



# AUSTIN CATHOLIC

## Connection

SPRING 2016





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## AUSTIN CONNECTION

is published 3 times annually by the Austin Catholic Advancement & Communications Departments. Please contact Lisa Upton, Director of Advancement, for errors or omissions.

## CORRECTIONS

Joseph and Annette Sabatella were misidentified as the Savatellas in the Winter Edition's Scroll of Donors.

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL


As I sat in my quiet office one sunny Saturday, enjoying some uninterrupted productivity, our resident peacock peered into my door. Our good friend "Kevin" ("Henry" to some), announced his presence by staring in at me and proudly displaying his train. I was in awe. Although I've seen him many times, this simple gesture during a moment of quiet felt so pure and poignant. It gave me the drive to finish my tasks for the day and then go home to my family.

In our over-scheduled lives, we often forget to stop and smell the roses, or in this case, stop and take in the beauty of God's creations. I wondered at that moment what God was thinking when he created the peacock. What purpose does a flightless bird serve? As I recounted the story to my kids later that afternoon, I reflected on what God might have intended for me with Kevin's visit. Was I working too hard and He wanted me to slow down and see the beauty around me? Had I forgotten the joys of learning and the good Lord felt I should start with peacocks? (Turns out they can fly a bit after all!) Whatever the divine message was, I walked away renewed in my faith and the strength to finish the academic year with a fresh outlook.



Days later as we ushered the seniors through their final week as high school students, I was reminded of the peacock. As with all of God's creations, these young men and young women have a purpose. We may not know exactly what it is yet; but God has His plan for them. As such, these young people may not always appear driven, purposeful, or glorious at first glance. But when the time is right, they display the radiance, the brilliance, and the boldness God intended for them.

Guiding these students, these majestic creations, to reach their God-given potential is our purpose as educators and parents. Our future rests in the hands of these young people. How we educate them to vote, to speak, to think, to work, to pray, and to live, will impact each and every one of us. So the next time we pass by one of our teens, try to look beneath the surface. There truly is magnificence within each of us, just waiting for the right time to reveal itself.

Yours in Christ,  
  
Janel M. Coppens, Principal

## BUILDING UPDATE

As of printing, we are in the final stages of closing on Chesterfield Elementary located at 25925 23 Mile Road in New Baltimore, Michigan, originally part of L'Anse Creuse Public Schools. If everything goes as planned, we hope to begin the 2016-2017 academic year in our new home.



## WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? EVERYTHING

Austin Catholic strives to create socially and ethically responsible leaders who use their God-given talents to make a difference in an ever changing world. The Social Justice Caritas (Love) Project is the culmination of four years of Augustinian education. This senior service project challenges students to take a critical look at the world around them, and then apply what they have learned to a particular disadvantaged or marginalized group, or social justice issue in the community. Students developed a plan and wrote a proposal laying out how they would minister to the community at a minimum of 25 Christian service hours. "Each project was a labor of love for these students. They were involved every step of the way, whether raising funds or awareness. Their contributions are invaluable, both as an example to Austin underclassmen, and to the greater community," said Campus Minister Deacon Dennis.

**Hannah Burke** and **Tiffany Lacap** hosted a Halloween party for special needs children in Macomb County. Coverage appeared in C&G Newspapers: <http://www.candgnews.com/news/teens-host-halloween-party-special-needs-students-87788>

**Lindsay Malzahn** spent the summer of 2015 on an Unbound (formerly CFCA) mission trip in Guatemala.

**Matthew Sturza** has spent the school year tutoring Austin students and acts as a third grade catechist for

his parish's religious education program.

**Antoinette Campo** and **Nicholas Schudt** collected 380 items (socks / underwear / pajamas / hygiene products) to be packed for at-risk children removed from their homes because of abuse or violence, through Big Family of Michigan.

**Maria McPhail** and **Luis Zaldana** collected 491 items (diapers / baby blankets / pajamas) for distribution to needy parents by Compassion Pregnancy.

**Kaitlyn Brannigan** and **Madalyn Warren** sponsored and collected Christmas gifts for a local single mother and her four children.

**Jerry Ben** and **Innocent Nwoko** hosted a Spirit Week at Austin and raised over \$300 for Flint residents.



Austin students pose with Matthew Lacap at the Halloween party hosted by Hannah Burke and Tiffany Lacap.



