

# Tiger Tracks

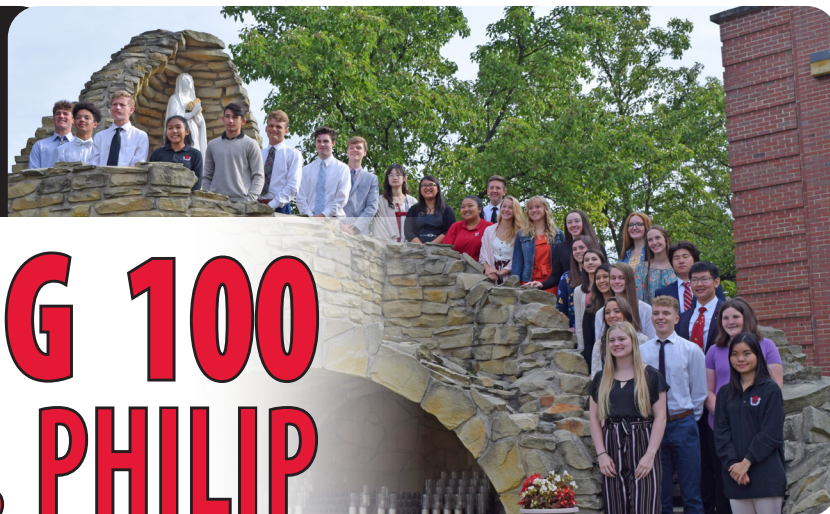
FORMERLY THE ALUMNI NEWS

NEWS OF ALL STRIPES FOR OUR BATTLE CREEK AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL FAMILY

Vol. 20, No. 1

2020

## A Century of Celebrations



# GRADUATING 100 CLASSES AT ST. PHILIP

The year was 1921, on Friday June 17, five students stood out among the Fern and Rose décor in the Knights of Columbus Hall. The party of five was celebrated all week, which included a formal banquet. At the banquet, the class talked of the past, shared their “Class Future Prediction” and their “Class Will”.

With faith and confidence in their hearts for the future, Nora Breslin, Agatha Schenbelt, Francis LaFrance, John Gregory and George Ratti stood in front of students, parents, friends and Church members. As the orchestra played, diplomas were handed out with great honor, marking the first of nearly 100 years of graduation celebrations.

### Class of 1921 vs Class of 2020

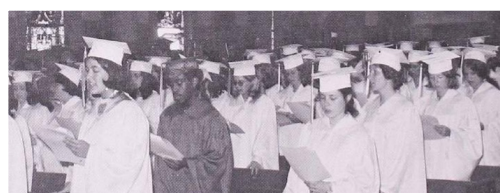
| Class Colors                                | Class Colors   |
|---|--|
| Crimson & White                             | Purple (Mary Rabbitt's Favorite Color) & Blue (Arlen's Favorite Color) |
| Class Flower                                | Class Flower   |
| Red Rose                                    | Cactus   |
| Class Motto                                 | Class Motto  |
| “Fide et Fiducia”<br>(Faith and Confidence) | 2020 – The Class with Perfect Vision                                   |



Class of 1935



Class of 1922



Class of 1975



Class of 2005



Class of 1950

Also in this issue: The Greatest Class Alive, Homecoming 2019, A Reunion to Remember, Stories from Elementary, Middle, and High Schools, and more!

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT MOMENTS

## TAKE A LOOK WITH YOUR CALENDAR BOOK



### ALUMNI WEBSITE

The Alumni page found at [www.bcacs.org](http://www.bcacs.org) is the central resource for all of our alumni. With this consistently updated page, you can stay connected from wherever life has taken you.

**Need to plan a reunion?** Our online submission form will help get the word out through all of our platforms. We can also help with providing current contact information for your classmates.

**Want to find your yearbook?** We have digital copies of every STP yearbook, starting from 1942 through 2009. Whenever STP class reaches their 10 year milestone, their digital yearbook will be available.

**Need to update your information?** We have a simple online form to make this process much easier. Tell us about new additions to your family, a new job, or any other milestone we can celebrate with you.

**Want to nominate an alumni?** Honor a STP graduate with either the Hall of Fame or the Distinguished Alumni awards. Our online form will collect your information and accept photos and other supporting materials.

### CALLING ALL MEMBERS OF THE CLASSES OF



1945 1950 1955 1960 1965  
1980 1985 1990 1995 2000  
2005 2010 2015



### ARE YOU PLANNING YOUR REUNION?

#### Class Reunions Coming Up:

Class of 1970 – 50th Reunion – August 28th and 29th, 2020

Contact Sandra Schoder Dull at 269-979-8725

Class of 1975 – 45th Reunion – August 15, 2020

Cricket Club – downtown Battle Creek, MI

SAVE THE DATE

**HOME  
COMING  
2020**

OCTOBER 3, 2020

SAVE THE DATE

**ALL SAINTS  
SUPERAFFEST**

SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2020

Fun for the whole family  
on the grounds of St. Joseph Parish

32nd Annual

**Michael J. Hume  
BIG RED OPEN**

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2020

Contact Ed Bauman for more details:  
[ebauman@bcacs.org](mailto:ebauman@bcacs.org) ~ 269.963.1131

**Cereal City  
BBQ Festival**

May 15 and 16, 2020

Contact Jim Austin at (517) 648-1001  
or [jima700@comcast.net](mailto:jima700@comcast.net)

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

## BCACS FOUNDATION – ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Have you thought about giving back to your schools? The faith-centered learning experiences offered at our schools are made possible with the support of the BCACS Foundation's Annual Fund Drive. We pray that you will consider a gift to the 2019-2020 Annual Fund Drive that will ensure the prosperity of Catholic education and the success of our future leaders.



