



LEYDEN

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 212



Laura Porro and Brian Fruits were inducted into Leyden's Alumni Wall of Fame in September during Homecoming 2018 weekend. The Wall of Fame honors those alumni who have achieved outstanding success in their work.



Pictured from left: Ned Colletti, Janine Asmus, Jonathan Cain. Alumni authors Ned Colletti and Jonathan Cain recently spoke to students about pursuing goals and facing challenges. Librarian Janine Asmus arranged the two-day event after reading their respective books.



Leyden's marching band entertained Chinese educators during a visit to the West campus this fall. The delegation toured the campus, visited several classrooms, and observed the district's education methods.

Superintendent's Corner



Nick Polyak, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Hello Leyden Family,

Our school district had an unbelievable opportunity this year to host approximately fifty school administrators from across China for two days. On the first day, they toured our facilities and visited classrooms. Our advanced culinary students prepared and served lunch, and we had wonderful conversations about the differences and similarities of education systems in the United States and China.

During the second day of their visit, we brought in another 50 educational leaders from across Illinois. This group was treated to performances by our marching band, color guard, and chamber choir. Opening comments were provided by Illinois State Superintendent Tony Smith, a representative from the College Board, and the head of the Chinese Consulate in Chicago. We also held an educational

forum centered on three topics: Technology in Education, The Power of Student Voice, and Establishing Sister School Connections.

As a result of this event, West Leyden High School is now a sister school with Nanning No. 2 High School in Guangxi, China. In addition, West Leyden Principal Tatiana Bonuma was invited to visit the staff and students at that school as part of an exchange.

We were honored to host the Chinese delegation and even more excited about this new relationship moving forward and what it could mean for our students.

I am always excited to share what is happening at Leyden, and I thank you again for all you do to support our students and our community!

With #leydenpride,
Nick Polyak

New Bike Racks Courtesy of Rotary Club Of Chicago O'Hare and Interact Clubs



The bike racks at each campus are designed with the Rotary Club logo on one, and the Interact Club logo on the other. The student version of Rotary, the Interact Club encourages service to others and has a chapter at both campuses.

Thanks to a long-standing partnership between the Rotary Club of Chicago O'Hare and District 212, a dedication ceremony was recently held commemorating the installation of two bike racks at each of Leyden's campuses. According to Frank Holthouse, Director of Careers and Community Outreach at Leyden, the Rotary Club provided 75% of the funds with Leyden supplying the remaining 25%.

"Rotary has been trying to install bike racks from O'Hare to local schools," Holthouse explains. "It is a way for the club to provide service to the community and also make the community more aware of the club. Leyden has always been supported by the club in various ways such as scholarships and award programs."

The bike racks at each campus are designed with the Rotary Club logo on one and the Interact Club logo on the other. The student version of Rotary, the Interact Club, encourages service to others and has a chapter at both campuses.

Holthouse noted that the bike racks symbolize the strong relationship between the Rotary Club of Chicago O'Hare and Leyden high schools. "Rotary's motto is 'service above self', something Leyden has experienced over many years. We now proudly display the Rotary logo at both schools as a reminder of this relationship. This took a lot of planning, and I'm thrilled to see it come to fruition," he added.

Ceremony attendees included Mike Sullivan, the Rotary Club of Chicago O'Hare president, Rotary Club members, Leyden administrators and staff, and sponsors and members of the Interact Club.

East Leyden Senior is a Commended Student in the NMS Program

East Leyden senior **Gerardo Porras** is a Commended Student in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. The Franklin Park resident recently received a letter of commendation from program sponsor NMSC congratulating him on his academic achievement.

This year about 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in 2019 competition, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scores of the more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2019 competition by taking the

2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

"The young men and women named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," commented a spokesperson for NMSC. "These students represent a valuable natural resource. Recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."



East Leyden senior Gerardo Porras, 2019 Commended Student.

