



# BISHOP CONNOLLY HIGH SCHOOL

## COUGAR NEWS

February– April, 2010

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday-Friday, February 15-19, 2010 - Winter Vacation

Wednesday, February 24, 2010 @ 6:30pm - PACE Meeting, BCHS Library

Friday, February 26, 2010 - School Dance, 7-10pm

Friday, March 5, 2010 - Progress Reports

Saturday, March 13, 2010 - Talent Show (Sponsored by Sophomore Class)

Thursday, March 18, 2010 - Diocesan Professional Day (No School for Students)

Saturday, March 20, 2010 - BCHS Red Carpet Gala

Friday, March 26, 2010 - Dress Down Day to Benefit Food Pantry

Thursday, April 1, 2010 - Holy Thursday (Noon Dismissal)

Friday, April 2, 2010 - Good Friday (No School)

Wednesday, April 7, 2010 @ 6:30pm - Orientation Evening for Incoming Freshmen

Sunday, April 11, 2010 - Alumni Breakfast; Mass @ 8:30am; Breakfast to follow

Monday-Friday, April 19-23, 2010 Spring Vacation

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A few weeks ago at a BCHS board meeting I made a passing comment about the tremendous advantage of a Connolly education. One of the board members asked if there were empirical data supporting such an assertion that we could use to promote the school, and I responded enthusiastically with statistics about high standardized test scores, wonderful college acceptances, the success of our students in the dual enrollment program at BCC, etc. As a major cheerleader for all things Connolly, I always have this information at the ready.

That evening as I watched a particularly depressing series of events unfold during the nightly news (rancorous and intransigent political debate, crime, violence - only interrupted by commercials promoting greed, rampant materialism and self-gratification), it suddenly occurred to me that the true value of a Connolly education has as much to do with forming a selfless heart as developing an analytical mind.

I began to think that the real data supporting Connolly's excellence did not lay in test scores, but in the large number of students, teachers and parents who attended the March for Life in Washington, DC, the \$5000 raised by the community in one day to help the earthquake victims in Haiti, the students' commitment to the Change for Change Program which supports the Invisible Children of Africa, the work and contributions of the student body to support a local food pantry, and the fact that every BCHS student completes a service project every year. In a world that promotes self-interest, Connolly provides an environment which leads students to a life of service to others in the name of Jesus Christ. That is what makes Bishop Connolly truly great.

There are many other specific examples of this other-centeredness emanating from BCHS. As you turn the page you will read the musings of Jim Nicoletti, Class of 1973, whose decision to make a financial and emotional commitment to one of our students through a scholarship and mentoring relationship has enriched a number of lives.

All of the above examples remind me what I should have remembered all along; the next time anyone asks me why BCHS is a great school, I'm going to point to the mission, "to be not only hearers, but doers of the Word", before I mention test scores, college acceptances.....

Sincerely,

If you would like to touch the life of one of our students through mentoring, please feel free to call me or send an e-mail to [mscanlan@bishopconnolly.com](mailto:mscanlan@bishopconnolly.com).



Brother Daniel Caron, long-time BCHS Chemistry Teacher, accepts a generous donation from Student Council President Alec Moniz to support the work of the Brothers of Christian Instruction in Haiti.

# MENTORING: A LIFE CHANGING RELATIONSHIP

“Davas ... has certainly brought immeasurable joy to my family, as we have watched him grow, cheered him on, and witnessed him thrive in the Connolly environment.”