Meet Mrs. Francisco's Preschool class. They are learning to recognize letters, write their own names, and are forming early concepts of math and science.

Your Annual Fund Drive gift supports the annual subsidy that the Foundation provides to the schools, which lowers the overall operating cost. This allows the schools to focus on additional education and faith enriching experiences.

Meet Mr. Shaw's Middle School Social Studies class. Mr. Shaw's students are introduced to different governmental concepts and cultural histories.

Your Annual Fund Drive gift provides resources to improve technology, supporting our rigorous curriculum.



Meet Mrs. Warner's High School Algebra class. Mrs. Warner's students are learning crucial skills, concepts, and study habits that will carry into their future careers.

Your Annual Fund Drive gift provides tuition assistance to families in need of financial support. With this support, more students and families are able to experience our academically challenging Catholic education.



Monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual gifts are accepted as well as gifts of stock, mutual funds, and IRA distributions.

Complete and return the provided envelope, visit [www.bcacs.org](http://www.bcacs.org), or call 269-963-4771 to learn more about the gift option that best suits you.



## How The Class Of 1975 Has Claimed This Title

Whenever discussing the St Philip class of 1975, it is usually followed by the statement “the greatest class alive.” But does calling the class of 1975 the greatest class alive go beyond the rhyme?

The class of 1975 is the largest class to ever graduate from St. Philip Catholic Central, graduating 99 students. The class accomplished amazing feats, putting their stamp on STP tradition. As freshmen, the class participated in a fundraiser using green stamps to purchase a new school bus for the student body. The “red and white bus” was a staple at all athletic events and academic field trips for many decades. In 1974, the football team won the State Championship with many of the boys from the class of 1975 leading the team to victory. Almost the entire class continued their academic career into college, some even playing sports at a collegiate level. Beyond that, the class roster has produced many success stories.

In more recent times, the classmates have given back to St. Philip through an endowment fund held at the Battle Creek Community Foundation. This fund supports tuition assistance to make attending our schools more affordable for families. While this gift will continue to give for many generations, the class of '75 have proven that they can also be called on when new needs arise. When the football team was in need of some new shoulder pads, several '75 students were contacted to secure donations to help purchase the new equipment. Without hesitation, many '75 alum not only pitched in enough money for the whole team to get new shoulder pads, but also gifted enough to allow the team to purchase other necessary items as well.

But what makes the class of 1975 the greatest class alive? Geri Drozdowski stated, “It rhymes. Any class ending in five could say it, but we seem to be the only ones that did.” Tom Lawrence, who is the athletic trainer for the St. Philip football team feels that their class is the greatest class alive because they still get together. In fact, every five years the class has a reunion. This August the class will be celebrating their 45th reunion. In addition, the former classmates can always count on each other for special or sorrowful events in one another's life. They stick together through all of life's celebrations and difficulties.

The class' unity didn't begin after graduation; it was built over their years shared together at the school. '75 alum Tim Brutsche shared,

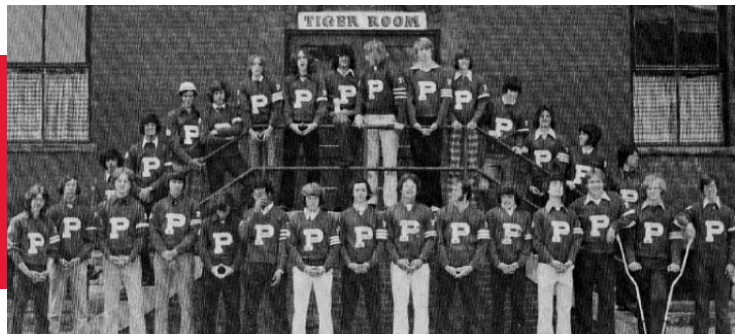
“Some classes aren't anywhere near as close. We just don't have a ‘cliquey’ group of people so we're all close.” Fellow alum Theresa Turley agreed, “I have had many people from other classes comment to me about the closeness of our class.”

The class' unique unity and spirit for our schools was demonstrated in a variety of ways. In 1974, the students collectively worked together to entertain the entire student body and staff in the Senior Christmas Show. To help the football team's success, the female members of the class, who were also members of Pep Club, would drive around the night before varsity football games and put personalized signs in the yards of each player. The majority of the class of '75 were part of the Varsity Club, a club comprised of men who had earned their varsity letter. The Varsity Club never failed to participate in T-Formation, a cheer that most alumni of St. Philip may be able to remember. The Varsity Club Members would shake the gymnasium as they ran out onto the court between the third and fourth quarters to perform this cheer.