## TIMOTHY AWARDS

In April, two Austin Catholic students received Timothy Awards for their work in youth ministry and devoted service to the community. The ceremony was held at St. Jane Frances de Chantal Catholic Church in Sterling Heights. Sophomore Kylee Eubanks is a parishioner at St. Peter Catholic Church in Mount Clemens and freshman Peyton Weingartz is a parishioner of the St. Lawrence Catholic Community in Utica.

Sophomore Kylee Eubanks and Freshman Peyton Weingartz.



## FRESHMAN RAISES FUNDS

In March, Honor Roll student Arianna Stawiasz organized a Corned Beef Luncheon Fundraiser at Austin Catholic in response to the Flint water crisis. She raised \$226 for the Rotary Club of Flint to assist Flint residents. Stawiasz is a freshman who came to Austin from Immaculate Conception Catholic School (Ira Township).

Freshman Arianna Stawiasz organized a fundraiser for Flint residents.

## COMMITMENT TO UNITAS

As part of Austin's commitment to Unitas (Unity), a select group of students were sent to the Youth Mental Health First Aid Course at the Macomb Intermediate School District. The day-long workshop covered a 5-step action plan to offer initial help to people with the signs and symptoms of a mental illness or in a crisis, and connect

them with the appropriate professional, peer, social, or self-help care. The students will work in conjunction with Austin's school counselor in peer mediation and support. "The workshop was really helpful; it provided tips and insight into what can really be going on with teens and how to help them," said workshop attendee and sophomore Angela Angelucci.

## FRIARS ALUMNI MEMORIAL MASS & RECEPTION



Bill Harrington '63; Sharon Pine (Rick Pine '63); Rev. Bernie Sciana O.S.A.; and Kerry Schaeffner '63.



Rick Berschback '71; Bob Berschback '68; Chip Berschback '75; and Don Berschback '60.

Old memories were shared and new memories were made at the Alumni Memorial Mass & Reception at St. Clare of Montefalco in Grosse Pointe Park on Saturday, Feb. 27th.



Rick Handloser '59; Joe Kramer '61; Larry Smith '62; and Tom DeCorte '63.



Don Berschback '60; Janel Coppens, Principal of Austin Catholic High School; Fr. Bernie Sciana O.S.A.; and S. Gary Spicer.



Detroit Austin Prep Alumnus David Hinz recently visited Austin Catholic and made a priceless donation of Detroit Austin Prep memorabilia. Hinz was one of a dozen of students who graduated from Detroit Austin Prep in the summer of 1978 after the school's closure.

## DETROIT AUSTIN PREP ALUMNUS DONATES FOOD FOR END OF THE YEAR PICNIC

A Detroit Austin Prep Alumnus from the class of 1964, Dan Cronin, recently donated the bulk of the food needed for Austin's annual End of the Year Picnic. The event draws in the entire Austin community: alumni, families, and current and prospective students. His haul also included cases of pasta, sauce, vegetables, and dessert mixes for future events. Sophomore Brendon Krimmel connected with Cronin through Austin's Spring Phone-A-Thon and was thrilled with his pledge for hospitality assistance.



### SAVE THE DATE

16th Annual Austin Alumni Golf Outing  
Monday, June 20th at Gowanie Golf Club

For more information,  
contact Tom De Corte at (757) 634-4818

Plaid pants optional!

### KEEP IN TOUCH!

Stay in touch with your fellow Friars by contacting the Austin Catholic Alumni Committee at [detaustinalum@gmail.com](mailto:detaustinalum@gmail.com) or contact Lisa Upton, Director of Advancement & Alumni Relations, at [lupton@austincatholicacademy.org](mailto:lupton@austincatholicacademy.org) or (586) 749-7900.



## TRIBUTE TO BOARD MEMBER RAY WEINGARTZ

In February, the Austin Catholic family lost one of its most big-hearted benefactors and friends, Board Member Ray Weingartz. Weingartz was 78. As a lifelong Macomb County resident, Weingartz advocated for a co-ed Catholic high school to open in Macomb and actively encouraged support among his fellow parishioners at St. Isidore Catholic Church. He was one of the first community members to pledge his support to Austin Catholic since its inception in the early 2000s. "Mr. Weingartz was a regular presence at Mass, open houses, fundraisers, and more. He always led in the Austin Catholic community by example. His smiling face and gentle spirit will be greatly missed," said Principal Janel Coppens.

