



CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

# School Newsletter

February/March 2012

## From the Principal's Desk:

Dear Parents,

Many of you know the first week in February is established as **National Catholic Schools Week**, though I have challenged the staff recently to ponder the nature of this week. What is its aim? Is this week established solely for our internal community to rejoice in the gift of Catholic education? Does this week seek to celebrate the faith and the rigor of our programs, to pat ourselves on the back per se? Is this week just an opportunity to acknowledge the substantial sacrifices of those involved in our community? Our parents? Our faculty? Our benefactors? Or, is National Catholic Schools Week some sort of peculiar juxtaposition of ministry and marketing to those not terribly familiar with the value of Catholic education? As Catholics, what is our response to this week?

Personally, I am hoping this week brings an internal satisfaction from our families and a more public celebration from our community. This combination suggests it is not only valuable for our students to deepen their faith, broaden their knowledge, cultivate discipline, and develop their moral conscience, but it is equally important for them to transfer these virtues as adults to transform the world. And, be recognized for doing so. Our students and alumni have a rich history of contributing to the greater good all over the globe, and CSW is an appropriate time for us to celebrate. Details of Catholic Central's celebration of Catholic Schools Week are outlined later in the newsletter. On behalf of all of us at Catholic Central, thank you for doing your part in making CC worth celebrating every week of the year.

Congratulations are due to senior **Jessica Wojtczak**, as she has been named a Semifinalist in the 71<sup>st</sup> annual Intel Science Talent Search. This is the nation's oldest and most prestigious pre-college science competition. Jessica is one of 300 semifinalists out of 1,839 entrants, and each Semifinalist receives an award of \$1,000 from the Intel Foundation with an additional \$1,000 coming to our school. We know Jessica will have remarkable opportunities to showcase her talents in the future, and Catholic Central could not be more proud of her.

Please **mark your calendars** for the upcoming events:

February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Sno-Shuffle Dance 8-11pm in the gymnasium
February 17-20 <sup>th</sup>	Mid-Winter Break
	2/20 is the "All A's" day off-school resumes Tuesday 2/21
March 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup>	Parent/Teacher Conferences 6-8:30pm in the gym
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	No School - Professional Development
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter

I am **reminding our returning families to enroll no later than March 1**, submitting both the completed Tuition Contract forms and the \$100 (per family) enrollment fee to the Business Office. Families who do not complete the enrollment process by March 1 will be assessed an additional amount in enrollment fees for a total of \$400\*, per a recent policy passed by the CSS School Board. To date, 173 eighth graders from the greater Grand Rapids area took the High School Placement Test for Catholic Central. The admissions committee is processing applications, and we anticipate a strong incoming freshmen class in 2012. As we look to next year it is important that all families of new and returning students follow the timelines for enrollment (Business Office), registration (Guidance Office), and tuition assistance (Business Office). Information on enrollment and tuition grants have been mailed out, and we apologize for the delay in receiving this important paperwork.

I look forward to a great second semester, and thank you for your continuous support and prayers.

In Christ,

Greg Deja

### Important Phone Numbers

Main Office: 233-5899  
 Attendance: 233-5812  
 Guidance Office: 233-5810  
 Athletic Office: 233-5898  
 Business Office: 233-5981



Greg Deja, **Principal**

Brian Flynn, **Dean of Students**

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

Todd Kolster, **Athletic Director**

Dennis Rybicki, **Campus Minister**

Mary Ottenwess, **Technology Director**

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## From the Dean of Students

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The Sno-Shuffle Dance is February 11, 2012 from 8:00 pm until 11:00 pm in the Gym. Students are to arrive no later than 9:00 pm. This dance is semi-formal. Everyone is to be in dress shoes and ladies are to have modest necklines and dress lengths.

As we get closer to Spring Break please support our policy concerning foreseeable absences:

If a student is to be absent for an extended time other than illness, (i.e. vacation, trip):

- A parent receives permission from the principal at least one week in advance.
- The student will then receive an authorization form from the Main Office. The student must have each of his/her teachers sign the form at least three days in advance.
- All assignments must be submitted on an agreed upon date between the student and his/her teachers.

NOTE: These absences are strongly discouraged.

Absences: Remaining informed of absent students' whereabouts is of importance in our commitment to student' safety and well being. Therefore, on the day of absence we ask that a parent/guardian call the attendance office (233-5812) by 10:00 am. Messages can be left on the school's voice messaging system.

When a student becomes ill at school we ask that they come to the main office to call home so that we know they are ill and can tend to their needs. Students are not to use their cell phones at any times while in school, including when they become ill.

Cell phones continue to be disruptive. We will continue to confiscate phones and issue detentions. If you need to get a message to your student, please call 233-5812 and we will send a message to your student.

