



# THE CHSAAP

## CENTRALITE

### Newsletter

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Class of 1968

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#### **CHSAAP ALUMNI YARD SALE IS A MAJOR SUCCESS!....**

Thanks to all volunteers and contributors to our 'Alumni Yard Sale', held at the Central High 'Gymnasium' on Saturday, August 27th. The sale netted about \$1,300 for the CHSAAP Grant Fund! Special thanks to Cathy Crepeau, Marian Avarista, Don Bianco, Central principal Julia Carlson and several other CHSAAP members for making the Yard Sale a profitable success!

Central High also benefited from the event by gaining a musical contribution to the school. David Bianco contributed his D.J. music equipment to the sale, which was purchased by Cathy Crepeau's son Joseph Simeone and then donated by Joe to the school! Besides providing music during the sale, the unit has now been placed in the 'Gymnasium' for the enjoyment of the students (and the faculty, of course!). Thanks to David and Joe for their great generosity!

#### **CHSAAP HOLDS ITS SEPTEMBER MEETING....**

As summer came to end on the calendar, the CHSAAP held its September meeting on the 20th.

One of the main topics of discussion was the development of the Central High School Alumni Scholarship Fund. Scholarship fund committee chairman Jose Gonzalez offered a proficiently detailed presentation of how the fund could work.

For interested Central senior students and their parents, the scholarship fund proposal would include scholarship fund application instructions, guidelines for a scholarship essay that students would be required to write and present to the CHSAAP, and submission of letters of recommendation.

Slight adjustments to the plan were offered by members as were ideas for further fund raising for CHSAAP scholarships, including a First Annual Scholarship Fund Appeal. A plan to mail letters including a 'Levels of Membership Giving' description to members was discussed as part of a 'Fall Fundraiser'. The 'Levels of Membership Giving' description will also be published in the 'Annual Banquet Program Booklet' as part of a 'Spring Fundraiser' next year. Speaking of which.....

#### **THE FIRST ANNUAL 'MULTI-YEAR REUNION BANQUET....**

Central alumni from all past graduation classes will be invited to our 'First Annual Multi-Year Reunion Banquet' next spring! The banquet committee, chaired by Debbie Cockfield is developing plans for the banquet, including venue, entertainment, and guest speakers. There is no set date as of yet, but the month of May (past the spring holidays) was discussed. It will be great fun and, as described above, it will be a major part of CHSAAP funding for Central grad scholarships! More details in our next Centralite Newsletter.

#### **CENTRAL HOLDS FIRST 2016 -17 'WALK THROUGH' FOR PARENTS AND COMMUNITY.....**

On Thursday September 22nd, Central seniors and City Year volunteers, some of whom were Central grads, held their first 'Walk Through' of the year at Central for parents and other guests. The guests visited many of the classrooms during math, science, history and art class sessions. Principal Julia Carlson led the way in this program to have the students' parents exposed to what goes on in the classes and halls of Central during the school day!

At the conclusion of the 'Walk Through', a meeting was held including refreshments in which guests were given further details on what the student's educational experience was all about at Central. Guests were asked what they thought of their visit and to write down their impressions and questions about their experience. The event was fun and informative and the seniors and City Year representatives did an excellent job!

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO TYLER FENWICK.....**

CHSAAP congratulates Central High junior Tyler Fenwick for winning the 2016 Providence Journal Courage Award! Tyler received the award this past June at the Journal's All-State Awards event and got to meet Patriots' star Rob Gronkowski.

Tyler lived through a very difficult childhood in Woonsocket, and at age 7 was removed from his home by the DCYF. His parents were deemed unfit to raise him. While living in various group homes around the state for several years, he learned wrestling from his brother. He recognized

that being idle could get him into more trouble, so he decided to concentrate on developing his wrestling skills. He wrestled at Mt. Hope before ending up at Central, which didn't have a wrestling team. He was allowed to wrestle as an independent representative of Central with the Hope High School wrestling team and became the only Rhode Islander to win a wrestling title (220 pound class) in the 2016 New England Interscholastic Wrestling Championships held at the PCTA athletic facility. Centralites past and present recognize a great accomplishment by Tyler Fenwick and wish him more successful achievements in the future!

***EACH ISSUE OF OUR "CENTRALITE" NEWSLETTER WILL FEATURE A CHSAAP ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT***

This month we feature:



***DR. JOSE GONZALEZ....CENTRAL CLASS OF 1971***

1971 Central alumnus Jose Gonzalez has traveled a remarkable and most accomplished road from his early childhood in Brooklyn, N.Y. to become a major educational leader in Rhode Island. Jose has become a leading contributor in CHSAAP plans to develop an Alumni Scholarship fund.

His single parent family moved to Providence from Brooklyn in the 60's and lived on Messer Street in the Cranston Armory neighborhood. Jose was not an intense student in his teens, but his mother and older brother Roberto told him to at least get a high school diploma. Further motivation was provided by the fact that his birthday came up at No. 6 in the service draft during the Viet Nam era. It was time for Jose to concentrate on further schooling.

Upon graduating from Central, Jose attended URI for awhile before switching to Rhode Island College where he studied education. He majored in social work and Spanish and received his Master's degree in education in 1978. After teaching in New York City a few years, he felt he that he really missed Rhode Island and came back to work at RIC. He worked in the Department of Continuing Education and also ran the GED programs in Spanish. He also spent time as an admissions advisor at URI.

Jose was determined to press on for his Doctorate, and did so at Harvard, receiving a Doctor's degree in Educational Planning and Social Policy in 1997. He worked for the Providence School Department for seventeen years. He is currently an Adjunct in Educational Studies at Rhode Island College and an educational consultant for the Central Falls School Department.

Jose remembers his Central days very fondly, noting that Central's student population back in the 60's and 70's made for a very diverse educational experience long before 'diversity' became the consideration it is today. Jose will continue to lend his expert advice and be very active in the creation of the CHSAAP Scholarship Fund. The CHSAAP is most appreciative of his valuable contributions to our plans for the fund!