Clelian Heights

11th Annual Night at the Races
March 24, 2012
5:30 PM
at the Harrison Room
(Harrison City VFD)
$17 per adult
Includes beverages and food

135 Clelian Heights Lane ● Greensburg, PA 15601-6665

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2012 Lottery Calendars
A Great Gift

Available now!
Donation-$25.00 each.
Order by Dec. 1

ORDER YOURS TODAY!

Call ext.124
At 724-837-8120

Our Thanks to YOU during our 50th! We’re having a free donor gift-raffle in appreciation for your generosity to us. Below is a 16-piece indoor/outdoor ceramic Nativity set. The length of each piece is 13” to 26”. It is someone’s Christmas gift. It could be yours! Watch for a mailing coming soon.

Clelian Heights Newsletter

Shavings
Fall 2011

Mission
The mission of Clelian Heights is to provide spiritual, educational, and vocational programs for children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities that enhance their quality of life and maximize their potential for independent living.

Vision
The vision of Clelian Heights is an atmosphere of choice, mutual acceptance, respect, and love that will make a lasting difference in the lives of persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Non-Discrimination
Clelian Heights offers services to all without discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, creed, disability, ancestry or national origin.

United Way
Clelian Heights can receive United Way Campaign donations. On the pledge form list, our Contributor’s Choice Code is #403. Write in our address:
135 Clelian Heights Lane
Greensburg, PA 15601.

Publication Statement
This publication is produced by the Clelian Heights School Mission Advancement Office. Clelian Heights is a non-profit organization. No copy or distribution of this publication is permitted without permission. It is mailed several times a year. For information contact us at Clelian Heights School 135 Clelian Heights Lane Greensburg, PA 15601 or 724-837-8120 or visit www.clelianheights.org.

ACTIVITIES: SUMMER AND EARLY FALL

Mission
The mission of Clelian Heights is to provide spiritual, educational, and vocational programs for children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities that enhance their quality of life and maximize their potential for independent living.

Vision
The vision of Clelian Heights is an atmosphere of choice, mutual acceptance, respect, and love that will make a lasting difference in the lives of persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Non-Discrimination
Clelian Heights offers services to all without discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, creed, disability, ancestry or national origin.

United Way
Clelian Heights can receive United Way Campaign donations. On the pledge form list, our Contributor’s Choice Code is #403. Write in our address:
135 Clelian Heights Lane
Greensburg, PA 15601.

Publication Statement
This publication is produced by the Clelian Heights School Mission Advancement Office. Clelian Heights is a non-profit organization. No copy or distribution of this publication is permitted without permission. It is mailed several times a year. For information contact us at Clelian Heights School 135 Clelian Heights Lane Greensburg, PA 15601 or 724-837-8120 or visit www.clelianheights.org.
Extended School Year: Enhancing Learning

Summer Program Benefits Many

In addition to the traditional school year, the Clelian Heights ESY (Extended School Year) is an educational and social enrichment program held for four weeks each summer. This program was initiated in 2005 under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and meets all criteria for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

ESY programming includes math, reading, language arts, handwriting, science, health, computer, home economics, vocational training, daily living skills, safety awareness, community based outings and other social and recreational activities such as music, arts and crafts, biking, swimming, and playground sports. Speech and language therapy as well as occupational and physical therapy are available for those who require it.

Clelian Heights’ Extended School Year promotes learning in a fun, enjoyable way. The combination of community and school based activities allows the children to take what they have learned from the classroom and apply those skills while enjoying planned activities in the community. It decreases the likelihood of regression and recoupment issues in previously learned skills and behaviors which some students exhibit after a prolonged absence from school and their normally structured routines.

Each student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP) and the specific goals and objectives outlined in the IEP are a guide to ensure that their academic, emotional, and social needs are being met. Participation in this program is determined by each student’s Comprehensive Evaluation Report (CER).

Some students choose Clelian Heights for their ESY program each summer while attending their regular school during the academic year. They look forward to ESY and seeing their Clelian friends and teachers.

One parent whose son attends school in the Hempfield School District but has been coming to Clelian each summer for the last eight years said, “What he likes most about ESY is the indoor pool, the community outings and the swings on the playground. Of course, none of these are academically based but both the swings and the pool help to improve his gross motor and listening skills while releasing his bottled up energy. This, in turn, helps him to focus and participate more willingly on academics. The community outings, which he views as simply fun, help to improve his communication, safety and appropriate peer interaction skills. It’s a win-win situation.”

In addition to fifteen volunteers from the area, there were several groups of student buddies each week who came and initiated new games that are challenging during the Field Day activities at EYS.

Consider charitable giving—put Clelian Heights in your will!

Or, since Congress has given a charitable planning choice, an exception for 2011 & 2012 through the IRA Rollover, consider Clelian as a charitable choice. In the Tax Extenders and Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of H.R. 1424, an IRA owner age 70 1/2 or older has the choice of making a direct transfer of funds to charity of up to $100,000 in one year extending to 2012!!

(as in Section 408(d)(8)(A))

HELP US UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION!

Please take this opportunity to assure your inclusion in the Annual Report by returning your donation with the form below. An envelope is enclosed for convenience.

Deadline for Inclusion based on fiscal year beginning July 1 ending June 30.

I am no longer able to help support Clelian Heights, please remove my address from the mailing list

WHO?__________________________________

WHO?__________________________________

WHO?__________________________________

WHO?__________________________________

I am interested in leaving Clelian Heights in my will.

I am interested in making an IRA Direct Transfer of funds to Clelian Heights.

