

Winter 2016/2017
Volume 18, Issue 1



Official Newsletter for Alumni, Parents & Friends of Christian Central Academy

The Academy ADVANTAGE

**Our Faith
Calls Us To
Excellence**



Upcoming Events



Kit Francis Burr, of Eggertsville, died December 12 in Buffalo General Medical Center after a fall in his home. He had been dealing with Parkinson's disease for the past 16 years.

He was married for 47 years to Kathy Burr, a teacher at CCA for 31 years. Their three sons Steven (Class of '90), Brian (Class of '92), and Kevin (Class of '99) attended from kindergarten through graduation. Their grandchildren now attending CCA are Madison (grade 10), Kaylee (grade 5), Grace (grade 5), Brandon (grade 3), and Lillyanna (registered for kindergarten in September 2017).

Kit loved CCA and particularly the sports programs. He was the first inductee to the CCA Athletics Hall of Fame in 2012 having been the school's initial Athletic Director.

He was a member of The Chapel for 51 years and sang in The Chapel Quartet for 30 years, taking part in the recording of nine albums.

The Academy ADVANTAGE

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The Academy Advantage is the newsletter of Christian Central Academy, an independent, Christian, college preparatory 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), the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), and is accredited by the Middle States Association. (MSA). CCA admits students without regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin, and is non-discriminatory in the administration of all its programs and policies.

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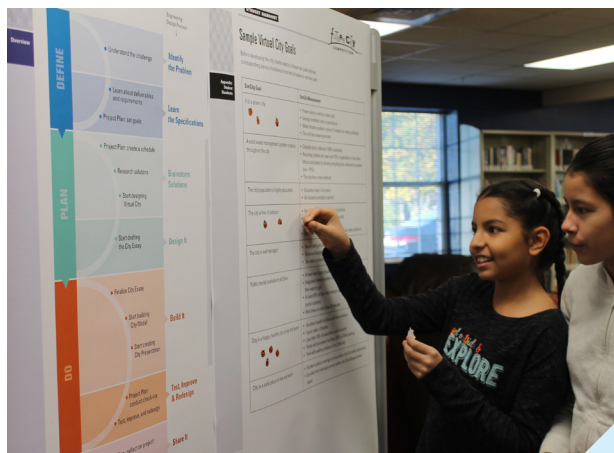


Mrs. Ilana Wiggins
K-8 Spanish Teacher
Buffalo State, MS

Welcome NEW FACULTY

Christian Central Academy has welcomed 10 new faculty members for the 2016-2017 academic year. Each of them bring a fresh perspective and new expertise in the necessary fields of science and technology, elementary education, high school education, physical education and foreign language.

This is an exciting time for CCA as we get ready to build a STEM/STREAMM program and continue to prepare our students for higher education. We are honored to have each of these talented individuals as part of the CCA community.



The beginning of STEM/STEAM/STREAMM at CCA

By Mrs. Joyce Pontrello, School Librarian/Teacher

The new buzz words across the nation in education today are STEM, STEAM, and STREAMM. They are acronyms for science, technology, research, education, art, and mathematics. Preparing our students for a growing market of stream-related careers for the future is a high priority for us at CCA. **Dr. Stuart Chen, Academic Dean**, heads up our STEM/STEAM/STREAM program. We are currently offering class electives in Computer, Media Tech, and Medical Terminology along with after school clubs and competitions in Chess, Masterminds, and Future City. We are looking to add two new electives which are 3D Computer Aided Design and Intro to Engineering.

Our K-8th Grade Library has added a "MakerSpace" area. A MakerSpace is a creative, DIY space where students are challenged to use their imagination to learn something new as they build, create, draw, explore, invent, write, and use technology. Currently it consists of building with brainflakes, duplos, regular and robotic Legos, making origamis, adult coloring bookmarks, magnetic letters, and puzzles. There is also an iPad with the Osmo tangrams, letters, numbers, and masterpiece for drawing. A Makey Makey is hooked up to a computer where students can play an instrument or write a song. A 3D printer and other additions are in the plan for the 2017-2018 school year. This new area in the library is giving our students choices during library class and engaging them in their areas of interest.

