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# walsh world

## President's Message

FALL 2018

Archbishop Walsh Academy and Southern Tier Catholic School have a tradition that is based upon the axiom: *“Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle!”*

Alumni, students, families, Board Trustees, administrators, clergy, faculty, and staff are reminded of this at every kindergarten, eighth grade, and senior class graduation ceremony. Nate Farnum, Guidance Counselor and International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program Director, leads the way and recites the first half of the axiom, and the audience finishes with the second half. Participants expect that events will contain this tradition, and when Mr. Farnum rises and walks to the podium, their anticipation is rewarded.

These words come to life in a variety of ways throughout the school year. The Eagle Spirit was evident during the August 2018 Alumni Reunion Weekend when our alumni strongly, positively connected with their alma mater. More than 140 alumni and guests attended the Alumni Reunion Banquet where the Class of 1968 celebrated their Fiftieth Graduation Anniversary and exceeded their donation mantra of “\$68,000 for the Class of '68” with more than \$70,000 to establish a Class of '68 scholarship fund for current and future Walsh students.

The Class of '73 celebrated their forty-fifth high school reunion by donating funds to renovate a classroom into a 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom replete with interactive smart boards and student laptops.

During this same evening, nearly 100 alumni and guests participated in the second *Military Wall of Honor Celebration* when forty new inductees' names were read by members of the Board of Trustees. Sgt. Ivan Febo-Betancourt, '67, who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country during the Vietnam War, was posthumously awarded his high school diploma, which was received on behalf of his family by several of his classmates.

Proud Eagle Vincent Volpe, CEO and President of Dresser Rand – RET and major benefactor, announced during Fr. Gregory Dobson's June 8, 2018, Retirement Banquet held at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, the creation of the *Fr. Gregory Dobson Scholarship Fund* of \$20,000 per year for five years for senior high school students, effective with the current 2018-19 school year. Mr. Volpe's generosity, continued support, and insight enable Archbishop Walsh to sustain

its Franciscan educational mission. His invitation for others to contribute to the *Fr. Gregory Dobson Scholarship Fund* has been accepted by a number of people who have given generously. Donations continue to arrive to the attention of Mr. Joseph Sempolinski, Director of Development, at [joseph.sempolinski@walshstcs.org](mailto:joseph.sempolinski@walshstcs.org).

Most recently, the Walsh and Southern Tier students, administrators, faculty, and staff inducted new students and their parents into the Walsh Eagle family during a Welcome Breakfast on August 29. Jessica Olson, Walsh '19, delivered remarks to our new students, and she and several classmates conducted building tours for middle and high school students while elementary school students and their families met with the elementary school classroom teachers. Of course, Mr. Farnum led the way as we recited, *“Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle!”*

Then, on September 4, the first day of school, all administrators, faculty, and staff convened a welcoming committee on the front sidewalk as students and their parents arrived. Students' names were announced,

*Continued on Page 4....*

# IB Programme Update

By Danielle Michel, IB Diploma Programme Coordinator



*Graduating Senior Class of 2018, comprised of 11 Walsh students and one foreign exchange student.*

The Class of 2018 marked the sixth year of Archbishop Walsh graduates from the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. The class of just eleven students earned a combined fifty Diploma Programme certificates in a variety of subjects, with three students earning the full IB Diploma as well. The Class of 2018 also earned a remarkable \$2.4 million in scholarships toward college.

As the IB marked its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018, ongoing research shows the immense benefits of the Diploma Programme for all types of students. For instance, a recent study by the University of Oregon's Honors College indicated that DP graduates "were significantly more likely to complete college than their non-DP counterparts...[and] were better able to adjust to the rigors of university coursework; students specifically highlighted a number of skills gained through participation in the DP, including critical-thinking, time management and research skills."