From Board Member Meg Lope':

*It's been said that Ray Weingartz' priorities were clear: God first, then his family, then his business and everyone it serves, and lastly, himself. He was a man who spent his life helping others. One of the things that I admired most about Ray is that he walked the talk, living the kind of honorable, Catholic life that he advocated. Ray played a key role in making Austin Catholic High School happen. But his accomplishments and contributions to the school go way beyond business and operations to the very core of the values that we are striving to instill in the Austin family. He remains a true role model for all of us and will be missed but not forgotten.*



## SPIRIT OF AUSTIN AWARDS

### SPIRIT OF AUSTIN AWARDS DINNER

The Spirit of Austin Awards Dinner was held on Thursday, May 19th. The Spirit of Austin Award is given annually to recognize those benefactors and supporters who have dedicated their time, talents, and resources to the Austin Catholic community. This year, we were fortunate enough to have two recipients: Delores Causley and Judy Kucway. Mrs. Causley and Mrs. Kucway have been generous donors to Austin Catholic since its inception and have always shown commitment to Catholic education. Past winners were: Leonard Brillati, Reverend Jerry Machlik, Salvatore Simone, and Raymond Weingartz.



Left to Right: Principal Janel Coppens, Delores Causley, Judy Kucway, and Director of Advancement Lisa Upton.



The Spirit of Austin Awards Dinner also included the senior awards ceremony.



## GRADUATION 2016

The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Thomas McCarthy, O.S.A. at St. Isidore Catholic Church in Macomb. Austin Catholic Preparatory School alumnus Mr. Carl Rashid, Jr. ('66) and Austin Catholic High School alumnus Oscar Aponte ('15) also gave readings to inspire the class of 2016. The Commencement Ceremony immediately followed, with a final turning of the tassels led by alumna Regina Marogi ('15).



## CLASS OF 2016

Jerry Nnachi Ben  
Kaitlyn Mary Brannigan  
Hannah Elizabeth Burke  
Antoinette Virginia Campo  
Tiffany Anne Deang Lacap  
Lindsay Marie Malzahn  
Maria Victoria McPhail  
Onyekachi Innocent Nwoko  
Nicholas Ronald Schudt  
Matthew Steven Sturza  
Madalyn Beth Warren  
Luis Emmanuel Zaldaña



## AWARDS

### Valedictorian

### Summa Cum Laude Graduate

Maria McPhail

### Magna Cum Laude Graduates

Kaitlyn Brannigan  
Lindsay Malzahn  
Nicholas Schudt  
Madalyn Warren

### Cum Laude Graduates

Jerry Ben  
Hannah Burke  
Antoinette Campo  
Tiffany Lacap  
Matthew Sturza





## MEDALS FOR ACADEMIC MERIT

Excellence in Religion, First Honors	Kaitlyn Brannigan
Excellence in Mathematics, First Honors	Maria McPhail
Excellence in English, First Honors	Maria McPhail
Excellence in Science, First Honors	Jerry Ben
Excellence in Social Studies, First Honors	Matthew Sturza
Excellence in Public Speaking/Drama, First Honors	Nicholas Schudt
Excellence in Visual Arts, First Honors	Luis Zaldaña
Excellence in Vocal Music, First Honors	Madalyn Warren
Excellence in Yearbook/Journalism, First Honors	
First Honors Performance	Lindsay Malzahn
First Honors Technical	Matthew Sturza

## MEDALS FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

### St. Augustine Service Award

Kaitlyn Brannigan  
 Hannah Burke  
 Antoinette Campo  
 Tiffany Lacap  
 Lindsay Malzahn  
 Maria McPhail  
 Nicholas Schudt  
 Matthew Sturza  
 Madalyn Warren  
 Luis Zaldaña

### Scholar Athlete of the Year

Jerry Ben

### Leonard Brillati Ambassador Award

Hannah Burke

### Rev. David Brecht Christian Witness Award

Lindsay Malzahn

### Athlete of the Year

Tiffany Lacap  
 Innocent Nwoko  
 Luis Zaldaña

### Student Activities "Student of the Year"

Tiffany Lacap





## TRACK AND FIELD

After three jamboree track and field meets, Austin Boys rank 6th in the league and Austin Girls rank 5th in the league. "All team members are contributing, all achieving personal best performances. They are enjoying the competition and making new friends with student athletes from other schools," said Head Coach and Athletic Director Mike Miller. This year, Austin welcomes new Assistant Coach Michael Nahmias. Coach Michael comes to Austin from coaching the Middle School Cross Country Team for Rochester Avon Recreation Authority.