Homecoming 2018



Quarterback Kyler Britten (#2) eludes the Blazers' defense in the homecoming game against Addison Trail. The Eagles won 21-7.



Homecoming 2018 royalty: the far left, East campus - King Cesar Hernandez and Queen Beatriz Verin; the far right, West campus - King Isaac Pedroza and Queen Giselle Gomez.

Leyden celebrated Homecoming 2018 beginning with the much anticipated pep rally held on Thursday evening, September 27. The event included the introduction of fall sports teams and performances by the color guard, chamber singers, and the marching band.

The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the king and queen from each campus: East campus king and queen, Cesar Hernandez and Beatriz Verin and West campus king and queen, Isaac Pedroza and Giselle Gomez.

The Eagles varsity football team kicked off the homecoming game against Addison Trail on Friday evening, September 28 at the West campus. The Eagles tallied their third win of the season beating the Trail Blazers 21-7.



The marching band and color guard were among several half-time entertainment activities.

Wall of Fame Inductees Excel in Art and Science

Art and Science complemented each other at Leyden's 2018 Alumni Wall of Fame induction ceremony that celebrated this year's honorees, humanities professor and theater director Brian Fruits; and associate professor and evolutionary paleontologist Laura Porro. The ceremony took place in late September during homecoming week activities.

This long-standing program recognizes alumni who have achieved outstanding recognition in their respective field and are role models for students. This year's inductees spoke to students at the East and West campuses, sharing their high school experiences and memories. Both inductees encouraged students to pursue their passion.



Brian Fruits told students that it was teacher Mark Bernstein (left) who took a chance on Fruits and cast him in his first musical at Leyden. He added that Bernstein was one of several teachers who encouraged him to believe in himself.

Brian Fruits, Class of 1998, is a professor of English at Concordia University Chicago and the manager of the Saltbox Theatre Collective, a nonprofit theater company in Chicago. He has directed scores of musicals and plays and also worked for B.B. King overseeing his role as Head of Creative Talent and Operations on Holland American Cruise Lines.

While attending West Leyden, Fruits participated in a variety of activities including choir, theater, sports, and writing for the school newspaper. He named several teachers who influenced him, including Janine Asmus and Mark Bernstein, who motivated him to find his passion and pursue it. "Janine inspired me to take a look at the fine arts and literature," he recalled. "Mark took a chance on me and cast me in my first musical. They helped me gain confidence and believe in myself. They helped me develop the strength I needed to face anything."

Fruits described his formative years as difficult and said school was his refuge. He described numerous teachers as "mentors, fathers, mothers," caring people who served as role models. He said that "coming home to Leyden, receiving this award, and seeing my (former) teachers is the greatest honor I could ever imagine. I'm thrilled."



Laura Porro (center), with former math teachers Joann Corwin and Jerry Patt, told the audience that given her career in science, "it is impossible to overstate" the significance of lessons learned from her science and math teachers.

Laura Porro, Class of 1999, is an associate professor at University College London and a senior research associate in the School of Earth Sciences at the University of Bristol. As an evolutionary biomechanist and paleontologist, she investigates the link between form and function in living and extinct animals.

Porro's passion for paleontology began when she discovered dinosaurs at the tender age of 7. "I found a book at the Schiller Park library, *Predatory Dinosaurs of the World*, and I was fascinated," she recalls. "To this day, I'm obsessed with the past. My favorite part of my job is working with fossils and discovering why animals are the way they are today."

She added her teachers at East Leyden inspired her to pursue that obsession and that they are part of the reason she is a member of the Wall of Fame. "My teachers had a passion for what they did. They were hard working and each had important lessons to pass on to students. It is impossible to overstate what I learned from my science and math teachers given that I've chosen a career in science. Everything I learned in high school turned out to be important, both for my career and everyday life."



