



THE CHSAAP

CENTRALITE

Newsletter

Editor: Stephen V. Bianchi
Class of 1968

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CENTRALITE NEWSLETTER ARTICLES FOR JULY-AUGUST 2017



'FUNNY FOR FUNDS' FUN-FILLED FUNDRAISER!

It will be lots of laughs and a fun way to help the CHSAAP Grant Fund on the night of Thursday August 24th at the Imperial Room at Rhodes Place in Cranston!!

It's a night of comedy featuring some of New England's best comedians! There will also be raffles and a 50/50 drawing. Chips and dips, popcorn and pretzels will be available and a cash bar.

Tickets are only \$20, with the money benefiting the CHSAAP Grant Fund. It will be a fun filled, thoroughly entertaining way to help a great cause. The new Grant Fund has already supported two deserving projects. You'll be helping out and having lots of fun doing it!

No need to be a former Central student to attend. Come with your friends, share a table and join in the laughs with some of the best comedians in the area! Who doesn't love to laugh and help out our students at the same time?

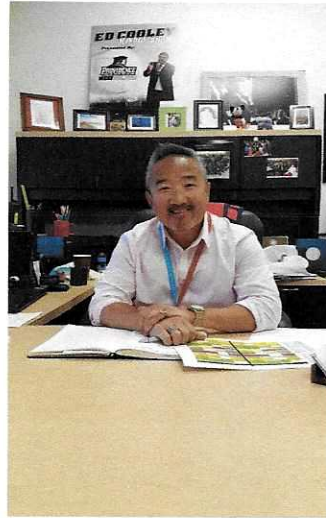
For more info, check out our CHSAAP website. For tickets contact Don Bianco at 401-464-9198 or at ddpb11@verizon.net, or any of the other officers. See you at the Imperial Room for this great night of fun on Thursday, August 24th!

OUR OWN MIKE MURRAY, GRADUATE OF CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL 1981, HAS LEAD HIS COMPANY TO OVER 500



SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISERS,

BRINGING OVER THREE MILLION DOLLARS TO VARIOUS GROUPS!



.....CONGRATULATIONS TO CENTRAL'S NEW PRINCIPAL!!

Hearty congratulations to new Central High School Principal **Mr. Jonathan Mendelsohn Ed. D** from the CHSAAP!

Mr. Mendelsohn replaces Mrs. Julia Carlson who left Central for the position of Chief Academic Officer of Fall River public schools. Thanks go out to Ms. Carlson for the energetic and progressive job that she did in many things at Central, including her support of the CHSAAP!

Mr. Mendelsohn intends to continue the progress at Central under his slogan: "Working to make Central High School the Gold Standard in Urban Education"!

Jonathon Mendelsohn grew up in Hope Valley after his family had brief stays in Brattleboro, Vermont and Albany, New York. He graduated from Chariho High School in 1986 and went on to CCRI for liberal arts and then transferred to URI where he acquired his degrees in secondary education.

He salutes his various teachers at Chariho and in college for sparking his interests in politics, current events and history. Those interests led him to become a history teacher. At first, Jonathan had difficulty finding a full time teacher's position in South County. A good friend of his, Mr. Ernie Pacheco, suggested he head up to Providence to find a full time position. He says "Hope Valley was my universe". In typical Rhode Island fashion, at the time he thought that Providence was just "too far".

In the late 90's to 2002, he did substitute teaching in Providence schools, and then got a full time teaching position at the current Juanita Sanchez Complex. At that time the classes were held in the old Fogarty Building. He helped with re-designing the Complex. He also taught briefly at Hope High School and spent five years teaching at Alvarez High School. From there, he became assistant principal at Central.

Coming from Hope Valley to Providence exposed him to city life and working with people of "different racial, cultural and social backgrounds". These inner city experiences have helped him prepare for his new position as Central principal. He says that about 40% of Central's student body of about 1350 students is in the E.L.L. (English language learner) category. Programs are being developed to further give these students more educational and emotional support.

