

WHERE WE MAY GROW  
 "IN WISDOM AND STATURE,  
 AND IN FAVOR  
 WITH GOD AND MEN."

# The Academy Advantage



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## CCA Celebrates Accreditation!

*Head of School, Mrs. Nurline Lawrence, and the Board of Directors are pleased to announce CCA's formal accreditation approval by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools as of May 1, 2011*

Christian Central Academy has officially been granted full accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. How exciting it is to celebrate this significant achievement in the life of CCA! Congratulations to our school community and a sincere thank you to the many people who worked diligently to make this dream come true.

What began almost a decade ago as a vision by **Mrs. Nurline Lawrence**, Head of School and the Board of Directors, is finally a reality! Some may ask "What is the significance of Middle States accreditation? What does this mean in the life of our school?" According to the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools web site: *Accreditation is the affirmation that a school provides a quality of education that the community has a right to expect and that the world endorses. Accreditation is a means of showing confidence in a school's performance.* Middle States accreditation demonstrates to the community, colleges and other schools CCA's integrity and our dedication to our mission. It proves that we are who we say we are; a school committed to excellence for the glory of God!

The vision, careful planning and diligence of Mrs. Lawrence and the past and present school Boards over the past decade prepared CCA for the scrutiny demanded by the accreditation process. In the fall of 2009 our school community completed a survey which revealed an overwhelming confidence in CCA's adherence to the twelve Middle States Standards for Accreditation. CCA's committed faculty and staff evaluated our curriculum and educational practices and contributed ideas for enhancing our programs. Dedicated board members, faculty, staff, parents, and students worked together to determine our strengths and identify areas needing improvement. We are grateful for the active participation of the entire school community; without them the scrutiny demanded by the accreditation process would not have been possible. **Mrs. Monica Fronczak** (CCA mom and

high school science lab assistant) was responsible for the important task of gathering and efficiently organizing the evidence to be presented to the Validation Team.

The culmination of the accreditation process came with an external review of our school and our supporting documents, completed by a Middle States Validation Team in October 2010. After four intensive days of review, the Team presented an oral report complimenting CCA and recommending us for Middle States accreditation. The Validation Team submitted a written report to the Middle States Association who concurred with the recommendation. Finally, the Board of Middle States Association reviewed all of the documentation and granted CCA full accreditation effective May 1, 2011.

The process leading up to our actual accreditation, as well as the commitment to growth and improvement, have been invaluable in the life of CCA. The exercise of systematically evaluating our purpose, strengths, and weaknesses and developing goals for student performance has also been enlightening and fulfilling.

The value of Middle States accreditation does not end with the process leading up to this distinction or with the distinction itself. The added benefit is CCA's commitment to excellence and to continued growth and improvement. We celebrate this achievement and distinction, and we also embrace the future. This is just the beginning! The accreditation process has caused us to examine ourselves as a school, to determine where we want to go and to outline the steps to achieve our vision. It has been a catalyst for growth and development. We are committed to excellence and to continued improvement.

It has been my privilege and blessing to serve as the Internal Coordinator for the accreditation process.



*Mrs. Barbara Brown*

*~ Barbara Brown*

CONGRATULATIONS



## *Facing Forward*

*As water reflects the face, so one's life  
reflects the heart. (NIV)*

*Proverbs 27:19*

*Left, Mrs. Nurline Lawrence, Head of School and Mr. Robert Zima, past Board President at the celebration. Right, Dr. Greg Reeds and Mrs. Lawrence meet Dr. Barry Weinstein, Amherst Town Supervisor.*



*Spring is a wonderful reminder of God's principle of new beginnings. This is a time when hope springs afresh in the human heart and a time to be thankful unto the Lord. We gathered in the CCA auditorium on Saturday, May 7 to celebrate the accreditation of CCA by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, part of God's plan of continuity, as we reflect on the accomplishments of the past and look ahead to new growth.*

