



THE LAUNCH PAD

Volume XII, Issue 2

December 2015

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DEAR PARENTS,

It's true that only Fr. Lawrence Frederick, a handful of teachers, and the senior physics students understand Albert Einstein's theories about the laws of physics. However, a great many others here understand Einstein's theory of living.

Einstein once said, "Only a life lived in the service to others is worth living." The stories in this issue suggest that your sons are making their lives worth living. The names Aldersgate, Miracle League, and Bigs in Schools are familiar to these boys. They pull out their wallets at lunch for a cancer research collection; they volunteer their study halls to tutor those who struggle.

And then there are the small, unnoticed acts of kindness one encounters in these halls and classrooms. A homeroom prays for someone who is having surgery, a boy stops to help a freshman who has dropped his books, another helps an injured athlete get to class.

If Einstein could materialize at Catholic High, he would be pleased to see lives worth living--and a really good physics class.

--the editor



Photo: Tyler Giblin

Colonel Ken Hopper USMC (Ret.) presents Fr. Lawrence Frederick with our MCJROTC's fifth Marine Corps Reserve Association's Outstanding Award for the 2014-15 school year in Region Five. The presentation coincided with our cadets' celebration of the 240th birthday of the Marine Corps. Catholic High's program currently has 178 cadets from ninth to twelfth grades.

MCJROTC WINS FIFTH REGION FIVE AWARD

Award recognizes citizenship, scholarship, achievement, and extracurricular involvement of cadets

Anyone walking by the gym on a regular day would hear the squeaks of athletic shoes on the polished floor and the shouts of boys playing some crazy game like "basocky ball" invented by our clever coaches for their physical education classes. The gym was full of boys on November 10; however, the room was completely quiet and no one was playing any kind of game.

The 178 cadets of the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program stood silently at attention as the color guard presented the flag. The event was a double observance for the cadets and their leaders, Senior Marine Instructor Col. Charles Johnson III, USMC (Ret.) and Marine Instructor Sgt. Maj. R. S. Jernigan, USMC (Ret.). They were celebrating the Marine Corps' 240th birthday as well as their status as a five-time winner of the prestigious Marine Corps Reserve Association's Outstanding JROTC Award.

Col. Ken Hopper, USMC (Ret.) presented the award to Fr. Lawrence Frederick. Col. Hopper is the pres-

ident of the Marine Corps Reserve Association that sponsors the annual honor.

Col. Hopper promised the cadets his comments would be brief, "because there's cake here and it looks good." He was referring to the giant Marine Corps birthday cake that the cadets would share after the ceremony. He went on to commend the cadets for earning the award but told them, "This award is for last year's work. You are now working toward the 2015-16 award."

The cadets and their leaders refer to this award as the MCRA. To win this honor, they must prove themselves to be the best program of the 55 schools in Region Five which covers Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. Winning means students have excelled in four areas including citizenship, scholastic achievement, extracurricular participation, and a grueling inspection by Marine officers from outside our program.

See JROTC Celebrates Birthday on page two

Scene around CHS



Junior Nathan Baltz carefully follows the steps to set up a chemistry experiment in Mr. Jim Edge's class. (See more photos of the chemistry lab on page 4.)



Freshmen Dylan Lozake and Jordan Meacham work through a set of diagrams in Mrs. Gretchen Gowen's English class.



Junior Bob Kilpatrick, Mrs. Carrey Reynolds' library assistant, peruses a good book.



Mr. Paul Spencer leads the Schola during the annual Father-Son Mass on November 2.

JROTC CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY



Col. Ken Hopper, USMC (Ret.) waits for his slice of the cake commemorating the 240th birthday of the Marine Corps. Next to Col. Hopper is senior John Murtha, the oldest cadet in the program and freshman Patricio Jara, the youngest cadet. Tradition calls for the oldest cadet to have the first slice of cake. He then serves the youngest cadet as a symbol of passing on his knowledge and experience.

Col. Hopper also commended the program's instructors and the school for promoting the JROTC program. He told the cadets that the skills they are learning in the program will help them no matter what career they choose.

