

by: Andrea Matetic

"A Fuego," Open Door's Spanish club, reached out to local needy children by going shopping with them on Dec. 11 and 18, through the "Mary Tucker Clothe-A-Child" program. Each Open Door student was given \$90 to spend on the child so they could have warm clothes for the winter season.

This organization reaches out to children whose parents are in jail or on welfare, and basically to families that are very poor. Spanish club and many other Open Door students volunteered for the outreach this past Saturday.

The students encountered some unusual but funny experiences, especially junior, John Dewilde who lost his kid for about ten minutes. The



Students Shine at Outreach

child was pouting because Dewilde could not afford a toy, so the child ran away. "His uncle found him in the parking lot and told me, 'Wow I bet you didn't know what you were getting yourself into!'" recalls Dewilde.

Besides the funny events that hap-

pened on the outreach, volunteers learned valuable lessons. "I realized how blessed I am," says Jackie Bittner, "Just to see the kids' faces light up, it makes you feel warm and fuzzy on the inside!"

"A Fuego" is a club that meets after school about twice a month in Ms. Flint's room. "Spanish club was started to offer a way to learn Spanish culture, customs, and

traditions without necessarily being in Spanish classes," explains Diana Buchanan, club president. In the future, "A Fuego" hopes to have a field trip possibly to the Rainforest and a Christmas feast.

Three Cheers for New Patriot Cheerleading Squad!!!

by: Lexi Stevens

"I love cheerleading, it is so much fun," said Junior Jessica Chakos, "It's not just about the cheers but an awesome group of girls."

Students were reluctant about the idea of a cheerleading squad beginning here at Open Door. Their stereotypes have been outweighed, though, by the squad's enthusiasm seen on and off the court, "It's all about spirit," said Junior Jamie Mueller.

But there is more to these ladies than just cheering. "We aren't just trying to be cheerleaders but also, spiritual leaders," stated Junior Ashley Hullman. They encourage each other through devotions, accountability, and daily prayer.

Though they have the obvious support of the school board, for the most part the squad feels they aren't getting the student support that they really need. "They haven't seen what we've

done and already have an airhead image

in their heads," Jessica Chakos later said. They still hope that the student attendance to the basketball games and support will improve as the season continues.

"We're going to prove that we're good and we can do it by not acting ditsy and retarded, because we aren't ditsy or retarded," said Senior Stephanie

Bilecki.

The squad is headed by two coaches, Ms. Flint and Mrs. Mulanax. Flint is the new Spanish teacher along with choreographer to the fall play. Her dance background is what has helped her coordinate the cheers. "They are just doing such a great job, they have a lot of talent," she said, "They are just lovely girls, very enthusiastic."

Mrs. Mulanax volunteers her time fully to the cheerleaders when she is not working or going to school. Having been a cheerleader in high school she understands the stereotype of the typical cheerleader. "None of these girls are airheads, their focus is not on cliques but on being spiritual leaders for everything."

The cheerleaders were pleased with their performance at their first game, and have all said they are excited to see how the squad develops as the season continues.



Features

New Millennium New Life

by: Aaron Schollmeier

As Open Door approaches Y2K, a few millennium babies are about to be born to staff members working right around the corner. We are going to take a walk through the school and visit these ladies.

Let's start by heading for the lunch room. Just before the cafeteria on the right is the first grade room. On the desk you will only find a picture of Mrs. Donnelly. This is because she is at home with her new baby girl. Mrs. Donnelly had her baby on Friday, Dec. 10, right on her due date! Her name is Carissa Joy, she weighs 7 lbs. 3 oz, and is 21 inches long.

Now, let's go down the 300 wing into Mr. Russ' room. On his desk is a picture of Mrs. Russ. She is now at home and has her hands full with their two-year-old daughter. Mrs. Russ is having twins in May, and she is "very excited, tired, and constantly hungry."