Indeed, 1975 was a very exciting time to be a student at St. Philip High School. They were able to experience some of the most notorious St. Philip staff and coaches while attending, including Sister Therese Mary, Mr. Mike Hume, Mrs. Sheila Guerra, and Mr. Joe Zuk. 1975 was also the first year that formulated a girls' volleyball team, a St. Philip dynasty that continues today.

The class of 1975's spirit and respect for the school was (and still is) contagious. For many former classmates and alum, this has created a lifelong passion for supporting Catholic education. Today, many alumni of this class are still involved in the BCACS community in some way whether it be sending their children to the BCACS, volunteering their time, serving on the board of directors, or donating their money. There is no doubt that the class of 1975 has left an indelible print on St. Philip. It is not hard to see how easily they claimed the title of “greatest class alive”.

**Do you think your class is the greatest class alive? Contact Abby Lumbard at 269-963-4771 to be highlighted in the next edition of Tiger Tales.**





# — HOMECOMING 2019 —



"Homecoming is always an exciting time to be a part of our schools. I love being able to create memories with my friends that will be with us for a lifetime." ~ Gus Streng ~ St. Philip High School Senior



"School spirit is never greater than at Homecoming. I love seeing our students become a part of our traditions and reconnecting with fellow alumni to celebrate our schools."  
— 2005 Alum and BCACS Foundation Development Director, Abby (Buckley) Lumbard





## WELCOMING NEW TIGERS



For the past 30 years, **Susan Jordan** has been teaching at the Battle Creek Public Schools. Last year, she decided that it was time for a change.

"I was looking at the BCACS website and saw that John Burill was a staff member," Mr. Burill and Mrs. Jordan worked together at the public schools in the past. "...I told him if he ever heard of an opening at STP, that he thought I would like, to let me know." A few months later she received a call from Mr. Burill saying that there was an opening for teaching History at the High School. That day, she retired from the Battle Creek Public Schools and prepared to interview at St. Philip.

Before joining the St. Philip family, she taught History and Psychology at Battle Creek Central High School, along with heading the Social Studies team as department chair. With a bachelors' degree in English and Social Studies and a masters' degree in reading and educational leadership, Mrs. Jordan hopes to develop psychology courses for high school students in the near future.

When asked what the biggest transition has been since coming to St. Philip she had a simple answer, "Expectations. There is more expected of the students here. I can expect more and whatever I want to try, the students are willing to do. I appreciate the way that the students are always willing to try new ways to learn." She also appreciates the kindness of the BCACS community. "All of the teachers have been really accepting and kind. The students have been so welcoming."

One student gave Mrs. Jordan a memorable moment during 'Meet the Teacher Night' before school began, "He may not even remember this but on meet the teacher night, Adam Sprague came into my classroom and welcomed me to the school. I thought it was incredibly kind and it made me feel welcomed." Since that moment, she has built many more warm memories and officially feels like she is a part of the family.

**Susan Labreque** spent three decades in the Battle Creek Public Schools system. Initially, Mrs. Labreque was drawn to the BCACS by her family's ties to the school. "I wasn't even exactly planning on retiring but I was offered a job here and I decided to retire from public school and make the move here," explained Mrs. Labreque, "My husband and my children went here."

She describes the transition from the Battle Creek Public Schools to the BCACS as both "positive" and "easy."

Mrs. Labreque described the key differences between the public and Catholic school systems saying, "I love the spiritual aspect, the curriculum, the children are well behaved. There is a lot of parent involvement that I didn't always have the support of in the public school. Children are focused and it makes my job way easier."

Even before joining the BCACS community, Mrs. Labreque had heard about the tight-knit environment. "[I had heard] that it was a family environment and that everyone would welcome me with open arms. They certainly have," she said, "I feel a part of the family. I can't think of one negative aspect of making the change."

Aside from teaching, Mrs. Labreque has also enjoyed the religious aspect of being a part of the BCACS family. Going to Mass with her students has helped her develop a closer relationship to God. As a result, she has become drawn to the Catholic faith and she enjoys learning about it alongside her students. "I really love attending Mass and I decided to become a member of the Church. The first Mass that our class was in charge of was very nerve-racking," explained Mrs. Labreque, "The mass is moving and I feel so much closer to God. I have decided to join the Church, so it's wonderful because I am learning right along with the kids. I am experiencing the same thing the children are going through."



