

# Clelian Heights Newsletter

*A Family Affair*



# Shavings

Fall 2007

Sr. Charlene Celli, Principal.....

**“EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW, I AM TAUGHT BY THE STUDENTS AND ADULTS AT CLELIAN HEIGHTS”**

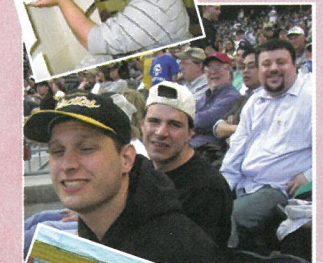
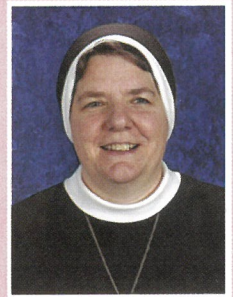
This year, my first as Principal at Clelian Heights School, has provided a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the Many “lessons of life” that our exceptional students and adults have taught me over my twenty-three years of ministry at this beautiful oasis of love! Truly desiring to integrate the words of the Gospel: “The gifts you have received, give as a gift,” please allow me to share with you a few of the gifts I have received.

**Life Lesson #1** - To focus on the Abilities of each person and lovingly Accept their disabilities...In the world today, society is all too quick to accentuate the “challenges,” “disabilities” and “special needs” of everyone, but most especially of those who are medically diagnosed with these labels. Searching for the deeper meaning of these words, we find that a challenge is something difficult that requires extra work or effort to do, a disability indicates certain restrictions in performing tasks and a need is to want or require something urgently. There is freedom in knowing that yes, we have limitations, but there are people who overlook these in order to see my God given potential. Clelian Heights is an environment where staff and clients work together in order to give priority to the strengths of each individual. So the very first lesson I learned at Clelian Heights is to look at the Ability that exists in all people, which is...the competence to excel in some area or to possess the necessary skills to succeed in some task, no matter how simple.

**Life Lesson #2** - To live totally in the Present Moment...Through the years, I have noticed that our children at Clelian are not bogged down by the many life stresses from which many of us suffer. Is this due to the fact that they are not able to comprehend such matters? Are they totally exempt from stress in their lives? No, I believe that their great ability to be free from the worries that plague many people today is due to the fact that they live fully than we, as illustrated by the words of Spencer Johnson in his book, *The Present*, “The past is history. The future is a mystery. Today is a Gift, that’s why it is called *The Present*.” During my teaching days, I remember feeling stressed out about so many things. The message of living the present moment was delivered to me by Christian, my teacher aide and graduate from our program. Noticing that I was missing the beauty of the present moment, Christian simply said to me, “Be happy, Sister!” These few words offer a tremendous lesson. God has given us each day, each hour, each moment as a gift.. it is our responsibility to receive and rejoice in this precious Present!

**Life Lesson #3** - The Meaning of Unconditional Love...What makes Clelian Heights different from other schools you may ask? The answer is simple! Our students and adults love God, themselves and others with a special, unconditional love. Guests at Clelian often remark how friendly and welcoming our children seem. It is not unusual for a first time visitor to feel as if they had been

*(continued)*



(Sr. Charlene Continued)

to Clelian a million times before. I have come to regard Clelian as a love zone: an unconditional love zone. In a world that put so much emphasis on what we can do, it is refreshing to come to a place where we are truly loved for who we are. Thus, another lesson to learn and imitate...offering unconditional love to others...a love that does not have to be earned, but is offered because we all belong to the family of God.

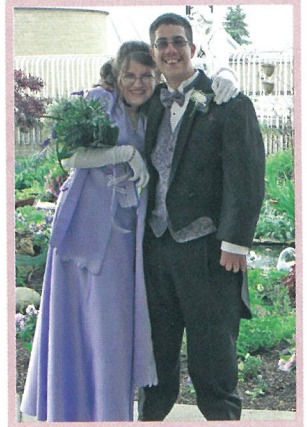
**Life Lesson #4** - Live a Life of Deep Faith and Love in the Lord...What a beautiful gift it is to experience a child with special needs at prayer! Their conversation with God is so open, so natural and so sincere...a true example of prayer from the heart. There is never hesitancy or fear in praying for their own needs or the needs of others. So many times I have heard our students pray for their families, friends, relatives, pets and yes even for lost items! When they pray, they pray as if they have already received the grace. Trusting in the Lord is an innate gift for them. It is no wonder that our students and adults are so near and dear to the Heart of Jesus. This simple and uncomplicated form of prayer is, by far, the most important lesson anyone can gain from working with God's special children.

I truly believe that many of the lasting lessons we learn in life come from many sources in our everyday lives.,but most of mine were and continue to be taught to me through the students and adults at Clelian Heights.



## Clelian Heights Holds First Prom

“Dreams Come True” was the theme for the first prom held for Clelian Heights school students. The students spent weeks learning proper manners, etiquette and dancing. Excitement was at a peak by the time prom night arrived. The teachers, school employees and parents organized and secured donations of prom gowns, flowers and decorations. The gym was transformed into a sparkling dance floor full of blue and white balloons and flowers and paper stars hanging from the ceiling. The evening began with couples (some boys escorting their female teachers because boys outnumber girls) walking arm-in-arm through a lighted castle to the applause of their family and friends. Families were then sent home for a few hours so the students could have fun. A sit down dinner was enjoyed by the couples with manners at their best and then the dancing began. The many smiling students that have difficulty expressing emotions because of autism or communication disorder captured the prom theme “Dreams Come True.”



## Camp Cadet Program

Thanks to Trooper Dale Gabriel, the Pennsylvania State Police and Shields Chiropractic, a modified version of the PA State Police Camp Cadet program was held at Clelian Heights. This week long overnight program is held every summer to introduce teens to police work. Knowing that most teens he

volunteers with at Clelian Heights are unable to attend a week long program,



Trooper Gabriel brought a modified program to 43 students age 12 and up. Students had lessons in marching, demonstration by a motorcycle officer, Kora the dog showing her ability to find hidden drugs, how a state police helicopter is used for search and rescue mission and explored a tactical rescue unit truck. Trooper Gabriel received support from the Kiski Valley, Pittsburgh and Mercer barracks along with the Latrobe aviation unit.

## Recent Grants July 1, 2006 - July 1, 2007

**McKinney Charitable Foundation**

Swimming Pool Boiler, \$5000.00

**Ronald McDonald House Charities Foundation**

Sensory Room Equipment, \$3750.00

**Dominion Foundation**

Touch-Math program, \$800.00

**York Restoration and DiDero**

**Investment**

Swimming Pool Accu-Tab chlorinator, chemical controller and emergency switch and timers, \$4500.00

**Youngwood Knights of Columbus**

Sensory Room Equipment, \$1200.00

**Clapp Foundation**

Behavior Therapy program, \$5,000.00

**Thomas Usher Family Foundation**

Kitchen Renovation, \$100,000.00

**Lions Clubs of Greensburg, New Alexandria, Bushy Run, Delmont, Slickville, Murrysville, Manor, Jeannette, Sewickley and Level Green**

Tympanometer/Audiometer, \$750.00

**DCED**

Maintenance needs, \$15,000.00

**The Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust,**

Kitchen Renovation, \$90,000.00

**Citizens Bank Foundation**

Clelian Center job coaching, \$3000.00

**McFeeley Rogers Foundation**

Sensory Room equipment, \$1000.00

**Lulu A. Pool Health and Education Trust**

Sensory Room Equipment, \$1100.00

**The Murrysville/Export Rotary**

Sensory Room Equipment, \$1,000.00

**The Greensburg Rotary**

Sensory Room Equipment, \$1900.00

**The Greensburg Foundation Fund of the Community Foundation**

Kitchen Renovation, \$13,480.00

**In-kind from Philips Electronic of North America**

2 Heart Start Frx AFD's and accessories, \$5,010.00

**In-Kind from Greensburg Community AED Program**

1 Philips Heart Start AED and accessories, \$1790.00

**Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation**

Drumming Circles Program

**Knights of Columbus, Father Gilbert Straub Council, Youngwood,**

School Handicap Entrance Door

**Robertshaw Foundation**

School Handicap Entrance Door

*Thank you  
for your  
Generosity!*

(This list does not include gifts given by private donors.)

*God touches all in the heavens  
and on Earth; everything is  
full of sacred presence*

Psalms 103:19



### Crafter's Needed !

Clelian Heights will be having their second annual Holly Berry Juried Christmas Craft Fair on Friday, November 30th from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 1st from 9:00 a.m. - until 3:00 p.m. A variety of talented crafters will be selling their handcrafted items along with delicious food, Christmas Tree Lane chances, Santa Land and entertainment. Mark your calendar and start your Christmas shopping at Clelian Heights!

Limited spaces are still available for crafters to rent. If you are interested in reserving a space or need additional information, contact Ann Miles or Sr. Shawn Lyons at 724/837-8120.

## 2008 Lottery Calendars

Based on the 7 p.m. 3 digit PA State Lottery Number, you have a chance of winning money every day of the year. A total of \$15,000.00 in cash is given away. The cost of a calendar is \$25.00 and only 1000 are sold.

Be a savvy shopper - these calendars make great gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas or any occasion you want a gift that "keeps on giving."

**ORDER YOUR 2008 LOTTERY CALENDAR**

Cost of Lottery Calendars \$25.00 each

Number of Calendars Ordered \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK APPLICABLE BOX:     Master Card     Visa     Cash     Check (Payable to Clelian Heights)

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

## SAVE THESE DATES !

Wholey's Old Fashion Chicken Barbecue ..... October 21, 2007  
Christmas Craft Fair ..... November 30 & December 1, 2007  
Night at the Races ..... February 23, 2008  
JPK Golf Classic ..... May 16, 2008

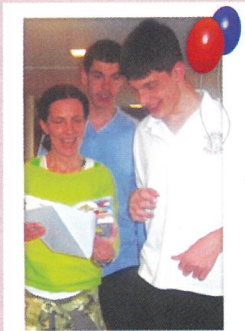
DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK, RV OR BOAT TO CLELIAN HEIGHTS FOR A TAX DEDUCTION!  
Please call Ann Miles at 724/837-8120 x 124 for information or to make a donation.

## United Way Contribution

Thank you for choosing  
Clelian Heights Inc.

Contributor Choice  
#403

135 Clelian Heights Lane  
Greensburg, PA 15601



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

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

**Nondiscrimination:** Clelian Heights offers services to all without discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, religious creed, disability, sex, ancestry or national origin.



135 Clelian Heights Lane • Greensburg, PA 15601-6665



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