

The Academy Advantage

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Mrs. Nurline Lawrence
Head of School

Thank You!

A "Bright Hope for Tomorrow"

In the midst of uncertain and changing times, what a comfort it is for the follower of Christ to know that God never changes! God always has a plan. He is never caught by surprise. As we align our will with God's will, we have no need to fear tomorrow. That said, I read somewhere recently that the only person who truly welcomes change is a baby in a wet diaper. With change comes a myriad of varying emotions. Leaving home is not always easy. CCA has been my home for the last 17 years. While I am excited about my own future, I am even more joyful and secure in the knowledge that God always has someone to carry on His work. God has cleared the path for a new season of life at CCA!!!

I look back with thanksgiving to God and to a host of people that served alongside me over these years. I say a simple "thank you" to everyone. You allowed me to stand on your shoulders so that I could look farther afield and catch a glimpse of what needed to be done. Together, we have labored and watched CCA grow. It is a joyful thing to know that many CCA graduates are successfully serving the Lord in various ways.

Thank you to the many different Boards of Directors that served with me. Each of you brought something different to the Board; each of you blessed me in some way. You helped me to grow.

Thank you to the faculty and staff for your faithful service; for challenging me and stretching me; to **Mrs. Kathy Burr, Mrs. Anita Ceroky, and Mrs. Cheryl Smyth** who patiently loved and guided me in those early, uncertain days!!

Thank you to my faithful assistant, **Mrs. Lori Williams**, who truly possesses a servant's heart.

Thank you to so many parents who have believed in CCA and continue to support Christian education.

Thank you to the many students who taught me the meaning of forgiveness and hope.

Thank you to the generous donors who love God enough to give to His work.

I am confident that without all of you, I could not have survived the rigors of academic life with the many challenges that Christian education brings on a daily basis. You have been patient with me, encouraged me, supported me, forgave me, prayed for me, loved me, and blessed me. Thank you. CCA will endure because God is faithful. We have all experienced God's hand on our school. God will not fail CCA.

As **Mr. Thad Gaebelein** takes on the mantle of leadership at CCA, I leave with him the words that Moses said to Joshua before the people in Deuteronomy 31:7-8, "Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land, the Lord swore . . . to give them . . . the Lord goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Don't be afraid; don't be discouraged."

My prayer, also, is that these words will be for everyone as CCA faces the future.

Change is inevitable, but we can take comfort in knowing that God will clear the path for the new adventures in our lives.

He is the Bright Hope for Tomorrow!

Well Done, Thou Good and Faithful Servant

God has moved in a mighty way over the past 17 years at CCA. Through His mighty power and His transforming work in **Mrs. Nurline Lawrence's** life, He has brought to fruition that which many only dreamed about:

- Instituted Grace Race, Head of School Century Fund, Esther Fund
- Raised funds for and built the Emmanuel Athletic Facility and Music Rooms
- Acquired the Auction & Business Office Building
- Acquired and developed the Center for Science and Art
- Acquired three rental properties near CCA
- Numerous capital improvements – auditorium, boiler, doors, lockers, roof, windows
- New tennis/basketball court, outdoor scoreboard, surveillance system
- Added baseball, bowling, golf, softball, track and field
- Expanded basketball and soccer teams
- Purchased four busses
- Accredited through Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
- Biblical integration in all subject areas
- Added AP Biology, European History, U.S. Gov. and Politics
- English Language and Composition, and Physics
- Graduated a National Merit Finalist and AP Scholars
- Among Top "Business First" School Rankings
- Instituted Biblical Finance, Communications, Digital Photography, Music Theory, Study Skills classes
- Expanded art electives including drama
- Instituted Academic Support Labs
- Instituted Baccalaureate Service and Tea
- Instituted Declamation Competition and Winterfest Talent Show
- Instituted international missions trip, international field trips, Spanish NYC trip, MS science trip
- Instituted Prefects
- Instituted International Student Program
- Instituted Academy Advantage newsletter
- Instituted WCCC Radio Station, CCA website, wireless technology, on-site technology support
- Instituted Grandparents' Day, Community Leaf-raking Day
- Gold Medalist Yearbook
- Added College Advisement, Gift Development and Public Relations Departments

Words can't begin to express the heartfelt thoughts of those whose lives have been tremendously impacted by the love of Christ that has flowed from Mrs. Lawrence. Here are just a few comments from those who will be forever grateful for having had the privilege of learning from and being loved by Mrs. Lawrence:

Mrs. Lawrence is a great Christian role model to me. I'll remember her when I recall Philippians 4:6-7. I've been privileged to work with such a Godly and caring head of school. She's worked very hard for the glory of God and CCA! I wish her a fantastic retirement. I'll cherish many wonderful memories and will miss her.

