



LEYDEN

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 212



The cast, technical crew, and orchestra members of *Annie*, this year's musical. The production included elementary and middle school thespians – "little orphans" – from the Leyden community.

Superintendent's Corner



Nick Polyak, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Hello Leyden Community,

The Illinois legislature is back in session. This is the time of the year when bills related to education are proposed. As educators, we often find ourselves speaking out regarding those bills we "are against."

Two years ago educators in Illinois decided to enhance this effort. A group of superintendents from across the state developed a list of educational reforms we "are for." The reforms became known as Vision 2020, a concept that includes establishing a goal of seeing clearly and working toward making the reforms a reality by the year 2020.

The Vision 2020 agenda encompasses four pillars: Highly Effective Educators, 21st Century Learning, Shared Accountability, and Equitable and

Adequate Funding. This year legislators have proposed bills from the Vision 2020 project, and we are hopeful to see these initiatives move through the legislature to improve public education for students in Illinois.

Vision 2020 is a collaborative effort of Illinois school boards, superintendents, principals, business officials, and regional offices of Education. Recently, the efforts were joined by the thousands of members of the Illinois Parent Teacher Association.

You can join the effort by telling your legislators you support public education and Vision 2020. For more information, please visit www.illinoisvision2020.org.

Thank you for all you do to support the Leyden community!

With Leyden pride,
Dr. Nick Polyak

Innovative School Safety Program

Leyden makes it a priority to ensure our campuses and students remain safe and drug free. To this end, the District has put into effect a positive, innovative school safety program. This is being implemented in partnership with Interquest Detection Canines® of Chicagoland.

The program uses trained school safety dogs to conduct random, unannounced inspections of our campuses. These dogs are friendly, non-aggressive breeds such as Golden and Labrador Retrievers. The intent of this program is to prevent prohibited items from coming into our schools. The dogs are trained to detect the presence of prohibited items that pose a threat including illicit drugs and narcotics, gunpowder-based items,

alcoholic beverages, and commonly abused prescription and over-the-counter medications.

Campus common areas, lockers, and grounds are randomly inspected for prohibited items. If an item is found, the District will take the appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with existing school policies and procedures.

The dog's first visit to school grounds doesn't include a search of the buildings. Instead it gives students and the dog a chance to meet.

Administrators believe that the new safety program will play a key role in achieving Leyden's goal of taking every reasonable precaution to ensure the safety of our students.



Goldie is a friendly, docile canine trained to keep prohibited items from entering our schools. As you can see from Goldie's yearbook photo, she is eager to protect students and staff.

Top Ten Percent Scholars Honored

Kudos to the following District 212 students who rank in the top ten percent of the Class of 2015. These academically talented scholars were honored at the Rotary Club of Chicago – O'Hare Foundation's 34th Annual Top Ten Percent Ceremony held on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, at East Leyden High School.



WEST LEYDEN: Jenine Agoncillo, Leslie Alaniz, Jonathan Alioto, Haley Allen, Maria Anguiano, Juan Castaneda, Krysmar Castro, Alex Chaidez, Rafal Debski, Diana Diaz, Jennifer Dominguez Silva, Andrea Escalante, Maritza Flores, Lesley Garcia, Alexis Garcia, Jordan Gladson, Klarissa Innumerable, Samantha Kozlowski, Cesar Mauricio, Elias Mendoza, Jayleen Mercado, Alexander Nguyen, Margaret Parker, Ashley Pesch, Laura Prout, Lisa Quintero, Kartyl Psalm Rana, Kimberly Salazar, Zachariah Seymore, Carina Silva, Perla Sonora, Phillip Sopt, Juan Trinidad, Ketan Trivedi, Stephanie Uriostegui, and Yaritza Velasquez



