



# The Academy ADVANTAGE

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

Spring/Summer 2016  
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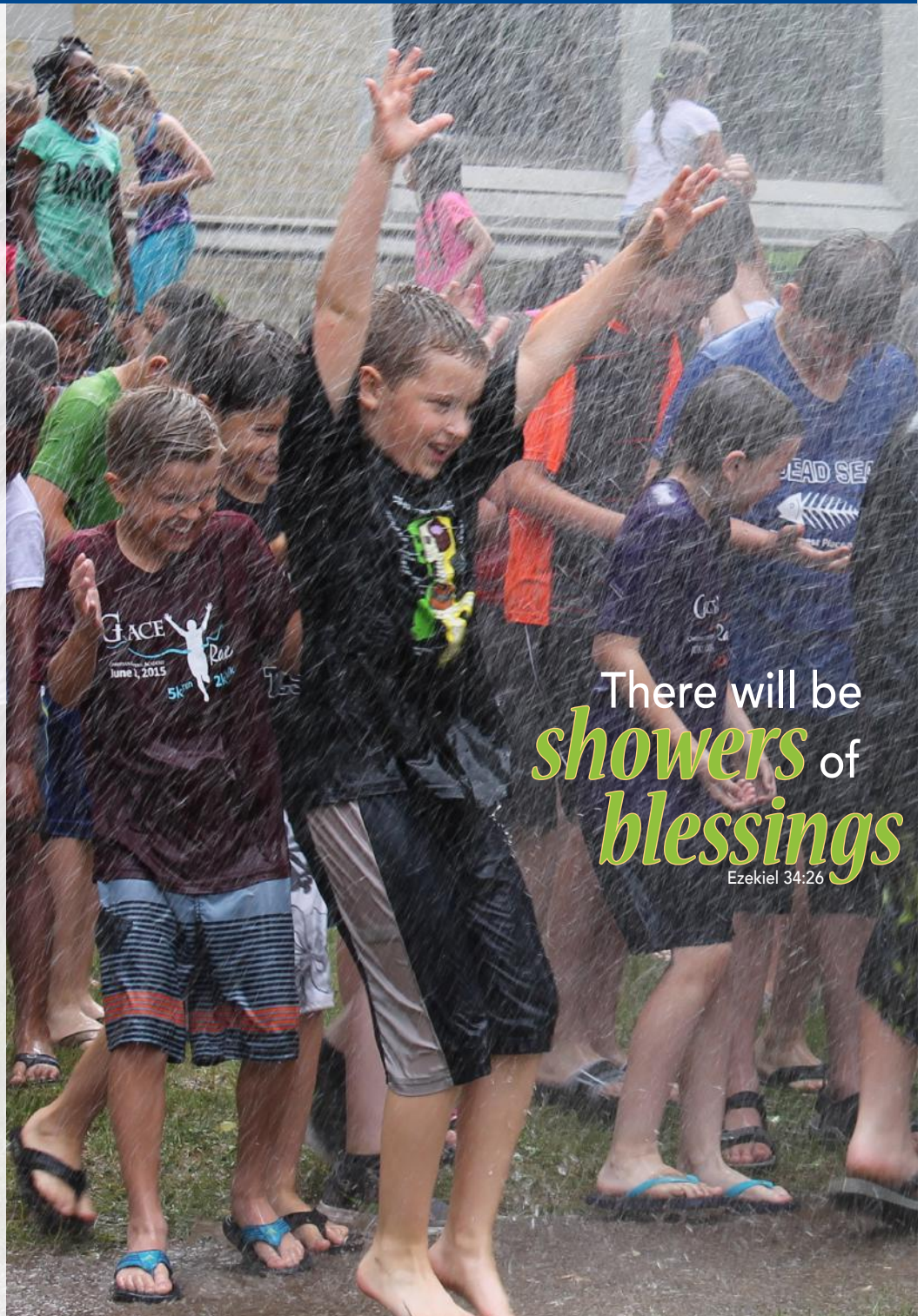
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The Academy Advantage is the newsletter of Christian Central Academy, an independent, Christian, college preparatory school for students in grades K-12. CCA exists to challenge young men and women to know Jesus Christ as Lord; to love others as themselves; 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 (ASCI), 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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# From the Headmaster's Desk

THAD GAEBELEIN

## ***“Fusing Truth with Technology”***

In 1450, Johannes Gutenberg, with the world's first moveable type, launched the world's first information revolution. Interestingly, the Bible was his first printed book. Soon thereafter, an obscure monk, Martin Luther, employing the new technology, disseminated numerous tracts. Among them were his famous 95 theses, nailed to the Wittenberg Cathedral doors, which challenged a corrupt church and launched a reformation. Through such men and nascent technology, God's word was wrested from the grip of cloistered elites and made available to all men.