## From The Spiritual Director:

By Mary Lou Plesac

I had the privilege of leading the music for the Archbishop Walsh Class of 1968 50<sup>th</sup> reunion Mass to commemorate the eleven known deceased members of the Class of '68. The Mass was held in the St. Sebastian Chapel at Archbishop Walsh prior to the all-school reunion held at the school on Saturday, August 4, 2018. Fr. John O'Connor, OFM, presided at the Mass, which began with eleven members of the class bringing forward flowers for each of their departed classmates. Special thanks go out to Carol (Mongillo) Anderson ('68) who was instrumental in plans for the liturgy, to those who took an active part, and of course to members of the class, along with their guests, who

*Father David Tourville at First All-School Mass*



packed into the chapel on a very hot August evening to remember the following classmates: David Ash, Jeffrey Barhite, Deborah Bezcalo, Michael Donovan, Gerald Fedell, Gary Filjones, Robert Ruby, William Smith, Max Wagner, Eric Williams, and Jean Suchora Wind. Prayers were also offered to those classmates who were ill.

Our opening all-school Mass for Southern Tier Catholic School/ Archbishop Walsh Academy was held on Tuesday, September 11, with Fr. David Tourville presiding. As the new leaders of our student body, the current seniors lead the Mass as lectors, choir members, and altar server. Students were reminded of the terrible events that had occurred

on American soil 17 years before, when nearly all of the students hadn't even been born. We prayed for our country and for those who still suffer the effects of that day.

Virtues again will be a central theme at STCS/Walsh. Students will be reminded of these qualities of moral goodness and excellence on a daily basis during morning announcements and in classroom activities as a different virtue will be featured each week.

Other spiritual activities planned for the school this fall are See You At The Pole (SYATP), a high school prayer service held surrounding the flagpole planned by the senior class, a pet blessing in commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi, and a program honoring Walsh graduates who are veterans of the armed services.

# 2018 Baccalaureate Graduation Speaker



*Elizabeth Powers*

This year Archbishop Walsh Academy graduated another distinguished group of seniors. The ceremony was held on June 1, 2018, at the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts on the St. Bonaventure University campus. We were honored to have Mrs. Elizabeth “Beth” Powers, Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer for Allegheny Technologies Incorporated, speak during the graduation ceremony.

Powers holds a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University. She joined ATI in November 2014 as Senior Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer where she is responsible for developing, enhancing, and implementing leading human resources policies and processes across ATI.

She has 28 years of experience in human resources. Most recently, she was Vice President, Human Resources and Chief Administrative Officer for Dresser-Rand Group, Inc., from 2010-2012 and earlier from 2004-2009.

From 2008 - 2014, Powers headed Archbishop Walsh Academy and Southern Tier Catholic School as Board President, leading the restructuring and refinancing of the school in order to re-establish its reputation for academic excellence.

Of course, not just any program would do, and Powers and her colleagues chose

to implement for Walsh the academically demanding and prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Skills taught include appreciation of literature, use of all forms of communication, community service, epistemology, logic, public speaking, religion and values, and writing as applied through the interconnectivity between and among art, biology, chemistry, economics, English, health, humanities, mathematics, music, physical education, physics, Spanish, and a plethora of co-curricular activities.

She hired a first-rate faculty, surrounded them with a superior administrative team, gave them a work-oriented support-staff, and provided them with curricula, computer technology, books, supplies, materials, and ample professional development. She simultaneously helped to create an atmosphere where parents, faculty, and students considered themselves then, as they do now, an extended family who support, encourage, and look out for one another

She directed the school back to fiscal health through her generous personal support, and with the Board of Trustees, created a strategic plan that guides us today in its third iteration.

During her speech to the graduates, she told the story of a student who wasn’t very athletic or social and who had decided against college before she even graduated high school. After a lot of part-time, dead-end jobs and a few false starts at furthering her education, her hard work and determination finally paid off.

Of course, she was speaking about herself.

Powers urged the students to remember five things. First, always have faith — in yourself, others and God. Second, know your strengths and manage your weaknesses. Third, you don’t have to be conventional to succeed. Fourth, afford to take time off for yourself and your family. And finally, keep your sense of humor.