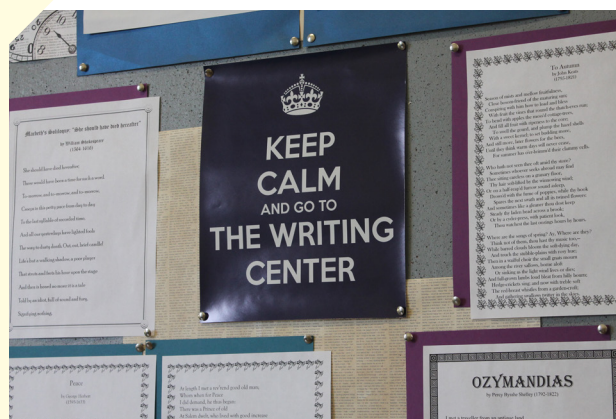
The Writing Center

By Mrs. Elektra Gaebelein, High School English Teacher

The purpose of The Writing Center at Christian Central Academy is to demystify writing, empower students as writers, and help students learn to commit themselves to writing projects with clarity, intelligence, effectiveness, and conciseness. The Writing Center is a place where any CCA student from grades ninth through twelfth can receive assistance and advice for all writing projects and assignments across the disciplines.

Students need clear guidance and practical strategies to harness yet galvanize their potential as writers - a feat that will be vital to their success in college, in their jobs, and in the broader world. Simultaneously, in an effort to reach out to our students and help them connect with writing, the focus for students who seek assistance from The Writing Center is to review, sharpen, and improve their writing skills. Current writing composition pedagogy has pointed out that one of the most valuable and efficient ways to reach writing is through peer review and peer editing. The Writing Center will provide students with helpful guidelines and strategies to improve the quality of the students' writing.

Overall, the student will be reminded that writing is a process. The Writing Center provides the opportunity to support and encourage students to revise their own work, and therefore discourages them from writing their papers the night before the project is due. As a result, students will be encouraged to revise and edit their own writing before they seek assistance from The Writing Center.



Sam Trippie '17: Jesus displayed in the halls.

I have had the privilege of being a Crusader for almost 10 years now and I could not have enjoyed my education any more. I love Christian Central Academy. The relationships I have made over the years are extremely strong because they have been rooted in Christ, and that is something you do not find at every school. CCA has really affected my life and my walk with my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I was born into a Christian family and have grown up with a strong knowledge of the Bible and have been surrounded with a "Christian Culture" almost all my life. From going to church every Sunday to having Chapel every Monday at school most of my life, I know who Jesus is. But growing up just knowing who Jesus is doesn't cut it anymore. If you haven't experienced Him, it is much harder to live with joy and love. In a world that tells kids to do whatever they want and to do whatever makes them happy, someone can easily forget the words from Jesus in Luke 18:16, "Let the children come to me," which I believe is the most important thing for a child to know, to know that Jesus wants them and loves them. How will they know who Jesus is without the display of his love? How will they experience who Jesus is if they are at a school where His holy name is used in vain, instead of being praised?

At CCA we have teachers that sacrifice so much to show grace and love to their students. The gospel is being poured out week after week, and the amazing thing is, the love of Jesus is not only SHOWN to students here at CCA, but is DISPLAYED to students here at CCA. In a world where children are shown everything on a six inch phone, the things that are displayed are so much more powerful. In a fast-moving world where friendships are formed through an Xbox or Instagram, the friends you make in real life, the ones you make at school, are so meaningful. The ones that are rooted in Christ are even stronger.

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the relationships I have made at CCA. I cannot tell you the love I have for the kids I am graduating with, the kids I have served with, and played on the golf team with. I can not tell you the trust I have for my friends. Just last week I had a friend, in the middle of class, tap me on the shoulder and ask if she could pray for my grandma who is going through cancer. Do you understand how meaningful that is, especially in high school? Knowing that friends at school are praying for your family and that teachers are praying for your future even when you're out in the halls is amazing! The love of Jesus is displayed here at CCA every day from 8:15am-3:15pm. That is



Sam Trippie ('17) speaks to the crowd of prospective parents during CCA's Winter Open House in January.

what I am most grateful for at CCA. The fact that the love of Jesus is displayed to me every single day when I walk in through the doors.