It's been a record-setting season for both male and female athletes. School records were set by freshman Benjamin Brown (High Jump and Long Jump), junior Alex Radwick (Discus), sophomore Nick Radwick (1600M Run), and freshman Maria Schudt (400M Dash). The 800M Relay record was set by Benjamin Brown, Alex Radwick, Nick Radwick, and freshman Christopher Shorkey.



*Sophomore Santiago Cardenas runs for Austin Catholic's Track and Field and plays for New Haven High School's Junior Varsity Baseball.*



*Senior Antoinette Campo prepares to throw the discus. Campo is the girls record holder for discus and shot put.*

## SPRING SPORTS WITH NEW HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL

This spring marks the last season of the Austin Catholic High School Crusaders and New Haven High School Rockets Co-op. Five Austin students played for the New Haven Girls Varsity Soccer team: freshmen Kat Fluegel, Tiffany Ryan, and Sofia Zaldana, sophomore Kylee Eubanks, and

senior Tiffany Lacap. Sophomores Santiago Cardenas and Brenden McCarty played for the Junior Varsity Baseball team. Freshman Cecelia Charrette played for the New Haven Varsity Softball team.





## EXPLORATHON

Seven young women, accompanied by Director of Curriculum and science teacher Jennifer Linville, attended the 2016 Explorathon at the Cranbrook Kingswood Middle School for Girls in Bloomfield Hills. The event provided students with interactive and hands-on workshop sessions featuring dynamic women scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and health care specialists. Explorathon is a joint project of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Ford Motor Company, Cranbrook



Institute of Science, and Cranbrook Kingswood Middle School for Girls, to showcase opportunities for women in scientific careers and develop science literacy. The students who attended were asked to write a paragraph to be considered. "It was very interesting to learn about all the types of science that I didn't know about and it allowed me to try new things," said sophomore Elaina Smyka. Senior Tiffany Lacap concurred, "I really enjoyed it. It taught me a lot about a future career in pharmacy."

## NOTRE DAME SEMINAR

This summer, three teachers will be headed to the University of Notre Dame to examine the issues lying at the interface of science and religion. The trip is the second part of a three-segment program, which began with an 8-week reading and response assignment, and concludes with development of a concrete action plan and/or lesson plan. Austin Catholic was one of 114 qualifying schools invited to the seminar. Director of Curriculum and science teacher Jennifer Linville spearheaded the application and is excited to offer teachers this unique professional development opportunity.

## STANDARDIZED TESTING

In April, Austin Catholic participated in its first year of statewide standardized testing. The data collected from these tests will be immensely important to the faculty as they analyze student performance and look to make curriculum adjustments. The freshmen and sophomores took the PSAT 9 and 10, which are developmentally appropriate tests designed to assess student achievement and estimate future performance on the SAT. The juniors took the SAT, the ACT Work Keys, and the MSTEP. The SAT, a nationally accepted college entrance exam, was administered free of charge to juniors as part of the state testing. The ACT Work Keys test assessed students' career-related skills, and the MSTEP focused on science and social studies content mastery. Test scores should be available in late spring/early summer.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AWARD

Austin Catholic students participated in the annual Knights of Columbus "The Importance of Religious Freedom" essay contest. Three students from each grade were awarded certificates and cash prizes. The St. Kieran Knights of Columbus Council 13983 held the ceremony at the conclusion of April's Community Mass and joined faculty, staff, and students for a community lunch.

### Senior Class

Maria McPhail  
Nicholas Schudt  
Madalyn Warren

### Junior Class

Ashley Charrette  
James Lynott  
Jacob Ryan

### Sophomore Class

Brendon Krimmel  
Jenna Mayle  
Gianni Menassa

### Freshman Class

Michael Guilbault  
John Paul Reilly  
Christian Spearman



## CONFIDENCE TAKES CENTER STAGE AT STATE FORENSICS COMPETITION

The Forensics Team wrapped up another successful year, with a state finalist and semi-finalist, and multiple tournament trophies. Sophomore Brendon Krimmel placed 5th in Sales and freshman Christian Spearman was a Semi-Finalist in Oratory 9/10 at the Interscholastic Forensics Association State Tournament at Central Michigan University. All team members who participated in Regionals had a chance to compete at States.