*Facing forward is also a time to look beside us at the team of fellow workers who make possible our plans, our programs, our progress. Accreditation reminds us of the many who have enabled us to accomplish the goals we envision. I want to pay tribute to those who made this celebration so special and so memorable. I begin with the faculty instrumental ensemble playing "Ode to Joy" followed by a moving prayer by current Board president, **Dr. Greg Reeds** who offered words of praise and thanksgiving for this achievement.*

*The student-led "Praise Ensemble" worship team joyfully led us in songs of praise, followed by the gracious words of the Amherst Town Supervisor **Dr. Barry A. Weinstein** who forged the link between the CCA of the past and the accomplishments of the present in a wonderfully engaging speech. He then read and presented a proclamation signed by the members of the Amherst Town Board to the Head of School. **Mrs. Debby White**, Director of Admissions and Public Relations, then read the proclamation from the Village of Williamsville which was graciously provided by the Village of Williamsville **Mayor Mary Lowther**. Debby also reminded us that accreditation means new beginnings.*

*Subsequent speakers included **Mr. David Johnson**, an early CCA board member of The Chapel under **Rev. Dr. James Andrews**, who reminded us that success comes through the efforts of individuals drawn to a vision and inspired by a founder.*

*Past board member **Dr. Lucy Holmes** humorously recounted her experience of the CCA Board of Directors struggling to draft Board policies to meet accreditation requirements. **Mrs. Cheryl Smyth**, beloved veteran teacher, eloquently described the experiences of the faculty as they went through the process.*

***Mr. Steven Burr** (class of 1990) represented the alumni and senior **Edwin Perez**, this year's Head Prefect, spoke on behalf of the students. It was a wonderful experience to see past and present converge as Edwin spoke glowingly of his experience at CCA and his participation in the accreditation process. Steven Burr recalled his CCA experience with gratitude and praise for his teachers including his mother and teacher, **Mrs. Kathy Burr**, who will retire this June after 31 years of service to CCA.*

*The gathering in the auditorium was joyful and emotional. Together, we remembered the efforts of individuals who voluntarily devoted long hours of faithful work to bring about a school that has endured for 62 years. We learned how lives have been transformed and how individual commitments to Christ and school brought us to this moment.*

*A red leaf maple tree was planted near the School Street entrance to memorialize this event. Past president **Mr. Bob Zima** dedicated the tree. Immediately following the dedication, everyone was invited to a beautiful reception prepared by CCA's Food Service Manager, **Mr. David Ross**. CCA's art teachers, **Mrs. Tina Burgett**, **Miss Corrie Ingraham**, and **Mrs. Lynnette Wrigglesworth** went all out with the floral arrangements and decorations. It was wonderful to welcome back past parents, friends, and well-wishers. There were happy conversations as so many memories filled hearts with joy.*

*We will never forget May 7, 2011. It was a day of joy, laughter, tears, and celebration. CCA moves forward into the future, and as we do so, we remember the words of the psalmist, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" ~ Psalm 11:31*



## Two Veteran CCA Teachers are in the Spotlight



On April 7, Mrs. Lawrence shared with Mrs. Nancy Basinski's kindergarten class the honor bestowed on their teacher in being named the local Barnes & Noble "Teacher of the Year."

In March, Barnes & Noble Booksellers gave students and parents the opportunity to thank a teacher through their *My Favorite Teacher Contest*. Students were invited to submit essays, poems or thank-you letters sharing how teachers had influenced their lives. Former kindergartner, now third grader **Paige Waggoner's** entry nominated **Mrs. Nancy Basinski**, who was selected by the local store on Transit Road as the local winner. Her brother, kindergartner **Bradley** also submitted a letter. Mrs. Basinski will be recognized at the Williamsville location with certificates and a set of 10 Sterling Children's Classics books for the teacher's classroom library. Mrs. Basinski's name will now move on to the regional and then, we hope, the national selection for "Teacher of the Year."



Mrs. Cheryl Smyth enjoys the surprise of being named WKBW's "Teacher of the Week," nominated by her second grader, Joshua Baldwin and presented by Mr. Mike Randall of the television station.

