

Tiger Tracks

FORMERLY THE ALUMNI NEWS

NEWS OF ALL STRIPES FOR OUR BATTLE CREEK AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL FAMILY

Vol. 18, No. 2

2018

Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools
PROUDLY WELCOMES
our most recent alumni



THE CLASS OF 2018

Congratulations to the Class of 2018 Academic Top Ten



Trevor Fuller
University of Dayton



Jack Gallagher
Michigan State University



Sarah Guzzo
West Point
Military Academy



Madison Haywood
University of Michigan

VALEDICTORIAN



Andy Forche
University of Michigan.

SALUTATORIAN



Tyler Fuller
University of Dayton

Haydin Hutson
Arizona State University



Lauren McIntyre
Michigan State University



Lilly Schulz
Grand Valley University



Hannah Stevens
Kellogg Community College



UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT MOMENTS

TAKE A LOOK WITH YOUR CALENDAR BOOK



ALUMNI WEBSITE IS UP AND READY

BCACS.ORG underwent a major face-lift in 2018 to bring a fresh, mobile-friendly web design to our students and school families. This summer, we added a special section just for our Alumni Family. These are just a few of the things you can do online to save time.

Planning a reunion? Our online submission form will help you get the word out through our social media sites, as well as connect you with valuable BCACS resources.

Misplaced your yearbook? Thanks to the efforts of Tom Zavitz, Class of 1975, Matt Davis, Class of 1979, and Sheri (Cobb) Robotham, Class of 2003, we have digital copies of every STP Annual from 1948 to 2008, except 2007, which we still need to locate. (If you have a copy, let us know!) Whenever an STP Class reaches their 10-year milestone, their digital yearbook will be available.

Want to check out upcoming Alumni events and reunion? We have a page for that - no Facebook account needed.

Need to update your information or that of a fellow alumnus? We have a simple online form. Tell us about your kids, your new job, your upcoming marriage. No stamp required.

Want to nominate an alumni to the Hall of Fame or for the Distinguished Alumni Award? Our online form will collect your information and accept photos and other supporting materials.

Want to donate to BCACS or track today's Tigers? It's just a click away.

We hope this revamped resource will keep you connected to your BCACS Family no matter where you are.

2018 HOMECOMING SCHEDULE

Homecoming 2018 is nearly here! Plan to join us for some or all of these BCACS events.

- Friday, Oct. 5 - 6 p.m. **Powder Puff Game**, hot dogs, and bonfire at Walsh Field
- Saturday, Oct. 6 - 11 a.m. **Tailgate Party** at St. Philip Catholic Central
- Saturday, Oct. 6 - 12:15 p.m. **Parade** departs from St. Philip Tiger Room Parking Lot and goes to C.W. Post Field; 12:45 p.m. **Hall of Fame** announced prior to football game at C.W. Post Field; 1 p.m. **Kickoff** against Bellevue at C.W. Post Field
- Saturday, Oct. 6 - 4:30 p.m. **Mass with Distinguished Alumni** presentation at the end of Mass at St. Philip Catholic Church

CALLING ALL MEMBERS OF THE CLASSES OF



1943

1948

1953

1958



1963

1973

1978

1983

1988

2003

2008

2013

ARE YOU PLANNING YOUR REUNION?

◁ The 10th ▷

Annual Alumni Basketball Tournament

SHEILA GUERRA TIGER DEN GYMNASIUM

NOVEMBER 23, 2018

Contact Nick Buckley, Class of 2003
nbuckley@battlecreekenquirer.com

REUNION ROLLCALL

Class of 1969's 50th Reunion
September 6, 2019

Southern Exposure Herb Farm

Contact

Mary Atchley at 269-968-6449

Margie Abbey Miller at 269-967-9022

CHECK THE ALUMNI PAGE AT BCACS.ORG FOR REUNION INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE.

SAVE THE DATE

ALL SAINTS SUPERFEST

SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2018

Fun for the whole family
on the grounds of St. Joseph Parish

Sheila Guerra^{12th Annual} Memorial Golf Outing

September 16, 2018

Contact Vicky Groat at
269.963.1462 or vgroat@bcacs.org

All Proceeds Support the Sheila Guerra
Memorial Scholarship Fund.

REFLECTING ON THE BCACS DIFFERENCE

CELEBRATING WITH CHRIST



The end of the school year brings graduations, inductions, and ceremonies. Our Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools are no different in this respect. Where you will see a difference is in the location of our celebrations.

We are a Christ-centered school, and His church is our home. We might eat cake in the school cafeteria afterward, but we break bread around His table first.

When St. Philip Catholic Central High School inducted its new National Honor Society members and officers, they did so at Mass.

When St. Joseph Catholic Elementary and Preschool honored their 2017-18 Crayons to College and Career nominees and scholarship winners, they did so at Mass.

Two extraordinary ceremonies could take place nowhere else but during Mass.

Our second-graders spent all year preparing for their First Communion, including receiving their First Reconciliation in February. Joyfully, they gathered with their families and friends at St. Joseph Church to receive our Lord for the first time.

Weeks later, our eighth-graders capped two years of preparation and prayer to receive the sacrament of Confirmation at St. Joseph Church. Together with their brothers and sisters in the religious education program, they were sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Our graduating seniors attended three Masses in cap and gown

The first was the Baccalaureate Mass at St. Philip with the rest of the high school. This year Bishop Bradley said the Mass and the seniors sang

a class song. Afterward, the school hosted the Senior Honor Ceremony, followed by the seniors walking the high school halls one last time.

The second was the school Mass at St. Joseph with the elementary and middle school students. Afterward, the seniors walked through the elementary and middle school hallways, receiving high fives, before heading to a celebration lunch.

The third Mass was their formal graduation ceremony at St. Philip on Sunday, June 3rd.

There were other special school Masses to end the 2017-18 school year, but one such Mass was a far quieter celebration.

Amy Doyle's first-grade class gathered for Mass at St. Joseph on the fourth anniversary of first-grader Caleb Francisco's Grandpa Pete's passing.

"The kids and I have been learning about the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, and we read how important it is to not only pray for the living, which we do all the time, but remember those who have died," Mrs. Doyle said.

It wasn't a full school Mass, just Caleb, his first-grade classmates, and his family. There were no pictures, just a desire to pray for the repose of a soul who meant so much to our schools and, of course, his family.

"Pete was a champion for our schools," Mrs. Doyle said. "Not only is he incredibly important to Caleb and his family, but he was also a huge supporter of our schools, our kids, and our faith."

The end of the school year is special, but for our school family, every time we gather around Christ's table is special.



THIS STORY COMES FROM OUR BCACS BLOG, WHICH CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.BCACS.ORG.

The Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools and the BCACS Foundation proudly announces the Class of 2018 scholarship awardees

Hannah
Stevens



Kirstin
Finnila

Andy
Forche



Madison
Haywood

Chloe
Worden



Tyler
Fuller

Lilianna
Robinson



The **Carrie Adams Memorial Scholarship** was established at BCACS Foundation by Carrie's parents, Chuck and Cheryl Adams, in Carrie's memory. Carrie graduated in 1991, following a distinguished academic and athletic high school career. Chuck Adams presented the scholarship to the 2018 recipient, **Tyler Fuller**. Fuller attends the University of Dayton, pursuing a degree in engineering.

The **Sheila Guerra Memorial Scholarship** honors the memory of Sheila Guerra, former St. Philip teacher and volleyball coach. Prior to her death in 2006, Sheila established this scholarship fund at the BCACS Foundation for students to pursue their secondary education goals. This scholarship was presented by Sheila's daughter, Vicky Groat. The 2018 recipient is **Kirstin Finnila**. Finnila studies physical therapy at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

The **John B. and Margaret A. Hogan Medical Scholarship** was established at the BCACS Foundation by John B. Hogan, Class of 1939 and Margaret (Skaggs) Hogan, Class of 1942. This is a merit-based scholarship for a graduate pursuing a college degree in an area of study related to health care. The 2018 recipient is **Madison Haywood**. Haywood attends the University of Michigan, studying pre-med.

The **Al Leibert Family Scholarship** was established at the BCACS Founda-

tion by retired educator and longtime coach and mentor, Al Leibert. This college scholarship is awarded to a St. Philip Catholic Central High School senior who has a distinguished academic record, demonstrated leadership ability, community service, and participation in St. Philip athletics for all four years of high school. The 2018 recipient is **Hannah Stevens**, who attends Kellogg Community College for teaching.

The **Pete Francisco Memorial Scholarship** was established at the BCACS Foundation in 2014 by Mrs. Francisco and her sons Jason and Chad to honor the memory of Pete Francisco, husband, father, grandfather, coach, friend and mentor. Jason Francisco presented this year's scholarship to **Kirstin Finnila**. Finnila studies physical therapy at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

The **Howard M. and Edith M. Scholarship** was established at the BCACS Foundation by Mrs. Edith List and her son, Charles List in memory of Mr. Howard M. List (Edith's husband) and Elizabeth List (Howard and Edith's daughter). The 2018 recipient is **Lilianna Robinson**. Robinson is studying in Denmark as a Rotary Exchange student, after which she plans to pursue her degree in Michigan.

The **Sonneborn Football Athlete Scholarship** was established at the BCACS Foundation in 2015 by Dr. Arthur A. Sonneborn, a local orthodontist who is very supportive of the St. Philip

Football program. In 2017, Dr. Sonneborn renamed the scholarship The **Coach Brown Memorial Scholarship** to honor long time football coach Jack Brown who passed away after a six month illness. Coach Pessetti presented this year's scholarship to **Andy Forche**, who attends the University of Michigan, studying computer science.

The **Coach Craig Dolbee "Best Buddy" Award** was established at the BCACS Foundation in 2018 by his parents, John and Tara, to honor their son and the years he coached tennis at St. Philip Catholic Central. The 2018 recipient is **Kirstin Finnila**. Finnila studies physical therapy at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

The **St. Philip Internship Scholarships** were established in 2017 by Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools with a grant from the Calhoun County Intermediate School District which promotes college and career readiness. The 2018 first place scholarship recipient is **Madison Haywood**, who attends the University of Michigan, studying pre-med. The 2018 second place scholarship recipient is **Hannah Steven**, who attends Kellogg Community College, studying teaching. The 2018 third place scholarship recipient is **Chloe Worden**, who attends Michigan State University, studying advertising and public relations.

A dozen cheers for a dozen years



Back [l. to r.] Tyler Fuller, Trevor Fuller, Andy Forche, Lauren McIntyre, Kirstin Finnila, Uriel Gaona, Jack Gallagher. Front [l. to r.] Haydin Hutson, Chloe Worden, Madison Haywood, Ariana Saifollahi, Lillian Schulz, Mark Sprague.

Class of 2018 graduates who attended BCACS all 12 years

BCACS Class of 2018: Points of Pride

Celebrating an STP family tradition



Class of 2018 graduates of St. Philip Alumni

[l. to r.] Niklas Boggio [Kelli (Kryzanski) - 1985], Jack Gallagher [John Gallagher - 1978], Haydin Hutson [Sloane (Smith) Hutson - 1987, Tim Hutson - 1984, Diane Siegel - 1961], Lillian Schulz [Julie (Redman) Schulz - 1987], Mark Sprague [Dave Sprague - 1987, David Sprague - 1954, Nancy (Ughetti) Sprague - 1953], Hannah Stevens [Jeff Stevens - 1989]

Capstone champions...at last!

Andy Forche earned a first-place \$5000 scholarship, Madison Haywood earned a third-place \$2000 scholarship, and Hannah Stevens earned a \$500 scholarship in the third annual Diocese of Kalamazoo St. Thomas Aquinas Scholarship competition.

"I'm very proud of all my students and how they performed in the diocese round," St. Philip principal Vicky Groat said. "The bar has been set for all future students."

Every senior in the diocese's three high schools completes a year-long Capstone project defending the Faith on a subject of their choosing. Each school sends their top finishers to present before a diocesan panel of judges.

This is St. Philip's first time cracking the top two spots.

"Their arguments were strong, the theology was all there, and they were confident in their topics," St. Philip theology teacher Nicole Krajewski said.

Forche spoke about evolution, combining his love for science with his life in the Faith.

"People don't think religion and science meet, but they do," Forche said.

Haywood explored the question of whether abortion can ever be justified. Stevens presented on divorce and remarriage in the Catholic Church.

Bishop Paul Bradley honored all the scholarship recipients at a celebratory banquet in Kalamazoo on May 8th.



[l. to r.] Capstone winners Madison Haywood, Andy Forche, and Hannah Stevens



The Class of 2018 prepared and performed a version of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" for their graduation day. Every member of the class participated, including Andy Forche on piano and Kenny Wojcik on guitar. To see the performance, check out the BCACS YouTube channel.



ANDY FORCHE **VALEDICTORIAN SPEECH**

Good Afternoon to everyone gathered here today, but in a special way I want to welcome my family.

When most people think of a family, they think of their immediate family, mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, grandparents and so on. But, is that really the extent of one's family? We commonly hear that our family is the people that teach us, guide us, and help us grow, and our immediate family certainly does plenty in this regard. However there are so many more that do so much to help us along the way. So when we think of a family, why should they be excluded? We also commonly hear that we are able to choose our friends but not our family, but why should our friends and our family be separated from one another. Surely if we love and care for and show compassion for our friends, they should be included when we think of a family. My family is large. I have a sister, a mother and a father, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. They have loved me, cared for me, taught me, and made me who I am today. However, they are not my entire family.

