



THE CHALLENGER

Spring 2011



Upcoming Events

May

- 6 Mass at 8:30 with May crowning & Grandparents' Day Coffee Social
- 11 Spring concert 6:30
- 15 Unity Run/Walk
- 20 Mass at 8:30 celebrating 2nd graders' First Eucharist

June

- 3 Mass at 8:30 celebrating Kindergarten graduation
- 9 Mass at 6:30 celebrating 8th grade graduation
- 10 Mass 8:30 — last day of school

Beloved Teacher Set to Retire

Ms. Margaret Zahn, Christ Child Academy's beloved third grade teacher, will be retiring at the end of this school year after a 47-year Catholic school teaching career! Ms. Zahn said it was always her dream to become a teacher.

After attending grade school in Sheboygan at Washington and Ss. Cyril and Methodius and high school at North High, Ms. Zahn went on to graduate from Lakeland College where she earned her teaching degree. Upon graduation, she began her teaching career spending 21 years at Immaculate Conception

School then 26 years at Christ Child Academy when I.C. and St. Peter Claver schools merged into one.

Ms. Zahn's favorite part about teaching is seeing students eager to learn and then watching them go on to become successful in their chosen careers. She stated it has been a very rewarding career, and she will miss it immensely.

Other than relaxing and enjoying her spare time, Ms. Zahn has no set plans for retirement. She will definitely come back to visit the C.C.A. students from time to time.

Enjoy your retirement, Ms. Zahn. We are grateful for your dedication to Catholic education. Although we will all miss you, we wish you a long, happy and healthy retirement. You have definitely earned it!

Thanks to 3rd grader Elliot Pethan for his contributions to this article.



Students Perform Well Again

The Iowa Basic Skills Test is taken by 3rd, 5th and 7th graders every March. The test covers reading, social studies, science and math. Based on the results of all C.C.A. students, a "grade equivalent" composite is determined. This score indicates the grade level of our average student's general knowledge. For example, a score of 5.5 indicates performance on the test at the level of the average fifth grader in the fifth month of school. As we have come to expect, our students scored well above their grade levels.

| <u>CCA Grade</u> | <u>Grade Level Composite</u> |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Grade 3 | 4.5 |
| Grade 5 | 7.6 |
| Grade 7 | 10.2 |

New Student Council Elected

Congratulations

To 8th graders Matt Matysik and Amy Gruenke on their recent writing contest awards. Matt took first place in the essay division of the countywide "The Write Stuff" contest sponsored by *The Sheboygan Press* and The Sheboygan Writers' Club. Amy took first place in the local competition of the Knights of Columbus "Right to Life" essay contest and will advance to the state level of the competition.

Brittnei Marfilius has been elected to be the student council president for 2011-2012. Brittnei decided to run after gaining some leadership experience in 4-H as her club's vice-president. Brittnei states that through 4-H, specifically through her involvement in showing steers, she has learned the meaning of responsibility, patience, and organization in addition to good management skills.

Brittnei is joined on the student council by vice-president Gemma Sutkiewicz, secretary Evan Opgenorth, and treasurer Zack Kaffine. Other representatives on the council include Philip Pethan, Katie Banie, Emily Paltzer, Noelle Timler, Rachel Schleicher, Nathan Sampson, Derek Wagner and Alex Feudner. The student council advisor is Mr. James Peter.

As student council president, Brittnei would like to have more dances and continue to work on the plans for a school store that are already underway. In addition, she will follow through on plans for a middle school lock-in. She recalls the years when she looked up to older students at C.C.A. and states she hopes younger C.C.A. students will look to her as a role model.



2011-2012 Student Council Officers

Pictured, left to right, Gemma Sutkiewicz, Brittnei Marfilius, Evan Opgenorth, Zack Kaffine

CCA Playground Fund Grows

By Nancy Cunningham, Home & School President

The Home & School Committee has been very busy this year. We have been focused on obtaining new playground equipment for our children. We have been in contact with a company from Fond du Lac that has extensive knowledge in planning and building playgrounds geared for all ages of children. Because of the size of this project, we have divided the project into three phases. The total cost of the equipment and ancillary components

for the playground will be approximately \$30,000. This year we were able to raise \$9,100, including \$4,000 raised in the live auction at Winter Extravaganza and \$1,800 at the rummage sale held earlier this month.

Home & School sponsors many activities for C.C.A. children such as Camp Vista, the Back to School Carnival, Family Fun Night, the Masquerade Ball and Secret Santa Shop. Other

active projects include Pastoral Appreciation Day and Grandparents' Day. The Home & School Committee is also responsible for funding bussing services for school activities and assisting the teaching staff in procurement of supplies for their classrooms. We look forward to continuing our efforts to help the staff and students of Christ Child Academy enjoy a positive learning experience.

"The total cost of the equipment and all the needs to complete the playground will be approximately \$30,000."

C.C.A. Alumnus Named Valedictorian

A Christ Child Academy graduate has been named as a valedictorian at South High. Nathan Zalewski, son of John and Sue Zalewski, is the ninth C.C.A. graduate to achieve valedictorian status in the last eight years. Zalewski plans to pursue a degree in computer science from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Nathan credits Christ Child Academy with providing him a high-level education that allowed him to be prepared for more advanced classes at South High. He states that one of his favorite subjects is math and that he was positively influenced by Mike Beitzel, C.C.A.'s middle school math and science teacher. Nathan found Beitzel's teaching methods to be both enlightening and fun. He worked closely with Mr. Beitzel to found the C.C.A. Chess Club. Nathan said chess was always an area of interest for him, but he didn't have much opportunity to play chess. He approached Beitzel with the idea for a middle

school chess club, and Beitzel agreed to be the advisor for the group. Nathan has good memories of playing against other chess enthusiasts. The Chess Club that Nathan founded continues to this day.