Technology matters. And as Christians we should not fear it, but embrace it. Today, with the exponential explosion of computer technology, we are in the throes of another information revolution that again is transforming not only our economy, but very lives.

In the past, traditional literacy of reading and writing was enough to participate in Gutenberg's first information revolution. Today, standing on the threshold of our current computer information revolution, a "new literacy," beyond merely reading and writing, will be required of our children. That is computer literacy. Such literacy will go beyond pedestrian tasks such as word processing, spread sheets, and power point presentations to higher order skills such as programing, code writing, and design. Just as a child 100 years ago sounded out and spelled C A T with a piece of chalk on a slate tablet, today a child's fingers will fly across a key board and interact with a HD touchscreen "smart device" tablet.

CCA's past state of technology has become obsolete. No more. I am proud to announce that this coming new academic year, CCA will take a giant step into the technological world. While most schools have "smart boards" in classrooms, CCA will "leap frog" over these schools by installing the latest "next generation" of instructional technology into every classroom.

This summer we have been busy vastly expanding our IT infrastructure and installing the "next generation" technology of huge high definition interactive touch screens into every classroom. These will be wirelessly interactive with any smart device students have. We have already begun the teacher training to maximize the instructional potential.

Such an exciting initiative only compliments our Christian faith and commitment to the integration of faith and learning. In essence, we are putting into the hands of our dedicated Christian teachers and your children the very latest and best technological tools to exponentially enhance your child's learning experience and accelerate their "new literacy" necessary for them to succeed in the future.

As Christians, we should strive for educational excellence, and such a cutting edge initiative we are undertaking is in line with pursuing "Whatever is true. Whatever is noble." (Philippians 4:8) Just as Gutenberg's press first printed the Bible, CCA's fusing of truth and technology only further enhances the revelation of truths in the classroom. And as Christian educators, we rest in the assuredness that "all truth is God's Truth."



### Christ & Excellence

- Excellence in Education is a function of 4 basic fundamentals:
  - 1) School culture, mission, & purpose
  - 2) Class size (the smaller the better)
  - 3) Teacher quality and faith.
  - 4) Instructional tools and resources into the hands of gifted teachers.



On June 10, Mrs. Camille Wade, High School English teacher, demonstrated to a group of parents and Board members how the new technology would be accessed online in her classroom and displayed on brand new flat screen televisions .



Board members, along with select students and parents, were given an opportunity to "take a virtual quiz" using iPads and smartphones. They were able to log into an educational app called Kahoot!, a free and interactive game-based learning platform that makes it fun to learn at any age.



## GALA 2016: "Standing in the Gap"

by Donna Visone, Gala Coordinator

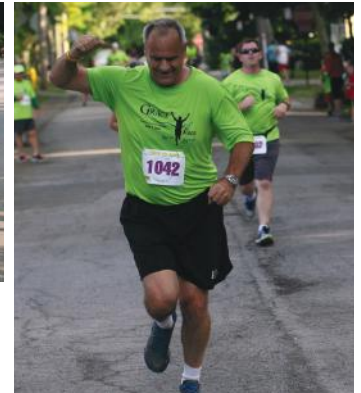
Each year, the Board of Directors at Christian Central Academy invite guests to its biggest event that celebrates Christian education and helps raise funds toward the growth of CCA. On March 12, 2016, we celebrated 21 years of Auction at the Buffalo Niagara Marriott. A praiseworthy night to remember was our focus as we took the great successes of years past and turned the event into a Gala! The evening consisted of silent and live auctions, a delicious dinner, and dancing. The theme this year was "Standing In The Gap," based on Ezekiel 22:30. Headmaster, Thad Gaebelin, delivered an uplifting message about where we stand as individuals and what we can do for our school. 7th grader, Will Barrett, delivered an inspirational message, setting the tone for our final appeal to raise funds for future leaders of tomorrow.