EAST LEYDEN: Bradley Bach, Maja Bulka, Kristina Cosic, Michal Cylwik, Magdalena Dencheva, Moses Diaz, Jacob Dvorak, Konrad Dziedzic, Penka Eneva, Alondra Fernandini, Emily Fiala, Daisy Flores, Erick Garcia, Autumn Hankins, Jorge Hernandez, Kinga Kowalczyk, Jessica Krieter, Ashley Kriston, Camille Lazzarotto, Alexander Mennella, Louis Monette, Madeline Obrzut, Sweety Patel, Kelly Polen, Kerri Predovich, Konrad Rogoz, Avani Shah, Cristian Silva, Rachel Sliwinski, Arielle Strauss, Daniel Tragarz, Najera Veljkovic, Alexis Woo, Adam Wronski, Velina Zhelyazkova, and Anna Zyglowicz

It's a Small World After All

Chinese Students Visit Leyden

The distance between Leyden High Schools and the Shando Experimental High School in Jinan, China, is halfway around the world. But when it comes to forging friendships, exchanging cultural information, and sharing family stories, Jinan doesn't seem far from Franklin Park and Northlake.

Hosted by Leyden families for a week in February, twelve students and two chaperones had a week's worth of school and family life in America. Yaunzhe Ying, 16, says he especially enjoyed dinnertime with his host family. "It was a time for the family to communicate, explore, and discuss daily life," Ying says, noting that the Hispanic family that hosted him "have a very strong sense of family. In China we also have a very strong sense of family."

Visitors also experienced Leyden-style education in classes such as English, science, and math. As for instructors, the Chinese students indicated their teachers are a tad conservative, whereas American teachers are more energetic.

The students and their chaperones also visited Chicago attractions, including the Shedd Aquarium, Hancock Building, Magnificent Mile, and Millennium Park.

A day before they were to return to China, six Chinese students and more than 300 Leyden students packed the Nardini Library for a hands-on experience involving Tai Chi, calligraphy, Chinese rope games, and Chinese Red Paper Art.

"Our students were amazed by the Chinese students' ability to write their (Leyden students) names in Chinese calligraphy," says Vic Pilolla, theater productions manager and one of the event organizers. "Our students would say their name in English and a Chinese student would translate it into Chinese characters. Our students were amazed. They loved having their name written in Chinese calligraphy."

The Jinan students visited Leyden under the auspices of the Sino-American Youth Ambassador Program. The exchange was successful, and the



After a demonstration in Chinese calligraphy, Leyden and Chinese students gathered around a poster written in Chinese characters. The translation is "May the friendship with China and America last forever."

hope is that Leyden will host another group of Chinese students in the future.

"The Chinese cultural exchange was an opportunity for our students to experience culture from another country," says Leyden social studies teacher Sandie Leonard. "Our students benefit from interacting and learning from other students their age. Little things, like jump rope games and calligraphy, even sharing a laugh, help students see that people are not so different no matter how far away they live."

2015 Annual Triton College High School Art Competition

Leyden art students, as well as students from eight other area high schools, submitted 176 pieces of art to the 2015 Annual Triton College High School Art Competition. Sixty-nine of the 176 entries were created by District 212 student artists.

Works of art are submitted in eight different categories that include drawing, painting, photography, computer art, mixed media, design, sculpture, and ceramics. Leyden students won several awards including one Best of Show, six Best of Category awards, ten first place blue ribbons, 24 second place red ribbons, and 36 third place yellow ribbons.

Alyssa Molina won Best of Show and Best of Sculpture for *King Penguin*, a ceramic sculpture that features slab work, sculpting, and intricately painted designs. Best of Design went to **America Romero** for her black and white digital collage titled *Surreal Photographer*. **Otilia Carreno** captured Best of Ceramics with *Flower Vase*. **Kayla Foerster** won Best of Painting with her colorful rendition *My Dog*. **Andy Gutierrez's** digital photo *The Boot* took Best of Photography. **Tiffany Ksiazek** earned Best of Drawing for *Bugs*.



