



Connections

TE/Conestoga Alumni Association Newsletter

June 2016

B. Bruns, Ed., pro tem

TESD Tops in 2016

Niche.com has ranked Tredyffrin Easttown School District number one in the USA.

In the 2015 edition of Newsweek's "America's Top High Schools," Conestoga High School was ranked 51st in the nation and the highest ranked high school in Pennsylvania. For the 2012–2013 school year the school was ranked as a Gold Medal School by U.S. News & World Report, ranked number 313 nationally.

The average SAT score for the Class of 2014 was 607 in mathematics, 598 in reading and 590 in writing. Source: GreatSchools.org

New Raffle in 2016!

This year the traditional silent auction at the October Gathering will be replaced by a raffle. Tickets will be sold at the door.

And - yes - the basket (or baskets) of cheer will be up for raffle as always!

Alumni in the News

Conestoga Grad Locates USS Conestoga

One of the insoluble mysteries in U.S. Naval history, has been the determination of the fate of the WW I era tugboat, the *Conestoga*. With 56 crew aboard, the *Conestoga* set out on March 25, 1921 for American Samoa. She was scheduled to stop at Pearl Harbor en route and never made it.

Conestoga graduate, **Michael Carver, CHS class of 1995**, piloted a remotely controlled vehicle that played a key role in identifying and mapping the wreck of the *USS Conestoga* off the coast of San



Save the Date for the 2016 Alumni Gathering!

The 2016 TE/Conestoga Alumni Association Gathering will be at **12: noon on Saturday, October 15th at Conestoga High School**. This year, we will be asking for a \$10 cover charge to help with expenses. Use the attached form to sign up in advance or pay at the door. Save up, its going to be fun!

Conestoga plays Radnor on Friday October 14, and we are looking into the potential for a tailgate party before the game depending on interest. If you would like to attend a tailgate party before the game, contact Lou Piombino: lcp452@gmail.com

Francisco. In 1994, the vehicle dove to 189 feet to record video of the 170-by 29- foot vessel. Further investigation definitively identified the wreck as the lost *USS Conestoga*.

The Conestoga connection had extra meaning for Carver who currently lives an hour north of San Francisco and, as a deputy superintendent of a National Marine Sanctuary, usually works with marine organisms.

Named for the covered wagons developed in Conestoga, PA., the 170-foot steel tugboat was one of the largest seagoing tugboats in the period. Launched in 1903, it was originally built to tow coal barges for the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company. The ship is considered a military grave for the 56 men who lost their lives.

Volunteers Wanted

Alumni Database Committee

The TE/Conestoga Alumni Association is looking for a volunteer to assist in gathering and maintaining an alumni database.

Currently, we have very few classmates on the internet mailing list. As the alumni community grows, classmates will want to be informed of upcoming activities and opportunities.

And as the database grows, alumni will have the benefit of updated information about reunions, local gatherings and class contacts. If interested, please contact Lou Piombino at: lcp452@gmail.com.



Veterans Corner

Joe Moore, CHS Class of 1959 and retired U.S. Army Captain, is working toward establishing a CHS US military veterans group to include men and women veterans:

- in all five branches of the military.
- who served on active duty (war or peace time).
- in the reserves here or abroad.
- from all ranks.

Please contact Joe and let him know of your interest including your name, branch of service, where you served, dates of service, duty occupation, and email address. The goal is to develop a CHS veterans database for getting together at the Alumni Gathering on October 15th this year, sharing experiences, and getting to know each other. You can reach Joe at: jdmlr1@comcast.net or call him at: 610-444-2345.

Where Are They Now?

Joseph Carbo, CHS class of 1965, recently retired from the Chester County Sheriff's Office after 13 years. He served in the U.S. Military as an MP from 1965 to 1967, then joined the Tredyffrin Township Police Department, where he worked for 34 years. Joe lives with his wife, Linda (Marlowe, Conestoga 1962), in West Chester, PA. They have two children and five grandchildren.