This year, our CCA community took the Gala in a new direction. As the Gala took shape we were able to launch several new initiatives to raise awareness for our school. We showcased our school with a promo video and a "Wish Campaign" that illustrated some of the tangible needs of our school. We were also able to showcase our event by the launching of a new Gala Website. This enabled local businesses and parents to see auction items online, make donations, purchase tickets and/or sponsor a table. We engaged our guests with a custom made "CCA Selfie Station." This Selfie Station will be seen at upcoming events throughout the school in the future. This year's event was a great success both monetarily and relationally.

The most important vision we cast through this year's Gala was our "Servant Heart Campaign." I encourage you to share with me the concept of exchanging the familiar term, "volunteering" for the ideal mindset of a "Servant's Heart." At Christian Central Academy, a "Servant's Heart Approach" derives, not only from a desire to help our school in numerous ways, but in many instances, to fulfill that heartfelt desire to make our school even better. Consider for a moment CCA's strong foundation, and our common desire - to educate CCA's children in a Christ-centered environment. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6 NKJV). Raising and educating children within a Christian worldview requires sacrifice. At times, we all need to dig a little deeper when it comes to supporting our school. CCA's Gala has met its lofty goals now for twenty blessed years. This sacrifice, recognized through the gifts of your time, labor, and financial generosity, demonstrates a "pulling together" of our school and local community. Thank you for another successful year and thanks be to God for blessing our school.

As we close out this school year, we are converging on all this event can do for next year. Please be prayerful in your efforts to consider how you can help make it a great success. Our Gala is a wonderful way for our school to come together and bring to light in our community what we stand for at CCA. It is essential that we keep building the momentum of this event for our future. We are thankful to the Lord that CCA grows on the foundation of perseverance, character, and hope.

My appeal to you is to make next year's Gala even better. I challenge you to begin thinking now how your "Servant Heart" may prayerfully respond to the 2017 Gala needs, whether it be seeking program ads, acquiring auction items, the generous gift of your time, or a monetary donation. This summer, CCA will be hosting engaging and festive gatherings where you will be given the opportunity to share your ideas, networks, and any other initiatives. This will not only showcase our school, but bring our community together as we prepare for another successful year.



## GRACE RACE 2016: Engaging with our Community

by Laurie Henderson, Grace Race Coordinator

On June 7, 2016 Christian Central Academy held the 5th Annual Grace Race 5k run and 2k walk. This event has been a tremendous success in years past and continued to be this year. God was in every detail of the evening! He graciously parted the rain clouds, ushered in the sunshine and gathered the people! The Grace Race has become an event that truly seeks to engage with the community around Christian Central Academy. It is a two-fold event. CCA's staff and faculty, along with students, participated in a fundraising contest leading up to the evening of the race. From the very first year, the Grace Race has been different from other school fundraisers in that it has always given 10% of what was raised to an outside charitable organization. For the second consecutive year, the Grace Race committee unanimously chose to partner with and donate to Operation Worship. This organization works together with Tyndale press to print and distribute free pocket-size Bibles with camouflage covers, along with handwritten messages of encouragement bound inside, to active duty military personnel and their families.

We were honored once again to have Jeff Hilliard, the founder of Operation Worship, at CCA the day of the Grace Race. It is so encouraging to hear Jeff

share all the ways that Operation Worship's Bibles are touching the lives of our service men and women. The Operation Worship ministry has shipped over 1 million Bibles worldwide. The portion of the money raised this year at the Grace Race will help ship another 7,000 Bibles to our military.

The Grace Race takes runners along a certified and sanctioned 5k course through beautiful Williamsville. We also had many families and individuals participate in a 2k walking course along a similar, yet shorter route. The Grace Race was teeming with life and excitement as the Pre-Race and Post-Race parties were full of music, food, face painting and the CCA Selfie Station! Prizes were awarded to many individuals who "Conquered the Climb" up Youngs Road!

This event could not have been a success without the dedicated volunteers that helped each step of the way, from the Kick-Off of the fundraising contest in March to the night of the race in June. Thank you to all who participated in making the Grace Race 2016 the best one yet! As we look toward the 2017 Grace Race with much prayer, I would encourage you to get involved as God leads you and join this great mission!

# Beyond our Backyard

## ON A MISSION!



### IMPROBABLE? NOT WITH GOD...

by Brian Rosman, *Teacher of International Students*

**S**enior James Yang and I went on a trip to China this past Spring. Our top goal was to recruit more international students for CCA. I am happy to inform you that it was a success on many levels, and we are looking forward to educating at least five new students beginning this fall! I also want to share something extraordinarily improbable that happened on this trip.

