

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

The Academy Advantage



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60

Year of Celebration Begins with a Dedication Service

Rev. Dr. James Widmer Addresses Annual Dedication Service to Launch New School Year; 60th Anniversary of founding of CCA's predecessor school to be celebrated



Dr. James E. Widmer

The CCA community gathered in the school auditorium on Friday, September 4 to dedicate the 2009-2010 school year to the Lord, basing this year's theme, *The Living Word*, upon John 6:68, "Lord, to whom shall we go? (see poster on page 2). Prayer for all aspects of the life of the school were offered by **Mr. Robert Zima**, CCA board president, **Mrs. Kathy Burr** and **Mrs. Cheryl Smyth**, CCA teachers, and **Miss Camille Chapman**, chaplain prefect. **Mrs. Melody Shipley**, CCA music teacher, introduced a new song, "Living Word," composed expressly for this year's theme.

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Rev. Dr. James Widmer powerfully challenged parents, students and faculty alike to understand that the Living Word transforms the "outrageous" statements of Scripture (such as Philippians 3:7-8 or Romans 12:1) into the obvious. He encouraged us to be diligent to move from just reading the written word to being transformed by the Living Word. Pointing out the differences in relating to Scripture as either "informational" or "formational," Rev. Widmer reminded the school community that one of the greatest dangers at a Christian school is to slip into regarding the Bible as just another text, quoting Oswald Chambers: "The greatest competitor to devotion to Jesus is service to Him."

The first day of classes on September 8 gathered 423 students, including 61 new students on campus, coming from as far south as West Falls and as far north as Niagara Falls. Ten new faculty and staff have also joined the school community. ■

D White

Rev. Dr. James Widmer is pastor of the Kenmore Baptist Church in Kenmore, NY. He holds a BA from Amherst College, a M. Div. from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary and D. Min. from Ashland Theological Seminary. He has pastored several churches, written educational material, is a published writer and accomplished presenter at workshops and seminars, often the keynote speaker.



Students and parents, faculty and friends assembled to hear Dr. Widmer dedicate this school year, celebrating 60 years of Christian Education in Western New York, and 30 years under the name of Christian Central Academy.

Heritage Chapel held on September 24 with Special Guest Speakers

CCA 6th -12th graders were given a unique view into the school's history at a special Heritage Chapel September 24. **Debby White**, Director of Admissions and Public Relations, gave a brief overview of the school's history and reminded students that they were all included in the fabric of the school, woven into the tapestry of the school's continued history.

Special speakers **Mr. Alferd Bontrager** and **Mr. Donald Schmidt** shared their experiences while attending the early formed Alden Mennonite School, dating back to 1949. Mr. Bontrager, well-known local auctioneer and realtor, reminisced about his years at the school's Two Rod Road location, beginning in sixth grade. He emphasized to the students the importance of learning, especially to be grounded in biblical principles and values. He stated that Christianity and business can mix as one allows God to lead them. He admonished students to "be a good leader; be a good follower; do the best you can be and don't give up—keep pushing."

Mr. Donald Schmidt attended the Alden school in middle school grades five through ten, all with the same nine students. He enjoyed reading and listening to stories told by his teachers and realizes the positive impact they had on his life.

Continued on page 4

From
the heart of
the head...



Mrs. Nurline Lawrence, Head of School

We Stand Secure!

