

# BISHOP LUDDEN-GRIMES NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER  
2025

815 FAY ROAD, SYRACUSE, NY 13219



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"Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise."

Psalms 100:4

## WE WILL REMEMBER

This November, as we reflected on the many wonderful things our school has to be grateful for, we celebrated our veterans in a special way. Through the "We Will Remember Project," students received a dog tag of a deceased veteran to remember their lives given in service. Our student body was moved by the opportunity to learn about our veterans in a more personal way, pouring into the library to research their person, inspired by their young lives.

This edition of our newsletter highlights why we at BLG are thankful for our students, staff, and community, as we look back on the events from this month.



*"No one can remember all of the names,  
but everyone can remember one name. And  
if everyone remembers one name, then  
every name will be remembered."*

*– We Will Remember*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Chair:** Daniel T. Gilheny, CPA/CFE

**Vice-Chair:** John Corey

**Treasurer:** Christopher Didio, CPA/CFE

**Secretary:** Christian Day, Esq.

**Superintendent of Schools:** Amy Sansone

**Principal:** Steve Shoults

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Eileen Conboy

Heather Lamendola

Carl Masterpole

Kristen Smith, Esq.

Father Dennis Walker



[WWW.LUDDEN-GRIMES.ORG](http://WWW.LUDDEN-GRIMES.ORG)



**VIRTUAL LEARNING DAY/ PD DAY** DECEMBER 5TH  
**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS** DECEMBER 8TH  
**CHRISTMAS CONCERT** DECEMBER 10TH  
**MISTLETOE DANCE** DECEMBER 13TH  
**CATHEDRAL MASS (GRADES 10-12)** DECEMBER 16TH  
**PENANCE SERVICE** DECEMBER 17TH  
**5 WEEK REPORTS** DECEMBER 19TH  
**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** DECEMBER 19TH  
**CHRISTMAS BREAK** DECEMBER 22ND - JANUARY 2ND  
**NO SCHOOL / MLK DAY** JANUARY 19TH  
**REGENTS EXAMS** JANUARY 20TH - 23RD  
**HALF DAY / CANDELMAS** JANUARY 30TH



## Christmas Dress-Up Days

<b>December 5th</b>	Cozy Sock Day
<b>December 8th</b>	Mass Uniforms
<b>December 16th</b>	Mass Uniforms (Grades 10-12)
<b>December 18th</b>	Ugly Sweaters
<b>December 19th</b>	formal wear/christmas best

## REMINDERS

### Financial Aid

The Financial Aid Application for the 2026-27 school year is officially open!

**APPLY BY FEBRUARY 15, 2026.**

The processing fee is \$45 per family.

Upload your 2024 or 2025 tax returns -- including all supporting tax schedules.

Upload your W2's that match your tax return.

[Apply Here](#)

Contact Maria Petrus Director of Tuition and Financial Assistance at 315-459-7175  
or [mpetrus@syrdiocese.org](mailto:mpetrus@syrdiocese.org)  
if you have any questions.

FACTS Customer Care Representatives are also available to assist you by calling  
866-441-4637 after hours.

## BLG Travel Abroad

2027 SPRING BREAK TRIP TO

# ITALY

### TRIP & ENROLLMENT INFORMATION



[eftours.com/2944191KD](https://eftours.com/2944191KD)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT MIKE DUNHAM  
EMAIL: [MikeD5130@icloud.com](mailto:MikeD5130@icloud.com)  
PHONE/TEXT: 315.480.6025



## In The Classroom...

Mrs. Kelley's seniors, after reading *Beowulf*, created their own depiction of a scene from the book. Mr. Schmidt's IB students traveled to Le Moyne to see their production of *Beowulf* on stage.