# Vicky Groat Receives the W.D. Boyce Leadership Award



Since 2014, the area Boy Scouts of America have awarded the W.D. Boyce Leadership Award to recognize individuals and businesses in and outside of Scouting that have demonstrated exceptional leadership in the service of youth in their respective communities. The award is named after the Chicago publisher W.D. Boyce who founded the Boy Scouts of America in 1910, after a trip to England. Mr. Boyce was assisted in the London fog by a young Boy Scout who refused to accept compensation for assisting Mr. Boyce in finding his way. So impressed by the young Scout, Mr. Boyce returned to Chicago and went on to found the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

It was a privilege to nominate and be part of the presentation of the 2019 W.D. Boyce Award to Vicky Groat. With the many hats that she wears at St. Philip (Principal, Athletic Director and Varsity Volleyball Coach) she has had a tremendous positive impact on the lives of so many students and their families. As a coach, the numbers speak for themselves: over 1100 wins, 10 state titles (with 9 in a row), 21 district titles, 17 regional titles and 6 state runner-ups. While the numbers are amazing, they are not the reason why Vicky received this award. The reason she received this award is because of the role model she is to all the youth she serves, especially the young women she coaches. As a father of a St. Philip volleyball player, I witnessed my daughter and other players grow in self-confidence, grow as leaders and grow as role models to the younger players and to all those who played against them and/or watched them play. Like her mother, Vicky will tell you that her philosophy is very simple.

“To compete at the highest level and be successful. Our success will not only be judged by our wins and losses, but our skill improvement, sportsmanship and how we represent our school, teammates, the game and our parents. I expect our teams to play with maximum effort, class, discipline and respect. If we do this, all other rewards will come. When you work hard and play hard, good things will happen. Play as a team and not as individuals. Academics come first, athletics are a privilege.”

What more could you ask of a coach and educator than to instill these values in your child?

— Written by: Judge John Hallacy, Father of: Frederick Hallacy (Class of 2014), Grant Hallacy (Class of 2017), Madeline Hallacy (Class of 2020)



Do you know of an alumni that deserves to be recognized for the Distinguished Alumni Award or a former coach or athlete worthy of a nomination in the Athletic Hall of Fame? visit [www.bcacs.org](http://www.bcacs.org) and click “Alumni” or call 269-963-4771.





### Happy Campers

Transitioning from St. Joseph Elementary into the Middle School as a sixth grade student is an exciting rite of passage. Brand new for these students is a rotating class schedule with multiple teachers, along with many new social and athletic opportunities.

Another rite of passage is the Sherman Lake Camp experience. Our BCACS sixth-graders attended a weeklong camp at the end of February. No mom and dad, no homework or tests – just their classmates, the great outdoors, and the opportunity to grow closer together. And they did as one camper stated: “I loved the bonding between my friends. We became family.”

These sixth grade students experience, often for the first time, five days and nights spent away from home. The camp provides week-long activities which allow the students to take safe risks, such as participating in a high-ropes course, with classmates sharing words of encouragement.

One camper shared: “I was really scared to go on the high ropes course, but I pushed myself to do it.”

“Camp is a wonderful experience,” said Tina Sprague, St. Joseph Middle School science teacher. “It allows the students time away from their parents and pushes them out of their comfort zones. It is a great team-building experience for the class.”



### An Anonymos Sign of Christ's Love

St. Joseph first-grade teacher Amy Doyle had a reason for sharing her favorite book “Everybody Can Help Somebody” by Ron Hall and Denver Moore with her students. “I read it to the kids to build a sense of the fact that there are people right here in our community who don’t have a home, who don’t have something to eat,” Mrs. Doyle said. “We can’t get all these people homes, and we can’t feed everybody every night, but we can do something.”



But how can a first-grader help? Compassion. Mrs. Doyle’s class created 80 Outreach Bags – simple brown bags decorated by the children. “I told them to decorate the bags with whatever they think would make someone smile,” Mrs. Doyle said.

They filled the bags with granola bars, water, tissue, gum, wipes, and a verse of Scripture selected by the class. No identifying markers were included, just joy. “This is an anonymous sign of Christ’s love, so it’s totally safe,” Mrs. Doyle said. “It was pretty impressive when we had all 80 of them together.”

Mrs. Doyle gave the children three bags each to keep in their car. When they saw someone in need – and only if accompanied by their parent – they could give that person one of their bags. If they ran out of bags, they could get more until all 80 were gone.

“It might be little, and the food may be gone in an hour, but it is something,” Mrs. Doyle said. “With this project, I thought we could help people right here.” The children were eager to share their Outreach Bag experiences. One student was able to give away a bag the next morning after a dentist appointment.

“She said they stopped at a light and saw someone with a sign that said, ‘Anything will help’,” Mrs. Doyle said. “She got to give him the bag, and he said thank you. When I asked how it made her feel, she said ‘Really good’.”

Really good, indeed.

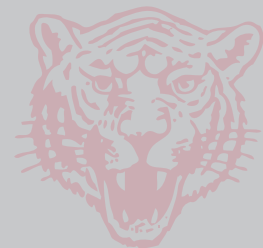


### High-Level Learning is Child's Play

Our St. Joseph Preschool program includes much more than snack time and building with blocks. With guidance from preschool teacher, Mrs. Kelly (Fitzgerald) Francisco, the class created fairy garden. While this seems like a fun activity for a little one, this project was created through a S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) project.

