



GACC senior Livia Hunke gets interviewed by Becca Jansen and Paisley Skoda of the Bluejay Network.

The Bluejay Network

By Kacie Borchers

Live streaming events was an idea we had in the back of our minds and wanted to get started, but in the wake of the pandemic, it was pushed to the forefront and we had to get started.

Through a subscription with Striv, they provide the platform, equipment, and support to allow our school to live stream activities. They also provide ongoing education through videos, webinars, podcasts, articles, and workshops. In our first year, we mainly just set-up the camera and streamed the activities to our channel.

This year, we wanted to grow and

get our students more involved and that evolved into The Bluejay Network. Striv or striving to us, has really become a verb that describes what our students in The Bluejay Network are doing.

At the beginning of the year, students that were interested in the live streaming voted on our network name. A logo was then created and t-shirts were printed. The Bluejay Network was born.

Through The Bluejay Network, our students have opportunities to be the camera or computer operator, to create graphics or hype videos, as well as commentate.

You can find the computer

operator running the scoreboard, switching between graphics, and monitoring sound. Graphics that our students have created range from team rosters, brackets, and match-ups.

The commentators work hard to prepare before the game by understanding the match-up, looking up statistics, and learning about the opponent. They have even done post-game interviews with coaches and players.

We have also live streamed other activities besides sports such as One Act, graduation, the elemen-

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GACC hires new principal

John McAndrews has been hired to be the new high school principal at Guardian Angels Central Catholic for the 2022-23 school year.

McAndrews is a Nebraska native, but currently lives in Oregon. His wife, Margorie, has accepted a position as an elementary teacher at GA.

John and Marjorie have two daughters in 7th grade and 5th grade, and a son in 2nd grade.

Night of fun at Trivia Night

By Delores Meister

It was a FUN-fundraiser.

GACC Trivia Night competition was Saturday evening February 19 at the Nielsen Community Center.

Chairperson Michelle Gerths had 30 teams of eight persons of multi-ages seated at 30 round tables at the Nielsen Community Center ready to answer trivia questions.

Teams had themes, which they used to decorate their tables, their costumes and their food. The Baseball Team brought hot dogs. The Yellowstone team had contestants dressed as the characters in the TV show.

The Nerds team were wearing horn-rimmed glasses. Willy Wonka Chocolate team members had faces completely covered with chocolate and were wearing green hair. A chocolate fountain was on their table.

A professional trivia host, Mike Monday of Elkhorn, conducted the ten rounds of trivia quizzes.

The overall winning team was captained by Matt Schlaebitz leading the team of GACC teachers.



Anna Hugo (camera) and Julie Schold (computer) get ready to stream a GACC softball game at Timmermann Park.

BLUEJAY NETWORK: Live events

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tary Christmas program, and much more.

We have seventeen students that have given their time and talent to The Bluejay Network this year and even had five students attend a workshop put on by the Strive company where they learned along with other students from surrounding schools.

For the past semester, if there is an activity, you can find The Bluejay Network students preparing and bringing excitement to our fans. We also find that the opposing fans enjoy watching our stream just as much.

In addition to The Bluejay Network live streaming events, it will continue to grow in new ways as the Hank Stalp Trust generously donated money

towards a brand new broadcasting studio.

The digital media class is currently using the studio to create news segments and other projects. You can view our YouTube channel to see our first broadcast.

The future of The Bluejay Network looks bright as we continue to expand and grow. The goal is to bring news and events to our community while our students are learning not only about broadcasting but also about teamwork, problem solving, critical thinking, communication, and so much more.

Be sure to be on the lookout for growth on our YouTube and Striv channel (links to both can be found on www.gaccbluejays.org). All thanks to the students involved in The Bluejay Network.



Former Guardian Angels Central Catholic students who are now staff include front row, from left, Erica Wimer, Jenna Vonnahme, Mollie Stokely, Emily Franzluebbers, middle row, from left, Cindy Stratman, Kristy Ortmeier, Mary Lueshen, Tina Gentrup, Ann Prinz, Jodi Disher and back row, from left, Joyce Ortmeier, Krista Fischer, Carol McAuliffe, Patty Meiergerd, Deanne Wieneke and Kate Hagemann. Not pictured is Jen Kreikemeier.

Staff reflect on returning to GACC

By Ashley Gaughan

For Catholic Schools Week at Guardian Angels Central Catholic, the schedule looked a little different for students who took a break from the usual routine of classes to celebrate what makes their education unique.

During the week, students at GACC were engaged in activities from attending Mass, to wearing school pride, participating in games, showcasing their skills and talents and serving the community in different ways.

Many current GACC teachers, aides, and administration are former students of the school. Some of these alumni reflected on their time at their school and what their Catholic education meant to them.

Q: What do you most look forward to about Catholic schools week?