Pictured from L to R: Laura Porro, Nick Polyak, Brian Fruits, Janine Asmus. Superintendent Nick Polyak presented Brian Fruits and Laura Porro with a plaque indicating they are members of the Alumni Wall of Fame. Janine Asmus is the Wall of Fame coordinator.

Chinese Educators Visit Leyden

District showcases the best in education



Chinese guests and culinary students



Chinese guests visiting classroom with Superintendent Polyak

This fall more than 50 Chinese educators and their translators visited West Leyden as members of the China Education Association for International Exchange Delegation. The visitors were invited to Leyden to learn about America's education system in general and the district's methods specifically.

District 212 administrators and the AASA, the School Superintendents Association, organized the two-day event that also included about 40 guest administrators from school districts, including Barrington Community Unit School District 220 that has a total immersion Mandarin language program.

AASA is a professional organization for more than 13,000 education leaders in the United States and throughout the world. The association is an advocate for quality public education for all students and a champion of students' causes nationwide.

Tara Gao, a business and cultural exchange specialist with AASA, accompanied the delegation to the school and briefly addressed all participants. She said the purpose of the conference was "to strengthen the relationship and partnership between China and America. Today's goal is to learn from each other and to share information. It is important for us to communicate with people from all over the world who have a passion for education."

During the two-day conference, the Chinese delegation toured the school and visited various classes such as fine arts and special education, as well as the new student cafeteria and commons, library, and the state-of-the-art fitness center. They participated in a panel discussion that gave them the opportunity to speak with administrators and teachers about curriculum and co-curricular activities. Small group sessions included topics such as giving student leaders a voice in school matters and the use of technology as a potent teaching tool.

"We learn from each other," said Gao, referring to the conference participants. "There are differences in teaching styles, but there are also similarities. It's amazing when you see we are more similar than different."

Superintendent Nick Polyak added, "Even though there was a language barrier, we were able to use interpreters to share some of the very best approaches to education from China and the United States. We showcased the very best that Leyden and education in the United States has to offer."

The delegation also heard from a few guest speakers including Illinois State Superintendent Tony Smith who welcomed the visitors to Illinois and spoke about the state's education goals.

Food is culture, so it was no surprise that one of the conference highlights was the meal prepared by Leyden's culinary students. The menu included crab rangoon, kung pao beef, shrimp stir-fry, mongolian beef, pineapple fried rice, and mango pudding. And of course, tea – 25 different types of tea.

"I had a chance to debrief with the leaders of the delegation," Polyak recalled. "They said they've never had an experience like the one they had at West Leyden. One person said he never imagined a school that offers so many opportunities for students. Another commented that his favorite part was eating the lunch prepared by the students. Overall they couldn't have been more impressed."



China Education Association for International Exchange Delegation visits West Leyden

Members of the China Education Association for International Exchange Delegation visited West Leyden to learn about the American education system and to encourage a partnership that benefits Chinese and American students.

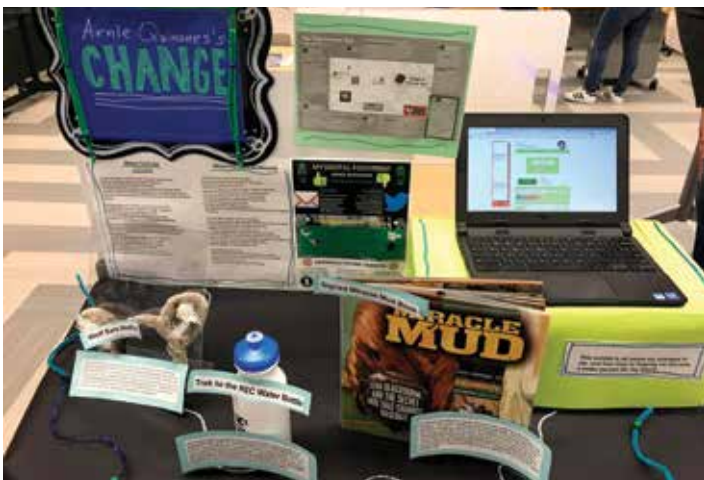
#leydenpride



About 600 students, staff, and administrators participated in Make a Difference Day, a national day of giving back to the community. Volunteers visited with nursing home residents, collected litter along parkways, and helped senior adults with yard work. These students are pictured with the boxes they filled with ingredients for food packs sent to needy people living in the Philippines.



