

WHAT'S INSIDE:



Academics  
PAGE 2



Academics  
PAGE 3



Green & White  
PAGE 5



The Aerie  
Page 6



Alumni Updates  
Page 7

ENGAGING. DISCIPLINED. INQUIRING.

# walsh world

## President's Message

SPRING 2019

Our 2018-2019 school year has seen numerous exciting events and activities. The Foundation of the Diocese of Buffalo held its annual Gala 22:6 Catholic Education Dinner on February 21. Funds raised via the silent auction, table rental, and other donations will be used to support our students with scholarships. Archbishop Walsh Academy and Southern Tier Catholic School were represented by twenty-one guests.

Our Director of Spiritual Life, Mary Lou Plesac, and I chaperoned the Walsh Class of '19 on their overnight retreat at Mt. Irenaeus on February 11 and 12. Such an experience necessarily includes breakfast at Sprague's in Portville on the way to the retreat and lunch at Brothers' Bistro on the way from the retreat to the St. Elizabeth's Motherhouse. The School President was glad to treat the class and reports that the Sisters of St. Elizabeth played our seniors to a 0-0 tie in Noodle Hockey. At the Sisters' request, a rematch was rescheduled for late March!

The senior class retreat was a time for reflection, student bonding, prayer, Mass, singing, tobogganing, and nature walks. The dinner prepared by our seniors under Brother Kevin's direction was a culinary delight. More impressively, it was a study in cooperation and humor. Our seniors made us proud!

Catholic Schools Week, January 27 - February 1, was a victim of the inclement weather and two days of school closing on January 30 and 31. However, the Catholic Schools Week agenda was delivered in a variety of ways either during the actual Catholic Schools Week or the subsequent week. The all-school Mass was held on Tuesday, January 29. The annual Homecoming Game; the alumni basketball game, which was arranged by Trinity Jerge, Walsh '20, as her IB CAS project; and Homecoming Dance were held on Saturday, February 2. The ever popular Talent Show was held on Wednesday, February 6.

Mary Lou Plesac; Mary Beth Garvin, Director of Admissions and Student Life; Jessica Policastro, Director of Alumni Relations and Marketing; and Eric DiMartino, Athletic Director, deserve a huge round of applause for redirecting and rescheduling Catholic Schools Week events while maintaining students' enthusiasm and alumni involvement.

On Friday, February 8, Ron Orris, Blaisdell Foundation Chairman; Fr. Raymond Gramata, St. Bernard's Parish Priest; Linda Cecchetti, St. Bernard's Elementary School Principal; John O'Laughlin,

Walsh/STCS Board Trustee; and I met for lunch at the Bradford Club to discuss the closing of the St. Bernard's Elementary School at the conclusion of the 2018-19 school year. Mr. O'Laughlin and I offered our assistance in providing information to the St. Bernard's families through a three step process. First, our Administrative Team will present an Information Night to the families at St. Bernard's in April. Next, St. Bernard's students will be invited to shadow a day of school at Walsh/STCS in May. Parents are welcome to attend as well. Then, a Parent Q&A session will be held at Walsh/STCS later in May for any family who wishes to delve deeper into the admissions process.

Please note that we have responded to multiple direct requests from St. Bernard's families to schedule building tours and shadow days for their children. Our sense is that there will be more families who will contact us directly. We have also learned that when the Bradford Central Christian High School closed, a

*Continued on Page 6...*

# Class Of 2019 College Acceptances



*Members of the Class of 2019*

This year's senior class reports excellent post-secondary education admissions. It is to the credit of our students, their parents, our faculty and staff, and Dr. Leslie Watson that we report the following college acceptances to date:

Allegheny College  
 Baldwin-Wallace College  
 The College of Wooster  
 Daemen College  
 University of Dayton  
 Edinboro University of Pennsylvania  
 Gannon University  
 Hope College  
 Le Moyne College



*The Class of 2019 outside the school*

Mercyhurst College  
 Roberts Wesleyan College  
 University of Scranton  
 Saint Bonaventure University  
 Saint John Fisher College  
 SUNY College at Cortland  
 SUNY College of Technology at Alfred  
 Ursinus College  
 Washington & Jefferson College

We would also like to announce that the students have been offered a combined total of \$2.3 million in grants and scholarships. Congratulations to the Archbishop Walsh Academy Class of 2019!