Sgt. Major Jernigan was quick to give credit to the larger school. "It's a testament to the education and discipline that they are receiving upstairs," he said. Why has Catholic High's program won five out of the last six years? "Because of the school. We are a better school than the other units," said Sgt. Maj. Jernigan.

The cadets were aware of the countless hours Sgt. Maj. Jernigan spent compiling all the data necessary for the report that would qualify the school for the MCRA award. In 2009, he challenged the cadets: "If you're getting the education, why aren't you getting the honors?"

Sgt. Maj. Jernigan set his military cap on showcasing the school's excellence. His efforts paid off as cadets won the MCRA award in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2015.

Col. Johnson gives Sgt. Maj. Jernigan credit for the wins. "He would never admit it, but he is a big part of the win. This school is fertile ground. The award is also due to Sgt. Major's leadership and strong drive to win.

"The ethos of the school aligns with the goals of JROTC. We're not just about military history, drill, or marksmanship. We're training the boys to lead their lives well so

that they can lead others in the future," said Col. Johnson.

Of course, the cadets themselves had to play the primary roles to win the MCRA award. They spent thousands of hours volunteering for various school and community events.

A list of volunteer efforts for the current school year totals 2,380 hours just to the middle of November. Events include St. Jude the Apostle Bible School, the Camp Aldersgate Fish Fry, the Six Bridges Regatta, the Autism Race/Walk for the Cure, Hillcrest Harvest Fest, Boo at the Zoo, the Arkansas Traveler 100, Arkansas Bikers for Children, and Pulas-ki Heights Church Pancake Breakfast

Three cadets logged 125 hours each as counselors for Camp Aldersgate which offers a camp experience to children with various disabilities.

Cadets have helped with parking at War Memorial Stadium events and at Catholic High events such as the Ring Mass, PTO meetings, and the recent auction. They show up at Catholic Diocesan events such as the annual rosary for Catholic school athletes and a clean-up of St. John's Center.

Of course, one event close to the hearts of the cadets is Veterans' Day. Twenty-seven cadets volunteered to place flags on the graves of soldiers from all branches of military service.

THE MOTHER SHIP

(A COLUMN FOR MOMS BY MOMS OF CHS GRADUATES)

DEAR MOTHERS OF CATHOLIC HIGH STUDENTS, As we've told you before, we are moms of boys who graduated from here going on 15 years ago. Around the time our sons were born, the movie *Risky Business* gave Tom Cruise a chance to be an actor and gave parents everywhere fuel for their worst nightmares about the risk-taking behaviors of their teenage children. So it's little wonder that when we hear that particular *r* word, we associate it with wild parties, wrecked cars, ruined reputations--and worse.

Then, looking for material for this column, we were surprised to see an article in *Psychology Today* about good risk-taking. How could teenage risk-taking ever be a good thing? Marilyn Price-Mitchell, PhD wrote about her study of teens who took the very real risk of helping disadvantaged or disabled people.

Dr. Price-Mitchell wrote, "Some had come face-to-face with people living in situations very different from their own, like poverty or homelessness. Others were doing physical labor that stretched them to new levels of endurance. Several feared failure as they set their sights on unimaginable goals to benefit others."

The article reported that teens who had taken these kinds of risks were actually happier for having stepped out of their comfort zones. That might account for some of the smiles a visitor encounters when he visits Catholic High. Just reading some of the articles from this publication, we've learned that your sons are participating in more volunteer activities than ever before. Every hour a boy logs as a volunteer is a chance for him to take the good kind of risk that leads to growth and ultimately to happiness.

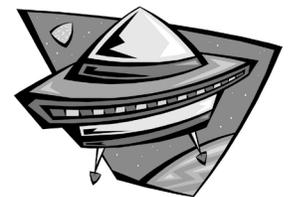
Dr. Price-Mitchell explained the connection between good risk-taking and happiness: "Changes to the limbic system of the brain cause teens to seek risk, challenge, and emotional stimulation. While some parents fear this phase of a child's life, it's really quite natural. And it's a time to be embraced as a positive transition to adulthood."

