



West Catholic Perspectives

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November, 2011



Mission Statement

West Catholic High School provides a Catholic culture for instruction and faith formation that challenges students to know and love God, seek knowledge and truth, respect the dignity of each person, and contribute to society through leadership and service.

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Dean of Students
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From the Principal's Desk

When I think of November I visualize the world through orange, red and brown tinted lenses. I see pumpkin pies, turkeys, mashed potatoes and my mother's incredibly delicious stuffing I get only once a year. I can almost smell Thanksgiving and hear the clamor of many loud laughing voices simultaneously competing with the clanking of dishes and a televised football game in the background. Even though the temperatures are dropping, I get a warm feeling inside. I am reminded of how great God is and of how much I have to be thankful.

Here at West Catholic we can reflect on a strong, healthy start to our school year. We too, have so very much to be thankful for. Thank you to all the students, parents, and sponsors who helped make our All A's Walk a success. We exceeded our goal by over \$3,000. Even during tough financial times, with unemployment in Michigan over 10%, the generosity and hard

work of our students and their families never ceases to amaze me. Our first Community Open House on Sunday, October 9 went well, with many familiar and some new faces in attendance. We had families from our partner schools as well as families from other areas such as Grant, Spring Lake, Northview, and Lowell. I would like to thank Ms. Tammy Dykema, our Admissions Director, for putting it all together and everyone, including teachers, coaches, guidance, and support staff, who gave up a Sunday to showcase our school. Thank you to all the parents who attended conferences. I am thankful the power came back on so we could host our final day of fall conferences on Thursday, October 20. (I suspect we have a few thankful students for the additional day off, although I am sorry we were forced to give up an instructional day!) Thank you to Becky Armstrong and Tara Truskowski, our licensed Athletic Trainers, who did the

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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Main Office 233-5900
Attendance Office 233-5911
Guidance Office 233-5909
Athletic Office 233-5912
Maintenance 233-5913



Homecoming Court 2011: Back Row L-R: Call Coddington, Dalton Drumm, Kyle Jost, Stephen Guild, Anthony Urbik, Nick Freybler, Chris Ford, Trent Clark, Jacob Dean; Front Row L-R: Taylor TenBrock, Lauren Bearinger, Ashley Savage, Natalie Scalabrino, Mckenzie Iacovoni, Libby Schictel, Jenny Connell, Jen Hickey

difficult job of teaching teachers. We now have eighteen teachers and staff certified in CPR, First Aide, and AED. Becky and Tara have agreed to come back in a few weeks to complete Blood Borne Pathogen training.

October also brought much success in other areas of school life for which we are thankful. Our Varsity football team took the OK Blue Conference title again this year, completing four consecutive years in this conference as undefeated champions. In fact, we currently have the longest league winning streak in the West Michigan area, dating back to 2006, with 35 conference wins. If there was an award for the most supportive, enthusiastic student body at sporting events, this year's West Catholic student body would win, hands down. Our Boys Tennis team won the Regional tournament, with a number of very strong players, most notably freshman Nicholas Solarewicz. Elizabeth Schichtel competed in Girls Golf at the state level. A joint WC-CC production of the play, *Our Town*, directed by Ms. Mary Harwood and Mr. Bob Rose, entertained 450 middle school children representing nine partner schools. We completed our first round of HSPT testing for next year's incoming freshmen.

As you can see, there is so much for which to give thanks. But most of all I want to thank all of you; our parents, staff, students, grandparents, and other supporters of West Catholic. Thank you for sending your children to us. Thank you for the sacrifices it takes to choose Catholic Education. It is a lifestyle choice that goes counter to the materialistic world of today. Thank you for giving up expensive vacations, bigger homes, newer cars and the myriad of other things tuition money could purchase. I promise we will do everything in our power, with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, to make your sacrifice worthwhile.

In the end it's not the clothes, the jewelry, the dinners out that bring lasting smiles to our faces and that warm, glowing feeling deep inside. It is our families, our friends, *our community*, those who share in not only the joy and success, but the sorrow and sometimes the failures in life that accomplishes this. West Catholic is that warm, supportive community. I am very thankful to be a part of it.