James is from Xichang. In preparation for this trip, he expressed to me a desire to visit his middle school of over three thousand students. From a recruiting perspective, it was a no-brainer to add Xichang to our agenda. James attended there from 2010-2013. He later decided to follow Jesus during his time here in the states.

From 2008-2010, I lived in a city south of Xichang called Kunming. During that time, I became friends with a woman from Canada named "Lily". I knew that she was an English teacher in China, but I did not know where.

Before traveling to Xichang, we stopped to visit my friend in Chengdu, which is north of Xichang. He told us that Lily lived in Xichang and gave us her number. Shortly after, James and I told a different friend of mine over the phone that we were going to Xichang next. He replied, "Are you going to see Lily?"

Though nothing clicked for James and I the first time we heard Lily's name, something did the second time. James said, "My middle school teacher's name is Lily." Immediately I asked him to show me a picture. He looked up the middle school's website and sure enough it was the same Lily!

It was not long before we were in Xichang eating lunch with her. Discussing the "chances" of the three of us being connected, she said, "With God this is probable." She also said to James, "How does it feel to be the answer to my prayer? I pray that all of my students will one day become Christians."

How does it feel to be connected to a school and a community that is instrumental in reaching international students like James with the Gospel? How does it feel to be connected to a school and a community that God has used to answer the prayer of a woman from the other side of the world in China? How does it feel to be a part of extraordinarily improbable happenings that glorify God? May CCA continue to be led of the Holy Spirit to be all that Jesus died to enable it to be!

### SENIORS MAKE IT TO COSTA RICA!

[ccacostarica2016.blogspot.com](http://ccacostarica2016.blogspot.com)

**T**oday we helped paint a school with help from a few of the teenagers that we hung out with on Saturday. It took a few hours, but the end result was worth all the hard work we put into it. The real moment that made an impact on me was when we had to say goodbye to all of the teenagers that we had become close to. We gave them supplies for school and a few other things. Seeing how happy and appreciative they were for these small gifts brought some of us to tears.

-Hannah Green



**T**his morning was my favorite part of the day. We drove to the city and walked around handing out tracts to the local men and women who were out on the streets. This was an extremely eye-opening experience as we were submerged in the Costa Rican culture and had the opportunity to witness to the people. There were two instances that really

stood out to me today. The first was when I handed a tract to a man and he told me that he already had one, but gladly accepted the tract and told me he would give it to someone he knew. The second was when I had given a tract to another man who was deaf. Although we couldn't properly communicate with each other he still gladly accepted the tract with a big smile on his face and gave me a hug.

-Nathan Opferbeck



**P**erseverance, Character, Hope. Our school motto is being completely experienced by our group. We have been allowed to face challenges the past two days that require us to persevere. Because of the trials that God has placed in our path, we are thankful that Godly character is being developed in all of us. As children, our first response is often to grumble about the things that didn't go the way we had hoped, to point out what went wrong. We can forget to thank God for what went right! Our All Powerful God is in all circumstances and He calls us to be thankful in every circumstance. We're thankful we weren't allowed to fly in an unsafe aircraft for sure. But isn't this what life is all about? Facing challenges and learning to overcome them with grace and be given opportunities to actually put our faith in God. He has provided all we needed - not all we wanted, but always what we needed.

-Mrs. Kristen Guerin, HS Art Teacher/Senior Advisor



Michael Helfrich (grade 4) shows his saxophone skills during the Winter Fest Talent Show.

Anna Parlato (gr. 10), Colin Taylor (gr. 11), Abigail Ruhl (gr. 7), Hannah Green (gr. 12), and Lucian Visone (gr. 12) take the stage and deliver a great performance of "The Curious Savage", a comedy about money and greed, written by John Patrick and directed by Mrs. Jennifer Helfrich.



## ICYMI!

Miss Firth receives compliments from her students, sisters Allison and Faith Gummo (grade 4), during a special Teachers Appreciation Chapel.



Kaylee Burr (grade 4) gets her passport stamped by Perry Martey (grade 8) while visiting his booth during the annual Spanish Fair.



BISON Fund recipients Will Barrett (gr. 7), Addison Christ (gr. 1), and Winston Martey (gr. 5) were guests at the OSC Equipment EXPO and participated in the Community Art Mosaic for the new John R. Oishei Children's Hospital.



Zoey Peloquin (grade 1) picks the perfect cookie for her customer at the First Grade Bake Sale when first graders learn about "goods & services."