What better way to seek a challenge as well as emotional stimulation than to help others? It takes courage to sign up as a peer math tutor, to help with a vacation Bible school, to spend a weekend or a summer at Camp Aldersgate or the Miracle League, to work with homeless people at Helping Hand, to befriend a disadvantaged child as part of the Bigs in School program, or just to encourage friends to give hard-earned money to cancer research drives or Angel Trees. The thousands of hours banked by your sons is helping others but ultimately the boys are helping themselves become happy adults.

Dr. Price-Mitchell could easily have been talking about your sons when she wrote, "When young people learn to overcome challenges and meet risk head on, they learn to be resilient. They learn that exploration beyond their comfort zones often leads to unexpected rewards and psychological peaks. They develop courage, curiosity, self-confidence, and persistence."

So for this Christmas season, we encourage you to join your sons as they find new ways to help others. Your family's risky business might just make the world a better place for all of us to live.

For some strange reason, Mr. Steve Straessle continues to ask the moms of the CHS classes of 2002 and 2003 to write this column. As one of our dear German grandparents used to say (constantly): "We get too soon old and too late smart." We've got the old part down; we'll let you be the judge of the smart.



Senior Nicholas Vanhaute joins the exclusive club that includes Nick Baltz '13 and Ethan Williams '15. Each of the three earned a perfect 36 on the SAT. Baltz is now at Hendrix College and Williams attends Notre Dame.

VANHAUTE SCORES PERFECT 36

Senior Nicholas Vanhaute has achieved every serious student's dream: a score of 36 on the ACT. Students usually begin taking the test in their junior year and then retake the test until they get the best score possible. Vanhaute first took the test in June of 2014, which would have been immediately after completion of only his sophomore year. He made a 34 on that first test. It was a good sign. Most students would have stopped there and spent their Saturdays doing other things, but Vanhaute wanted that perfect score.

He signed up for the test held last April. He said, "The thought of getting a perfect score drove me to study hard in the month before the test. I prepared by taking practice tests and focusing on the questions for which the solutions were not immediately obvious. After I took the test, I felt confident that I had made at least a 35 and potentially a 36. On the night the scores were released, I stayed up to see what I made. When I saw that I made the maximum score, I woke up my family to tell them the good news."

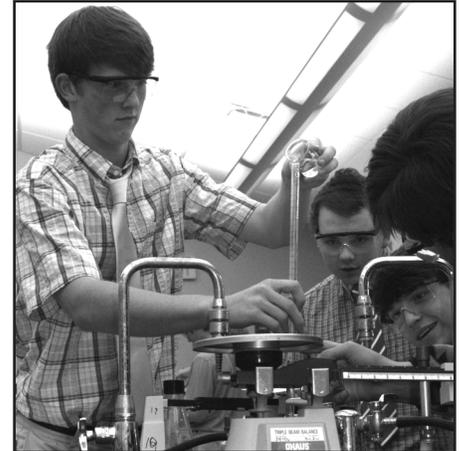
Vanhaute will be studying computer science next year at the University of Alabama. "I'm hoping to combine it with a degree in finance and potentially start my own business," he said. This year he is an award-winning band member and editor-in-chief of the *Rocket Times*.

MEANWHILE...BACK IN THE LAB

Juniors get serious with hands-on experiences in the chemistry lab. Mr. Jim Edge leads a class through a demonstration of proper lab procedures and titration



Justin Hinman and Jackson Prather watch as Nathan Baltz carefully pours acid into a pipette. Even at last period on a Friday afternoon, students stay focused--especially when they get a chance to put their hands on dangerous chemicals.



Justin Hinman looks like a pro as he measures chemicals and prepares to test them. Nathan Baltz and Elliot Enderlin offer their advice and encouragement.

Mr. Jim Edge watches as John Ballard and Cameron Fagan discover the proper procedure to fill a pipette with an acid solution. The first step was procuring a pair of lab glasses. Mr. Edge cautioned, "Everyone is afraid of the acid. The base is just as dangerous."



Noah Fowler and Cameron Tissue find success.



John Ballard, Ben Grable, and Cameron Fagan enjoy a Friday afternoon chemistry experiment. Mr. Jim Edge said, "The guys always love hands-on activities."