Thank You!

www.clelianheights.org 2

(Continued on page 3)
Italian Day at Kennywood

Each summer, the Western Pennsylvania Italian Sons and Daughters of America, a fraternal organization comprised of 80 lodges, has hosted a dozen community organizations at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin on Italian Day in July. Using proceeds from various fundraising events, but most especially their Spring ‘Fair Lady Frolic’—a luncheon and fashion show—proceeds are provided for ISDA philanthropic endeavors through the Pittsburgh Activity Fund.

In its 26th year, this event has become a day that the participating projects and ISDA members look forward to each year. The day offers a variety of activities, including rides at Kennywood, lunch and dinner, and park admission for the 150 Clelian Heights’ students, veterans and numbers nearly fifty. “In the past we had several corporate sponsors, but that has changed. Now they say we don’t fit into what they see as children’s entertainment,” said Lou Spagnolo, a World War II veteran and a Clelian Heights’ parishioner of the area churches. Some are lucky enough to go home with more than one!

Lou is a World War II veteran and a member of the Italian American War Veterans of Pittsburgh (McKees Rocks area). The service group does not have a permanent location but currently meets at the VA Hospital in Pittsburgh. The membership is comprised of mostly WWII and Korean war veterans and numbers nearly fifty. “In the past we had several corporate sponsors, but that has changed. Now they say we don’t fit into their giving programs. So, I beg. I have my list of people. I get $5.00 here, $10.00 there. Everyone at Clelian Agrees, Flo. Thank you and ISDA for ‘a day to remember’ every Summer!”

Extended School Year: Enhancing Learning

activities—some of these students return to Clelian every opportunity they can having enjoyed themselves so much each year. These volunteers come back to give more because they have received so much. Their friendship and presence helps to provide the specialness that makes for a quality ESY experience for everyone.

An example of this is long-time friend of the Sisters and friend of Clelian, Mary Beth Guidi, who has missed only one summer since she first volunteered at Clelian during her sophomore year in high school. This was her 12th year of volunteering even though she lives in New Jersey. Her experiences led her into the field of special education where she teaches an inclusive class of 8th grade algebra and science students. She spends a portion of her summer here and one activity she loves is sharing algebraic concepts with our students in the ESY program.

“Being able to give Clelian students such challenging work and seeing their success is truly amazing,” says Marybeth. “The ESY program provides so many options to the students. It’s a wonderful program. It also gives students the advantage of transitioning into their new classrooms where they can begin to know their new staff and classmates during this summer session easing the stress at the beginning of the new school year. Skills learned during the past year are reinforced over the four weeks to ensure retention going forward. Learning opportunities are available through the community and vocational job outings that are planned during the ESY program. Our students meet and interact with a variety of high school and college students and adult volunteers both from the area and out of state who share their experiences and their many talents and gifts during ESY.”

Several Sisters who are in high school and parish ministry also return each summer along with students from the two high schools operated by the Sisters—the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus—Cor Jesu Academy, St. Louis, MO, and Sacred Heart Academy, Hamden, CT. Twenty two young women came this summer. They plan and assist with special activities such as teaching new songs along with sign language, leading sing-alongs, preparing games, crafts, whatever is needed. They serve as “student buddies” during community outings and campus activities. “I really enjoyed watching the girls grow in love for the folks at Clelian,” says Sister Colleen Mattingly, ASCJ, student advisor. “Seeing them try to get into the lifestyle of a young adult or child at Clelian and growing in appreciation for each child and for the staff who guide them was awesome. It happens just by being here for a few days—the young women grow in patience and love. I think they walk away with an incredible experience,” continues Sister Colleen. “They fall in love with the kids and they don’t want to leave. They form special and unique relationships with families who they have more in common with than they thought. Some of our students have returned to Clelian after graduation wanting another opportunity to volunteer and see their Clelian friends.”

Everyone at Clelian is enriched through this program too. Having volunteers over the summer provides Clelian students with new faces and new opportunities for learning and social interaction. They are able to practice skills learned during the school year as they meet and make new friends and take part in many new activities.

(Continued on page 4)
Another special visitor during ESY who has come numerous times is Sister Sandra Krupp, ASCJ. Involved in pastoral ministry in St. Louis, Sr. Sandra shared her summer experiences with those to whom she ministers and they too wanted to be a part of Clelian. They collected and sent all the materials Sr. Sandra would need for the craft projects that she planned for the children’s art enrichment activities during ESY!

A typical day in the ESY program begins with fundamental academics such as language arts, math, handwriting, reading. The afternoon allows time for a variety of recreational activities such as swimming indoors or out, hiking, a themed activity or some class time for science or health. Later in the week a special activity relating to the theme of the week provides respite from class time but is in itself another learning experience. An educational community outing is part of each week’s activities. These are always filled with fun and adventure. They include: trips to Pittsburgh and area sites of interest—the Carnegie Science Center, Kennywood, Idlewild, the Zoo, etc. Other outings include enjoy an outing at Hempfield Park, the bowling lanes or the movies. Special puppet performances provided lessons on bullying, self-esteem and other character building issues. There are also special school assemblies each Friday.

A big Field Day Clelian is held toward the end of the session with all the volunteers involved in activities. There are snow cones flavored to order and popcorn popped as the children watch. There’s a bounce house, a ping pong relay, a fishing derby, face painting, musical beach blankets, crafts, and so many other games and activities in and around the school and grounds. Even the kitchen staff gets involved by serving a delicious picnic lunch to everyone there.

During ESY the Pennsylvania Kiski Valley State Police hold a hugely popular State Police Camp Clelian modeled after their own training camp. The day begins with calisthenics and marching. Demonstrations and hands-on activities are held at stations located all around the campus. These include: K-9 trials, fingerprinting and crime-scene processing, helicopter demo, Special Emergency Response Team practice, fire truck and emergency personnel equipment demonstrations, and more.