## Student Spotlight: Maria Natale

BLG senior Maria Natale was recognized for her extraordinary contributions to her school community by receiving the "Best and Brightest" award. Maria has not only dedicated herself to academics, but actively improves her school by participating in Yearbook Club, Math League, and National Honors Society;



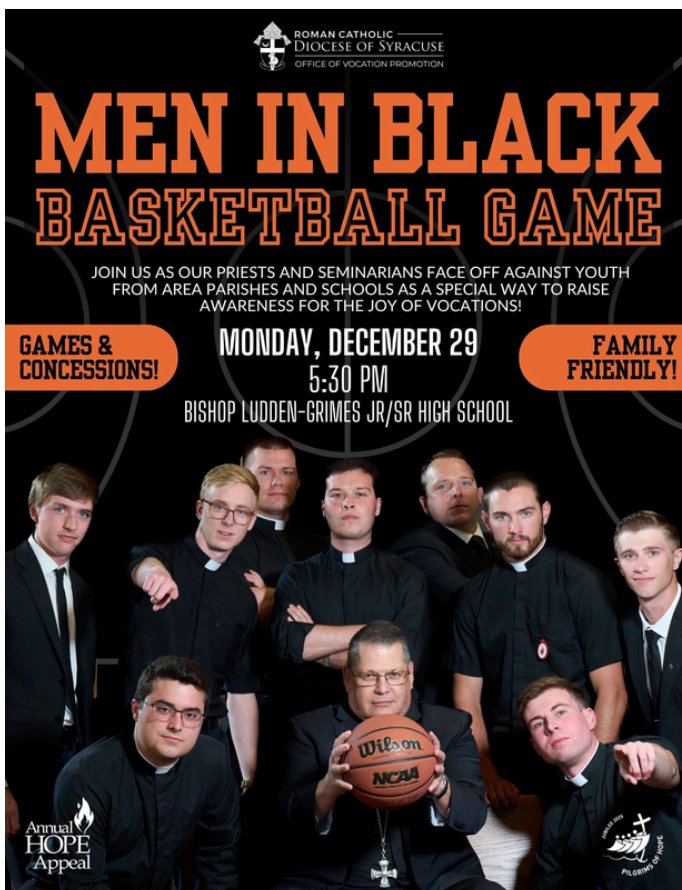
taken on leadership roles as her class treasurer, Morgan's Message chapter head, stage manager, and founder of Psychology Club; is a Varsity tennis athlete; and is an artistic force, painting multiple murals throughout the school, designing creative service opportunities for students, and acting as a social media manager for her clubs. Read Maria's feature article [here](#).



## Discerning our Vocations

On November 2nd, eleven young men from Bishop Ludden-Grimes went to the St. Andrew's Vocation Dinner with Bishop Douglas Lucia. The evening was a truly uplifting experience centered on faith, fellowship, and reflection. Their enthusiasm and witness are a powerful reminder that our Catholic schools are fertile ground for fostering vocations. When young people are formed in faith every day, they begin to see that God has a unique and beautiful plan for their lives. The future of our Church is bright when we accompany our students in discerning God's call with joy and courage!

Let's keep praying for an increase in vocations from our Catholic schools!



## Support our Seminarians!

The Syracuse Diocese "Men in Black" basketball game will take place at BLG on December 29th!

This is a great opportunity to encourage our students to pursue a vocation in the priesthood and get to know our young seminarians.

## Staff Shout-Out

Congratulations to Sister Chris Pologa for celebrating her 40<sup>th</sup> year as a Sister of St. Joseph. Please keep her community in your prayers as they continue their important mission.





BISHOP LUDDEN-GRIMES JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

## IB Diploma Program International Baccalaureate

Dear BLG Community,

We would like to hear from you regarding the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP) at Bishop Ludden-Grimes Jr Sr High School (BLG)

High school academic programs are routinely subject to external accreditation review. IB DP is scheduled for review in 2026. The review is an opportunity to help IB DP grow and flourish for the benefit of BLG students. A site visit from the IB accreditation team will happen next fall.

The IB DP is guided by a steering committee. In step with IB expectations, steering committee membership includes BLG faculty, BLG administration, a current IB DP student, an IB DP parent, and the IB DP Coordinator. In preparation for the IB site visit, the steering committee has designed a brief survey to inform a self-study report. The survey will require less than 15 minutes of your time.

Please share this [survey link](#) with anyone else you think may be interested.

