

CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

# School Newsletter

December 2010/January 2011

## From the Principal's Desk:

Dear Parents,

I'm writing today to update you on our progress and success toward achieving the mandate given to us by Bishop Hurley, Fr. Stasker, our School Board, parents, and alumni.

As we begin to feel the excitement of the upcoming holiday season, let me first look back on what has been a special fall.

In August we welcomed 290 members of the Classes of 2014, one of the best academically prepared freshman classes on to our campuses. In November over 700 seventh and eighth graders from area middle/partner schools visited the two campuses to familiarize themselves with our programming and to assist them in making their high school plans.

Although it is our clear objective to attract well-prepared, motivated and faith-filled students we are also committed to doing much more to set ourselves apart from other options available to them, such as:

\*Our Catholic high school students and faculty are currently participating in their annual Thanksgiving food/clothing drives.

\*Our students volunteer hundreds of hours of service to their faith communities, our city and throughout the world.

\*Preparations are being made for a joint-school alternative spring break mission trip to Haiti.

\*Students participated in a joint performance of *Dead Man Walking* in October.

\* Catholic Central recently welcomed Fr. Heyd from the Arch-Diocese of Chicago and Priests for Life who spoke to students in religion classes about current events within the Right to Life movement.

\* West Catholic recently welcomed seminarians to speak to students on vocations.

Our fall athletic teams won conference titles in boys' tennis (CC), girls' volleyball (WC), and football (WC); district titles in football (both) and girls' volleyball (WC); and regional titles in football (both). The Cougars and Falcon football teams competed in the football state semi-finals within their respective divisions. Both teams brought home state titles after competing in the state finals at Ford Field Thanksgiving weekend in Detroit. WC girls swim team sent eleven swimmers and CC swim team sent ten swimmers to compete at the State meet.

On Sunday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> we inducted 48 new members into the National Honor Society.

Each year, Michigan public institutions of higher education with five or more of our graduates provide us with reports on the performance of our students relative to the rest of their student bodies. To date we have received reports from MSU, CMU, and NMU. Our graduates at MSU had an average ACT score of **26** versus a 24.6

### Important Phone Numbers

Main Office: 233-5899  
Attendance: 233-5812  
Guidance Office: 233-5810  
Athletic Office: 233-5898  
Business Office: 233-5976



Tom Maj, **Principal**

Greg Deja, **Associate Principal**

Heidi Clark-Smitley, **Director of Guidance**

Todd Kolster, **Athletic Director**

Kathryn Walsh, **Campus Minister**

Mary Ottenwess, **Technology Director**

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average for “all other students.” At CMU, our graduates had an average ACT score of **24** versus an average of 22 for all others. And at NMU, our graduates had an average ACT score of **24.5** versus 21.8 for all others. Equally important is the retention rate from freshman to sophomore year. Our graduates returned at a rate of over 90%, which significantly exceeded the average at all schools. These reports are helpful in providing us the data we need to quantify the value of a Catholic education. They also provide evidence of the strength of our academic program through the performance of our graduates in their first year of college. Our faculty and staff are proud of them and look forward to communicating our success to the broader community.

Each year, we look for ways to recognize our faculty for their accomplishments and hard work. It is often believed that a teacher’s influence is latent and perhaps never known. In an effort to buck that trend, I’m happy to report on recent professional recognitions bestowed upon our faculty by their peers in higher education. **Mike Reynolds**, WC science instructor, was honored by Hope College as an “influential teacher” through the recommendation of a former WC graduate and current Hope student. The University of Chicago recognized **Sr. Robert Ann Erno**, CC Math Department Chair, with its “Outstanding Educator” award. From the College Board, Mary **Van-Heest**, CC Social Studies Department Chair, and **Cynthia Kneibel**, WC Social Studies Department Chair, have been recognized for their contributions as advanced placement readers. Through the generous support of Armand Oumedian and the Grand Rapids Foundation, WC Science Department Chair, **Tim Nawrocki**, and his pre-engineering students have completed the construction of a wind turbine for use in reducing electricity costs at WC. We are proud of our entire faculty for their dedication to teaching and their academic leadership.

These are just a small sampling of the many contributions that our faculties are making that hold promise for our students and community. This group of talented men and women come together every day as a community of educators, devoted to educating our students, enriching their lives, and improving our community. For all and to all we are grateful for their work.

Additionally, it is the level of involvement of the many volunteers, alumni, pastors, and parents of our schools that is a tremendous source of pride for us and is what makes our schools strong and unmatched in potential.