Jeson Huff (grade 3) hangs around after school in The Hub, CCA's new after school program, where students can learn, do homework, and have some fun.



"@Nick\_Trippie", made from clear packing tape by Dominick Trippie, Emily D'Amico, and Cara Borrasca decorated the halls.

Pickleball was introduced to high school students during Phys. Ed. and clinics were held for the community on Monday nights in the Emmanuel Athletic Facility.



Samuel Gugliuzza and Elizabeth Ziarniak were voted by their peers in their third grade class to receive the Christian Character Award.

# *Congratulations*

## Valedictorian



**ASIA DANIELS**

Roberts Wesleyan College  
Class Secretary  
NHS



**FAITH DEBERNY**

Oral Roberts University  
Mentor  
NHS



**OLIVIA FARACCA**

Canisius College - Honors Program  
Head Prefect  
NHS



**EMILY MILLER**

Roberts Wesleyan College  
Athletics Prefect  
NHS



**HANNAH GREEN**

Erie Community College  
Admissions Prefect



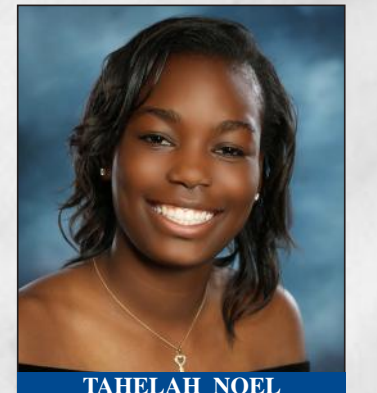
**WILLIAM GUMMO, III**

Erie Community College



**ZACHARY MAYER**

University at Buffalo  
NHS



**TAHELAH NOEL**

Valparaiso University



**DEVON ROGERS**

Fredonia State University



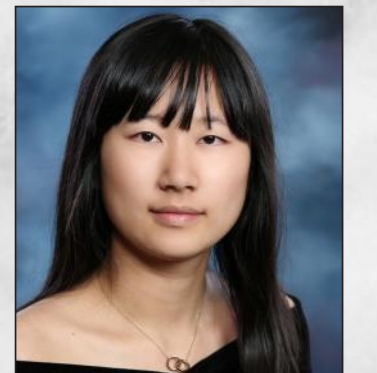
**SARAH RYAN**

United States Merchant Marine Academy  
Class President  
NHS



**NOAH STOCKSLADER**

Manhattanville College  
Mentor



**ERICA TANG**

St. John's University



**TENIA WESLEY**

Southeastern University



**CASEY WOODARD**

Liberty University  
Class Treasurer  
NHS



**ANN YANG**

University of Massachusetts

# Salutatorian

# Class of 2016



**KATELYN SZYMKOWSKI**

Daemen College  
Chaplain Prefect  
NHS



**TIANYI FU**

Pennsylvania State University  
Mentor



**TESS GIOVINO**

Erie Community College



**KLAIRE GOLD**

Liberty University



**NATHAN OPFERBECK**

Erie Community College



**KEVIN NIE**

Rochester Institute of Technology  
NHS



**WILLIAM PRESTON**

University of Pittsburgh at Bradford



**DAVID PUSKAS**

Word of Life Bible Institute  
NHS



**AMANDA TEEPELL**

University at Buffalo  
Class Vice President  
NHS



**LUCIAN VISONE**

University at Buffalo  
Activities Prefect  
NHS



**IRIS WANG**

Drexel University  
NHS



**ANDREW WARNOCK**

Erie Community College  
Disciplinary Prefect



**JAMES YANG**

Purdue University



**CHERYL YUAN**

George Mason University



**JONATHAN ZIEGLER**

Buffalo State College  
NHS



# WINTER ATHLETICS RECAP

## BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL IAC CHAMPS!

The 2016-2017 Boys JV and Varsity Basketball teams will now compete in the MMHSAA.



Christian Central Academy's Boys' Varsity Basketball Team won the IAC Championship against New Life Christian by a score of 79-59. The boys "ran the table" with a 18-4 record which was a first in the basketball program's history.

### Boys' Varsity Basketball

Coach: Sil Dan, Jr.