The twenty-six beaming graduates that sit before me today are a part of my family. We've laughed together, cried together, fought together, and learned together. I've had the pleasure of watching all of you develop into outstanding young men and women while also learning and growing alongside you. You have been my rock to lean on when times got difficult, and you've illuminated my life with constant laughter and joy. We've sang together outside of St.

Joseph Middle School, we've laughed our way through Ms. Reed's history classes, and we've cried together through all the difficult times. I can honestly stand up here and say that I chose you all as friends and you've become my family, and there is not a better family that I could have enjoyed these last twelve years with.

But remember, I said my family is large and twenty-six is anything but large.

My family includes the parents of these twenty-six graduates. You have all done your part to raise these strong young men and women, and you made the choice to make your child a part of the St. Philip community. I can say with confidence that my family would not be the same if you hadn't made that choice, and I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to grow up with your sons and daughters.

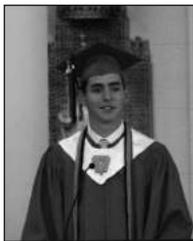
My family includes the staff that make up the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools family. You've shown immense patience as you've guided my class and I through the difficulties of elementary, middle, and high school. You have helped us develop and have given us the ability to stand on our own two feet and walk out into the world with our heads held high. My family would not be the same if not for your contributions, and I would like to thank you all for all the dedication you've invested into our success.

My family includes Father John and Father Marotti and all the clergy and staff that make up St. Philip Parish and the Diocese of Kalamazoo. You've allowed the light of faith to enter the lives of every member of my family, and you've shown us that the path to salvation is the path of Christ's love.

My family would not be the same without the faith formation you've offered, and I like to thank you all for the many faith filled lessons you've shared with us.

And finally, most importantly, my family includes those that started this journey with us but are not here to see its conclusion. Thank you Coach Francisco, for teaching us that the most important thing in life is giving 101% in everything you do. Thank you Mr. May, for showing us that the only thing that limits the size of your family is the width of your smile and the love in your heart. Thank you Coach Brown, for teaching us that everyday that goes by without testing ourselves is a day wasted. Thank you, Coach Craig, for showing us that a team cannot be a team without everyone's effort. I know that my family would not be the same if it wasn't for all of these men's contributions.

As you can see, my family is quite large. It is made up of classmates and parents and staff and clergy and coaches, all of whom have had a deep lasting impact on my life. Even though we are all moving apart to pursue our own ambitions, I am confident that my family will remain unbroken. I have never been closer to twenty-five other people in my life, and I'm sure I'll never be this close to twenty-five people ever again. Class of 2018, as we step forward from this day into the rest of our lives, remember the lessons of those that have gone before us. Find your dream and pursue it, test yourself along the way, but don't be afraid to look back at the friends and experiences that you shared here at St. Philip Catholic Central. And remember, that you will be a part of my family, always. Thank You



TYLER FULLER **SALUTATORIAN SPEECH**

Good afternoon fellow students, teachers, and parents:

It is an honor to stand here before you today as the salutatorian of the class of 2018.

I cannot begin to express how thankful I am for my classmates, teachers, and my parents for always pushing me farther than I thought possible. Without all of you, I would not have been able to acquire the skills, or “pieces”, that I needed to get here. Now the reason I say pieces is because life is very complicated, almost like a Rubik’s cube. And to find success in life, or to complete the puzzle, you have to have all the pieces.

So to start at the beginning, I’d like to talk about my parents. Without them I wouldn’t be here at all. Without them teaching me how to walk, I would not be able to run. Without them setting an example, I would not have the two amazing role models in my life that I’ve looked up to since the day I was born. Most importantly, without them showing me how to live my faith, I would not have known how to do it on my own. I remember how excited I was on my first day of school as I walked out the front door in my red school polo and khaki shorts with my awesome new spiderman backpack. That day was only the beginning of the adventure of a lifetime.

It almost seems like time has flown by and that first day of school was just yesterday. However, I know I’ve grown and learned an incredible amount in what seems like such a short time. I remember my elementary school teachers teaching me how to do long division and multiplication. I remember Trevor and I switching places for half of the day in kindergarten without getting caught. Without all the incredible teachers I’ve had during my education, I would not even be close to where I am today. They gave me skills that have become so fundamental, I could not live without them. They have inspired me to push

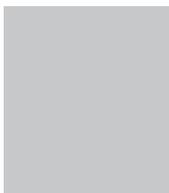
myself and set goals for myself that were higher than I ever thought I could achieve. Lastly, one of the things I am most grateful for is for them teaching me about my faith. At a public school, I would not have been able to learn about my faith every single day. There wouldn’t have been a prayer at the end of every day or mass every week. My teachers always showed me what it meant to live out your faith.

But at the end of it all, my classmates are the ones who have given me so many of the pieces I needed to solve the puzzle of life. Many of them I’ve known since kindergarten and all of them I’ve known for at least a couple of years. Our class is like family and we’ve done a lot together. From singing songs in advisory outside of Mr. Steel’s room to struggling through high school together. From our first middle school dance to our last prom. From our freshman year retreat to our senior year one. The memories I’ve made with all of you are ones that I will never let go of. Yes there may have been struggles and sometimes we may not have seen eye to eye but in the end we were like a family. We’ve always stuck together and helped each other up when one of us stumbled. You guys have helped show me what it means to be brothers and sisters, and that is something I can never repay.