Next on the list of places to visit, is the high school office. One of the first people that you will see in the office is Mrs. Crist. She sits in the back of the office and handles the school's tuition. This will be her second baby. Her first was Matthew who is now 5 years old. She is hoping for a girl this July, but she is thrilled to be having a baby regardless.

Finally, let's go down toward the copier room and Mr. Byrd's office. Just before the door, and directly across from the mailboxes, is Mrs. Hyde's office. She is Mr. Byrd's secretary and the office manager. Mrs. Hyde is delighted to be having a little baby boy in late December that they will name Carter.

So, as you can see, ODCS is well on it's way to bringing a new generation into the next millennium.



Above: First grade teacher Mrs. Donnelly just took her newborn girl, Carissa Joy, home last week.

Right: Mrs. Hyde, expecting her third child, takes a break from the meetings and the numbers.

Angels in the Elementary

by: Amanda Snyder & Lexi Stevens

Around this time of year, most elementary students are thinking of Pokémon, Barbie's, and all the cool stuff that is going to be underneath their Christmas trees. But this Christmas, Open Door's elementary students are looking beyond themselves and thinking of the less privileged through their outreach, "Project Angel Tree".

For the past month, the students have been raising money to buy Christmas gifts for children who have a parent in local prisons. In the outreach, gifts are given to the children in the name of their incarcerated parent. They are given anything from toys, to clothes, to coupons, to whatever is most needed.

When asked the reason he gave to the underprivileged, Brian Work, a 5 year old kindergartner said, "it wouldn't be fair if we had presents [for Christmas] and they didn't." It seems, that through the success of An-

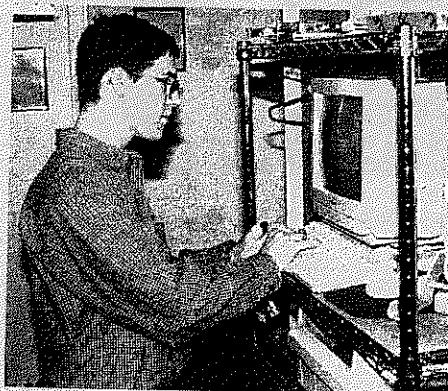
gel Tree, other elementary students feel the same way.

Mrs. Boyd, the elementary principal, picked up on this program through Church of the Open Door's involvement. In 1982, Chuck Coleson took the small program, started by Mary Kay Beard, and made it nationally recognized to reach children in every area around the United States.

Beyond just handing out presents, it gives a unique opportunity to witness to the prisoners, the care takers, and the children. On the Angel Tree web site (www.angeltree.org), this quote best described the mission of the Angel tree ministry, "Angel Tree is not about giving gifts to children of prisoners, its about an open door into the home of a prisoner to share Christ. The love of Christ, exemplified through those volunteers who bring presents at Christmas, is what Angel Tree is really about."

Students & Alumni

Full-time Student, Full-time 'Techi'



by: Kent Walls

He operated his first computer at the age of 4, and now owns 6 computers. He has built about 20 computers from scratch and also designed his youth group's sound system. He set up and programmed the entire elementary computer lab at Open Door. Who is this you ask? Well, it's Mike Mobert, sophomore at O.D.C.S.

Mobert was hired by the school a

couple of years ago, but started working full time last January. He also worked this past summer doing networking (where one computer controls many computers) in the computer labs, according to his boss Mrs. Harrell.

Mobert became involved with computers when his older brother taught him the basic operations of a computer. After that, he taught himself through trial and error. Surprisingly, he has never even taken a computer course taught by Mrs. Harrell at Open Door.

In the future, Mobert plans to go to college and into network designing, which usually pays pretty well. He also said, "to go to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) would be nice."

Mobert calls himself a "techi," which includes working on hardware and fixing problems in computers. Lately though, he has been giving teaching a chance by training fellow



classmates after school.

Mobert enjoys computers and he hopes to do more in the future to help out the school. According to Mrs. Harrell, "Mike Mobert is a very valuable asset to Open Door."

