

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Saturday, May 7, 2001; St. Ignatius High School 125th Anniversary Celebration, St. Mary of the Assumption Chapel, St. Ignatius High School Campus, 1911 W. 30th Street: Rev. William Murphy, S. J. celebrates the 125th Anniversary Mass with St. Ignatius alumni and their families.

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THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR CLEVELAND'S WEST S

SPARK program at Clark Elementary prepares children for kindergarten

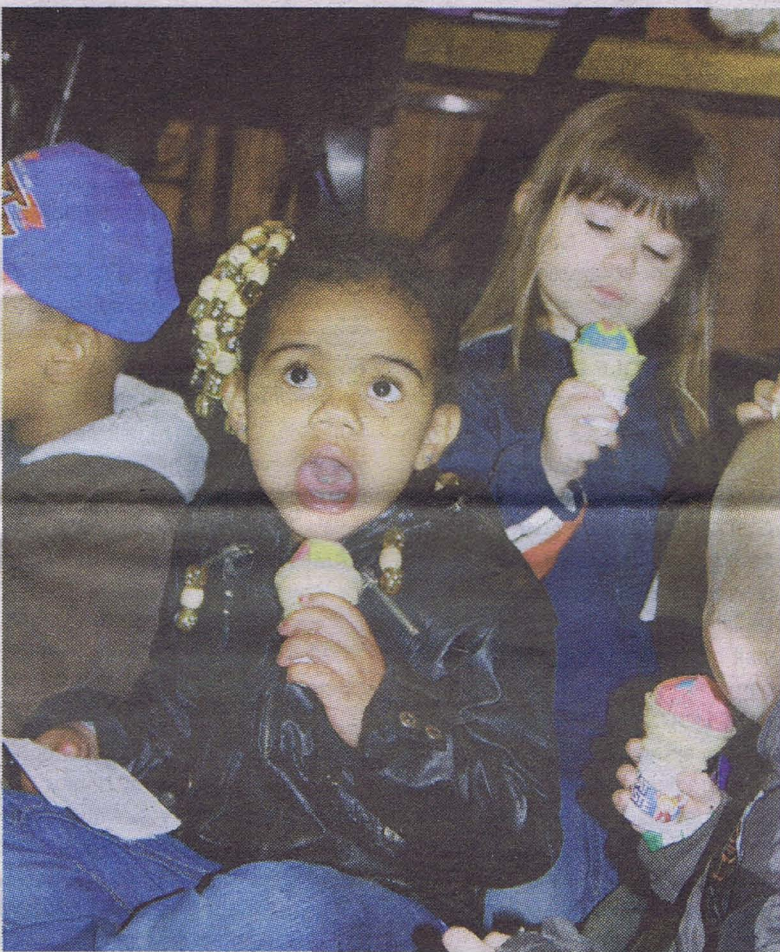
by **Nora Rodriguez**
On Saturday, May 14, The Literacy Cooperative hosted children, parents and tutors from the SPARK, Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids program at the Children's Museum of Cleveland. SPARK is an in-home tutoring program that prepares children for kindergarten, using home lesson

plans and heavy parental involvement. At the event, Jhann Ramos, April Pearce and Precious Cooke from Clark Elementary participated in a group lesson that followed the guidelines of the Ohio Department of Education Early Learning Standards. Clark Elementary is one of three Cleveland Municipal School

District schools participating in the SPARK program this year. Robert Paponetti, Executive Director of The Literacy Cooperative, said the main goal of the program is to prepare the children for kindergarten and help them score better on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. In the City of Cleveland, Paponetti said 20 percent of children are ready for kindergarten, 40 percent need some help and 40 percent need intense assistance, according to the assessment, a test that all public school children must take in the State of Ohio. Currently, 131 four year olds are enrolled in SPARK Cuyahoga from seven Greater Cleveland schools.

A study done by a University of Akron professor found that SPARK participants scored better on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment than their peers. The program provides parents and children with free books, supplies and information, along with a tutor, parent partner, who visits at the home or near the home of the child. It also provides activities for the parent and child and a learning plan.

The program is currently recruiting children, age 4, who plan to enter kindergarten at Clark Elementary in August 2012. For more contact Family Connections at 216-321-0079.



Saturday, May 14, 2011; Cleveland Avenue: Students from the Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK) pre-kindergarten program participated in a day of fun activities at Clark Elementary SPARK program, w

World War II Veteran says use to remember those who have sac

by **Chuck Hoven** Committee at the now closed



PHOTO BY NORA RODRIQUEZ

Saturday, May 14, 2011; Cleveland Children's Museum, 10730 Euclid Avenue: April Pearce from Clark Elementary, age 5, works on an assignment at the Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK) pre-kindergarten program with her grandparents, John and Karen Pearce.

Near West Intergenerational Charter School to open at Garrett Morgan

The Cleveland Municipal School District (CMSD) plans to move the New Tech Academy from Garrett Morgan School to the annex at May Hayes on W. 45th and Detroit Avenue. The annex was formerly

used as an Adult Learning Facility. The proposed plan calls for the vacated space in the basement at Garrett Morgan School on Woodbine to be rented to the Near West Intergenerational School.

The New Tech Academy is a high school program created last year as part of the CMSD's Transformation Plan. The Near West Intergenerational School is a charter school sponsored by the CMSD, which will start with grades K-3 and add an additional grade each year.

The CMSD Board of Education is scheduled to vote on the proposal at its May 24th meeting.



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