Supporting those efforts are our Business Office, Advancement Department, and School Board. Our Business Manager, Jennifer Lahey, continues to guide the two schools toward solvency and fiscal responsibility. Our Advancement Department is creating a new model for engaging our alumni, communicating with our various stakeholders, and increasing our development efforts through the Annual Appeal, Auctions, and special events.

Our facilities are improved, maintained, and funded by leveraging our purchasing power as an organization. To date, all maintenance work is current, with scheduled maintenance plans in place.

Catholic Central Advisory group is working with me to develop an enrollment plan and will be reviewing our campus for facility improvements. The West Catholic Advisory group is preparing for its’ 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

All of these efforts and achievements started with the development of our strategic plan and new Mission and Vision Statements adopted by the School board this past August, which is supported by our financial plan and helps drive the physical plan. The School Board’s work is enabling us to prepare for the future, to look at the possible and to take advantage of the resources provided to us. I appreciate their counsel and respect their contribution in helping us formulate our strategic plans for the future.

By accomplishing our many near-term goals concurrently over the past several months, we were able to ensure that our progress accelerated generally. As our two high schools move forward, we will continue to pursue deeper partnerships with our parents, alumni, community, institutions of higher education and parishes.

While it is hard to calculate the aggregate value our schools provide to students and the Grand Rapids community, we understand that our value comes from people; thus moving forward, we are determined to make these partnerships a defining characteristic of our schools.

Lastly, Fr. Stasker and I have begun a dialogue with our pastors and in doing so came to recognize that the need for a common conversation has never been more acute. We will continue to seek their input and I ask for your

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Prayers as we continue to strengthen that bridge.

As you may come to see, our schools are places of commitment and unlimited promise. The faculty and staff have a strong sense of purpose, yet an understanding that there is still a lot of work to be done. This is neither a time for disinterest, nor do we have the luxury of passively waiting for “someone else” to do our work, so we will continue to look to you for guidance and support.

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I want to express my gratitude for your support and confidence in us. We wish you and your families a joyous, relaxing, and happy holiday season.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Thomas Maj

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## From the Associate Principal

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The natural cycle of the school year has put us in one of the most important times of the calendar year: the holiday season. It is in this time that we “re-center” our lives and reflect on our priorities. I hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving weekend by celebrating your blessings with loved ones and are anticipating the special season of Advent before us.

We celebrated Thanksgiving mass together as a Catholic Central family on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our collection of clothes, health products, and food was distributed to many people less fortunate than us shortly afterwards. As we prepare for the season of Advent, we continue to participate in our annual Christmas Families project through St. Andrew’s Cathedral. We are so proud of our families for your response to these efforts. These events are more detailed in Kathie Walsh’s Campus Ministry article in this newsletter.

As we look to the future we continue to make every effort to bolster our academic program. Our faculty continues to engage in professional dialogue about their content and pedagogy and how their daily approach shapes the habits of our students. We have recently undergone professional development to improve instruction and support a reputable, accredited education in which students are challenged to think more critically. Many of our teachers are becoming quite skillful integrating their new multi-faceted Brightlink projectors into their lessons, keeping current with the ever-changing role of technology in education. Perhaps even more gratifying, our faculty and staff continue to collaborate and mentor each other in their particular area of expertise. The results of all these pursuits are felt in the classroom and can be seen throughout campus.

Additionally, we are most pleased to announce that Sister Robert Ann has been nominated for the University of Chicago’s Outstanding Educator Award. According to a letter of commendation from James Nondorf, Vice President for Enrollment, this award has existed for thirty years. He writes, “Each year, we receive letters back from hundreds of students, inspired by teachers who have literally changed the course of their lives, who taught them to re-imagine texts, to delve deeper into problem-solving, and to think beyond the borders of the classroom in the pursuit of their own education.” He continues by saying the University of Chicago is “heartened” that Catholic Central fosters and supports this type of environment. Congratulations to Sister and the rest of the faculty on their outstanding work.

I hope that the spirit of the season fills you and your loved ones with peace and joy. Please keep us in your prayers during the holidays; be assured you will be in ours.

Sincerely,

Greg Deja,  
Associate Principal

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## CHRISTMAS FAMILIES



We will have 34 Christmas families. 28 fifth hour classes will be serving the families. All of the families are going to be from this area of Grand Rapids (or close by). We're encouraging 100% participation from all classes! Students can start stocking up on household supplies, toiletries, and any other general items now. If parents would like to become involved or help out, please feel free to contact Ms. Cheryl Roede. Paper work with more information on Christmas families will be distributed soon. The delivery will take place on Tuesday December 21st from 10:30 - 11:30am.

