



Psalm 112:5 (NIV)

Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice.

Advancement

We cannot believe that we have started the 4th and final quarter for the 2015/2016 School year! The special events that the Advancement Office produces with tremendous Committee support continue to produce strong results! The **Keeping the Dream Dinner, Dance & Auction** surpassed attendance from last year and the **Pasquinnelli Shamrock Open** will have record setting participation as well.

We are making one last request, this school year, for the Annual Fund. If you have not donated to the fund this year, will you please consider stepping up to assist the students and teachers here at Yuma Catholic? The annual fund proceeds contribute to the success of so many of our projects and goals here at YC.

The Advancement Office and the technology team are working together to design and launch a brand new Yuma Catholic website and we would like your support with the annual fund proceeds to purchase a new school camera that will enhance our ability to highlight our students and our wonderful facility in true living color. Our current Nikon camera does not have video or wifi

capabilities and limits our ability to bring Yuma Catholic to life on the web for our current and future Shamrock families. Our social media sites reach have grown exponentially this year thanks to consistent efforts to fill those spaces with pictures of our events, but most importantly our student's achievements in and out of the classroom. Adding the timeliness of wifi access and High Definition video capability will allow us to vividly showcase all that Yuma Catholic is and has to offer the next generation of students and their families.

When it comes to the success of Yuma Catholic and our students-current and future -we do not want to go backwards. Won't you step up and help us surpass last year's Annual Fund total? We can get there with \$20,000! Every donation helps. No amount is too small and every donation helps keep our students focused on the future and our social media and website will continue to deliver that in living color with your support!

Donate By  or 
<http://www.yumacatholic.org/giving/index.aspx>

Donate by 
(envelope enclosed)

Yuma Catholic High School
2100 W. 28th St.
Yuma, AZ 85364



**Yuma Catholic
High School
Annual Fund
Donors
2015-2016
School Year**

St. Isidore:

Gary and Barbara Pasquinnelli
The Pasquinnelli Foundation

Principal's Partners

Holy Family Convent of Franciscan
Sisters of Christian Charity
YCHS Staff Members

Leadership:

Joan Roberts
Richard Hedloff
Adrienne McLaughlin
Thomas P. Nunes Sr.

Spirit:

Christye and John Flanagan in
memory of Carol McElhaney Oden
Jeanne and Wayne Gale
Anonymous

Blue and Gold Club:

Ochylski Enterprises
Barbara Lee
Pat and Jeanne Connor
Bob and Jill Sloncen

Other:

Pat and Karen Griffin in honor
of Howard Gwynn
Father Patrick Crino

Alumni:

Sabrina Garcia
Emily Eldridge
Grady Eldridge
Andrew Anderson

Principal's Message



Success in Athletics



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

The verse from Jeremiah reminds us that we serve an amazing and great God. This year has been a roller coaster ride; however, we have learned to lean on God for understanding and for a positive outlook when life looks bleak at times. We have been blessed this year with many accomplishments in the academic classrooms. Even though our senior class is a small graduating class, it is a mighty class who will not graduate before they finish leaving their mark on the history of Yuma Catholic. In the athletic arena, we continue to play for an audience of one: God. He has blessed us with hardware and the opportunity to share our faith with the greater Arizona community. On a spiritual side, we are constantly bringing more students, parents, and community members to the Lord. We have one more retreat to go this year, so we ask that you pray for our seniors. They will be entering the “outside world” next year, and their faith will truly be tested.

As the prophet Jeremiah shares with us that after the winter seasons of our lives, spring is around the corner. From death, springs forward true life. This spring we look ahead at the end of school, but we will surely stop and smell the blooming flowers. There will be tough times; however, we can find our strength in knowing that God has great plans for us all. May God continue to bless your families. Yuma Catholic High School is blessed because of the support we receive from people like you.



Christ's servant,
Armando Valenzuela III
Principal/CEO - Yuma Catholic H.S.

Boys Soccer

Undefeated in AIA play 12-0 and **State Champions**

Ralph Evans **Coach of the Year**

Jorge Ruiz and Omar Rojas **Yuma Sun All-Region**

AIA First Team

Carlos Arteaga, Sam Kwon, Daniel Perez, Omar Rojas and Fernando Ramirez

AIA Second Team

Alexis Rodriguez and Diego Valenzuela

Girls Soccer

Undefeated in AIA Regular Season 12-0

Jesus Quintana **Coach of the Year**

Karla Navarro **Regional Player of the Year**

AIA Honorable Mention

Karla Navarro, Jasmine Jimenez, Aryza Olague, Karen Melendrez

Boys Basketball

Undefeated in AIA play 18-0 and **State Champions**

Ricky Barnes **AIA Coach of the Year (D4)**

AIA First Team

Daniel Callender, Julian Jones

AIA Second Team

Brandon Hunter, Jaylen Barnes

AIA Honorable Mention

Kareem Johnson

Girls Basketball

Overall Record of 15-4, finished ranked #7

Josselyn Morris **Yuma Sun All Region Team**

AIA Honorable Mention

Lindsay Martin, Josselyn Morris, Sydney Neumann, Mariela Rios

Wrestling

Overall Team Record of 29-9

Tommy Hernandez **All Region, State Runner Up**

Jorge Quirarte **3rd Place State**

Richard Molina **6th Place State**

State Qualifiers: Sam Cheung, Kevin Hoffman, Dru Martin, Austin Blomquist, Devon Madrid

Students Making Strides and Gaining New Experiences

YC Tennis Club Back in Action

By Mr. Mork

With racquets swinging and balls bouncing, the Yuma Catholic Tennis Club began its second season of training on March 9 near the tall trees and green grass of the Yuma Golf and Country Club.

The club began this season's training with veteran instructor Porfirio Gonzalez, who will continue to train YCTC members for one hour a week (from 4:00 - 5:00 pm) on Wednesday afternoons. Gonzalez is a highly respected and sought-after instructor of tennis players of all ages in the Yuma area. Stating the sentiments of many of Gonzalez' students, YCTC member Karla Plascencia said of her first lesson, "I really enjoyed learning the basics of tennis with an awesome coach."

The Yuma Catholic Tennis Club, which presently has six members in training, sold baked goods and children's DVDs early in March and was able to raise enough money to cover half of each club member's instructional fee. A generous contribution given to the club on March 16 by the parents of a YCTC member will help the club reduce lesson costs for other students who wish to join the club later this spring when a new series of lessons begins. While these donated funds may also help grateful club members meet other upcoming expenses, YCTC members do not plan to abandon their own fundraising efforts. Serving as club officers are sophomores Sydney Young and Caleb McCullough.

The remaining four club members consist of one freshman, two sophomores, and one junior. Yuma Catholic English teacher Bill Mork is sponsoring YCTC with the purpose of providing students the opportunity to enjoy learning and practicing the game of tennis. "I'm learning a lot," said sophomore member Isabella Constantine, "but there's still more to learn."

"A Step in the Right Direction"

By: Ms. Parker

I am so extremely proud and pleased to be bragging, oops.. I mean sharing the success of the newest team at Yuma Catholic..... Drum roll please... The Yuma Catholic Lady RockZ Dance Team!! Even though most of the Lady RockZ have never taken a dance class before, you would never know it by watching them. They have worked hard as individuals and have come together as a team!! They have gone above and beyond my expectations in just these past few months. First, by strutting their Shamrock stuff at a school pep assembly in front of their teachers and peers, participating in Yuma's Annual Hip Hop Festival where the Ladys had the opportunity to take classes from top choreographers in the dance

industry including Yuma native Tricia Miranda. Lady RockZ have now started a tradition by performing for the first time in the 30th Annual Ken & Betty Borland Holiday Pageant & Tower Lighting. But the biggest achievement has been bringing their love, passion, and spirit for YCHS to life in the 2016 National Catholic School Week music video "Hallelujah" WOW!! What an amazing first year! My personal "Hallelujah" has been our Heavenly Father working His will through me so that I can share the gift of love and dance with such amazing young ladies at an amazing home, I call Yuma Catholic High School!!

P.S. Get the trophy cases ready YC... Lady RockZ will be bringing home the Gold!

Faith

Students Building A Foundation In Faith and Academics

By: Mrs. Meade

The St. John Paul II Youth Awards are an annual event that recognizes outstanding youth leaders in the Vicariate of Yuma through the Diocese of Tucson. The Most Reverend, Bishop Gerald Kicanas presented the awards at a dinner on March 2nd at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Somerton. Each of the parishes in Yuma nominated their outstanding youth leaders. Representing Yuma Catholic High School were Veronica Boyd, Lindsay Martin, and Rylie Vance, along with Sydney Young from St. John Neumann Parish.

Veronica Boyd was recognized for her leadership in *Catechesis and*

Evangelization for her commitment to being a leader for Religious Education programs and retreats. Lindsay Martin was recognized for her leadership in *Prayer and Worship* for her service as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Sacristan, and Altar Server. Rylie Vance was recognized for her leadership in *Community Service and Social Justice* for her community and dedication to service opportunities both through YC and 4H Ambassadors. In addition, Sydney Young representing St. John Neumann Parish was recognized for her leadership in *Prayer and Worship*.

Congratulations to these four young leaders from YC!

Catholic Schools Week was again a great success and a ton of fun for the students and faculty alike. The week began with a special Mass on that Sunday at St. John Neumann that students and their families were invited to attend.

The students kicked off the school week by providing some much needed community services. Teams of students worked on making sandwiches for Crossroads Mission and others worked on a letter writing campaign or participated in a campus and community clean-up.

