



THE CHSAAP CENTRALITE

Newsletter
Editor: Stephen V. Bianchi
Class of 1968

ISSUE: Summer 2021



CENTRAL CONTINUES PLANS for 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Today, in 2021, Central High School celebrates it's 100th Anniversary! Students of what was Technical High School entered the same building that Central is in now on Fricker Street in the fall of 1921. Commercial High School was in an older building off Winter Street on the same 'campus'. The two schools merged in the fall of 1933 to form the school we all know and love today, Central High School! Congratulations!!! to 'good old' Central and the thousands of students, graduates, teachers and school leaders who've passed through its halls for the last 100 years!

Plans are underway for a celebration on the school grounds on Friday, September 24. to include a musical performance created and choreographed by the students to include "Central" songs from 1936 and 1966. They would like to include Alumni in the performance of the songs. If you would like to lend your voice, please contact Joyce Bernauenriquez at 401-699-4233.

It is hoped that alumni members attend the celebration to chat and mentor the students. A Meet 'n' Mingle is planned for Alumni members immediately following the celebration. Look for an announcement and more details via email, on the CHSAAP Website <https://www.chsaap.org> , or on the CHSAAP Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/chsaap> in August.

CENTRAL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME BANQUET

The Central Athletic Hall of Fame committee has booked the Santa Maria DiPrata Banquet Hall in Cranston for the **2021 Central Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Banquet**. It is to held on Friday, October 22, 2021 beginning at 6:30 pm. The CAHOF is expecting another exciting evening as was experienced in 2019. Ticket information will be mailed, posted on our Website and Facebook pages (see links above) as well as emailed to all CHSAAP alumni.

HALL OF FAME *Inductees*

The 2021 Individual Hall of Fame Inductees are:

- George Mihailides, Wrestling and Football
- Clifford Guy, Sr., 3x All-State Wrestling and Track
- John Iozzi, Championship Football Quarterback and Baseball
- Rick Santos, Basketball
- Shirley Howe, Basketball

The 2021 Coaches Hall of Fame Inductees are:

- Ray Gemma, Baseball and Football
- Tom Caito, Football

The 2021 Team Hall of Fame Inductee is:

- The 1966 Central Class “B” Football Champions

CENTRAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

CONGRATULATIONS!!! to the following graduated seniors on being awarded a \$1,000.00 CHSAAP Scholarships:

- Joe Soberanis - future goal: Education/Math Teacher
- Alidia Vasquez-Lopez - future goal: Art & Design
- Tania Polano - future goal: Finance
- Arlene Sousa-Rodriques - future goal: Nursing



CENTRAL GIRLS WIN 2021 DIVISION 4 STATE SOFTBALL TITLE and more SPORTS!!!

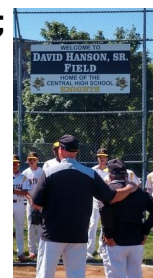
The CHSAAP and the Centralite congratulate the 2021 Central Knights girl softball team and Coach Michelle Rawcliffe for their Division 4 State Championship win over Shea/Tolman by an 11-7 score.

The Knights had a 6-1 lead before Shea/Tolman made a big comeback. But Central pitcher, Angela Rivera shut the door and the offense, led by Noelia Tavera, D'Almarie Rodriguez, Solimar Ortiz and Navaeh Robles-Rivera got the lead back for the big VICTORY.



The Central Knights baseball team came just short of a Division 1 State title match up against Pilgrim, losing to the Coventry Knotty Oakers in the best of three semifinal, two games to one. Central had defeated Cumberland and Smithfield in the first two rounds and then won the first game against Coventry. However, the Oakers took the next two from the Knights.

Congratulations!!! to long time Central baseball coach David Hanson; the baseball field at the Providence Career & Technical Academy was dedicated in his honor on June 5th! David has been associated with Central baseball for 53 years and head coach since 1985. He also taught physical education at Central for 35 years. David has no immediate plans to retire. He'll be back coaching Central baseball again next spring!!!



In football news, Division 1 champ Central is moving up to the highly competitive Division 1-A, which includes defending champ Bishop Hendricken along with East Greenwich, Cranston East, Portsmouth, South Kingstown and Woonsocket. The change will make for an exciting season for the Knights!

CENTRALITES WHO HAVE PASSED ON

This past year, Central alumni have mourned the passing of Anthony DeCubellis, popularly known as ‘Duke’ Belaire during a long-established and lively music career. Duke was the leader and drummer of the Duke Belaire Jazz Orchestra that played at Bovi’s Tavern in East Providence for many years, creating a great tradition there. Years before that, Duke played with many famous musicians including Tex Beneke, Coleman Hawkins and Roy Eldridge. Duke graduated from Central in 1950.

This past December, great Central athlete George Mihailides passed on. A state wrestling champion, AAU champion and football player for Central and the late 40’s pro champion Providence Steamrollers, George was inducted in the R.I. Wrestling and Football Halls of Fame. As previously mentioned, George will also be inducted into the Central Athletic Hall of Fame this coming October. Sadly, George’s widow Olga passed away this past June. She and George raised four sons. She was a most loving and active woman known for her charitable efforts in the community and for her great sense of humor and sharp wit.

CHSAAP expresses their heartfelt condolences to the DeCubellis and Mihailides families.

HELP!!!

We need your help. Do you know of a Central Alumni who is involved in a community organization? We would like to include a "SOMETHING GOOD" article in upcoming issues. Please let us know via Facebook or email centralhsalumni@aol.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Central High School Alumni Association hope that you will make plans to partake in the 100th Anniversary of Central in September.

Please mark your calendars to attend the Central Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet on October 22, 2021.

In the meantime, enjoy the summer!