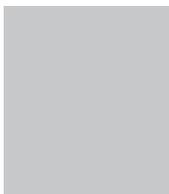
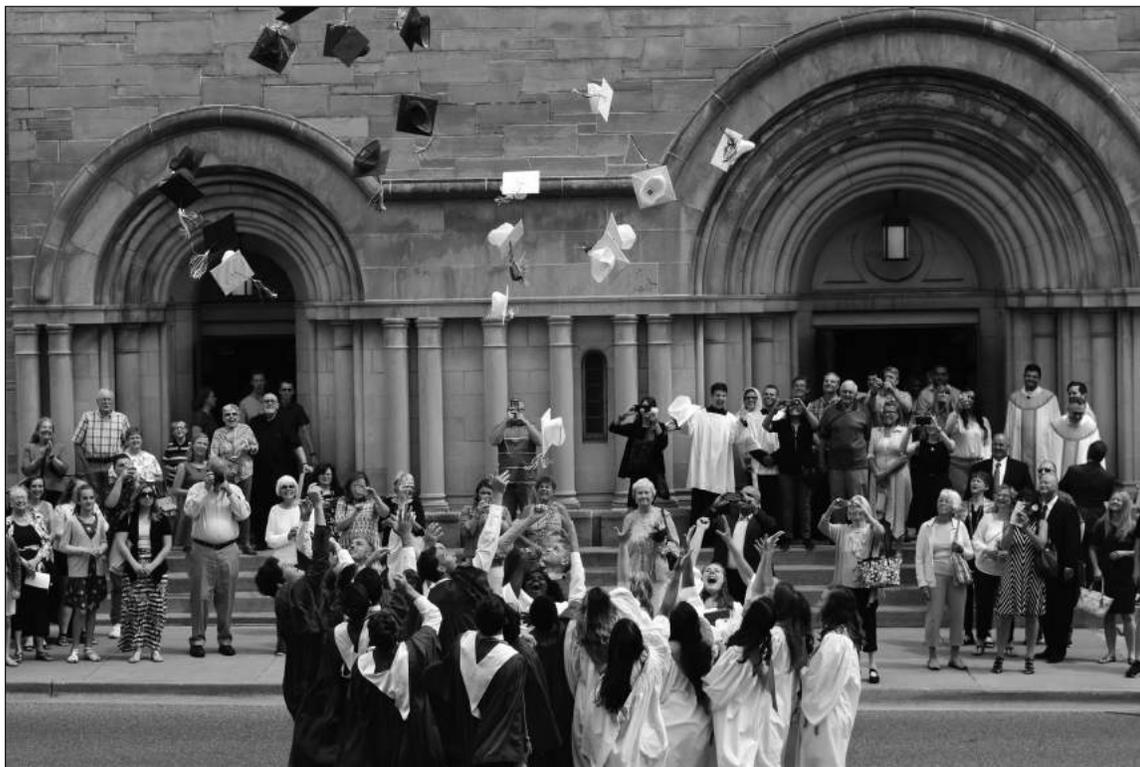
And although I know almost all of you are ready to say goodbye to high school, one thing is for sure. I am not ready to say goodbye to all of you. However, I leave here today with my head held high because I am proud to call you guys my family. I will never forget the family I have here at St. Phil and I hope that none of you do either because in the end, family is what makes life seem less complicated. Family is what will make all the pieces in the puzzle of life fall into place.

Thank you.

BCACCS Class of 2018: Graduation Day



The Class of 2018 finish their graduation day with the traditional STP Hat Toss on Capital Avenue.





The donkey and the cross

day procession last year. Ever since, Fr. Chris wanted to bring him to meet the children.

Originally, the plan was to bring Paul inside the school to visit each classroom. Although the Youmans were willing, Paul was not.

“We tried to lure him in with a donut,” Fr. Chris said. “He got right to the front door, ate the donut, and stopped.”

Instead, the children came out class by class, unaware their “special visitor” was a donkey.

“The kids’ faces were priceless because they didn’t know what was coming at all,” St. Joseph School administrative assistant Jeanine Winkler said. “As they rounded the corner you could hear the gasps.”

“Their eyes got big, and they ran out to pet him,” Fr. Chris said.

The Youmans answered student questions, including if Paul was a “boy donkey”, how did they know he was a boy donkey, and if

Paul had a wife.

“His handlers were very patient, and Paul was wonderful,” Mrs. Winkler said. “He loved all the attention.”

Fr. Chris, a veterinarian before answering the call to the priesthood, showed the children the cross that is on all purebred donkeys’ backs.

“If we look, there is evidence of God all around us,” Fr. Chris said. “I like that there is a cross on the back of a donkey. It reminds us of the great love our Lord has for us going to the cross and his death on our behalf. If the cross on the back of a donkey makes people think of God, awesome. All creatures of God give Him praise.”

Fr. Chris hopes Paul will return next year, as do the teachers and staff.

“Fr. Chris provided all of our students with a hands-on experience,” St. Joseph preschool teacher Kelly Francisco said. “We have been truly blessed to have such wonderful priests here at St. Joseph. They make a special effort to teach us unique things about our faith.”

A special visitor came to St. Joseph Catholic School to teach the children about Jesus. Although invited inside, Paul was more comfortable outside, welcoming every student who came to see him.

Paul is a donkey, one of three donkeys owned by St. Joseph parishioners Jerry and Shirley Youmans.

“The other two donkeys are not as cooperative as Paulie,” Fr. Christopher Ankley said. “He’s named after St. Paul.”

Paul led the St. Joseph Church Palm Sun-

When life gives you lemons...

When life gives you lemons, you make lemonade. And when life gives our St. Joseph transitional-kindergarten and four-year-old preschool students a worthy cause, they sell lemonade.

And lollipops.

“The Lemonade Stand is an annual event,” TK and preschool teacher Aimee Downey said. “It goes along with our curriculum when we work on the letter L. We always donate our money to a cause or family.”

This year there was a cause and a family.

The preschool sold lemonade and lollipops to the middle school students to help purchase bullet-proof vests for police and military dogs.

“They are such a great group of kids who love helping others,” Mrs. Francisco said. “All week long they kept asking, ‘How many more days until the Lemonade Stand?’ They understood that we were raising money to help keep animals safe.”

The preschoolers raised \$110, the last \$30 of which came from an anonymous donor who purchased lemonade and lollipops for any student without money.

The TK sold lemonade to the elementary students to help the Quispe Family, whose fifth-grade son Yanaq is battling Leukemia.

Mrs. Downey and TK teacher Caroline Greenman were careful when telling the children about Yanaq.

“We did explain to the children that Yanaq is ill and needs some cheering up, but we did not go into all of the detail,” Mrs. Downey

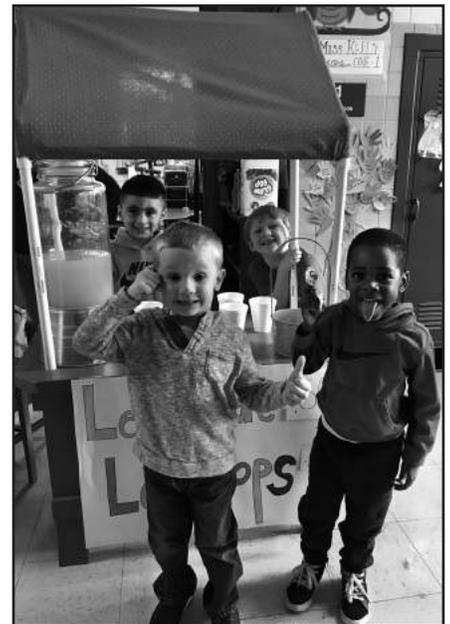
said. “They really are a kind group of children. One little girl said, ‘Yes, like maybe a special toy for him.’ They have awesome faith and pray for Yanaq daily.”

The Lemonade Stand blends well with the TK’s other service project – Thoughtful Thursday.