A: “Catholic Schools Week provides us with the opportunity to take a step back from the usual routine of school and celebrate what makes GACC a special place

to be. It is a blessing to be able to work at a school like GACC and Catholic Schools Week is a great reminder of that.” -Kate Hagemann, GACC H.S. principal

A: “Catholic Schools Week is a lot of fun for the teachers and the students. We not only get to celebrate our faith, but we get to put our faith into action by praying for and doing things for others.” -Erica Wimer

Q: What are your favorite memories of attending GACC?

A: “I really enjoyed being with the same group of kids from kindergarten all the way to senior year of high school. I consider many of them friends to this day.” -Krista Fischer

A: “The windows wide open in the spring and fall and the warm breeze whistling through the pine trees (apparently I day-dreamed a lot). I always loved the spring and Christmas concerts, the spring musical performed by the high school students and of course, the senior class play at the end of

the year. All high school students were in the musical productions.” -Deanne Wieneke, secretary

Q: What did you appreciate about your Catholic-based education?

A: “I appreciated attending Mass and learning about my faith.” -Ann Prinz

A: “My Catholic-based education gave everything meaning. My teachers would always share real-life experiences which I could relate to.” -Krista Fischer

A: “I believe that it prepared me to live a faith-based life as an adult while giving me a good academic base to attend college.” -Tina Gentrup, Elementary STEAM Facilitator

Q: What made you pursue education as a career?

A: “I wanted to make a difference in the lives of my students. Empathizing with students and building relationships with them makes it worth it.” -Krista Fischer

Q: What made you return to



Catholic Schools Week

Above: Ava Nixon, Ashley Ruskamp and Peyton Hutchinson have some fun bowling as part of GACC's Catholic Schools Week activities.
Left: Elizabeth Ridder and Bryn Knobbe dressed as their classroom saint during Catholic Schools Week.

STAFF ALUMNI: Teachers reflect on time at GACC

FROM PAGE 3

GACC as a teacher/administrator/staff?

A: "I moved back to West Point after college and there was a part-time math opening. I really wanted to teach where I had gone to school and to teach in a Catholic school."
 -Patty Meiergerd

A: "My daughters were attending GACC and I decided to volunteer at first when they were in school. I then got hired as a full time aide."
 -Carol McAuliffe

Q: What were your favorite classes or memories as a student at GACC?

A: "Some of the best memories were competing for the "Spirit Stick" at pep rallies and being in the pep squad. The pep squad wore matching uniforms and went to all the games to cheer on the

Bluejays." -Cindy Stratman

Q: What is much different now at GACC than it was when you attended as a student?

A: "We attended Mass every morning. The majority of the staff were religious sisters and priests. The school had steam heat and no air conditioning. There were no girls sports until 1971."
 -Deanne Wieneke, secretary

A: "A lot has changed since I attended back in the 70s and 80s. We learned to keyboard on a typewriter. I was able to take a class on the computers which were first introduced in our school in 1985. There were no Smartboards, iPads, computers or phones in the classrooms."
 -Tina Gentrup, Elementary STEAM Facilitator / Technology Coordinator

Q: What was your graduation year?

Several answers: 2012, 1973, 2000, 1985, 2015, "A long time ago!"

Q: What do you hope your students take away from their experience at GACC?

A: "I hope they soak in all of the things that they have learned about our Catholic faith throughout their schooling, and that they find ample ways to share their faith with others well beyond the time they are students."
 -Erica Wimer

A: "I always tell them that they won't understand most of the ways that GACC is impacting their life until after they have left.

But I always hope that they leave here knowing that they were loved and cared about and that wherever life after GACC takes them they can always call this place home."
 -Kate Hagemann, GACC H.S. principal.

March for Life

GACC students impressed with annual event in D.C.

The Archdiocese of Omaha canceled the official March for Life pilgrimage due to COVID, but that didn't stop three students from Guardian Angels Central Catholic, and their dads, from attending the annual event in Washington D.C.

GACC students Helena Steffensmeier, and sisters Leah Jansen and Kate Jansen decided to go on their own. Joining them at the March for Life were dads Ryan Steffensmeier and Matt Jansen.

This is what GACC student Kate Jansen had to say about attending the March for Life:

"Since it was my first year going, I was really impressed by the amount of people who marched. I loved knowing that so many people were marching for the same reason and it was so moving to know that we were all marching for the same thing."

Fellow GACC marcher Helena Steffensmeier had this to say:

"Attending the March for Life was an impactful experience for me. I was especially moved by the number of people who were gathered in one place to advocate for life. I'm so glad we decided to make the trip on our own when the Archdiocese canceled its pilgrimage. It was totally worth it."



Attending the March for Life from GACC were Ryan Steffensmeier, Helena Steffensmeier, Leah Jansen, Matt Jansen and Kate Jansen.



