

# ALUMNINEWS

GRAND RAPIDS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS  
CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
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Grand Rapids MI 49503

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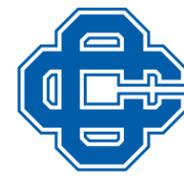
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CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL | WINTER 2014

# ALUMNINEWS



## Catholic Central sponsors cougar at John Ball Zoo

Just 2.2 miles away from Catholic Central High School, at John Ball Zoo, sits one of the fiercest big cats in the animal kingdom and the mascot of our great school — The "Puma concolor" or the cougar.

With one of these majestic animals just a short walk away, it only seemed right to social studies teacher and student activities director, Kris DeYoung and the CC Student Congress to offer to fund an annual sponsorship of the animal through the John Ball Zoo Footsteps to the Future program.

Sponsoring an animal is quite easy and is coordinated by John Ball Zoo's Development Director Fran Miller. Money donated as a sponsorship of an animal does not go directly to that animal. Instead, it is used for conservation initiatives that help wildlife groups or projects, making things better for a wide range of animals.

"All the animals at John Ball Zoo receive top-notch medical and enrichment care with or without sponsorship," Miller said. "The animal species benefits from the research and projects that are selected annually."

So, this summer, consider stopping by the zoo to pay our cougar a visit. Whether you're an alum, parent, student, or just a friend, you can take pride in the fact that there aren't many schools who can say they have a real mascot just down the road.

Student Contributor: Brad Campbell ('14) | Top photo: Julie Katt | Right photo: Heather Wittenmyer



"Why didn't we think of this idea sooner? It benefits both the cougar and our school. Our name being posted there is a cool way for alumni visiting the zoo

to reconnect to their CC roots. The sponsorship is something our students can be proud of for years to come and further connects our school with the greater Grand Rapids community."

— Kris DeYoung, CC Social Studies teacher and Student Activities Director

### Class of 2018

175 incoming freshman have already completed the High School Placement Test (HSPT). If you missed our test dates, it's not too late to schedule. Also, a great way for interested students to experience CC is to shadow one of our freshman ambassadors. To schedule a HSPT test date or shadow day, contact Admissions Director, Jackie Stetson at [jackiestetson@gross.org](mailto:jackiestetson@gross.org) or call 616-223-5802.



## Support Catholic Education Give to the COUGAR ANNUAL FUND

Turning Learners into Leaders Since 1906

To give online, [community.grcatholiccentral.org](http://community.grcatholiccentral.org)

Or use the giving envelope provided with this mailing.



Our "Auction with a Twist" will take place on March 22, 2014 at the Goei Center. Plan on attending, or we are also looking for a variety of volunteers to help with this special event. Simply email Special Events and Development Coordinator, Jill VanderEnde at [jillvanderende@gross.org](mailto:jillvanderende@gross.org) to lend a hand. Proceeds go toward the Cougar Annual Fund.

RSVP @  
[www.catholiccentralauction.com](http://www.catholiccentralauction.com)



## From the Principal

The faculty, staff, and I are blessed to serve in a ministry that both forms and transforms the hearts and minds of young people. While every school has a responsibility to prepare students for success in future endeavors, Catholic Central plays a pivotal role in shaping our students' very definition of success and driving those aspirations throughout their lives.

While we are relentless in our pursuit of academic excellence – with more than 20,000 alumni attesting to the strength of their Catholic Central education — our academic accomplishments paint an incomplete picture of our true value.

Just recently a marketing professional saw our tagline, “Great Education. Greater Purpose.” and asked if that meant our students go on to be doctors. I smiled and replied, “Certainly not. Almost any school can produce a doctor.”

Last spring, a parent asked me whether it was our job to get students into college and was surprised when I so quickly told him “no.” I explained to him that our job was not to get his son into college, but into heaven. This truly is what makes our school different.

At Catholic Central, we provide a foundation that guides young people toward a lifetime of glorifying God by living His word in the world. We provide this by cultivating a prayerful spirit of reflection and discernment; by understanding the connection between faith and reason; by building persistence in applying one's best effort; by thinking communally and not selfishly; and by expecting the same of ourselves, surrounding students with a living example of this message.