Dress Code Reminders:

Girls

- Tights should be PLAIN and of solid black, white, navy or gray color.

Boys

- Any student sent to the office to shave during the school day will be charged \$1 for the disposable razor and receive a detention.

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# Guidance Office

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## **SENIORS**

Please note these important steps to take in the next month:

1. Seniors must always make transcript requests online through the Parchment link on our school website. Note: Common App Mid-Year Reports require a 7<sup>th</sup> semester transcript (January of 12<sup>th</sup> grade).

Seniors must communicate all admissions decisions & scholarship offers to the Guidance Dept *prior to Graduation*. PLEASE email [suewaldron@grcss.org](mailto:suewaldron@grcss.org) OR call 233-5909 OR stop by the office with updates as this information is received. THANK YOU!!

Financial Aid for Higher Ed can be explained via these websites:

<http://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid> ; [www.micollegegoal.org](http://www.micollegegoal.org) ; [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Also, the following sites are hosting the free College Goal Sunday event (2/12/12) to help families complete the FAFSA by March 1.

*Grand Valley State University, 401 Fulton, Grand Rapids, MI 49504*

*Davenport University-Holland, 643 S Waverly Road, Holland, MI 49423*

## **JUNIORS**

Don't forget to register to take the ACT or SAT more than once.

*Note: Students that currently use an extended-time test accommodation may want to ask their counselor about submitting this request with proper documentation to ACT or College Board in advance to the regular deadline.*

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) - ACT Test Dates:

Feb 11 – Late or Standby registration only (see Guidance Office for details)

April 14 – regular deadline Mar 9

June 9 – regular deadline May 4

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) – SAT Test Dates:

Mar 10 – regular deadline Feb 10

\*May 6 – regular deadline Apr 6

\*June 2 - regular deadline May 8

\* Subject Tests offered on these dates

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# Athletics

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## ATHLETICS

### February 2012

As we begin to wrap-up the regular season contests and enter the MHSAA Winter Tournament season, check the schedules and go to a contest to support our Cougars. We have great kids and coaches working hard together to meet their goals.

Think **Spring!** Sign-up for Spring sports will be February 16<sup>th</sup> during lunch periods at school. Announcements will be made. Practices begin on March 12<sup>th</sup>. **Your student must have a physical exam, dated since April 15, 2011, on file in the athletic office before they can participate in tryouts or practice.**

**Summer Planning:** Catholic Central coaches will not schedule any athletic activity from **July 1 to July 8, 2012**. No conditioning drills, no camps, no open gym—nothing! Facilities are closed.

**Summer All-Sport Conditioning** will begin on Monday June 11<sup>th</sup>. It will take place on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. The time for all three days will be 7-8:30am. The location is always at the CAT. This hopefully accommodates all schedules.

**Summer Camp Schedule:** Will be posted on the school website and out athletic website ([grccathletics.com](http://grccathletics.com)) and is available now for summer planning. Please check it out for camps of interest.

**Athletic schedules** are available at [www.grccathletics.com](http://www.grccathletics.com). Go to "Sports", then "schedule". Information regarding MHSAA state tournaments is available at [www.mhsaa.com](http://www.mhsaa.com). Take advantage of these information sources.

**The CAT Fieldhouse** has been up and running for 4 years now. All of our athletic teams are taking full advantage of this superb facility. We are hoping to continue to provide our students with the premier athletic facilities in the state of Michigan as well as the country. In order to make our facility better we have to be good stewards of what we have and all work together to keep and clean and secure.

**Thank you** to all the students and parents who have contributed to an atmosphere of "*Good Sportsmanship*" at our contests. As Cougars, we understand that the value of interscholastic athletics lies in preparing our students for a positive role in their faith and their community. Good sportsmanship includes loud and boisterous cheering for **our team**. Banners, posters, etc., in good taste, are welcome at our events. Sportsmanship does not include disrespect toward officials or opponents.

Thank you for your continued support. Help us challenge and expand the Spirit, Mind, and Body of our youth.

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# Campus Ministry

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Dear Catholic Central Parents,

We begin February with our celebration of Catholic Schools Week (January 30-February 3). During this week we have many activities at school to rejoice in who we are and what we stand for. The national theme for the week focuses on three priorities that Catholic schools establish that make them stand out from other educational institutions. Students are taught Faith – not just the basics of Christianity, but how to have a relationship with God. Academics - which in Catholic schools are held to very high standards. Service - the giving of one's time and effort to help others, is taught both as an expression of faith and good citizenship.