During the first week of March, **Mr. Mike Randall** of Buffalo television station WKBW Channel 7 entered the Emmanuel Athletic Facility filled with enthusiastic elementary students to surprise **Mrs. Cheryl Smyth**, second grade teacher at CCA since 1983, as "Teacher of the Week." Mrs. Smyth was nominated by one of her students, **Joshua Baldwin** with his parents, **Rev. and Mrs. Chris and Tammy Baldwin**. Mr. Randall read excerpts from the nominating letter and presented Mrs. Smyth with a framed proclamation of her special status. The presentation was aired during Channel 7's early morning show on Friday, March 4.

## CCA Students get a Taste of College-Level Research

Effective preparation for college success must include a student's ability to navigate the vast resources available in a college or university library. CCA librarian and Communications teacher, **Mrs. Joyce Pontrello**, has for two years been offering the elective, "Research Skills" for upper level high schoolers. She wanted to introduce her students to a higher level of research tools by inviting **Mr. Ken Fujiuchi** (right), Emerging Technologies Librarian at the E. H. Butler Library of Buffalo State College, to campus in March. He discussed several topics including college life, job hunting, and the power of the internet, offering pros and cons of social networks such as Facebook.

On April 11 Mr. Fujiuchi then hosted the class at one of the computer labs at the Butler Library. He showed students how to navigate online resources, including how to locate an actual book and how a "peer-reviewed" journal article would factor into research for an actual assignment each student had brought on the field trip.

Mr. Fujiuchi and fellow college librarians have been providing this special opportunity for interested high schools over the past four years through the WNY Library Resource Council (of which CCA is a member). When asked to summarize his advice to students as to how to regard their use of technology, he said we must always remember that the idea and ideal of literacy is changing, and that no matter what the age of the technology consumer, the freedom to explore must be balanced with wise selection of resources.



Senior **Skylar Malcolm** listens intently at a research workshop presentation.



American Red Cross Blood Drive  
**Christian Central**

Over 30 donors, including students, faculty and staff came to support this important event. The local Red Cross organization handed out T-shirts and pins, as well as snack foods for the donors. Senior **Joel Lattimer**, with activities coordinator **Mrs. Gail Conschaffer**, helped organize this year's event and were on hand to encourage and thank the donors.

## Second Annual Blood Drive Held at CCA February 11



Left, Junior **Daniel Carter** rests after donating a pint of blood during the second drive for the local Red Cross. Above, senior **Mandy Kerkeslager**, also participated.

## Paper Cranes Translate Into CCA Students Helping to Rebuild Japan



When the devastating earthquake struck Japan on March 11, 2011, **Mrs. Debi Johnson**, mother of **Nathan Johnson** (Class of '09) knew she had to do something. Mrs. Johnson felt the tragedy in a more personal way as she grew up as a "missionary kid" in Japan and still maintains many contacts there. She e-mailed CCA with the idea of encouraging students to participate in the efforts to rebuild that nation through an innovative and fun effort to make as many origami paper cranes as possible by April 15, as described on the StudentsRebuild web site: <http://studentsrebuild.org/japan>.

The idea was suggested to CCA art teachers, so **Mrs. Tina Burgett** and **Mrs. Lynnette Wrigglesworth** introduced the idea to their students. Within just a couple of days, art students and the Bible 7 class produced 218 paper cranes to equal \$436 that will be doubled by the Bezos Family Foundation and donated to the global relief effort. Thank you, CCA students and Mrs. Johnson!

**Junior Peter Moran** has been nominated a National Merit Scholar for being one of the 50,000 best performers on the PSAT test of 1.5 million students across the U.S. who took this test in the fall of 2010.

**Congratulations Peter!**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction, "Reach for the Star," was an exciting night for all 246 attendees who generously helped raise over \$150,000 on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Buffalo Niagara Marriott in Amherst.

Sharing perspectives on the value of Christian education, three emcees shared the microphone including **Mr. Nev Larson**, general manager of Christian radio station WDCX, his son, **Mr. Brett Larson**, station manager, CCA alum (class of 1993) and dad of CCA kindergartner, **Ethan**, and **Mr. Neil Boron**, dad of CCA alum, **Ben** (class of 2010).