Andy Gutierrez
The Boot
Best of Photography
2015 Annual Triton College High School Art Competition



Kayla Foerster
My Dog
Best of Painting
2015 Annual Triton College High School Art Competition



Alyssa Molina
King Penguin
Best of Show
Best of Sculpture
2015 Annual Triton College High School Art Competition



Otilia Carreno
Flower Vase
Best of Ceramics
2015 Annual Triton College High School Art Competition



Tiffany Ksiazek
Bugs
 Best of Drawing
 2015 Annual Triton College High School Art Competition



America Romero
Surreal Photographer
 Best of Design
 2015 Annual Triton College High School Art Competition

16th Annual Elmhurst College High School Art Exhibition

District 212 art students exhibited more than 150 pieces of artwork in the Frick Center at Elmhurst College held in January. Of that number, Leyden artists earned a total of 23 awards. Two of the awards included a renewable \$2,000 Purple Ribbon Special Scholarship Award to the college.

The skilled art students who won the special scholarship award are **Hailey Heard** of East Leyden and **Antonio Figueroa** of West Leyden. Heard's winning entry, *Gloria*, is a charcoal drawing fashioned on a collage of book pages and scrapbook papers. Figueroa's creation is a decorative ceramic teapot titled *Rococo*.

District 212 was one of ten local high school district represented at the art exhibit.



Antonio Figueroa
Rococo
 Purple Ribbon Special Scholarship Award
 16th Annual Elmhurst College High School Art Exhibit

Hailey Heard
Gloria
 Purple Ribbon Special Scholarship Award
 16th Annual Elmhurst College High School Art Exhibit

#leydenpride

Members of District 212 Orchestis Dance Company presented *Hit the Lights*, a student and director-choreographed production that featured dancers from both campuses. The performance showcased original choreography and dance styles including classical ballet, modern, jazz, African, hip-hop, ballroom, bachata, Bollywood, and Latin-inspired dance.



Leyden's Service Club, the Boys Track Team, and the Girls Track Team hosted a Zumbathon charity event on February 20, 2015, in the field house at the West campus. The event raised \$1,730 for the club and track teams.



Leyden's String Orchestra performed the Baroque Literature of Bach and Handel at the District's annual Winter Instrumental Concert held in February. The concert also included the Symphonic Band, the East Concert Band, and the West Concert Band.



Junior Brody Roybal, who is a bilateral amputee and a paralympian gold medalist in sled hockey, was awarded the March of Dimes 2015 Most Inspirational Athlete Award at the CSN Sports Awards ceremony on March 4. In addition to athletic ability, the award honors athletes who exhibit perseverance and the determination to overcome obstacles.

Leyden's 2015-2016 Illinois State Scholars



East Leyden 2015-2016 Illinois State Scholars

EAST LEYDEN: Bradley Bach, Molly Biagi, Maja Bulka, Manuela Burek, Kristina Cosic, Michal Cylwik, Moses Diaz, Enrique Dominguez, Jacob Dvorak, Emily Fiala, Daisy Flores, Erick Garcia, Autumn Hankins, Kinga Kowalczyk, Jessica Krieter, Ashley Kriston, Camille Lazzarotto, Alexander Mennella, Louis Monette, Madeline Obrzut, Cody Ott, Sweetie Patel, Kelly Polen, Kerri Predovich, Konrad Rogoz, Avani Shah, Cristian Silva, Rachel Sliwinski, Bohdan Sova, Arielle Strauss, Najera Veljkovic, Alexis Woo, and Anna Zyglowicz



West Leyden 2015-2016 Illinois State Scholars

WEST LEYDEN: Jenine Agoncillo, Erin Baxter, Diana Diaz, Jennifer Dominguez Silva, Lesley Garcia, Jordan Gladson, Cesar Mauricio, Jayleen Mercado, Alexander Nguyen, Margaret Parker, Laura Prout, Lisa Quintero, Victor Rivota, Zachariah Seymore, Phillip Sopt, Eduardo Trevino, Stephanie Uriostegui, and Yaritza Velasquez

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission has announced the names of the 2015-2016 Illinois State Scholars. In Illinois, more than 19,300 students from high schools across the state have been recognized as Illinois State Scholars. Congratulations to Leyden's 51 students who qualified as Illinois State Scholars.