On Tuesday (January 31), we honor our Teachers with a special breakfast from We Care. On Wednesday (February 1), we honor our students and the gifts they bring to our school. On Thursday (February 2), we honor the Arts at our school and will gather for our annual Fine Arts Assembly. Over 400 of our students participate in the arts and it is wonderful to experience their gifts. On Friday (February 3), we live our faith by celebrating Eucharist together. At this special Mass we will commission our liturgical ministers. Our Pastor, Msgr. Lou Stasker, and Fr. Tom Tavella, CSP, from the Cathedral, will concelebrate.

February 25 is the Diocesan Youth Conference being hosted at Catholic Central High School. The theme for this year's conference is: "It's Go Time!". This is a large conference with national speakers (including Valimar Jansen and Jorge Rivera). Peer Ministry will be serving as the youth involvement team for the conference. I am encouraging our students to attend this awesome conference - which is held right at our school. Students can register through the youth ministry program through their parishes or from me. Each student will be receiving registration information from Campus Ministry during the first week of February. Support your son and/or daughter in this very worthwhile conference based on developing their relationship to Christ, the Church and each other.

On March 2, the Peer Ministers will have the audition sheets for StarSearch 2012 out! Auditions will be the end of March, but it's time for students to begin thinking about what they might do for the annual talent show.

Lent begins on February 22. The theme for Lent is "It's Go Time!", drawing upon the example of Jesus to immediately retreat into the desert to pray and fast. We will celebrate Ash Wednesday together as a school community in the Cathedral at 10:15am on February 22. Our Lenten Reconciliation Service with individual confessions is Tuesday, March 22. Our annual prayer of the Stations of the Cross will be on March 29.

In addition to our prayer and fasting, our school almsgiving will consist of various activities and fundraisers for our Lenten Project. There are many needs within the local and international Catholic communities. A faculty committee is discerning the focus of our Lenten Project. Once decided, information will be distributed on how our school community will participate in this important dimension of Lent.

I continue to hold you and your families in my prayers. I pray for the grace of God to enrich the lives of everyone in the Catholic Central community.

In the peace of Christ,

Dennis Rybicki

Campus Minister

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## We Care News

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In keeping with the tradition of **WE CARE** (your parent organization), we would like to remind parents and students of a few things before **Sno-Shuffle on Sat., Feb.11th.**

WE CARE supports safe social situations for CC students. We encourage students to demonstrate respect for each other by reminding their peers of appropriate behavior, including avoiding illegal substances such as alcohol and returning dates to their homes at respectful times. All of us want our students to have a great time. Let us pray for a safe and fun-filled evening.

**Attention Freshman Parents!** We are looking for someone to organize a parent social. We have seen in the past that when parents know each other our kids stay safer. It is a good way to get to know other freshman parents and start putting away some seed money for their senior all night party. It is not hard to do, especially if you get several parents involved. If this is something you could take on, please call Betty Ortega-Furgeson at 914-6291

**Attention Junior Parents! Save the Date.** The organizational meeting for the Class of **2013 Senior All Night Party** will be on **April 18, 7:00 PM** in the Catholic Central cafeteria. This may be your only chance to be on the steering committee of this project. If you can not make the meeting, please let us know and we can pass on your name to the committee chairs. You will also receive a post card reminder in the mail.

**Attention Freshman and Sophomore Parents. Help!** We are in need of a few parents to step up and be AT LARGE members of the WE CARE steering committee. We are losing one parent this year due to graduation, and 4 parents next year. We meet one night a month for about an hour. It does not cost you anything but your time. Please consider joining us to continue this very important ministry.

**Thank you** to the parents who have donated money, food, and time to the many ministries WE CARE sponsors. With your help, we have been able to make life at CC better for students and teachers. God bless you for your generosity!

If you would like to help with WE CARE, meetings are held the second Monday of the month in the school Main Conference Room at 7:00pm. We would love to hear your new ideas and welcome your participation.

Thank you and God bless you,  
Russ Armock-President, We Care

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## Performing Arts Department News

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The students and teachers of Band, Choirs, Art and Creative Writing classes would like to invite all family and friends to our annual "Fine Arts Concert" on **Wednesday, February 1 at 7:00pm** in the CC Gym. This very popular concert showcases the talents of students in Band, Choirs Creative Writing and Art classes. It is a light, joyous concert that is sure to lift your spirits during the beginning of February. The concert will also be presented again on Thursday, February 2 at 10:00am for the entire school. You are welcome to attend either performance. Thank you for your support of excellent Fine Arts departments at Catholic Central High School.

Late February is Festival season for the Band. The Concert Band will be competing in the Regional Band Festival on February 29. Competition give an opportunity to strive for excellence in our music education program. Wish our students well as we continue to hone our performance and sightreading skills in anticipation of this festival. Updates on how the Band performed will be shared in the next newsletter!!