– **Mrs. Hana Asirwatham**

I will be forever grateful to Mrs. Lawrence for having instilled within me the importance of being THANKFUL NO MATTER WHAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE! She has demonstrated to me what true faith in an ALMIGHTY GOD looks like. I will continue to thank GOD "upon every remembrance" of Mrs. Lawrence.

– **Mrs. Nancy Basinski**

Continued on page 2 – Faithful

Celebrating 20 Years of God's Faithfulness to CCA!

The 20th year of the **Cornucopia Auction** was held on March 14, 2015, at the Buffalo Marriott. Besides the anniversary year, this was a very special time of celebrating 17 years of service by CCA's Head of School, **Mrs. Nurline Lawrence**. She was thanked for all her efforts and encouragement over those many years. **Mr. Anthony Baldi** read the citation in which he announced the decision of the Board of Directors to honor Mrs. Lawrence by naming the auditorium after her (photo on right).

It was a beautiful night with attendance of 267 guests. **Mrs. Noreen Resman** and **Mrs. Mary Weydman** were given special service awards (presented with a plaque and flowers) for their years dedicated to the auction. Also honored were past board members, auction coordinators and volunteers who have been a part of the auction over the 20 years.

"The auction committee would like to thank Mrs. Lawrence, board members, staff, faculty, seniors, and volunteers for their support," said Auction Coordinator **Mrs. Rita Curtin**. Thanks also goes to M.C. **Mr. Brett Larson**, and Auctioneer **Mr. Randy Moyer**, as well as the many donors who helped make this year another success. A total of over \$140,000 was raised. We thank and praise God for His many blessings!



Board VP **Mr. Anthony Baldi**
Mrs. Nurline Lawrence



For the past 13 years **Mrs. Lori Williams** dedicated herself to working alongside **Mrs. Lawrence** as her administrative assistant. "How can I help?" is her immediate response when anyone walks into her office. She knows the intricate workings of the school and often knew what Mrs. Lawrence needed before she asked. She is an extension of Mrs. Lawrence in faith and peace.

Faithful – continued from page 1

Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence, for extending your love and grace to our family over our 15 years at CCA. We love you and wish you the Lord's richest blessings on your next season of life.

– **Mrs. Sue D'Amico**

God has blessed me with a wonderful friend and colleague. Mrs. Lawrence, you have guided me with your wisdom and experience. Thank you for giving me this job and mission. I will miss you dearly!

– **Mrs. Denise Jentz**

As Head of School, I consider Mrs. Lawrence to be the cornerstone of the CCA "body." She incorporated her knowledge and experience and dedicated her whole being to the school. When facing seemingly insurmountable challenges, she forged ahead with her vision for the school—and she did it! Her accomplishments are numerous, but she credits the one she always leaned on, her head—Christ Jesus, "the cornerstone." Devoting herself to the school wasn't just a job; she lived CCA!

– **Mrs. Toni Lenuzza**

Mrs. Lawrence, you are a wise and godly woman. Your leadership has proved faithful and full of excellence over the past 17 years. Your legacy will go on as you have made a lasting imprint upon the entire CCA community. You will be greatly missed.

– **Mrs. Amy Liszkiewicz**

Thank you for teaching us how to be excellent educators and scholars of the Word.

– **Mrs. Joyce Pontrello**

Thank you for your example of turning to God with gratitude and trusting Him to provide our needs. One of the things I will miss is your lovely prayers over us at the end of the day. It is calming and helps us wrap up the work for that day, reminding us that the children, staff, and educational ministry of CCA are all in God's hands.

– **Mrs. Reda Rozendal**

I'm very grateful to have a boss who prayed over me, my students, and the entire school everyday. Her prayerful guidance and support

never went unnoticed and will always be with us. May God be with her as all her big and little bushes continue to grow from her wisdom, even after she's gone on to retirement.

– **Mrs. Katrina Szucs**

May our Lord not only smile upon you, but laugh out loud, blessing you in every possible way.

– **Mrs. Michelle Thomas**

Mrs. Lawrence has taught me there is nothing more important than spending time on your knees before God. His ways are so much better than our own, and we need to trust that He will work everything out for His glory. I thank God for her example in leading CCA, which has challenged me to be all that God has called me to be.

– **Mrs. Deborah Wade**

*Mrs. Lawrence is in CCA's Hall of Faith. She was obedient and answered God's call to become our leader in 1998. God equipped her with courage and God-sized visions for the school and its community. As evidenced by our physical campus, academics, faculty, staff and the lives of past and present students, God provided. She has cared deeply and prayed fervently for us. May we continue her walk in faith. Appreciation also goes to Mrs. Lawrence's husband, **Leslie**. He loved the school and supported Mrs. Lawrence in her work as Head of School. You could not find two better ambassadors for CCA.*

– **Mrs. Lynnette Wrigglesworth**

Mrs. Lawrence has helped me grow as an educator but mostly as a follower of Christ. I have learned to say "thank you" in all circumstances and count it all joy!