## From The Spiritual Director:

By Mary Lou Plesac

Senior Joseph Ditz was honored, along with other altar servers within the Diocese of Buffalo, at the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Altar Server Awards Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral. The celebratory Mass was held on Saturday, February 16, followed by a luncheon at the Buffalo-Niagara Convention Center. Joe is a member of Our Mother of Perpetual Help in Lewis Run, PA. He has been a dedicated server in his parish for many years and has served at many Masses during his four years at Archbishop Walsh. Accompanying Joe to the event were his parents and Archbishop Walsh President and Principal, Thomas Manko. Fr. Patrick Melfi, Pastor of the Parish and Rector of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, concelebrated Mass and also honored altar servers from the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, St. John's in Olean, and St. Philomena in Franklinville.

All of the seniors experienced the annual overnight retreat at

Mt. Irenaeus in mid-February. Every senior class looks forward to this event, and this year's class was not disappointed. Accompanied by Mr. Manko and myself, under the guidance of Brs. Kevin Kriso and Joe Kotula, and Frs. Lou McCormack and Dan Riley (OFM), the seniors experienced a host of activities, both of a communal and solitary nature. After bidding farewell to the Mountain, and lunch at Brothers Bistro, we all travelled to the St. Elizabeth Motherhouse in Allegany for an intense game of noodle hockey with the sisters. The match ended in a scoreless tie, and a rematch was scheduled for March 27.



# STCS/Walsh 2019 Science Fair



Participants in the 2019 Science Fair

Southern Tier Catholic School and Archbishop Walsh Academy hosted their annual science fair on February 7, 2019, in the school gymnasium, as all 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students showed off the projects they've worked on both at home and school since December. The projects, which had to include a research question, hypothesis, and conclusion, tackled everything from creating hydroponic systems and soaps, to analyzing the male and female brains, to solar evacuation tubes.

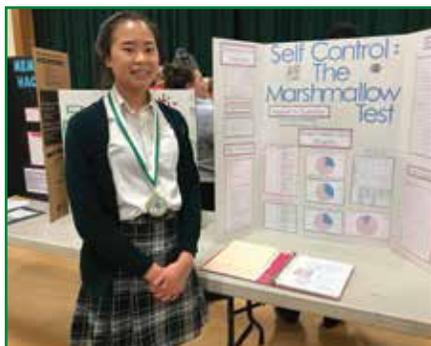
This year the judges were Richard Esposito, Liselle Esposito, Dr. Tressa Jordon, Eric Rauert, Sheila Yalley, and Marty Meddock

The winners in the Middle School Engineering Division:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Maria Rickert, 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Dominik Thompson, 7<sup>th</sup> grade

The winners in the Middle School Science Division:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Lilli Khettry, 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Grace Kwaggalakwe, 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Noah Ingalls, 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place - Rose Scordo, 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place - John Przybyla, 7<sup>th</sup> grade & Sage Smith 5<sup>th</sup> grade



Catherine Przybyla, 9<sup>th</sup> grade

The winners in the High School Engineering Division:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Teddan Shaw, 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Keely Policastro, 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Dominic Esposito, 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place - Max Garvin, 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place - Joe Ditz, 12<sup>th</sup> grade & Noella Policastro, 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- Honorable Mention - Russell Maine, 9<sup>th</sup> grade

The winners in the High School Science Division:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Catherine Przybyla, 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Onyca Charleston, 12<sup>th</sup> grade, Marcus Esposito, 11<sup>th</sup> grade, & Alexis Fisk, 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Genevieve Smith, 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place - Zaya Maybee, 11<sup>th</sup> grade & Zane Smith, 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place - Alix Printup, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Thank you to Lois Housler, middle and high school science teacher, for organizing the event, as well as Kazi Ahmed, high school physics & math teacher, Karen Larson, MYP math and physics teacher, and Alyce Comes, 5<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher, for helping the students create amazing projects.



Keely Policastro, 9<sup>th</sup> grade

## IB Diploma Programme News

By Danielle Michel

As part of the Diploma Programme requirements, students in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade participate in "CAS"--which stands for Creativity, Activity, and Service--as an essential element of their International Baccalaureate education. According to the IB, CAS aims for students "to enhance their personal and interpersonal development by learning through experience."

Our CAS students not only engage in weekly experiences in creativity, activity, and/or service, but they also complete a CAS project--a month-long undertaking that is meant to demonstrate the students' skills in initiative, perseverance, collaboration, problem-solving, and decision-making. The CAS program coordinator, Jennifer Simpson, works with each student to develop their interests into meaningful projects and experiences. "I always introduce CAS as the 'human' part of IB," she said.

This past year, our students have already completed many impressive CAS projects, with many choosing to focus on the 'service' component. For instance, two seniors each completed a CAS project focused on providing fun activities for the younger children at our school on Halloween: senior Mykayla Shaw organized a costume parade and games for the elementary school children during the day, and senior Onyca Charleston spearheaded the annual Harvest Moon festival in the evening. As part of Catholic Schools Week, seniors Grace Greer and Alix Printup organized and directed the annual school talent show. To cap off our Archbishop Walsh Homecoming festivities this February, junior Trinity Jerge organized an alumni basketball tournament. And most recently, senior Alexis Fisk partnered with junior Zaya Maybee to host a school lock-in with speakers and presentations from Healthy Cattaraugus.

Some of our students have chosen to use their artistic talents for their CAS projects in ways that benefit our school. Under the 'creative' strand, senior Jessica Olson is redesigning the sports team logos for our athletic department. Senior Joe Ditz is also designing and building a new turtle tank for our biology classroom pet, Woody the turtle.

"The overall CAS experience is as unique as each student," Simpson added. "While being a self-driven component of the IB, students are given the opportunity to discover, explore, and maybe learn something about themselves they never knew before."

# Update from the Development Department

By Joe Sempolinski, Director of Development

Thank you to all our STCS/Walsh supporters! I'm happy to report that in recent weeks, we had another successful St. Patrick's Day Raffle. This year included expanded raffles, a costume contest, and the best beef-on-a-weck dinner in town. A big thank you to those who bought tickets and to our loyal sponsors. A great time was had by all, especially our prize winners. Don't forget to purchase tickets next year—a \$100 ticket could win you \$20,000, and you do not need to be present to win.

We are in preparation for our annual Raise the Roost fundraiser, where our classes compete to see who can raise the most money. It gives our students an engaging way to be part of supporting their school while learning about initiative, entrepreneurship, and teamwork. Winning classes get a field trip, and top-raising individuals get prizes. Be sure to support our students! Even if you are outside the Olean area, you can always donate to Raise the Roost through our website and allocate your donation to a particular class or individual. Raise the Roost will take place between April 29 and May 31.

Lastly, I also want to thank those who gave to our Annual Fund at the end of 2018. Our end-of-the-year donations have grown steadily, and many of our alumni and friends are now regular donors. This has become a crucial part of our fundraising plan. Thank you for everything that you all do to support our school!



## 2019 Funda Nos In Pace Dinner

To better recognize and thank the many people who make STCS/Walsh a success, we are excited to host our 2019 Funda Nos In Pace Dinner, May 18, 2019, at the Old Library Restaurant. This year, we are pleased to celebrate the contributions of Elizabeth "Beth" Powers and Christopher Powers, both of whom have given countless hours to our schools.

From 2008-2014, Beth headed Archbishop Walsh Academy and Southern Tier Catholic School as Board President, leading the restructuring and refinancing of the school in order to re-establish its reputation for academic excellence. During that time, Chris was dedicated to the school by sharing his many talents and skills by overseeing building repairs and upgrades.

As a team, Chris and Beth spent countless hours building and organizing STCS and Walsh to the school of excellence it is today. Beth spent much of her time working on the faculty, staff, and academic side of the school while Chris worked many hours repairing, creating, and upgrading the school to a facility we are proud of.

Beth and her colleagues spearheaded the academically demanding and prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Beth hired a first-rate faculty, surrounded them with a superior administrative team, gave them a work-oriented support staff, and provided them with curricula, computer technology, books, supplies, materials, and ample professional development. Chris simultaneously

helped to create an atmosphere where parents, faculty, and students considered themselves then, as they do now, an extended family who support, encourage, and look out for one another.

Please join us Saturday, May 18, 2019, at the Old Library Restaurant at 6 p.m. to recognize Beth and Chris for a lifetime of dedication. Everyone is welcome; however, RSVPs are appreciated. If you would like to attend this year's Funda Nos In Pace Dinner, please contact Jessica Policastro, Director of Alumni Relations & Marketing, at [jessica.policastro@walshstcs.org](mailto:jessica.policastro@walshstcs.org).



*Powers family*

## From the Coach's Desk

By Matthew Kichman, Girls' Basketball Coach

Year two of building a competitive women's program at Walsh was met with milestones, accomplishments, and challenges. Grace Greer has set the career women's total points record at more than 1,700 points, which will be very difficult to break. The Lady Eagles came out in our first game and won their first game in three years. From that point on, we managed to win an additional five games, which was a substantial improvement over the last three years.

The coaching staff and administration is extremely proud of the hard work and leadership established by our seniors. Along with Grace's guidance, we will be sorry to say goodbye to senior Mykayla Shaw, as she had an outstanding season. This year, our senior exchange student Fleur Overing started the season with very little basketball experience. She stayed after practice and worked on fundamental development, and by the end of the season, she was starting at center and made a strong contribution to the team. To our seniors, we say thank you for your commitment to Walsh women's basketball, and God bless.

Some of our most improved players represented a large part of the underclassmen, and we look forward to Trinity Jerge stepping in as our senior captain next year as she was certainly the most improved underclass player this year. With the contribution of the sophomore class, including Alenzi Meyer, Monique White, and Olivia Williams,

with the return of Kamrynn Flagg, this group is poised to work hard this summer and be prepared for next season.

Our freshmen class of Noella Policastro, Keely Policastro, and Abby Bailey made strong contributions as well, and with a summer to work hard, this group of young women will continue to push the quality of the basketball team in a positive direction. The modified girls also had a good season learning the fundamentals of the game and getting used to the intensity of the coaching staff.



2018-2019 Walsh Girls' Varsity Basketball Team

## From The Coach's Desk

By Andy Moore, Boys' Basketball Coach

The Walsh boys' varsity basketball team finished the 2018-19 season with a record of 7-15. The Eagles were led in scoring by sophomore Xavier Laverty at 25.1 ppg. Sophomore Patrick Tufino added 11ppg, and sophomore Max Garvin 9ppg. The Eagles also got contributions from sophomore Ajhani Parks and junior Marcus Esposito. Freshmen Dominic Esposito, Everett Swenson, and Russell Maine also contributed to the Eagles throughout the season.

Laverty was named 1<sup>st</sup> Team All League in the Monsignor Martin B division, and was also named to the Times Herald Big 30 All stars 3<sup>rd</sup> team. With all 5 starters and the entire team returning, the Eagles are looking forward to the future and have been working hard this spring in the weight room and the gym.

2018-2019 Walsh Boys' Varsity Basketball Team



## Walsh Alumni Homecoming Basketball Game

As part of our 2019 Homecoming Week, Walsh alumni took part in the "Eagles Return To The Nest" basketball game, organized by junior Trinity Jerge for her IB CAS project. The event took place on Saturday, February 2, 2019. The 15 alumni players were divided into teams, and although the green team put up a good fight, the white team was victorious in this very close game. The referees for the game were current Walsh seniors Mykayla Shaw and Grace Greer. Thanks to all who attended, and special thanks to Olean Medical Group, who was our sponsor for the event t-shirts.

### Green Team

Scot Weinaug '84  
Jennifer Forney '93  
Richard DiMartino '10  
Eric DiMartino '12  
Ed Byeisek '97  
Xavier Smith '13  
Kelly Fitzgerald '18  
Brock Foster '18

### White Team

Jake Chapman '13  
Megan DiMartino '09  
Shellie DiMartino '14  
Cameron Myers '08  
Christian Churakos '16  
Jordan Andrews '17  
Todd Shaw '18



## President's Message Continued...

Charitable Trust Fund was created. We have been informed by a member of the Trust Fund Board that families whose children attend Walsh and STCS next year will receive some monetary support to offset the higher tuition rates. The amount of funding is dependent upon the number of students who actually enroll.

Our middle school MathCounts team placed third at the St. Bonaventure MathCounts competition on Saturday, February 9. Their efforts have been rewarded with an opportunity to participate in the next round scheduled for March 9. Advisors Kazi Ahmed, high school math and physics, and Karen Larson, MYP math and physics, await confirmation of destination and other details. Congratulations to our MathCounts team: Lena Smith, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Aoife Ni She, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Lilli Khettry, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and Rose Scordo, 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

The senior class enjoyed their Washington, D.C. trip, which took place April 1-5. Students participated in numerous activities, including:

- Attending a performance at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
- Joining in prayer at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

- Attending a Washington Nationals baseball game
- Touring the White House and, of course, visiting a plethora of museums, monuments, and memorials.

The International Club will jet off to France and Italy during the Easter Recess, April 18-25. Paris, Milan, Rome, and Vatican City are on the itinerary. Our contingent includes seventeen students, two parents, and four chaperones. Bon voyage!

Of course, once these life-changing trips conclude, we return to school in time for final exams, both Regents and International Baccalaureate. Then, the Class of 2019 walks the stage on June 7, and we begin planning for the Class of 2020!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, students, and their families, I wish you and your families the best of health and happiness. Please contact me if I may provide further information about any topic or help you navigate the wonder of the Walsh/STCS experience.

Pax et Bonum,  
Thomas J. Manko  
School President and Principal

## International Student Host Families Needed

Archbishop Walsh Academy is looking for local families and friends to host a foreign exchange student in their home. Every school year, we host students from around the world, and we would like to grow our international student program next year. We work with several agencies that have students interested in attending Archbishop Walsh Academy. All families are eligible to apply to host a student, and do not need to have a student at Walsh. Interested families will be required to complete a screening.

If you are interested in hosting one or more international students, please contact Mary Beth Garvin, Director of Admissions and

Students Life, at (716) 372-8122 or by email [marybeth.garvin@walshstcs.org](mailto:marybeth.garvin@walshstcs.org)



## St. Patrick's Day Party And Raffle



Our March 23, 2019, St. Patrick's Day Celebration was a wonderful success due to everyone's support and volunteerism. Approximately 700 guests visited the school during the course of the evening and enjoyed conversation in a fun and relaxing atmosphere with music, dinner, beverages, games of chance, and of course,

the raffle drawing prizes worth \$34,000. Net revenue raised is used to support our academic programs and the Sports Boosters, whose activities directly benefit our students.

This year's \$20,000 winner was Tracy Blake!

Thank you to all our event supporters for all that you do for Archbishop Walsh Academy, Southern Tier Catholic School, and the Sports Boosters. You have made a wonderful and positive difference for our students, their parents, and our faculty and staff.



# Save the Date: 2019 All Alumni Reunion

The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual All-Alumni Reunion will take place Saturday, August 3, 2019, beginning with a golf tournament at the St. Bonaventure University Golf Course.

We are looking for teams of four to play a shotgun start, scramble format of 9 holes. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with tee-off at 10 a.m. We will also hold an awards ceremony after the event with prizes for several categories.

The Reunion dinner and dance will be held at Archbishop Walsh Academy. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and there will be an open bar and appetizers for guest to enjoy. The evening

will begin with an induction ceremony for the Archbishop Walsh Military Wall of Honor as several more names are added. Dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. with a salad, followed by a buffet with various enticing choices. Dessert and coffee will be available after dinner while DJ McMillan leads the dance portion of the evening. A detailed event schedule will be mailed with prices and RSVP instructions at the beginning of

June 2019. We will also have up-to-date information on our website at [www.stcswalsh.org](http://www.stcswalsh.org).

We are also looking for class representatives or anyone interested in helping with the event. This year, we are honoring the following classes: 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, and 2014.



*Reunion attendees enjoy catching up with each other.*



*Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle.*

## Alumni Visit Walsh Students

Recent graduates of Archbishop Walsh Academy came home to their alma mater in December to visit with current high schoolers and share their experiences since graduation.

Six graduates — Selena Clemons '15, Amber Hanophy '16, Eden Miller '16, Sophie Garvin '18, Jackson Bacon '18, and Joseph Scordo '18 — spoke about their experiences and memories in high school, the differences between high school and college, and the things they missed most about Walsh.

The graduates offered different perspectives on the college experience, though they all noted that students would need to adjust to some changes in both their academics and social lives. In particular, the graduates noted how the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme prepared them for the rigors and high expectations of college work.

“Writing papers is definitely easier because of the IB,” said Hanophy. “A professor will ask you to write a 4-page paper for homework, and instead of feeling intimidating, it will feel like nothing.”

Scordo and Bacon agreed, commenting that they are able to complete their college work more efficiently as a result of their IB preparation.

The graduates were also eager to highlight Walsh’s unique atmosphere and small class sizes.

“One of the greatest benefits at Walsh was the family environment,” said Garvin. “I was able to build close relationships with different types of people that I might otherwise not have known.”

*Walsh alumni visit current students.*





# ARCHBISHOP WALSH ACADEMY

208 North 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Olean, NY 14760

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## STCS & Walsh 2018-19 Graduating Classes

On June 7, 2019, Archbishop Walsh Academy will graduate 8 seniors and 1 foreign exchange student at 6 p.m. at the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts at St. Bonaventure University. We are proud to announce that this year's graduation speaker is Dr. Daniel Demarte, JCC President and 1985 graduate of Archbishop Walsh High School. He was also recently inducted into the St. Sebastian Chapel Military Wall of Honor. The Baccalaureate Mass at the St. Bonaventure Chapel is scheduled for the evening prior to graduation, Thursday, June 6, with a dinner for graduates, their families, and guests to follow at a local restaurant.

On June 20, 2019, Southern Tier Catholic School will graduate 15 eighth grade students during a ceremony to be held at STCS/Walsh at 6 p.m. On June 21, 2019, Southern Tier Catholic School will graduate 11 kindergarten students at 9 a.m. at STCS/Walsh.

Please make a note of these events and place them on your calendar. We encourage our alumni, their families and friends, and our community partners to attend as many of these events as possible to celebrate with our graduates and prepare them for the challenges of the next step in their education and fulfillment of their dreams. We welcome everyone to join us as we graduate another year of wonderful students.

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