“Each Thursday we decide to give someone some extra support and love,” Mrs. Downey said. “Sometimes it’s people we know, and sometimes we don’t know them.”

Their efforts raised \$222 for the Quispe Family.

“We are teaching service, and they are learning that one of [their] jobs is to serve others,” Mrs. Downey said. “I hope it’s a lesson that will continue throughout their lifetime.”





After Confirmation, it's my journey.

journey, so I'm going to try to make the most of it and learn the most I can."

-Brooke Dzwik

"I intend to keep growing in my faith after Confirmation by loving others, praying for those who need it, and doing my best to spread God's word."

-Bronwyn Pasche

"After Confirmation, I plan on growing in the Faith by making it my responsibility. Every day I try to be better than the day before. I have been working on the virtues of Patience and Humility, and God is working on that with me as well. I plan on doing God's will - His will and not mine."

-Arianna Pontoni

"After Confirmation, I will continue my journey to salvation. I will go out to all people spreading the Word of God. I will apply the

Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit to my lifestyle and stand up for my faith. I will listen to God's calling and what he would like me to do in the Church."

-Chris Adam

"I will go to Mass every Sunday, probably Thursday, too. I will be kind to everyone. I will donate to the poor and homeless."

- Christopher Thang

"I intend to keep growing in my faith by being present in every spiritual opportunity to grow, that means attending extra Masses, taking time to visit and experience the sacraments, and learning through God's Word."

-Giada Pontoni

"I will grow in my faith by going to church, believing in God, and helping others when they need it. I will be kind, generous, and respect others. I will be patient for what God has for my future."

- Vum Tial

We asked our 2017-18 St. Joseph Catholic Middle School students how they intend to keep growing their faith after their Confirmation. These are just some of their inspiring answers.

"I am going to try to pray every day when I wake up and when I go to sleep. I am also going to bug my parents more to go to Mass every Sunday. After Confirmation, it is my

We are more than a bridge. We're the glue.

St. Joseph Catholic School vice-principal Katie Reed sent an email to her middle school staff after Spring Break. We share the following excerpt with her permission.

I am in a fortunate position to hear from students and staff about the AMAZING things you all do for our students on a daily basis. You should know that your hard work does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. I wanted to share just a few of these things:

One of you is known as the "second mom" to a large percentage of our students. One of you has inspired many of our students to become Catholic. One student told me that although their worst grade is in this particular class, it makes them feel the most safe because this classroom is clean and organized and they don't always have that in their home life.

I have witnessed one of you give winter boots to a student in need and offer to sew holes, patches, buttons, and zippers to those who may need it.

I have seen many of you stay after school

to prepare an epic lesson or surprise your students with doughnuts or goodies because they worked hard to deserve it.

I have seen many of you open your pockets to students, families and staff members who were in need for meals, athletic fees, school supplies, gym shirts, winter coats, planners, snacks, dances, calculators, uniforms...the list goes on.

I have seen the power of music heal souls. I have seen prayer in action and how powerful it truly is to pray in numbers. I have seen the hours you all spend after school and at home to make our kids live out our mission.

Although teaching philosophies and classroom management may vary, I have learned that the one thing we all have in common is a HUGE heart and that is what makes our school system a family. I think that our faith and your heart is what will make our kids so



successful!

Many people call middle school a bridge between the elementary and high school. I have learned that we are much more than the bridge. We are the glue, and I am so glad that we "stick" together.

I count my blessings to be a part of this family every day. I sincerely thank you for making each school year better than the previous.



History comes to life for STP students

The entire student body of St. Philip High School gathered onto two charter buses and headed to Detroit last February. After a brief tour of Wayne State University, they walked to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, where the real lesson began.

“We live in a diverse world,” said St. Philip social studies teacher Kyra Rabbitt. “It is important for students to study and understand history from a variety of backgrounds. If

you only study history through one lens, you only get one side of the story.”

you only study history through one lens, you only get one side of the story.”

The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History is the second-largest collection of African-American history in the world after the Smithsonian. It is a profound experience, involving an emotional walk through elaborate exhibits. Rabbitt and the BCACS

Foundation secured funding for this trip through Calhoun Intermediate School District and Battle Creek Community Foundation grants.

Guides led the students through a busy tribal marketplace. Students walked by captured figures tied to trees or chained in cellars. They walked through the bowels of a slave ship where rows of figures slept on hard shelves. They stood on a slave ship’s deck, where traders branded people. They walked past a slave auction and through parts of the Underground Railroad. They went inside several Black-owned businesses in 20th century Detroit.

“Many of our students have learned about slavery or read about it in a textbook, but they haven’t learned it in that way,” Kyra Rabbitt said. “Some students talked about having a physical reaction when they were in the middle passage and saw all the bodies packed together.”

Students had been preparing for this trip for some time and in many subject areas, including history, government, and literature.

After reading Langston Hughes and other writers, St. Philip English teacher Angelique Finch took her Honors American Literature class to Rafaynee in downtown Battle Creek to eat traditional Southern cuisine and meet owners Charles and JoAnn Knox.

“We shared with the students the history of “soul food” and the preparation of the food they would be tasting from its raw state,” Mrs. Knox said. “We also shared our personal family migration from the south to the north.”

“[Charles and JoAnn Knox] were very gracious,” Mrs. Finch said. “What we learned in the textbook came to life.”

STP proves you are never too old for field day

When you are in elementary school, the year ends with field day. When you are in high school, the year ends with final exams.

This year, our St. Philip High School students did both.

The day after Memorial Day, St. Philip students and teachers gathered on Cherry Street for a hot dog lunch and then walked to Walsh Field for a student-led field day.

The idea came from student government officers Abbie Lahr, Maya Segovia, Maggie Hill, Alexis Behnke, Isaac Lussier, Abby Austin, Tiffany Adam, Harleon Deol, Parker Farrington, Hayden Schaub, and Myles McCullin. They had spent the month of May planning class-led pep rallies and wanted a grand finale.

“They wanted to do something extra-fun for the last one,” student government advisor Kyra Rabbitt said. “The kids were really into it.”

Although Mrs. Rabbitt nixed the slip-and-slide down Cherry Street proposal, she was open to a field day. She asked teachers if they

were OK losing one afternoon the week before final exams.

Not only were they OK, the teachers joined in the fun.

The day was unseasonably hot, but that just added to the competitive spirit.

“Usually you have people who don’t want to get wet, but we literally had people dumping water on themselves,” Mrs. Rabbitt said.

The Blue Team won, but every team had their moment in the sun. Mrs. Rabbitt was surprised how competitive it was for no prize outside of bragging rights.

Field Day may be silly, but sometimes a little silliness is healthy before buckling down for finals.