– **Mrs. Lisa Wright**

Our God is an awesome God, and we have great confidence that He who began a good work here at CCA will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. To God be the glory; Great things He has done! ■

CCA School Board Announces New Head of School!

Mr. Thad Gaebelein to begin July 1, 2015, as Head of School

The Board of Directors, on March 9, 2015, voted unanimously to call **Mr. Thad Gaebelein** to be the next Head of School for Christian Central Academy. Mr. Gaebelein has accepted the call and will start his duties on July 1, 2015.

This decision completes a one-year search process for the new Head of School. The Leadership Succession Committee (**Mr. Eric Alcott, Mr. Anthony Baldi, Mrs. Nancy Basinski, Mrs. Kathy Burr, Mrs. Lauren Gidley, Dr. David Holmes, Dr. Lucy Holmes, Mr. Bill Moran, Mr. Tom Ranallo, Mr. Gregory Reeds, Mrs. Reda Rozendal, Mrs. Cheryl Smyth, and Mrs. Lynnette Wrigglesworth**) worked tirelessly to review resumes, conduct Skype interviews and arrange on-site visits. Special thanks go to **Mrs. Reda Rozendal** for her efforts arranging all of the details for

the candidate visits. The Leadership Succession Committee will continue to meet to review the next steps in the transition process.

Mr. Gaebelein and his wife are busy making plans to move to Williamsville from their current home in the Finger Lakes Region. Mr. Gaebelein has over twenty years of experience in academic administration and teaching among some of the nation's elite undergraduate institutions and private independent high schools including The Knox School, Elmira College, Valley Forge Military Academy and College, The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, and The Stony Brook School, a highly competitive Christian private school. He is a noted author and consultant on topics of history, ethics, and character and leadership development.

More information will appear in the summer issue.

Our Staff Highlight

Coach Robert Kiebusch announced his retirement on March 16 at CCA's Basketball Banquet! He began his tenure at CCA in 1999, specializing in Global History, which he loved. He also coached Boys Soccer 2000 to 2005. After the first Athletic Director **Mr. Kit Burr** retired, "Mr. K," as the kids refer to him, took over his responsibilities in 2005.

Mr. Kiebusch was recently awarded the 2014 Floyd Pekham Annual Award by the Western New York Soccer Officials Association in appreciation for his outstanding contributions to Soccer in WNY by supporting and promoting soccer in this area. He was honored with a plaque at a special dinner on Sunday, November 9, at the Classics. Here are some comments by those who worked closely with him at CCA. "When I think about Bob Kiebusch I think of the word *reliable*," said **Mr. Kevin McNamara**, boys' physical education teacher. "Bob wears many hats at CCA; as Athletic Director, sports announcer, uniform collector, computer technician, subs for teachers, and whatever else needs to get done. The hat I'm glad he wears with me is *Friend*. Bob is a good friend and I'm grateful that he's always ready to step in and help.

"I have had the distinct privilege serving along side Mr. Kiebusch for over 15 years," said **Mr. Tom Ranallo**. "He has given his heart and soul to his job as Athletic Director at CCA." Mr. Ranallo, a multi-year CCA Board member, is the father of two recent graduates, **Caroline** and **Jack**, and freshman **Patrick**, who is an active sports participant.



Mr. Robert Kiebusch

Continued on page 5 – Kiebusch

DID YOU KNOW?

- CCA is accredited by Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.
- CCA has been chartered by and registered with the New York State Regents for over 30 years.
- CCA is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International.
- CCA's students come from 70 different churches.
- CCA students come from 26 different school districts in three different counties and two continents!
- Bussing to CCA is provided by most school districts in the area.
- At CCA, we believe each student is a special gift from God.
- It is CCA's goal that all students come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- It is also CCA's goal to prepare all students for college.
- CCA students participate in Bible classes daily and a chapel service weekly.
- ALL academic subjects at CCA are taught from a Christian perspective.

Continued in the next issue . . .

Brothers Inducted into Hall of Fame

On January 3, 2015, during the **A. Leslie Lawrence Memorial Tournament**, **Brian** and **Steven Burr** were inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame for soccer achievements during their high school years at Christian Central Academy.

Steven Burr graduated from CCA in 1990, having played for five years at the varsity level. He posted an impressive career total of 58 goals, netting 23 goals in his junior year. He led the Soccer Crusaders to their first IAC Championship. Steven served as team captain and was voted CCA Most Valuable Player. For his accomplishments, the IAC selected Steven as a first team All-Star.