We are so appreciative of Powers’s willingness to revisit us for this year’s graduation.

# Development Update

By Joe Sempolinski, Director of Development

I am happy to report lots of good progress in the Development Office. In August, we had our most successful alumni reunion ever. A big thank you to the Class of 1968, who gave an unprecedented gift of \$70,000 to the school. We will be funding a Class of ’68 scholarship in perpetuity in memory of this donation. I would also like to thank the Class of ’73, who donated money to refurbish one of our classrooms.

We are in preparation for our biggest fundraiser of the year: our annual gala. This year’s theme is Las Vegas. We will have a large number of great auction items, including some trips and experiences you won’t find anywhere else. The gala is a highlight of the social calendar in Olean and is chance for the whole community to rally behind Walsh. I hope you will be able to make it on October 20. You can also donate to the school through our website if you can’t make it to the event: [www.stcswalsh.org](http://www.stcswalsh.org).

Lastly, I want to thank the members of our “Always An Eagle” giving society. These members have committed to supporting Walsh at a higher level and over time. Thanks to them, it is easier for the school to plan for the long term. Thank you to the whole Walsh community for your support of our students and school. Walsh is a unique and special place, and know that we are continually at work in the Development Office to ensure that it will be around for many years to come.



## President's Message Continued...

and faculty and staff clapped and gave students high-fives as they walked through the reception line.

A relatively new tradition of the *Welcome Back Bonfire* was held on Friday, September 14, as part of the *Back to School Night* festivities. The newly formed modified girls' volleyball team performed at an all-time best and won their first match of the season while parents filed into the building. Then, Lee Filbert, IB humanities teacher and administrative intern, introduced the faculty after which parents met with teachers to learn about the M-12 curricula. While parents and teachers were occupied, the cafeteria staff cooked hamburgers and hotdogs, displayed all the food dishes donated by parents, and invited everyone to enjoy a good old-fashioned indoor picnic. At sundown the bonfire festivities began and more than one round of tug-of-war was held. Of course, the children "Eaglets" won every time they faced the adult "Eagles!"

Our Eagles coordinated the *Elementary School Literacy Night*, which was held on September 27. *Literacy Night* has become a signature event for our elementary school faculty, students, and students' families. Literacy is the basis upon which we

achieve all other learning, and parents and our faculty form a partnership in introducing, teaching, and reinforcing literacy for all of our children.

Eagles have come to anticipate the Eagles Gala Auction, which is an evening filled with revelry while raising funds for the schools. Scheduled for Saturday, October 20, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. in the Walsh gymnasium, cafeteria, foyer, and hallways, this year's theme is Las Vegas style with the refrain:

"What happens at the Gala...Stays at the Gala!"

Please plan to attend and make this current generation of Eagles proud that past generations of Eagles and families continue to live the maxim: **"Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle!"**

Your continued support is very much appreciated and makes a difference for all students. Thank you.

Pax et Bonum,  
Thomas J. Manko  
School President

## 2018 Eagles Gala Auction: Las Vegas



Southern Tier Catholic School and Archbishop Walsh Academy will host its Eagles Gala Auction on Saturday, October 20, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. at STCS/Walsh school.

This year's theme is Las Vegas, and the evening will be filled with everything great Las Vegas has to offer. Decorations create the energy and excitement that comes with spending a night as a high

roller in the world's best casinos. We will once again feature live entertainment and performances you won't want to miss! Guests will enjoy catering by the Brother's Bistro while they get the opportunity to bid on a wide range of amazing items during the silent auctions as well as a live auction with auctioneer Mr. Nate Smith '93.

Items auctioned that night will include unique novelties such as Sister Regina's Homemade Pie-For-A-Month as well as enviable items such as Sabres tickets, a vacation package to Las Vegas, and other vacation packages to be announced soon. Additionally, the auction catalog will be available on the website the week of the event to view all items up for bid.

We would like to give a special thanks to our major sponsors: Worth W. Smith Company, St. Bonaventure University, The Powers Family, and Cutco Cutlery Co.