Mr. Mendelsohn wants the graduation rate to continue to improve. He says: "...we have definitely improved our graduation rate from 56% in 2013 to around 80% in 2017 under the leadership of Mrs. Carlson..." Now, his three main goals are to tighten up the Professional Learning Community strategy and instructional policy for the teachers, improve school operations and student discipline and to improve the climate and culture at Central so as to instill a sense of pride in the students and teachers.

All the best to new Central principal Jonathon Mendelsohn and his outstanding goal of making Central "the Gold Standard of Urban Education"!! The CHSAAP will do what it can to help the school meet that goal under Mr. Mendelsohn's leadership.

.....AWARD WINNING CENTRAL ATHLETES CONTINUE TO IMPRESS!

Last fall, the Central Knights football team was placed in the very tough RIIIL Division 1 for the first time in twelve years and did the school and alumni proud by fighting their way into the playoffs!



CONGRATS TO THE TEAM AND COACH PETE RIOS.

In basketball, Central started the season with great wins over East Providence, Cranston East and Scituate (101-63!). There was a grueling loss to ancient rival Classical, 67-62, followed by a tough string of divisional losses including a 49-47 squeaker to La Salle. The Knights hoopsters intend to turn things around this coming season.

This winter and spring, the Central Indoor and Outdoor Boys & Girls Track & Field teams were absolutely fantastic, with a number of individual honors! The Boy's team won the State Outdoor Title at Brown Stadium on June 3rd, just a few months after finishing second to Bishop Hendricken for the Indoor Title.

Central's Donatien Djero ran faster than any boy in Rhode Island history with a time of 10.49 seconds in the 100 meters at the New England Interscholastic Track & Field Championship Meet! Donatien was named the Boys' Outdoor Track 'Player of the Year' with three gold medals at the State Outdoor Championship Meet and three silvers at the New England Meet!

Besides Donatien, other Central Knights named to the Boys' Indoor Track All-State First Team were Charles Kolie, Jones Mallay, Austin Wolo and Demetrius O'Connor. Demetrius and Augustus Karweh were also on the Second Team. On the Boys' Outdoor Track All-State First Team, Central was also represented by Augustus Karweh, Demetrius O'Connor, Donatien Djero and Charles Kolie. Austin Wolo made the All-State Second Team. For the Central girls, Rachel Meus made the Girls' All-State Indoor Track First Team, with Ziah Dakalah, Zayila Howie and Aleyjah Roderick on the Second Team. On the All-State Outdoor Girls' Second team, it was Zaylia Howie, Rachel Meus, Ziah Dakalah and Aleyjah Roderick.

Central's new tennis team, under the RIIIL's 'alternative school participation program' acquired the great talents of Nick Fontecha, a junior at the Met School in Providence. Nick played at the No. 1 singles spot in Div. III and merely 'smashed' his way to a 13-0 record without losing a single set! He was voted to the All-State Boys' Tennis First Team!

The Central baseball team had a solid league record of 10-3 this spring and 14-13 overall including playoffs. The team was hot in May, defeating Toll Gate, Portsmouth, North Kingstown, Barrington and Bishop Hendricken. They won in the playoffs, 5-4 over Moses Brown before losing out to Cranston West. Christian Mercedes and Daniel Ramos represented Central as Baseball Finalists in the listing of All-State Athletes. Congrats to baseball coach Dave Hanson for his 48th year of coaching Central's baseball Knights! Dave was featured in an excellent column in the Providence Journal by John Gillooly on May 28th.

The Central girls' fast pitch softball team finished with a fine 11-5 record in their division! In April, the gals won over Central Falls, Wheeler, Mt. Pleasant, Hope and Shea. In May, Central beat Mt. Pleasant again (22-4!) and had repeat wins over Shea and Hope. Congratulations to the Central fast pitch softball girls for a terrific season!

SEE YOU AT THE 'FUNNY FOR FUNDS' CHSAAP FUND RAISER ON THURSDAY AUGUST 24TH AT THE BEAUTIFUL IMPERIAL ROOM!