John Wilkinson and Marshall Petit try not to blow anything up as they work on their titration experiment.

VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE AS MUCH AS THEY GIVE

Students relate their experiences as counselors at Camp Aldersgate, a weekend and summer retreat for children with disabilities

It's a hot summer morning in Little Rock, Arkansas. Cars speed past a street called Aldersgate. Down that street, three kids climb in a canoe. Two of them have cancer. The other is from Catholic High.

Camp Aldersgate was formed in the 70s as a sanctuary for special needs children. Autistic children, kids with Down syndrome, children battling cancer, and kids living with diabetes have a chance to go to camp like "normal" children.

Boys from Catholic High have gotten involved in recent years and have brought the feeling of brotherhood to it. Senior Matt Huetter said, "Last year my friend (junior) Callan Low told me I'd like to help out there."

Low has a history at Aldersgate. He started before his freshman year. "It wasn't really my choice. I didn't really want to, but my mom made me. I volunteered three weeks that first summer. Then it just kind of snowballed from there. I volunteered two weeks the next year and then by my junior year I was applying to be a counselor."

The camp has a unique system to keep it running. Huetter said, "There are different weeks for kids with different disabilities. I worked on diabetes week, which is a lot different from other weeks because a lot of the kids don't even look or act any different. It really makes you think about what you have."

Aldersgate varies the campers every week. The most popular of these weeks among guys from Catholic High is Kota Week. "There are two Kota weeks throughout the summer. Kids of all different diagnoses can come and bring a sibling or friend that doesn't have a diagnosis."

The whole purpose of the camp is to make kids with debilitating diseases and disabilities feel normal. The counselors also benefit from the camp's "family" atmosphere.

Often, the kids with the most issues are the most inspiring. Low said, "During this last summer in the second Kota week I had a kid in my cabin named Jeremy. [Senior] Jordan Gonyea was a volunteer in my cabin this week and we spent pretty much the whole week with this boy. Jeremy is an 11-year-old with Down syndrome, autism, and a speech impediment. That was probably the hardest week I've ever worked, but I got to bond with Jeremy in a way I had never bonded with a camper in the previous four years I had been at camp."

The number of volunteers keeps growing. Senior Joe Myers said, "The C.E.O. of Aldersgate goes to my church and she told me to try it. I enjoyed it. They are really good kids. There was one kid named Demandtae. He contracted lymphoma the year before he was going to start baseball. That hit me hard and made me realize how lucky I really am."

Of course, along with brotherhood, the boys of Catholic High bring mischief to the camp. Low said, "On the last night of the last week of summer, the other counselors in my cabin and I bought a bunch of candy and snacks and we hid them in one of the main buildings. Then at midnight we woke all of our kids up and told them that we were going to break in and steal the candy. So we snuck down and pretended to pick the lock and look around until we 'found' the candy. Then we pretended to hear one of the supervisors coming, so we all sprinted back to our cabin and ate the candy we had 'stolen.'"

Aldersgate is known for being the home of special needs kids during the summer. But no one who was interviewed in this story dwelled on that. Huetter said, "That's not what matters. What matters is that those kids get a fair chance to make friends like all kids. Deep down we all struggle with things. I think something we all do at Catholic is use the 'brotherhood' to forget about our own personal worries. Those kids deserve the ability to live outside themselves and be a part of something bigger too."

Story by senior Jenson Chier, reprinted with permission from the October issue of the Rocket Times.

"What matters is that those kids get a fair chance to make friends like all kids. Deep down we all struggle with things."

--Matt Huetter



Senior Benjamin Paladino (third from left) spends some quality time with campers and other counselors at Aldersgate during the summer session. Paladino is among a growing number of CHS students who find fulfillment giving their time to the non-profit organization that tries to give a real camp experience to those with various disabilities. Photo provided by Aldersgate

MU ALPHA THETA REINVENTED

Students seek out “math nerds” for peer tutoring help as the club members don jackets and “fraternity” pins to raise awareness of their services



Senior Will Perreault (left in white shirt) poses with the new “pledges” for the school’s math club MAΘ. Perreault serves as president of the group. With other senior leadership, the group is raising awareness of the group’s service to those who struggle with math. Members of MAΘ offer free peer tutoring throughout the school day.