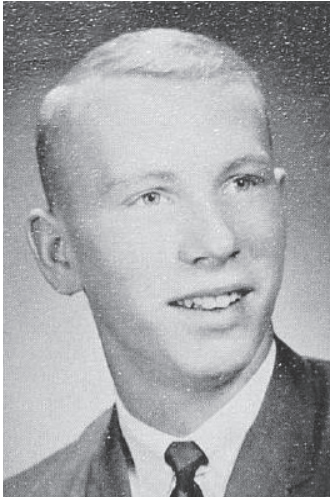
The science component of this project included teaching the students about the steps needed to begin and maintain a garden. Using technology, the students researched what type of fairy garden

they wanted to create. The engineering piece was trying to configure all the pieces correctly and placing them into the container they were given. Math skills were practiced by measuring the objects to make sure they would fit within the container. Now completed, the students make sure that the garden remains healthy. The fairy, who resides in the garden, now "travels" around the room each day (with the aid of Mrs. Francisco). The students love searching for the fairy each day as they arrive in class.





## A REUNION TO REMEMBER



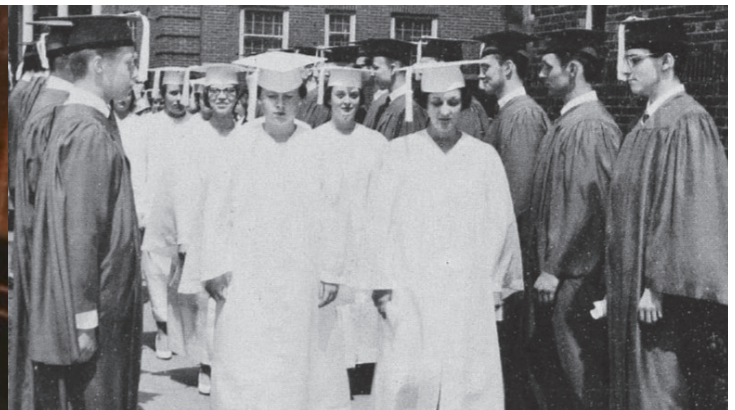
Most alumni find a similar common ground in their experiences with Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools. The tight-knit community that you become a part of is an experience that is very difficult to replicate, let alone explain. For the class of 1962, this unique bond that was formed within the walls of St. Philip High School was strong enough to keep them connected decades after their graduation date.

While the years following graduation took the classmates in different directions, the intent and desire to reunite never faded.

Realizing that every 5-10 years just was not enough time to reconnect, several members of the class easily decided on annual gatherings. "We've found that as we've gotten older, we've needed each other more" said '62 alum Mike Morrison. "As you go through life, you just need these important people by your side."

As the class prepared to celebrate their 50th reunion, they were approached with the idea to build a legacy for future generations. "It just seemed like the right idea. It was the right way to give back to our school", said alum Patricia O'Reilly. In celebration of their 50th reunion in 2012, the Class of 1962 Endowment Fund for Tuition Assistance was established. With this fund, BCACS families will continue to be granted the necessary supports to keep their children enrolled in our schools.

After many years of fun getaways and dinner catch-ups, the 2019 reunion looked a little different and more importantly, was missing an integral figure. On August 1st, the 1962 classmates gathered in Washington D.C. to celebrate the life of their brother and class leader, Herb Harmon. Mike shared, "Growing up, Herb was always our leader. We didn't elect him, it was just the natural order of things. He was president of the sodality and president of the student council. It presaged a career that would see him become president of the Bar Association, the Barristers Association, the Capital Hill Exchange Club, the Metropolitan Boys and Girls Clubs, the National Reserve Officers Association, and I'm probably missing a few more organizations that benefitted from Herb's leadership." With the endowment gift for tuition assistance, the class of 1962 will be able to support additional future leaders, just like Herb.





### Successes Abroad

Over the course of her years on the St. Philip Varsity volleyball team, Amanda McKinzie (class of 2013) played a pivotal role, helping the Tigers win four straight state titles. Amanda's successes on the team led to an opportunity to play at Virginia Tech. She credits



St. Phil for her post-graduation success.

"I think St. Philip definitely prepared me for college, both academically and athletically. I think time management is a huge factor when it comes to being successful in college," said Amanda. "I had many years of both high school and club volleyball which took up much of my free time. St. Philip held me up to a high standard academically, so I learned very early

on how to manage this. While I can't say that college was a breeze, I did feel like I had a solid base going in."

The highlight of Amanda's experiences at St. Phil came as a senior. "My favorite memory from St. Philip would have to be winning the state final my senior year. I was able to play with my little sister, Abby. It was such an incredible experience and extra special to have shared it with her," said Amanda. "We were able to play together one year at Virginia Tech but there is nothing to compared to the feeling of walking into Kellogg Arena and seeing all the St. Philip fans in the stands. To be a part of that tradition is amazing!"

After a successful career at Virginia Tech, Amanda accepted the opportunity to play volleyball professionally in Europe. "I don't think I originally had the goal of becoming a professional athlete. When the opportunity came to me, I felt that I couldn't turn down a job where I was paid to play my favorite sport in beautiful countries," she said. "It is not always easy though; language has definitely been a barrier. In Switzerland, I lived in an area where everyone spoke French. In Spain my coach did not speak English. We were able to figure it out with hand gestures and some interpreting from my teammates. I have learned to navigate different forms of transportation and travel through my experiences. Overall, the hardest part was being away from home for many months at a time."