**Exams** are January 18 through January 21. All obligations are to be discharged by that date: library fines, uniforms, detentions, tuition balances, text book, etc. Students may be held out of exams if they have any debts.



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## Attention: Parents of the Class of 2011!

**Very Important MANDATORY Meeting Regarding the Senior All Night Party held on:  
Monday, January 17, 2010 at 7 PM in the CC Cafeteria**

A few reminders about the Meeting for the All Night Party (Party will be held immediately following graduation)

There will be important forms to be completed and signed.

We will be collecting money to cover some of the costs of the party.

We want your photos!! Start collecting your favorite photos of your son's or daughter's years at Catholic Central for a DVD we're creating. The DVD will be shown during the Senior All Night Party.

Thank you to all the parents for organizing a GREAT Fundraiser and to all who participated with their purchase of holiday pies, wreaths and poinsettias. We are well on the way for raising the significant funds to host this event. However, if you or your company could possibly send a cash donation to help us meet our budget and also help out students who will need financial assistance to attend the All Night Party, we would greatly appreciate it. More details and information on all of this will be given out at the meeting.

**SEE YOU THERE!**

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# Guidance Office News

## Testing-

Counselors will be distributing the Explore, PLAN and PSAT reports prior to Christmas break. Please take a few minutes to review your student's results.

## Student meetings-

In December the counselors will be meeting with **Freshmen** during Religion classes to teach personal success strategies such as goal-setting, academic skills, and introductory career exploration.

Looking ahead to February, **Sophomores** will meet with counselors to complete further career exploration (more details in future newsletters) as well as review academic goals. The Guidance Department goal is to help students understand their academic achievement as it relates to skills and values necessary for choosing higher education and eventually, a career.

Currently, **Junior** conferences are taking place with the counselors. The purpose of these individual meetings is to discuss post-secondary plans like the college search. Each Junior should meet with his/her counselor before the end of January. Parents are welcome to attend and should contact the Guidance Office, 233-5810, to schedule a meeting in advance.

Lastly, **Seniors** will meet with recent WC alumni to learn about the transition to college. The counselors will host this 'Breaking Away' session prior to Christmas break.

## ACT prep-

**Juniors** are encouraged to register for the February 12 ACT administration at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). It is optional for students to participate in prep classes - please watch the school announcements online for various workshops advertised in the GR area.

**At CC, a two-part workshop is scheduled afterschool for Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>/ Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Parents may sign up their students on a first come-first served basis by calling Mrs. Waldron at 233-5810 or e-mailing at [suewaldron@grcss.org](mailto:suewaldron@grcss.org). The cost including the instructor and materials will be approx. \$80.00; partial scholarships will be available.

## Financing higher education-

As the final admissions applications are submitted, **Seniors** can be working independently on scholarship searches through several search engines including [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com), [www.TuitionFundingSources.com](http://www.TuitionFundingSources.com) and [www.FindTuition.com](http://www.FindTuition.com). There is no need to pay for any scholarship search services. Lists of scholarships are also available in the Guidance office.

*As a reminder, Seniors should tell the Guidance office when they have received an admissions decision from the colleges as well as any scholarship offers being made. NOTE: This information is crucial for school record-keeping and is not dependent on whether a student matriculates to a particular institution or accepts the scholarship monies.*

Also, parents of Seniors are advised to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid on-line at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) AFTER January 1<sup>st</sup>. Parents and students may get their special pin number at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) Some colleges may require additional financial information by having families fill out the CSS/Profile at [www.profileonline.collegeboard.com](http://www.profileonline.collegeboard.com). **We will be hosting a financial aid workshop with speaker, Dave Steffee, Director of Financial Aid (AQ) on January 10<sup>th</sup> at Cathedral Square, 6:30 p.m. for seniors and their parents.**

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## From the Campus Minister:

Dear Catholic Central Family,

Our Thanksgiving Drive this year was very successful. We asked students to commit to bring in at least one item of clothing and one food item, aiming for 100% participation in each 1<sup>st</sup> hour class. Mr. Kennedy's 1<sup>st</sup> Hour freshmen class collected all the items and we divided them and kept them in the cafeteria for all to see the amount of donations we had to give to the Cathedral Outreach Center (clothing) and the Downtown Churches' Food Pantry (Food). Our Thanksgiving Drive has traditionally been to benefit our neighbors in the Heartside Neighborhood. The collection bins were overflowing! We celebrated our Thanksgiving Mass on the Tuesday before the holiday. Our celebrant for this Mass was Fr. Tom Tavella, CSP from St. Andrew's Cathedral.