“The timing wasn’t intentional, but it worked out well,” Mrs. Rabbitt said. “Most teachers have wrapped up their teaching and are moving into review mode.”

The timing also let the student body re-



group after the graduating seniors left. There were some large shoes to fill and Field Day gave underclassmen a chance to find new roles.

“I think Field Day should be an annual event the day after Memorial Day,” Mrs. Rabbitt said. “It will give the underclassmen a fun opportunity to bond after the seniors have left.”

Besides, you’re never too old for field day.



JOIN US SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

Come to our State of the Schools and celebrate our BCACS family! The BCACS Foundation, together with our schools are hosting a 2018-19 school year kickoff on September 12th at 6:30 p.m. on the St. Joseph School playground. During this fun, interactive event, the BCACS and the Foundation will share our schools' achievements as well as the BCACS road map of initiatives for the 2018-19 school year. There will be a drawing for a \$500 VISA gift card. For more information or to RSVP, contact Louanne McIntyre at (269) 963-4771 or lmcintyre@bcacs.org.

Grateful for our donors - past, present, and future.

We are so thankful for our many supporters. During the 2017-18 School Year, because of YOU, we were able to:

- Provide a new chromebook to every St. Philip High School Student
- Provide a new iPad to every St. Joseph Middle School Student
- Provide new cheerleading uniforms for the cheer team
- Invest in the football and tennis programs
- Provide Equity and Inclusion training for all staff as well as a field trip to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American Museum for all the high school students
- Provide over \$250,000 in tuition assistance last school year and over \$270,000 in tuition assistance for this coming school year
- Provide \$130,000 in operating subsidy last school year and \$150,000 for this coming school year.
- Raised over \$50,000 toward facility improvements to be used for the 2018-19 school year.

This upcoming school year, the fundraising focus areas include unrestricted funds so we can use funds where they are needed the most, tuition assistance so more families can afford to attend our schools, facility improvements, and technology improvements. Look for more information in our annual report this fall or contact Louanne McIntyre at lmcintyre@bcacs.org or (269)963-4771.



Did you know?

At age 70½ the IRS requires that you withdraw from your individual retirement accounts (IRA)? A smart way to make a charitable contribution is to direct your provider to send this distribution directly to your Parish or the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools Foundation. This will meet the IRS distributions requirements, and you will not pay income taxes on this distribution.

CLASSMATES AND CLASS ACTS

Karyn M. Jones, Class of 1966, published her memoir "I Will Write Loudly So You Can Hear Me". It's available on Amazon.com.

Abigail Mullis, Class of 2016, presented her research Early Childhood Music: A Precursor to Further Music Study at the Michigan Music Teachers National Association State Conference in Holland, Michigan and the Piano Pedagogy Symposium Conference in Austin, Texas. Abigail received one of Central Michigan University's Provost Awards for Undergraduate Research and Creative Accomplishments for this research as well as her second project A Focus on the Arts in STEAM Education.

Katrina Rorhus, Class of 2018, has dual citizenship in Norway and is currently attending Norwegian Folk High School for a formal gap year. She will live in a dorm and is majoring in "Norwegian Adventure." She'll sail to the Shetland Islands on a three-masted sailing ship like her Viking ancestors, camp on a glacier, create a pair of skis and/or a kayak in woodwork-ing, and hike extensively in the Norwegian mountains. She'll learn independence, cold weather survival, teamwork, and the Norwegian language.

Judge Michael L. Jaconette, Class of 1982, was elected to the Michigan Probate Judges Association's Executive Board and sworn in by Chief Justice Steven Markman. He was also recognized as the 2018 Unsung Hero, an award by the Michigan Probate Judges Association, for going above and beyond in his analysis and recommendation of new legislation affecting the Probate Courts.

Sarah Guzzo, Class of 2018, accepted an Appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point (USMA).

"I want to go to West Point to make a positive difference in my life and to serve our country," Sarah Guzzo said. "A military career would mean working for a cause that is higher than me while refining my humility, determination, and leadership skills."

Guzzo received her appointment in January, capping a rigorous application process that included four letters of recommendation, three essays, a physical examination, as well as successfully seeking nominations from Senator Debbie Stabenow and Representative Justin Amash.

Over 15,000 students begin the USMA process every year, but less than 1,200 are admitted. In addition to West Point, Guzzo received nominations to the US Air Force Academy and the US Naval Academy.

"Our families do not have a tradition of military service, yet Sarah is drawn to this life," Sarah's parents Ed and Helen Guzzo said. "Sarah's willingness to commit to a life of honor, duty, and country inspire us."

Guzzo plans to study engineering and has been recruited by West Point's NCAA track team to throw the discus, javelin, and hammer. She hopes to branch into military intelligence or the Corps of Engineers. She will graduate West Point as a 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

"I am nervous about the requirements and challenges that come with military training and service, but am very excited for the opportunities to rise to those challenges and provide leadership to our country and join the 'Long Grey Line' of USMA graduates," Guzzo said.



Sarah Guzzo on campus at West Point



[l. to r.] Lilianna Robinson and Bill Dimond, District 6360 Foundation treasurer and former District Governor.

Lilianna Robinson, Class of 2018, is the Rotary Club of Battle Creek's first Rotary Youth Exchange Student. She is currently studying in Copenhagen, Denmark.

"The members of the club are thrilled," Rotary Club of Battle Creek president Kathy Gallagher said. "It is a reminder to our club that we are part of an international organization."

Robinson has long been involved with the Rotary, including two years as an officer in St. Philip High School's Interact Club, which is a Rotary sponsored youth service and leadership organization. She learned about the exchange program while attending a Rotary conference in Battle Creek.

During her yearlong stay, Robinson will live with 2-3 Rotarian host families, learn Danish, and spend a year studying at the renowned Ørestad High School.

"It's going to open up a whole new world," Lili's mother Marilyn Robinson said. "It's not like going on a vacation. She is going to be immersed in the culture, and it will be a part of her for the rest of her life."

Robinson will also attend local Rotary meetings in Denmark, representing the Rotary Club of Battle Creek, as well as Rotary District 6360.

"Lili is the face of Battle Creek over there," Gallagher said. "It is inspiring to see the camaraderie between these kids from different countries when you go to district conferences."

Robinson has prepared for this trip for the last two years, attending conferences, learning Danish, and connecting with other Rotary Youth Exchange students from Denmark.

REMEMBRANCE & GRATITUDE

IN MEMORIAM

The following members of the BCACS Family have passed from this life to the next. Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers. We extend our sincere condolences to their loved ones.