“This is a very big day for our students,” says Principal, Sr. Charlene Celi. “We are so grateful to the men and women who volunteer for Camp Clelian. This program is a very important one for our students as well as for the emergency responders who volunteer. They get first-hand experience aiding and teaching. Each student receives a State Police Camper shirt for actively participating in the training camp. There is a graduation ceremony at the end to which parents are encouraged to join.”

See More...

The ESY program this past summer was filled with many activities and educational opportunities—too many to mention here but you can find more of them and see photo slideshows of the activities by going to our website at www.clelianheights.org under “news”. Read about Clelian Performing Arts Day planned and led by Boy Scout Michael Tusay and a successful community book drive by Hannah Gabriel. Learn how Alexandra Opspichnick helped to raise funds for autism awareness at her school. And how girl scout Mary Komandt organized friends to join with all our students for crafting and playing games. And see the Puppet Ministry of the Delmont Presbyterian Church in a special performance at Clelian where all enjoyed the audience participation and fellowship. Check out these articles at clelianheights.org news.

Extended School Year: Enhancing Learning

Cashing In

Many individuals, groups and organizations, are currently partners in our mission here at Clelian Heights and the number of dedicated friends goes back to the earliest days when the founding sisters welcomed the community to help. Now, just as Clelian Heights has grown, so too, that support has grown with many friends in many states across the country, not just here in our back yard. Sometimes, a specific individual feels the need to take that support above and beyond or a group or organization selects us as their charity.

Recently, one such individual, Walt Stahl, single handedly held a “cash bash” to benefit Clelian Heights. He wanted to purchase items for the classrooms that were on the teachers’ wish lists.

When Walt Stahl arrived with the TVs it was like Christmas!” said Sister Charlene. “We are so grateful to Walt, Glenn, and Katie for their thoughtfulness. It would have taken us quite a while to outfit all the classrooms and fulfill all the wish lists but Walt did it fast! The flat-screen televisions with wall mounting brackets—all purchased and delivered by Walt Stahl. There was an additional $4,000 raised for the walking club, circle-time carpet for Mrs. Datz’s classroom and over two hundred others items on the ‘wish lists.’

“Nothing is more important than the children being able to grow in body and mind,” said Sr. Sandra Krupp, ASCJ. Involved in pastoral ministry in St. Louis, Sr. Sandra said, “One of the items that came up as a desire by many in conversations with my daughter was flat-screen TVs which could be mounted out of reach on the wall in each classrooms to be screens would be safer than a standard television on a cart and convenient for the teachers.

Mr. Datz’s class during a session on their new circle-time carpet.

With help from Glenn Stone and donations from vendors in the area, the event was successfully held in the spring at the Slipklick Volunteer Fire Department. What resulted were nine flat-screen televisions with wall mounting brackets—all purchased and delivered by Walt Stahl. There was an additional $4,000 raised to purchase several new custom swing-seats for the playground, pedometers for the walking club, circle-time carpet for Mrs. Datz’s classroom and over two hundred others items on the ‘wish lists.’

“When Walt Stahl arrived with the TVs it was like Christmas!”

Riding on the Rivers

Eighty-seven year old Louis LaCivita has a deal with the Lord. “I told him, ‘If you help me, then I will take care of your kids.’” Twenty-four years ago, Lou invited the students of Clelian Heights to join an event hosted by the American War Veterans on the Gateway Clipper. Today, the group hosts approximately 500 students from area special education schools and programs at a cost of over $10,000. The trip includes a Gateway Clipper ship tour of Pittsburgh and the Three Rivers, a box lunch, a Master of Ceremonies, Jerry Chiappinelli, and music for lots of dancing. There has even been live entertainment. Each student is held toward the end of the session with all the volunteers involved in activities. These faces say a thousand words!
Clelian Heights was honored to have a 3-day visit from Sister Lorenzina Perniola, ASCJ, the Vicaress General of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus who own and operate Clelian Heights. Sr. Lorenzina is presently serving as a member of the General Council, the main governing body of the Community in Rome, Italy. While here in the States, Sister Lorenzina plans to visit as many of the Sisters’ North American missions as possible. This is her first visit to Clelian Heights although she said that Clelian Heights’ was not unknown to her. For years she has heard many wonderful things about our school from many sisters who have visited and particularly from Mother Rosalia Sosso, ASCJ, former Superior General and former Provincial Superior of the United States Province and Provincial who opened Clelian Heights in 1961. Most recently she has kept up with news about Clelian through Mother Clare Millea, ASCJ—the current Superior General of all the ASCJ Communities located in 15 countries— and a former Executive Director of Clelian Heights.

On October 19th we celebrated the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart. Many of the adults and students took part in the worship service. Sister Lorenzina was especially moved by the reverence and quiet attentiveness of all. “The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was evident to me.” Sister Lorenzina expressed her gratitude for everyone she met—every teacher, staff person, student and adult—for giving her such a wonderful welcome and making her feel right at home and for taking the time to explain what they do at Clelian Heights. It was her desire to extend to all her promise of prayers and wishes for a blessed future. She said, “I can feel the love here and am certain that Clelian Heights is blessed with the presence of the Sacred Heart and of Mother Clelia.”