A limited number of tickets are available for this event and must be purchased in advance. Tickets are \$75 per person and include appetizers, drinks, buffet dinner, and the opportunity to bid! Dress is cocktail attire. Interested parties can download an invitation or purchase tickets online by visiting our website at: [www.stcswalsh.org/eagles-gala-auction](http://www.stcswalsh.org/eagles-gala-auction).

# Eagle Pride Is In Full Swing for Athletics

By: Eric DiMartino, Director of Athletics

Eagles athletics are back and in full swing. Varsity soccer, coached by Andres Cabrera, is looking to build off a back-to-back playoff appearances from the last two seasons. He has a good, experienced team showing a great amount of leadership and working hard with our younger players. We have a brand new coach to take over our varsity volleyball program, Megan Jennings, who is getting the team on the winning track this year and building a competitive young team. Our brand new modified volleyball team, which is a first for our school, is a very hard-working group that is extremely excited to build up our volleyball program. Coach Logan Wernsing is very optimistic about her group of girls who want to compete and bring an uprising to the program. Cross-country has a trio of new coaches who bring an abundance of experience with them. Coaches Jason Caldwell, Kaitlyn Engdahl, and Evan McCabe are St. Bonaventure students who want to help get our students up to the next level. We have a great, talented group who want to give it their all and beat previous records. Club soccer, coached by Eric Sonnylal and Mike Forney, are trying to regroup the program from our modified team season last year and get the athletes the practice they need and build for the future.

Walsh winter sports will be here in the next few short months. Varsity boys basketball coach Andy Moore, going into his 7<sup>th</sup> season, is strategizing with his players and has worked all summer long with his team that is again competing in the very rigorous Monsignor Martin League. Girls varsity basketball coach Matthew Kichman is back for his second season and looking to improve over his first season with the school. He has a great senior leader and a young core trying to improve

from last year. Modified basketball brings excitement to our program as student-athletes are looking forward to another winning season.

All of our coaches are accomplished and want our athletes to be successful in our already storied school history.



*Varsity Soccer Game*

## Student From Netherlands Joins Senior Class



*Fleur Oevering & Grace Greer*

We are pleased to welcome Fleur Oevering from the Netherlands to Walsh's 12<sup>th</sup> grade class. Fleur is a foreign exchange student through

YFU (Youth For Understanding) and is staying with her host parent, Dr. Pam Salzmann of Olean, along with a host sister, Grace Greer, who is a senior at Walsh. Fleur is from Eibergen, Netherlands, and is joining the varsity girls volleyball team this fall. We look forward to her joining the STCS/Walsh family and hope she has a memorable exchange year with us.

YFU is an international educational exchange organization consisting of partners in more than 50 different countries. The organization has been operating for more than 60 years and believes that full cultural immersion is the most effective means to gain the skills needed to thrive in an increasingly multicultural, interconnected, and competitive global society. As an IB School, we also think this is a perfect opportunity for our students and school community to explore and gain a deeper understanding of different cultures at Walsh!

We are always looking for local families and friends to host a foreign exchange student in their home. We work with several agencies that have students interested in attending Archbishop Walsh Academy. If you are interested in hosting an international student, please contact Mary Beth Garvin, Director of Admissions and Students Life, at [marybeth.garvin@walshstcs.org](mailto:marybeth.garvin@walshstcs.org).

## Alumni Spotlight



*Kevin O'Laughlin, Class of 2009*

O'Laughlin spent nearly three years learning the mortgage business before he moved to Pittsburgh on the hunt for a new opportunity. On a whim, he sent Movement CEO Casey Crawford a message on LinkedIn. In it, he told Crawford he could be the person to start and build Movement's market in the Steel City.

Kevin O'Laughlin graduated from Archbishop Walsh Academy in 2009 and continued his education at St. Bonaventure University. He graduated from St. Bonaventure with a Bachelor of Business Administration, Management as well as a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.), and Management in 2014.

