



# PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC NEWS

*A NEWSLETTER FOR FUTURE CELTICS*

FALL 2016

## Class of 2020 Celebrates Harvest Drive Olympics



[www.providencatholic.org](http://www.providencatholic.org)

# BEST WISHES GRADUATES

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Publisher: .....PCHS Advancement Office  
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## COVER STORY

The Class of 2020 celebrate their first Harvest Drive Olympics in early September. Read complete story of this tradition on page 7.

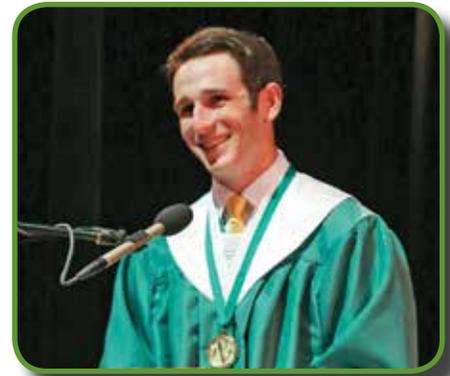


*Richie Warfield '17 (Student Council member) delivers the pie-in-the-face to Theology teacher, Fr. Rich Young. This tradition officially concludes the Olympic celebration each year.*

PCHS celebrated the Class of 2016 commencement in early June at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet. Each of the 234 members of the class crossed the Rialto stage to receive their PCHS diploma, marking the completion of four successful and memorable years.

During the ceremony, Valedictorian **Colin Brankin** (Orland Park) and Salutatorian **Patrick Connelly** (Tinley Park) addressed their classmates with powerful words of encouragement and expressed their gratefulness to family, friends and Providence faculty and staff.

During the special awards portion of the graduation ceremony, Athletic Director, Doug Ternik '89 announced **Thomas Kelley** (Orland Park) as the recipient of the Senior Athletic-Spirit Award and **Mia Massaro** (Homer Glen) as recipient of the Jaime Garcia Scholastic Athlete Award. Fr. John Merkelis, O.S.A. named **Patrick Kay** (Orland Park) and **Catherine Spesia** (Joliet) as the recipients of the



*Valedictorian Colin Brankin*

Bishop Blanchette Religion award. Furthermore, **Brendan O'Hara** (New Lenox) and **Claire Baudek** (Joliet) received the prestigious Bishop Roger Kaffer Leadership Award.

One-hundred percent of the Class of 2016 will continue their education at a college or university. Approximately 746 scholarships valued at nearly \$30 million were offered to this class. Forty-three of these graduates were named Illinois State Scholars. These seniors volunteered in excess of 100,000 hours of community service during their high school careers. Twenty-eight percent of student-athletes signed National Letters of Intent or made commitments to continue their respective sports at the collegiate level. In addition, this class witnessed many athletic accomplishments, including five state championship trophies earned by the Celtic baseball teams (2014, 2015, 2016), football team (2014) and cheerleading team (2013).



*Salutatorian Patrick Connelly*



*Upon receiving their diplomas, members of the Class of 2016 move their tassels to the left side of their cap signifying their graduation from PCHS.*

# WELCOME TO PCHS CLASS OF 2020



*Students enjoy a game of water balloon toss at the Freshmen Family Picnic in mid-June. Incoming freshmen had the opportunity to meet their future classmates, faculty, staff and current students.*

PCHS freshmen were welcomed into the Providence Catholic family during the school's annual Freshmen Welcome in mid-August. The goal of this retreat was not only to welcome new students, but to introduce them to the mission of Providence Catholic. The newest members of Celtic family were introduced to upperclassmen who gave helpful tips on time management, making new friends and getting involved in extracurricular activities. A freshman said, "I came from a public school and only knew a few kids that came to Providence. After this retreat, I met several new friends. I am so glad I decided to go to Providence. It really is true when they say we are one big family!"