Home Town Heroes Bob and Colinette Marshall were honored for their service to America at a recent home football game. A WWII United States Marine Corps veteran, Staff Sergeant Marshall was a radio gunner on a C-47 cargo plane, serving in the Philippines, Peking, China, and Japan. Colinette currently serves the Leyden community as the chaplain for the American Legion Auxiliary. The Marshalls have been Franklin Park residents for 78 years.



Students in Leyden's co.lab (collaborative lab) program recently hosted an interdisciplinary exhibit that explored aspects of identity including race, ethnicity, age, religion, gender, and community. By using global experiences, poetry, and social media, students learned how people celebrate who they are. Participants created museum exhibits expressing a central theme about themselves.



It was all about costumes, games, snacks, and much more at the Annual Halloween Fun Fair hosted by Family and Consumer Sciences Department teachers and students. A perennial favorite with families, three friends from Oz - along with witches, pirates, ninjas, and all their batty pals - joined in the fun.

Sports Highlights

Boys Cross Country

The boys' cross country team won 1st place at the Trial of the Trail Invite held at Elmwood Park High School; and also took 1st place at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Prep Invite. All-conference runners Patrick Sarad, Julian Munoz, and Jose Garcia led the team to a 3rd place victory at the West Suburban Gold Conference meet.

Girls Volleyball

The girls' volleyball team finished the season at 16-19, winning 7 of their 8 last matches. The team took 3rd place out of 12 at the Illinois Math and Science Academy Invite and placed 2nd at the Elgin Invite.

Boys Soccer

The boys' soccer team finished 13-8-2 overall. Eduardo Hernandez was named All-State for the second consecutive year; and German Hernandez and Alan Vazquez each took home all-sectional honors. David Duwal and Jesus Mancha were named all-conference selections.

Girls Cross Country

The girls' cross country team took 2nd place at both the Elmwood Park High School Invite and the Immaculate Conception Catholic Prep Invite. Led by two all-conference finishers, Stephanie Dominguez and Nicole Virzi, the team overtook Morton by one point for a 2nd place finish at the West Suburban Gold Conference meet. Nicole Virzi advanced out of the regional meet and completed her season at the Niles West Sectional championship.

Don't Stop Believing ...in yourself, your dream, your passion

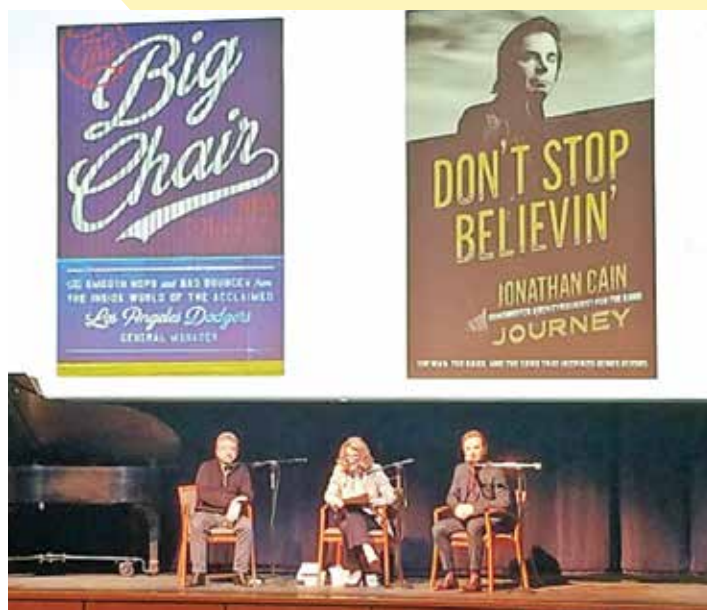
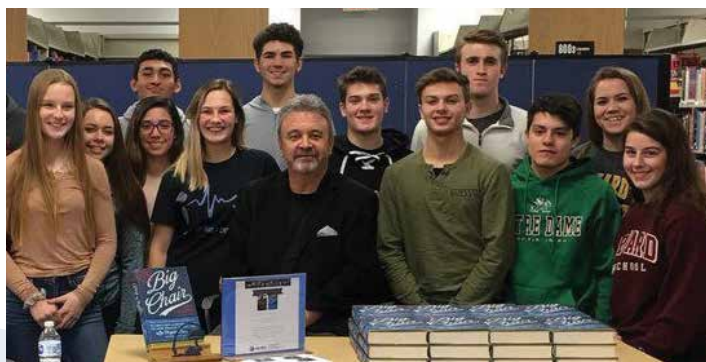


