



November Edition

Guardian Angels Central Catholic School Newsletter

NEWS FROM THE NEST

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Bluejay pride

Guardian Angels Central Catholic competed in the Class D1 state football championship at Memorial Stadium and finished as the runners-up. See page 2 for more.



Guardian Angels Central Catholic closed out the 2016 football season with a runner-up finish after falling to Burwell in the Class D1 state championship game November 21 at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln. Members of the Bluejay football team are, from left, sitting: Gage Herbert, Connor Klitz, Sheldon Disher, Kobe Slaughter, Cole Kreikemeier, Damian Bircham, Andrew Guenther, Danny Wordekemper, Nolan Plagge; kneeling: Jacob Yosten, Tyson Snodgrass, Jared Minnick, Derek Petz, Jaden Rahn, Mike Baumert, Andrew Franzluebbbers, Dylan Duhsman, Blake Pojar; standing: coach Zach Wietfeld, coach Matt Emanuel, coach Mike Bailey, Axcele Obiang Biteghe, Mitchell Peatrowsky, Nate Yosten, Casey Doernemann, Adam Reeson, Will Kreikemeier, Liam Gnad, Noah Hass, Ross Klitz, Aaron Disher, coach Matt Schlaebitz, coach Allan Lamli and head coach Dave Ridder.

GACC brings home silver

GACC fell just short of winning its first state title since 2010 as they lost to Burwell in the Class D1 championship game at Memorial Stadium 47-18.

With a state runner-up finish, the Bluejays closed out the year with a 12-1 record. This marked the final game for nine Bluejay seniors: Cole Kreikemeier, Nolan Plagge, Andrew Guenther, Connor Klitz, Kobe Slaughter, Sheldon Disher, Damian Bircham, Gage Herbert and Danny Wordekemper.

In their four-year career, these seniors compiled a total record of 41-4.

"Overall, they are just a great group of kids. They just enjoy life, and they are a joy to coach," Bluejay head coach Dave Ridder said.



Bluejay senior Andrew Guenther hauls in an over-the-shoulder catch during the second half of the Class D1 state championship game November 21 at Memorial Stadium.

'Living out the Gospel'

Reeson sisters experience "eye-opening" mission trip

By Delores Meister

Monica Reeson ('16) and her sister Emily Reeson, class of 2017 experienced "an eye-opening mission trip" working with Catholic Charities in Brooklyn and Queens in New York City. They traveled with a small group from Columbus Scotus, coordinating with the national Young Neighbors in Action group.

"The diversity of the nation, the different cultures, the reality of poverty and the charitable work of the Church made it a week we will never forget," Emily said.

They spent two days at Bayside Senior Center in Queens.

Monica said, "We did chores, such as gardening, cleaning, and checking in people at the front desk."

"Another day we spent at a Catholic Charities 'Fun-Fest' in a poor Brooklyn neighborhood. We gave each family items such as books, school supplies, clothing and food. Many families told us the produce we gave them would be their only food for the week."

She said, "This small act gave us a completely different perspective on life, realizing how differently these people are living. It made us so grateful for the blessings we have been given in our lives."

The fourth day was at Catholic Charities affordable housing complex in Queens. "We picked up lots of trash, trimmed trees and bushes, cleaned an old office inside the building."

The fifth day was spent cleaning classrooms in a Catholic grade school in Brooklyn. "Every night we joined the groups that worked at different sites. We discussed how to take what we learned and use it in our own communities," Emily said.

Monica said, "This week gave us a deep sense of joy and peace. At home, it's easy to get caught



Sisters Emily Reeson, left, and Monica Reeson experience "eye-opening" mission trip.

up with our busy lives, but on this mission trip, we were focused on living out the Gospel. That joy and peace was the Holy Spirit saying we are doing God's will."

"We often forget that actually living out what Christ told us will truly bring us happiness. This week was a refreshing experience that reminded us of that truth. It is a week we will never forget," she added.

'This week gave us a deep sense of joy and peace. At home, it's easy to get caught up with our busy lives, but on this mission trip, we were focused on living out the Gospel.'

Monica Reeson
GACC graduate of 2016

Feeling right at home

Fr. Andy has been blown away by welcome to West Point

Upon his arrival to St. Mary Parish this summer, Fr. Andy Syring quickly discovered what type of community West Point is.

Fr. Andy began his assignment to St. Mary Parish as an Associate Pastor on July 1. And since then, West Point has been nothing short of spectacular, Fr. Andy said about the open-arm welcome.

Fr. Andy was reassigned from St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Omaha. But as a Schuyler native, he knows the small-town feel.

"The transition has been wonderful. The people have been very welcoming. Being here has been a real blessing. It feels like I'm at home again," Fr. Andy said. "Coming from a small town, there's a great joy and sense of pride in the community. The people here have such a healthy pride, and they're able to say 'this is our town, this is our community, this is our church.' To be a part of that has really been an honor."