Brian Burr graduated from CCA in 1992 and completed a four-year career as a letter winner on the Boys Varsity Soccer Team. Brian amassed an impressive 47 goals, culminating in a 22-goal session as a senior. He was recognized for his leadership by being selected as Team Captain and Most Valuable Player. For his accomplishments, Brian was also recognized by the IAC as a first team league All-Star.



The Burr Family: At left is **Madison** (gr. 8) next to her sister **Kaylee** (gr. 3) and her mom and dad, **Sara** and **Brian**. **Mrs. Lawrence** and **Steven** are behind his three children, **Grace** (gr. 3), **Tyler** and **Brandon** (gr. 1). At right is **Mr. Kit Burr**, standing next to his son **Kevin** and **Mrs. Kathy Burr** is holding Kevin's daughter **Lillyanna**.

The Butler Did It! School Play



Cast from left to right: **Thomas Puskas** as Louie Fan, **Joy LoHouse** as Laura Carlyle, **Peter Deberny** as Peter Flimsey, and **Louie Visone** as Chandler.

CCA's Drama Department presented a play, *The Butler Did It* by Tim Kelly on March 20 and 21, 2015. The play was a farce of the classic "whodunit" English mystery play involving a group of detective writers who gather for a weekend getaway where they are to impersonate their fictional characters and solve a murder. This year's cast included **Rayne Francis** (gr.10), **Anna Parlato** (gr.9), **Dante Lasting**, (gr.9) **Peter Deberny**, (gr.12) **Louie Visone** (gr.11), **Emma Taylor** (gr.12), **Hannah Green** (gr.11), **Thomas Puskas** (gr.8), **Joy LoHouse** (gr.10), and **Colin Taylor** (gr.10). The play was directed by **Mrs. Jennifer Helfrich**, with set design by **Mrs. Kristin Guerin** and her art students.

Emma Albrecht Exhibits Art Work at Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology



Senior **Emma Albrecht's** mixed-media painting was chosen by the Albright-Knox art museum for the **2015 AK Teens: Future Curators** Exhibition.

Emma's creative work titled, "The Trees" was one of 60 selected out of 600 entries for exhibit at the Center for Arts and Technology at 1221 Main Street, April 23 through May 15. The painting was also featured in the 2015 Daemen All High Art Exhibit. Her art teacher is **Mrs. Kristen Guerin**. We congratulate Emma for this prestigious honor!



Senior Radio Broadcast: God Speaks

"God Speaks" was the this season's topic of the Senior Communications Class' annual radio program at the studio of WDCX (99.5 FM) on Saturday, January 24. Students wrote and produced the program, which included a segment honoring **Mrs. Nurline Lawrence** for her 17 years of leadership as CCA's Head of School.

The Power Hour program started with *The Jamaican Praise Medley* by New World Sun. Talk radio followed with three student hosts, **Peter Deberny** and **Lindsay Bratek** in the first half hour, and **Arianna Lasting** taking Lindsay's seat in the second half. They reviewed the unique ways God spoke to Joseph, Moses, Daniel, Joseph and Mary, and Paul of the Bible, as well as how God speaks to us today. The program ended with a "call-in" time, listeners sharing personal stories of how God works in our lives today.

The one-hour program is posted on the CCA website for all to enjoy.

6th Annual Red Cross Blood Drive



Seniors (l-to-r) **Emma Taylor** and **Hailey Borrasca**, uniting by giving blood in support of saving lives.

This year the event took place on Friday, February 27, organized by senior **Hannah Lattimer** and Student Activities Coordinator **Mrs. Gail Conschaffer**. CCA thanks all who helped make this blood drive such a success! "Through the generous support of over 30 faculty, students, and friends, we were able to surpass our goal in achieving 25 units of blood. It was a blessing to be able to serve in this capacity again this year, and I am excited for next year as my sister, **Grace**, Lord willing, will be taking my place as coordinator," stated Hannah.



Senior **Joshua Kocz** is showing younger students how to play and win a prize on the video game during the Winterfest Carnival on February 6. Listening intently for game instructions are **Robert Vance** (gr.1) and **Ashley Kinda** (gr.2). **Jeremiah Williams** (gr.5) is in the foreground. This event raised senior funds for their missions trip to the Dominican Republic.



A group of **Mrs. Nancy Basinski's** kindergarten class, (l-to-r) **Jeremy Gritzmacher**, **Ava Lewandowski**, **Jillian Helfrich**, **Jonah Zapp** and **Giana Amoia** are re-enacting scripture from Genesis 37 through Exodus 20. During their daily scheduled Bible lessons they dressed in character for the dramatization of the life story of Jacob and his twelve sons. Over time, they learned about the life of Moses, including the deliverance of God's people from slavery in Egypt.