While content knowledge is imperative for foundational development, the larger goal of Catholic Central High School is to develop students who are experts in learning rather than experts in what they have learned. This distinction equips our graduates with the mindset to discover and interpret God's creation in new and beautiful ways. Being so, the value and purpose of a Catholic Central education is to inherently change how children see the world and their place in it.

Thank you for your continuous support of Catholic Central High School, and may God bless you and your family throughout the new year.

In Christ,

Greg Deja, Principal

## Three seniors named National Merit Semifinalists

This fall, seniors Zachary Drees, Kathryn Mirandette and Aristotle Zervoudakis were named as Semifinalists in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program. Nationwide, these semifinalists represent less than 1% of U.S. high school seniors, including the highest scoring entrants in each state. These academically-talented students have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,000 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$35 million that will be offered next spring.

“As a school, it is very gratifying to see the talents and hard work of our students and faculty receive this recognition,” said Deja. “For us, celebrating scholarship is imperative as we strive to bring out each student's greatest potential. We congratulate the class of 2014 on their scholastic achievements and hope this inspires them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.”

## New restaurant focuses on student achievement

A new restaurant's in town and it's all about our Catholic Central Cougars. FeatZ is where students and families can enjoy quality food in a unique place where they can celebrate achievements — scoring a goal, landing a role in the school play, or earning a spot in the National Honor Society.

Staffed by students and alumni, FeatZ is a Catholic Central hangout, through and through. It is owned by CC parent Dan Barcheski, designed by CC parent Peter Baldwin's architecture firm AMDG Architects, and was built by Erhardt Construction which is owned by Larry Erhardt (CC '49.) It is located in Breton Village Mall, which is owned by CC parent Scott Wierda. FeatZ has been part of the Cougar community since its inception.

Stop in today and enjoy a delicious meal for around \$5. It's more than just filling, it's charitable! FeatZ gives 51% of its profits directly to CC.



Breton Village Shopping Center  
1874 Breton Road SE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Hours:\* Monday – closed  
Tues. – Thurs. 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Friday – 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
Sat. and Sun. – 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
\*Hours may change seasonally.



## 2013 All A's Walk

A long-standing tradition for over 20 years, Catholic Central and West Catholic students walked the streets of Grand Rapids on October 2, raising over \$100,000 for tuition assistance. On a stunningly beautiful day, the All A's Walk added energy to our city as more than 1,000 students in identical neon shirts made their way to the John Ball Park Zoo.

**United with our students, were our sponsors. With heartfelt gratitude we thank,**

### Achievement Sponsors

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## Turning Learners into Leaders Luncheon proves to be great success

The Turning Learners into Leaders Luncheon held at Cathedral Square on October 15<sup>th</sup> was a success, enjoyed on many different levels. However, what really made this luncheon a true celebration of Catholic Central was the student involvement.

Guests were greeted by our marching band and cheerleaders cheering in full uniform, while Student Ambassadors welcomed them in.

During the presentation, two remarkable students, Daniel Capodilupo ('14) and Alyzia Dilworth ('14), shared their gratitude for the Catholic education they received. Members of the jazz band and the Capella Choir entertained, while literally moving some guests to tears with their talents.

“From beginning to end, our students demonstrated the character of our school and the energy they bring each day,” said Beth Banta, Director of Advancement. “It really doesn't get much better. Catholic Central High School provides an education with a higher calling and it's our job to share it with the community.”

Because of the generosity of our alumni, parents and friends, the luncheon was a great success, netting more than \$90,000.

### Thank you to our sponsors:

*Mark and Mary Beth Meijer [senior level]*  
*Applied Imaging [senior level]*

*Blueberry Haven [sophomore level]*

*Beene Garter [freshmen level]*

*Rockford Construction [freshmen level]*

*Paul and Patty Korte [freshmen level]*

*Mary Panek [freshmen level]*



Photos: Liz McGovern CC '14