And it's not just the people that left an impression on Fr. Andy. It was the community and schools as a whole.

"I'm really impressed with how the people have taken care of their church and school and community in general," Fr. Andy said. "West Point has something very unique and special that other communities don't have."

Fr. Andy's journey to West Point has had several stops. His journey to the priesthood also had somewhat of an unconventional route.

It wasn't until high school, when he began youth ministry work, that his interest for the priesthood truly sparked.

"That is when I started to see



Fr. Andy Syring has enjoyed his welcome to West Point.

the faith in various ways. Being a public school kid, I had to learn certain parts of the faith myself," Fr. Andy said. "In learning that, I found out this faith was pretty dynamic."

Fr. Andy was ordained a priest five years ago. But prior to his ordination, Fr. Andy worked various jobs. He worked for Schwan's Ice Cream, for a grocery store, the family restaurant; he sold insurance, and worked on computers at Cargill in Schuyler.

"I always figured if I could sell groceries, ice cream and insurance, then I could sell Jesus," Fr. Andy said.

And it was "people" who sold Fr. Andy on being a priest.

"I learned early on that I could not sit behind a desk all day," he

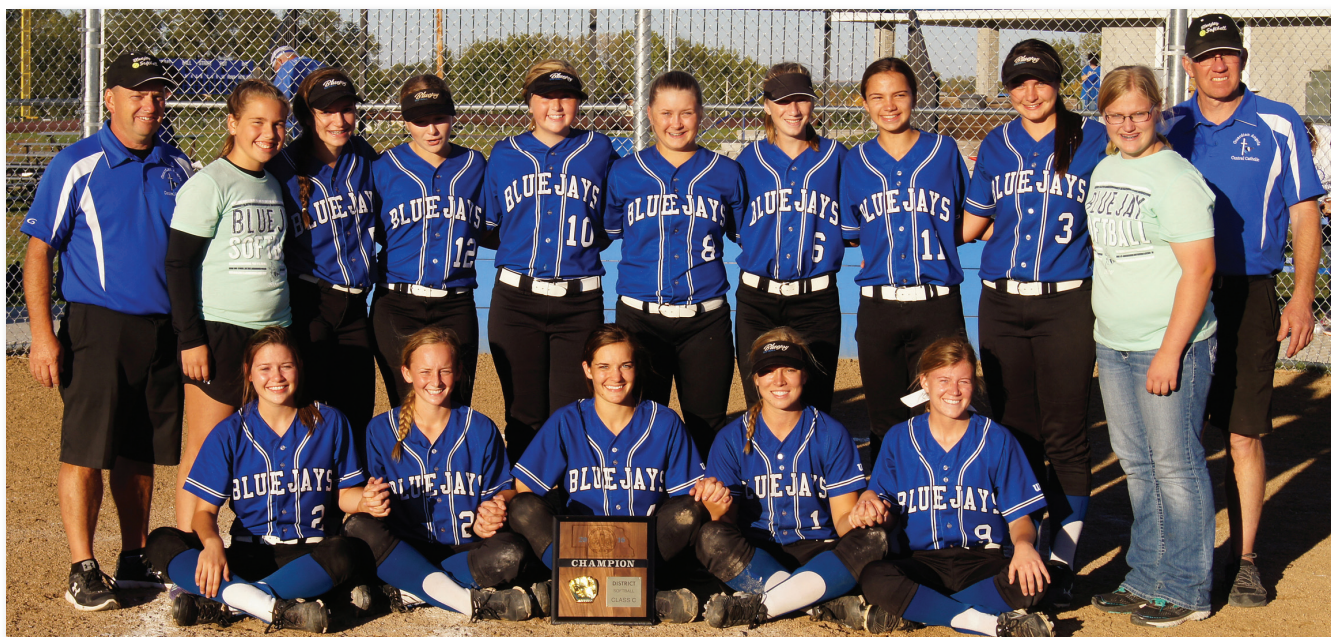
said. "I had to meet people. I'm a person who needs to meet other people and talk with them."

Creating relationships with families is certainly one of the highlights for Fr. Andy.

"You marry a couple, you baptize their children, you celebrate their First Communion. There's a real joy in being a part of the moments in people's lives that are memorable," he said.

Fr. Andy is looking forward to building more and more relationships as time goes on and is excited to do what he can to make an impact in people's lives.

"I always hope that what I say and do inspires families and students and young people to be the best version of what God created them to be," he said.