Mike Mobert is a guy behind the scenes who could go unnoticed, but who knows, he might be the next Bill Gates.

'Hell is Real'

by: Andrea Matetic

"Hell's real and you have to make a choice about how you're going to live your life before you get there," says Patty Towner, 1999 Open Door graduate.

Towner recently starred in a locally made movie, *M. 10:28*, based on Matthew 10:28 which focuses on the reality of hell in people's lives.

In the movie, Towner plays Sarah who is considered the "bad girl." At the beginning, Sarah is trying to convince the other girls about going to a wild Halloween party instead of going to a church party.

Natalie, played by Angie Perez, is

reluctant to go because of her Christian conscience, and Mary, played by Laura Griffith, is just worried about how to get around her parents.

As the movie progresses, the drive back from the party ends in disaster and one girl dies and goes to hell, which is the movie's main focus in bringing people to Christ.

Towner auditioned for the movie after a private producer from her church asked for female roles. "This movie took about three years of off and on filming," she says, "Sometimes we would film until three or four o' clock in the morning and I would get really crabby and hyper because I drank so much coffee."

This year Patty Towner is attending LCCC, studying music. She says she is not necessarily thinking of making tele-

vision or movies a career, but she hopes God will open doors to a singing career in the future.



Sports

Hoopin' It Up

by: Kristin Levanduski

"We try to play each game as eleven pistons of an engine," said Coach Mulanax of his JV players.

Open Door's basketball teams are getting their seasons off to a great start. The junior high teams are just starting up, and the JV and V girls and boys teams have already started their games. The girls JV record so far is 0 and 2, and the V record is 0 and 6. The guys JV record so far is 4 and 0, and the V record is 3 and 2. The teams are playing hard and going for the victory.

Miss Killian is the head coach of the girls V team. Mr. Campbell is the JV coach, and he is assisted by Miss VanWingerden.

The girls are struggling with numbers this season. They are down to 9 healthy players out of 16. They can't spare to lose any more!

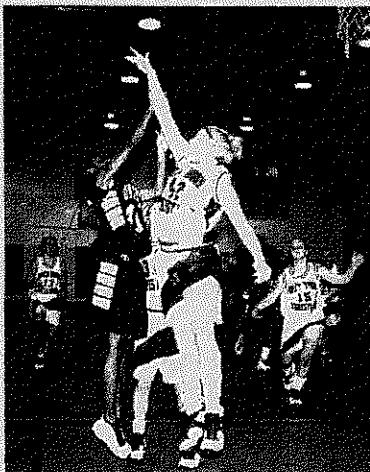
This is Miss Killian's fourth year coaching at Open Door. Some of her goals for this season are to maintain good testimony so that the players can be a witness to unbelievers, bond together as a team, show growth throughout the season, and to improve on last year's record.

Coach Killian said that speed is one of the teams strongest points. Also, most of the seniors work well together because they have been playing with each other since junior high.

Coach Januzzi is the head coach for the V boys team in his second year. He is assisted by Mr. Mulanax who has been coaching at Open Door for 3 years.

Mulanax is excited about this season because he has 11 guys who always "play their hearts out." They play with 100 percent intensity, and no one has bad attitudes.

On the V team, Mulanax feels that the team has more confidence about



Top: Kara Burrel swatting a shot while teammates Jenny Linder and Kelly Wilkinson run to her aide.

Bottom: Seniors Josh Green and Josh Smith listen as coach Januzzi lays out the next play.

their level of play this year. He says there is stronger team unity and the boys have a better work ethic. One of their strengths is having the ability to adapt to the defensive pressures of the opponents.

"The V team has good senior leadership," says Coach Mulanax. Seniors Josh Smith, James Tipple, and Josh Green have been playing with each other for a long time, and they work well together.

Coach Mulanax hopes to change Open Door's losing tradition and instead have a winning season. They are aiming to remain positive and God-focused, both on and off the court.