Twenty-seven boys, each wearing a distinctive red pin on his sport coat, caught the attention of the student body on a recent Wednesday. The boys were the newest members of the school math club, Mu Alpha Theta, also known as MAΘ (the Greek letters for math). Their mission: to help every student here excel in math.

Mrs. Jennifer Wilcox is the club’s sponsor. MAΘ is a national mathematics honor society; Catholic High has been an active chapter since 2007. Mrs. Wilcox turned to the senior leaders for ideas to bring new life to the club which in the past quietly helped students during the Wednesday lunch study halls. Mrs. Wilcox served as a tutor while she was in college and so looked to her own experience as to what was helpful for those who struggle in math.

Mrs. Wilcox said, “The president, Will Perreault, has worked very hard to raise awareness of the organization on campus. He placed MAΘ letters above the classroom door, had a candlelight ceremony to welcome the new members complete with a pledge to love all things math, and ordered ‘pledge pins’ for the new members to wear.

“The purpose of this is to raise awareness of the organization on campus. The underlying joke is that M, A, and Θ are Greek letters and this organization would seem to be a fraternity, complete with members, pledges, a pledge trainer, and a social chair. In truth, all the students who join are recognized as members and realize this is done in fun. It’s no secret that those who excel in math or math-related fields are stereotyped as nerds. Our goal is to make the nerd cool by showing that we enjoy math but can also have fun and make fun of ourselves.”

To help more students than in the past and to make the program more flexible for all involved, Mrs. Wilcox and the senior leaders gave members a choice of tutoring on Wednesday at lunch for five weeks straight or tutoring in the library math lab area one day a week during their study halls. Many chose the second option and so librarian Mrs. Carrey Reynolds agreed to set aside a table close to her office along with a sign-in sheet.

“So far, it’s been great,” said Mrs. Reynolds. “There have been students seeking help at the ‘math lab’ table almost every period of the day.”

“The goal of the math lab is to give every student a safe place to ask questions, access free help, and gain the tools he needs to succeed in his math classes,” said Mrs. Wilcox.

“We have seniors who come in for help with their trigonometry and freshmen who come in for help with algebra. It’s a win-win for the tutor and for those tutored. The tutors are having to review subject matter that they may not have seen in up to three years. As I’ve told the tutors, “To teach is to learn twice.”

Including the 27 new members, the group now has 60 members. Over 100 students came in the first week to seek the free tutoring service. Mrs. Wilcox credits the officers for raising awareness of the club’s presence. The sport coats and membership pins help. “This is the first year that people are really talking about us and wanting to know what this MAΘ is all about,” said Mrs. Wilcox.

“The elected officers have some great ideas this year to encourage more member involvement. We gave all members candy for Halloween and sponsored a design project this fall. The officers hope to plan a ‘mixer’ with the Mount Saint Mary MAΘ group, to sponsor a math competition in the spring, and to have meetings that ‘include more snacks.’”

It’s a win-win for the tutor and for those tutored. As I’ve told the tutors, “To teach is to learn twice.”--Mrs. Jennifer Wilcox

Mrs. Wilcox has also encouraged new members to join as tutors. Any junior or senior who maintains a 90% in all math classes and a 90% overall is eligible to join. Students pay a one-time fee of \$10 to the national organization and a \$5 fee each year to cover the chapter activities—possibly including the highly-demanded snacks. Mrs. Wilcox added one requirement, “Each member should also have a desire to grow in his math knowledge.”

Mrs. Wilcox hopes to keep the momentum of the club going and even expand peer tutoring on campus. She said, “We hope to grow the program to help more students in more disciplines.” To the parents she says, “If your son is struggling, encourage him to visit the math lab during his study period.”