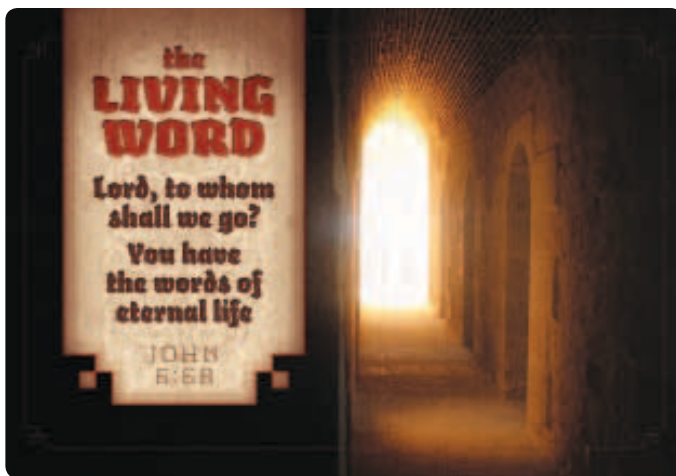
All around CCA and our campus, the leaves are rapidly turning. Darkness is beginning to arrive early and we reach for our coats. We also see our students changing as they reveal their varied colors of intellectual and spiritual character. Kindergartners are looking comfortable. The soccer season is over and basketball is beginning. Amidst all these changes – God remains constant!

We began our year with a strong faculty cadre to which we added some excellent new colleagues....Rev. Dr. James Widmer reminded us of the power of the Living Word as he delivered the dedication address....During Homecoming we marked the 60th anniversary of our school....In early October, we received news of our acceptance as a candidate for accreditation with the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. All these activities bless our lives. Things and circumstances change, our God remains constant.

CCA is committed to remaining strong as an institution where Christ Jesus is central. We desire that our students be men and women of good character, no matter what changes continue to occur in our country and culture. To this end, the Senior Class is working hard, again this year, to raise the necessary funds to take Jesus to needy children in the Dominican Republic in the spring. This new school year is rich with possibilities and will, no doubt, bring many changes—some joyful, some not so good, but we will believe in a God that never changes. The green, lush trees have yielded to the golden brown of autumn; the grass is rapidly disappearing under a carpet of rust leaves, but we know that spring will re-appear and so we praise our God who constantly makes all things new.

*We can afford to stand on the promises of an
unfailing, unchanging, and trustworthy God
for He alone holds the future.*

N. Lawrence



Theme posters are displayed in rooms throughout the school —designed by CCA alumna Bethany (Lyszewski, '97) Feltz.

CCA Announces Three New AP Scholars Among Recent Grads

CCA is proud to recognize three members of the Class of 2009. **Matthew Goszewski, Tayler Hobba, and Sarah Caputi**—who were recently named *AP Scholars* by the College Board as a result of the scores they achieved on at least three Advanced Placement exams taken during their high school years. Tayler also received the designation of *AP Scholar with Honors*; she had taken four AP courses and exams over her high school career. She is studying at Cedarville University. Matthew is attending Grove City College and Sarah, Buffalo State College.

The College Board annually awards the “Scholar” title to students who score at least a “3” on a 5-point scale on two or more “AP” exams. Students who achieve an average of 3.75 on 3 or more AP exams receive the “Scholar with Honor” distinction. Students successfully completing AP exams can often earn college credit.

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, and 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 (ASCI), 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.

Welcome to our new Teachers and Staff



Laura Crimmen, Admissions Office Assistant

Mrs. Crimmen grew up in Hamburg, NY and presently lives in the Town of Tonawanda. Her two sons are Brian, a junior in high school and Greg, a junior at Canisius College, majoring in psychology and religious studies. Mrs. Crimmen is a NY State licensed esthetician and nail technician. She has done secretarial work for 20 years, including another Christian school before coming to CCA. "God brought me to CCA and I am truly blessed to be here!" Mrs. Crimmen stated. She enjoys reading, cooking, baking and gardening. **Proverbs 3:5-6** "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and He will make your paths straight."



Gina Miller, Receptionist; Textbook Assistant

Mrs. Miller lives in Clarence with her husband, Dan and two sons who attend CCA: Davis attends third grade and Dawson is in Kindergarten. Mrs. Miller received her BS degree in math from Bridgewater College in Virginia in 1997. She has taught middle and high school math. After attending last fall's Open House at CCA, my husband and I fell in-love with what Christian education could offer our children. "Going back into Christian education is like coming home," said Mrs. Miller. "My favorite hobby is decorating—especially taking something that has lost it's glitz and restoring it's beautiful potential! Isn't that what Jesus does? He takes our muck and restores it slowly to look more like Him."



