploma, we were honored to recognize him before several friends and family members at the Veterans ceremony, which seemed especially moving this year. (<http://leohighschool.org/veterans-day-2015/>)

Several days later I got a very nice thank-you letter signed by "Jim Wilkins, Class of 1944." He's proud to be a member of the Leo Family, and we're proud to have him.

Just as we're proud of what Leo had stood for these past 90 years, and grateful to you for the financial support that keeps it going. Please keep it coming. Happy New Year, everybody. God bless.

Sincerely,
Dan McGrath '68
Leo High School President