"You are among the best and brightest of Illinois high school seniors in the Class of 2015," says ISAC Executive Director Eric Zarnikow in a letter to the honorees. "The combination of your exemplary college entrance scores and record of high school achievements indicates you have a high potential for success in college."

Illinois' top students elect to have test scores and high school class rank sent to ISAC for consideration in the popular program. Seniors who rank in the top ten percent of the state's high schools are designated as Illinois State Scholars and receive a Certificate of Achievement for their outstanding academic performance. Selection is based on SAT, ACT and/or Prairie State Achievement Exam test scores, and/or class rank at the end of junior year.

Faculty Basketball Game Fundraiser

Event raised more than \$3,400 for local family

This year's annual East vs. West Faculty Basketball Game ended with East Leyden claiming the win with a final score of 41-28.

More impressive than the score was the grand total of \$3,460 that was raised for the family of Cisco Arocho, the West Leyden sophomore who recently died as the result of an aneurysm. The family will use the money to help defray medical expenses.

"We had a great turnout for the 3 on 3 student tournament and that raised about \$1,000," says Sally Lakdawala, business education teacher and one of

the event organizers. "We also had a great crowd for the faculty game so the event was a success. We'd like to give a special thanks to the players and all those who donated."

The event was organized by Leyden's Sports & Entertainment Marketing classes. Donations are still being accepted. To make a contribution, please contact Tim Murphy at tmurphy@leyden212.org.

The East vs. West Faculty Basketball Game ended with an East Leyden 41-28 win over West. The event raised \$3,460 for the family of Cisco Arocho.





Leyden High School District 212
3400 Rose Street
Franklin Park, IL 60131

Spring Calendar

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
April		
23	Fern Awards Ceremony East Auditorium	3:00 p.m.
23	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
30	Incoming Freshman Athletic Parent Night West Field House	7:00 p.m.
May		
1	Spring Play - <i>A Delightful Quarantine</i> West Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
2	Spring Play - <i>A Delightful Quarantine</i> West Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
6	Spring Sports Awards Night East Auditorium	6:30 p.m.
7	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
8	Spring Play - <i>A Delightful Quarantine</i> West Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
9	Spring Play - <i>A Delightful Quarantine</i> West Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
12	Pop's Concert West Field House	7:00 p.m.
19	East Leyden Commencement Rosemont Theatre	6:30 p.m.
20	West Leyden Commencement Rosemont Theatre	6:30 p.m.
25	Memorial Day - No School	
27	End of Second Semester	



At left: Senior Ashley Kriston captured 4th place at the Illinois High School Association Girls Bowling State Tournament with a 219.3 average for the two-day competition. Ashley's score secured her spot on the Leyden Athletic Wall of Fame. She is pictured with coaches Chris Aylward and Joe Fezzuoglio.

Leyden District 212 Board of Education

Board of Education meetings are in the East Campus Board Room.



Front Row: Mr. James A. Lima, Secretary; Mr. Gregory T. Ignoffo, President; Mrs. Gloria Murawska, Vice President
Back Row: Mr. Joseph Trevino, Mrs. Lisa Anthony, Mrs. Sandra Boehm, Mr. Jack Tobin

Leyden High School District 212 is an equal opportunity institution, committed to compliance with all applicable state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination. This includes prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, order of protection status, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, homelessness, and marital/parental status, including pregnancy.

As required by S.B. 898, you may go to Leyden's website to view our budget at: www.leyden212.org

State law requires that we inform you of the dates when our lawn and garden areas will be fertilized. The dates to fertilize and weed and feed will be during the following week:

June 1 through June 7, 2015	Weed and Feed
August 17 through August 23, 2015	Fertilize
October 26 through November 1, 2015	Fertilize

East Campus
3400 Rose Street
Franklin Park, IL 60131

West Campus
1000 N. Wolf Road
Northlake, IL 60164