Julie Fallin, High School Art

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Fallin have been married for 32 years and live on Grand Island. Their younger son, Garrett, is pursuing a degree in Art Education at Buffalo State College and Troy is an accountant, graduate of the University of Buffalo. Mrs. Fallin studied at Niagara University in Fine Arts and has been teaching art for over 20 years. She also taught art classes in Continuing Education programs. Over the span of those years, Mrs. Fallin had the privilege of watching her students grow in their natural and spiritual lives; grow in their love of art, expressing the talent God had given them. To her, art is simply a method of expressing one's worship of the creator in the things they see and imagine. Her favorite scripture is in **Ecclesiastes 3:1**, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."



Melissa O'Connor, High School English; Bible 9

Mrs. O'Connor earned her education degree and Master's from Canisius College this year. She and her husband, Shawn, have recently moved to Alden to their new home. She lived with her family in Alden since she was seven years old. Mrs. O'Connor enjoys traveling, learning new things, and being with friends and family. She said, "I came to CCA when I was introduced to Mrs. Lawrence at our church, Faith Fellowship Church, and she asked me to come in for an interview. I love learning about our Lord and Savior."



Lisa Grainge, Guidance Office Assistant

Mrs. Grainge is originally from Indiana and graduated from University of Indianapolis. She worked as a paralegal and a court reporter. After getting married, she helped her husband, David, plant a church in the inner city of Philadelphia, and later served at the Buffalo Christian Center. Rev. Grainge is presently the pastor of Millgrove Bible Church. Four of their seven children currently attend CCA: senior Cassie, David in 9th, Annie 8th, and Rosie in 4th grade. Abby graduated in 2007 and is attending Moody Bible Institute. Eyob, age nine, and Rachel is three; both were adopted from Ethiopia last December. Adoption of their older sister Elsa, age 15, has just been finalized.



James Ornella, High School History

Mr. Ornella is married to Elizabeth, who has a doctorate degree and works at Tops as a pharmacist. We live in Lockport with our two-year-old son, Alexander. Mr. Ornella attended NCCC for two years then Canisius to earn a bachelor's degree in education and master's from the University of Buffalo. "I was blessed to have met Donaday Chapman, who referred me to CCA. God has guided me in the right direction," stated Mr. Ornella. **John 14:6**, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."



Ciara Lang, Academic Support

Ms. Lang lives in the countryside of Batavia NY. She graduated from Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester and has a love for teaching all ages. The beginning of her first year at CCA has been exhilarating! she stated. "I'm enjoying the loving, Christian atmosphere that exists in this school. I love to make learning fun and I don't believe that it ever has to be boring. I'm excited to be here at CCA and can't wait to see what the future holds!" said Ms. Lang. Some of her favorite things to do are singing and playing the piano. She participates as a worship leader at her church and more recently joined a newly formed, local Christian band.



Jennifer Schuh, Grades 1-8 Art

While living in South Carolina, Mrs. Schuh attended Columbia International University and received a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Bible Teaching. She is married to Andrew, who graduated from CCA in 1994, and is presently the Associate Pastor at South Campus Church of Kenmore Alliance. "It is a privilege to work at CCA. I teach Art, a subject I absolutely love and hope to encourage others in that area. But most importantly, I have the honor of teaching God's Word. Students that come to CCA have the opportunity to hear the truth and see it applied in the lives of their teachers. We disciple children and young adults through the difficulties they face every day. God is at work here and I am so thankful that he has chosen me to be a part of it," shared Mrs. Schuh.



Winston Martey, High School Mathematics

Ghanaian by birth, Mr. Martey is currently living in the U.S. with a permanent residence status, presently living in Alden. He is married to Jodie (Humel) from Darien. They have two sons and expecting again early next year. Mr. Martey graduated from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana in July of 2002 with a Bachelor in Education (Mathematics). He has taught high school math in Ghana and in Baltimore, MD. Mrs. Martey is also a math major, an alumna of Buffalo State College; both plan on working on their master's next year. "The Lord answered our prayer to move to WNY when I was offered my position at CCA in August.... the Lord has been gracious and merciful to me. I am excited to be a part of the CCA family," said Mr. Martey. **Ps. 19:14**, "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Oh Lord."



Desiree VanAlstine, Biology; Bible 10

Ms. VanAlstine lives in the Riverside area of Buffalo; comes from a family of four children and has three siblings: Jennifer, Leah and Scott. She attended Hutchinson High and graduated from SUNY Geneseo with a BS in Education. Ms. VanAlstine earned a Master's from Buffalo State College in Curriculum and Instruction. "CCA was dropped on me like manna from heaven. I had planned to join the staff of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, until God made it very clear that He wanted me here. He has blessed me with a great team to work with; wonderful teachers, staff and students," said Ms. VanAlstine. Her hobbies include singing with a praise band at church, volunteering at UB's InterVarsity Chapter. She plays volleyball and floor hockey, and enjoys spending time with friends and family, watching movies, and exploring God's beautiful creation.

High School Class Spiritual Advisors Reflect on Annual Li-Lo-Li Retreat



Class spiritual advisors are (l-r) Lauren Koch (grade 10); Jesse Kaufman (grade 11); Claire Kazmierczak (grade 9); and Grace Graigie (grade 12).

Chapel is scheduled each Tuesday morning during which time students, teachers and guest speakers participate by sharing, singing, reading scripture and praying together for a spiritual uplift for that week.

Near the beginning of each school year, high school students and teacher-chaperones gather at Camp Li-Lo-Li in Randolph, NY for two days of retreat, challenge, seminars, games, activities and class bonding as they embark on the new school year. Upon their return, the elected class spiritual advisors gave their testimonies during the weekly middle/high school chapel assembly.

Lauren Koch told about her experiences on different ropes courses, which taught her that all things in life can't be done on her own. The need to trust others is important when trying to accomplish a mission, not only in games, but in real life as well. All learned that leadership is also important—there must be direction in order to accomplish a difficult task. Lauren realized ... "In life there are going to be many obstacles that I have to overcome, and it will be hard to get through those times; but, God promises to give us the strength to accomplish anything put before us. Also, if I make the wrong decision in life, I will always know that God is there for me when I fall. Isaiah 26:4 says, 'Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord is the Rock eternal.' This verse reminds me that God is always there for me."

Jesse Kaufman spoke about being a Christian outside of church and school, and the importance of showing our faith at all times. We need to show our faith by what we do and not only what we say. Jesse said that he is "reminded of the passage in James 2:14-26 to reinforce this idea of not being a *fake* Christian. I realize also how our actions make up our personality, and it's much easier to talk like a follower of Christ than to act like one."

"My experience at Li-Lo-Li was different than the others," said **Claire Kazmierczak**, "because I was a freshman. I was pleasantly surprised at how much bonding there was, not only with my peers, but with the entire high school. Hearing what problems others were going through made me re-evaluate my relationship with God. Much sharing was done around a bonfire; it was enlightening and encouraging to hear personal testimonies, prayer requests, and resolutions of teen-age problems. Just as the fires kept on blazing, this is the way our hearts should be for Jesus," shared Claire.

Brian Barts, of Covenant Acres, was the main speaker at camp this year; he talked about who we are inside and what defines us. He posed a question for all to ponder: "When other people see us, do they see Christ through our actions and words, or do they see the world?" **Grace Graigie** summed up what this meant to her: "Believing in Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior is a step in becoming a Christian; the second, is showing others God's love by being an example for His kingdom. If we choose to live our lives as a portrayal of Him, we will then live exemplary lives for others to witness. Romans 10:10 shows our need as Christians to display the perfect relationship we share with God as His children through Jesus Christ. With our hearts we believe in Jesus Christ, but it is with our mouths that we confess to Him and are justified for our sins. Through belief and then action, we can show the world the love of Jesus Christ as a witness of what he has done in our lives." ■

Heritage Chapel, continued from front page



Mr. Donald Schmidt



Mr. Alferd Bontrager

He remembers to this day, the many scriptures that he memorized and recited. His favorite activity was "recess" time and the bonding he experienced with his teachers as they demonstrated instructions for living a Christ-centered life. He recently retired, after teaching history for 35 years in the Alden Central School system. His challenge to CCA students was to make the Bible their textbook for life, and to take charge of their education, "don't depend on anyone else but God," said Mr. Schmidt. ■

Teachers and special guests gathered for a Heritage Dinner on September 25, 2009 for a time of reminiscing, special recognitions, school history trivia quiz, reviewing old yearbooks, and reconnecting with old friends; just to reflect on the amazing reality of how God has kept His hand upon CCA all these years. Heritage Dinner photos may be viewed on the CCA's website:

christianca.com/alumni/60th_anniversary_celebration

My Spiritual Walk

When CCA junior **Kristen McLaughlin** was younger, she thought that because she went to church and her family was Christian, she was secure and didn't need a relationship with Christ. As time went on, her thinking developed into not even caring after experiencing some personal and hurtful events. Kristen began to get bitter and grudges kept her feeling empty. In fifth grade, she had an opportunity to go to a youth camp called Summer Survivor. The youth leader spoke about the importance of forgiveness, "such a simple topic, that I had always known about," recalled Kristen. After a sermon, she felt the need to respond to an altar call—seeking to fill her emptiness. "I gave everything up; I felt free and I felt whole. Recently, I made a commitment to follow Christ and received water baptism at my church, Eastern Hills Wesleyan, because I felt it was necessary for my walk with Jesus," said Kristen.



Kristen McLaughlin

Kristen and her twin brother, **James**, are following their four siblings who also attended CCA: **Michelle** (1999), **Dan** ('01), **John** ('05), and **Meredith** ('08). All were home-schooled during their early years. Kristen's dad, **Mr. Thomas McLaughlin** was director of Buffalo City Mission for 10 years. Her mom, **Marcia**, continues at the City Mission as administrative assistant for the new director, CCA dad, **Mr. Stuart Harper**.

Flag Football—Baseball—Soccer !!

HS Flag Football was added to this season and the new team participated in the Amherst Christian league. Though all “rookies,” CCA’s members’ athleticism and grit launched them off to a fast start. The team finished with a league record of 6 wins-1 loss, capturing 1st place. In the play-offs, the team defeated the LEAH Bull Dogs 33-24 to advance to the championship where they were narrowly defeated 13-6. Great job in their first year of play! Flag football is coached by **John Mark**.

Boys’ Varsity Soccer played in the Independent Athletic League (IAC) and had a record of 14-3 record, placing them in a first place tie with Park School. In the playoffs, CCA took the first round with an overwhelming 5-1 win over Cardinal O’Hara, led by Cameron Tom’s two goals. In the championship game against Park School on October 29, CCA battled in a thrilling game ending in a double-overtime loss of 3-2. The boys team had a great season overall with their determined play and Christian sportsmanship. Leading scorers for the season were; **Andrew Robinson, Austin Tom** and **Cameron Tom**. The boys’ varsity team is coached by **James VanderBerg** and assisted by **Donald Tom**.

Girls’ Varsity Soccer playing their inaugural season in the prestigious Monsignor Martin High School Athletic Association fought to an overall record of 7 wins-3 losses for a second place league finish. The Varsity Lady Crusaders scored wins over Cardinal O’Hara, St. Mary’s of Lancaster and Immaculata Academy. Many freshman and sophomores contributed to the team, a result of outstanding program development at CCA’s elementary and middle school soccer program levels at CCA. The leading scorers on the team were: sophomore **Rachel Cook**, and juniors **Ruth Rissinger** and **Emelie Gidley**. Senior **Faye-Lyne Noel** provided tremendous Christian leadership to all her teammates. The team is coached by **Joseph Karnath** and assisted by **Tony Pariso**.