The future of the club may involve those outside the school walls. Mrs. Wilcox said, “I would love to have parents who work in math-related fields come speak to our group, have businesses sponsor a math contest, or even have parents offer their services as tutors.” (Those interested may contact Mrs. Wilcox at Jennifermills-wilcox@hotmail.com)

The new rather arbitrary “rules” of membership continue to attract attention of the student body. Mrs. Wilcox said, “For one month new members are asked to wear jackets on Wednesday, their red ties, and their ‘pledge pins.’ This helps support our fraternity ‘theme,’ but mainly it helps raise awareness on campus about MAΘ. Underclassmen see that being in the Math Club is not something to be embarrassed about and that we are actually having fun. I’ve even heard several senior members express that they wish they had pins when they joined last year. Freshmen have asked me when they get to join.”

DECEMBER 12, 2015 TO APRIL 2, 2016

- ❑ December 12: ACT
- ❑ December 14: Freshman basketball at Benton (TBA)
- ❑ December 16: Semester Exams--Periods 1 & 2
- ❑ December 17: Semester Exams--Periods 3 & 4
- ❑ December 18: Semester Exams--Periods 5 & 6
- ❑ **December 18: Christmas Break begins at 2:00**
- ❑ December 18: Conway Class Basketball Tournament
- ❑ **January 4: School reopens; Third quarter begins**
- ❑ January 4: Freshman basketball vs Cabot at CHS (5:00)
- ❑ January 5: Senior Mass; Junior varsity/varsity basketball at Central (6:00/7:15)
- ❑ January 7: Freshman basketball at Lake Hamilton (TBA)
- ❑ **January 8: Early Out for Parent-Teacher Conferences 12:30-3:30**
- ❑ January 8: Varsity basketball at Siloam Springs (7:30)
- ❑ January 11: Freshman basketball vs. NLR at CHS (5:00)
- ❑ January 12: Junior varsity/varsity basketball vs Bryant at CHS (5:00/6:15)
- ❑ January 14: Freshman basketball vs Conway at CHS (5:00)
- ❑ January 15: Varsity basketball vs. Alma (7:30)
- ❑ **January 18: School closed for Martin Luther King's Birthday**
- ❑ January 19: Junior varsity/varsity basketball vs Conway at CHS (5:00/6:15)
- ❑ January 21: Freshman basketball vs Conway at CHS (5:00)
- ❑ January 22: Varsity basketball vs. Van Buren (7:30)
- ❑ January 23: SAT
- ❑ **January 24: Open House for Incoming Freshmen (12:30-2:30)**
- ❑ January 25: Freshman basketball at Russellville (TBA)
- ❑ January 26: Varsity basketball at Russellville (7:30)
- ❑ January 28: Freshman basketball at Cabot (TBA)
- ❑ January 29: Junior varsity/varsity basketball vs. Greenwood at CHS (5:00/6:00)
- ❑ February 1: Freshman basketball vs Bryant at CHS (5:00)
- ❑ February 4: Freshman basketball vs. Benton at CHS (5:00)
- ❑ February 5: Junior varsity/varsity basketball vs. Siloam Springs at CHS (5:00/6:15)
- ❑ **February 6: Entrance Exam for Incoming Freshmen; ACT**
- ❑ February 8: Freshman basketball at Cabot (TBA)
- ❑ February 9: Varsity basketball at Bryant (7:30)
- ❑ February 10: Ash Wednesday; All-School Mass 8:00 a.m.
- ❑ February 10: Junior varsity basketball vs. Pulaski Academy at CHS (5:00)
- ❑ February 11: Freshman basketball vs. Lake Hamilton at CHS (5:00)
- ❑ February 12: Junior varsity/varsity basketball vs. Alma at CHS (5:00/6:15)
- ❑ **February 15: School closed for Presidents' Day**
- ❑ February 16: Varsity basketball at Conway (7:30)
- ❑ February 19: Junior varsity/varsity basketball vs. Van Buren at CHS (5:00/6:15)
- ❑ February 23: Junior varsity/varsity basketball vs. Russellville at CHS (5:00/6:15)
- ❑ February 26: Varsity basketball at Greenwood (7:30)
- ❑ March 1: Senior Mass
- ❑ March 5: SAT
- ❑ March 10: Third Quarter Exams
- ❑ March 11: Third Quarter Exams
- ❑ March 13: Daylight Savings Time begins
- ❑ March 14: Fourth Quarter begins
- ❑ **March 21-March 25: School closed for Spring Break**
- ❑ March 25: Good Friday
- ❑ March 27: Easter Sunday
- ❑ March 28-April 1: Junktique setup
- ❑ April 2: Junktique Sale--8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

SCENE AROUND CATHOLIC HIGH



Our award-winning wrestlers and their coaches roll out the mats for another season.