Arthur Adams, Class of 1955 February 4, 2018	Anthony Calderone, Class of 1956 March 21, 2018	Michael McCarthy, Class of 1968 June 25, 2018
Betty (Oversmith) Barney, Class of 1950 April 18, 2018	James Callahan, Class of 1953 December 9, 2017	Raymond Schmitzer, Class of 1941 February 22, 2018
Richard Behnke, Class of 1955 February 3, 2018	Laurence Dawes, Class of 1956 March 14, 2017	Peter Van Baal, Class 1969 April 15, 2018
James Beley, Class of 1955 March 10, 2018	Edward F. Degenhardt, Class of 1947 September 9, 2017	Lena (Maddalena) Wood, Class of 1944 September 26, 2017
Patricia (Atchley) Bell, Class of 1972 April 24, 2018	Carolyn (Ebel) Freebury, Class of 1961 November 4, 2017	
Arthur Bonnell, Class of 1953 April 7, 2018	Mary Lou (Dowd Atha) Marriott, Class of 1944 January 16, 2018	

IN THANKSGIVING

Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools (BCACS) and the BCACS Foundation extend their deep appreciation for gifts that were given in honor or in memory of loved ones.

GIFTS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:

Robert Beecher
Helen (Jereck) Bilson, Class of 1942
Margaret Brown
Earl Brutsche, Jr., Class of 1944
Anthony Calderone, Class of 1956
Coach Craig Dolbee
Jeffrey Fausey, Class of 1987

Sophie Frontczak
Scott Karlo, Class of 1987
Robert Lajoie
Joseph Longo
Matt Morales, Class of 1987
Karen Napier
Barb Newton, Class of 1972
Jim Ryan, previous BCACS teacher

Raymond Schmitzer, Class of 1944
Julianne Thompson

GIFTS GIVEN IN HONOR OF:

Class of 1962
Feast of St. Casimer
Madaline Hoelscher
Patricia Miller

HONORING MR. RYAN

Many of you may remember James Ryan or Mr. Ryan as he was known to his students. He was a math teacher at St. Philip High School from 1970 – 1997. He passed away peacefully this past April after a long fight with Lewy Body Dementia. You may remember that he was always encouraging students to “walk the number line!” (Battle Creek Shopper, 05.22.97) or had white chalk on his dark slacks (Mary Rabbitt, former student and coworker).

“Jim went to high school at Monroe Catholic Central and began his collegiate studies at the University of Detroit, but followed his calling to Notre Dame to become a Holy Cross Brother. After completing his training and taking his vows, he finished his bachelor’s degree at St. Edwards University in Austin, Texas, where he began his 42-year teaching career at various Catholic schools in Austin, Long Beach, New Orleans, Wichita Falls and Miami. In 1970, he settled in Battle Creek, Mich., to teach math at St. Philip Catholic Central, where “he walked the number line” with thousands of students until his retirement in 1997. He also met Joyce Jacobs, who taught across the hall from Jim at St. Philip, in 1970. They were married on a snowy Saturday, April 3, 1971, at St. Rose of Lima Church in Hastings, Mich.” (Farley Estes & Dowdle Funeral Cremation Services Obituary)

The family asked that memorial contributions be made to the **James M. Ryan Memorial Scholarship Fund at Battle Creek Area**

Catholic Schools Foundation.

This new scholarship fund will be used for tuition assistance for students to attend Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools. So far over \$3,000 has been raised toward their \$10,000 goal for this fund. The family would like to endow this fund in memory of Mr. Ryan so his legacy of educating students lives on. In a St. Philip yearbook article, Mr. Ryan said, “I like to help students after school because I am in the education business, and if someone wants to be educated, then I’m for educating him whenever and wherever.” (“St. Philip Adults” article 1989 St. Philip High School yearbook) If you’d like to make a gift in memory of Mr. Ryan, donate online at www.bcacs.org and put James M Ryan Memorial Scholarship in the designation blank or send a check to BCACS Foundation, 63 North 24th Street, Battle Creek, MI 49015 with Mr. Ryan’s fund in the memo line.



BLAST FROM THE PAST: CLASS OF 1948

Celebrating 70 years...

Combining
Learning and Pleasure



TRIP TO MARSHALL

Ordinarily the study of judicial procedure would be quite dull, for court formalities and legal terms are enough to give even the most studious a few bad moments.

But we seniors have acquired the art of combining business with pleasure. Having run smack into the state judiciary in Civics class, we were pondering upon the best way of tackling the subject with the least harm to our overworked brains. Imagine then, our feelings when Sister, evidently inspired by the angels, announced "Be here at 8:30 tomorrow and Mr. Sweet will take you to Marshall in the bus. You will attend the opening session of the Circuit Court."

The next morning the clean pilot gleefully into the bus, much to the envy of the poor underclassmen.

Arriving at Marshall, we proceeded to the Court house where we witnessed the impending of the jury and the trying of a colored gentleman for felonious assault with intent to kill. The prosecuting attorney failed to prove the defendant guilty, and the charge in which the defendant pleaded guilty and received a sentence of sixty days.

After lunch we returned for a tour of the county jail—an experience both entertaining and educational.

At last we started home not only with more judicial knowledge crammed in our heads than we could have acquired in a month, but also with the recollection of a very pleasant day tucked away in our memories.

Malcolm Jersey.



12 Years At St. Philip

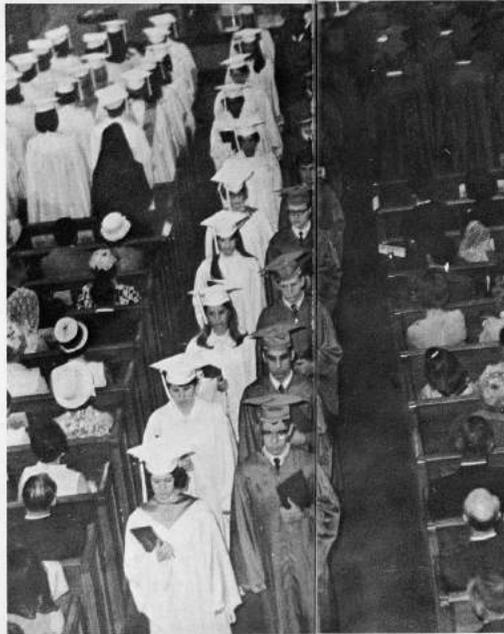
First Row: R. Phil, H. Westrick.
Second Row: M. Sweet, P. King, E. Boone, J. Bennett.
Third Row: J. Trotter, M. Murray, E. Giddens, T. Jankin.
Fourth Row: E. Wilson, J. Kinzie, L. Haycock.
Fifth Row: T. Buncher, C. Bunch, G. Bunch.
Sixth: M. T. Swain.

BLAST FROM THE PAST: CLASS OF 1968

Seniors Await New Frontiers

During the first five years of a student's life at school, the way is prepared for learning Christian principles and peaceful living. As seniors, students come in the realization that these principles are the ones around which he will build his life.