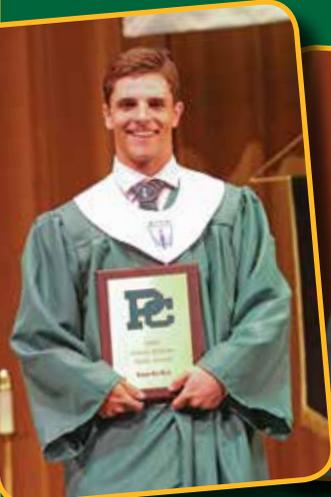
## Grad Highlights



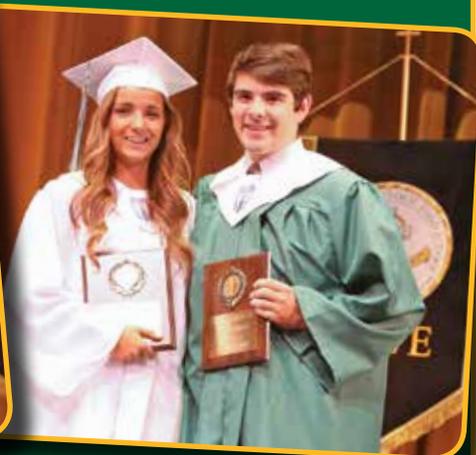
*Brendan O'Hara and Claire Baudek*



*Mia Massaro*



*Thomas Kelley*



*Catherine Spesia and Patrick Kay*

## SHADOW DAYS

Are you currently an 8th grade student who is considering PCHS for your high school? Shadow Days are a great way to see first-hand if PCHS is the place for you! Shadow Days are held on select Fridays throughout the school year. You will be paired with a current Providence Catholic freshman so that you can experience a day in the life of a Celtic! Come meet our students and faculty, experience some classes and enjoy lunch in the cafeteria. Visits must be scheduled by the Wednesday preceding the visit. Below is a list of upcoming Shadow dates for 8th graders; 7th graders may begin shadowing in January.



- October 7
- October 14
- October 21
- October 28
- November 4
- November 11
- December 2
- December 9

Visit the Providence Catholic website at [www.providencecatholic.org](http://www.providencecatholic.org) for more details or to schedule your Shadow Day.

# PCHS COLLEGE COMMITMENTS



**Thirty-seven members (28%) of the Class of 2016 signed National Letters of Intent or made commitments to continue their respective sports at the collegiate level. Not all students were present for photograph above.**

**Bemidji State University**

*Thomas Younker (football)*

**Caldwell University**

*Kathleen Compagno (volleyball)*

**Carthage College**

*Travis Woerner (football)*

**The Citadel**

*Tyler Schiemann (track & field)*

**College of St. Scholastica**

*Samantha Gorecki (hockey)*

**DePaul University**

*Jessica Cothorn (softball)*

**Heartland Community College**

*James Jeffries (baseball)*

**Illinois Wesleyan University**

*Mia Massaro (softball)*

*Bernard O'Donnell (soccer)*

**Joliet Junior College**

*Connor Creed (baseball)*

**Lewis University**

*Michael Higgins (cross country)*

*Patrick Kowalkowski (soccer)*

**Lindenwood University**

*Sera Cummings (cheerleading)*

**Loras College**

*Matthew Gruskowski (baseball)*

*Connor O'Neill (football)*

**Miami University, Ohio**

*Thomas Kelley (baseball)*

**Mount St. Mary's University**

*Hannah Davis (tennis)*

**North Central College**

*Reed McCool (baseball)*

**Parkland College**

*Zachary Pych (baseball)*

*Jackson Stulas (baseball)*

**Purdue University**

*Michael Madej (baseball)*

**Saint Xavier University**

*Michael Markasovic (football)*

**Southeast Missouri State University**

*Emily Boggetto (volleyball)*

**South Suburban College**

*Jackson Dvorak (baseball)*

**St. Ambrose University**

*Abraham Contreras DeFrias (football)*

*Nicholas Fleischmann (football)*

*Nathan Heller (volleyball)*

*Zachary Heller (volleyball)*

**University of St. Francis**

*Colin Airola (baseball)*

*Michael Falejczyk (football)*

*Shawn Harper (baseball)*

*Allison Hernandez (basketball)*

**The University of Iowa**

*Christina MacNab (track & field)*

**University of Minnesota**

*Kendall Judge (softball)*

**University of Pennsylvania**

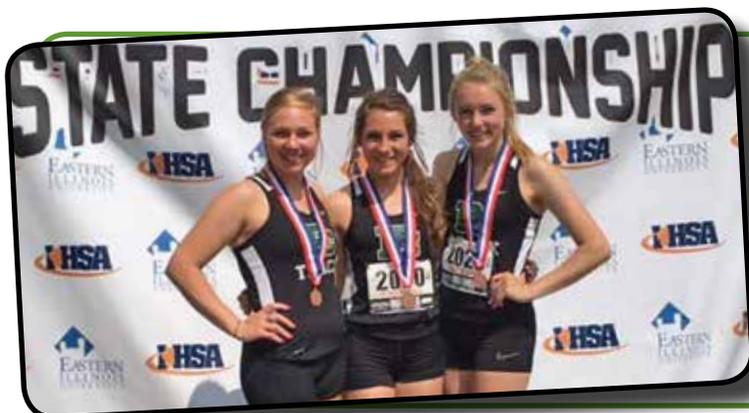
*Brendan O'Hara (football)*

**Upper Iowa University**

*David Charnot (football)*

**Wingate University**

*Rachel Alles (volleyball)*



## Girls' Track Earn Medals

The Girls' track team had their highest finish in over thirty years, placing 23rd out of 89 schools competing at the IHSA Class 2A State Championship in late May. All-State Medalists included (left to right) Gianna Lullo '16 (9th Place - Pole Vault), Melanie Olson '16 (5th Place -100 m Dash) and Christina MacNab '16 (3rd Place - High Jump).