Sincerely in Christ,

Cynthia Kneibel
Interim Principal

PS. Don't forget all the events throughout November. *Our Town* continues on until November 6. Girls Volleyball, Boys and Girls Cross Country, and Girls Swimming and Diving all have upcoming district and regional competitions. Our Varsity Football team is in the playoffs. We have our All Souls Memorial Mass Nov. 2. Nov. 14 we have an Alumni Network event at 25 Kitchen and Bar, owned by the Brechtings. And HSPT testing continues on Nov. 19 at Cathedral Square. Don't forget to contact Tammy Dykema (233-5920) if you haven't as of yet signed up your next year's incoming freshman.





Parents' Club News

Membership! Just a reminder that we will continue to take Parent Club enrollment throughout the year. The \$10 you are asked to pay in dues helps to fund our activities.

New Board Member Please welcome our new board member. Liz Miklosi has agreed to be our new Chairperson. Thanks Liz for joining our club.

Used Formal Dress Sale The Parents' Club is once again sponsoring our Sixth Annual Used Formal Dress Sale. The schedule for this event is slightly different than years' past. We will be having the sale over a two-day period. See below for dates and times:

DATE: Friday, January 13, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 14, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: West Catholic Conference Room across from main office

DROP OFF DATES FOR DRESSES: To be determined. See December Perspectives



We could use help for the dress sale. Some of you have already signed up. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Liz Miklosi at 540-1969 or Joni Norder at 204-1593.

Next Meeting! Please join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 at Marn E Walkers. Hope to see you there.

Parent Evening Prayer

Please join us on the 1st Monday of the month in West Catholic's St. Maria Goretti Chapel* at 8 pm for an evening of praying for yours and your family's intentions. Special intentions are always offered for West Catholic students, graduates, teachers and administrators. Please bring a rosary, reflective readings or prayer service to share. If you have questions, call Patti Emmerson at 616.540.2897.

*In the summer we pray by the statue of our Blessed Mother in the parking lot by the road.

Winter Sports Meeting

The Athletic Department and WC Boosters will host an important meeting for the parents of all WINTER athletes on Monday, Nov. 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the main gym. Important information regarding the upcoming season will be discussed, followed by individual parent meetings with winter coaches. Please plan to attend.

Bargains-Volunteers-Donations - We need YOUR help!

Steepletown Neighborhood Services www.steepletowncenter.org and the Catholic Secondary Schools have formed a partnership! The West Side Garage Store, a Steepletown resale store focusing on job-training for youth, needs your help. We are looking for:

-Volunteers: We have a great need for volunteers to sort donations

-Donations: We are looking for tax-deductible donations especially household items and furniture

-Customers: Are you looking for a great bargain? Come check us out!

Revenues from the store will support educational programs at Steepletown, and secondly, **tuition assistance** for students attending either Catholic Central or West Catholic. Get on board today by calling Jim Walker at 616-242-6240 or Email us at wsgs@steepletown.org.



November 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 a.m. Activity –All School Mass; Oxford Dress Code; 1st Quarter Ends	2 All Souls Memorial Mass 7 p.m. Maria Goretti Chapel 2nd Quarter Begins	3 Fall Play at Aquinas PAC 7:30 p.m.	4 \$1 Jeans Day for Thanksgiving Charity	5 STEM at GRCC Fall Play at Aquinas PAC 7:30 p.m.
6 Fall Play at Aquinas PAC 3 p.m.	7	8	9	10	11 Spirit Day	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Spirit Day	19 HSPT @ Cathedral Square
20	21	22 a.m. Activity- Thanksgiving Mass Oxford Dress Code	23 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	24 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	25 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	26
27	28	29	30	December 1	2 Red & Green Day	3 Craft Show 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
4	5	6 9, 10, 11 Retreat Day No School for Seniors	7	8 a.m. Activity- Immaculate Conception Mass; Oxford Dress Code	9 Spirit Day	10