“Clelian Heights far surpassed my expectations, even more than what was shared with me!” said Sister Lorenzina who was assisted by interpreters Sister Rosemary and Sister Adrianne. “Clelian Heights is filled with love and alive with the charism of Mother Clelia. I can feel it. I am certain that this work is greatly loved by the Sacred Heart and Mother Clelia. I am so grateful to the United States Sister Apostles’ for having the wisdom and dedication to begin this wonderful mission and I take the opportunity now to thank them for the work they have done these past 50 years and continue to do. The dedication, time, and love that is so obviously displayed here

Sister Lorenzina plans to visit as many of the Sisters’ North American missions as possible. This is her first visit to Clelian Heights although she said that Clelian Heights’ was not unknown to her. For years she has heard many wonderful things about our school from many sisters who have visited and particularly from Mother Rosalia Sosso, ASCJ, former Superior General and former Provincial Superior of the United States Province and Provincial who opened Clelian Heights in 1961. Most recently she has kept up with news about Clelian through Mother Clare Millea, ASCJ—the current Superior General of all the ASCJ Communities located in 15 countries— and a former Executive Director of Clelian Heights.

Sister Lorenzina enjoyed her visits to each classroom and workspace where she was warmly welcomed and invited to join in. She was very impressed with the cheerful, well equipped classrooms, the atmosphere of the adult workshop, and the campus residences—the apartments and Chip’s House. She was very pleased to see the great number of benefactors who have joined to partner with us from the beginning until now so that Clelian Heights could be the beautiful facility it is today helping so many achieve happiness. “I see the happiness all around me. It is wonderful. Yes, everyone should come and experience this for themselves.”

“There are such a variety of activities and opportunities here that you provide for the children and adults. The community exposure, the jobs on and off campus, the facility itself—it has therapy rooms, a room for cooking, a sensory room, and students swimming—so many different activities wherever you look—so many, many things all for the children. Your work is so very impressive,” smiled Sister Lorenzina. “I am amazed at how well the teachers and the staff all work together to bring out the best in each child and adult. The students are so attentive and eager, well behaved and involved in their classroom activities.”

On October 19th we celebrated the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart. Many of the adults and students took part in the worship service. Sister Lorenzina was especially moved by the reverence and quiet attentiveness of all. “The singing was so heartfelt. The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was evident to me.” Sister Lorenzina expressed her gratitude for everyone she met—every teacher, staff person, student and adult—for giving her such a wonderful welcome and making her feel right at home and for taking the time to explain what they do at Clelian Heights. It was her desire to extend to all her promise of prayers and wishes for a blessed future. She said, “I can feel the love here and am certain that Clelian Heights is blessed with the presence of the Sacred Heart and of Mother Clelia.”
Clelian Center Adult Training Facility: Summer Activities

The call of summer to enjoy the outdoors and the beauty of nature was not ignored by the ATF Program (Clelian Center Adult Training Facility Program). Rather, it incorporates additional recreational activities not normally scheduled so that the summer can be enjoyed and be a time of learning as well. The individuals in the ATF focus more of their daily training on personal living and life skills. The program centers around six main skill sets: daily living, life skills, fine and gross motor development, fine arts, community integration and basic employment skills. Opportunities available in the community and the pull of beautiful weather allow for a wide variety of activities, community outings, and programming that expose the adults to new surroundings and gives them practice in the community with a supporting staff person present.

For the Clelian Center adults, June and August allow for a longer weekend for family activities and summer vacations so the adults attend on a three day cycle, Tuesday through Thursday, rather than the usual 5-day week. But, if an adult has no formal vacation where they can break away from normal routine, the ATF summer session incorporates fun and adventure activities just as a vacation break would. Although the time is shortened, the ATF incorporates the daily skill training and vocational training into their daily routines. Skill training includes money usage, home economics, community volunteering, music therapy, fine and gross motor activities, and more.

Each week during the summer, the ATF has a theme on which they base their activities, training, and recreation. For example, during Fun in PA Week they had a community outing to Fort Ligonier. Then they took the lesson learned from the trip back in history and made their own butter in the home-economics kitchen and got to eat it on the toast they made for themselves for a snack. The ATF also held a Sports Week and engaged in a variety of sports and active games using the opportunity for exercise and gross motor development.

A popular theme was Love Our Government Week. The ATF visited and toured the Westmoreland County Courthouse, sat in the jury box and met with a judge. The goal of this visit was to learn the purpose of laws in the context of appropriate behaviors and rule following and the consequences for inappropriate behaviors that break laws. The group also went to the jail and met with the guards and the sheriff. They learned that everyone in the courthouse from the secretaries to the judges were people who would help them.

The Community Entertainment theme allowed the ATF to take advantage of the summer series offered at the Apple Hill Playhouse seeing several performances including: “Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz”, “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs”, and “Let Your Hair Down, Rapunzel.” There were also occasional trips to the movie theatre for matinees.

Every outing is an opportunity for learning and for utilizing skills such as safety, money handling, socialization, etiquette and so many more. And, of course, the best reason of all—enjoying life around us!” said Lynn Moon, ATF Program Specialist.

The School Program: Student Assessments

A part of each student’s academic life and development at Clelian Heights includes individualized assessment of their academic skills and daily living skills which gives teachers and parents an indication of developmental and ability levels of each child and allows parents and teachers to better plan together the educational and vocational goals for their children and helps staff better prepare daily activities and classes that will meet their needs and lead to positive outcomes.

The state of Pennsylvania requires specific testing at different grade levels for all children and mandates an evaluation of all students in the areas of behavioral, medical, and academic achievement every two or three years. The state mandated test is the PASA (Pennsylvania Alternative System Assessment) which is similar to each school district’s PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) taken in an average classroom in the Spring. Both the PASA and the PSSA tests are taken in grades 3 through 8 and also grade 11 in reading and math. Science is added to the test in grades 4, 8, and 11.