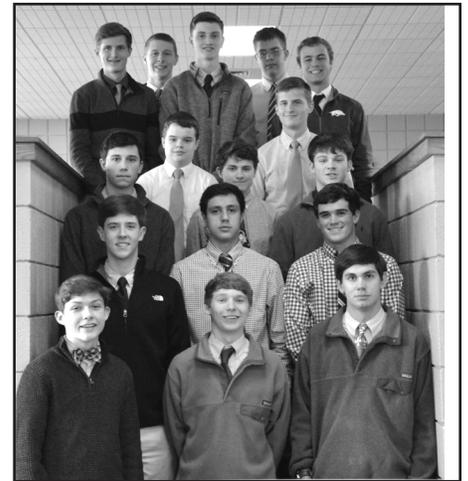
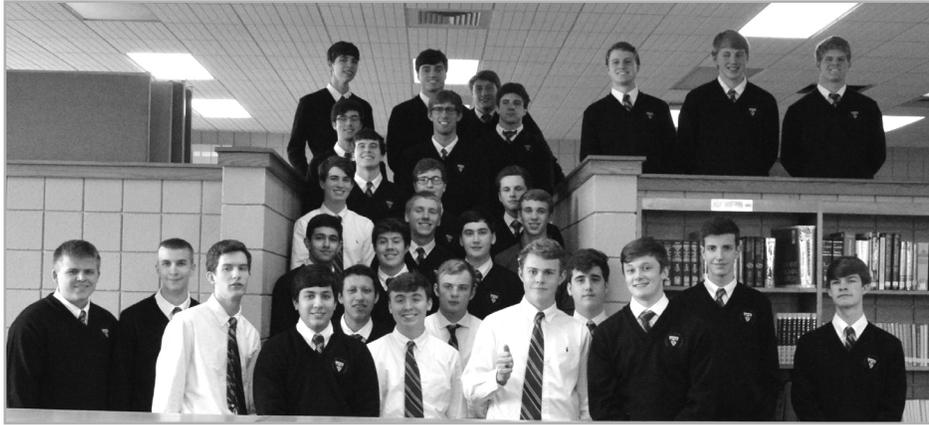
Fr. Lawrence Frederick presides over the Father-Son Mass on November 2. The seniors' fathers were special guests for the Mass and then took their sons to lunch. Mr. Steve Straessle spoke to the fathers after Mass and emphasized the importance of their role in their sons' lives.



*CORRECTION: Okay, so we made a major mistake in the October issue of this publication. We identified the students above as freshmen. Heaven forbid. These are **sophomores** celebrating their victory as kings of the lockers. They won the epic basketball battle between their team and a scrappy bunch of freshmen. Their victory earned them the right to take back the top lockers that had been mistakenly assigned to the freshmen back at August registration. So, again, please forgive us for misrepresenting the obviously sophomore faces above.*

We also regret errors in the beekeeping story. Bee expert Mr. Jon Zawislak is the father of eight children (not seven) including freshman Calvin Zawislak. He helped the beekeeping group by assisting with the extraction of 750 pounds of honey, not 70 pounds as reported. The honey goes on sale December 9 at Catholic High.

CHS ANNOUNCES NEW NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERS



Pictured above are senior members of the National Honor Society as they gathered for the year's first meeting on Wednesday, December 1. At right are the junior members of NHS.