Buffalo Science	W	79-40	The GOW School	W	98-38
Health Science	L	60-79	Eden Central	W	87-46
Tonawanda HS	W	68-35	Holland Central	W	74-56
West Seneca Christian	W	76-48	Northstar Christian	L	66-81
Emerson HS	W	98-90	Houghton Academy	W	79-35
Archbishop Walsh	L	41-80	Tonawanda HS	W	72-37
Holland Central	W	55-41	Falk School	W	80-24
Niagara Catholic	L	64-69	The GOW School	W	86-38
West Seneca Christian	W	75-48	New Life Christian	W	76-56
New Life Christian	W	87-61	The GOW School	W	97-45
Falk School	W	73-49	New Life Christian	W	79-59



### Girls' Varsity Basketball

Coach: Camille Wade

Grand Island	L	50-58
Tonawanda HS	L	37-48
Nichols	L	49-97
Immaculata	L	9-66
Mt. St. Mary's	L	28-45
Sacred Heart	L	44-80
Northstar Christian	L	54-36
Oracle	W	70-18
Niagara Catholic	W	42-51
Park	W	49-38
Niagara Catholic	L	41-52
Mt. St. Mary's	L	49-58
Oracle	W	71-23
Sacred Heart	L	44-69
Mt. Mercy	L	51-61
Buffalo Seminary	W	53-27
Park	L	41-54
Cardinal O'Hara	L	43-90
Nichols	L	40-78
Nardin	L	36-48
St. Mary's	L	52-59
Buffalo Seminary	L	16-25



### Boys' JV Basketball

Coach: Seth Wittlinger

Tonawanda HS	W	51-35
Emerson	W	44-41
Global Concepts	W	52-50
The Park School	W	73-62
Niagara Catholic	W	58-54
Maritime	W	59-56
Falk School	W	62-35
The GOW School	W	62-23
Williamsville North	L	35-84
Holland Central	W	71-60
Tonawanda HS	W	65-45
Falk School	W	59-25
Newfane	W	61-44
The Park School	L	57-61
The GOW School	W	72-19



### 7/8th Grade Boys' Basketball

Coach: Scott Mariglia

Nardin Academy	W	38-31
Niagara Catholic	L	13-77
St. Augustine	L	27-49
The Park School	W	44-9
Mary Queen of Angel	W	42-18
St. Peter & Paul	W	39-13
St. Gregory's	W	41-18
Christ the King	W	32-24
St. Mary's Lancaster	L	25-27
St. Marys Lancaster	W	38-18
Ss. Peter & Paul	W	43-16
St. Gregory's	W	29-21
St. Mary's Swormsville	W	22-20
The Park School	W	34-16
AYB 6	W	46-22
Christ The King	W	52-26
St. Stephen	W	40-26
OLBS	L	22-27



### 7/8th Grade Girls' Basketball

Coaches: Dennis Mayer  
Henry Shoemaker

St. Greg's	L	21-45
St. Mary's Swormsville	W	31-10
Christ the King	L	23-42
St. Greg's	L	9-42
Ss. Peter & Paul	L	18-31
St. Mary's Swormsville	W	34-18
St. John's	W	28-21
St. Andrew's	W	25-14
Christ the King	W	25-22
Ss. Peter & Paul	L	21-38
St. Amelia's	L	25-42
St. Christopher's	W	37-34
St. John's Alden	L	20-25



### 7th Grade Boys' Basketball

Coaches: Troy Wilson and Ben Patterson

St. Gregory's	L	9-20	Nativity	L	15-30
Ss. Peter & Paul	L	12-20	St. Mary's Lanc.	L	17-38
St. Mary's Lanc.	L	23-29	St. Mary's Sworm.	L	15-39
The Park School	L	14-30			
Ss. Peter & Paul	L	18-39			
Nativity	L	15-36			
Christ the King	L	5-15			

### 5/6th Grade Boys' Basketball

Coach: Tim Fancher

Ss. Peter & Paul	W	24-14	Nichols	W	34-26
St. Amelia Blue	L	19-24	St. Mary's Sworm.	W	28-17
St. Amelia Gold	L	24-26	St. Mary's Sworm.	W	28-26
St. Mary's Sworm.	W	15-14	St. Stephen's	W	25-23
DeSales	L	7-24	Ss. Peter & Paul	W	19-17
Stella Niagara	W	16-15	Stella Niagara	W	19-19
St. Stephen's	W	36-11	Stella Niagara	W	27-21
St. Amelia Gold	W	20-18			