Favorite items in the silent auction were restaurant certificates, spa certificates, and activity days with teachers. An unusual item in the live auction was a hand-made ceramic platter designed with fingerprints of all the kindergartners, displaying a beautiful nativity scene. Guest auctioneer, senior **Andrew Lauto** raised considerable excitement for selling off this item.

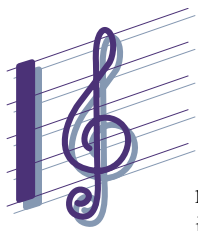
The CCA faculty, staff, parents, volunteers and seniors prepared tirelessly and made the evening event look effortless! CCA thanks all who had a part in another successful year, especially **Mrs. Maria Pieroni**, auction coordinator and our faithful volunteer auctioneer, **Mr. Randy Moyer**.



## Emelie Gidley, Again Recognized

With gratitude to God for all our students, we are proud to congratulate senior **Emelie Gidley** for the public recognition by Buffalo television station WGRZ as one of their featured *Great Kids and Teens*, aired on the April 4<sup>th</sup> "Daybreak" program. Emelie's accomplishments over the last few years in the Congressional Award program ([www.congressionalaward.org](http://www.congressionalaward.org)) have gained her this appropriate public recognition. Emelie has also received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD and has been named a National Merit Commended student.

**Congratulations, Emelie!**



## Update From the Music Department

Each year, our students have the opportunity to participate in music festivals as CCA is a member of the ECMEA (Erie County Music Educators Association). Music Director **Mrs. Melody Shipley** encourages participation so that each student has the opportunity to express God-given vocal and instrumental talents.

In January, many students auditioned in several festivals held at various schools throughout Erie County and as a result, CCA is proud to announce that several of our musicians were chosen for their excellent performances: senior **Timothy Coulter** (trumpeter) was named to the All Erie County Band; sophomore **Jonathan Gidley** (violinist) played with the All County Orchestra at the University of Buffalo Center for the Arts on March 19, and was seated as principal second in the orchestra, an additional honor to being chosen. Both Timothy and Jonathan auditioned for the All-County honors at the Buffalo Academy for the Performing Arts on January 22. Seventh grader **Jonathan Ziegler** (drummer) performed at the January 8 audition at the Depew High School, showcasing his talent as the only set drummer chosen to play with the the Junior High All County Jazz Ensemble in their concert March 5 at Amherst High School.

In the vocal department, **Mrs. Beth Kivett** reports that five members of CCA's elementary chorus were selected and performed March 5 with the Elementary All County Chorus at Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo: fifth grader **Alex Fink**, and sixth graders **Grace Albert, Damaris Fox, Joy LoHouse, and Teresa Simmons**. Ten middle school students were chosen to be part of the Junior High North All County Chorus, concert on March 12 at Amherst Middle School, including: **Asia Daniels, Olivia Faracca, Madesen Grant, Tahelah Noel, Katelyn Szymkowski, and Tenia Wesley**, along with eighth graders **Joshua Fox, Kari Lewis, Krysteena Shropshire and Matthew Teepell**.

As we go to press, middle school and high school cho-

rusers are gearing up for the annual Spring Concert scheduled for May 19. Selections include "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" with a small band ensemble, and "Mighty to Save" in Spanish, conducted by senior **Edwin Perez**. Each chorus will also do a number from "The Lion King." Second through fifth graders are preparing for their closing programs in June with numbers from "Kids Praise."



*Participants in the Amberleigh concert on April 8: (back row, from left) Timothy Coulter, Joshua Ward, Joshua Fry, Faith LoHouse, Jennifer Ebert, Katherin Mansfield; front, Mrs. Melody Shipley, Kaleb Colosimo, Summer Slomka, Shawn Marie Cammarano, and Lauren Torrissi.*

When CCA music teacher, Mrs. Melody Shipley, learned that residents of the Amberleigh Retirement Community in Williamsville expressed a desire to have more music-listening opportunities, she organized a mini concert for them with ten of her high school band students to play music from the upcoming May concert, as well as extra classical pieces. All the residents showed great appreciation and asked for an encore. After the concert, students enjoyed visiting with the residents. Mrs. Shipley looks forward to more ministry opportunities.