In 2016 O'Laughlin was offered a job with Movement Mortgage, LLC, as a Producing Market Leader, and at 26 years old is Movement Mortgage's youngest market leader as well as one of its most successful. His company's Impact Report had the following to say about Kevin:

When he launched Movement's Pittsburgh market in 2016, O'Laughlin and his team of two produced \$1.7 million in loan volume. In 2017, the team topped \$50 million. And in the year ahead, O'Laughlin expects to grow his team to 30 people and produce more than \$120 million in purchase volume.

"We've blown people away with our speed and process and core values," O'Laughlin says.

His market has grown with a shoe-leather approach. He and his team show up at open houses to meet real estate agents. They leverage social media to share success stories of buyers in new homes. O'Laughlin keeps his staff motivated by encouraging team-building activities outside of work. And when recruiting, he looks for people who are energetic and align with Movement's vision.

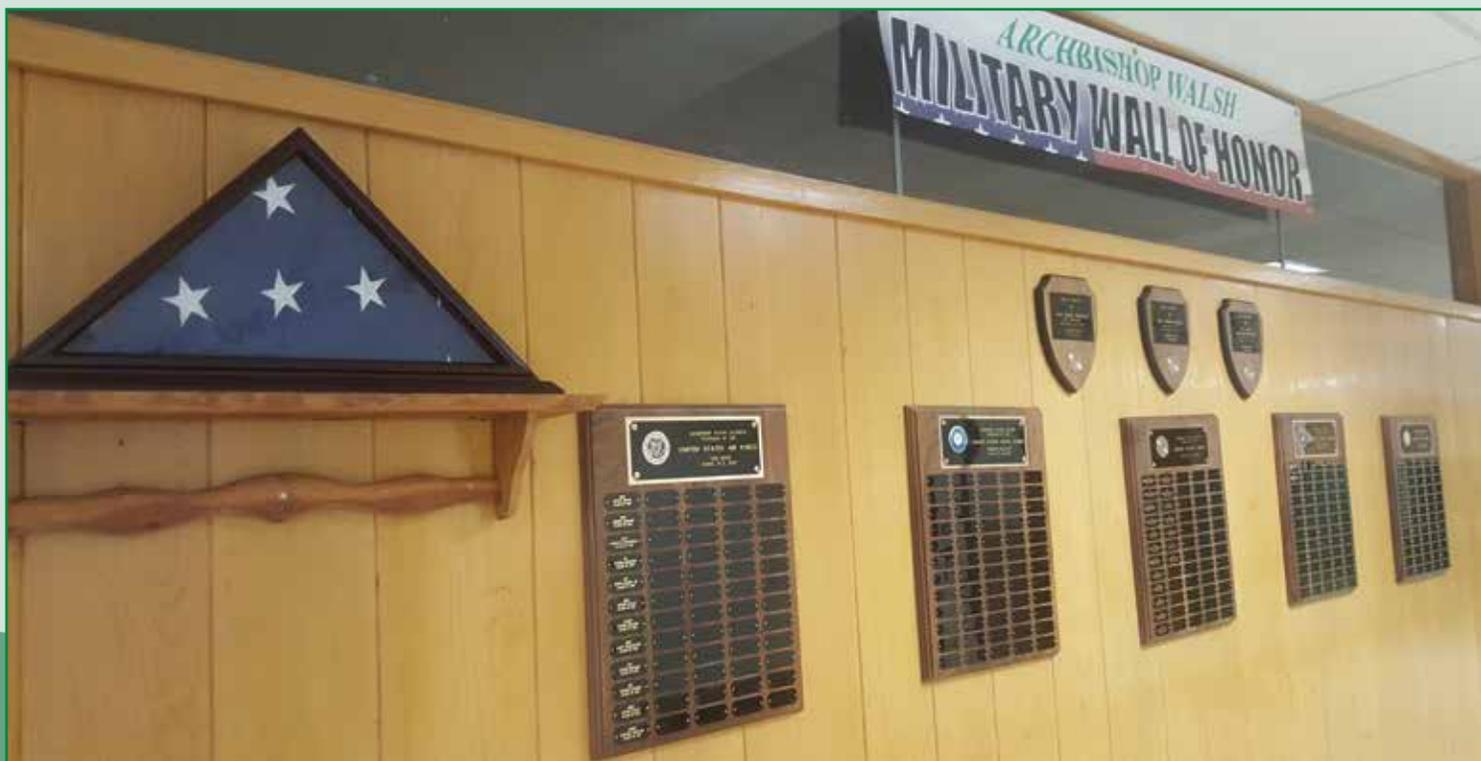
Says O'Laughlin of his market's growth: "It all came from persistence. One realtor, one transaction at a time. We're trying to attract people by doing the right thing."

