



THIS MONTH I SAW RELATIONSHIPS founded, developed and nurtured at Craig. They were rekindled with three events that are important to the Mission of our school. First, we had our annual Grad panel program. Second, we had our Alumni Basketball Game and gathering of graduates and their parents from the Middle School. Third, we had our annual Chili event for all of our families, held at Craig High School. At Craig, we have students join us from over 45 communities and events of this nature are important to students and their families; providing a place to belong. I think about the word "belonging" and its synonyms. Belonging also means relationship, camaraderie, community, kinship, familiarity and it is the opposite of alienation, anomie, and rejection. Belonging is an important element of our lives.



School Heads often consult with others with other ties to the community, such as Trustees, former parents, colleagues, and current parents to find out if ideas they might have for furthering the school have merit. Recently, in speaking with one of these "advisors" who adamantly asked me to help others keep our mission in focus, I realized how important, in times of change, a school's mission needs to be the backdrop against which future decisions are framed by. While thinking about the statements above, I believe strongly that "belonging" is part of our mission, although not used in the Mission Statement. Our mission is "to provide to our students a strategy-based, comprehensive and challenging school experience that acknowledges their learning disability, builds on their aptitudes, and strengthens their self awareness and self-esteem. We help our parents assess their child's true

potential and understand the nature of learning disabilities, and provide our families an internal support network within the Craig community." With this in mind, I am very happy all three community events are on our calendar, particularly in the start of the 2015, to ground us.

The contributions in this issue from Celeste Caparulo, Art Teacher and Christopher Argenti, Physical Education Teacher and Coach are two examples of why belonging to something is important to young people, particularly those with language based learning disabilities. I thank Mrs. Caparulo and Mr. Argenti.

TAD JACKS, Head of School

CURRENT NEWS & VIEWS AT CRAIG LS/MS

First we imagine and then we explore the possibilities!
Our Art Students are Explorers!

ART LOVES TO FLOW into the core subject classes, initiating learning through the five senses. While students are studying about Cave Paintings or Egypt in Social Studies, in art class they are creating cave paintings with watercolors, and with oil pastels, an Egyptian Stele. "What's more, making art, and talking about it, does the amazing task of connecting the right and left sides of the brain," explains Kathie F. Nunley, Ed.D., author of A Students Brain: The Parent/ Teacher Manual (Nunley Associates).



I enjoy challenging my students with mixed media projects. Lots of left brain and right brain connections created! One of my most memorable projects was a school-wide cross-curricular, recycled sculpture project that brought on board not only our core subject area teachers, but all parents, staff and

administration!

Everyone, parents and teachers alike, donated items on the Art Room wish list. Students were amazed with all the found objects received, and couldn't wait to get started. The project took on a life of its own and students were imagining, and exploring everywhere!

When students' sculptures were completed, they took them to their Language Arts class and used them as a visual to write method essays and poetry.

Science joined in with making students aware of pollution brought on by our 'throw-away society'. Multi media



posters were also made in recognition of Earth Day. This particular example is just one of many about how I feel Art can be embraced and celebrated at Craig. For this multi-discipline project, below is what also happened. The art sculptures, written method essays, poems, and posters were displayed during our Craig School Expo, a traditional event in celebrating our students' outstanding achievements throughout the year. It was awesome! With this in mind, as a family, I hope you never forget what I know:

- Art and Social Studies brings us art from the past to the present.
- Art and Science show us our excesses in creating pollution and kinetic sculpture
- Art and Math students learn grids and radial balance and
- Art and Language Arts present the opportunity for students to write about what they create.
- Blending science and art, we learn to be conscious about our environment and the influences of our daily living and the pressure it has put on our planet.

And along the way, I hope you enjoy the art our children make!

—CELESTE CAPARULO, Craig LS/MS Lower School/Middle School Art Teacher

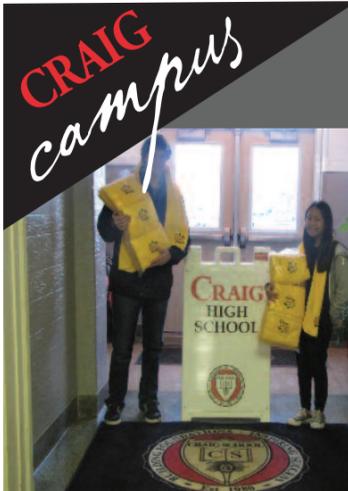
CURRENT NEWS & VIEWS AT CHS

Athletics at the High School Level

MOTIVATION comes in many forms. Athletics can serve as a powerful academic motivator for athletes who would otherwise underperform in the classroom. There are many students who see school as secondary to athletics. As adults, we realize that academics are of far greater importance than athletics. However, as teenagers the academic side was probably not the center of our focus as it should have been. Athletics also serves as motivation for staying out of trouble. Athletes know that if they get in trouble, there is a reasonable chance that they will be suspended for games or parts of a game. This does not mean that every athlete makes the best decision every time. However, the prospect of playing athletics has been a powerful deterrent in making wrong choices for many student athletes.

Athletics provides athletes with several benefits including the acquisition of valuable life skills that will benefit them throughout their life. These skills are more beneficial than the games themselves, and their impact can be powerful and transcending. Some of these skills include: Effort - Defined as giving it everything you have in both practice and games. Effort can overcome the lack of talent in many cases. A player who gives 100% effort is said to have heart. Life lesson - give your best no matter what, and you cannot question yourself in the end. Hard Work - Defined as the preparation you put into becoming a better player before the game is played. This includes strength and endurance training, individual practice time, and film study. Life lesson - preparation is the key to success. If you work hard to prepare, mistakes are less likely to occur. Self Discipline - Defined as the ability to maintain and carry out the role the coaches have determined within in the game plan. This includes understanding your own individual strengths and weaknesses. Life lesson - stay on task no matter what distractions are to get the job done. Team Work - Defined as the ability to work with others to complete a goal successfully. A team will only be successful if each individual fulfills their role. Life lesson - working with others is an essential part of being successful. Doing your own thing can be detrimental and lead to many problems.

CHRISTOPHER ARGENTI, CHS Phys Ed Teacher and Coach



Craig School is proud to be a participant in National School Choice. We believe that all should be empowered to choose the best educational environments for their children.

The Craig School Lower/Middle School event included a learning program with our Peer Leaders. Our students helped the younger groups to understand the importance of the strategies Craig School uses in the curriculum and shared how they progressed through the school and achieved academic success.

The Craig High School hosted a Grad School Panel where our alumni presented how important the choice of The Craig School education was and how their success in higher education was due to their choice of The Craig School.