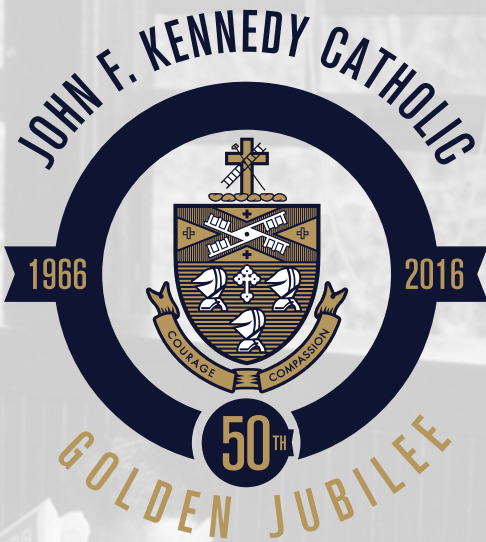


IN THIS EDITION

**A TRIBUTE TO SISTER BARBARA HEIL
ON GAME DAY
GAELS GIVE BACK
UPCOMING EVENTS**



THE GAEIL

The Newsletter for Alumni and Parents of St. Mary's/Kennedy Catholic High School
Volume 21 – Spring 2016



Father Vaillancourt is pictured with the members of the 2015-2016 Student Government. These students not only work on important day-to-day tasks, but they also, and most importantly, represent Kennedy Catholic outside of the building in many different events and functions, like the Annual Golf Outing or the countless "Meet and Greets" at area middle schools for prospective students. These six individuals have raised the bar for future seniors who fill their spots after they leave Kennedy. Pictured from left: Timothy Hebert, Caitlyn Pesavento, Nicholas DiGrandi, Rebecca O'Callaghan, John Noce, Meghan Dooley

The Gael is produced by the Office of Advancement at John F. Kennedy Catholic High School. If you have any questions, comments, or news you would like to share with us, please call (914) 232-5061 ext. 110 or write to Advancement@KennedyCatholic.org.

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President's Message

From Father Vaillancourt



Dear Friends in Christ, it is with heavy hearts and a profound sense of communal love that we gather here today to remember our beloved Sr. Barbara. Words cannot express the sense of our loss, either individually as members of our community at Kennedy, or even collectively as we knew her as an active and vibrant member of our school.

There is much that I must say as the head of our school on behalf of all of us, but let me preface my remarks by a few words of gratitude.

First, let me extend my thanks on behalf of all of us to Fr. Lagiovane and his whole staff here at St Joseph's, for opening up their Parish in solidarity with us in this most difficult time for our school – we are truly grateful.

Thanks also to His Excellency Bishop Byrne, who is a constant presence in our school and has graciously come to pray with us in this our time of need.

And let me take this opportunity to extend a very special thanks to 2 people who responded to the call so generously that awful night, to reach out to Sr. Barbara in her moment of final distress.

First to Mr. Richard Davin, a trustee of our school and father of 4 Kennedy graduates, all of whom if I am not mistaken were taught by Sr. Barbara. I reached out to Rick when I had heard the news, and without hesitation he went to the scene and stayed with Sister and never leaving her side the entire time, working with first responders to do whatever could be done for her in that moment of urgent need.

I would like to also thank Fr. Jarlath Quinn, the pastor of St. John's in Mahopac, who when I called, dropped everything to assist Sr. Barbara with all of the spiritual consolations of the Church.

And to all those who helped Sr. Barbara, and are now helping Sr. Marie in the trauma unit at Westchester Medical, we as a school community extend our heartfelt thanks to them as well.

And as the head of this community, a school community that Sister loved and never wanted to leave, it falls to me to speak, first about her, and the full and happy life she enjoyed as a woman religious. Then I shall speak for her, those things that I believe that she would want us to remember about the school that she loved so much. And then I shall speak to her, on behalf of us all, for the school, that is, that knew and loved her so much.

First, a little about Sr. Barbara. She was born in 1935 to Howard and Mary Heil in the Floral Park area of New York. She attended SS. Joachim and Ann elementary school, and the Mary Louis Academy in Queens.

But it was during her college years at Good Counsel that she became attracted to, and received the calling for, religious life. After a year's discernment after college, she became convinced of her vocation and entered the community of the Sisters of Divine Compassion, where she embraced wholeheartedly the vocation of educating the young.

She was sent first to St. Lawrence O'Toole parish in Brewster, and then to St. Mary's High School in Katonah in 1962, where she began to teach high school for the very first time.

But it was in 1966 that something new and exciting was about to begin. The Archdiocese had just purchased a 60 plus acre plot of land to build a new, state-of-the-art high school, to be named after the first Catholic president of the United States – John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

The last year in the parish school was to be the first of the new high school, and in Sr. Barbara's own words she: "came with the moving van", and as we all know, she never left.

That was 50 years ago, and our school has never been bereft of her presence. As a teacher of math and Latin, classroom instruction was part of her charism, an expression of her love for young people, and something that she never gave up, literally till that very last day of her life here on earth.

As to her many other avocations, we all benefitted from them. As a gifted seamstress, hers was a love for the needle, thread and the sewing machine. Working her magic with ease, how many students and school programs benefitted from her time and talent.

As sacristan, she had a special love for the sacred and sacred things that surrounded divine worship. Every morning without fail she would set up for Mass, putting out the chalice, water and wine, setting the sacramentary, putting out the vestments and neatly folding them with loving care – she put love for God in every detail, and of course, as we all know -- love is in the details.

And as a dedicated religious, she saw her educational charism fully expressed in caring about, and being involved in, the lives of her students – for in the end, that was what it was really all about, loving God through her students, and touching their lives with the love she received from Him.

But she also touched the students' lives by just being present to them, not only in the plays where she worked on the costumes, but also their games, especially basketball. My last memory of her at a game was the Kennedy Fordham matchup a few weeks ago, one where Kennedy won quite handily.

But as I said, she loved our school, and never wanted to leave it, and I am sure that she would like to offer a few words of advice, and consolation, and if I may speak for her, I am sure that to you, Jim and your family, she would say quite readily:

"Don't worry, I'm ok."