Clelian Heights uses additional assessments that better measure important areas for its students. Assessments are vital because they help us accurately measures present levels of academic achievement and functional performance on a scale that allows us to see a student’s base abilities. These can then be used for comparisons to find if outcomes are as we expected them to be or if we need to adjust our approaches or methods to gain improvement. As we continue to instruct and re-test, we again have a base to judge effects. So testing is an important measure for us, for the student, and for the parents. We continually need to check our outcomes because each child learns uniquely and success depends on getting the combination of factors—a child’s desire to learn the material; home and school environmental conditions; teacher, aide and child relationship and interactions; social interaction with peers, classmates, staff, and community; the child’s behavior in a variety of settings; and the actual learning and therapy materials and methods being used.

Some of the Assessments that assist us in our process of individual education planning include the Brigance Inventories which are great tools for an overall inventory of basic skills and a continued monitoring of student progress. The Brigance Diagnostic Inventory of Basic Skills is one that every student will take. Other Brigance Inventories are used which cover a variety of skill areas from early childhood to transition skills, from life skills to employability skills.

A determination is made for each child as to which assessments will be administered and when they will be given. For speech and language measurement, our therapists use ABLLS-R (Access Basic Language Learning Skills-Revised). It is a good tool for both verbal and non-verbal students. The Woodcock Johnson Reading Mastery Test is often the choice for reading and oral language assessment and Keymath for assessing math skills.

The results of testing can drive the goals of a student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP) as testing substantiates each child’s strengths, weaknesses, and progress. The Individual Education Plans are used by each student’s teacher and continually reviewed by her/him along with the student’s Personal Care Assistant (PCA) and/or (Therapy Support Staff) TSS. Revisions are requested as needed to ensure that goals are continuing to be met and satisfactory outcomes are facilitated. It’s all a part of the process to assist in the development of the whole child.
The School Program: Student Assessments

A part of each student’s academic life and development at Clelian Heights includes individualized assessment of their academic skills and daily living skills which gives teachers and parents an indication of developmental and ability levels of each child and allows parents and teachers to better plan together the educational and vocational goals for their children and helps staff better prepare daily activities and classes that will meet their needs and lead to positive outcomes.

The state of Pennsylvania requires specific testing at different grade levels for all children and mandates an evaluation of all students in the areas of behavioral, medical, and academic achievement every two or three years. The state mandated test is the PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) taken in an average classroom in the Spring. Both the PASA and the PSSA tests are taken in grades 3 through 8 and also grade 11 in reading and math. Science is added to the test in grades 4, 8, and 11.

Clelian Heights uses additional assessments that better measure important areas for its students. Assessments are vital because they help us accurately measure present levels of academic achievement and functional performance on a scale that allows us to see a student’s base abilities. These can then be used for comparisons to find if outcomes are as we expected them to be or if we need to adjust our approaches or methods to gain improvement. As we continue to instruct and re-test, we again have a base to judge effects. So testing is an important measure for us, for the student, and for the parents. We continually need to check our outcomes because each child learns uniquely and success depends on getting the combination of factors—a child’s desire to learn the material; home and school environmental conditions; teacher, aide and child relationship and interactions; social interaction with peers, classmates, staff, and community; the child’s behavior in a variety of settings; and the actual learning and therapy materials and methods being used.

Some of the Assessments that assist us in our process of individual education planning include the Brigance Inventories which are great tools for an overall inventory of basic skills and a continued monitoring of student progress. The Brigance Diagnostic Inventory of Basic Skills is one that every student will take. Other Brigance Inventories are used which cover a variety of skill areas from early childhood to transition skills, from life skills to employability skills.

A determination is made for each child as to which assessments will be administered and when they will be given. For speech and language measurement, our therapists use ABLLS-R (Access Basic Language Learning Skills-Revised). It is a good tool for both verbal and non-verbal students. The Woodcock Johnson Reading Mastery Test is often the choice for reading and oral language assessment and Keymash for assessing math skills.

The results of testing can drive the goals of a student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP) as testing substrates each child’s strengths, weaknesses, and progress. The Individual Education Plans are used by each student’s teacher and continually reviewed by her/him along with the student’s Personal Care Assistant (PCA) and/or (Therapy Support Staff) TSS. Revisions are requested as needed to ensure that goals are continuing to be met and satisfactory outcomes are facilitated. It’s all a part of the process to assist in the development of the whole child.
Clelians Heights was honored to have a 3-day visit from Sister Lorenzina Perniola, ASCJ, the Vicarress General of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus who own and operate Clelians Heights. Sr. Lorenzina is presently serving as a member of the General Council, the main governing body of the Community in Rome, Italy. While here in the States, Sister Lorenzina plans to visit as many of the Sisters’ North American missions as possible. This is her first visit to Clelians Heights although she said that Clelians Heights’ was not unknown to her. For years she has heard many wonderful things about our school from many sisters who have visited and particularly from Mother Rosalia Sosso, ASCJ, former Superior General and former Provincial Superior of the United States Province and Provincial who opened Clelians Heights in 1961. Most recently she has kept up with news about Clelians through Mother Clare Millea, ASCJ—the current Superior General of all the ASCJ Communities located in 15 countries—and a former Executive Director of Clelians Heights.

“Clelians Heights far surpassed my expectations, even more than what was shared with me!” said Sister Lorenzina who was assisted by interpreters Sister Rosemary and Sister Adrianne. “Clelians Heights is filled with love and alive with the charism of Mother Clelia. I can feel it. I am certain that this work is greatly loved by the community exposure, the jobs on and off campus, the facility itself—it has therapy rooms, a room for cooking, a sensory room, and students swimming—so many different activities wherever you look—so many, many things all for the children. Your work is so very impressive,” smiled Sister Lorenzina. “I am amazed at how well the teachers and the staff all work together to bring out the best in each child and adult. The students are so attentive and eager, well behaved and involved in their classroom activities.”