After Thanksgiving, we jump into ADVENT. Our Theme for Advent is "WE JOURNEY TOWARD SALVATION ON FOOTSTEPS OF PRAYER AND GOOD WORKS." We will be praying together hour by hour during every school day with an hourly prayer book that all the teachers will have that has a special Advent theme and hourly prayer for each day of Advent.

We will begin Christmas families during the first week of December. Mrs. Mary Hanks and Mrs. Cheryl Roede and Student Congress are coordinating Christmas Families this year. Every 5<sup>th</sup> Hour class will receive information about a family that has been screened by the Cathedral of St. Andrew. Most are members from the parish, many are Hispanic, some have not lived in the area for very long. The need is great and we need your help. Most of you probably met your student's 5<sup>th</sup> hour teacher, so you will be familiar with the person coordinating your student's Christmas Family. We will be delivering on the morning of December 21, after Mass, and we must have adult drivers for every family. On December 21 we will gather for our traditional Advent/Christmas Mass which precedes the delivery of Christmas Families. This activity is one of the Catholic Central traditions that I love the most!

On December 8 we will commemorate Mary's Immaculate Conception. With this feast we are reminded that Mary was conceived without sin. Bishop Walter Hurley will be joining us as the celebrant of this feast day Mass. Our Reconciliation Service has been changed to **Thursday, December 16.**

Many of our students are signing up for all the service opportunities this season. They still seem to find time to meet the needs of others although we all know they too are living very busy lives. God bless them!

We will be offering Eucharistic Minister Training in early January. Fr Tom Tavella, CSP from the Cathedral, along with Dennis Rybicki and I will be training confirmed juniors and seniors who are interested in becoming Eucharistic Ministers. This training is designed for high school students and emphasizes Eucharistic theology and the History of the Eucharist as well as the rubrics of distribution of the Sacred Body and Blood. Students can still Eucharistic Minister at our school liturgies if they have been trained in their Parish for this ministry. We do ask for a phone call or note from someone at the Parish notifying of the training. The training will be from 3:15 to 5:30 and we will serve pizza at 5:30 for those students who wish to stay for the "supper" after. We will be signing students for the training after Thanksgiving.

Catholic Schools Week will be at the beginning of February. It is always fun to celebrate who we are after we have gone through the stress of exams. Fr Lou Stasker will be the celebrant at our Catholic Schools Mass. Fr. Tom Tavella, CSP will also join us and will commission the new Eucharistic Ministers at this Mass.

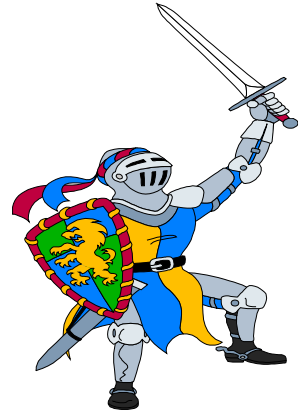
God bless you and your families during this Advent season. Liturgically, it is a season of waiting and preparing. I hope you can make the time to prepare spiritually and take advantage of all the wonderful readings and activities throughout this season. Many parishes have evening services during the week, some families try to have a prayer time every evening around an Advent wreath. Find some time together. Please keep those who are lonely, sick, and mourning in your prayers. I will remember all of you in my Advent and Christmas prayers. Thank you again for your children and all you give and do for our school.

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## Music Department News

There are many exciting things happening in the Music Department during December and January. Here are some of the highlights:

**The Fifteenth Annual Madrigal Dinner** will be held December 10th and 11th at 6:00pm and December 12 at 2:00pm in the Wege Ballroom of Aquinas College. The Madrigal Dinner is an amazing dinner theater experience set in the Medieval period. The students of the Choral Department will entertain you with their beautiful singing, great acting and many other fantastic talents! Tickets are available through the Main Office for \$25.00. The deadline for tickets is December 6th. Look for more information in this newsletter or contact the Main Office.



The Music Department presents their annual **Christmas Concert** on December 14 at 7:00pm in the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. This beautiful concert will feature our Concert Band as well as our many Choral ensembles. This is one of our most popular concerts of the entire year. Please join us! This is a free concert, open to all!