Sr. Barbara lived for God, loved God and now she has gone to God, and with prayerful confidence we entrust her now to Him.

To us who are administrators and teachers, her own words will do – no matter how much the school changes, she said, the one thing that remains the same is the kids, and they are what is most important.

That is why I have always felt that our school does not have one name but many, in fact our school has as many names as there are students. For they are what we as a school are all about.

That is why Sr. Barbara has left an indelible mark on Kennedy Catholic, and one that touches the very essence of its spirit. And it is simply this, to educate with love calls for a sacrifice from one's very own life. Sr. Barbara gave her life to this school, and willingly embraced that sacrifice each and every day -- that is why she was able to give so much, and in a way that will always be remembered.

To the students: she speaks from the very character of her own life – stay busy, she says. Busy yourself with things that you love, positive things that will make a difference in the lives of others and then you will live a life of great satisfaction.

And we now say as a school to her whom we know hears with the same attentiveness that she had here on earth, and which is now even more so in heaven: to Sr. Barbara we say “thank you”.

Thank you for your constancy, your caring and loving devotion.

Thank you for sacrificing each and every day that you gave of yourself in the little things that ended up meaning so much to so many.

Thank you for being the spirit and soul of our school from its infancy to the present age –for all this we say thank you!

God love you Sr. Barbara, and may He hold you now and forever in the palm of His most loving hand.

Fr. Mark Vaillancourt

President and Principal

Restoring the Grotto!

The Family Association
invites you to contribute to the
restoration of the Grotto in
Sister Barbara's name.

To contribute please visit KennedyCatholic.org/support-us



Sister Barbara

“I had many opportunities to leave,” Sr. Barbara told me,
“but why would I?”



There are few who know Kennedy Catholic High School as well as Sr. Barbara Heil. When she began teaching at Kennedy, the student body consisted of only 240 students and now that number has almost tripled. Sr. Barbara has been part of the Kennedy community from the very beginning. "Fifty years ago, I came with the moving vans," she told me. We talked a lot about the changes at Kennedy throughout the years including all of the improvements in technology and the new sports facilities which have allowed for many new teams and clubs. The one thing that she said has never changed is the students. As she simply put it, "kids are kids". Faculty have come and gone, courses have changed, facilities have been improved, and textbooks and chalk have been replaced with iPads and Smart-Boards, but what remains the constant at Kennedy is the teenagers walking the halls, the same way they did 50 years ago.

Fifty years is a very long time to be working at one place. "I had many opportunities to leave," Sr. Barbara told me, "but why would I?" She loves spending time with the students at Kennedy and says that they have made the past 50 years of her life so rewarding. Sr. Barbara has taught countless Kennedy students in both math and Latin. She is also the monitor of many student-run clubs and makes costumes for the school plays. Every year, she engages Kennedy students in her mission of supporting children from low-income families in Goshen. She brings students to volunteer at their local summer camp and she organizes the preparation of Easter baskets for them. By being so involved in these activities, Sr. Barbara has really gotten to know the students at Kennedy. She is definitely a very special member of the Kennedy Catholic family and we are incredibly lucky to have her.

The above article was written by Catherine Brennan '17





Class of 2016 Seniors collect goods for "United for the Troops"

Gaels Give Back

Rebecca O'Callaghan '16 & Layne Smith '16

Courage and Compassion. These two attributes are deeply woven into all that Kennedy Catholic does, especially when it comes to serving the community. Kennedy's giving spirit is felt by many different organizations and people, both locally and overseas.

This past Christmas season, the Student Council ran two collection drives for local charities. The first was for United for the Troops, a community organization based out of Shrub Oak, NY that sends care packages to troops stationed overseas with the goal of "bringing a little comfort to our troops." It is a Kennedy Catholic tradition to assist this organization each winter and this year the drive collected over 750 clothing, toiletry, and food items to support the soldiers. The second drive ran by the Student Council was a food drive for Our Lady of the Assumption in Peekskill, NY. Our Lady of the Assumption then donated our food to nearby food pantries. As a community, our school collected over 1,000 food items. By working in conjunction with the Peekskill parish, Kennedy was able to bring a little more joy to the Christmas season.

The Play Ball club at Kennedy Catholic also hosted a drive this past December. The club was created by seniors Alexander Morgante '16 and Esteban Ramirez '16 with the goal of collecting slightly used sports equipment to donate to unprivileged children in Connecticut. The two seniors spearheaded the club because of the large role that athletics has played in their own childhoods. They wanted to give the same opportunities which they had, to less fortunate children. With the help of the Kennedy Catholic student body, they were able to complete their first equipment drive and look forward to future collections.

The second annual children's hospital toy drive was also held this past winter. Seniors Jennifer Goldfarb, Rebecca O'Callaghan, and Christina Rowland started the first toy drive last year and with the Kennedy Catholic community's overwhelming support, they were able to successfully complete another drive. What started off as a 300 toy goal for one hospital turned into over 700 toys which were able to be shared between both Maria Ferari and Blythedale Children's Hospitals as well as the Mustard Seed Migrant Ministry in Goshen, NY. The representatives at the hospitals were pleasantly surprised and very appreciative of the generous donations. The hospitals could not fit the numerous amount of toys into their collection bins which allowed the remaining toys to be donated to Mustard Seed, with Sister Barbara's assistance. Kennedy Catholic's overwhelming response to the toy drive makes the three senior girls confident that the toy drive will continue for many years.

For the ninth year in a row, Kennedy Catholic hosted the annual Hoops for Hope basketball tournament, held in honor of Maureen McAvoy, a member of the class of 2006 who passed away in 2007 after a brave battle with brain cancer. Championed by her sister



The winning Hoops for Hope Team

and class of 2007 graduate Siobhan McAvoy, a myriad of participators, including two teams of current Kennedy seniors, as well as many alumni, faculty, family, and friends, took part in a 5-on-5 tournament to raise money and awareness for childhood cancer. All of the proceeds from the afternoon went to the Memorial Sloan Kettering Brain Cancer Research Center. While 2015 was a culmination of a nine-year run for Maureen's Hoops for Hope, it was a tremendous celebration of Maureen's life and the legacy she has left with her friends, family, and the Kennedy Catholic community.