Above: GACC finished 3rd at the state softball tournament held in Hastings. Members of the Bluejay softball team are, from left, front: Marci Franzluebbbers, Hannah Hunke, Lauren Wobken, Mariah Hunke, Makayla Tomka; back: head coach Allan Kreikemeier, manager Jenna Schinstock, Marissa Hunke, MaKenna Rolf, April Kreikemeier, Melissa Hagedorn, Josie Dvorak, Brooke Meister, Lexis Haase, manager Erin Franzluebbbers and coach Jeff Pribnow. Not pictured is coach Bruce Schlecht.

Right: Bluejay Hannah Hunke storms the field after teammate Mariah Hunke hits a three-run homer to end the game in a 10-0 win over Cozad on day one of the state tourney.



GACC places 3rd at state

GACC had quite a run in the 2016 Class C state softball tournament in Hastings, collecting a 3rd-place finish.

The Bluejays were just one win (and one run) away from an appearance in the championship game.

GACC opened up the tournament with a couple of big wins over Twin River and Cozad. But back-to-back losses to Malcolm and Cozad ended their run.

The Jays finished with a 24-11 record. They had five seniors: Lauren Wobken, Mariah Hunke, Hannah Hunke, Makayla Tomka and Marci Franzluebbbers.

"This team worked so hard and never stopped believing," head coach Allan Kreikemeier said.



GACC places 4th at state

Following a dramatic five-set win over Lutheran High NE in the opening round of the Class D1 state volleyball tournament, GACC fell short in its next two matches as they settled for a 4th-place finish.

With the win over LHNE, it was the 16th straight time the Bluejay volleyball team has won their opening match at state.

Losses for GACC came to Johnson-Brock and Elgin Public/Pope John.

GACC finished 18-12. The team had six seniors: Maddie Knobbe, Tessa Simonsen, Lisa Gatzemeyer, Jamie Plagge, Jena Wimer and Emily Reeson.

"This was a special team," GACC head coach Kate Hagemann ('00) said.



Above: Guardian Angels Central Catholic captured a 4th-place finish at the 2016 Class D1 state volleyball tourney in Lincoln. Earning hardware were, from left, front: Jena Wimer, Lisa Gatzemeyer, Emily Reeson, Maddie Knobbe, Tessa Simonsen, Jamie Plagge; back: head coach Kate Hagemann, Maddie Bracht, Brooklyn Bailey, Angela Jansen, Riley Throener, Ally Plagge, Allie Knobbe, Hanna Knobbe, Kali Stratman, coach Bill Hagemann and coach Mary Lueshen.

Left: GACC senior Maddie Knobbe and junior Kali Stratman celebrate a point as the Bluejays inched closer to an opening-set win over Johnson-Brock in their semifinals' match.

McKnight named a top dentist

Dr. Holly A. McKnight (Bourek, '01) was named as one of 2016's "Top Dentist" by "Phoenix" magazine.

She is currently a dentist in Phoenix, Ariz.

BIRTHS

Mike & Bridget Doyle: son Ray William born 9/7/16

Jarrod & Jenna Roeber: daughter Brooklyn Elizabeth born 8/29/16

Todd '03 & Amber '04 Hugo: son Joseph George born 9/7/16

Nathan & Jessica Eby: daughter Georgia Ann 9/11/16

Matt & Mary '07 Lueshen: daughter Avery Jean born 9/22/16

Chris '01 & Melinda Strehle: son Duke Miles born on 10/5/16

WEDDINGS

Jamie Oligmueller '12 & Alex Norton: married on 10/1/16

Ethan Hunke '07 & Megan Oddo: married on 10/15/16

Tim Otte '99 & Elsa von Peters: married on 11/25/16

Katie Ortmeier '09 & Adam Christiansen: married on 11/26/16

DEATHS

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

Clarence Steinhauser: Date of death was 10/8/16

Leonard Bracht '50: Date of death was 10/11/16

Dorothy (Johnson) Mejschik '77: Date of death was 10/17/16

Sam Kirwan '10: Date of death was 10/18/16

Joseph Schlickbernd: Date of death was 10/26/16

Ron Ernesti '74: Date of death was 10/28/2016

Doris Kreikemeier: Date of death was 11/13/16



Carolyn Fraher (5th from left in back row), along with some other GACC House members, earlier this year.

'House' helps Fraher for mission trip in Kenya

Carolyn Fraher ('16) will be involved with mission work in Kenya beginning in January 2017. The House she was in her senior year, St. Maximilian Kolbe, is helping her raise funds for her journey.

The students in the house sponsored a sweatpants day and raised \$111.00 and will also be having a few more fundraisers throughout the year.

Fraher will be teaching at Point of Grace Academy in Kisumu, Kenya, which is a Lutheran boarding school her brother Jacob helped start in 2009. The school educates children who are too poor to afford an education.

She will be in Kenya until April 2017. She is raising funds to offset her costs of travel, supplies and living expenses.

Fr. Lorig offers prayer advice

By Delores Meister

Father Jeff Lorig ('95) offers advice for an everyday active prayer life.