Above: Kristen Campbell fights to pass ball to Kelly Wilkinson, Rachel Shimko or Kara Burrel.

The Return of Wrestling

by: Reggie Rice

"I've only had to use a chair once," joked sixth grade teacher and intramural wrestling coach Mr. Lewis.

During the 80's, Open Door had an excellent wrestling program. They worked hard and won a lot of matches. The sport died out in the early 90's, but Mr. Bova and Mr. Lewis think that it is time to bring it back.

Wrestling is not a sport that you can jump right into when you enter high school. Lewis says that there just isn't enough people in our high school that have the physical ability or skills to go up against other schools which have a well established wrestling program.

Lewis has decided to start an intramural program with the 4th, 5th, and 6th, grade boys so that by the time they are freshmen they will have had up to six years of training.

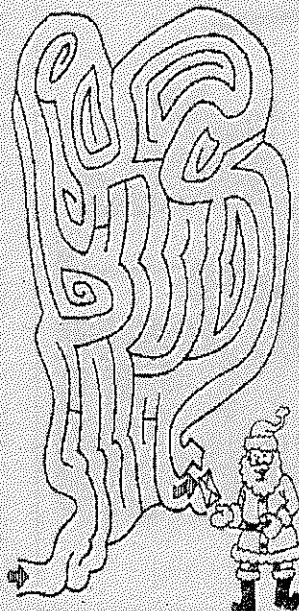
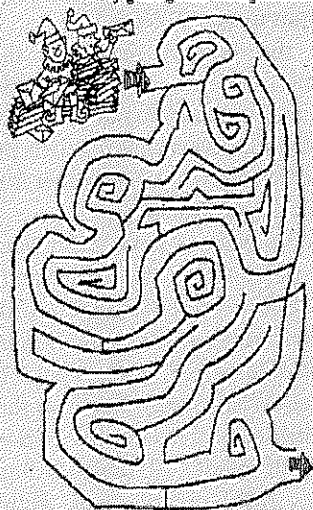
The intramural program has been going on for a few years and a lot of interest has been expressed. Next year Lewis hope to have a jr. high team and in a few years a full-fledged varsity squad.

"The three keys to wrestling are strength, skill, and speed," says Lewis, "By teaching these guys some wrestling skills now, and getting them involved, it won't be long till we see some great wrestling here at Open Door."

Kid's Page

MAIL MAZE

Help the elves deliver Santa's Mail by guiding them through these mazes.



WORD SCRAMBLER

Try to unscramble these holiday words

ITNSCGOK

GALEN

SJUES

WONSMHA

GMERAN

EHSGIL

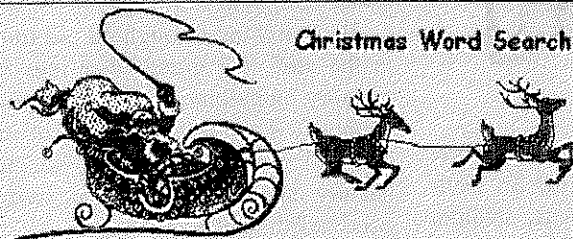
POJHSE

THMIACRSS

ASCLRO

LPAEFERIC

Christmas Word Search



d	o	l	d	e	e	r
l	w	s	n	o	w	e
r	k	t	o	y	s	f
e	u	a	e	s	l	v
e	h	r	p	a	e	c
b	o	c	a	n	d	y
y	g	i	f	t	i	l
y	c	i	b	a	l	s

ball	elf	snow
bell	gift	star
candy	santa	toy
deer	sled	tree

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Top 5 Ways to Confuse Santa

5. Build an army of mean-looking snowmen on the roof, holding signs that say "Go away Santa".
4. Keep an angry bull in your living room. If you think a bull goes crazy when he sees a little red cap, wait until he sees that big, red Santa suit!
3. While he's in your house go to his sleigh and write him a speeding ticket!
2. While he's in the house, replace all his reindeer with exact replicas. Then wait and see what happens when he tries to get them to fly.
1. Instead of milk and cookies, leave him a salad and a note explaining that you think he could lose a few pounds.