Background information was given to provide better a understanding of the meaning of Passover and the celebration of Easter as well as Jesus being our Passover Lamb.

Music Department ECMEA Participation

Students from the music department participated in the 66th Annual All-County Music Festival hosted by the Erie County Music Educators Association (ECMEA) with the help of teachers **Mrs. Beth Kivett**, **Mrs. Melody Shipley**, **Mrs. Michelle Thomas**, and **Mr. Layne Vanderbeek**. Area All-State participants are chosen from four local counties; All-State from New York state.

Congratulations to All the Following:

Jonathan Ziegler, Drum Set

Sr. High All-County Jazz Band; concert at Amherst H.S.

Sr. High All-State Jazz Band alternate; festival at Rochester

Sr. High Area All-State Jazz Band; festival, SUNY at Fredonia (snowed out)

Joanna Nie, Viola

Jr. High Area All-State String Orchestra; concert at Akron H.S.

Emma Shoemaker, Clarinet

Jr. High North All County Band; concert at Tonawanda H.S.

Kristina Ebert, soprano

Jr. High North All County SSA Chorus; concert at Tona. H.S.

Joshua Gritzmacher, Clarinet

Elementary All-County Band; concert at Kleinhans Music Hall

Macy Hill and **Rebekah Lindahl**, sopranos; **Veronica Visone**, alto

Elementary All-County Blue Chorus; concert at Kleinhans Hall



Spelling Bee Finalists (l-to-r): **Dinah Hampton** (gr. 7), **Kristina Ebert** (gr. 8), **Joshua Gritzmacher** (gr. 6), **Justin D'Amico** (gr. 8), **Carson Kruk** (gr. 6), **Kevin Conklin** (gr. 7), **Bryan Donovan** (gr. 8), **David DeSing** (gr. 7), **Logan Roussie** (gr. 7), **Sarah Gumm** (gr. 8), **Aimee John** (gr. 6), and **Rose Mayer** (gr. 6).

On Thursday, January 8, the Middle School held its annual Spelling Bee Finals, organized by English teacher **Mrs. Christine Hill**. The best spellers from each grade participated, in hopes of competing in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. After over twenty rounds of competition, **Kristina Ebert** earned the winning title of *Top Speller*. The Runner-up was 6th grader **Carson Kruk**. Kristina advanced with a challenging written test, qualifying her to participate in the WNY Oral Finals on Sunday, March 8. She represented CCA as the first student in 16 years to advance to this challenging level of competition. Kudos to all of our spellers! Special thanks go to **Miss Lauren Asbach**, **Miss Gretchen Ertell**, and **Mrs. Lynnette Wrigglesworth** for serving as judges, and to **Mrs. Gail Conschafter** for being the "word" pronouncer. Special thanks to **Mrs. Brandy Marshall** and **Mrs. Lisa Wright** for their guidance in making the event a success this year.

Nurline Lawrence DECLAMATION FINALISTS

Middle School Winners Tied for First Place

Sixth grader Anna Drilling
Seventh grader Bethany Jentz

High School Winner, First Place
Junior Hannah Green

Congratulations!



Miss Lauren Brechtel's first grade class visit the Botanical Gardens in South Buffalo on Friday, March 27. The guide is explaining details of the banana tree to (l-to-r) **Caden Riggs**, **Peter Bergum**, **Grady Larson**, **Caleb Armbruster**, and **Jonas Phillips** who is staning next to **Mrs. Jamie Danner**, a parent chaperone.

Kiekbusch – continued from page 3

"Bob Kiekbusch is a great friend and a dear coworker who has a heart of gold and would do anything in his power for anyone at anytime. He has a servant's heart, loves God, and is kind to those around him," shared **Mrs. Cathy Tom**, girls' physical education teacher. He loves coaching soccer and baseball—his specialty! As an Athletic Director, he supports and goes to all the home and away games. He drives the sports teams to their games, keeps score, plans sports banquets, lines the soccer field, schedules referees for the games, and watches over the Emmanuel Athletic Facility, just to name some of the things Bob does around here. Many kind words describe Bob but one that truly fits him is—loyal. He is a loyal worker, husband, father, grandfather, and he is *my friend*." ■

First Gr^ade Tr^avels in Sp^ace!



Mrs. Sharon Backus is filming her first grade students (l-to-r) **Ben Henderson**, **Sofia** (n/a) and **Alex Moreland** in preparation for a space-travel class project. Classmate **Nathan Tyson** (see top right of page 7) gets credit for the photo above.