### Boys' Varsity Bowling

Coach: Joe Karnath

Wins: 9 Losses: 39

# SPRING ATHLETICS UPDATE



## Junior Varsity Baseball

Coaches: Pedro Ferrer and Mark Cook

"Special thanks to Ray Hennessy, Mark Cook, Mr. Gaebelein, and Sil Dan for giving me the opportunity to coach." - Pedro Ferrer

Wilson HS	W	15-60	Akron HS	W	21-7
Niagara Catholic	W	8-1	Maritime Charter (Varsity)	L	3-6
Pioneer HS	L	5-6	Niagara Catholic	W	9-2
City Honors (Varsity)	W	12-11	Maritime Charter (Varsity)	L	4-7

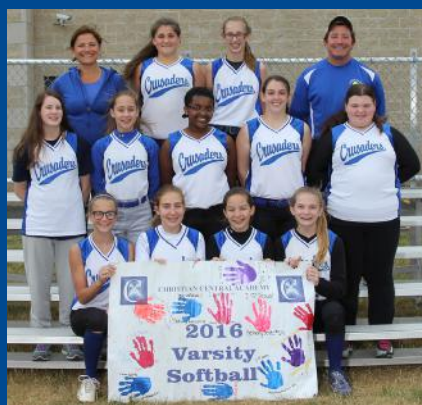


## Junior Varsity Softball

Coaches: Mary Beth Drozda and Paul Kazmierczak

God was very good to this team with great performances, great teamwork and no injuries! Kamryn Lewis led the team in pitching as a fantastic, fierce, force on the mound! Savannah Drozda had a great season at bat with 13 games in the season, hitting 12 home runs, two of them being grand slams. Each of the girls were needed for this successful season, working together to make all their individual GIRL POWER shine!

Sacred Heart	L	1-16	Akron HS	L	7-9
Tapestry	W	23-3	Global Concepts	W	27-2
Nardin	W	12-1	St. Mary's Lancaster	W	14-3
Mt. St. Mary's	L	5-6	Sacred Heart	L	1-8
Nardin	W	11-6	Tapestry	W	10-9
Global Concepts	W	21-2	Mt. St. Mary's	W	11-10
St. Mary's Lancaster	W	15-5			



## Middle School Varsity Softball

"Our Middle School girls practiced and played with the love of Jesus in their heart which led to improvement and success! I am so proud to have coached these wonderful girls. With appreciation and gratitude to our Heavenly Father!" - Tom Drozda

Coaches: Tom Drozda  
Mary Beth Drozda

St. Greg's	W	4-2	St. Greg's	W	10-0
Christ the King	W	5-2	St. Stephen's	W	8-2
Nichols	L	1-8	O.L.V.	W	3-1
St. Stephen's	L	6-7	Nativity (O. Park)	W	8-2
Nichols	W	1-0	St. Christopher's	L	4-5
Christ the King	L	7-9			



## 5/6th Grade Soccer

Student Coaches:  
Harrison Reeds, Cameron Visone,  
and Madeline Emmi

Assistant Coach: Greg Reeds

The 5/6th graders posted a 7-0 record in the WNY Parochial Kickers Soccer League. The team scored 36 goals and allowed nine tallies in the Junior Varsity South Division.

St. Mary's Lancaster	W	4-0	St. Mark's	W	1-0
St. Joseph's	W	8-0	St. Steven's Grand Island	W	4-3
Nativity	W	7-1	St. Mary's Swormsville	W	9-3
St. John the Baptist	W	3-2			



## 3rd/4th Grade Soccer

Coach: Michelle Capitano

Student Coaches: William Gummo, Tahelah Noel, William Preston, David Puskas and Devon Rogers



## 4/5th Grade Softball

Coaches: Sara Burr and Sherry Smyth

*From Kindergarten  
Graduation...*

You're off to  
**GREAT  
PLACES!**

Today is your day!



Tessa Ehret poses with her diploma and Mrs. Martin.



Mrs. Martin's class sings "Trust and Obey."



Matteo Amoia quotes Psalm 31:14-15 after Mrs. Baskinski's class sang "The Prayer."



Joel Hamlin receives his diploma and a kiss from Mrs. Basinski.



The Class of 2016 celebrate the end of a chapter with the traditional tossing of the caps.

*to High School  
Graduation*

Your  
**MOUNTAIN  
is waiting**  
So...get on your  
**WAY!** - Dr. Seuss

Graduate Will Preston hugs his father, William A. Preston, Sr. after speaking to parents, faculty, and staff during a special Chapel for the Seniors and their families.



**FOR WE LIVE BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT:** 2 Corinthians 5:7

by Mr. William A. Preston, Sr., CCA Parent

It was four years ago that my son broke both of his legs here at school and we had no idea what the future held for us at that time. Our faith and the faith of everyone here gave us the hope and encouragement to travel a road that we were unsure of.

There is an old saying of "it takes a village to raise a child" and that's just how Will entered this school. Thanks to the Opferbeck, Gummo and Rogers families for opening their doors: to Mrs. Lawrence, Coach Ellsworth, Miss Prosser and Mrs. Hill for the TOUGH LOVE: to the Main Office and Nurse's Office for all of the "motherly love" and to the teachers I quote William Arthur Ward: "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. BUT - The great teacher inspires." And I believe that's exactly what we have here at CCA...They have been my family's "Village People" so may we give them all a round of applause please. The time has come. A child of Christ entered these doors of CCA, and all of its Villagers have produced and are releasing a man of GOD.

In Deuteronomy 31:8 it states "The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." My Faith ensures me that the Lord will do his part, and many say that a parent should never be their child's friend but I beg to differ. I am my child's friend but it is spelled P-H-R-E-N-D...meaning:

- P - Parent first
- H - Hated at times
- R - Respected always
- E - Ever loving
- N - Nurturing
- D - Demanding this is a life-long, non-negotiable contract

"To the world you are just one person, but to one person you are the World." Ladies and Gentlemen, My World: William A. Preston Jr. I have always and forever will love you.

# GIVING Opportunities

THE ANNUAL FUND

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Would you like to help in *Fusing Truth with Technology* as described on page 2? You can do so by completing and mailing in the form below or by contacting Lisa Woodard, Director of Advancement at [lwoodard@christianca.com](mailto:lwoodard@christianca.com).

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*Fusing Truth with Technology*

**Project Reboot**

Christian Central Academy  
39 Academy St. | Williamsville, NY  
[christianca.com](http://christianca.com)

## ALUMNI

**Naomi Spencer (2005)** majored in English with a minor in history at Spring Arbor University in Michigan, where she graduated with honors in 2009. She began working at The Bee Group Newspapers, first as a reporter and then, once she was promoted, as an editor. After six years at The Bee Newspapers, Naomi moved on to Praxair in Tonawanda, where she worked for just a few months as a technical writer. New York State Assemblyman Robin Schimming, who represents the Tonawandas and Kenmore, hired Naomi in January as his communications director.

**Austin Tom (2011)** graduated from Medaille College in 2015. After two seasons of injuries (Sophomore and Junior years), the Lord allowed Austin to remain healthy during his senior year achieving:

- NSCAA 1st Team Regional All-American - Soccer
- NSCAA 3rd Team All-American - Scholar
- AMCC All-Tournament Team (both regular season tournaments)
- Golden Boot Winner (Team leader in goals)
- Upper90 DIII player of the year

Austin signed his first professional contract with the Syracuse Silver Knights of the Major Arena Soccer League for the 2015-2016 season. On January 10, he scored his first professional goal in Flint, Michigan, a game winner with 18 seconds left in the game, to clinch 2nd place for the Knights in the Eastern Division playoffs. Austin finished his rookie season with ~16 appearances and 3 goals. Austin has played soccer in 21 states and 5 countries outside the US.

"I enjoyed playing professional soccer for the Knights, I look forward to playing in the 2016-2017 season, Lord willing. I thank all my CCA teachers and coaches for helping to mold me into the man and player that I have become; Coach Leslie Cook, Coach Nate Hill, Coach Kevin McNamara and especially Coach Jimmy Vandenberg." - Austin Tom



# CHRISTIAN CENTRAL ACADEMY

*K-12 College Preparatory School*

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 3448  
BUFFALO, NY

39 Academy Street  
Williamsville, NY 14221

## UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

**HOMECOMING**  
September 24, 2016

### 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) even if he or she did not graduate from the respective school.

Stay connected with Christian Central Academy by forwarding your news to:  
Lisa Woodard, Director of Advancement  
Christian Central Academy  
39 Academy Street, Williamsville, NY 14221

### ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Graduate of CCA | Grad. Year: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Non-Graduate | Years Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

News and Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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You may submit your alumni news and note via website by clicking the Alumni tab at [www.christianca.com](http://www.christianca.com).

The Academy Advantage and archives of past newsletters may be viewed on the CCA website: [christianca.com](http://christianca.com)  
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