From a senior that gives a smile to a freshman, to a middle schooler that reads the Bible with a first grader, to a coach that prays for you before each game, at CCA the love of Jesus is displayed from hallway to hallway. That is what I believe has made my faith so real, the fact that I have seen true love and faith every day, and that the traits of Jesus, His love, grace, compassion, and trust, have been displayed to me since the first day I walked into CCA with my Spiderman backpack, to the last day when I will walk out of CCA with my diploma. Christian Central Academy has been a blessing to me, and I will never ever forget anything that this school has given to me.

Servants' Hearts

"For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake." 2 Corinthians 4:5 ESV



Our Middle School Class Leaders presented Officer Alexander and the rest of the Amherst Police Department Survival Kits as a way to show their appreciation for serving and protecting CCA and the surrounding community.



Fourth graders contributed with joyful hearts to the Buffalo City Mission Food Drive in November. Specific needs included frozen turkeys, non-perishable food items, and toothbrushes.



Mrs. Basinski's kindergarten class prepared a special package to bless a member serving in the US military. Included was a CCA t-shirt (donated by the PTO), some yummy treats, and a poem that each student signed with their name and hand print.



IAC and MMSSA CHAMPIONS!

By Alex Cook, Class of 2018



CCA's Boys' Varsity Soccer Team: (Front row left to right) Caleb Martel, Noah Ewing, Perry Martey, Thomas Kazmierczak, Ben Lekeuneu, Caleb Hancock, Brian Dugan, and Alex Cook.
(Middle row left to right) Luke Deberny, Thomas Puskas, Justin D'Amico, Isaiah Hancock, Josh Walter, and Lucas Wanamaker '14.
(Back row left to right) Coach Vandenberg, Jonah Ewing, Ryan Phillips, Thomas Miller, Blaise Mutai, Eric Miller, Josh Tyson, Josh Wittlinger, Daniel Tyson, and Rico Gutierrez.

This past fall the Christian Central Academy Boys' Varsity Soccer Team won the IAC and Monsignor Martin Small Schools Association Championships for a second consecutive season. The boys finished with an overall record of 14 wins and 2 losses after a season in which they had 15 wins and only 1 loss. The team has had a track record of success in the past and were expected to put up similar results.

The loss of six starters meant that other players had to step up into new roles and replace the production they left behind. Under Coach James Vandenberg's leadership, the Crusaders were able to fill in the holes and enjoy another very successful season. The team has a very different look, but overcame their deficiencies with hard work and new-found chemistry. There were also two key additions to the squad in senior, Noah Ewing and sophomore, Jonah Ewing. The brothers came to America from Japan and added some much-needed skill and scoring ability. Noah ended up leading the team in goal scoring, with Jonah placing 3rd. Another obstacle was the need for a goalie after the loss of senior Billy Gummo last year. Rico Gutierrez, a transfer student from a school in New Mexico, filled in admirably with little experience in net before this season. With help from Coach Vandenberg, Rico was able to learn the ins and outs of the position and did a solid job overall.



Congratulations to six players from the Boys' Varsity Soccer team for making the IAC Soccer All Stars:
(Back left to right): Josh Tyson '18, Thomas Kazmierczak '17, Brian Dugan '17, Noah Ewing '17, Jonah Ewing '19 (Honorable Mention) and (front center) Alex Cook '17 (Honorable Mention)

The Crusaders only accumulated two losses on the year to West Seneca East and the Gow School. Their rivalry with Gow is well-known and every game between the two was a chippie battle to the finish. The season series was won by the Crusaders with two wins and one loss against them. The final game against Gow came in the IAC Championship game held at Niagara University. The match was hard-fought by both teams and was a tie game at 1-1 going into the second half. The boys went tooth and nail with Gow and matched their physicality, forcing the ball into their zone and keeping the pressure on them. The winning goal was scored with little time to go in the game and CCA prevailed with a 2-1 victory. This win meant a berth to the Monsignor Martin Small Schools Association Championship again St. Mary's of Lancaster at their home field. The energy wasn't nearly as high as the Gow game, but the game was won by the boys to capture a fourth straight championship.