Honor Society recognizes top students and gives them a chance to help others in the larger community through service projects

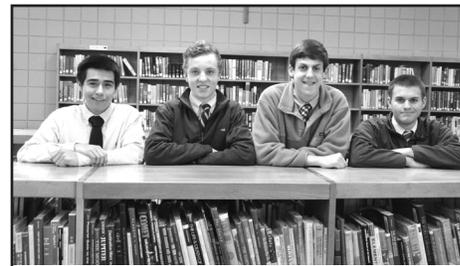
Mr. Richard Heien, sponsor of the school's National Honor Society (NHS), recently named new and returning members. Senior members include Jackson Allen, Noah Bouscher, John Broadwater, Noah Black-Ocken, Alex Brown, Ben Bryles, Andrew Cash, Jensen Chier, Trip Carrico, Forrest Dunkum, Jonathan Elser, Jordan Gonyea, Luis Hernandez, Ramsey Khariri, Joseph Kready, Andrew Mackenzie, Monroe McKay, Jackson Miller, Andrew Myers, Thomas Nesmith, Paul Nick, Josh Pinter, Will Perreault, Ryan Pohlkamp, Ryan Roach, Sam Robbins, Jack Russell, Anderson Schock, Samuel Smith, Evan Sowell, Will Stafford, Nicholas Vanhaute, Andres Vargas, and Conner White.

Junior members include Carlton Adams, Joseph Bilger, Evan Brown, Stephen Clark, Andrew Cline, Tripp Martin, Hudson Moss, Drew Obert, Benjamin Paladino, Thomas Paladino, Marshall Petit, Samuel Raney, Miles Smith, John Storey, and David Vargas.

Other new members include Clark Betts, Alex Clark, Spencer Day, and Joseph Lara.

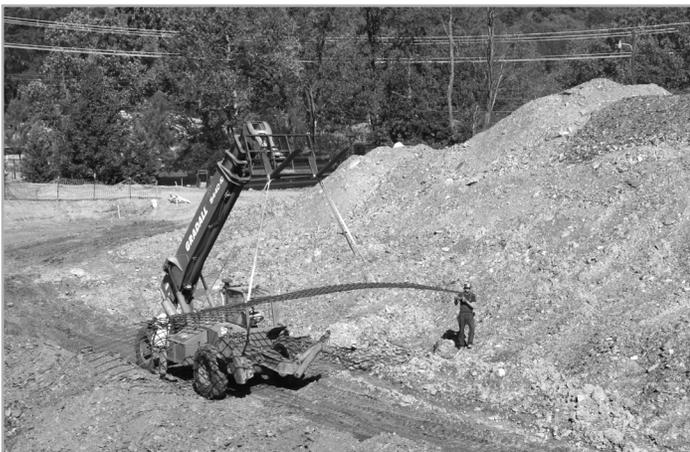
Membership requirements include an overall scholastic average of at least 85%, no major discipline infractions, and proof of volunteer work benefiting the school, one's church, or the community. This year several sophomores gained entry; last year only juniors and seniors could apply. A group of teachers serve on the NHS committee which takes care of membership and operational duties.

Members participate in two service projects each year to benefit the larger community. The first project this year was to coordinate Angel Tree donations from all the school's homerooms.



National Honor Society Members Joseph Lara, Clark Betts, Spencer Day, and Alex Clark are no strangers to the library. NHS members must maintain a high scholastic average while being active in the community

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES ON ANNEX BUILDING



Workers from Nabolz Construction place giant pieces of reinforcing bar as they prepare the area for the first floor of the school's new annex building.

The giant pile of dirt between the school and the football field seems to grow larger each day. The scope of the work becomes apparent when one views the job site from the eastern edge of the parking lot. Giant pieces of reinforcing bar criss-cross the floor of the excavation as workers prepare to pour concrete for the building's foundation.

No one is looking forward to the new building any more than athletic director Mr. Tim Ezzi. He said, "It's going to give us a whole lot more room to put a lot more kids. It's going to give us a lot more area to work with. It's going to have the classrooms which we definitely need. It's going to give our wrestlers a place to practice here on campus where they don't have to go off campus. It's going to give baseball and soccer and other people a chance to work out here on campus while football's practicing. It's something that's been needed for a while. We've been kind of cramped and crowded for a while. It's going to be good; it's going to be really good."

Rocket Times writer Dean Sublett contributed to this article.