The Capella Choir has the distinct privilege to sing the highly acclaimed "Stabat Mater" by Giovanni Palestrina with three of the best choirs in Grand Rapids. The Capella choir will offer this performance March 18 (3:00pm) with the Diocesan Schola, March 23 (7:00pm) with the Basilica Choir of St. Adalbert and March 25 (3:00pm) with the Chamber Choir of Grand Rapids. The Stabat Mater (Sorrowful Mother) is the quintessential Lenten choral piece as it is a reflection on the stations of the cross as experienced by the Blessed Mother. Please contact Mr. Rybicki for more information on these concerts.

Seussical the Musical is coming to Catholic Central!!! Mark your calendars now for March 7-11 at Circle Theater!! Tickets go on sale February 27 through the Circle Theater Box Office (616.456.6656) This is a great family-friendly musical with many classic Dr. Seuss stories coming to life on stage! Plan on being there!!!

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# Catholic Education Tuition Assistance Program Timeline 2012/2013

## **February 1, 2012**

Distribution of PSAS forms begins at schools and parishes in the Diocese. The PSAS forms will be available in English and Spanish.

## **March 1, 2012**

Completed PSAS forms with appropriate documentation from families must be post-marked no later than this date and sent to the PSAS offices.

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## **National Honor Society**

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### **Freshmen and Sophomores—**

*Did you know that Catholic Central's NHS members donated over 400 hours to our community in the month of November alone?*

They did this by helping out at their parishes, by offering assistance to neighbors in need, by mentoring and teaching skills to young children, and in so many other ways.

**By joining the National Honor Society, you demonstrate to your school, your future college, and the community that you are a leader in the classroom and beyond.**

If you are interested in joining, keep in mind the academic requirement of a 3.8 overall G.P.A. as you go into the second semester. Also, successful NHS applicants document an average of 50 hours of community service by the beginning of their junior year.

**Invitations to join NHS are distributed at the beginning of Junior year. Be ready to join!**



***The Heart of the City Celebration and Auction*** is scheduled for **March 10, 2012**

The auction is a crucial and very large fundraiser for the school. Be sure to purchase your tickets soon! \$35 per person includes a wonderful strolling dinner and open bar.

We are in need of donations to make this a successful event. Gift cards, tickets, golf outings, excursions are great ideas!

Purchase your tickets on line at: [www.WeAreCC.org](http://www.WeAreCC.org) or in the main office.

Contact Christine O'Driscoll with any questions: 233-5816 or [christineodriscoll@grcss.org](mailto:christineodriscoll@grcss.org)

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## **Brian Bush Award**

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Enclosed in this newsletter, you will find a nomination form for the Brian Bush Award.

Every year, Catholic Central, with the support of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bush, offers The Brian Bush Award to a member of the Freshman Class. This award is given annually to a freshman that exemplifies high Christian ideals, has experienced positive academic growth, sees Christ in others and appreciates family. This award was instituted for the 1989-90 school year in memory of Brian Bush, who passed away in 1989 during his freshman year.

This award is considered an honor to those who receive it because it recognizes those characteristics that Brian lived by during his time here at Catholic Central.

If you would like to nominate someone from the Freshman Class (Class of 2015), please use the enclosed form and return it to Catholic Central by Friday, March 9, 2012. A committee of freshman teachers will review all nominations and choose the winner who will be announced at the Honors Convocation in May.

# CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

## Brian Bush Life Award Nomination Form

### **Criteria:**

1. The student must be in ninth grade and registered for the tenth grade.
  2. The student is to have given service to the Catholic Central community, the Grand Rapids community or both.
  3. It is expected that this student would exemplify the highest of Christian ideals. A gentleness of spirit, an understanding that all people are children of God will be evident in this student's approach to other people.
  4. The student will show positive academic growth in his/her freshman year. The student does not have to maintain a high grade point average but rather shows continued improvements in his/her work throughout the school year.
  5. An enthusiasm for life should be evident in this student's attitude and manner. An understanding of Christ's existence in each of us influences this person's approach to others.
- A genuine appreciation for family should come through in this student's life. Knowing and understanding the necessity of family support is essential here. The student should evidence this in his/her activities and priorities.

I nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for the **BRIAN BUSH LIFE AWARD**.

My reasons for this nomination are:

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In my opinion \_\_\_\_\_ is a worthy candidate for consideration.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

\_\_\_\_\_STUDENT\_\_\_\_TEACHER\_\_\_\_PARENT\_\_\_\_\_PRIEST/MINISTER\_\_\_\_FAMILY FRIEND

**Please return to the Catholic Central MAIN OFFICE by Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**