This run of dominance was well-documented by the rest of the league and CCA was finally getting the recognition they deserved with the Monsignor Martin board deciding to move CCA up to their highest league, joining the likes of Canisius and St. Joe's for next year's campaign. With winning comes expectations to perform against the area's top teams, and next year will be the opportunity to make their presence felt.

HOMECOMING

2016

Uniting CCA's past with present!



Past

Sisters, Victoria Raine '11 (left) and Jordan Raine '14 (right), along with friend Madelyn (Walawender) Martin '11, smile for the camera at the CCA "Selfie Station."



Reuban Hand '09 and his guest reminiscing as they look through the archives of the "Triumph" yearbook.



(Left to right) Brandon Gonzalez, Lucas Wanamaker, and Parker Woodard, all alumni from the Class of 2014, enjoy lunch and reflect on their memories at CCA.

Homecoming 2016 was truly a day to be remembered by all. Approximately 70 alumni and their families came back to their alma mater for a day of fun, fellowship, and food. They were warmly welcomed by the Admissions team in the morning. Thad Gaebelein, Head of School, addressed the alumni and shared his vision of "Fusing Technology with Truth." The alumni and their families enjoyed lunch together coupled with the memories of their time spent at CCA.

Present



Senior, Grace Lattimer reaches for the flag of Freshman, Singo Lekeuneu during the annual Powder Puff football game. The games start Homecoming weekend, with a bonfire at night to follow.



The winner of the Homecoming Parade Float contest was the Senior Class with their New York themed float. 2 Corinthians 7:16 was the inspiration.



Kindergartener, Avery Kinda, takes advantage of getting her face painted by first grade teacher, Miss Murdock.

CHRISTIAN CENTRAL ACADEMY

K-12 College Preparatory School

39 Academy Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

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KEEP IN TOUCH!

Contact us with news of what has happened in your life since you left school. Alumni are defined as anyone who attended Alden Mennonite School (AMS), Faith Christian School (FCS) (predecessors of CCA), or Christian Central Academy even if he or she did not graduate from the respective school.

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

On November 28, **Jonathan Whited ('12)** visited CCA's Medical Terminology class. Jon is a recent graduate of the University of Buffalo (BS Biomedical Sciences with dual minors in Biological Sciences, Pharmacology and Toxicology.) Jonathan is waiting to hear back on the status of his medical school applications.

During class, he shared some of his experiences through his undergraduate program. His candid stories about times that he succeeded and times when he missed the mark had every student engaged. One of his stories was so funny that the class erupted in laughter. He also gave the students some advice. He told them everything counts. Everything the students do through high school matters. Medical schools will look back through high school and undergraduate report cards to see what kind of a student you have been the past 8 years. He said that keeping grades above a B is one way to improve your chances of acceptance. He also shared that it's important to volunteer...A LOT. He said that CCA's community service program (in which HS students need to volunteer at least 25 hours each year) is a good start. He encouraged the students to find opportunities to shadow or intern with medical professionals. The class had many questions for Jon and though he's only a few years older than some of them, he responded with maturity and poise.

Most recently, Jon has been hired by Christian Central Academy to teach Chemistry and AP Physics.



Jonathan Whited (2012), speaks to students in the Medical Terminology class.



Harper Voyager Press, home of fantasy and science fiction at HarperCollins Publishers, recently released **Laura White's ('09)** novel **Heart Stone** under her pen name, Elle Katharine White. **Heart Stone** is a debut historical fantasy that recasts Jane Austen's beloved *Pride & Prejudice* in an imaginative world of wyverns, dragons, and the warriors who fight alongside them against the monsters that threaten the kingdom: gryphons, direwolves, lamias, banshees, and lindworms. "A lively adventure full of action, wit, and romance." ~ Publishers Weekly

You can find out more about **Heart Stone** at <http://www.dragonridersofarle.com>. Books are available for purchase at Amazon.com and Barnes & Nobles.

Houghton College has honored **Katherin Mansfield ('12)**, who has shown academic excellence by being named to the Dean's Honor List for the spring and fall semesters of 2016. To be named to the Dean's Honor List, a student must maintain full time status and achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher for the semester.

You may submit your alumni news and notes via website by clicking the Alumni tab at www.christianca.com.