GACC had successful seasons in basketball, wrestling & speech. Check the next 'News from the Nest' for those events.

WEDDINGS

Haley Guenther '15 married Caleb Rezac on 11/27/21
 Jonathon Wortman '10 married Amanda Chamberlain on 12/31/21
 Kate Knobbe '16 married Gage Hoegermeyer on 1/22/22

Note: Births can be found on page 7. To send news items email: ranaeobrien1@gmail.com

DEATHS

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

- Ruth (Hunke) Picha '53 DOD 9/9/21
- Glen Prinz '68 DOD 11/20/21
- Jeanette (Hugo) Polzer '44 DOD 11/25/21
- Myron Hassler '71 DOD 11/26/21
- Joanne (Strehle) Rice '63 DOD 11/27/21
- Randy Schlautman '76 DOD 12/1/21
- Elsie (Luebbert) Popken '52 DOD 12/15/21
- Ronald Ruskamp '77 DOD 12/16/21
- Gerald Hunke '49 DOD 12/27/21
- Russell Gentrup '83 DOD 1/4/22
- Joan Meiergerd '84 DOD 1/16/22
- Florin Schlautman '44 DOD 1/29/22
- Margaret (Lannon) Ernesti '49 DOD 2/18/22
- Katherine (Stalp) Johnson '48 DOD 2/21/22



Local March for Life

Guardian Angels Central Catholic attended a local March for Life event held January 21 hosted by Norfolk Catholic. Roughly 500 students total participated from surrounding communities. GACC brought four adults and eight students. GACC originally had 19 students and five adults signed up to go to the National March in Washington D.C., but it was cancelled due to Covid concerns.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Attention: Alumni Banquet will be held June 4, 2022

Honor classes: 1922, 1927, 1932, 1937, 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1982, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2012, 2022

Note: JayFest will be held June 3, 2022



Cornhole fun at GACC School

By Delores Meister

What is fun about adults tossing a bean/corn bag into a hole in a board?

It was the second year of the GACC Corn Hole Tournament held January 14 at the GA Gym.

With Tyson Dinslage, Chris Strehle and Michelle Cohee and

current and past parish board volunteer helpers in charge, 32 teams of two members each had fun tossing bean bags filled with corn across boards with holes in the corners.

After 10 rounds, Heath and Michaela Graybeal were the winners with the strongest competition

coming from Dr. Tom Cohee and Jason Smith, runners-up.

Heath chuckled, "My wife carried it. Hopefully, I provided a little help."

General consensus was "Everyone had a good time."

Plans are to expand the tournament next year.



CSW buddy day at GACC

GACC's Ray Doyle (Pre-K) plays Bingo with Laker Smith (3rd grade) on Buddy Day during Catholic Schools Week.

Blue Ribbon Dinner on April 4

By Delores Meister

The annual Blue Ribbon dinner will be Monday, April 4, at the Nielsen Community Center.

Emily Ridder Mascarello, Class of 2009, daughter of Paul and Jackie Ridder will be the guest speaker.

Judy Meiergerd Perry is chairperson. The event was not held last year due to COVID.

Tickets are \$150 for single, \$300 a couple.

BIRTHS

Jenica (Weiler) '06 & John Dietrich, son, Jaxson Steven, DOB 8/30/21

Clarissa (Wordekemper) & Eric Rolf, daughter, Olivia Clarissa, DOB 10/10/21

Angela (Ridder) '05 & Matthew Wegner, daughter, Lennon Rae, DOB 11/5/21

Maria (Spenner) '08 & Korey Janata, son Cole Joseph, DOB 11/17/21

Delayna (Minnick) '13 & Brett Hunke '13, son, Pierce Davis, DOB 11/17/21

Jessica (Hagedorn) '05 & Jeff Schuemann, son, DOB 11/26/21

Jeff '06 & Katelyn Evert, daughter, Addison Diane, DOB 11/28/21

Seth '09 & Kaitlin Ritter, daughter, Ridley Ann, DOB 12/22/21

Jamie (Meister) '10 & Jared Bethune, son, Breck John, DOB 12/23/21

Heidi (Knobbe) '02 & James Deyle, son, Baylor Cruz, DOB 1/8/22

Megan (Wooldrik) '07 & Mike Heiser, daughter, Emilia Ruth, DOB 1/13/22

Brandt '09 & Katie Wimer, son, Lucas Michael, DOB 1/27/22

Casey (Wiechman) '06 & Vince Krejci, daughter, Avery Cecilia, DOB 1/29/22

Jennifer (Stieren) '06 & Austin Bonk, son, Sloane Alvin, DOB 2/9/22

Kate (Reeson) '00 & Bill Hagemann, son, Bodie Donald, DOB 2/17/22

**Deaths & Weddings on page 6.*

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