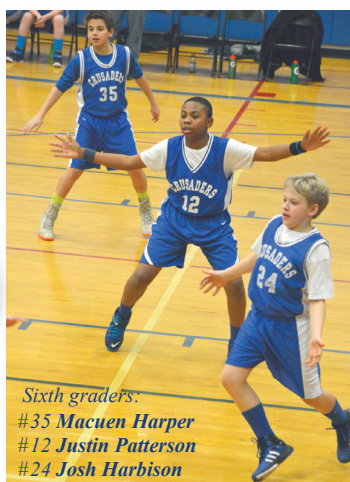
Students voted on four planets they wanted to research. Each student chose one of those planets and worked together in small groups to find facts about their planet by reading through various books and materials. Mrs. Backus then put together those facts to create scripts for each group so that each child had a speaking part. They were to read their part many times during class to gain fluency and expression for when they had to read in front of the camera. The exciting day finally came for them to read their reports while filming and standing on the special green screen. Mrs. Backus worked during Easter break to make the green transparent by using a computer-imaging program. The children were then ready to take off in a computer-generated rocket ship, and travel through the solar system. Each group "beamed down" to the planet on which they researched.

Mrs. Backus burned the activity to a DVD to gift each student with their own copy.

Where we may grow "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."



Junior **Kenetria Redfern**



Sixth graders:
#35 **Macuen Harper**
#12 **Justin Patterson**
#24 **Josh Harbison**

Varsity Girls Basketball

The Lady Crusaders had the most successful season in the history of CCA since joining the super competitive Monsignor Martin Conference with fine training by **Coaches Samantha Hutchins** and **Mrs. Terri Miller**. The team finished fourth place in the Big School Division. The not so “big” team of eight young ladies worked very hard to accomplish this goal, and by **winning the annual A. Leslie Lawrence Tournament for the fifth straight year**. They beat some big schools in the Monsignor Martin Conference, as well as public schools throughout the season. The team consisted of seniors **Noelle Moran** and **Meghan Curtin**, juniors **Kenetria Redfern**, **Tenia Wesley**, **Emily Miller** and **Klaire Gold**, as well as freshman **Jillian Kasmore** and **Charly Hearon**. “The team embraced the word LOVE for the majority of the season, learning to love themselves before they could love each other. Above all, they know that ‘God’s love endures forever,’ Psalm 136. His unconditional love is forever filled with grace and mercy! I’m very proud of this group of young ladies and am very excited for all of their future—whatever that may hold. I love each of them very much!” said Coach Samantha.

7/8th Grade Girls Basketball

Coach Hank Shoemaker, together with **Sarah Burr** and **Lisa Sauer**, are proud of this very competitive team! Several games were lost by just 1 or 2 points. The Most Valuable Player was **Anna Fleming**, point guard all season, and second leading scorer. **Anna Sauer** was lead scorer and a very aggressive defensive player. The Christian Character award went to **Joanna Nie**; she played both forward positions and as center when needed. **Emma Shoemaker** was Most Improved Player, playing both forward positions and some center also. **Maddie Burr** received the Coaches’ Award. She earned it by being a good example and with her extremely athletic abilities as a guard and forward. **Sarah Gummo** played both forward positions, providing a lot of aggressive energy. Guard **Sarah Sauer** played tenacious defense, producing many steals and assists.

5/6th Grade Girls Basketball

Coach Dennis Mayer reported that his team got off to a slow start and after settling in came away with a couple of inspirational victories in the second half of the season. Never wavering in their resolve, and working together, the improvement was noticeable. The girls moved the ball well which led to higher percentage shots, the result being two hard-fought wins. **All the girls were exceptional in character, sportsmanship and effort**. The following being recognized by a vote of their teammates for end of season awards: **Abigail Tyson** as Most Valuable Player and lead scorer; Most Improved is **Charlize Karcher**; the Christian Character award went to **Arielle McNitt**, and Coach’s Award to **Wendy Rose Moyer**.



BASKETBALL

Boys Varsity IAC Champions!



Varsity Boys Basketball

Coaches Brian Ellsworth (right, above) and **James Scott** (left) led the Crusaders Team to a blessed and successful season that culminated in another IAC Championship! They witnessed an incredible breakout, coming of age game from freshman point guard **Patrick Ranallo**. The championship bout was again at Daemen College and a tight-fought battle did not disappoint. The game was tight, and a back-and-forth contest that had its share of huge moments. Junior forward **Garret Longwell** drew the assignment to stop their best player and kept him in check for the majority of the game. Inside toughness by senior forward **Evan Rarick** and junior forward **Will Preston** helped the team contribution. Big threes from junior guard **Justin Holvevinski** and Longwell in the 3rd and 4th quarter moved the Crusaders ahead, however, it was the stellar play from its freshman **Patrick Ranallo (24 pts, 5 three pointers, 5 assists, and 4 steals)** that sealed the deal and another crown. Coach Ellsworth was exceedingly happy the way his team battled and his freshman took a huge step in his development. With four starters returning and young players in the fold, the future is certainly bright.

Patrick Ranallo



JV Boys Basketball

“The Junior Varsity Boys Team had a rough start to the season but in the end were able to push through with a 6-7 regular season record,” stated **Coach Seth Wittlinger**. The team saved the best for last by coming back from a 9 point deficit in the fourth quarter and **out-scored Maritime Charter School 17-4 in the final quarter to get the victory with a total score of 35-31!**

7/8th Grade Boys Basketball

What a great season we had this year! “The bunch of guys I had on this team, I would go to war with, because they never backed down to any team we faced. One of the things I love most about coaching at CCA is the **recognition from other schools and coaches as to how well our teams carry themselves**,” said **Coach Matt Gold**. We didn’t win every game, but we sure had a fun time playing 22 games, which included playing in six tournaments; that’s a lot of games for any 7th and 8th grade team. They came in 3rd place in one tournament and 2nd in another. The boys’ team lost the championship in the final game of the season in overtime. Coaches Matt Gold and **Keith Tyson** observed that each one of the boys improved their play throughout the season.

5/6th Grade Boys Basketball

Coach Tim Fancher’s team had a solid season, showing great improvement! **The record was 9-5 and together with the 4th grade team made it to Championship games!** It was an exciting year filled with good memories and giving our best effort in all things. Award winners were: **Joshua Baldwin** as Most Valuable Player (top-scorer who averaged 6.3 points per game) and **Kiere French** as Most Improved Player. Coach’s Award was given to **Carson Kruk**, and **Jonah Cross** received the Christian Character Award.

“The future of CCA’s basketball program is bright! The solid foundation that continues to build through varsity starts with both 4th grade and 5th/6th grade teams,” said Coach Fancher.

4th Grade Boys Basketball

Coach Tim Fancher’s team had a tremendous season! Coming into the season, many of the boys had limited basketball experience so there was more focus on fundamentals. The boys came together as a team and gave their very best effort! That effort, “to give God the glory in all things,” led us to the **Championship game and a 10-3 overall record!** **Aaron Jentz** and **Gavin McBeath** led the way as our Most Valuable Players and top scorers. **Gavin closed out the season by scoring 10 or more points in his last 7 consecutive games!** Head Coach Tim Fancher and Assistant Coaches **Joshua Hamlin**, **Ron Jentz** and **Brett Larson** are incredibly proud of these awesome young men! The crew of coaches also assist with the 5/6th grade teams.

In photo, left to right are: **Coaches Ron Jentz, Tim Fancher, Brett Larson and Joshua Hamlin**. Front Row: #13 **Ethan Larson**, **Tommy Sauer**, **Simeon Fox**, **Connor Patterson**, **Paul Emmi**. Back Row: #41 **Josh Briandi**, **Gavin McBeath**, **Shane Conklin**, **Connor Fancher**, **Aaron Jentz** and #4 **Nehemiah Hamlin**.



Third grader **Daisy Munir** is performing at the annual Talent Show held on Friday, February 6, while others await their turn.



Everyone is a little Irish on St. Patrick's Day in Mrs. Sharon Backus' class. First graders from left to right: **Nathan Tyson, Rheagan Vance, Ben Henderson, Samantha Derkovitz, JoAnne Hill, Clara Pujolas, Aria Glover, Alexander Moreland** (with our green parrot "Buddy" on his head), **Brandon Burr, Sofia** (n/a), and **Joshua Guerin**.



Seniors **Peter Deberny** and **Emma Taylor** are practicing a skit called the "Sin Chair" to be presented to children in the Dominican Republic.



Mrs. Kelly Martin's kinergartners enjoy playing a tag game called "Beaches" in Mrs. Cathy Tom's physical education class. Children use cup stacks so when they get tagged, they run to the beach to upstack or downstack their speedstacks to determine the winning team.



Seventh grader **Sarah Sauer**, is flanked by first graders "Blessing Buddies," **Caleb Armbruster** and **Olivia Griffith** at the Valentine's pancake breakfast in February.



First grader **Abigail Hamlin** is also enjoying her breakfast with seventh grader and "big Buddy," **Dinah Hampton**.



CCA's international students (l-to-r) **Hanson Wang, Ranbo Ma, and Iris Wang** celebrated Chinese New Year on Thursday, February 19. They are enjoying playing a card game during the party. Their ESL teacher Mrs. **Laura Lewis** brought in sushi, Chinese dumplings, fruit, and brownies, and several brought other treats to share.