Thank you in advance for supporting the IB Diploma Programme at BLG!

**SCAN THIS CODE  
TO TAKE THE  
SURVEY!**



## Congratulations to our September Students of the month!

Each month our homeroom teachers select a student that best exemplifies the chosen IB Learner Profile to highlight the many different gifts our students bring to our classrooms each and every day. For the month of September we appreciated our inquirers.

### INQUIRERS

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

A graphic featuring a blue silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right. The interior of the head is filled with a word cloud of IB Learner Profile attributes in various colors and orientations. The words include: INQUIRED, KNOWLEDGEABLE, INQUIRERS, RISK-TAKERS, BALANCED, PRINCIPLED, CARING, OPEN-MINDED, REFLECTIVE, COMMUNICATORS, and others. The background is a light blue gradient with the text 'IB learner profile' repeated in a larger, lighter font. In the bottom right corner, there is a circular logo for 'THE IB LEARNER PROFILE' which contains a smaller version of the head silhouette.

## IB learner profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

## Fall Season Wrap Up



**Soccer:** boys varsity soccer finished the season with a record of 15-3-1. They are the league champions and won the Class C Sectional Championship. Girls varsity soccer finished the season with a 10-4-3 record and lost an overtime thriller in the first round of sectional play. Both the girls and boys modified teams went UNDEFEATED.

**Cross Country:** Boys and girls varsity and modified cross country had a very productive season with every runner beating their own personal best times. The boys varsity team finished second in their league.

**Volleyball:** Girls varsity volleyball finished the season with a 15-5 record and were league champions. The JV girls improved a lot this season and some will be expected to bring that success up to the varsity team next season.

**Football:** Varsity football battled all season and made it to the playoffs. The modified team had great improvement throughout the season.

## Sports Schedules

LET'S PACK THE STANDS  
WITH FANS!

### BOYS

Basketball  
Bowling  
Cross Country  
Cheerleading  
Football  
Ice Hockey

### GIRLS

Basketball  
Bowling  
Cheerleading  
Cross Country  
Volleyball



## Fall Cabaret



Congrats to the cast and crew for a fabulous show! We look forward to our first BLG spring musical, *Little Shop of Horrors* (contact the music department for more information)!

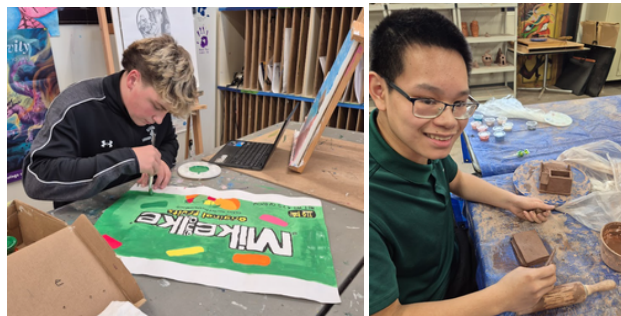
**Seniors:** Meghan Ascioti, Antonio Fletcher, Gabby Kuberski, Gabrielle McIntosh, Ian Mueller, Aiden Ortiz, Julia Ryan, Payton Campbell, and Maria Natale

**Cast:** Sophia Azria, Lillian Baldwin, Adeline Barrette, Lorelei Craner, Alex Gentile, Elaina Hendrick, Trinity Hills, Gabrielle Jones, Tiffany Le, Danielle Magill, Luna Marris, Kaylee Marshfield, Rory Ranous, Jacob Rosier, Marek Solak, Sabrina Stonecipher, and Sierra Tetrault  
**Crew:** Mya Barnaba, Henry Goulette, Daniel Grasselli, Alexander Harrington, Victor Harrington, Isaac Harris, Elizabeth Hughes, Tim Steffen, Naomi Bergh, Olivia Contento, Noah Coppola, Adalena DeFazio, Jeanette DeMaria, Levon Ellingworth, Angelina Harrington, Fiona Kruse, Jasper Kruse, Lily Marris, Ethan McGuire, Riley Milczarski, Avery Muraca, Clara Pieklik, Olivia Pullano, Jobe Rivera, Grace Schremp, Henry Steffen, Sam Zubrzycki