This year, the Music Department proudly presents **Guys and Dolls** for our Spring All-School Musical presented on March 23—26. This exciting piece of musical theater will amaze audiences with intricate choreography and, of course, great singing! Auditions will be held the week of December 13-17. Please have any interested students see Mr. Rybicki for information.



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## March for Life Trip to Washington D.C.

**January 22-25, 2011**

The Office for Family, Youth, and Young Adults is offering the opportunity for high school age young people in the Diocese of Grand Rapids to participate in the annual March for Life in Washington DC.



The program includes participating in the annual national Youth Rally and Mass for Life hosted by the Archdiocese of Washington DC at the Verizon Center, an evening program at the National 4-H Center featuring Jesse Manibusan, and Mass at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Busses leave from Cathedral Square on Saturday, January 22 at **7:00pm** and arrive back at Cathedral Square on Tuesday, January 25 at **7:00a.m.** **See Mr. Robert Hanson for information.**

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# Madrigal Dinner

The Catholic Central Choral Department  
Invites You to Experience  
The Fifteenth Annual  
Madrigal Dinner

The Catholic Central Choral Department requests your attendance  
within the ballroom of the Wege Center of Aquinas College  
on December 10th and 11th at 6:00 PM and Sunday, December 12th at 2:00 PM.

Tickets are \$25.00 for Dinner at the time of reservation.

Gallery seating is available for \$10.00. Ticket will go on sale on Monday, November 22. Please contact the fair  
Maids in the Main Office for ticket information.

Our most humble apologies for limited seating. There is no refund for unused tickets.

Come and see why this production is the longest running Madrigal  
performance in West Michigan.



Madrigal Dinner is a festive way to welcome in the Holiday Season.

The Procession of Singers through the Hall

The Hoisting of a Sparkling Toast from the Wassail Coppes

The Serving of the hearty meal:

Greene Leafe Salade, Bread Loafe, Breast of Chickene, Ribs of Porke, Red Botato, Cob o' Corn

Serenading of Minstrels and Recorder Consort at your table.

Procession of Servants with Dessert of scrumptious Pie.

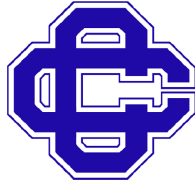
Pleasing of the Crowd by Magicians, Carolers, Knights, Dancers and Sword play.

This year's production is "Who's behind the shrub".

Come join us in the banquet hall for the Heraldry of Musicians, entertainment of Actors and Madrigal Singers  
celebrating the Yule Tide Season with Song.

You may also enjoy the Madrigal Marketplace!

Holiday baskets are up for auction during the evening festivities.



## ATHLETICS

December 2010

**Congratulations to our Football Program for winning the 2010 State Championship!!** It is the first Football State Championship since 1987. Congratulations to the players, coaches, trainers, parents and community members for a memorable season.

### Winter Sports Feature:

This winter we are hosting the Boys Basketball Holiday Tournament at Catholic Central. The Girls Holiday Tournament will be hosted by West Catholic. It will be a great chance to come out and see four great schools battle on the court over the holiday season. The teams in Girls Holiday Tournament are: GR. Catholic Central, West Catholic, (Flint) Luke M. Powers Catholic and Saginaw Nouvel Catholic Central. The teams in the Boys Holiday Tournament are: GR. Catholic Central, West Catholic, Saginaw Nouvel Catholic Central and Hastings. Tickets will be on sale at the gate the day of the event.

### Athletic Boosters:

Please come out and be part of our exciting Athletic Booster Club. This hard working group of people are helping make our student-athlete's experience better each day. They have clear goals of building the best experience for our kids and helping form a better social network as well.

### Team Schedules:

Please visit the website, [www.highschoolsports.net](http://www.highschoolsports.net), for up-to-date information for all our teams. At the website, the "Schedules" have cancellations and other information. The "Schedule" item allows you to select a view showing all athletic events for a week, a month, or a season schedule for any team. These features are to improve communication with you.

### Vacation time:

Parents, if you have a family activity that conflicts with practices or games, please discuss directly with the coach as soon as possible. Our policy is covered in the school handbook. Athletic season dates are known well in advance and can be provided by calling the Athletic Office at 233-5898.

**Review the CC Handbook** you received last August. The Athletic section provides guidance regarding academic, student conduct, and health requirements to maintain eligibility for school sports.