On October 19th we celebrated the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart. Many of the adults and students took part in the worship service. Sister Lorenzina was especially moved by the reverence and quiet attentiveness of all. “The singing was so heartfelt. The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was evident to me.” Sister Lorenzina expressed her gratitude for everyone she met—every teacher, staff person, student and adult—for giving her such a wonderful welcome and making her feel right at home and for taking the time to explain what they do at Clelians Heights. It was her desire to extend to all her promise of prayers and wishes for a blessed future. She said, “I can feel the love here and am certain that Clelians Heights is blessed with the presence of the Sacred Heart and of Mother Clelia.”

On Sunday, September 11, 2011, nearly 700 people enjoyed the wonderful chicken dinners prepared by Sam Wholey, the hard working barbecue pit crew, and our faithful kitchen volunteers.

Many took the opportunity to try to win one of the sixty-four baskets in our Basket Raffle or place a bid on one of the truly spectacular items in our Silent Auction. Proceeds from the raffle and the auction raised over $10,000 alone! Some of our guests went home with some great prizes! We are so grateful to the 251 businesses and individuals who donated items this year.

We also wish to express our gratitude to everyone who supports this event, by donating toward the cash raffle ticket, buying a dinner or two, or sending in a monetary donation toward the Project Fund. The entire event and appeal raised $27,000+, our biggest single fundraiser this year! You are all a true blessing!

Special thanks to Robert Wholey Co., Sam, and the Wholey family for their continued sponsorship and for supplying the chicken!

Clelians Heights was invited to join in. She was very impressed with the cheerful, well equipped classrooms, the atmosphere of the adult and eager, well behaved and involved in their classroom activities.
Extended School Year: Enhancing Learning

Another special visitor during ESY who has come numerous times is Sister Sandra Krupp, ASCJ. Involved in pastoral ministry in St. Louis, Sr. Sandra shared her summer experiences with those to whom she ministers and they too wanted to be a part of Clelian. They collected and sent all the materials Sr. Sandra would need for the craft projects that she planned for the children’s art enrichment activities during ESY!

A typical day in the ESY program begins with functional academics such as language arts, math, handwriting, reading. The afternoon allows time for a variety of recreational activities such as swimming indoors or out, biking, a themed activity or some class time for science or health. Later in the week a special activity relating to the theme of the week provides respite from class time but is in itself another learning experience. An educational community outing is part of each week’s activities. These are always filled with fun and adventure. They include: trips to Pittsburgh and area sites of interest—the Carnegie Science Center, Kennywood, Idlewild, the Zoo, etc. Other outings include enjoying an outing at Hempfield Park, the bowling lanes or the movies. Special puppet performances provided lessons on bullying, self-esteem and other character building issues. There are also special school assemblies each Friday.

A big Field Day Clelian is held toward the end of the session with all the volunteers involved in activities. There are snow cones flavored to order and popcorn popped as the children watch. There’s a bounce house, a ping pong relay, a fishing derby, face painting, musical beach blankets, crafts, and so many other games and activities in and around the school and grounds. Even the kitchen staff gets involved by serving a delicious picnic lunch to everyone there.

During ESY the Pennsylvania Kiski Valley State Police hold a hugely popular State Police Camp Clelian modeled after their own training camp. The day begins with calisthenics and marching. Demonstrations and hands-on activities are held at stations located all around the campus. These include: K-9 trials, fingerprinting and crime-scene processing, helicopter demo, Special Emergency Response Team practice, fire truck and emergency personnel equipment demonstrations, and more.

“This is a very big day for our students,” says Principal, Sr. Charlene Celli. “We are so grateful to the men and women who volunteer for Camp Clelian. This program is a very important one for our students as well as for our emergency responders who volunteer. They get first-hand experience aiding and teaching. Each student receives a State Police Camper shirt for actively participating in the training camp. There is a graduation ceremony at the end to which parents are encouraged to join.”

See More...

The ESY program this past summer was filled with many activities and educational opportunities—too many to mention here but you can find more of them and see photo slideshows of the activities by going to our website at www.clelianheights.org under “news”. Read about Clelian Performing Arts Day planned and led by boy scout Michael Tusay and a successful community book drive by Hannah Gabriel. Learn how Alexandra Opsitnick helped to raise funds for autism awareness at her school. And how girl scout Mary Komandit organized friends to join with all our students for crafting and playing games. See the Puppet Ministry of the Delmont Presbyterian Church in a special performance at Clelian where all enjoyed the audience participation and fellowship. Check out these articles at clelianheights.org news.

Advancement Office; Partners in our Mission

Cashing In

Many individuals, groups and organizations, are currently partners in our mission here at Clelian Heights and the number of dedicated friends goes back to the earliest days when the founding sisters welcomed the community to help. Now, just as Clelian Heights has grown, so too, that support has grown with many friends in many states across the country, not just here in our backyard. Sometimes, a specific individual feels the need to take that support above and beyond or a group or organization selects us as their charity.

Recently, one such individual, Walt Stahl, single handedly held a “cash bash” to benefit Clelian Heights. He wanted to purchase items for the classrooms that were on the teachers’ wish lists.

Walt’s daughter, Katie Datz, has been a teacher at Clelian Heights since 2006, so he had a bit of an inside track on some of the wishes of the teachers. One of the items that came up as a desire by many in conversations with his daughter was flat-screen TVs which could be mounted out of reach on the wall in each classrooms to be used for instructional DVD’s and educational videos. The mounted screens would be safer than a standard television on a cart and having one in each classroom would make its availability more convenient for the teachers.

With help from Glenn Stone and donations from vendors in the area, the event was successfully held in the spring at the Slipkvice Volunteer Fire Department. What resulted were nine flat-screen televisions with wall mounting brackets—all purchased and delivered by Walt Stahl. There was an additional $4,000 raised to purchase several new custom swing-seats for the playground, pedometers for the walking club, circle-time carpet for Mrs. Datz’s classroom and over two hundred others items on the ‘wish lists.’