# STATE CHAMPIONS X 3



Connor Hilty '16 was the starting pitcher of the Championship game.

Providence Catholic's varsity Celtic baseball team earned their third consecutive IHSA Class 4A State Championship Title on June 11 at Silver Cross Field in Joliet. The Celtics rallied past the Mundelein Mustangs 10-3 in front of a crowd of nearly 4,000; finishing their season 33-9. This is the first time in Illinois high school history that a varsity baseball team has achieved a three-peat. This win brings the Providence Catholic Celtics to

30 State Championship titles; the most among private high schools in the state of Illinois.

"It is an indescribable feeling and will take some time to sink in that we are the first varsity high school baseball team in the state to win back-to-back-to-back championships. These guys put their heart into every practice and every game and it has paid off," said Mark Smith '88, PCHS Head Baseball Coach.

## Players

- Colin Airola '16 (Joliet)
- Jordan Chavez '17 (Crest Hill)
- Connor Creed '16 (Lockport)
- Kurt Dankovich '17 (Homer Glen)
- Jackson Dvorak '16 (New Lenox)
- Kevin Fitzgerald '16 (Orland Park)
- Matt Gruskowski '16 (Orland Park)
- Shawn Harper '16 (Plainfield)
- Alex Helmin '19 (Frankfort)
- Connor Hilty '16 (Mokena)
- Drew Hunniford '17 (Frankfort)
- Jim Jeffries '16 (Mokena)
- Eric Juds '17 (Orland Park)
- Tom Kelley '16 (Orland Park)
- Mike Madej '16 (Manhattan)
- Mike Massaro '17 (Homer Glen)
- Kyle McBrady '17 (Frankfort)
- Reed McCool '16 (Plainfield)
- Steven Meyer '18 (Homer Glen)
- Kevin O'Boyle '17 (Plainfield)
- Noah O'Brien '16 (Manhattan)
- Brendan O'Hara '16 (New Lenox)
- Zac Pell '17 (Romeoville)
- Dan Porter '17 (Orland Park)
- Zack Pych '16 (Homer Glen)
- Kyle Struck '16 (Orland Park)
- Jackson Stulas '16 (Lockport)
- Matt Swanson '17 (Orland Park)
- Matt Trzesniewski '16 (Orland Park)
- Garrett Walter '16 (Homer Glen)
- Matt Waznis '16 (Joliet)
- Tyler Zarembka '17 (Lockport)

## Coaches

- Mark Smith '88 (Head Coach)
- Tim Byrdak (Assistant Coach)
- Frank Cavallone (Assistant Coach)
- Mike Pericht '06 (Assistant Coach)
- Garrick Pranchke (Assistant Coach)
- Jim Thomas '76 (Assistant Coach)
- Jason Vitas (Assistant Coach)



Coach Smith gives Zach Pych his options at third base.

## Managers

- Jim Havlin '16 (Orland Hills)
- Brendan Nieukirk '18 (Tinley Park)
- Blake LaBelle '16 (Orland Park)
- Joey Strick '16 (Mokena)



## KENNEDY CUP CHAMPIONS



PCHS varsity hockey team was honored at an all-school assembly in March for winning the Kennedy Cup and placing 2nd in state. The Celtics captured the CCL Kennedy Cup in late March with a 5-1 victory over Benet Academy. The team also made their first trip to the AHA! State Championship (Red Division) at the United Center in March, losing to New Trier Green 5-2, but coming away with a 2nd in state trophy.