If you are unable to participate in St. Mary's Perpetual Adoration, Father said, "For 20 minutes a day, just sit. The hardest part of prayer is to just show up."

Lorig said, "We have a nice place in our home for watching TV. Have a nice place in your home for your prayers. In the silent stillness, let God show up in your heart."

Fr. Lorig is currently serving as pastor of St. Ludger, Creighton and St. Ignatius, Brunswick.

Making a positive impact

Kampschnieder honored with Archdiocese outstanding teacher award

Bringing brightness into the world, and her workplace, is an absolute joy for Guardian Angels Central Catholic teacher Mary Jo Kampschnieder ('84).

Sharing that joy with students has been extremely rewarding.

"There's so much negative out there. My goal is to make sure something positive happens every day in my student's life," Kampschnieder said.

That positivity hasn't gone unnoticed. Kampschnieder, who has been in education for 26 years, was honored as one of Omaha Archdiocese's Educators of the Year.

Kampschnieder, the Library/Art teacher at GACC, accepted that award during the 39th Annual Archbishop's Dinner for Education last Thursday in La Vista.

"I am truly honored. I have always considered my job in education as a vocation and teaching in Catholic schools for almost 25 years has been a real blessing," Kampschnieder said.

This annual honor is awarded to eight outstanding teachers and administrators who demonstrate a strong personal commitment to Catholic education, and give service that's above and beyond the call of duty.

And while Kampschnieder called this a "true honor," being in the classroom with her students is rewarding on a daily basis.

"The reward of teaching is being with the kids. Teaching art is specially rewarding when a kid discovers that they can do something they didn't realize they could do before," Kampschnieder said. "Seeing a kid realize they



Mary Jo Kampschnieder was honored as Educator of the Year.

can create something in art is rewarding."

What Kampschnieder loves about teaching art is that anyone can thrive as long as they're willing to put in the work. For her, practice makes perfect.

"Talent is part of it, but practice is what needs to be done to be successful. You're not just born with it," Kampschnieder said. "Kids can have a talent at something, but you're not going to get better without practice."

Getting kids to work hard at GACC has never been an issue for Kampschnieder.

"The kids are motivated to be here. They want to be here. They're excited to be here, and they want to learn," Kampschnieder said. "I'm pretty lucky to have

those kind of students."

As an alum, GACC has always had a special place in Kampschnieder's heart. That's why 15 years ago when the opportunity to teach in West Point came about, she knew it was the right decision.

"There's so much tradition here. It's special coming back to where I started my education," Kampschnieder said. "It's comfortable here, and I'm able to carry on the legacy of sharing my faith with the kids."

Sharing her faith is another reason teaching at GACC is special.

"It's a calling for all of us as Catholics, especially for us in Catholic education, to help kids through the journey of finding out what their faith is all about, and setting good examples," she said.

Rolf helps out after hurricane

By Delores Meister

This is a great country.

When help is needed, people respond. To reciprocate, gratitude and appreciation transcends state, regional, political, religious and race boundaries.

With Hurricane Matthew was predicted to be a category 4 storm on the East coast, local Midwestern help was on the way. This was later revised to category 2 with extensive damage to power lines, poles and trees.

Central Catholic alum Andy Rolf ('03) willingly volunteered with 12 other Lincoln Electric System workers to help with electrical reconstruction.

The Nebraska contingent worked southeast of Orlando at Vero Beach, Florida, and at Bennettsville, South Carolina for 11 days.

Rolf was amazed at the thanks and appreciation and warm hospitality they received from the people there.

Rolf said, "They were very thankful. They were very glad we came. They didn't realize what they had until they were missing it. I am glad I went. It was very rewarding."

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Chris Strehle got out to an early lead in the Race for Warriors, and never let it go as he was the overall champion of GACC's St. Wolfgang House fun-run in October.

Warrior Race raises over \$5,000

Plenty of fun and exercise was had, and all for a good cause.

St. Wolfgang House of Guardian Angels Central Catholic hosted a 5K Run/Walk fundraiser in October, called the 'Race for Warriors.'

Participants either ran or walked the course. There was even a one-mile race option for children. A total of 117 people registered. Of those who signed up, 88 actually ran/walked the course.

The St. Wolfgang House fundraiser generated approximately \$5,500. All proceeds from the event will benefit veteran trips to Washington, D.C., through Patriot Productions and their "Honor Flight."

Chris Strehle was the overall champion. JoDene Stalp was the women's champ.

"It was a tremendous day. We had an excellent turnout, especially considering it was the first year," said Matt Schlaebitz, who is the Dean of St. Wolfgang House. "The community support was overwhelming. I'm very proud of our students. Their hard work made this all possible."



Rick Wimer was decked out in his military gear for the race.

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