## In The Art Wing...



Mr. Majerus leading our young musicians



Mrs. Henderson's Studio Art students worked on ceramics and POP art



Miss Carter working with the jr. high choir

## Festival of Trees

The Onondaga Free Library's annual "Festival of Trees" raffle is a holiday fundraiser where participants can buy raffle tickets to win a variety of decorated trees. Annually, Bishop Ludden-Grimes creates a simple, religious themed tree for their raffle--always a crowd favorite and reminder of the reason for the season!



## Upcoming Events



**MIDDLE SCHOOL FLL ROBOTICS TOURNAMENT** JANUARY 10TH

**CATHOLIC ONLINE QUIZ BOWL** JANUARY 24TH

**SCIENCE OLYMPIAD REGIONAL COMPETITION** JANUARY 31ST

## Quiz Bowl



BLG middle school quiz bowl stars G Kabulete and Aidan Ewanyk, who was also named tournament All-Star, took four wins against high school teams at the Central New York Fall Kickoff II at Geneva to finish third overall. High Schooler Asimwe Kabulete was named tournament All-Star.

Junior BLG Quiz Bowl stars Mya Barnaba, Alex Ewanyk, and Marek Solak received invitations to NAQT's 2026 Individual Nationals after stellar performances at Saratoga Springs and Plymouth, NH. The extended squad qualified for the 2026 High School National Championship Tournament in Atlanta and the 2026 Small School National Championship Tournament (Open Division) in Illinois.

## Esports



Superstar senior Tony Flethcer is ranked #3 in PlayVS Northeastern Region Chess Solos with an undefeated match record. Seventh grader Dan Monti is #2 in the entire PlayVS Middle School Eastern Region Chess Kids Solos

## Thank You!

We greatly appreciate everyone who bought Christmas candy to support BLG STEM Club. The next fundraiser will be the Easter Gertrude Hawk sale benefiting the Performing Arts and STEM Nationals. Funds raised will be used to purchase equipment and fund travel expenses.





## NovemBEAR

This October, our library theme was *NovemBEAR: Winnie the Pooh*.

We are grateful for all of our gifts this month, including our bravery, strength, and intelligence because we at BLG are "braver than we believe, stronger than we seem, and smarter than we think!" We embraced our creativity by making origami leaves, strengthened our minds with new vocab, listened to Native voices within our literature for Native American Heritage Month, and learned about St. Martin of Tours, the brave patron saint of veterans, for Veteran's Day and All Saints Day.



Visit the [library website](#) to see all the cool things we explored this month!



## America's Favorite Calf

Our students participated in supporting their local community this Election Day by not voting for public offices, but for our favorite dairy cow! Our library-sponsored calf, Lily, won third place in America's Favorite Calf Contest out of 83 participating cows. Students celebrated partaking in the polls with a special Lily "I voted" sticker.

[Visit our website for more!](#)



## IN THIS ISSUE...

### Alumni Spotlight

Grace Fink

*BL class of 2023*

### Reunions

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- BL Class of 1966
- BL Class of 1976

### BLG Giving

*pg. 13*

### In Memoriam

*pg. 14*

- Helen Verchota,  
*Bishop Grimes*
- John Sheridan,  
*Bishop Ludden*
- Alvin Dishaw,  
*Bishop Ludden*
- Rich Mills,  
*Bishop Grimes*

### We want to know!

What are some of  
your favorite BL or  
BG memories?

Share them [here](#)!

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE:  
(315) 579-0061

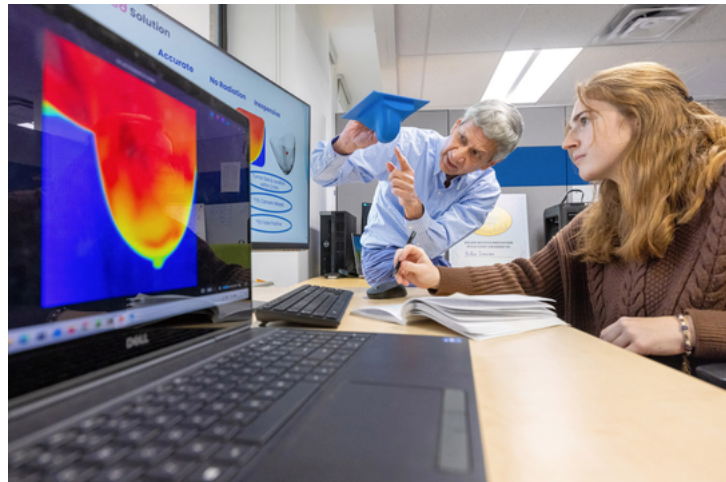
# Welcome and Alumni!

## We're Hiring!

We are currently looking to hire a qualified candidate for **Director of Development** for Bishop Ludden-Grimes. The Director of Development is responsible for overseeing the fundraising initiatives at Bishop Ludden-Grimes and managing relationships with donors and alumni. This role is essential for ensuring the financial health and growth of the institution. The Director of Development plays a crucial role in shaping the fundraising strategy and engaging alumni and the community in support of the Bishop Ludden-Grimes mission.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in applying for this position, please send your resume to [humanresources@syrdio.org](mailto:humanresources@syrdio.org)

## Alumni Spotlight: Sarah Fink, BL Class of 2023



Sarah Fink, a second-year RIT biomedical engineering student, joined the BiRed team as a biomedical research assistant on co-op assignment. BiRed is a company that works to detect the presence, size, and location of tumors for those experiencing breast cancer.

Fink assists with patient imaging and has been trained on both the clinical and technical sides of the research.

"I'm working with AI, software, and mechanical engineers on a biological topic, so by having some expertise as a biomedical engineering undergrad, I'm able to help bridge the biomedical aspects with the technical process as a whole," said Fink.

Read the full article [here](#).

Have throwback photos to share?  
Email them to [akulak@syrdiocese.org](mailto:akulak@syrdiocese.org)

## BISHOP LUDDEN CLASS OF 1976

### 50TH

## CLASS REUNION Invitation mailed in January 2026!

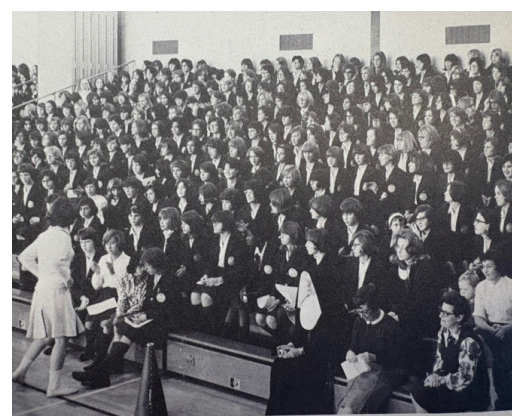
*Check out our class Facebook page for more  
information!*

## BISHOP LUDDEN CLASS OF 1966

### 60TH

## CLASS REUNION Oct 16<sup>th</sup> @ Nibsy's Pub Oct 17<sup>th</sup> @ Tuscarora Golf Club and BLG!

*Invitation will be shared in January 2026!*



# Annual Campaign

During this time of Thanksgiving...

Please remember to make your donation to the Bishop Ludden-Grimes Annual Campaign!

## The Annual Campaign...

- Helps to reduce tuition costs for all students
- Keeps BLG's technology current
- Provides tuition assistance to students who otherwise could not attend Bishop Ludden-Grimes
- Ensures that Bishop Ludden-Grimes is able to attract and retain the best faculty and leadership in their disciplines
- Makes funds available for extra-curricular and athletic activities



*Celebrating our students!*

**YES!** I want to help make a Catholic education a reality for another scholar!

Here is my gift for: ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$  
☐ \$100 per month recurring gift

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT OPTIONS:** Check made payable to Bishop Ludden-Grimes Jr./Sr. High School or scan the QR Code using your smart device to donate online.