*continued on page 14*

### Successes With Family

Not many siblings have the opportunity to go into business together. For sisters Allyson McKnight (class of 2003) and Megan Riley (class of 2008), that opportunity became a reality. With their own experiences growing up, coupled with a void in the market for hair products for biracial children, the alum sisters began Twined Ivy.

"Twined Ivy was created to fill a void in the market for ethnic hair care; specifically, curly hair for mixed kids. We grew up biracial, and our mom experienced firsthand how difficult it was managing a hair type different than her own," explained Allyson McKnight. "In our adult years, we continued to struggle to find products that worked for us, and that wasn't harmful to our hair type with harsh ingredients. With the population demographics shifting, there are more and more mixed-race children, and we see a growing number of parents searching for a solution in hair care. We mastered our formula to work best with this hair type, but can be used with a wide range."

Currently offering conditioning shampoo, detangling conditioner, detangling refresher spray, and anytime oil, Twined Ivy has big plans for the future. Ultimately, the sisters hope to expand into various retailers such as Target, Walgreens, CVS, Rite Aid, Sally's, and Ulta to expand Twined Ivy's reach, making their products more available to parents and children. "Once we can break down barriers with retailers, we are not only contributing to the diversification on retailers' shelves," said Allyson. "But we are shifting our brand towards a position to reach exponential growth at a much more rapid pace."

The company has found quick success with social media as a marketing tool for their products. The brand has a sizable presence on Facebook, Pinterest, and Instagram; amassing close to thirty thousand followers in total across the three platforms.

"Today's world is so different than it was even ten years ago when it comes to building a business. Money is allocated so much differently now, and for Twined Ivy, social media is where we chose to reach the public," said Allyson. "If you think about it, you can reach so many people without spending a dollar. Of course, as you grow you get into ads, or promos, that require capital or product being gifted, but it's pretty cool being able to start a business from scratch with essentially nothing."

The company also plans to release a variety of new products that are currently



*continued on page 14*

## A GLOBAL EDUCATION

The 2019-2020 academic year has been record-breaking for the St. Philip foreign exchange student program, engaging the largest class of students yet. The twelve students from Thailand, Turkey, China, Japan, and Vietnam poses a unique perspective on the educational process. Moving to a new country, learning a new language, and being acclimated to a new environment are just some of the challenges that these students have to overcome. The students shared their perspectives on St. Philip and what life has been like since temporarily moving to Michigan.

### Pear and Tin

Pear and Tin are from Vietnam, Pear from Hanoi and Tin from Dalat. Pear is one of the few students who had the option to pick which country and state he would live in. He picked Michigan because he had never seen snow before and



he wanted to experience it, “but I regret that now,” he joked. Coming to the United States has revealed a whole new culture to Pear. “I didn’t really seem to fit in, at first,” he shared. Tin was nervous about coming to the United States at first but has been pleasantly surprised. “I was nervous about being bullied,” Tin shared. Both Pear and Tin confirmed that they have been greeted with kindness by the students and staff. Without hesitation, Pear recognized the teacher that has had the greatest impression on him. “Mr. Wojcik, teaching Theology. I have to study all twelve years of theology in one year and he has not made it a pain.” Pear continued to share that Mr. Wojcik has played a part in making Theology a central focus of his life. Before coming to St. Philip, he had never been religious or taken a Theology class. Tin shared that his most memorable experience so far has been with his favorite teacher, Mrs. Brandow with which he has enjoyed making a gazing globe in art class. While Tin will not be returning next year, when Pear was asked if he would be coming back to St. Philip he replied, “of course.”

### Cat

Cat is currently a senior at St. Philip and spending her first year in Michigan from Suet, Vietnam. Each year, her foreign exchange program allows the students to change locations. Last year, she attended a public school in Texas. This year, a family from Battle Creek picked Cat and chose St. Philip as her school. Cat is enjoying her time at St. Philip which is filled with friendly people and she was able to experience her first snowfall. She not only appreciates the friendly students, but appreciates the efforts the teachers are putting in to help her. She shared that “Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Miller have been especially helpful and patient”. After graduating from St. Philip this spring, she plans on moving back to Vietnam for a least one year.



### Yuka and Yuto

Yuka and Yuto, both Sophomores, joined us from the same foreign exchange program in Tokyo, Japan. Through this program, with over 100 students coming to the United States, students are not able to choose where they will be placed. Yuto explained, “I wanted to improve my English and see the world from a different point of view.” When asked if she had any ideas of what school in America would be like, with a big smile on her face and a little chuckle, Yuka explained that when she was younger she watched the Disney Channel movie High School Musical. “I thought that people danced on tables and sang in the cafeteria.” Yuto shared that he finds it a lot easier to speak to teachers at St. Philip than it is in Japan. He appreciates the help teachers are willing to give him. Yuka agreed and shared that Mrs. Warner, who teaches statistics and algebra, is willing to help her understand statistics even after class, “she teaches me until I understand.”