“When Walt Stahl arrived with the TVs it was like Christmas!” said Sister Charlene. “We are so grateful to Walt, Glenn, and Katie for their thoughtfulness. It would have taken us quite a while to outfit all the classrooms and fulfill all the wish lists but Walt did it fast! What a wonderful blessing—thank you, Walt!”

Riding on the Rivers

Eighty-seven year old Louis LaCivita has a deal with the Lord. “I told him, ‘If you help me, then I will take care of your kids.’ ” Twenty-four years ago, Lou invited the students of Clelian Heights to join an event hosted by the Italian American War Veterans on the Gateway Clipper. Today, the group hosts approximately 500 students from area special education schools and programs at a cost of over $10,000. The trip includes a Gateway Clipper ship tour of Pittsburgh and the Three Rivers, a box lunch, a Master of Ceremonies, Jerry Chippinelli, and music for lots of dancing. There has even been live entertainment. Each student receives a State Police Camp Clelian shirt for actively participating in the training camp. There is a graduation ceremony at the end to which parents are encouraged to join.

See More...
The beautiful city of Pittsburgh provides the backdrop for this happy group on the Gateway River Team! It’s the highlight event on returning to school in the Fall.

The beautiful city of Pittsburgh provides the backdrop for this happy group on the Gateway River Team! It’s the highlight event on returning to school in the Fall.

Rides at Kennywood are always fast and fun!

According to Florence “Flo” Spagnolo, one of the main organizers of this event, Clelian Heights is the largest of the 12 groups they host. This year the ISDA needed $50 per person to treat the Clelian group to Italian Day at Kennywood. This included spending money for the children as well as bus transportation and park admission for the 150 Clelian Heights’ children, adults, teachers, aides, and volunteers attending. Lunch and dinner was provided for the whole group in a reserved pavilion and was personally served by ISDA members. “Each year I have members who really want to work the serving table to talk to the children and staff. They enjoy seeing and being with them again. It’s really a great day for all,” commented Flo. Everyone at Clelian Agrees, Flo. Thank you and ISDA for ‘a day to remember’ every Summer!

Clelian Heights is the largest of the 12 groups they host. This year the ISDA needed $50 per person to treat the Clelian group to Italian Day at Kennywood. This included spending money for the children as well as bus transportation and park admission for the 150 Clelian Heights’ children, adults, teachers, aides, and volunteers attending. Lunch and dinner was provided for the whole group in a reserved pavilion and was personally served by ISDA members. “Each year I have members who really want to work the serving table to talk to the children and staff. They enjoy seeing and being with them again. It’s really a great day for all,” commented Flo. Everyone at Clelian Agrees, Flo. Thank you and ISDA for ‘a day to remember’ every Summer!

Next regular issue: Rotary International and Lions International, partners in our mission.

www.clelianheights.org

Extended School Year: Enhancing Learning

Activities—some of these students return to Clelian every opportunity they can have enjoyed themselves so much each year. These volunteers come back to give more because they have received so much. Their friendship and presence helps to provide the specialness that makes for a quality ESY experience for everyone.

An example of this is long-time friend of the Sisters and friend of Clelian, Mary Beth Guidi, who has missed only one summer since she first volunteered at Clelian during her sophomore year in high school. This was her 12th year of volunteering even though she lives in New Jersey. Her experiences led her into the field of special education where she teaches an inclusive class of 8th grade algebra and science students. She spends a portion of her summer here and one activity she loves is sharing algebraic concepts with our students in the ESY program.

“Being able to give Clelian students such challenging work and seeing their success is truly amazing,” says Marybeth. “The ESY program provides so many options to the students. It’s a wonderful program. It also gives students the advantage of transitioning into their new classrooms where they can begin to know their new staff and classmates during this summer session easing the stress at the beginning of the new school year. Skills learned during the past year are reinforced over the four weeks to ensure retention going forward. Learning opportunities are available through the community and vocational job outings that are planned during the ESY program. Our students meet and interact with a variety of high school and college students and adult volunteers both from the area and out of state who share their experiences and their many talents and gifts during ESY.”

Several Sisters who are in high school and parish ministry also return each summer along with students from the two high schools operated by the Sisters—the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus—Cor Jesu Academy, St. Louis, MO, and Sacred Heart Academy, Hamden, CT. Twenty two young women came this summer. They plan and assist with special activities such as teaching new songs along with sign language, leading sing-alongs, preparing games, crafts, whatever is needed. They serve as “student buddies” during community outings and campus activities.

“Being able to give Clelian students such challenging work and seeing their success is truly amazing,” says Marybeth. “The ESY program provides so many options to the students. It’s a wonderful program. It also gives students the advantage of transitioning into their new classrooms where they can begin to know their new staff and classmates during this summer session easing the stress at the beginning of the new school year. Skills learned during the past year are reinforced over the four weeks to ensure retention going forward. Learning opportunities are available through the community and vocational job outings that are planned during the ESY program. Our students meet and interact with a variety of high school and college students and adult volunteers both from the area and out of state who share their experiences and their many talents and gifts during ESY.”

Several Sisters who are in high school and parish ministry also return each summer along with students from the two high schools operated by the Sisters—the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus—Cor Jesu Academy, St. Louis, MO, and Sacred Heart Academy, Hamden, CT. Twenty two young women came this summer. They plan and assist with special activities such as teaching new songs along with sign language, leading sing-alongs, preparing games, crafts, whatever is needed. They serve as “student buddies” during community outings and campus activities.

