



BISHOP CONNOLLY HIGH SCHOOL

COUGAR NEWS

Summer, 2009

DO THEY "GET IT"?

Working with teenagers is a constant delight and an endless challenge. The adults in their lives (parents, teachers, coaches, etc.) are committed to helping them to develop into strong, confident people of learning and goodness and who live lives based on Christian values. In a particular way, at BCHS, we attempt to inculcate our mission "to be not only hearers, but doers of the Word" into the minds and hearts of the children entrusted to our care.

It is often difficult to know just how successful we are at this process, since we live in a world which can seem to promote the opposite values: selfishness, self-centeredness and greed. However, several weeks ago, Jenna Perry, Class of 2009 Valedictorian, made it very clear that our students do "get it". Below is an excerpt from her inspiring address.

On this our graduation day, I ask my senior class, "What does it mean to 'risk ourselves'?" It is not acting in the destructive way that the term implies; it means sharing our ideas and beliefs, showing our love and concern to those around us. Think about the many accomplishments that have been made, not only in history, but also within us during our time at Connolly by putting our ideas in front of a crowd. Because of the influence that Bishop Connolly has had on our lives, we are capable of "risking ourselves," and without it, we would not have left our mark on the school. We have been able to do this because of the values that have been instilled in us during our years at Connolly that have allowed us to become young adults, fully capable of making rational decisions, decisions based upon selfless risks that will bring us true success.

If selfless risk taking makes us so successful, why are we afraid to do it? Often, we choose not to take risks because we are afraid of the judgment of others. This fear will cripple all of the achievements that we have made these past four years. Judgment is inevitable. Some of the hardest areas to have judged by others are those that matter the most. No matter what each of us does, there will always be someone judging our beliefs and ideas. Don't worry about what other people say about your ideas or your values. Remain confident in yourself and in them, and it is that confidence that will carry you places. "Non auditors tantum sed factores verbi." —"Not only hearers but doers of the Word," our school motto, states this message simply. As Christians, we are called to be set apart from the crowd and known because of the fruit we bear by remaining in Christ. So speak up and let your voice be heard.

The world is full of numerous opportunities for each and every one of us in order to take hold of these opportunities, we must take risks. It is from these that we are shown true success; success that is not measured by the material gains as the world measures it, but from the satisfaction gained from positively affecting the lives of others. While one may see success as becoming the next CEO of a million dollar company, the success that comes from this will not bring you true happiness. True happiness comes from being involved in your families, placing others before yourselves, and most importantly, gaining the confidence to know that you have the capability to take those important risks. However, these acts are all imperfect displays of God's unconditional love for us. Our ultimate happiness stems from the knowledge that we are called to serve the Lord, as his children, which is noticeable through our risk to follow the narrow path in life.

-Jenna Perry

Jenna Perry is the daughter of Catherine and Robert Perry of Assonet. During her four years at BCHS Jenna has been active in Mock Trial, served as a Debate Captain, National Honor Society President, Student Council Secretary, and held membership in the Portuguese Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta, the Mathematics Honor Society.



In the course of the past three years she has been the recipient of the St. Anselm College Book Award, as well as the AP Calculus and AP Chemistry Awards of Academic Excellence. She carried a 4.0 GPA during her four years of high school.

Jenna also received the Salt of the Earth Award which is given to the senior who best exemplifies the spirit and mission of Bishop Connolly High School, and has been awarded an academic scholarship to attend Providence College where she will major in a pre-med with a minor in music.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The past year has been chock-full of exciting activities and accomplishments at BCHS. With the support of faculty, students, parents and alums we were able to reach many of the goals set forth in the BCHS Strategic Plan.

CAMPUS SECURITY

New gates were installed at the end of the service road behind the building, and outdoor lighting was added to the front, side and back of the school.

ENHANCED ATHLETIC FACILITIES

A new sound system in the gymnasium, a complete renovation of the tennis courts and the refurbishing and re-grading of the fields in Cougar Stadium have greatly improved the physical environment for our teams.

CREATION OF THE BCHS FITNESS CENTER

The Center, which was dedicated at the BCHS Family Reunion Day in March, features a weight room and an indoor training and conditioning field.

LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

This program, which developed student leadership skills through a series of workshops and activities, resulted in the first CONNOLLY DAY and served as the backbone for student contributions to the Connolly Renaissance.

STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY

The library and computer lab feature new computers, and a wireless network has been installed throughout the campus. As a result, student use of laptops grew greatly.

TRANSITION TO THE MAYFLOWER ATHLETIC LEAGUE

By joining this new, more appropriate league, BCHS sports teams have gained a greater competitive edge and more confidence. Team victories have doubled as a result of the move.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

During the past year, BCHS initiated a program to attract students from other countries and has hosted six international students, one from Italy and five from China. Our five Chinese students will be with us for another two years.

DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM WITH BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the initial year of this program, some BCHS students achieved 14 college credits while taking classes at BCHS.



BCHS HEALTH INITIATIVE

Beginning this summer, BCHS students are working with the school trainer to create individualized programs for strength and conditioning. Fifty-three students have chosen to participate during June and July. In addition, we have completely re-designed our lunch program for next year, eliminating unhealthy foods, focusing on good nutrition. And to help our parents get in shape, during the school year, we will offer evening exercise classes for our students' family members.

BCC DUAL ENROLLMENT: Chapter 2

This summer twenty-five of our rising juniors and seniors are taking classes at BCC free of charge. During the year, dual enrollment classes will be offered to our students during the school day at BCHS and after school and during the evenings at BCC. Some of our students could graduate from BCHS with a year of college completed!

SPPEPS

The guidance department will initiate a four year sequence of individualized learning plans (Student Personal Planning Educational Profiles) to help students and their parents prepare for high school, college and career challenges.

THE YEAR AHEAD

New facilities and programs will be developed during the 2009-2010 Academic Year as we continued to bring the Strategic Plan into complete fruition.

ALUMNI

The administrative focus for the 2009-2020 academic year will call for bringing our alums back to school and re-integrating them into our community. We will solicit nominations for a BCHS Hall of Fame to be held in September of 2010 to recognize alums who have made outstanding contributions to society inspired by the school's mission.

HOME AT LAST

By the end of the summer, reconstruction will be completed on the school main entrance. New offices and a renovated chapel will greet visitors as they enter the building.

THEATRE RENOVATION This fall will see the completion and dedication of the stage renovations which include a new lighting system, curtains, permanently installed lcd projector and back-stage reconfiguration.

Nominations are being accepted for

THE BISHOP CONNOLLY HALL OF FAME

To be held in the Fall of 2010.

Criteria for Nominations

1. has graduated from BCHS before 1995; or, if not an alum, has shown an extraordinary and long-term commitment to the school;
2. has demonstrated a commitment to service to others in accordance with the school's mission;
3. has lived a life consistent with Catholic Values;
4. has been recognized for outstanding achievement in his/her field.

Nominations should include a brief letter of explanation and any other materials that you would like to include to support the nominee.

Deadline for Nominations: March 1, 2010

Please send all materials to:

Tony Ciampanelli, Alumni Director
aciampanelli@bishopconnolly.com

BCHS ALUMNI/AE CLASS REUNIONS

The BCHS Class of 1999 is planning their 10 year class reunion. If any members of the following reunion year classes are interested in planning a class reunion this fall, please contact:

Tony Ciampanelli at Bishop Connolly
508-676-1071, Ext. 333

aciampanelli@bishopconnolly.com

10 year – Class of 1999

20 year – Class of 1989

25 year – Class of 1984

30 year—Class of 1979

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

Permit Number

www.bishopconnolly.com



Bishop Connolly High School's
19th Annual
Thomas P. Keyes, '84
Memorial Golf Tournament
Scramble Format

Monday, July 13, 2009
Fall River Country Club
4232 North Main Street
Fall River, Massachusetts 02720

\$140.00 Donation includes:
Golf Carts & Greens Fees
Continental Breakfast
Lunch & Prizes

7:00-7:45 AM Registration and
Continental Breakfast
8:00 AM Shot Gun Start
Lunch and Prizes in the Clubhouse Dining Room
Dress Code: A collared shirt for men,
No jeans, cut offs, or tank tops for men or women.

Registration deadline: July 8, 2009

To register, please contact:
Ed or Mary Jane Keyes
(508) 674-3706

Or

Tony Ciampanelli
Bishop Connolly High School
508-676-1071 ext.333

Not a golfer? Can't make it?

Please consider sponsoring a hole for

\$100.00 (tax-deductible)

This tournament is the only fundraiser for this scholarship.

Please help continue this great memorial to Tommy Keyes.