By Jim Nicoletti, Class of '73

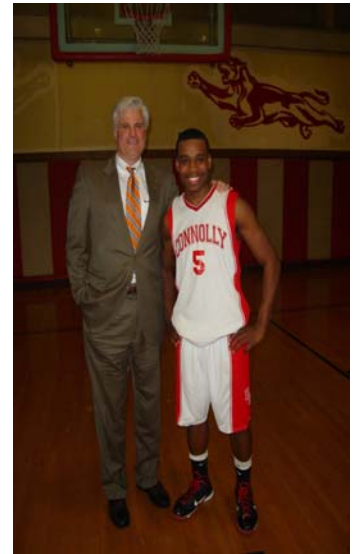
My wife Deb and I have had the pleasure of getting to know Davas throughout the past three years, as he has been the recipient of The Nicoletti Scholarship at Bishop Connolly. Over the years, we have always accepted the recommendation of the Principal as to the recipient of the scholarship, and they have always turned out to be very good, responsible students.

In spite of the odds against him, Davas has achieved a level of success in everything that he has undertaken that is nothing short of remarkable--be it academically, athletically or socially. The love and support of his wonderful mother, Andreyia, and brothers David and Davonte have contributed to this success, but it also his incredible drive that has put him where he is at this point in his young life.

Yet in spite of this relentless drive, he is extremely well-liked by all who come to know him. His shining personality and charisma (in the truest sense of the word) are impressive to behold—It's wonderful to watch folks who are introduced to Davas just “take to him.” In spite of this “presence,” however, he is humble, soft spoken, and is a true gentleman.

Davas has brought immeasurable joy to my family, as we have watched him grow, cheered him on, and witnessed him thrive in the Connolly environment. He has taken full advantage of the “Connolly opportunities” given to him and has squeezed everything possible out of them. I've loved getting to know Davas, attending his games, and keeping in touch with him. Though I live out of town, we are never out of touch: If I miss a game, we can always follow up and catch

up by cell, text or email! The relationship that we have developed is reciprocal in the true sense of the word—In fact, Davas may have given me much more than I have been able to give him, and I'm looking forward to following his success in college...and beyond...



Jim Nicoletti and Davas.

By Davas Wright, Class of '10

I was raised by a single mother with two other children. She has always struggled to help us. Even after she was diagnosed with MS she has always been able to make ends meet. But she wanted more for us. She wanted a great high school education for each of us. She knew how easy you could just get lost in the motions at a big public school, and she did not want that. Neither did I.

Bishop Connolly is the school my mother trusted. She knew it was a safe environment, the people were caring and it

had great academics. It would be a financial problem for my family; we were trying to put my oldest brother through college at the same time.

My mother explained this to me and to the school and there was one point when I did not know what was going to happen. In the middle of my sophomore year the school called us and told my family that I was granted a Nicoletti Scholarship to go to Bishop Connolly.

The Nicolettis not only helped me with tuition, they also developed a relationship with my family and me. They do

whatever they can do to help me do what I need to do for the future. I am so happy this family chose to mentor me because without them I would not be in the same position I am in today.

The scholarship forced me to keep my grades up and stay on the right track. Thanks to the help I received from the Nicoletti family and the work I put in, I have made my family happy and I already have been accepted to a number of different colleges.

I will always be grateful to the Nicolettis. They have changed my life.



## Bishop Connolly's Red Carpet Gala!



### LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUCTION!

On Saturday evening, March 20, 2010 Bishop Connolly High School will roll out the red carpet at the Cultural Center in Fall River as we host the Red Carpet Gala.

Join us for Bishop Connolly's social event of the year, an elegant evening of fine food, music, dancing, live and silent auctions, fun and surprises.

As you exit your complimentary valet-parked vehicle, you will walk down the red carpet where our own BCHS paparazzi will be there to take your picture.

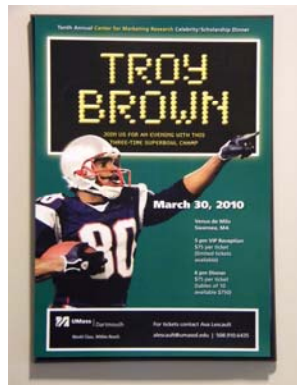
The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with a cocktail hour. Exciting items await your bids during the silent auction. Bid on gift baskets, gift certificates, works of art, jewelry and many other tantalizing

items.

