

# COLUMBIA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



## "Message from the Principal" - Mr. Dave Slusher

The 2006-07 school year at the high school has been exceptional; the welcome return of Zach Kanaan as Assistant Principal and the addition of Coley Johnson as Athletic Director has created a positive climate where the needs of students have been well served. Consequently, the number of discipline issues and overall suspensions have been drastically reduced from previous years, and, our athletic administration has been exemplary. As we close the books on this year, my first thoughts are to reflect upon all the positive memories of athletic events, musicals, choir and band performances, drum line, and academic honors. I want to thank the parents and students of the Columbia School District for their positive efforts and support. The Senior Class of 2007 has been strong in academic achievement and positive in display of character; we will miss them. As we look to the new school year, the new Michigan Merit Curriculum and School Improvement seem to be the guiding forces; the incoming freshman class will be challenged like no other; the new mandates are demanding and leave little room for error. In preparation for the implementation, the staff at the high school has spent endless hours of professional development time to ensure that our students are given every opportunity to succeed. We look forward to the challenge and ask parents for academic support. Students who are struggling academically may need to take advantage of tutoring opportunities and supervised after-school study time. Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, August 28th; Freshman Orientation will be at 5:30 and an Open House will follow at 7:00 for all Columbia Central High School Students and Parents, we hope to see you there.

## Spring Musical a Success

By Jeffrey Bush, Reporter

The Columbia Central students put on another great performance in their spring musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. Over seventy-five students and volunteers worked on this year's production, which included an orchestra. For seven weeks they perfected their craft. "I want to complement a terrific student body....How they pulled together," said an excited Mr. Bill Bivins, Director of the play. Mr. Bivins hoped the school would be able to form a drama club within the next year. To better "allow students to be exposed to the arts," he said.

## Co-Valedictorian



Abigail Schonfeld



Christina Dombrowski



Samantha Scouten

## Co-Salutatorian



Jeremy Covell



Nicole Singer



## Taking it to the Lake

By Jeffrey Bush, Reporter

Mr. Scott Dukate's class got some real world experience this past winter. (Like what it takes to catch a meal.) Mr. Dukate took his students on an ice fishing expedition to Lake Columbia to see if the fish were biting. Long before this, however, the kids needed to write a grant request for fishing gear, take a safety test, and above all, complete their homework. Although there were some science and research lessons to be absorbed, the real payoff was the life experiences the students learned. Some of the kids have never held a fishing pole before. And as Mr. Dukate remained optimistic for a pan-fried fish dinner, there was only one fish to show at the first outing. "Another real world experience" in that things don't always go as planned or panned if you will.



## From the Counselor's Office:



Jennifer Andonian

### Class of 2007 DAR Award winner, Jennifer Andonian

In October, Jennifer Andonian was named Columbia Central High School's 2007 senior recipient of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Citizenship Award. Like last year's honoree, Joelle Fundaro, Jennifer was one of three seniors selected by teachers on the basis of character, service, dependability, and leadership. Although the faculty nominated three seniors the national rules instructs that the top three senior vote getters be given to the senior class to select the final honoree. The 2007 faculty nominees were Melissa Hardcastle, Shinichi Rizzo and Jennifer Andonian. From these three candidates, the senior class selected - by private ballot - their choice for this nationally acclaimed citizenship award, the DAR. The faculty nominated twenty-three seniors this year. Since the early '90s with its political correctness, boys can be nominated and named the DAR recipient. Columbia has honored several young men with the DAR recognition.

### Two seniors qualify as Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Finalists

In October, two seniors, Shinichi Rizzo and Joshua Stephenson, qualified as Finalists for the Fiftieth Annual Part II of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC) given in December. Shinichi and Joshua are among the top 1,000 students of 10,000 who took Part I of the MMPC. Part I was a multiple choice exam of forty problems; the one-hour and forty minutes Part II MMPC consisted of "five challenging problems to which the students must provide explanations for their claims and mathematical proofs of their results". The top 100 students were honored at an Awards Day Program in February at Oakland University. The top 50 qualifiers will be awarded scholarships ranging from bronze awards of \$250 to \$2,000 for the first place gold medalist who will be designated the Ford Scholar, a donation by Ford Motor Company. Shinichi Rizzo qualified as a finalist during his sophomore and junior years as well.



Shinichi Rizzo, Joshua Stephenson

### Michigan Promise Grant to replace and exceed Michigan Merit Awards

State Representative Mike Simpson announced the guidelines for the new Michigan Promise Grant outside the Columbia Fitness Center in December. This new scholarship program will replace the current Michigan Merit Awards for students who are graduating beginning this year, June 2007. Governor Granholm signed the bill for the Michigan Promise Grant, which includes:

- \$4,000, up from the current \$2,500, after they complete two years of community college, university or vocational training.
- Students must maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.5 to receive the award.
- The Michigan Promise Grant prepares students for 21st century jobs.
- The grant gives our students the opportunity to earn a college degree, and it will build a stronger and smarter workforce making our state a magnet for 21st century job providers.

Since only 21% of Michigan's high school graduates earn a post-secondary degree from a college, university or vocational school, legislators and educators believe that this new grant will increase the opportunity and means for more students to complete degrees, which, in turn, will increase Michigan's economic outlook. If students attain the benchmark score for MME/ACT Plus Writing assessment, they will receive the \$4,000 during their first two years of college.



All first place ribbons in doubles and singles bowling!! Columbia Central High School Special Education students from Ms. Smith's classroom attended the Special Olympics at Albion College on Friday, April 20th. Pictured from left to right: Ms. Smith (teacher), Ms. Weaver (classroom aide), Joshua Farmer, Amanda Canter, Ben Callison and Steven Moull.