Sixth grader **Wisken Whited** accepted his Christian Character Award from **Coach Robert Kiebusch** at the Basketball Awards Banquet on March 24.

Bowling Summary

Coach Joe Karnath Reports:

The Boys Varsity Bowling Team struggled most of the year, but won its last five of six games to move into seventh place, ahead of Park. CCA has bowled in the tough Monsignor Martin Varsity League the past five years. The Crusaders worked hard and showed improvement through the season with a 5-40 record. Highlights included freshman cocaptain **Alex Fink** bowling a 141 average and rolling three 200+ games. Alex was named Most Valuable Player. The only returnee, cocaptain **Zach Mayer** posted a high game of 194 and was presented the Coaches Award. **Andrew Congdon** was awarded Most Improved Player. The Christian Character trophy went to **Ryan Phillips**. The other team keglers were seniors **Hannah Lattimer** and **Emma Albrecht**; additionally, freshman **Sean Pujolas** and junior **Dylan Sanders**.

scrapbook

Elementary students (l-to-r) fifth graders **Carlissa Quintero, Felicia Hurd, and Kierstin Rowles**; third graders **Bailey Bergum, Grace Burr, and Abigail Murphy**; and fourth graders **Simeon Fox** and **Lillian Smyth** were chosen as "best dressed" from grades 3-5 for the International Day celebration on March 12. Each student dressed up to represent different cultures around the world.





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◆◆◆ ALUMNI NEWS ◆◆◆



Tyler James was born to **Katrina** (fourth grade teacher) and **Jonathan Szucs** on January 3, 2015 at 7 lbs., 7 ozs. Big sister **Kaylee** who will start kindergarten at CCA in the fall, loves being a big sister.

Emelie Gidley (2011) CCA class valedictorian, is graduating on May 22, 2015 from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and will be commissioned as an ensign in the United States Navy. Emelie will be serving as a Surface Warfare Officer on the U.S.S. NITZE (DDG 94), a destroyer based out of Norfolk, Virginia, for the next 12 to 18 months. After her tour of duty, she will begin her training to become a Nuclear Surface Warfare Officer at the Navy's Nuclear Power School in Charleston, South Carolina. Upon completion of her training, she will be assigned to an aircraft carrier where Emelie will be in charge of operating the nuclear reactors that power the ship. Emelie is engaged to be married in November.

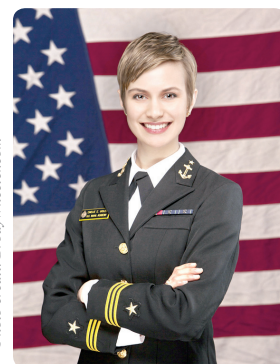
Laura Albrecht (2009) is attending Buffalo State College for a degree in Graphic Design and Writing. This current spring semester she is studying in Siena, Italy with Buffalo State's study abroad program. She will graduate from Buffalo State in December 2015.

Jonathan Gidley (2013) is finishing his sophomore year at Texas A&M University where he is on a Naval ROTC scholarship. He was recently promoted to First Sergeant in the Corps of Cadets and is in charge of the Naval Battalion. Jonathan will be going on a missions trip to China with Campus Crusade for Christ from May 24 through July 3. He and the other students from Texas A&M who are traveling to China will be bringing Bibles to the persecuted Christians in the provinces they will be visiting there. The team will be also be sharing the "good news" with many Chinese who may never have heard the gospel message. Please pray that many will put their trust in Jesus!

Jedidiah Moser (2012) gave an inspiring testimony to students in chapel on Monday, April 27. He encouraged students to surrender their life to Christ.

James Williams (2006) is engaged to Lindsay Fisher. They live in Washington, D.C. James works at the Lewin Group, a consultancy. Lindsay works in government affairs at Citigroup. A fall wedding is planned.

Mathew Eubanks and Robyn (nee Ceroky; both class of 1999) created the **Eubanks Family Scholarship Endowment** at Houghton College to benefit an incoming first-year student at Houghton who is a graduate of CCA, beginning Spring 2015.



Ensign **Emelie Gidley**

Photo credit: Brody Wheeler.com

Nurline Lawrence

Head of School

Lori Williams

Executive Assistant to Head of School

Lisa Woodard

Director of Admissions

Lynn Husvar

Director of Business and 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, Please keep in touch! We welcome hearing what is happening in your life since high school. Look and comment on our Facebook page, www.christianca.com, email alumni@christianca.com, or call (716) 634-4821, x132. Remember that we define our "alumni" as anyone who attended CCA or one of her predecessor schools for at least one year, even if he or she did not graduate from the school. Note AMS for Alden Mennonite School or FCS for Faith Christian School. Non-graduate alumni are identified with an "x" before what would have been their high school graduation year.

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