



Hello Crusaders!!!

We hope you are all enjoying an amazing Winter Break! With the winter sports season winding down, it is time for another edition of the CCHS Chronicles. Our winter issue features the latest in Catholic Central news, including updates on winter sports and special events. Please enjoy this issue, and if you or anyone you know is interested in writing, let us know! - Your editors, Greg Stamas and Sarah Ingalsbe

## JUST FOR FUN

Test yourself. Answers are contained in the articles and confirmed on the last page of this issue.

1. Who is Mr. Vederese's visiting friend? (Pix on p. 1)
2. What college in Rhode Island does Mrs. McCormack's son attend? (Pix on p. 1)
3. Who is CCHS Music Director? (p.2)
4. What father-daughter musicians performed at the Christmas concert? (p.2)
5. Who donated the new CCHS mascot costume? (p. 3.)
6. What is the Girls' Basketball Team's record? (p. 3)
7. What 3 runners are Colonial Council Indoor Champions? (p. 4)
8. Who is the JV Boys' Basketball Coach? (p. 6)
9. What are the Bowling Team's home lanes? (p.6)

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## Christmas at CCHS

*Christmas is a special time at CCHS. The Christmas Drive, Decorating Contest, Christmas Concert and Art Show, and The Bishop's Mass. These are traditions that enliven the*



*Advent season, tie CCHS present to CCHS past, and prompt the return of family and graduates to visit our own CCHS.*



## CHRISTMAS DRIVE

by Colleen McDonnell

This holiday season the CCHS annual Christmas Drive was a great success. Students in all grades at Catholic High, with the help of the Student Council, supplied families from the area with Christmas gifts for their children. What many students discovered while shopping for the gifts was that many of the children were not asking for the latest iPhone or laptop. Rather, they were asking for necessities such as hats, gloves, boots, coats, pajamas, etc. One student described it as "an eye-opening experience." Another said, "It really makes you feel grateful for what you have because we overlook many things in our daily lives."

A couple of weeks before the drive, the school had a dress down to support the cause. A minimum of \$5 was requested



from each Crusader, but many students went beyond the suggested donation and gave much more. Thanks to the proceeds from the dress down, the Student Council was able to

purchase items for six families, a total of twenty-five children! Many thanks to all who participated, especially the Student Council shoppers who took time from their busy schedule to provide gifts for the children! Without our help, these kids may not have had anything under their trees this year. Well done Crusaders!

## HALLWAY DECORATING CONTEST

by Greg Stamas

Students from every grade came in on Sunday afternoon, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, to decorate their respective hallways at CCHS for the holiday season. In years past, each homeroom would decorate its own door for the Christmas season and the homeroom who won would be awarded a prize. This year, in an attempt to decorate the school more completely, each class year was assigned a hallway to decorate. The incentive, a free dress down!

Streamers were hung, paper snowflakes were cut, and - in what seemed to be a flash - CCHS became a winter wonderland. The middle school was decorated to a "Gingerbread House" theme, the freshmen created a "Winter Wonderland," the sophomores built a "Santa's Workshop," the juniors brought "Christmas Tree Farm," to life, and the seniors lavishly decorated "Candy Cane Lane." The results were beautiful!

The hard work of the students was evident through the amazing results. The decorations were left up until the students came back from Christmas break. The winners of the hallway decorating contest were the seniors - who had their free dress down day on Friday, January 20. This new idea started by the Student Council, seems like it could be the start of a great holiday tradition at CCHS.

## CONCERT AND ART SHOW

by Abby Kacensky

At 7 p.m. on December 21st, CCHS held its annual Christmas Concert and Art Show in the Msgr. Burns Auditorium. Students in the Fine Arts Department spent many months practicing for the concert or working on their drawings, sculptures, and other objects d'art.



Fine Arts Chair, Mr. Tim Heilman, and Mr. Terry Murphy, Visual Arts teacher, proudly displayed their students finest works in various media. The Artwork was shown to guests as soon as they walked through the doors of the gym. The visual

arts were represented with student renditions in oil pastels, masks, and other forms.