### Holiday Gift Ideas:

**Happy Holidays from CougarGear!** Can't figure out what to get your student or CC fan for Christmas? How about CC Cougargear. We carry many items for your discerning Cougar. We have Vests, Hooded Sweatshirts, T-Shirts, Baseball Hats, Youth Sweatshirts & T-Shirts. Cougargear can be purchased by e-mailing Julie Helm at [helmj251@gmail.com](mailto:helmj251@gmail.com) (Correction)

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CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

# Macbeth

January 13-15 and 21-22, 2011

"Fair is foul  
and foul is fair."



*Shakespeare's classic tale of a good man who succumbs to the temptations of pride and greed and faces the tragic consequences of his actions will come to life on the stage at the Performing Arts Center at Aquinas College on January 13, 14, 21, and 22 at 7:30pm and January 21 and 22 at 3:00pm. This is the eleventh season for the Catholic Secondary Schools' sponsorship of this cooperative activity which combines the students of Catholic Central and West Catholic in the cast. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for students. Tickets will be available through the box office at Aquinas beginning January 3. Reserve yours by calling: 456-6656. Tickets will also be available at the door. Make your plans to show your support for the programs of both of the high schools by attending a performance.*



## Heart of the City

The Catholic Central Auction will be held March 12, 2011 at the Catholic Central Gymnasium at 319 Sheldon Mall SW, Grand Rapids, MI. The theme this year is “Heart of the City”, placing emphasis on the role Catholic Central has in Grand Rapids, the schools location, and the leaders and community members of the city that have “CC” emblazoned on their hearts. When Catholic Central was founded in 1906, the school was truly at the center of the city. The auction will feature a fun evening for everyone! Dinner will be served, there will be many items on which you can bid, and all proceeds go directly to Catholic Central High School. To make this important event come together, we need your help! Whether you can assist in gathering gifts for bidding, have a knack for decorating, or want to lend a hand on the night of the event with check out, we want to hear from you. Have a Heart! Lend a Hand!

Information can be found at [www.wearecc.org](http://www.wearecc.org), or by contacting Christine at 616-233-5816.

## Incoming Freshmen

If you know of someone who is interested in attending Catholic Central next fall, pass along this information. Our next High School Placement Test (HSPT) is scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup> at Cathedral Square. This step is the first step in applying to Catholic Central. All our Admissions documents can be found on line at [www.grcatholiccentral.org/Admissions](http://www.grcatholiccentral.org/Admissions) and any questions can be answered by calling Christine O’Driscoll 616-233-5816.

## Alumni and Parents of Alumni

We are trying to find you! Have you received the Alumni News Magazine or an email newsletter from the Advancement Team? If not, you’re missing out. We are implementing new ways of communication to keep you in touch with Catholic Central. Contact Tammy at [tammydykema@grcss.org](mailto:tammydykema@grcss.org) to update your contact information and “be in the know”.

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## We Care:

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**We Care** was formed in the early 1980's and has supported many different activities since that time. We try to respond to the changing needs of families and students. Direct participation in the WE CARE activities has always been strong, as evidenced by the large number of parents that participate in We Care sponsored events.

**We Care** would like to thank Randi Wilson for chairing the dinner for teachers during conferences, and the Wilson family (for set-up & clean up), and everyone that donated food. We had many compliments from the teachers, and they greatly appreciated your efforts and hard work.

**We Care** would like to thank Kim Cook for her wonderful work as treasurer for the past few years. She will be greatly missed. We would also like to thank Michelle Brady for stepping into a new role as treasurer for We Care. We are excited to have her help and ideas.

***We Care** provides safe social experiences for the students of CC and encourages networking between parents. Experience has taught us that when parents know each other, kids are safer. In addition, the parents have fun, too. Here is some info on up-coming parent socials designed to help you meet other parents of students in your child's class. Any money that is raised goes towards that class's senior all night party.*

**Freshman Parent Party:** *Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Grand Rapids Firefighters Hall on Fuller and Knapp. Contact Judy Serba at 456-8873 if you would like to help, donate something, or for more information.*

**Sophomore Parent Party:** *Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in the basement of St. Thomas. Please contact Tracy Bandlow at 452-8314 if you would like to help with the party or for more information.*

**Junior Class-TBA** *(We are currently looking for someone to step up and chair).*

**Thank you** *to the Catholic Central community for all of your help, donations, and work the first half of this year. All of us at We Care would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, safe New Year.*

Sincerely,

Russ Armock, President-We Care