That was the message alumni authors Jonathan Cain, lyricist and keyboardist for the renowned band Journey, and Ned Colletti, former general manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball organization, delivered to students during a visit to Leyden in mid-November.

As members of the district's Wall of Fame, the alumni spoke candidly of the challenges, highs, lows, triumphs, and lessons learned that led to Cain's induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Colletti's tenure with the Dodgers when he had the highest winning percentage of any GM in the National League. They also talked with small groups of students, gave their autograph, and took pictures with fans.



The authors met community members at an informal gathering where they exchanged anecdotes and autographed copies of their respective books, *Don't Stop Believin'* by Cain, and *The Big Chair* by Colletti. And just as he had done for the students, Cain performed a medley of Journey's greatest hits.





Fall/Winter Calendar 2018

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
December		
10	Winter Art Show West Leyden Eagle's Wing	6:00 p.m.
10	Winter Art Show East Nardini Library	6:00 p.m.
12	Music of the Holidays Concert East Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
13	Board of Education Meeting	8:00 p.m.
21	End of First Semester	
24	Winter Break - No School	
January		
1	New Year's Day	
4	Last Day of Winter Break - No School	
7	Institute Day - No School	
8	Classes Resume	
15	Taste of West West Leyden Field House	7:00 p.m.
16	Taste of East East Leyden Auditorium and Field House	7:00 p.m.
17	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
21	Martin Luther King Day - No School	
24	Orchesis Dance Show West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
25	Orchesis Dance Show West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
26	Orchesis Dance Show West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
February		
15	Turnabout Dance West Leyden Field House	7:00 p.m.
18	President's Day - No School	
21	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
March		
2	Winter Choral Festival Location TBD	3:00 p.m.
4	Casimir Pulaski Day - No School	
8	Spring Musical - <i>Guys and Dolls</i> West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
9	Spring Musical - <i>Guys and Dolls</i> West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
13	Winter Instrumental Concert East Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
14	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
15	Spring Musical - <i>Guys and Dolls</i> West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
16	Spring Musical - <i>Guys and Dolls</i> West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
18	Jazz Night East Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
25	Spring Break Begins	

Thank you to those who contributed photos to this edition of the newsletter.

Leyden District 212 Board of Education Board of Education meetings are in the East Campus Board Room.



Front row: James Lima, Secretary; Gregory Ignoffo, President; Gloria Murawska, Vice President; Joseph Trevino
Back row: Joseph Sanchez, Student Board Member; Lisa Anthony, Sandra Boehm, John Tobin, Jacqueline Quinones, Student Board Member

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:

March 25, 2019 – April 5, 2019 Weed and Feed
May 27, 2019 – June 7, 2019 Fertilize

East Campus
3400 Rose Street
Franklin Park, IL 60131

West Campus
1000 N. Wolf Road
Northlake, IL 60164