Also, during the month of December was our annual blood drive, one of Kennedy's most successful charitable events to-date.

Organized by the Student Council, Mrs. Normile, and the New York Blood Center, there was a fantastic turnout of 70 participants, comprised of not only Kennedy Catholic students, but all aspects of the community from faculty to parents. While one of the concerns for any potential donor, especially students, is the risk associated with giving blood, Kennedy Catholic senior and first time donor, Valerie Sedano, said "The thought that my donation could truly help someone allowed me to move past the initial anxiety of giving blood. In my opinion, donating blood made a difference in my life. I overcame a fear, and now I'm currently waiting to be placed on a bone marrow donor list". One of the proponents of the drive, Mrs. Normile talked of how beneficial it is "to get the Kennedy juniors and seniors comfortable and happy to donate at such a young age, allowing them to become lifelong blood donors well into their later years of life". So many people need blood, whether it be cancer patients, new mothers, victims of car accidents, just to name a few. Giving blood is one of the most unique and wondrous types of service and charity, in that it can be the gift of life.



Siobhan McAvoy '07 and Amanda Granata '06 lead the 9th Annual Hoops for Hope

If there is one thing that is prided above all else at Kennedy Catholic, especially during this paramount Golden Jubilee year, it is a commitment to service. The many drives, events, and widespread passion and participation for this service is something that sets Kennedy apart and is most certainly a legacy to be proud of. Such service spans not only within Kennedy, but how we, as students and a collective school, can affect the greater community and the world.

To learn more about these and other works of Courage and Compassion by our students, visit our "Student Giving" page.



Seniors Goldfarb '16, O'Callaghan '16, and Rowland '16



Members of one of the co-ed teams who represented current Kennedy students

2016 President's Dinner

Join us for the 2016 President's Dinner Honoring Cardinal Dolan!

The Kennedy Catholic President's Dinner will be held on April 21, 6:00 PM at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown. Kennedy Catholic High School is proud to announce this year's annual celebration will be held in honor of His Eminence, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan. This gala event, hosted by Father Vaillancourt, will be a joyous occasion to commend outstanding academic achievement, characteristic of Kennedy Catholic's Class of 2016. If interested in attending, please make sure that your seats are reserved as soon as possible.

Visit our Website for more details: KennedyCatholic.org/PresidentsDinner

Written by Carley Gilmore '18

Students of Excellence



Silvana
Acierno



Amanda
Astrologo



Matthew
Beisswenger



Emma
Berry



Kenneth
Brown



Hannah
Callaghan



Danielle
Galvao



Monica
Gayanelo



Genny
Glembotzky



Rose
Grosskopf



Sydney
Grosskopf



Max
Jarcho

Honoring

Founders Award:

- * Cardinal Dolan

Lux Christi Award:

- * Sr. Barbara

Divine Compassion Award:

- * Mrs. Maura Devey

Teacher of the Year Award:

- * To be announced

Students of Excellence:

- * Listed below



Austin
Cohen



Matthew
Cregan



Brian
Devey



Teresa
DeVino



Nicholas
DiGrandi



Meghan
Dooley



Domenic
Malfetano



John
Noce



Rebecca
O'Callaghan



Christine
Plant



Sara
Skelton



Gabriella
Vlattas



2015 Kennedy Auction

Chiara Calov '18

This past November, Kennedy hosted its thirty-fourth annual auction. Being that it is Kennedy Catholic's Jubilee Year, it was an extremely important fund raising event to ensure continuous prosperity and a positive legacy for the school. A large part of the function's success can be attributed to the participation of students, family, and members of the community.

By donating their time to serve at the auction, Kennedy students were able to enjoy the exciting atmosphere while lending a hand to make sure everything ran smoothly. Whether they did their part as food servers, runners, live auction assistants, or ticket counters, their efforts enabled productive operations. Students had the ability to interact with guests such as family, friends, teachers, and those in administration while accommodating their needs to guarantee an entertaining and pleasurable experience.

Additionally, Kennedy students provided music for the attendees; for two of Kennedy's finest musicians and one of its vocalists performed all night to create an enjoyable atmosphere. Participating in the event as a volunteer allowed students to interact on a level outside of the classroom and feel good about contributing to the school's success.

Aside from student help, the parents of Kennedy students and alumni made certain that the night attained its ultimate goal: raising money for the school. Not only did many families make generous contributions for the silent auction, they also donated big ticket items for the live auction. More importantly, there was constant bidding and healthy sales being made. As Father Vaillancourt said, "The event is a great community builder, opportunity to enjoy a nice meal, and to bid on tremendous prizes at the generosity of all the Kennedy communities coming together."

Overall, the auction was an immense success for Kennedy. All the monetary donations made will allow for improvements with academic, the arts, technological, and athletic developments within the school. As the auctioneer perfectly stated, "We came to raise funds, to have a good time. We're here to have fun, but it's all really for the students."

View more images of the auction on our image gallery:
KennedyCatholic.org/image-gallery



Doll clothes made by Sister Barbara were highly coveted each year.



On Game Night

“I walked onto that court in a daze — the same court that had heralded my heroes so many years before.”

Story by Brian Kavanaugh

By any measure, 2007—my senior year of high school—was my best year of basketball. Save that, for the first time in my life, my Dad wasn’t in the stands to watch.

High-school sports can be a wonderful thing if you experienced what I experienced. A two-year captain on a small-town team, I was part of some thrilling victories and powerful memories. On a dresser in New York sit a handful of all-tournament and all-conference plaques—keepsakes from a 17–5 senior season when it felt like the entire town packed inside our gym for Friday night home games. I remember seeing throngs of younger-looking dads shepherding their kids into the stands. How awesome, I’d think to myself. Mostly because, once upon a time, that little kid was me.

Every winter day in fourth grade, I’d come home and immediately find the newspaper. (Remember those?) I’d skip right past the Knicks and Rangers scores, to see if Kennedy Catholic High School happened to have a home game that night. When they did, it meant my dad and I would soon be off for a night of basketball and pizza—typically in that order.