Then the musical portion of the evening began. Led by Music Director Mr. Shawn P. Flynn, and assisted by Mr. Nickolas Ascioti on the electric keyboard, the High School band played three pieces: "Fanfare for Christmas", "Christmas Party", and "A Christmas Fantasia". This was followed by the Middle School Chorus singing "Do you Hear What I Hear?", "Heavenly Peace (Silent Night)", and "How Many Kings Little Star." Accompanying were Angela Nichols on the flute and Lucas Kania on the tambourine.



Vocal soloists included Melody Ascioti and Emily Mitchell. Angela Nichols played Pachelbel's Canon in D on the flute. The Concert ended with the Middle School Concert Band playing "A Good Kings Christmas", "Instant Christmas Concert", and "A Holly Jolly Christmas."



The Concert ended very pleasantly and was enjoyed by many and turned out to be a great event! Don't miss the annual Spring Concert and Art Show on May 10th 2017 at 7pm!

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

by Greg Stamas

National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. Each year it starts on the last Sunday in January and runs all week. The theme for the National Catholic Schools Week 2017 was "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service." The week was observed at CCHS with a different theme and activity each day

Each year Catholic Central celebrates the week in unique and fun ways. This year raffles were drawn each day and each day nine students chose from a variety of CCHS apparel and gear. On Wednesday, every student was given a CCHS pen. Students wrote letters to their parents thanking them for their Catholic education and their decision to send them to a Catholic School.

Catholic Schools Week concluded with a mass celebrated by Father Mark from Siena College. Before the mass, CCHS was given an "Excellence in Catholic Education" award from the diocese. Many local Catholic elementary and middle schools came to celebrate with the CCHS student body. St. Mary's of Hoosick Falls, St. Jude's of Wynantskill, and Sacred Heart of Troy were accompanied by their principals. RCDA Superintendent of Schools, Michael Pizzingrillo, was also in attendance.

When the mass concluded, some Catholic High seniors stayed behind and hosted the younger children for some cookies and music! One student who helped organize and run the event, senior Jaclene Rieth, said: "It was fun to see the Catholic elementary school children all happy together and dancing around!" It was definitely a blast for all involved and a great way for the CCHS upperclassmen interact with the younger students. Ultimately the week celebrates the Catholic education that we are so blessed to receive.



Ms. Carroll took CCHS middle schoolers bowling to end the week. It was one of the many fun outings the Middle School has offered this year.

## NEWS SHORTS

### Annual Phonathon

February is CCHS Phonathon month! Once again CCHS graduates return to call fellow alums and ask for donations. On the first night, \$24,000 in donations were pledged to



CCHS. The phonathon is organized by Director of Advancement Ginny Bariteau. Mrs. Bariteau has been one of the reasons behind the Phonathon's success for several years. Mrs. Bariteau says that the Phonathon is one her "favorite parts about [her] job" and that it is an "amazing and fun tradition." If you'd like to donate or get involved in the Phonathon, Mrs. Bariteau can be

contacted at 235 -7100 Ext. 2010 or [vbariteau@cchstroy.org](mailto:vbariteau@cchstroy.org). Thank you, Mrs., Bariteau and volunteers!

### March for Life

On Thursday evening January 26, 35 students and chaperones from CCHS and Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons high schools boarded a bus for an overnight ride to Washington, D.C. After a breakfast and mass, the group participated in the March For Life which traveled to the Supreme Court and Capitol Building for a rally. Johanna Noakes, a Catholic High junior, carried a sign that read, "The Power of One." CCHS chaplain and theology teacher, Ann Pawlik, organized and accompanied the students on the trip.

## WINTER SPORTS

### WINTER PEP RALLY

On Friday afternoon, February 3, 2017, the end of the regular winter sports season was marked by the Winter Pep Rally. All the winter sports teams – Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Cheerleaders, and Indoor Track - paraded into the gym to lively music and the cheers of the student body. The new Crusader mascot, donated by the Booster Club and the two CCHS Phantoms were there, as was the Girls Tennis Team. The team showed off their SECOND Sectional Championship plaque in two years and were cheered by the student body. Retiring Coach, Russ Hesselton, who has worked for 9 years building up the program handed out the NYSPSAA championship patches to the members of the team.

Both boys' and girls' basketball teams had a couple of regular season games to go and will be playing in Sectionals. Indoor track has the Colonial Council championship and Sectionals and States in which to give their final efforts. Good Luck Crusaders!

### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

by Kay Valley

The 2016-17 season has been another great year for the Catholic Central Girls Varsity Basketball team under the leadership of Coach Audra DiBacco.



The team finished the regular season undefeated in the Colonial Council and with a 20-2 record overall. The girls had signature wins over Class AA teams Colonie (46-43) and Guilderland (twice 72-34 and 72-54). The teams two losses came against Class AA opponents Shaker (57-41) and Monroe-Woodbury (44-26)



The team's roster this year consists of Seniors Kelly Stanton (captain), Taylor Engster (captain), and Shayla McCarroll; Juniors Hannah Field, Emma Field, Sam Allen, Leshia

Tenney, Emily Frodyma, and Kay Valley; Sophomore Kia Harris; and Freshmen Ahniysha "Baby" Jackson and Grace Field. Although Colonial Council teams didn't always pose the biggest challenge for this year's team, the girls have learned to appreciate the opportunity they'll get to go far in non-league play as an underdog. "I always liked being known as the underdog," said Engster, "Teams think they are going to kill you because we play in the Colonial Council."



The girls have worked hard so far in some close games, not-so-close games, and (especially) practices, and look forward to proving themselves in sectional play. The girls hope to make a great run in Sectionals this year under the leadership of their captains and energetic coaching staff. "It's been too long since CCHS girls have made it to the semifinals or finals [for

basketball] and this year is going to be the year we go all the way," says captain Kelly Stanton. On Friday, February 17, the Crusaders took the first step, outscoring the team from Guilderland H.S. 54-34 in the first round of sectional play. They advance to the semi-final round to play the team from Columbia H.S. The game will be played at Shendehowa H.S. on Wednesday February 22 at 6 p.m. Go Crusaders!

## INDOOR TRACK

by Samia Baker

Catholic High's Track and Field team has been having an amazing season. Recently the team received ten thousand dollars donated by a group of CCHS alumni. With this money, the school purchased new track equipment including starting jumps, a high jump matt, high jump bars, high jump standards, hurdles, and shotputs. This equipment will definitely aid the athletes of the Catholic High indoor and outdoor track teams in setting new records and excelling in the Colonial Council.

First-year head coach, Coach Michael Dempsey, has already helped bring more success to the track team. Many records have been broken this year. Brandon McFerran broke the 55m record, which was set in 2009. James Faraci broke the 3200m, which was set last year. Dylan Behunin broke multiple records. He broke the 300m, set last year, the 600m, set last year, and the 1000m, which was set in 2008. The team of Spencer Daley, Greg Daniels, Dylan Behunin, and James Faraci also broke the distance medley relay, which was set in 2011. With sectionals approaching, there are high hopes of the track team ending the season well, achieving more personal bests, and breaking more records.

**UPDATE: The Colonial Council Championships** were held on Sunday, February 11 at the University at Albany. Overall the boys' team placed 4<sup>th</sup> and the girls' team 9<sup>th</sup>.

Individual achievements at the league championship meet included:

- Jaclene Rieth (Grade 12): First Place: 55 Meter hurdles; 8<sup>th</sup> Place 55 Meter Dash;
  - James Faraci (Gr. 11): First Place 320 Meter Run; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place 1600 Meter Run;
  - Dylan Behunin (Gr. 12): First Place 600 Meter Run; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place 1000 Meter Run;
- Also:
- John Loughlin (Gr. 11) 3rd Place Triple Jump; 4th Place Long Jump;
  - Spencer Daley (Gr. 9): 4th Place 3200 Meter Run; 5th Place 3200 Meter Run;
  - Bradon McFerran (Gr. 12): 5th Place High Jump; 10th Place 55 Meter Dash;
  - Lauren Costello(Gr.10): 6th Place Triple Jump;
  - Gregory Daniels Gr. 10): 6th Place Triple Jump;
  - Adriann Scaringe(Gr. 10) 6th Place High Jump;
  - Rose Murphy(Gr.10): 7th Place 1000 Meter Run;
  - Melody Ascioti(Gr.8) 7th Place 300 Meter Dash;
  - Joey Grignon (Gr. 11): 8th Place Long Jump;
  - Jane Field (Gr.11) 9th Place Shot Put;
  - Ruth Piperata (Gr. 11) 9th Place Long Jump;
  - Maya Ellis (Gr. 10) 10th Place Long Jump;

- The girls' team of Madison Miller (Gr. 12), Alyssa Brimmer (12), Colleen McDonald (Gr. 12) and Melody Ascioti (Gr. 8) finished 5th in the 4x800 Meter Relay;
- The boys' team of Nicholas Farley (Gr.9), Matt Barber (Gr. 7), Joseph Farley (Gr. 11), and John Murphy (Gr. 11) finished 5th in the 4x400 Meter Relay;
- The boys' team of John Murphy (Gr. 11), Joseph Farley (9), Matt Barber (Gr. 7), and Gregory Daniels (Gr.10) placed 5th in the 4x800 Meter Relay; and
- The boys' team of Joey Gignon (Gr. 11), Nicholas Farley (Gr. 9), John Loughlin (Gr. 11, and Bradon McFerran (Gr. 12) finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the 4x200 Meter Relay.

The team is led by senior captains Madison Miller, Jaclene Rieth, Dylan Behunin, and Bradon McFerran. Qualifying athletes will participate in sectional and state meets on February 19th and March 4th.



John Loughlin –  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Long Jump



John Loughlin –  
5<sup>th</sup> Place Triple Jump

**Dylan Behunin**  
600m



**James Faraci**  
3200m



**Jaclene Rieth 55m**  
Hurdles



Claudia Fountain  
1<sup>st</sup> Place 55 m Hurdles



James Faraci  
4<sup>th</sup> Place 1600 m

*Congratulations to our  
Colonial  
Champions*

**FURTHER UPDATE: Crusader Success at Sectionals  
February 18, 2017**



Dylan Behunin  
1<sup>st</sup> Place 600 m



Dylan Behunin  
4<sup>th</sup> Place 1000 m



Maya Ellis, Ruth Piperata, Rose Murphy, Lauren Costello  
6<sup>th</sup> Place 4X200 m

(Just a reminder: it is often true that the more athletes from a school participate, the greater the chances the team will score more points. There is a no-cut policy in CCHS Indoor and Outdoor Track and Cross Country. The spring season will start shortly after Winter Break. If you're not doing something else you love, there is a place for you on the outdoor team. Give it a try!)

## BOYS' BASKETBALL

by Kay Valley

The boys' basketball program has gone through a rebuilding year this past season but has endured with great attitude and sportsmanship. Coach Chuck Mack says "We have been fortunate enough to have some great quality student-athletes leading our program, especially captains Luke Clement and Nick Pacini." Both are juniors.

Unfortunately, Pacini, one of the best players on the team was counting on, was out for most of the season after suffering a severe injury after the Crusaders' third game. Coach Mack compared this 1-16 team to his first team at Catholic High team which was also young and ended up 1-18 but developed to be a 17-1 team in the Big Ten just two years later. He said that he expects this year's team to develop and will similarly go on to find great success. "We are a very young program, with some of our best players playing on teams up in grade level. We have 8th graders and freshmen who have play prominent roles on our Frosh and JV teams, and 8th grader Jack Mattfeld and 9th grader Jackson Brown, have both played exceptionally well on the varsity level."

February 9, the team welcomed back Nick Pacini and CCHS played a very tough, competitive game against Watervliet High, one of the top teams in the area. The team hopes to play a game in the sectional competition.

Coach Mack praised the character and competitive spirit of John Fratianni (Grade 11), John Lynch (11), Matt Korkemaz (12), Jared Wygel (11), Tom Thayer (11) and others have made this a very positive, 'team-first' experience. He said that the younger players will learn the right way to be an athlete from these players, and emulate them in future seasons. Seniors Brandon Upton and Ryan Gross, Juniors Mike Hoyt, John Lynch, Trevor Maloney, and Jacob Freeheart; and sophomore Liam McDonald, rounded out the varsity squad.

The highlight of the season was definitely the game against Cohoes. Nick Pacini made 2 free throws and Luke Clement blocked a Cohoes shot near the end of the game to lead the Crusaders to victory.

Junior Thomas Thayer echoed the sentiments of the other Junior class players when he said he had "great teammates," felt bad that, because of injuries to Pacini and others, the whole team had not had the opportunity to play together, and was looking forward to next year.

First year JV coach Matt Curtin said that the players at all levels had worked hard all season and continued to improve. He added that the Varsity and JV were playing their best basketball at the end of the season. At the Freshman level, coach Nick Richards, who played at CCHS, said he really enjoyed coaching his young 9<sup>th</sup> grade squad.

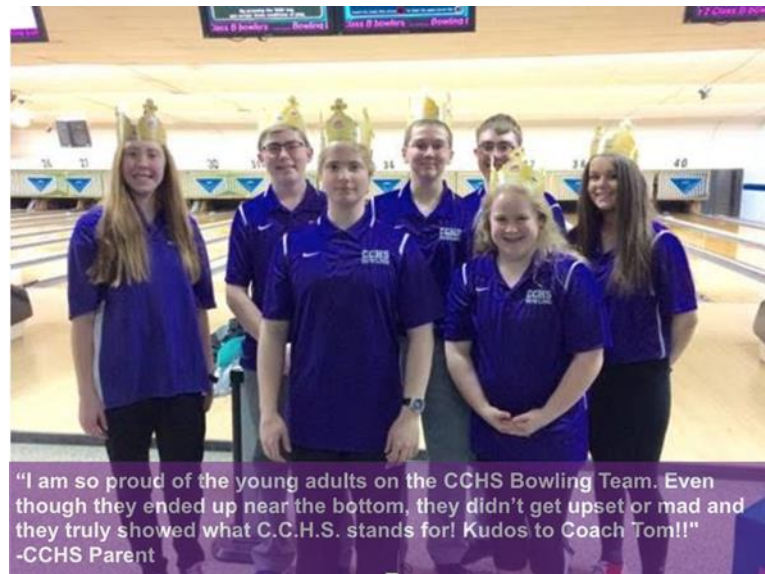
The Varsity will play its first sectional game on Tuesday night at 7 p.m. against 3<sup>rd</sup> seeded Bethlehem at the Eagle's home court. Good luck, Crusaders!

## BOWLING

Recently, at the Colonial Council Bowling Championships one CCHS Parent tweeted out: "I am so proud of the young adults on the CCHS Bowling Team. Even though they ended up near the bottom, they didn't get upset or mad and they truly showed what CCHS stand for! Kudos to Coach Tom!"

This year's squad included juniors Hailey Broberg, Erin Kelly, and Megan Schubmehl; sophomores Anthony Pacini, Paul Dowdell, Noah Miller, and Andrew Moore; freshman Grace Cummings; and seventh grader Connor Danz.

Unlike most of the other teams, the CCHS team is definitely co-ed. All the bowlers cited Coach Tom Walsh as a "great guy." The team played all their home matches at Uncle Sam Bowl in downtown Troy. Junior Hailey Broberg said everyone on the team always got along and "had fun." Definitely a successful season!



### Answers to JUST FOR FUN

1. Mr. Novak;
2. Providence College;
3. Mr. Shawn Flynn;
4. Mr. Ascioti and Melody Ascioti;
5. The Booster Club;
6. 21 - 2;
7. Dylan Behunin, John Loughlin, Jaclene Rieth;
8. Mr. Curtin;
9. Uncle Sam's.

### CCHS Chronicles, Vol. 2, No. 3, Jan.-Feb. 2017

Editors: Greg Stamas and Sarah Ingalsbe. Reporters: Samia Baker, Abby Kacensky, Colleen McDonnell, and Kay Valley. Moderator: Mrs. Gallati.