“I really enjoyed watching the girls grow in love for the folks at Clelian,” says Sister Colleen Mattingly, ASCJ, student advisor. “Seeing them try to get into the lifestyle of a young adult or child at Clelian and growing in appreciation for each child and for the staff who guide them was awesome. It happens just by being here for a few days—the young women grow in patience and love. I think they walk away with an incredible experience.”

“Seeing them try to get into the lifestyle of a young adult or child at Clelian and growing in appreciation for each child and for the staff who guide them was awesome. It happens just by being here for a few days—the young women grow in patience and love. I think they walk away with an incredible experience.”

“Seeing them try to get into the lifestyle of a young adult or child at Clelian and growing in appreciation for each child and for the staff who guide them was awesome. It happens just by being here for a few days—the young women grow in patience and love. I think they walk away with an incredible experience.”

Continues Sister Colleen. “They fall in love with the kids and they don’t want to leave. They form special and unique relationships with folks who they have more in common with than they thought. Some of our students have returned to Clelian after graduation wanting another opportunity to volunteer and see their Clelian friends.”

Everyone at Clelian is enriched through this program too. Having volunteers over the summer provides Clelian students with new faces and new opportunities for learning and social interaction. They are able to practice skills learned during the school year as they meet and make new friends and take part in many new activities.

(Continued on page 4)
Extended School Year: Enhancing Learning

Summer Program Benefits Many

In addition to the traditional school year, the Clelian Heights ESY (Extended School Year) is an educational and social enrichment program held for four weeks each summer. This program was initiated in 2005 under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and meets all criteria for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

ESY programming includes math, reading, language arts, handwriting, science, health, computer, home economics, vocational training, daily living skills, safety awareness, community based outings and other social and recreational activities such as music, arts and crafts, biking, swimming, and playground sports. Speech and language therapy as well as occupational and physical therapy are available for those who require it.

Clelian Heights’ Extended School Year promotes learning in a fun, enjoyable way. The combination of community and school based activities allows the children to take what they have learned from the classroom and apply those skills while enjoying planned activities in the community. It decreases the likelihood of regression and recoupment issues in previously learned skills and behaviors which some students exhibit after a prolonged absence from school and their normally structured routines.

Each student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP) and the specific goals and objectives outlined in the IEP are a guide to ensure that their academic, emotional, and social needs are being met. Participation in this program is determined by each student’s Comprehensive Evaluation Report (CER).

Some students choose Clelian Heights for their ESY program each summer while attending their regular school during the academic year. They look forward to ESY and seeing their Clelian friends and teachers.

One parent whose son attends school in the Hempfield School District but has been coming to Clelian each summer for the last eight years said, “What he likes most about ESY is the indoor pool, the community outings and the swings on the playground. Of course, none of these are academically based but both the swings and the pool help to improve his gross motor and listening skills while releasing his bottled up energy. This, in turn, helps him to focus and participate more willingly on academics. The community outings, which he views as simply fun, help to improve his communication, safety and appropriate peer interaction skills. It’s a win-win situation.”

In addition to fifteen volunteers from the area, there were several groups of student buddies each week who came and initiated new games that are challenging during the Field Day activities at ESY.

Consider charitable giving—put Clelian Heights in your will!

Or, since Congress has given a charitable planning choice, an exception for 2011 & 2012 through the IRA Rollover, consider Clelian as a charitable choice. In the Tax Expenditures and Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of H.R. 1424, an IRA owner age 70 ½ or older has the choice of making a direct transfer of funds to charity of up to $100,000 in one year extending to 2012!! (as in Section 408(d)(8)(A))

HELP US UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION!

Please take this opportunity to assure your inclusion in the Annual Report by returning your donation with the form below. An envelope is enclosed for convenience.

Deadline for inclusion based on fiscal year beginning July 1 ending June 30.

I am no longer able to help support Clelian Heights, please remove my address from the mailing list

I would also like to enclose a gift for the Project Fund:

Payment Method: [ ] Check: [ ] Visa [ ] MasterCard [ ] Discover

Enclosed is my gift of $ _______________________

Signature: _______________________

Expiration Date: _______________________

I AM A: Current: [ ] Parent [ ] Staff [ ] Student [ ] Adult Client [ ] Graduate [ ] Volunteer

[ ] Friend of a Former Parent, Staff, Student, Client, Graduate, Apostle of the Sacred Heart

(Circle all that apply): $____________

I AM A: Former: [ ] Parent [ ] Staff [ ] Student [ ] Adult Client [ ] Graduate [ ] Volunteer

[ ] Friend of a Former Parent, Staff, Student, Client, Graduate, Apostle of the Sacred Heart

(Circle all that apply): $____________

I AM A: Friend of Clelian Heights: Please provide location of membership or other details

[ ] Local Business or vendor: _______________________

[ ] Member Lions Club: _______________________

[ ] Member Kiwanis Club: _______________________

[ ] Member Knights of Columbus Council # ______

[ ] Other: _______________________

I am interested in leaving Clelian Heights in my will. I am interested in making an IRA Direct Transfer of funds to Clelian Heights.

Thank You!

www.clelianheights.org
Our Thanks to YOU during our 50th! We’re having a free donor gift-raffle in appreciation for your generosity to us. Below is a 16-piece indoor/outdoor ceramic Nativity set. The length of each piece is 15” to 26”. It is someone’s Christmas gift. It could be yours! Watch for a mailing coming soon.

11th Annual Night at the Races
March 24, 2012
5:30 PM
at the Harrison Room
(Harrison City VFD)
$17 per adult
Includes beverages and food

Available now!
Donation-$25.00 each.
Order by Dec. 1
ORDER YOURS TODAY!

Call ext.124
At 724-837-8120

135 Clelian Heights Lane • Greensburg, PA 15601-6665
Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 134
Greensburg, PA 15601