Enjoy a delicious dinner and then join in the excitement as our guest auctioneer, BCHS Class of '90 alumnus and Channel 6 meteorologist Fred Campagna, kicks off our live auction.

Live auction items this year include golf packages, a VIP reception and dinner with Troy Brown of the New England Patriots, a trip to New York City, a handmade, one-of-a-kind Bishop Connolly 2010 Graduation Quilt, and much more.

Many other surprises await.



Stay the evening and dance the night away.

All proceeds from this event will directly benefit Bishop Connolly High School and our ongoing efforts to provide improvements to our facilities and programs, as well as financial aid for our students.

Last year's Gala was a huge success and those who attended raved about the evening. This year promises to be even more exciting.

Don't be left out. Seating is limited, so reserve your spot on the red carpet now.

For more information contact Tony Ciampanelli at 508-676-1071 or [aciampanelli@bishopconnolly.com](mailto:aciampanelli@bishopconnolly.com).



ONCE AGAIN, FRED CAMPAGNA '90, CHANNEL 6 METEOROLOGIST WILL SERVE AS OUR GUEST AUCTIONEER.

## BISHOP CONNOLLY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TO REORGANIZE

As part of the BCHS Strategic Plan, Connolly Alums will come together to re-create and re-structure the Bishop Connolly Alumni Association on Sunday, April 11. The meeting will begin with a liturgy in the school chapel at 8:30am which will be followed by a working breakfast in the school library.

The reorganization is spearheaded by Linda Camara, Class of '82, and by Dr. Paul Raymond, parent of four BCHS graduates. Tony Ciampanelli, BCHS Alumni Director, will serve as facilitator.

"This is the school's most ambitious attempt to reconnect with all of its graduates", said Camara. "We would like to

find out what the alumni want in terms of events and activities and how we can best communicate with them."

Alumni are asked to send an e-mail to reserve a place for the breakfast to one of the following: [aciampanelli@bishopconnolly.com](mailto:aciampanelli@bishopconnolly.com), [lcamara@stopandshop.com](mailto:lcamara@stopandshop.com) or [raypaulden@aol.com](mailto:raypaulden@aol.com).



The BCHS Winter Athletic Teams have amassed an impressive list of victories on their way to tournament berths.

up by cell, text or email! The relationship that we have developed is reciprocal in the true sense of the word—In fact, Davas may have given me much more than I have been able to give him, and I'm looking forward to following his success in college...and beyond...



**ATTENTION ALL BCHS ALUMNI !**

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND**

**THE BISHOP CONNOLLY HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI BREAKFAST MEETING**

On Sunday, April 11, 2010  
at Bishop Connolly High School

Holy Mass in Chapel at 8:30am  
Breakfast to follow  
In the BCHS Library

RSVP  
[aciampanelli@bishopconnolly.com](mailto:aciampanelli@bishopconnolly.com) or  
[lcamara@stopandshop.com](mailto:lcamara@stopandshop.com) or  
[raypaulden@aol.com](mailto:raypaulden@aol.com)

BISHOP CONNOLLY HIGH SCHOOL  
INVITES YOU TO THE

*Red Carpet Gala*  
2010


MARCH 20, 2010  
6:00 PM  
CULTURAL CENTER  
205 SOUTH MAIN STREET • FALL RIVER, MA

LIVE & SILENT AUCTION  
DINNER & DANCING

ADVANCE TICKET SALES ONLY  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL TONY CIAMPANELLI,  
DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS, ALUMNI DEVELOPMENT  
AT 508.676.1071 EXT. 333

\$50 PER PERSON      \$500 PER TABLE

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
BISHOP CONNOLLY HIGH SCHOOL



**Bishop Connolly High School**  
**373 Elsbree Street**  
**Fall River, MA 02720**

*Permit Number*

[www.bishopconnolly.com](http://www.bishopconnolly.com)



Current Resident or:





