



Cathy Savery <csavery@awhs.org>

Test Message - Merry Christmas from AWHS!

Cathy Savery <csavery@awhs.org>
To: Cathy Savery <csavery@awhs.org>

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From: **Dr. Carmen Mariano** <cmariano@awhs.org>
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Subject: Test Message - Merry Christmas from AWHS!
To: csavery@awhs.org



C-MAIL

Carmen Mariano,
Ed.D.
President
Carmen Mariano, Ed.D.

Archbishop Williams
High School
40 Independence Ave.
Braintree, MA 02184
781-843-3610

60th Anniversary Mass and Gala

If you were there, words are not needed.
If you were not there, words are not enough.
It truly was a special day.

Four alumni priests Reverend Allan Butler '58, Reverend Brian Clary '89, Reverend James Flavin '53 and Reverend Wendell Verrill '55, and other family members helped our Bishop John Dooher and our chaplains (current and former) say mass in the auditorium. Our former principal, Mary Ellen Barnes, lead us in prayer as she had so beautifully lead us in practice. Two of our most beloved teachers, Sister Mary Andrea (Miriam Corcoran) and Sister Charles Francis (Virginia Bauer) performed the readings. Then the "Williams' Tabernacle Choir" lead by Maestro and former staff member Paul Kelly made music that even God's voice could not have made more beautiful!

Soon after mass, 265 alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff joined each other for dinner at the spectacular Granite Links Golf Club. Our thanks to Walter Hannon '76 and his team, which included Jeanne Percy Spence '76, for helping with our celebration. It reminded me of the first wedding reception I went to with my mother at the Neighborhood Club. "This place is too good for the present I brought," she said as we entered.

This place was too good for any present! Speaking of presents, our student chorus presented us with a melody of hits from the past four decades. Their young voices and our old music made a perfect match!

Our guardian angels were honored, as well. Yes, the sisters who created our climate and founded our culture took the center stage they deserved. To all those who came, helped or both, I can only say, "my thanks are not enough, but my thanks are all I have."

To see the photos from that evening, [click here](#) and to view the 60th anniversary video [click here](#).

Coaches Night

As many of you may know, at the start of each season, we invite the parents and athletes who will compete in that season to meet with our coaches and discuss expectations, schedules and more. The "winter version" of that event happened recently.



Athletic Director Joe Francis started us off as always. His perfect remarks included words like, "lose with class" and "win with dignity." His advice to parents asked that they "bring their questions to their coaches first because they are closest to the answers." Joe ended his remarks by introducing Dr. Eric Berkson and Ms. Amy Fein. They represent the medical side of our athletic program. Dr. B. is an orthopedic surgeon and sports medicine specialist with Brigham and Women's/Mass General/Partners Health Group and is our athletic program's physician. No AWHS athlete is more than a phone call away from contact with Dr. B. He even does "house calls" at school for students who have trouble getting to his office.

Amy is our trainer. She is on campus every day from "the start of the first practice to the start of the last practice" to assist, treat and prepare athletes for the rigors of their sport. Amy also attends our games and visits school during the day to treat athletes in need if/as their schedules allow.

Both Eric and Amy have been pioneers of Project Impact. This program pays special attention to head injuries and concussions. Every AWHS athlete (all sports, all levels, all seasons) is tested before competition begins to establish a "base line" of brain function. That baseline is recorded for future reference. Should an athlete suffer any blow to the head in competition, his/her function after injury is compared to his/her baseline. Any differences detected will lead to treatment, rest and more.

Thanks to Eric, Amy, Joe and our coaches, no school gives better care to its student athletes than ours does. Be proud. I am.

Educational Alliance

On December 9, 2009 principals and pastors from more than 15 of our feeder schools were scheduled to attend a signing ceremony that would have officially established the Archbishop Williams High School Educational Alliance. Unfortunately, the weather forced us to postpone this momentous event. We will reschedule to a "friendlier" day.

We are excited about this program, which will build shorter and stronger bridges between our school and our feeders by offering them opportunities to share our facilities, attend our events, share our professional development activities and more.

To be Number One, we first must be one. We are about to be one with our feeders.

National Honor Society Induction

Last month, we inducted 39 juniors and seniors in the National Honor Society. During the ceremony, the NHS officers explained the importance of the four pillars of the National Honor Society: Scholarship, Service, Leadership and Character. Our inductees uphold these traditions through their academic excellence and actions of service to our school and to our greater community. Several inductees and current members recognized and introduced teachers, who have inspired them to reach for more; in school and in life. A reception for the NHS members, parents, friends and honorees was held in the gymnasium following the ceremony.

The Gift of Giving

Since Christmas is the time of giving, let me take this time to thank you for your gifts of time, talent and treasure. Your support for AWHS is a gift that touches the lives of our students every single day. Please know how grateful we are. Should you wish to add to the gifts we have received this year, you can do so online via <https://www.awhs.org/alumni-make-a-gift>.

Quote of the Month

Forgive me but I thought I'd quote a few of my remarks from the Gala. Now, I know what you are thinking, "Oh God, I was there! I heard them!" or "Oh God, I wasn't there so I wouldn't hear them! Why would he share them now?"

Well, I thought you'd never ask!

I only share them because they are about you!

When my father first became a senior citizen, I bought him a little book for his birthday. The title of that book is *Age Doesn't Matter Unless You're a Cheese!* It was full of funny sayings about getting old.

Dad's favorite was, "You know you are getting old when you stop to tie your shoes and wonder what else you can do while you are down there." Another Dad liked was "When you get old, life seems like little more than one long march to and from the bathroom!"

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I am sure that none of you can identify with either of those quotes, but my Dad could. He liked them both; and many others. In fact, he really liked that book but he did not like the book's title.

"Carmen, it's not true!" he insisted. When I asked him why, he said, "Carmen, the book's title is *Age Doesn't Matter Unless You're a Cheese!* Well, let me tell you, Carmen," my dad went on, "age does matter; even if you are not a cheese!"

As always, my Dad was right. Age does matter. And age is why we are here. Age is what we celebrate tonight. We are here to celebrate the age of our school – and more – we are here to celebrate the age of our family and the age of our friendships.

We are also here to celebrate the strength of those things. Think about it. Most things weaken with time. Buildings do. Bridges do. Yes, even bodies do!

Families do not. Friendships do not. Families and friendships get stronger with time. Families and friendships get stonger with age.

That is why we are here. That is what we celebrate.

Thank you for being family. Thank you for being friends. Thank you for being here, – and thank you for being part of the fabric, the fiber, and the future, that is Archbishop Williams High School forever.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Picture of the Month



"I asked my wife for a ladder. She brought a camera instead."

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Cathleen O'Connor Savery
Advancement Officer
Archbishop Williams High School
40 Independence Ave.

Braintree, MA 02184

(781) 535-6484