Middle School Soccer had big wins against GOW School, Nichols and Park School. Currently, the team has a record of 6 wins, 6 losses. Leading scorers on the team are **Ben Uttley, Ben Noel**, and **Tahelah Noel**. The MS soccer team is coached by **Mrs. Leslie Cook**.

7/8th Grade Boys’ Baseball played in the Diocese of Buffalo’s Amherst South Conference. The team ended with 6 wins, 3 losses and 1 tie. Highlights of the season are: 9-0 win over league—leading St. Gregory with a no-hitter thrown by **Jimmy Martinic!** The team is coached by **Tom Rettinger** and **Tom Fry**.

4-6th Grade Boys’ Baseball (2 teams) played in the Diocese of Buffalo’s American Division. The team finished the league in 2nd place with a 7-2-1 record. CCA’s National Team finished in 3rd place in the DeSales Tournament. The season record was 5 wins, 5 losses. Season highlights included a rare, three consecutive home run series, resulting in a 20-10 victory over St. Margaret’s. The home runs were hit by CCA sluggers **Tanner Gillis, Patrick Ranallo** and **Alec Tamburri**. Teams are coached by **Tom Ranallo** and **John Pieroni**.

Paul Kazmierczak



Junior Joshua Tedesco is darting from his opponent in flag football against Amherst Christian Academy.

Sports photos are courtesy of Mr. Donald Santucci, father of CCA alum, Jonathan ('96). You may view more select CCA sports photos from Mr. Santucci on the CCA website: www.christianca.com/athletics Check under “Photo Gallery” and “Sports News.”



On right, fourth-grader Tanner Gillis scores a run against St. John’s School during an early game in 4-6th Grade Baseball.



Senior Faye-Lyne Noel pursues the ball to gain a score of 10-2 against Northstar during Homecoming.



Sophomore John Baldi does a good job hustling for the ball against No. 16 of GOW School at the Homecoming game; CCA won 6-0.

Another “Gold” Yearbook Award!

Congratulations to CCA’s Journalism Department and their teacher/yearbook advisor, **Mrs. Lynnette Wrigglesworth** for their outstanding work on the 2009 yearbook, *Triumph*, which for the second consecutive year has earned the Gold Medal Certificate from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association for excellence in high school journalistic performance. Kudos to co-editors and 2009 graduates **Rachel Caputi** and **Elizabeth Johnson** and all who were part of the production of this yearbook, titled, “The TIME Has Come,” for this important honor.

Photo on right is representing this year’s Journalism Class (front, l-r) are seniors Amy Albert, Skye Malcolm holding the certificate, and Megan McCluskey displaying the yearbook. Back row: Jason Wolanyk, Mrs. Lynnette Wrigglesworth and Stephen Puskas.





High Schoolers at Camp Li-Lo-Li

Speaker Brian Barts addresses CCA's H.S. students, presenting encouraging and thought-provoking messages during Camp Li-Lo-Li, September 21-22.



Praise Ensemble members Emily Faracca, Mitch Narbe, Emelie Gidley and Edwin Perez lead music during one of the group meetings.

Below, Jonathan Roberson hangs precariously on one of the ropes courses.



Freshmen gather for a game of air hockey during free time (l-r) Luke Lattimer, Andrew Wood, Jonathan Gidley, Kevin Stuitje in red, Trevor D'Amico, Josh Nowicki, back of David Grainge.

Savannah Young is the lead paddler in the canoe; Leah Kirbis at the rudder.



scrapbook of events and activities



PTO president, **Rebekah Crofford**, reported a good turnout for the annual **Great Pumpkin Farm** in Clarence, NY. There were close to **200** hundred volunteers including CCA students and parents.

The largest fundraiser of the year ran each weekend beginning the last weekend of September and concluding October 25. The money raised will be used for the needs of the school.



HOMECOMING

September 26



Joining the festivities and posing for a photo are Mrs. Lawrence with Truett Young, Kindergarten.