Nathan has been an active member of the student body in his four years at South High. He mentored incoming freshmen for the past two years as a member of the Link Crew. He was a member of the boys' varsity tennis team for three years and managed both the basketball and football teams. Nathan states his greatest achievement at South High was being elected to the National Honor Society for the past three years. Outside of school, Nathan volunteers for the American Red Cross, Knights of Columbus, Salvation Army and the PGA. He and his parents are members of Immaculate Conception Parish where Nathan volunteers as an usher. Nathan stays in touch with C.C.A. and volunteers at the school as well. When asked what advice he

could offer to current C.C.A. eighth graders preparing to enter high school, Nathan stated, "I would tell them to get involved. Being involved in high school has helped me meet new friends and also taught me how to manage my time. These time-management skills enabled me to achieve the grades I needed to be co-valedictorian of my class."

Christ Child Academy congratulates Nathan and wishes him much success!



Nathan Zalewski, C.C.A. graduate and South High valedictorian

Farewell, C.C.A.

By Amy Gruenke, 8th grade

Christ Child Academy has been a part of my life for eleven years. It has brought me many great memories and unforgettable friends. The teachers here have taught me many things that will help me to succeed in the future. High school will be completely different

from CCA; I won't know everybody in my class or be able to talk with the teachers the way I do here. But it will also bring many great opportunities. Everything I have learned at Christ Child Academy throughout the years will help me to make choices that will impact my

future. I will really miss Christ Child Academy!!

Christ Child Academy

is a Catholic school sponsored by the parishes of Immaculate Conception, Ss. Cyril & Methodius and St. Peter Claver offering programs for children in 3K through 8th grade.

Registration for the 2011-2012 school year is underway. Classes are filling up quickly—

Enroll Today!

Call 459-2660

Visit us online at
ChristChildAcademy.com

Familiar Face Joins C.C.A. Teaching Staff

Mrs. Kelly Wagner will be joining Christ Child Academy as the new third grade teacher this fall. Mrs. Wagner and her husband Gregg have two children; their daughter Allie, a C.C.A. graduate, is a junior at South High and their son Derek will be graduating from C.C.A. in June. Mrs. Wagner comes to us from St. Dominic School in Sheboygan where she has been teaching for the last 21 years. Mrs. Wagner and her family are members of Immaculate Conception Parish.

Mrs. Wagner stated that she has always wanted to be a teacher. She is a graduate of Immaculate Conception School (where she was taught by both Ms. Zahn and Mrs. Janssen) and South High. Following high school, she attended Cardinal Stritch University where she fulfilled her lifelong dream and earned her teaching degree. She is looking forward to her new teaching adventure at C.C.A.

One of Mrs. Wagner's favorite things about teaching is seeing the happy, smiling kids. She also enjoys the inquisitive nature of children and the way they are anxious to learn new things. She finds it difficult every year to move the children on to the next grade as she becomes very attached to them. Her favorite teaching memory occurred one year on the last day of school when the teachers had a water fight. Goofy, crazy and fun are **all** words that describe Mrs. Wagner. The upcoming third graders have a lot to look forward to!

Mrs. Wagner encourages all parents to communicate openly with her, especially if they have concerns or questions. She will always try her best to make each child's learning experience a positive one. Mrs. Wagner has a message for her students come fall: "Get ready for some exciting learning activities. I am always searching for NEW creative ideas to meet all the learning styles of my children!"

Outside of school, Mrs. Wagner enjoys spending time at her cottage, reading and watching her children's activities. Welcome, Mrs. Wagner. We're glad you are here, and we wish you much success and many happy years at Christ Child Academy!

C.C.A. Chess Club Concludes Another Season

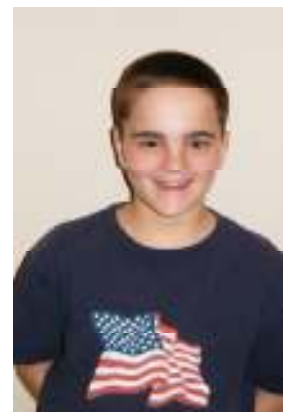
By Sam Hilptershauser, 7th grade

For the past two years, I have participated in the Chess Club that is held after school. Chess is a fun game that has been around for a long time, but a lot of kids aren't interested in playing the game. Mr. Beitzel is bringing the game to middle school students who attend Christ Child Academy. He enjoys playing the game of chess and would like to share his fondness of the game with his middle school students.

The 2011 Chess Club began on Monday, January 24, and met for nine consecutive Mondays through March 28. A total of 18 students participated. For each match that was played, the winner received two points. If the outcome of the game was a tie, each player received one point. This scoring system determined the top three players. This year the first place trophy was awarded to

Hans Peter. Taking the second place trophy was Alex Feudner, and the third place trophy was awarded to Kyle Banie. Everyone who participated received a medal and a ribbon.

Every middle school student is welcome to join Chess Club. It's a good way to spend time with friends and a good way to learn the game. Hope to see you next year at Chess Club!



Hans Peter, 6th grade, 2011
Chess Club Champion



Christ Child Academy 2722 Henry Street Sheboygan, WI 53081
ChristChildAcademy.com

Making Faith Part of Everyday Life.