Conestoga Girls Win Lacrosse Championship!

Under the guidance of coach Amy Orcutt, Conestoga claimed the girls lacrosse state championship for the first time ever, winning 18-7 over Radnor. Radnor upset Conestoga in the district quarterfinals in May but, working closely as a well oiled team, the Pioneers pushed back and would not be denied. Goals: C-Monica Borzillo 4, Sondra Dickey 2, Paige Loose 3, Amelia Kienzle 3, Liz Scott 2, Hannah Ashton 2, Maggie Gladden, Rilee Scott; R-Fallon Quinn 2, Katie Quinn 3, Emily Games 2. Saves: C-Jules Horning 7; R-Alex Solomon 4.

FLITE Marks a Decade of Service

This year is the ten year anniversary for **FLITE** (Foundation for Learning in Tredyffrin Easttown) in the Tredyffrin-Easttown School District. Several of its founders met in 2005 to discuss establishing a non-profit foundation that would impact the lives of kids from pre-school to high school. Launched in 2006, to date the organization has raised almost \$1.4 million to help students increase the quality of their educational lives and assist the TE School District in fulfilling programs needed to further students' academic careers. FLITE currently serves between 300-400 kids every year.

FLITE-funded programs include: After School Homework, College Readiness, Computers for Kids, Kindergarten Enrichment, Preschool Tuition Assistance, Reading Adventure Packs, SAT Prep Support, and Summer Enrichment offerings. The major **FLITE** annual fundraising event is the **Harlem Wizards** basketball game at Conestoga High School. It raises between \$30K-\$40K per year and attracts almost 1,800 kids and parents. For more information about FLITE, please visit www.flite-pa.org.

In Memoriam

Brian T. Kennedy, CHS Class of 2003

Captain Brian T. Kennedy was one of twelve Marines killed in a January 14, 2016 helicopter training accident off the north shore of Oahu. He was a member of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 "Pegasus," based in Hawaii. After graduation from Conestoga, Captain Kennedy attended the US Naval Academy and earned his commission in 2007. He began his career as a CH-46E pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364 ("Purple Foxes") and was deployed with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit to Southeast Asia and the middle east.

He excelled in academics and athletics at Conestoga and is remembered as a natural leader known for his kindness and strength. Brian is survived by his wife, Major Paige Kennedy, USMC currently stationed in Pensacola, FL; and by his parents, William and Linda Kennedy and sister Caitlin Kennedy, of Malvern Pa.

Jim Sanders, CHS Class of 1984

Jim Sanders, a quadriplegic who refused to let paralysis keep him from an independent life, died on May 19, 2016. After graduating from Conestoga he attended Juniata College and Temple University.

A natural athlete, he was injured in a diving accident when he was a student at Temple University. With the help of family and friends, he lived independently for 20 years at Chesterbrook. Using computer skills learned post injury, he established his own web design firm, Onezero Technologies. Jim is survived by his mother; sister, Judith Oglee Sanders; brother, Robert Byron Sanders III; a niece and a nephew.



I am coming to the 2016 TE/Conestoga Gathering!
Starting at 12 noon on October 15th, at Conestoga High School,
200 Irish Road, Berwyn, PA.
Cover charge is \$10 per person.

Name: _____

And I am bringing: _____

Graduate of (circle one): TE Conestoga

Year of Graduation: _____

I am enclosing \$_____ for _____ people.

Please send the attached form, along with your check* to:

TE/Conestoga Alumni Association
c/o Conestoga High School
200 Irish Road
Berwyn, PA 19312

****Please make checks payable to the TE/Conestoga Alumni Association.***

HELP US UPDATE OUR DATABASE

ADDRESS: _____

City: _____ *State _____ *Zip code _____

Country: if outside of USA _____

Email: _____

Home Telephone: (_____) _____

Work Telephone: (_____) _____

Cell: (_____) _____

Elementary school attended _____

Junior High School attended _____

Thank You! We look forward to seeing you in October!