All middle school girls are sharing and enjoying their newly spun cotton candy: (l-r) Madesen Grant, Mikayla Watson-Wales, Kere' Ross, and Morgan Brown.



Sophomores Savannah Young, dressed as Superwoman is conversing with classmate Rachael Bielmeier, as Spiderman.



Getting on their mark for the annual bike parade stand (l-r) Elizabeth Simpson and Lauren Fleming, both fourth graders.



In the gym, many turn out for K-5th graders' activities. Above, Kindergartners Kendal Powell and Jacob Biron join in the Homecoming spirit.



Homemade floats parade through Williamsville from campus, down Main Street to North Forest, then to Sheridan Drive, and back to the CCA campus.

busy youngsters having fun



Kindergartner Camryn Moley (left) celebrates her fifth birthday on October 27th by sharing cupcakes with schoolmates and teachers with the help of classmate Madeline Beebe.



Mrs. Backus' first graders (l-r) Will Pieroni, Joshua Harbison and Troy Jezioro build a castle during their recess time.



In Mrs. Ward's first grade class, Emma Reed is observing the boys playing educational video games on the computer during their break time.



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*Celebrating 60 Years of
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Don Hoesel ('88) and his wife, Dawn, moved to Nashville in 1996, where Don manages the Communications Department for CIGNA government services. He received his BA in Mass Communications from Taylor University. The family lives in Spring Hill, TN with two children, Alyssa and Aidan, where they attend Christ Community Church. See article on right. ▶

Daniel Stumpf ('90) emailed CCA that he and his wife of 12 years, Donna are the parents of 4 sons, Andrew (7), Ian (4), Matthew (2) and Michael (7 months). Dan and his family live in Gainesville, VA. He had worked for several years for Ryan Homes and last August moved to a new company: Shirley Contracting, a heavy construction concern building highways, roads, bridges, etc. Dan writes that he keeps in close contact with several CCA classmates.



Joseph Ward, ('08) recently candidly shared how a dramatic change in his post-high school plans has clearly shown him "the safest place to be." Joe had long planned to follow in his father's footsteps to prepare for a career as a lineman for a major utility. Following his senior year he enrolled in the 1.5 year training program at a local college, which in the past had opened the door to secure employment. However, due to major corporate changes in the industry, Joe quickly found himself facing closed doors and the need to immediately alter his original life plans.

As he began seeking wise counsel from godly older men, devoting himself to much prayer and study of God's Word, a new, unanticipated door began opening as he learned about opportunities with the United States military. With continued prayer and counsel, Joe began the enlistment process with the US Air Force last July, and now anticipates leaving for basic training at Lackland AFB in Texas by year's end.

As he reflected on the unexpected change of course, Joe shared several personal lessons he has learned in the process: Make sure you know why you are pursuing a particular course of action. Take responsibility for your education. Even if plans have to change, no time is ever wasted. Beware of personal pride; as Proverbs 16:18 instructs: "Pride comes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall." It is divisive. Pursue prayer and seek wise counsel, knowing that, as one of his older friends counseled him, "if you're in God's will, it's the safest place you can be." DW

Elisha's Bones, new novel by Don Hoesel, CCA Alum



Mrs. Lynnette Wrigglesworth chats with Don Hoesel on September 12 while signing his latest book at Bender's Christian Bookstore. Looking on is Dan Wrigglesworth and Don's friend, Cassidy.

Mrs. Wrigglesworth has read five chapters in Don's book and said, "I had a hard time putting it down. It is suspenseful and well-written. I am proud of his accomplishment."

Elisha's Bones was published earlier this year and described on Amazon.com as "a pulse-pounding, action-filled thriller in the vein of The DaVinci Code." The book is published by Bethany House Publishers and is available at Barnes and Noble and many online book sources. This was Don's first published novel. He is presently working on a second called, *Hunter's Moon*, scheduled to come out in February. "I've also started my next book that will come out in the spring of 2011," said Don. "Aside from the three books, I've had a short fiction published in a literary journal called *Relief*."

You may visit Don's website at: donhoesel.com