### Did You Know . . .

*Providence Catholic High School has a preschool located on its grounds?*

#### CLASSES INCLUDE:

- Kindergarten (age 5)
- Pre-Kindergarten (age 4)
- Preschool (age 3)

#### WHY PCCA?

- Half/Full-Day Kindergarten
- Half/Full-Day Options for PS & PK
- Before/After School Care

### Schedule a Visit Today!

#### CONTACT

815.485.7129 • [wearepc.org](http://wearepc.org)

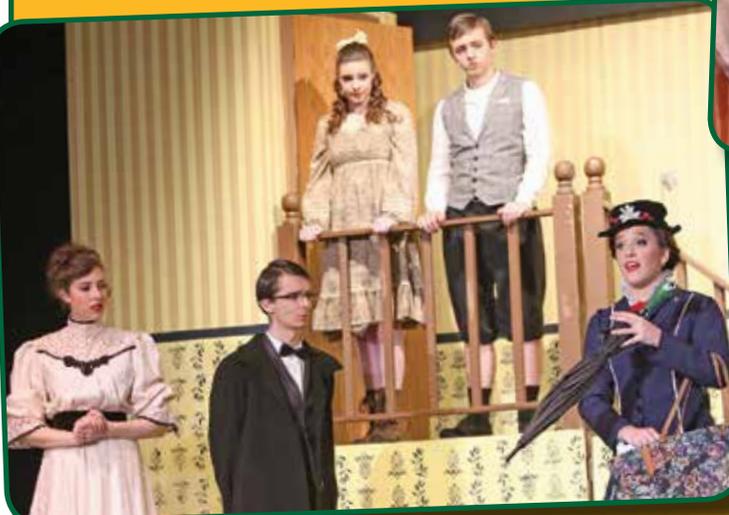
## Mary Poppins Teaches the Value of Family

PCHS Theatre Club performed *Mary Poppins* at Billie Limacher Bicentennial Theatre in Joliet in late April. This award-winning musical is about a family who is on the brink of a complete breakdown, when along comes their new nanny, Mary Poppins. Her magical lessons help all members of the family grow. The family regains its functionality once Mr. Banks is able to address his issues.



*Above (left to right) Christian Davis '16 (Bert) and Ingrid Schwartz '17 (Mary Poppins) perform "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious".*

*At left, Sarah Lennon '16 (Winifred Banks), Brandon Pierce '16 (George Banks), Rachel Gorski '16 (Jane Banks), Patrick Connelly '16 (Michael Banks) and Ingrid Schwartz '17 (Mary Poppins) give a spectacular performance as the lead cast.*



## HELPING HANDS - HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

A group of 17 PCHS student members of Habitat for Humanity and four chaperones volunteered their time working in Baraboo, Wisconsin in early June. Led by PCHS moderator, Mrs. Diane Dau, the students spent several days renovating the site of the new Habitat for

Humanity ReStore in Portage, Wisconsin. The store is set to open in July, and will be a vital source of funds for Habitat for Humanity of Sauk-Colombia Area.

PCHS Alumna Haley Troche '15 and Ben Owings '17 freshen the paint at the new ReStore facility in Wisconsin.



2016 PCHS Habitat for Humanity volunteers



## HARVEST DRIVE OLYMPIC CELEBRATION

Providence Catholic concluded its Annual Fall Harvest Drive in early September. Through the hard work of students, parents, teachers and patrons who supported the school, this year's Fall Harvest Drive generated more than \$355,000. To celebrate this success, the entire student body enjoyed the traditional spirit-filled Harvest Drive Olympics at the conclusion of this drive.

Several events took place, including dodge ball, tug-of-war and an obstacle

course. The Olympics concluded with the annual pie-in-the-face-of-a-faculty-member; this year's "target" was Fr. Rich Young, O.S.A., Theology teacher.

Following the Olympic celebration, Dr. John Harper, Principal, drew eleven raffle tickets and named the \$10,000 Grand Prize winner along with 10 other winning tickets totaling \$5,000. All top-sellers and raffle winners are posted on the Harvest Drive page of the PCHS website.



Sophomore Mary O'Brien (Manhattan) doubles up in dodge ball competition.



Senior boys battle the freshmen boys in tug-of-war on the newly renovated gym floors.



Junior Carina Tolan (Tinley Park) competes in the obstacle relay course.

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[facebook.com/Charlie.Celtic](https://facebook.com/Charlie.Celtic)

Follow Providence Catholic on its official Twitter page

[twitter.com/PCHS\\_Celtics](https://twitter.com/PCHS_Celtics)



## **THEATRE CLUB PRESENTS**

### **You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown**

#### **PERFORMANCE DATES**

- Thursday, October 27 @ 7 PM
- Friday, October 28 @ 7 PM
- Saturday, October 29 @ 7 PM
- Sunday, October 30 @ 3 PM

#### **LOCATION**

Bicentennial Theater (Joliet)

#### **COST**

Adult - \$8.00

Child/Senior/Student - \$5.00

#### **PRE-ORDER TICKETS/QUESTIONS**

815-485-2136 ext. 3323

[theatre@providencecatholic.org](mailto:theatre@providencecatholic.org)

## **SAVE THE DATE PCHS OPEN HOUSE**

**Sunday, November 20**

**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

***Tours • Information • Refreshments***