### Lauren Stuitje Completes Her Career at CCA with 1,185 Points

Senior **Lauren Stuitje**, a four-year Varsity letter winner, was the Lady Crusader's leading scorer for the 2010-2011 basketball season. Lauren averaged 16.4 points/game. With over a 1,185 points for her career at CCA, Lauren proved herself to be a talented player. She was not only a scoring leader, but also carried herself as a good role model for her teammates, both on and off the court. Lauren received the team MVP (most valuable player) award, which she shared with her fellow co-captain, senior **Ruth Rissinger**. "Lauren will be missed not only on the court next year, but also on the school campus," said her coach, **Mrs. Samantha Hutchins**.



*Coach Samantha Hutchins presents a basketball to Lauren Stuitje as an award for the high-scoring position for this season. Senior Andrew Lauto is applauding Lauren after this special recognition.*

## Spelling Bee Championship Goes to Trace Gillis



Teacher judges for the 2011 Middle School Spelling Bee held February (L to R) **Mrs. Lynnette Wrigglesworth**, **Mrs. Stephanie Stehlin**, **Mrs. Brandy Marshall** (event coordinator) and **Mrs. Kathleen Burr**. At right is the Bee champion, eighth grader **Trace Gillis**. Runners-up were: 1st – **Damaris Fox** (6th grade), **Hannah Kim** (8th grade), and **Carley Gauthier** (7th grade). Congratulations to all!

**Mrs. Lawrence** gets a hug from kindergartner **Shane Cercone**.



First grade teacher **Mrs. Sharon Backus** plays an addition/subtraction game with two of her students using big foam blocks. **Luke Derkovitz**, middle, and **Jacob Workman** enjoy learning while having fun during free time in order to sharpen their math skills.



Junior **Madison Jezioro** fulfills one of her yearbook assignments by interviewing kindergartner **Abigail Rowles**.



## Winterfest Talent Show

This year's February 4<sup>th</sup> Talent Show had 57 participants ranging from kindergartens to seniors. Acts included students singing, playing musical instruments, "hoola hooping," dancing and twirling light sticks in the dark! Fifth grader **Alec Tamburri**, in left photo, did a rap while classmate **Ava Fogg** played the violin.



**Bryan Donovan** from **Mrs. Katrina Szucs'** fourth grade helps **Mr. Jeff Musial**, the "Reptile Guy" from Nickel City Reptiles and Exotics during the March 4<sup>th</sup> assembly.

# SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK



In celebration of the 107th birthday of Theodor Geisel, known worldwide as "Dr. Seuss," on March 2 all CCA kindergartners welcomed one of the most beloved characters from Dr. Seuss' books – **The Cat in the Hat!** Several students sat with Mr. Cat-in-the-Hat as together they read aloud the book by the same name to the students. A few of the kindergartners above include (from left) **Jackson Bernardoni, Luke Russ, Dwayne Jones, Bradley Waggoner, Jay Jezioro, Shane Cercone, Connor Patterson and Ethan Larson.**

Kindergartner **Dwayne Jones** and all the kindergartners and first graders dressed up in their Easter bonnets April 12 for their annual visit to the "grandmas and grandpas" at Blocher Home Retirement Community in Williamsville to share the love of Christ, music and special favors with their older friends.



CCA's fifth graders (some pictured here) can hardly contain their excitement as they look forward to the annual three-day field trip to Gettysburg, PA, May 18-20 as a culmination of their study of American history. Their teachers, **Miss Gretchen Ertell** and **Mrs. Sande Paul** have been prepping them all year to seriously consider the impact of the Civil War on our nation's development. In photo from left are **Alexis French, Elyssa DeSing, Alec Tamburri, Charley Hearon, Rosie Grainge, Cameron Visone, India Daniels, Alexandra Reeds, and Mia Polechetti.**



Photo by junior Madison Jezioro

Junior **Paulina Isaac** is considering Syracuse University and recently visited the campus. Paulina, a photography and journalism student worked on the yearbook and planning on a career in journalism.