Word Scrambler Answers

- | |
|---------------|
| 5. Manger |
| 4. Snowman |
| 3. Jesus |
| 2. Angel |
| 1. Stocking |
| 6. Sleigh |
| 7. Joseph |
| 8. Christmas |
| 9. Carols |
| 10. Fireplace |

Reviews



Above: The new 20 screen Regal Cinema, known as "Cobblestone" in Avon.

Theaters a plenty

by: Reggie Rice

Lights, camera, action! It's time for a movie! Where, my friend, should you go to feast upon a cinematic delight?

There are now three major theaters within a twenty mile radius: Midway, Sheffield, and the new Cobblestone theater. I, Reggie Rice, selflessly sacrificed my time to check out all three.

Midway is managed by Don Denevic. Denevic is a great guy who is actively involved in Church of the Open Door's youth group and has son Brian enrolled at ODCS in the 9th grade.

When I walked in the lobby, the After Dark CD (Church of the Open Door's youth worship band) was playing on the speakers. Midway has 8 screens and traditional seating. The cost for an evening show is \$7.25, large popcorn \$4.75, and a large pop

\$3.25.

The new theater in town, Cobblestone Square, is a state of the art facility. They have 20 screens, stadium seating, and comfortable high back chairs with retractable arm rests. The cost for an evening show is \$7.00, large popcorn \$4.50, and a large pop \$3.25.

For all you cheap date guys, like myself, Sheffield Cinema has gone back to \$2.00 seating. They have 10 screens which are showing movies that came out several months ago. The seating is nice but nothing special. The food prices are the same as the other theaters: \$4.50 for a large popcorn, and \$3.25 for a large pop.

So for familiar sights and sounds go to Midway. If you want to try something new, check out Cobblestone. Finally, for those of you that want to see Stars Wars just one more time, go to Sheffield.

I Wish You Jesus

by: Kristin Shimko

Some wish for bikes, trains, or video games, but our elementary students want to say "I Wish You Jesus" this holiday season in their Christmas musical. Director Miss Leshan and her students are in a holiday rush while preparing for their performance on Monday, December 20 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

I would like to share with you a sneak preview of this entertaining event. Every year, Grandpa (Jordan Oleszczuk, sixth grade) and Grandma (Kim Riddle, sixth grade) play the Christmas Wish Game with their three grandchildren Christopher (Scott Greg, fifth grade), Tiffany (Abigail Shimko, fifth grade), and Kelsey (Olivia Boaz, third grade). The family wishes things for each other that cannot be bought in stores.

By searching through an old trunk in the attic, the grandfather jogs his memory by pulling out an old football helmet. This reminds him of his youthful years when he was athletic, healthy, and strong. He then wishes good health to all.

Grandma finds a locket with an angel and a manger scene. She tells her grandchildren about God's never ending love. She then wishes the children Jesus.

"It's been fun but definitely a challenge to get the first graders to memorize their words and stand still for a long period of time," Leshan said. "The second graders are doing a great job. It's entertaining to watch them try to learn their dance steps. The greatest challenge is trying to explain to the young children what it is like to be older."

Ms. Leshan hopes to achieve one goal while putting on this performance. She wants everyone to realize how much God loves them and that He is the real meaning of Christmas!

Reviews



'Good Man' Makes for Great Play



by: Lexi Stevens

November 19-20 marked the success of Open Door's fall play "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" based on the beloved Charles Schultz comic strip "Peanuts". Though there were some uncooperative props, overall the show seemed to run rather smoothly.

The nine main cast members played a crew of misfit five year olds and their dog in their adventures to better understand life, love, and how to win a baseball game. The players breathed new life into the cartoon characters, while adding a little bit of their own spark and choreography.