Seniors see the emphasis shift from the individual to the group. Looking back, they see how English, Spanish and Latin have deepened their power of communication. Athletics and clubs have given them the opportunity for developing and exercising leadership ability. They experience their first feelings of accomplishment.



Let's Scoop 'em out of Church at Government sessions. They seniors first about the 60th anniversary that day, are now the leaders of tomorrow. Above: Felix Pascual assists Father Sweet in presenting diplomas.

Celebrating 50 years...

Congratulations to our BCACS Alumni celebrating their milestone graduation years. Enjoy these excerpts from their digital yearbooks now available at www.bcacs.org. We are still looking for a 2007 yearbook to digitalize. Have one? Let us know!

BLAST FROM THE PAST: CLASS OF 1993

Celebrating 25 years...

ALMOST THERE

Ms. Gardner gives Megan Hanco and Patrick Scott final instructions for the graduation ceremony. Since Megan was the valedictorian, she was responsible for leading the symbolic act of recycling the cap/tales.



SHORT END

The Senior class works from the school to the church for graduation. This formation was practiced several times before the actual event.



THE GRADUATE

In the Kelllogg Arena during Baccalaureate, the graduates led their classmates with Mr. Harris and the program is ready to begin. Instead of having graduates give their speeches, they participated in a corporate celebration. Seven addresses were invited to the event.



The final week of requirements packed full with activities

Conclusion

The last day of school is looked forward to by everyone, but especially Seniors who get out a week and a half earlier than the Underclassmen. With the new exam policy several students' last day came a day early. The year-takers last day was Friday, May 28. After an hour for lunch all the Seniors had to come back to school for graduation practice. They had to learn how to present themselves for the all-school Mass one commencement. The practice dragged on for a few hours with the necessary formal on taking the longest.

The next activity was the all-school Mass which was presided over by Bishop Donovan. For the Seniors, who were in cap and gown, this Mass was their last practice before commencement. Amara Pattison and William Madick gave the readings. The petitions were read by Martha Coulter. These Seniors had met several weeks earlier with Mr. Garland to choose the readings and decide other details about the Mass.

The evening of June 2, Seniors, family, and friends gathered at St. Jerome's Church for the Honor ceremony. Valedictorian Emily Lindor and Salutatorian William Madick both gave their final words of wisdom to the Seniors. Over \$200,000 was awarded to this class in scholarships. The gala lasted almost two hours. Afterwards, everyone went to the St. Jerome cafeteria for refreshments and pictures.

The only non-mandatory graduation event was the mass trip to Yankee Springs on Wednesday. Over half the class attended the outing and set out on the "Big Red" bus early in the morning. A major reason for this trip was the class treasury had \$1900 left. Participants enjoyed the subs, pop, munchies, and water guns bought with the money. The day wasn't sunny or hot, so the Seniors had fun of the whole park. They played beach volleyball, baseball, cards, and games. A few diving bouts ventured into the near freezing water for a quick swim.

There was a major change of pace when the Seniors participated in the Inshore Greater Battle Creek Baccalaureate which was held at the Kelllogg Arena. Seven area schools were invited to this celebration, with each graduating Senior receiving a personal invitation. The purpose of having a city-wide celebration was because of a new Supreme Court ruling which said that public schools were no longer allowed to hold baccalaureate services because of separation of church and state, which doesn't affect STP. Our school decided to participate in this activity anyway to show our support of encouraging the role of religion in all students' lives—whether they attend a public or private school. Amara Pattison and Martha Coulter were selected to be on the planning committee which met every week for two months at the Kelllogg Foundation. The service was non-denominational and included personal testimonials of faith, biblical readings, class dedications, a choir, an architect, and a dynamic guest speaker, Byron Emmert. Tracy Lorene, Martha, and Amara spoke during Baccalaureate which was attended by over 1,000 people.

Day after day for one week the Seniors had various requirements to fulfill for graduation. At times there seemed to be so much to do, but when that week was over, it was really over forever.

© Amara Pattison

BLAST FROM THE PAST: CLASS OF 2008



Front row L-R: Connor Gallagher, Dominique Arzu, Chris Hesketh, Kate Hurst, Nichole Zelle, and Catherine Heneman; Second row L-R: Kaitlyn Lewis, Ryan Thurmer, David Curtis, Eren Salinas, and Eren Salinas; Third row L-R: Erin Cloos, Caroline Moore, Marlene Smith, Cory Michale, and Malory Williams; Fourth row L-R: P.A.J. Conch, Casey Brutsche, Kelsey Jewell, David Curtis, Drew Ughetti, and Eren Salinas; Fifth row L-R: Ryan Thurmer, Joe Riggs, Henry Barron, and Eren Ute.

Mock Elections



Mock elections winners pose "in character." Pictured above are the 22 seniors who were elected by the rest of the senior class for a variety of fun awards. There were ties in several categories. Not pictured are Libby Martin and Ben Niewenhuis.

Most Changed Since 9th Grade: Kelsey Jewell Ryan Thurmer	Most Likely To Succeed: Caroline Moore Ben Niewenhuis	Most Humorous: Casey Brutsche Tom Norman
Best Christian Attitude: Kelsey Jewell Ryan Thurmer	Most Artistic: Katie Potter Ryan Thurmer	Most Athletic: Caitlyn Gallagher Patrick Reilly
Most School Spirit: Georgette Newman Tom Norman	Biggest Flirt: Grace Rzepkowski Drew Ughetti	Worst Driver: Katie Hurst Patrick Reilly
Most Likely To Host A Talk Show: Georgette Norman Tom Norman	Best Smile: Malory Williams Caryl McHale Joe Riggs	Most Quillible: Grace Rzepkowski Jung Nam
Teacher's Pet: Katelyn Lewis Kyle Murphy Drew Ughetti	Biggest Moch: Caryl McHale Dave Curtis	Best All Around: Katelyn Lewis Caryl McHale Bryce Herzog
Best Singer: Libby Martin Dave Curtis		Cutest Couple: Megan Riley Eren Salinas

Celebrating 10 years...

You don't have to have a milestone reunion year to see your old yearbook. Check out www.bcacs.org and look for your graduation year. Yearbooks will be released on the 10-year anniversary date of each class.

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Keeping our BCACS Students, Alumni, Family, and Friends connected!



The wait is over

The Alumni section of the BCACS.org website is up and running!

Look inside to see how you can:

- Find your digital yearbook
- Access back issues of the Alumni News
- Nominate your fellow alumni for Hall of Fame and Distinguished Alumni
- Update your information
- Get reunion help

...and so much more!

Prefer to conserve resources? Sign-up to receive this publication electronically by emailing stpalumni@bcacs.org.