Photo by junior Paulina Isaac

Senior **Alex Ellsworth** dodges the photographer with a peanut butter-fluff sandwich, a very popular dinner menu for journalism students meeting after school to complete the yearbook.



Photo by junior Nathan Mroz

Who is entering the high school science classroom? Is it junior **Peter Kazmierczak**? Or could it be the TV personality, Conan O'Brien?



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## Survey Response Requested

**Please Make a Decision and Return to us!**

Over the past decade, our newsletter mailing list has more than quadrupled; production and mailing costs correspondingly increased. We are now posting archived issues of the Academy Advantage on the school web site. To help us be good stewards of our resources, please mark your choice and return this panel to the attention of: **Academy Advantage Survey**. You may also call or e-mail your preference—see contact information above.

- \_\_\_\_\_ • **Traditional mailing via US Postal Service**  
 (as you have been receiving in the past)
- \_\_\_\_\_ • **View on [Christianca.com](http://Christianca.com) school web site**  
 (posted shortly after physical mailing)
- \_\_\_\_\_ • **Remove me from your mailing list**



Rev. Dee LaMonte Perry

### “I Have a Dream,”

A dramatic recitation of the famous speech was presented by **Rev. Dee LaMonte Perry** who visited campus for the January 18<sup>th</sup> Chapel celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Students were very receptive to Rev. Perry’s message from the book of Acts about Paul and Silas, detailing their plight while in prison. The speaker encouraged students in whatever difficult situation they may be in

to rely on God for strength and direction. Since the eleventh grade, Rev. Perry has been performing Dr. King’s speeches regularly in churches, businesses, theatrical productions and in schools. CCA enjoyed his visit.

### Alumna Sarah Paul Visits Photo Class



Miss Sarah Paul demonstrates changing lenses on cameras

**Miss Sarah Paul**, 2008 CCA graduate, introduced several available camera lenses to the new Digital Photography class to aid students in their projects. Sarah works at a photo lab and has her own photography business, specializing in weddings. She was a guest speaker on February 1. Sarah’s mother, **Mrs. Sande Paul**, is one of the fifth grade teachers at CCA.

- Nurline Lawrence**  
Head of School
- Lori Williams**  
Executive Assistant to Head of School
- Deborah White**  
Director of Admissions & Public Relations
- Lynn Husvar**  
Director of Business & Operations
- Toni Lenuzza**  
Editor, Newsletter Contact

The Academy Advantage is the newsletter of Christian Central Academy, an independent, college preparatory Christian school for students in grades K-12. CCA exists to challenge young men and women to know Jesus Christ as Lord; to love others as themselves; to grow in knowledge and in skill in order to serve the world through their character and leadership. Founded in 1949, CCA is chartered by and registered with the NYS Regents with full authority to award regents diplomas. CCA is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), and admits students without regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin, and is non-discriminatory in the administration of all its programs and policies.

### • alumni news • alumni news • alumni news •

**The Class of 1991 is having their 20<sup>th</sup> REUNION July 22–23, 2011.** An adult only dinner will be Friday evening, July 22, at Portofino’s Banquet Facility located in Orazio’s Restaurant, located at 9415 Main Street in Clarence. A family picnic is scheduled the next day on Saturday, July 23. Special thanks to classmate, **Rev. Darrick Castronova** for hosting the Saturday picnic at his new church, The Well, at 781 Maple Road, Williamsville. Detailed information is available on the CCA web site under the “Alumni” tab. You may e-mail **Mrs. Dana (Moyer) Everett** at [deverett9773@gmail.com](mailto:deverett9773@gmail.com) for additional information.

**Please keep in touch.** Call or email us with news of what has happened in your life since you left school. Our Alumni are defined as one who attended Alden Mennonite School (AMS), Faith Christian School (FCS) (predecessors of CCA) for at least one year, even if he or she did not graduate from the respective school. Non-graduate alumni are identified with an “x” before what would have been their high school graduation year.

**CCA is now on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/christiancentralacademy](http://www.facebook.com/christiancentralacademy)  
 and Twitter: [http://twitter.com/#!/cca\\_wny](http://twitter.com/#!/cca_wny)**