### Regionals Results:

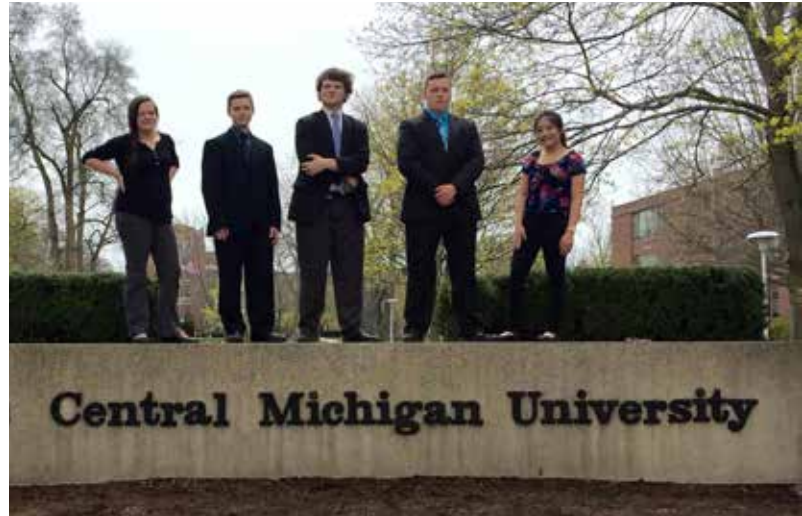
Sales- Brendon Krimmel- 1st place

Extemporaneous- Alexander Brown- 3rd place

Oratory 9/10- Christian Spearman- 1st place

Poetry- Maria Schudt- 1st place

Poetry- Gariann Cadelina- 2nd place



*The Forensics Team at the Interscholastic Forensics Association State Tournament at CMU.*

## HARMONIES MOVE BEYOND AUSTIN'S HALLWAYS

The Austin Band is growing; participation is up 50 percent! This school year, band students lent their talents to mass and a Fine Arts Night, along with offsite events like the Winter Gala, Lenten Recital, and Spring Concert. In addition to playing their instruments, the students have become proficient at choir chimes, hand bells, and nontraditional percussion mediums. The new percussion ensemble has had two lively Stomp-esque performances to date.

For the second year in a row, Austin made a strong showing at the MSBOA District and State Solo-Ensemble competitions. State Solo-Ensemble results are as follows:

### FIRST DIVISION

Alex Radwick, soprano sax solo

Alex Radwick, alto sax solo

Nicholas Radwick, bassoon solo

### SECOND DIVISION

Elaina Smyka, flute solo

ACHS Chamber Ensemble

### THIRD DIVISION

Pierpaolo Zaldana, clarinet solo

## MSBOA SCHOLAR

Junior Alex Radwick received this year's MSBOA Scholar Instrumentalist Award. The award recognizes young musicians who achieve both academically as well as musically; Radwick is an honors student who plays the alto and soprano saxophone. "I first met Alex when he was a seventh grader at Richards Middle School (Fraser) where I was the Middle School Band Director. It has been a blessing to continue his musical journey into high school. He is an exceptional student and musician," said Music Program Director Lance Vechinski, who nominated Radwick for the award.



*Music Program Director Lance Vechinski instructs junior Alex Radwick.*



## PROM 2016

Austin Catholic's Prom was held on May 12th at Tina's Country House & Gardens in Macomb Twp. The theme was "A Night Around the World," with international décor and desserts. The memorable night culminated in senior Matthew Sturza being elected Prom King and senior Tiffany Lacap taking the crown as Prom Queen. Juniors Emily Walker and Brendan Moroz were crowned Princess and Prince, respectively.



## MORP 2016

The freshmen hosted the anti-prom, Morp. The beach-themed soirée was held at the school on the same night as Prom. Students tie-dyed t-shirts, played games, danced, and barbecued.



*Austin's Band and Choir at St. Isidore Church for the Spring Concert and Graduation.*



# AUSTIN

Catholic High School

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AUSTIN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

# Leonard J. Brillati

3rd Annual Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing



Monday, June 27, 2016

Cherry Creek Golf Course in Shelby Twp.

**\$125 per person includes:**

18 Hole Best Ball Scramble

Continental Breakfast

Lunch on the Turn and Dinner

Welcome Gift & Pro Shop Discounts

1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Last Place Awards

... plus entry into contests!

**Sponsorship and Advertising  
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Contact Director of Advancement

Lisa Upton for more information

[lupton@austincatholicacademy.org](mailto:lupton@austincatholicacademy.org)

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