Though the show was well received, the cast was disappointed by the lack of student attendance. "It was a fun show, we worked hard," said Reggie Rice, "it was a big disappointment that more students didn't come out for it."

If you missed out on seeing the fall play, be sure to catch the spring performance of the musical "Fiddler on the Roof".

Editorials & Opinion

School Spirit: It's In YOUR Attitude

by: Amanda Snyder

School spirit starts with attitude. And a good or bad attitude is a choice. A student can choose to become involved in sports or clubs or can choose to have a rotten attitude.

Out of 166 surveyed, 100 students feel our school is lacking school spirit. Some students suggested more pep rallies, another spirit week, theme dress up or dress down days, more advertisements for sports games and drama performances, and "incentives" for going to a school function. Incentives could include extra credit from teachers, dress down day(s), or gum and food privileges.

This sounds good, however should a teacher or Mr. Bova offer incentives just to get students to come to an activity? A student should be willing and want to come to show school spirit.

Let me add this, only 61 out of 166

students that were surveyed, came out to support the cast and crew of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." That's terrible! Out of 300+ students in the high school, only 61? Unfortunately, this total of 61 includes the cast and crew.

After attending Elyria High School for three years, I have come to appreciate this school. EHS had some school spirit; however, I did not participate in school activities. It seemed like EHS had a pep rally every couple of weeks. Whether it was for Homecoming, Martin Luther King, Jr., spirit week, or end of the year assemblies, I tried to get out of them all. In fact, I only went to five pep rallies and the rest I either went home early or stayed in a classroom with my teachers. I had no school spirit. Elyria High did, but I had none.

Have you ever thought that maybe the reason you are "unhappy"

at this school is because of YOUR attitude? There are a million things I can think of that make one appreciate this school. Here are a few.

1. It's a Christ-centered school

We have chapel and Bible classes for the students to grow closer to understand God and His character. That is reason in itself to be excited about this school.

2. The teachers are awesome.

Yeah, they may discipline and hand out lots of homework, but hey, they're teachers, that's their job!

3. There's so much to become involved in. The Charlie Brown play just ended, and now the spring musical, "Fiddler On the Roof" is starting up. Also, the boys and girls basketball teams have started their new season.

4. This school is a place where students and teachers come together to "encourage and build each other up." Jesus said we should love one another, as much as we love ourselves.

After all, as Pam Fletcher puts it, "just be yourself and have fun!," as stated in the survey under why our school is lacking spirit.

gency phone lines such as 911 might not work. Other countries like Russia, that have old nuclear plants, are considered vulnerable in case of a Y2K disaster. But the Gartner Group, (an association that provides cutting information for huge corporations) estimates that ninety percent of Y2K problems will be solved within 72 hours.

The general opinion of the Titanic was it never would sink. Will history repeat itself? We'll know for sure in a matter of days.

The Bug Is Coming

by: Dominic DeMaria

The millennium bug. You know by now that the "bug," otherwise known as Y2K, could pose a significant threat to the economy and even our survival.

The problem began in the 1960's when computer programmers created the first electronic computing systems. They made a decision to save money by installing a two digit date code system, rather than a four date code system. This means that on January 1, 2000, older computers that have only two date codes will recognize the date not as January 1, 2000 but January 1, 1900.

One scenario that could happen due to Y2K is that the savings accounts of certain individuals can be erased from the computers if they were not de-

bugged. The computer would read the date as Jan. 1, 1900, like stated above.

Since learning about the problem, some individuals have gone into a frenzy by saving food and building shelters in case of an emergency. Even the fictional character Drew, on "The Drew Carey Show," has built a shelter "just in case."

Senior Bill LaFleur and many others believe that the Y2K will not have a huge aftermath. The athletic company, Nike, has the slogan: "Y2K, it'll be OK," suggesting that Y2K won't be a world catastrophe.

Naturally, the U.S. is considered well prepared for the Y2K bug. A problem that might arise is that emer-