## Archbishop Walsh Military Wall of Honor

The Archbishop Walsh Military Wall of Honor now holds the names of 40 alumni that have served their country. We would like to continue to add names to the wall and are looking for information. If you know of someone who should be added, please contact Jessica Policastro at [jessica.policastro@walshstcs.org](mailto:jessica.policastro@walshstcs.org) or visit our website

[www.stcswalsh.org](http://www.stcswalsh.org) to fill out a Wall of Honor Submission Form. We will host a small ceremony near Veterans Day in November 2018 to honor new names added to the wall. Details of this event as well as the names currently on the wall can be found on the school website.

*Archbishop Walsh Military Wall of Honor*



# 50<sup>th</sup> All-Alumni Reunion

The 50<sup>th</sup> All-Alumni Reunion was held August 4, 2018, with graduating classes from 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, and 2013 receiving special recognition. Members of the Class of 1968 celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> year.

The day started with the Archbishop Walsh Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament, which was a huge success. Later that evening, the doors of the school opened, and alumni were invited to tour the school as well as attend a dedication ceremony for the new names added to the Archbishop Walsh Military Wall of Honor. Dinner started in the school gymnasium as the DJ played hits from the 60's and 70's, while Walsh student volunteers served food.

More than 140 guests attended the festivities, and the gym was decorated in Walsh's colors, with yearbooks and memorabilia filling the space. After the meal, Walsh

and STCS President Thomas J. Manko offered remarks and thanked everyone for attending. He also congratulated the Class of '68 on celebrating 50 years. The evening finished with dancing and laughter.

We were honored to have so many Walsh alumni in attendance and look forward to another year of memories.

*Watch your mailbox for more information about next year's 51<sup>st</sup> All-Alumni Reunion & Golf Tournament, slated for the weekend of August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> in 2019.*

## Dr. John J. Watson '84 Memorial Lockers

Since the locker dedication was created in June 2016, six lockers have been dedicated to alumni who have passed away.

Lockers have been dedicated to Dave Ash '68, Bill Smith '68, Rob Ruby '68, Paul Stevenson '70, and Vince Bassanelli '71.

The last locker to have been dedicated was to Gary Filjones, as a gift from his peers in the Class of 1968. His plaque reads "Gary Filjones '68. A talented musician and a ferocious linebacker. From the Class of 1968."

Those wishing to dedicate a locker should contact Jessica Policastro by email at [jessica.policastro@walshstcs.org](mailto:jessica.policastro@walshstcs.org) or phone, 716-372-8122 for details.

*Photos from the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual All-Alumni Reunion*





# ARCHBISHOP WALSH ACADEMY

208 North 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Olean, NY 14760

*Address Service Requested*

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## Alumni Homecoming Game in February!

This year we will be celebrating the Archbishop Walsh Academy Homecoming basketball game Saturday, February 2, 2019, at 1 p.m.. The Walsh varsity boys' team will play against Nichols School from Buffalo, NY. Alumni will receive free admission to the game and a gift. There will also be an appetizer reception for all alumni after the game.

Invitations with details will be mailed December 2018. We hope you will join us as we cheer on our Walsh Eagles!

For up-to-date information, you can also check our website at [www.stcswalsh.org](http://www.stcswalsh.org) under the Alumni Tab.



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