Later in the week we had our student appreciation day which included our annual "Cross" photo and some exciting events like a provided lunch, a talent show and the ever popular dodgeball tournament.

Once again we were very fortunate to have Bishop Gerald Kicanas join us for our campus Mass. His interactive sermon put the students center stage and created a wonderful environment for the students and staff to hear God's message.

The week closed with recognition for some of our wonderful parent volunteers and pep rally for the students, staff and parents.



Academics

YC Students Gaining Recognition

Vanderbilt University is one of the most prestigious private universities in America and is recognized internationally for its leadership in research and advanced studies. It's no surprise that motivated high school students with a strong desire to learn would want to be a part of Vanderbilt's summer program. Yuma Catholic junior, Elena Eykamp is no different.

She has been accepted for the second year in a row to take part in accelerated studies in English. She was encouraged by a friend who attends Cibola High to apply last year and was accepted. The application is no simple feat. You must also submit teacher recommendations, transcripts, essays, test scores and those scores must be in the ninetieth percentile in order to be considered.

Elena points to the counseling staff here at Yuma Catholic for supporting her in

this process and making sure that what she sent met the criteria necessary to gain entry. She also stated that "the teachers were happy to write my letter(s) (of recommendation) and were super helpful!"

Elena chose to apply again because she "thought it was such a great program (and) I met one of my closest friends at this program and I am looking forward to spending (more time with her.)" Additionally Elena wanted to dive deeper into one of her favorite subjects, English.

Vanderbilt structures the experience like a normal work week. The students are scheduled from the moment they wake up through to lights out; however, there is time built in for some fun. Vanderbilt is located in Nashville, TN and the students were allowed free time to explore the campus and city.

Freshmen See Success at Science Fair

By: Mr. Cain

Yuma Catholic was well represented by our Freshmen Biology Students in the recent Yuma County Science Expo held at AWC. Yuma Catholic placed 6 finalist out of the 21 finalist spots in the high school division. All Yuma county high schools participated in the event. The finalist were Melissa Valenzuela, Brock Boyd, Anny Zhen Chen, Emily Skibitsky, Eduardo Felix, Isabel Herrera and Alenia Esquivel. The finalist were recognized at the Yuma County Science Expo Awards Ceremony on February 17th, 6:00 PM at Yuma Union High School Snider Auditorium.

By: Monica Hallahan

My name is Monica Hallahan, and I am a junior at Yuma Catholic High School. If there is anything in the world that I am passionate about, it's politics. I love the excitement, the urgency, the feeling of being a part of something important and larger than myself. I never knew that about myself until a year ago, when I revived YC's JSA club. I am chapter president of Yuma Catholic's Junior State of America where our goal as an organization is to educate and prepare high school students to be future responsible citizens of America.

This involves debates, open discussion, state-wide conventions, and plenty of Trump jokes. I have been involved in JSA for a year, and it has been the greatest year of my life. In December, I applied to attend a JSA summer program at Princeton University in Princeton, New Jersey and take a course in international relations. I was accepted a month later, and I am

looking for donations to help me and my family out with the price of tuition.

I have been blessed with the opportunity of representing Yuma Catholic High School, and Yuma on an incredibly high scale, and I am so honored to have this chance. I will be able to represent YC on the opposite side of the country at an Ivy League school with other incredible students.

With the help of scholarships from JSA and fundraisers through Yuma Catholic, my tuition has gone down from \$5000 to \$4000, and with the help of Yuma Catholic's awesome support system I believe it can go down even more. Please help me represent Yuma at Princeton! You can donate at <https://www.gofundme.com/8yqz9k3k> or contact me at (928) 259-0908 for other ways to help or any questions you have. Thank you for your support and your continued support of Yuma Catholic students like me.

Arizona Leadership Foundation Spotlight: Christian Chavez

I am currently a senior at Yuma Catholic High School. For the past four years, this school has opened my eyes to possibilities that were once only a dream. When I was 10, I saw the Shamrocks play football and now I'm part of this team. Sports is not the only reason I attend Yuma Catholic High School, but it has taught me life lessons both on and off the field...lessons that I know will help me as I work to fulfill my life goals.

Along with sports, I am the Student Body President and I cherish this more than any other accomplishment because this is not something a student earns overnight. The campaigning was hard but I tried my best to show myself as being presidential. This is an accomplishment that makes me want to work even harder for all the people that voted for me. Being the Student Body President has made me want to be a leader in other ways, like becoming an owner of my own physical therapy business.

I feel very grateful to the Arizona Leadership Foundation, as they were instrumental in helping me afford tuition at Yuma Catholic. The school has small class sizes and teachers are very accessible and willing to help their students. My favorite subject is Anatomy and Physiology because I am looking forward to becoming a physical therapist so learning the body and the way it works really is essential to the job. After graduation, I plan to attend Colorado State University Pueblo to obtain a bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy. My long term goal is to attend the University of Colorado in pursuit of a PhD, and eventually open a private practice as a physical therapist, with an emphasis in rehabilitation therapy.