### Beawl And Sun

Beawl and Sun are both from Bangkok, Thailand. They were able to choose which country they wanted to study in and had an option of five different states. Sun choose Michigan, although because of the snow he is not sure why he did it. Beawl's mother chose Michigan for her. Neither of them knew much about the U.S. before traveling, although Sun knew it was the land of the free and Beawl had been told by her American teacher that the US was a great place. Beawl has filled her time out of school by attending many sport activities. She enjoyed homecoming week and the dance and she loves getting together with her friends at the basketball and volleyball games. Sun discussed that moving to a new country has been a big change for him, almost everything is different - especially the food!

### Yu Cheng and Pat

Yu Cheng has been a student at St. Philip since his freshman year of high school in 2016. Pat joined the St. Philip family last school year. Both Yu Cheng and Pat are seniors this year and are from Harbin, China. Pat shared, "I was encouraged to come to St. Philip specifically because of other people, like Yu Cheng, from my school." Both students had the opportunity to choose which school they wanted to attend by looking through pamphlets from different schools in the US. Yu Cheng and Pat have been able to experience more freedom at St. Philip by being able to choose their classes, something they are not able to do in China. Another difference is the size of the schools. In China they attended a school with approximately 5,000 students, St. Philip having just over 100. Since both will be graduating from St. Philip this year, they will be going to college. Pat plans to attend the University of Massachusetts and Yu Cheng is undecided.

### Nurellah

Nurellah Ozturk is a junior from Adana, Turkey. Nurellah is one of the few students who traveled to America before becoming an exchange student. After signing up for the foreign exchange program, he received an email saying that he would be living in Battle Creek. "I had to google Battle Creek," Nurellah shared. His first memory at St. Philip was joining the football team, even though he hadn't thought about playing sports. A varsity member of both football and basketball, he also plans to participate in Spring sports. When asked what his favorite thing about St. Philip is he responded, "St. Philip is like a family and they accept me. I feel like one of them." Nurellah said that he would definitely like to be back in the United States next year.



### Coco and Niella

Coco and Niella both call China home. Coco has been at St Philip since last year and this is Niella's first year. Both students came to study in America because of the educational prospects that the United States has to offer. Coco shared that a teacher she had in China is from America and encouraged her to try out high school in America. In preparation for the United States, she watched American superhero movies like Spiderman and Batman. Niella didn't know a lot about America before traveling here, but has enjoyed some of the differences the two countries have. In China, most classes are assigned to students without an option. Niella likes being a part of picking her own classes at St. Philip. Both Coco and Niella have also enjoyed a less rigorous after school study system. Where they are both from in China, after attending school they then attend an after school session sometimes for more than four hours. This year, Coco hopes to stay in America to attend college. Niella and will be attending a school in Boston next year.



### Successes Abroad *continued from page 11*

Amanda credits her passion and fiery, competitive spirit with her early-established passion for the sport. "I think what made me become a professional volleyball player was the love for the game. I loved volleyball the moment I started in elementary school and I still love it to this day. As my career started to wind down my senior year of college, I didn't feel ready to give it up." Amanda stated. "I guess I'm still not ready since I have recently accepted a coaching position in Atlanta!"

During her career in Europe, Amanda began blogging about her life and interest. "I started my blog while living in Spain. I thought it was a good idea since I had time while I wasn't at practice and I could share the experiences I was living," she said. "I enjoy writing and taking photographs and am able to incorporate my love of fashion and travel. My goals for my blog and social media platforms are to just have fun!" Amanda explained. "I truly believe you have to enjoy what you're doing and work hard and things will come from that."



### Successes With Family *continued from page 11*



in development. "The next steps for Twined Ivy is bringing to market our styling products, we have 4-6 products in the lab that we are so close to signing off on. Our styling products are where we want to really make a splash, so we have been trying to perfect them over the last two years with a team of chemists," explained Allyson. "They will launch in 2020 though so keep an eye out for them!"

Twined Ivy's success is a point of great pride for the sisters. "We are so proud of ourselves for taking the leap and plunging into entrepreneurship. It is so easy to come up with an idea, but it is hard to develop an idea in a niche target where there really is demand. It is even harder to go out on a limb and try to do it."



said Allyson. "So to come from a point where we thought of an idea where there is a need, and to have passion behind it, to really live in the shoes of our target audience, it is pretty cool!"

According to the sisters, the rigorous standards and high expectations placed on them while at St. Philip has played a major role in their post-graduation success. "St Phillip laid the groundwork for us in education. Education was a priority, and there were not a lot of shortcuts. The culture also dominated in success when it came to women's sports. The two of those combined cultivated the environment to grow up balancing both," Allyson stated. "So much is learned in both academics and athletics and we both feel mold the type of person you become later in life. Work ethic, competitiveness, greatness, community; these are all things that I think are built into my makeup that started at St. Philip."