It was 1999, and Kennedy’s squad was generating some buzz in the area thanks to a group of talented young players. One of them, Donnie McGrath, just so happened to be the son of a family friend. It was also the school for which my dad had been a star player 35 years earlier. It was almost as if I was a fan before I ever stepped foot in the gym.

Each game became a mini-reunion of sorts. Apparently we weren’t the only ones lured back by basketball. There was Sister Christopher and Sister Marie, nuns from when my dad was at Kennedy some 35 years earlier, who’d often sit court-side. Legend had it that, during a game in 1963, dad instigated a scuffle with the other team, and it was Sister Christopher who ran onto the court and broke up the scrum with nothing but a flashlight and a bit of divine providence. Meeting her all those years later, I believed it.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

The 1999-2000 basketball season was an unforgettable one for the Boy’s Varsity Team. The team not only won the league, sectional, and regional title, but it managed to go UNDEFEATED!! The team was led by the strong guard play of Donnie McGrath, shooting by James Gray, inside dominance by Brian O’Donnell and leadership by Sean Corgan. This team put together the best basketball season in the school’s history. The strong bench, passionate fans, and overall talent of the starting five made the Gaels the best in the Region. No matter how difficult things became, such as the Nyack controversy, the Gaels just rose to the occasion, and conquered. The team’s will to win was evident every time they ran out onto the court. It is for this reason that the Gaels proudly hold the coveted Gold Ball of Section 1 and the title of Regional Champs with a perfect 24-0 record.



A. Morando, J. Gray, M. Courtney, B. O'Donnell, M. Stanton, M. Gumb, A. Alguero, T. McCallister, M. Grasso, J. Monaco, K. Tallevi, S. Corgan, T. McGrath, S. Murphy, D. McGrath

In that gym on game nights were all sorts of names and faces from a previous life, to whom Tommy Kavanaugh was happy to introduce his son, Brian. We were hooked: He on teaching his son a game as it unfolded before them; me on the action, the excitement, the bonding. And the pizza helped, too.

When Kennedy lost in the playoffs that first year, I cried. My mother consoled me with tender generalities. Dad was a little more pragmatic, talking about how the team wasn't ready, that their core would return the following year and that, if they learned how to play together, the better they'd become.

He was right. Over the next three seasons, the Gaels would win the lion's share of their regular-season games. At its peak, Kennedy finished with an astounding 24–1 record, capturing a Sectional and Regional championship before suffering their only loss in the State semifinal. Dad and I were there every step of the way. To a 10 year old boy, these players—these lanky Irish Catholic giants, barely anything more than boys themselves—were heroes. Heroes from whom all I wanted was a high-five or two during warm-ups, and a good on-court effort.

There's a certain beauty to being invested in something so simple. High-school basketball will do that to you. Anyone can go to a Yankees game and root like hell; bundle up in four layers to bellow for the Bears. But Kennedy Catholic vs. Brewster High? That felt special—like it was ours and ours alone.

It's also far easier on a child's imagination. At the time, I figured I'd probably play college basketball at North Carolina, maybe Kansas, before lacing up for the Knicks. But before I did any of that, I knew I'd definitely start at shooting guard for the Kennedy Gaels.

Problem was, life found a way to interfere.

By 2002, we found ourselves going to fewer and fewer games, every player from that beloved powerhouse having graduated. More importantly, I was playing way more basketball of my own, albeit for a public school. I would never wear the Kennedy red and blue, but rather the blue and yellow of North Salem. I learned to love my school, of course—I still do. Change was happening all around us, and our time as Kennedy diehards was at an end.

That change hit with cruel ferocity in the fall of 2004. Dad had come down with a two-day, completely immobilizing headache. We brought him to the hospital, where it was soon discovered he had brain cancer. From that point on, the worst stretches seemed to come during the spring and fall; after all, he had my games to get to in the winter.

Over the course of my sophomore and junior years on varsity—a pair of weird but wonderful seasons—he fought.

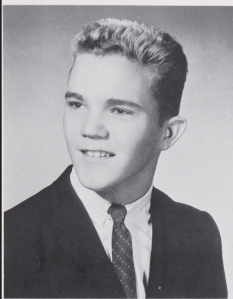
The last game that he ever watched from the stands went by in a blur, though of course neither of us knew it would be his last. It was my junior year, and we'd gotten the No. 5 seed in the playoffs. After dispatching the 12 seed in the first round, we were set to play the fourth seed in the quarterfinals. That team? John F. Kennedy Catholic.

Continue to the next page for more....

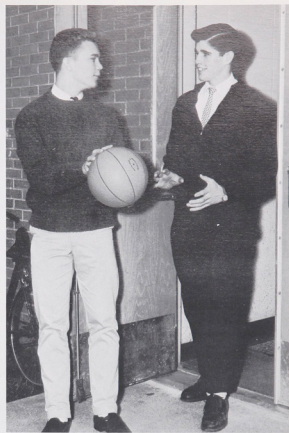
“Every winter day in fourth grade, I’d come home and immediately find the newspaper. (Remember those?) I’d skip right past the Knicks and Rangers scores, to see if Kennedy Catholic High School happened to have a home game that night.”

Varsity Squad

Even after a long practice session, Tommy and Phil look forward to playing more basketball.



THOMAS JOSEPH KAVANAUGH



Katonah

By his different but very likeable mannerisms, Tom has imprinted a deep mark on our class, and words of his coinage have made our vocabularies much more colorful. A member of the UWPL All-Star basketball team, he was the captain of our varsity in his senior year. He was also an outstanding baseball performer, so he was a shoe-in for the varsity club. Among his peers, he is notable for his relish of the bare facts. Kav has a definite leaning toward basketball, Friday-night trips, and Yorktown Heights. Among his few dislikes are early risings and artificiality. His future is undecided.

"I knew I'd definitely start at shooting guard for the Kennedy Gaels."

It was, at once, all familiar and utterly strange. I walked onto that court in a daze—the same court that had heralded my heroes so many years before. I gazed up and saw my Dad in the stands—the same stands on which I'd fallen in love with the game. He was no longer the same, though; chemo and steroids had taken their toll.

We came into the game as major underdogs and left on the painful end of a close, heartbreaking loss. It certainly didn't help that I played horribly. I wish I could say it had all come full circle. That I'd hit the game-winning shot on the court I'd always imagined I would. I wish I could say a lot of things. He and I would've both preferred to lose in some random gym. Not here. But if it was going to end at all, I told and tell myself still, at least, it ended where it began.

After four surgeries and a tireless fight, Tommy Kavanaugh ('64) passed away from complications related to cancer in May 2006. North Salem basketball and Kennedy basketball were well-represented at his wake—a fitting tribute for a self-described "hoops junkie."

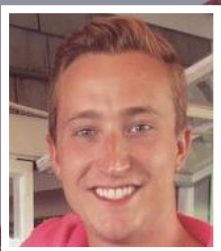
Do memories only crystallize in the wake of insurmountable loss? Maybe. My situation was certainly unique. But we all have something—that dint of circumstance that casts a clearer glow over old remembrances. The winds of

change spare no one.

For me, those Kennedy games occupy a kind of magical, in-between state within my broader memory: better than reality; far more concrete than a dream. So strong is this memory that I could scarcely smell Portofino's pizza in the months and years that followed without being immediately transported to my 11 year old self—chowing down on a slice, sitting across from my old man as he broke down plays and games. The restaurant changed ownership a few years back, and the pizza became noticeably different. It's probably for the best; even if it'd never changed, it would never taste as good as it once did.

So as another season of high-school basketball gets underway, I implore you: Take a kid to a game. Son, daughter, godchild, friend's cousin's step-kid—doesn't matter. Maybe you'll meet a Sister Christopher, or maybe you won't. Perhaps the play will thrill you; perhaps it'll bore you to tears. But with any luck, the imagination of the child beside you will start to run wild. Valiant heroes will emerge in the form of boys or girls in white or black or brown or gray. Grotesque villains will assume the form of opposing players or the occasional referee.

At a certain point, if you watch long and wide-eyed enough, with just enough disregard for the larger world outside, you'll stop being just two people in the stands, and become instead fans of something special. With any luck, even you can get caught up in the magic, and fall in love with a season to last a lifetime.



Brian Kavanaugh is a marketing professional who lives in Boston. He graduated from North Salem high school in 2007. We thank Brian for sharing his story with us on Medium.com and Twitter.com.



Getting a Taste of the Future

Rebecca O'Callaghan '16



This summer Gabrielle Formoso '16 and I, Rebecca O'Callaghan '16, had the opportunity to intern at HDR Inc. in White Plains, NY. HDR Inc. is a civil engineering and architectural firm that deals with global projects, one of which being the new Tappan Zee Bridge. The internship was offered exclusively to Kennedy Catholic students and after applying and being interviewed, Gabby and I were thrilled to accept our positions.

Throughout the summer, we worked under the supervision of traffic engineer Einah Pelaez and learned how to work in an office environment. We helped plan the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)'s Technical Conference in July by communicating with sponsors and preparing the necessary materials for the conference. It was a great experience to work with a project team to accomplish a task. The ability to work in conjunction with a group is a necessity within any field, especially engineering. While preparing the ITE Conference and working on other

projects, we became acquainted with engineering work as well as general office skills.

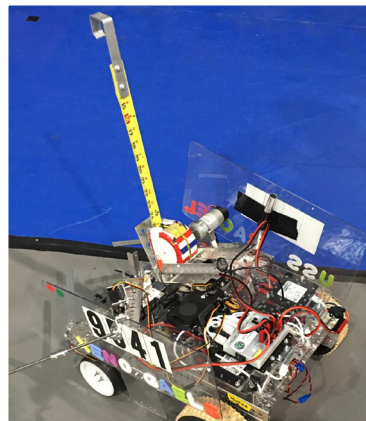
It was inspiring to be around so many engineers because Gabby and I had never been in that type of environment. Just by spending time around successful engineers, we attained information about different engineering paths and majors and were also exposed to a closer look into engineering careers after college. The professional engineers and fellow interns in the office were very supportive and accepting throughout our time there and helped us quickly get familiar with office life. In fact, Kennedy has a large alumni base at HDR Inc. including Joseph Rock '09 and college interns Kate Bento '13 and Andrew DeMarco '14. It was exciting for Gabby and me to be a part of the HDR/Kennedy family.

Our internships with HDR Inc. enriched our summer and provided us with an unparalleled experience. We feel so lucky to be a part of such a prominent engineering firm and work under such supportive professional engineers. Gabby and I are truly thankful that both Kennedy and HDR offered us this rare opportunity. Our internships this summer helped confirm our interests in engineering and we are both looking forward to our next experiences with HDR Inc.

Kennedy Robotics 2.0

Teams Continue to Advance

Kennedy Catholic has two robotics teams, the Bionic Gaels and the Xeno Gaels. Both teams competed recently in the Empire NY Regional Championship tournament. The Bionic Gaels placed fourth and the Xeno Gaels ended the tournament in eighth place. Previously the Gael teams competed at the qualifying tournament in our home gymnasium which Kennedy has now hosted for 3 years.



Want to learn more about the robotic teams?

You can find them online:

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Bionic-Gaels>

Twitter - <https://www.twitter.com/BionicGaels>

Athletics

Volleyball Has Another Successful Season

Rebecca O'Callaghan '16

November 14, 2015 — The Kennedy Catholic Girls Varsity Volleyball team defeated St. Edmund Prep from Brooklyn in the New York vs Brooklyn City Championship. Kennedy's varsity team was already the reigning champion, as it had won the same title back in 2014.

The team started off strong claiming the first set of the match, but fell behind and lost the second set. After a motivational pep talk from their captains, the team powered through to take the third and fourth sets, ultimately winning the match.

For senior captains Francesca DelMonte and Teresa DeVino, the championship marked their last game as KCHS volleyball players. Both DelMonte (setter) and DeVino (libero) played calmly and confidently while leading their team to victory.

"I think that our biggest strength has always been really solid defense from everyone," shared DeVino. "But in this game, I think our serving runs really put us ahead."

"As a senior, it makes me so happy I will always be able to look back at such a great moment," DelMonte spoke of the game. "This team was extremely close and we didn't let anything get between us. We gave it our all and the result was priceless."

The City Championship was also the final KCHS volleyball game for other seniors Kristina Durham, Sondra Montague, and Gianna Vesce. All of the girls were ecstatic to have ended their season on such a high note and hope to defend their winning streak next year.

To see more images of the girl's volleyball team, visit our image gallery: KennedyCatholic.org/image-gallery





Running Circles Around the Competition

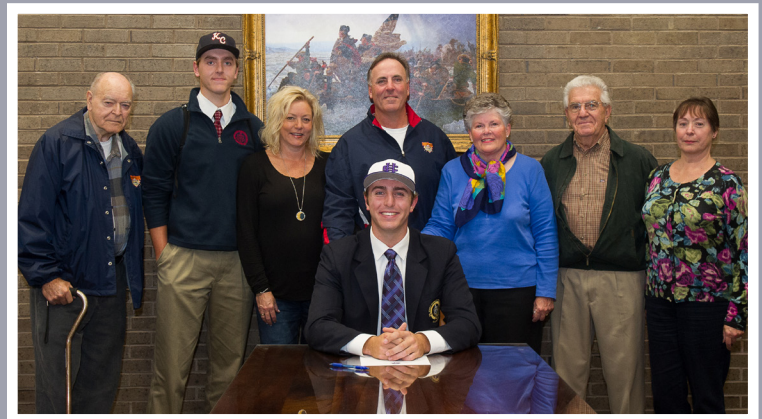
It has been a long time in the making, but Father Vaillancourt has completed another project at Kennedy Catholic. The track has been updated with an Olympic quality surface. The original track was created for the old 440-yard distance, which meant that there was an abundance of lines found on the track that could very well confuse athletes, coaches, and officials. The new track has been shortened to the 400-meter distance, resurfaced, and set up for the next generation of athletes. There will be a dedication of the track on April 23, 2016 at 10:00 AM, and all are welcome to attend. See our website for more details.

For more information, to see pictures, or to see the video, visit the track update page on our Website: KennedyCatholic.org/track-update

Player Continues to Shine Bright Around the Diamond

Nicholas Goebelbecker '17

Kennedy Catholic is a place where students are aptly prepared for college, with credit to the high standards in education and the exceptional technology programs. However, it is also a place of athletic success. Kennedy's programs allow athletes to thrive by developing them to play at the collegiate level. An example includes Ryan Podlovits, class of 2015, who played on the state title-winning Kennedy lacrosse team and went on to play at the University of Tampa. Megan Weidenhamer is another example of the impressive class of athletes that play for Kennedy Catholic. Megan graduated in the class of 2015 and continued her basketball career at Belmont Abbey College this year in North Carolina. This trend of athletic success has continued into this year's graduating class. Alexander Volpi, class of 2016, has signed his letter of intent to play baseball at the College of the Holy Cross next year. Alex also had received offers to play at Marist College and Cornell University. In an interview with Alex, he offered a few words of advice for current high school athletes looking to play in college. He said, "Focus on your grades, they make everything easier when looking at college." This goes to show that Kennedy student-athletes realize the importance of education and are prepared to succeed in college, both academically and athletically.



The Continued Success of Girls Soccer

Rebecca O'Callaghan '16

The Kennedy Catholic Girls Varsity Soccer team secured the league champion title this past season for the third year in a row. They went undefeated in their league play and throughout the season maintained a record of 11 wins, 2 losses, and 2 ties. Their record granted them a bye in the first round of playoffs and they advanced to the semi-finals, falling to Notre Dame High School. Senior captains Lucy Hernandez and Rebecca O'Callaghan and junior captain Kerry Brosnan were very happy with their season, especially since the majority of the team was made up of underclassmen. With only four seniors and three juniors on the team and seven underclassmen on the starting lineup, the Gaels were pleased with their success. However, they look forward to their bright future with the goal of returning to the state final as they did two years ago.

Looking back at my four years on this team, I become very nostalgic. I still vividly remember showing up the first day of tryouts, freshmen year, as a bundle of nerves. Ironically, my first year on the team was Coach Tieber's first year as the varsity head coach. He has been the stabilizing force, carrying the team to yearly playoff runs and acting as a mentor on and off the field. With every passing year, I experienced the team becoming more and more like a family to me. There's something about this team that made long practices and tough losses more bearable. I'll miss the feeling of going to practice after a long day of school and instantly being put in a good mood because of my teammates. I am so grateful for my Kennedy soccer family and I will definitely be attending many games this upcoming season, this time as a proud spectator. As I leave this part of my life behind, I know that the memories and friendships will certainly outlast the turf burn and aching muscles.



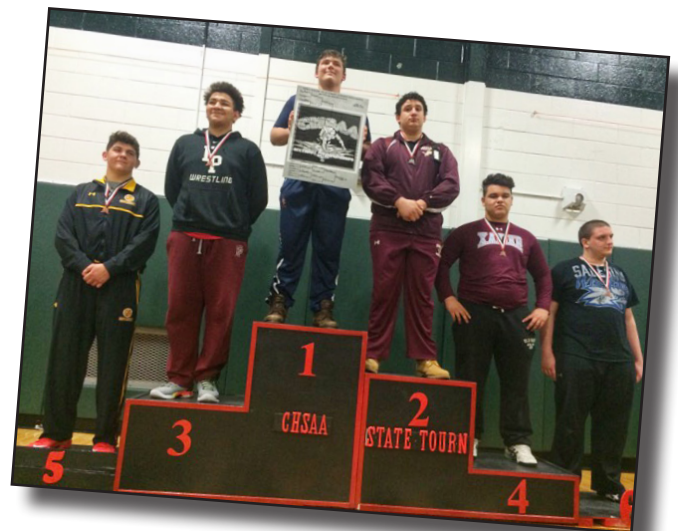
To see more girls soccer images, visit our gallery of images:
KennedyCatholic.org/image-gallery

Take Downs, Back Points, and Pins

Longest wins KC's First-ever CHSAA Title

Congratulations to sophomore Ed Longest who won Kennedy's first-ever CHSAA State Championship for Kennedy Catholic. Here is a recap of the weekend's event from Ed's parents:

On Saturday [February 13], Ed Longest entered the CHSAA State Tournament at Holy Trinity Diocesan High School in Hicksville, NY unranked. On Sunday evening, Ed left as the Heavyweight CHSAA State Champion. In his first match on Saturday, he wrestled the number 1 ranked wrestler from Chaminade, pinning his opponent in 30 seconds. In his second match on Saturday, he pinned the number 5 ranked wrestler from Xavier in 2 mins. 24 seconds. On Sunday morning, he wrestled the number 4 ranked wrestler from Fordham Prep in the Semi-Finals, pinning him in 4 minutes and 55 seconds. In the finals, he faced the number 2 ranked wrestler from Farrell, pinning him in the third period with only 8 seconds left on the clock.