My interest in physical therapy and rehabilitation began after my father was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy. Seeing the relief my father received from his therapists and how they were able to keep deteriorating muscles somewhat limber, inspired me to pursue this as a career so I

can help others in similar situations. I have been an athlete since childhood, so I am also interested in how physical therapy can speed the rehabilitation process for those with sports injuries. I want to learn and possibly pioneer new methods of therapy for those with debilitating illnesses and injuries.

I have never been afraid to work hard for what I want. My family does not have a lot of money, but we do have a lot of faith and love. Watching my mom as she cares for my dad while working full-time and raising three children has humbled and inspired me. And seeing my dad's positive attitude while he physically declines has shown me that I cannot give up. I am not saying these things to cause you to feel pity - I am truly blessed to have these two amazing people as parents and role models. I am determined to make them as proud of me as I am of them.



Catholic Tuition Support Organization Spotlight: Victoria Vargas

Attending Yuma Catholic High School was a choice my mother and I were excited for, as it is a well-balanced school that presents promising educational opportunities. Transitioning from a large public high school to a small private high school was initially very intimidating but I was able to quickly assimilate to my new environment with comfort. Yuma Catholic was welcoming from the very moment I sat down with my counselor during the interview process. Whether it be the nurse, the front desk or students themselves; they can all be found with smiles and the willingness to extend a helping hand. Throughout my four years of high school my favorite memories have come from being involved in many extracurricular activities and special events at YCHS.

One of my favorite things Yuma Catholic has to offer are the small class sizes. Instructors are able to pay close attention to my educational needs and aid me in any way they can if it will ensure my personal success. It is a blessing to have amazing teachers and counselors constantly want to see me grow and reach greater heights. The first year at YCHS I was able to exponentially expand my knowledge of science; specifically in honors chemistry my sophomore year. I was convinced there was too big of a gap to fill, in order to catch up to the rest of my classmates but with determination and help from my teacher, I was able to learn a great deal in a single semester.

In high school, I have been fortunate enough to have been a part of sports like varsity softball my junior and senior year. I also trained with cross-country as a team member my senior year and eventually was selected as Team Captain and ran meets as part of the varsity team. Staying active is very important to me as I feel it to be liberating and stress-relieving.

Curiosity and proven leadership are attributes that drive me to be a part of many clubs and organizations. Some of the positions I've held over time include being Junior Representative for Student Council, Treasurer for Junior Statesman of America, and Vice-President for the Fashion Club. Other clubs that have made my high school career that much more memorable include serving my community through the Interact Club, and volunteering at several orphanages in bordering countries. Another great way to stay involved with Yuma Catholic High School is being an active member of the Marketing Club. This club was easily one of my favorites as I was able to

participate in unique projects such as commercials and radio spots! Yuma Catholic High School really does have something for everyone and encourages the whole student body to showcase their talents.

My long-term goal has always been to attend college and further my undergraduate education. Yuma Catholic High School offers many dual-credit courses that have been the key to gaining several collegiate units a student would normally take their freshman year of college. I will be graduating with roughly 24 college credits from AWC and UA not counting AP or CLEP tests. Graduating with college credits is not an uncommon thing for students at YCHS who seek a rigorous curriculum. If I could secure my admission acceptance to any college or university I'd pick University of California - Santa Barbara without a doubt. The campus is located alongside the ocean and showcases an incredibly beautiful campus. My "back-up" plan would be to pursue a Biomedical Engineering degree at Grand Canyon University.

As I go on to finish the last semester of my high school career, I am immensely grateful to have been awarded with such an amazing scholarship like the one the Catholic Tuition Support Organization has granted me. Not only has Yuma Catholic High School benefited me academically, but spiritually and socially as well. The scholarship has helped my family by easing the stress that comes with having to pay for tuition at a private high school. My story is only one of the many amazing profiles students at Yuma Catholic High School have to showcase.

Corporate Tax Credit donations made to School Tuition Support Organizations provide much needed tuition assistance to qualified applicants. Over sixty percent of our YC families currently qualify for support. Deadline to commit corporate support is July 1, 2016. Details for families to apply are on the YC website under the enrollment tab. Contact Advancement for more information at 928-317-7910.



All three Odyssey of the Mind teams are headed to the state competition!



Tennis Club

Lady RockZ Dance Team



St. John Paul II Awards
Lindsay Martin
Veronica Boyd
Riley Vance
Sydney Young





Catholic Schools Week



Keeping the Dream Dinner
 "An evening under the big top"

Pasquinelli
 Shamrock Open
 Golf Tournament