# CEREAL CITY BBQ FESTIVAL - FUN FOR EVERYONE. FUNDS FOR OUR SCHOOL.



If you are a member of our BCACS family, you've probably heard about the Cereal City BBQ Festival taking place May 15th and 16th on the school grounds – the games, the contests, the raffle, the bands, the food. But did you know the Cereal City BBQ Festival is all about our schools?

"Expenses have gone up, facility upgrades are needed, and we have more and more families that are applying for tuition assistance," said Jim Austin, BCACS alumni, parent, and finance committee member. "We wanted to create an event that was fun but would also attract families from outside the school and parishes to help bear the cost."

Given the success of Ribfest in Kalamazoo, Mr. Austin and a team of invested parents set out to design a BBQ-themed event in Battle Creek, one that would become an annual tradition.

There is a BBQ contest for who can grill the best meat in the creek, along with Michigan beers, along with soft drinks. While the BBQ chefs are battling it out, so will the musicians. Audience members will decide which of the live bands will walk away as the Cereal City BBQ Festival Battle of the Bands Champion.

There will be fun for the whole family, featuring the beloved Kids Zone with giant inflatables, face painting, and a kid raffle. New additions this year include the Marketplace with local arts & craft vendors along with a prize-winning car show.

The Cereal City BBQ Raffle offers large cash prizes, as well as an on-site 50/50 raffle. The Live Auction on Saturday will feature vacations, games tickets, and life experiences. A full schedule of events is at [www.cbbqfest.com](http://www.cbbqfest.com).

For event creator Jim Austin, this is more about creating a fun experience for local families. "Attending the catholic schools has built such a good foundation for me as a young child that has played a valuable role in my life. I'm thankful each and every day for these lessons learned at St. Philip." Said Austin, "One of the many lesson I try to incorporate is giving back to others in some way. This event is a great way to impact many children lives within this school system. All proceeds return to the school that help support funding for school programs, tuition assistance (60% of our families receive) and the general fund."

Much like any other event of this magnitude, volunteers are necessary to guarantee success. Volunteers are still needed for raffle sales, admissions, beverage cart, food tent, and children's activities. Many hands make light work, especially when working alongside our school family. And this event is 100% for our school families.

Questions? Want to enter the contest? Need to buy a raffle ticket or a children's wristband? Contact Jim Austin at (517) 648-1001 or [jima700@comcast.net](mailto:jima700@comcast.net) or visit [www.cbbqfest.com](http://www.cbbqfest.com).

## Some of Friday's Highlights

- 5:00 – 10 p.m. .... Kids Fun Zone
- 5:00 – 9 p.m. .... Food Tent
- 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. .... Live music
- 6:45 – 8:15 p.m. .... Allie Garland with Awesome Sauce
- 8:30 – 9:45 p.m. .... Casey & The Polar Vortex  
(2019 Battle of the Band Champs)
- 9:45 – 11:45 p.m. .... Eve's Apple

## Some of Saturday's Highlights

- 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. .... Marketplace (Boutiques, handmade items, arts, crafts, baked goods, home-based businesses, etc.)
- 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. .... Car Show
- 12 – 10 p.m. .... Kids Fun Zone
- 12 – 9 p.m. .... Food Tent
- 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. .... Jessie Campbell Band
- 2:45 – 4:15 p.m. .... Modern Adventures
- 4:15 – 4:30 p.m. .... Car Show, BBQ Contest Awards
- 4:30 – 5:45 p.m. .... Sam Luna Band
- 5:45 – 6:00 p.m. .... Live Auction and Raffle Drawings
- 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. .... Ada LeAnn
- 8:30 – 11:15 p.m. .... Barefoot Blonde
- 11:30 p.m. .... Award for Battle of the Bands



## ***A Blast from the Past - 50 years ago at the 1970 Tiger Ball***

### Whimsical Tiger Ball Adds Crowning Touch to Winter Activities

All week the *clink!* of pennies drew huddles of students to the "voting booth" by the office. The campaign for king of the Tiger Ball was underway and each class was determined to make its candidate the winner.

Although the lead wavered among the nominees, Sophomore Bob McVeigh emerged the winner. He reigned over the winter semiformal along with his court—Senior Mike Jenkins, Junior Ed Orlik, and Freshman Rick Ziraldo.

The Tiger Ball featured a jungle setting with clever animal caricatures disguising St. Joseph's cafeteria. Dampened only by the late appearance of the band, the dance was a refreshing break in school routine.

Planned especially for the Sophomores and Freshmen, who can't attend the prom, the Tiger Ball was equally supported by Juniors and Seniors—and equally enjoyed.



**FAR LEFT:** When the photographer smiled, "Say cheese," Ed Orlik must have said, "Limburger" to Mike Jenkins. King Bob McVeigh and Rick Ziraldo complete the court.  
**TOP LEFT:** Back in the days of rock 'n' roll went these dancers when the band played "Jailhouse Rock."  
**LEFT:** Surrounded by all that flower power, Den Martley faces a difficult decision in choosing his date's coronation.  
**ABOVE:** Setting the pace for the Tiger Ball, Bob McVeigh and Barb Newman lead the regality dance.