Boys & Girls Basketball Season Update

Winning Ways

The 2015-2016 basketball season has brought about many changes for both teams who each moved into post-season play.

On the girls side, new Head Coach, Len Yearwood, has shown great promise as he moves up from the junior varsity coaching position to the varsity level. The girls finished the season in the second round of the playoffs.

After last year's great showing in the State Championship, the boys lost a few key senior players to graduation and two high-profile players who transferred. The boys finished the 2016 season as the City A Runner Up.

Both teams have active Twitter pages where you can find updates, pictures, and video of their seasons which can be found on our *Contact Us* page of the school's Website or by following the links below.

Boys Twitter: [Twitter.com/KCBoysBball](https://twitter.com/KCBoysBball)

Girls Twitter: [Twitter.com/KennedyGaelsGBB](https://twitter.com/KennedyGaelsGBB)





Kennedy Arts & Performing Arts



To see more works of art, visit our gallery of images:
KennedyCatholic.org/image-gallery

Deck the Halls: Kennedy's 2015 Christmas Concert

Max Jarcho '16

The recent Christmas Concert at Kennedy Catholic was distinguished not only by the usual performances of music, voice, and dance but also by new endeavors taken up by some of the performing groups. The night opened with a casual performance of the newly formed brass choir, which played traditional Christmas songs with Mr. Scott Hull P'18. This informal entertainment took place as guests passed through the Lakeview Room on their way to the decorated auditorium. These renditions then flowed into a formal performance below Kennedy's stage to kick off the remainder of the night. The choral performances which followed were just as entertaining. Mrs. Ines Wilhelm-Boston's singers sang classic Christmas songs and even sported two solos, one by sophomore Ava Gallo and another by junior Rosario Grasso. Next came the dancers. Under the direction of Ms. Dana Merritt, they brought with them their Christmas spirit in bright red as they moved to songs like Mariah Carey's 1990s classic, "All I Want For Christmas Is You." The crimson cast capped off their share of the night with an upbeat dance to "Hot Chocolate," one of the most memorable songs from the 2004 animated feature "The Polar Express." Finally, the concert band played. Beginning with



a medley of Christmas classics, Mrs. Martha Belardo evoked the spirit of her players to the best of her ability. And, for the first time in Christmas Concert history, the band played with the chorus. Backing the vocals of "Do You Hear What I Hear" with a wonderful instrumental track, the two musical groups synchronized melody and harmony in what was hopefully the first of many duets to come. In their final performance, the band concluded the Christmas Concert with a fast-paced, jazzed-up arrangement of "Go Tell It on the Mountain." This wild performance, complete with saxophone and drum solos, led to a standing ovation from the audience – another first in Kennedy history. It is clear that so profound a manifestation of applause was intended not just for the band, but for all of Kennedy's performers on that night.

**The Sounds of Kennedy's
concerts and other events
can be found on our new
SoundCloud channel**

Visit to hear more!

[SoundCloud.com/user-169482368](https://soundcloud.com/user-169482368)

Kennedy Catholic posted a playlist 2 months ago



Kennedy Catholic
2015 Christmas Concert



- 1 Brass Ensemble Christmas Selections - 2 ▶ 42
- 2 03 Mary Sweet Mary ▶ 182
- 3 04 The Christmas Song ▶ 39

Like Share



Kennedy Players Perform Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella

Hannah Langley '17

I have been in Kennedy's theater program for three years now, and I must say that this year was an extremely challenging, yet truly rewarding experience. There were some good times, there were some bad times and there were a lot of stressful times. However, we all came together – cast, crew, costumes, orchestra – to put on a successful Cinderella.

The show was double cast this year, which proved to be somewhat difficult at times. However, it also made rehearsals more enjoyable since there were more people to share the experience with. Also, as one of the leads, it was entertaining to watch the other cast perform and to see my character portrayed on stage by someone else. The show brought many of us together, created many friendships, and made everyone grow a lot closer. This was especially true for the girls who joined the musical from Good Counsel Academy. Monica McStay, who played Madame on the Thursday and Saturday shows, said that switching schools her senior year was hard, but she is glad that she did the show at Kennedy. She said, "Joining the drama club introduced me to so many friendly and talented people. I am grateful for the experience and the friends I have made!"

As many of the cast members can attest to, the show was not always fun and games. It was actually extremely stressful most of the time, and we all had to work hard to put on a show we could be proud of. Monica Gayanelo, who played Marie (the fairy godmother) on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, stated, "This show taught me that anything really is possible. Making dreams come true with the wave of a magic wand taught me... any dream can become a reality with a little faith in yourself." I think this show really did teach us all that when we work together, we can make anything happen.

This year's show was more than just a performance. It was a tribute. Sister Barbara passed away on the same day as our Friday performance. Hearing the news after the show as a community was tragic. Everyone in that auditorium felt the heartbreak and loss. The Saturday and Sunday shows were in tribute to her, being as she dedicated so much of her life to all of us, especially last year in *The Sound of Music*. As hard as the news was, it brought us all closer together and created an inseparable bond among everyone involved in the show. Genny Glembotzky, who not only performed in a number of roles but also filled the responsibility of assistant director, gave a remark



regarding Sister Barbara's passing, "Hearing the news... was very difficult for our cast, but it was really beautiful to see everyone come together, be there for each other, and remember her like they did." As Genny said, we all came together to remember Sister Barbara as the amazing woman she was and to honor the amazing legacy she has set for our community. We all know that she was with us during the shows, watching from the best seat in the house.

I would not have traded my Cinderella experience for anything else. I have made friendships and bonds with so many people that I hope to never lose. Performing as Charlotte, the annoying, mean stepsister (on Thursday and Saturday nights) was a lot of fun, and gave me the freedom to be someone completely different from myself. As a quick remark, I want to thank my cast - Kelsey Baron, Joe Gullotta, Jillian Flynn, Monica McStay, Dominick Basilone, Dylan Berry and Rose Grosskopf - for being absolutely amazing and for making me feel so comfortable performing on stage with all of you. I also want to give a shout out to the other cast - Kayla Campise, Nicholas DiGrandi, Amanda Astrologo, Meghan Reilly, Monica Gayanelo, and Caroline King. Rehearsals with everyone were so much fun, and I'm so glad we all became such good friends. I'll never forget this experience and the good times we enjoyed (when we weren't suffering from illness or stressing out). We will all miss the seniors from this year, but we know that they will go on to do even greater things.

Just when the show seemed "impossible," we pushed on, and in the end, it was a success. The show took a lot of hard work, dedication, and perseverance from all, but it was all worth it. I am proud to say I was a part of Cinderella. Hopefully, the audience had "a lovely night" at our performances.

To see more pictures, visit our gallery of images: KennedyCatholic.org/image-gallery



Support Kennedy



Your gift helps directly support Kennedy's mission to provide quality, Catholic education to students. Pledge a donation to Kennedy Catholic today! To learn more, visit KennedyCatholic.org/support-us

Class Gifts by the Year

1945	\$50.00	1974	\$670.00	1993	\$1,095.70
1946	\$150.00	1975	\$1,085.00	1994	\$2,501.74
1949	\$110.00	1976	\$630.00	1995	\$200.00
1953	\$100.00	1977	\$1,090.00	1996	\$50.00
1954	\$100.00	1978	\$525.00	1997	\$150.00
1955	\$150.00	1979	\$225.00	1998	\$100.00
1957	\$265.00	1980	\$1,350.00	1999	\$1,185.66
1961	\$405.00	1981	\$775.00	2000	\$900.00
1962	\$1,100.00	1982	\$2,370.00	2001	\$200.00
1963	\$150.00	1983	\$1,915.00	2006	\$20.00
1965	\$5,000.00	1984	\$565.00	2011	\$25.00
1966	\$100.00	1985	\$1,225.00	2016	\$8,458.25
1967	\$275.00	1986	\$1,000.00	2017	\$200.00
1968	\$1,175.00	1987	\$1,200.00	2018	\$200.00
1969	\$1,050.00	1988	\$750.00	2019	\$200.00
1970	\$1,960.00	1989	\$640.00	Grand Total	\$66,436.35
1971	\$875.00	1990	\$100.00		
1972	\$2,235.00	1991	\$300.00		
1973	\$11,035.00	1992	\$8,250.00		

Skelton Makes Top Honors: National Merit Scholarship Finalist

Kennedy Catholic student, Sara Skelton, has been named a Finalist in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program. Congratulations to Sara on this amazing accomplishment!

The National Merit Finalists represent less than 1 percent of the top entrants from the initial students who entered the National Merit Program.

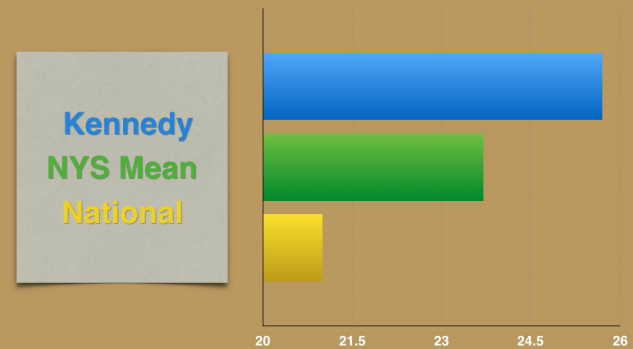


Kennedy Tops Local Schools in SAT & ACT Scores:

SAT and ACT Scores Compared

How does Kennedy compare to other local schools? Every student at Kennedy sits for the SAT, public schools can't say the same.

COMPARING ACT SCORES



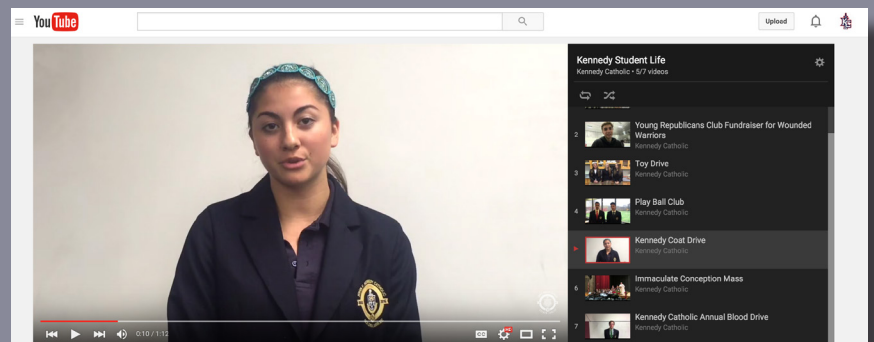
COMPARING SAT SCORES



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[YouTube.com/KennedyCatholic1967](https://www.youtube.com/KennedyCatholic1967)





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SAVE THE DATE: *President's Dinner*

*Honoring Cardinal Dolan, Sr. Barbara,
Maura Devey, the 2016 Teacher of the Year,
and the Class of 2016 Students of Excellence.*

Date: April 21, 2016 - **Time:** 6 PM

Location: 670 White Plains Rd, Tarrytown, NY
10591

To attend the dinner, visit
KennedyCatholic.org/PresidentsDinner

Upcoming Events:

- * President's Dinner - April 21
- * Spring K-Fest - April 22-23
- * Track Ribbon Cutting - April 23
- * Spring Concert - April 27
- * Baccalaureate Mass & Graduation - June 3-4
- * Academic Awards - June 9
- * 50th Anniversary All-Class Reunion - June 25

Visit our calendar Online for more information:
KennedyCatholic.org/calendar