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED CARD WITH PAYMENT TO:**

Bishop Ludden-Grimes Jr./Sr. High School • 815 Fay Road, Syracuse, New York 13219

**CONTACT THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AT 315.579.0061  
TO MAKE A PLEDGE TO THE COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN**



## Spring Sweepstakes Announcement

Thank you to Richie Collins and all of our wonderful Spring Sweepstakes volunteers over the past 23 years who dedicated so much time and effort into our annual Spring Sweepstakes. Your hard work provided much needed funds that helped Bishop Ludden to grow and thrive.

After the COVID-19 shutdowns, participation of volunteers and participants has been dwindling. The increase in online gambling has also harmed sales. Therefore, we have decided that it is no longer the best use of our staff and volunteer's time to continue this event.

Instead, we are asking our alumni and donors to help Bishop Ludden-Grimes by donating to our 25/26 Annual Campaign anytime and our Giving Day on and around Tuesday, May 5, 2026. Of course, you may help by donating directly to your favorite club, your favorite Ludden-Grimes sports team or one of our many scholarships.



## **Helen Verchota, Bishop Grimes**



Helen Teresa Verchota, 33, of Rochester passed away unexpectedly on October 20, 2025. She was born in Syracuse and graduated in 2010 from Bishop Grimes High School.

She is survived by her parents, Gregory and Beth Verchota; her sister, Grace Verchota; grandfather in Kentucky; aunts, uncles, and cousins.

She studied at the Eastman School of Music and the University of Rochester.

She loved music, art, and literature. She enjoyed her work as a cook. She loved animals. She knew beauty and strength. She was kind. She was a communicant at Immaculate Conception Church in Fayetteville. She was beloved.

## **John Sheridan, Bishop Ludden**



John P. Sheridan died peacefully surrounded as he lived with love and laughter on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at Elderwood in Liverpool NY after a long battle with dementia.

Upon retirement he spent over 10 years working at Pine Grove Health Club and Golf Course. Passionate about tennis and golf, he was proud of his 7 hole-in ones, and his trips to play golf in Ireland with childhood friends.

He was predeceased by his brother, Billy and his sister, Mary Ellen Morrow.

He is survived by his wife Jeanne, son, Ryan of Marcellus, son, John (Brianne) of Baldwinsville and daughter, Summer (Issouf) Zabre of NYC. He was an incredibly proud grandfather to his five grandchildren, Brayden, Emily, Grady, Raye-Jane and Graye-John. He is survived by his two sisters, Kathleen Thomas, Anne Smith and brothers, TJ and Kevin Sheridan and his brothers in law, John Morrow and Russell Rich.

John was a quiet and kind man with a dry wit and a kind word for all. Raised in the Valley by Thomas and Theresa Sheridan, where John learned the value of hard work. He was a proud graduate of Our Lady of Lourdes Grammar School and Bishop Ludden High School. John entered the Military in 1970 and proudly served his country as a private. He worked for the US Post office for over 40 years and retired as the Manager of the Solvay Post Office.

## **Alvin Dishaw, Bishop Ludden**



Alvin L. Dishaw, 62, of Farrier Ave., Oneida, passed away on Friday, October 17, 2025, at Oneida Health Hospital, where he was admitted three days prior.

He was born on July 12, 1963, in Syracuse, NY, the son of Alvin L. and Mary Louise (Mertell) Dishaw II. He was a graduate of Bishop Ludden High School.

Alvin was previously employed as a truck driver and parts manager.

He enjoyed building and restoring classic cars. He owned a rare 1986 McClaren Capri and use to drag race when he was younger. He had a huge love of music and played the turntables mixing old school hip-hop. He loved boating along with fishing and owned a beautiful boat out on Cayuga Lake. He loved sports, including college basketball and football. He was a huge NASCAR fan and his favorite driver was #23 Jimmy Spencer. Surviving are his children, Alvin Dishaw IV, Christine Dishaw, and Jacque A.P. Dishaw; his grandchildren, Alexander L. Dishaw, Vicent L.M. Temple, and Quinn E. Dishaw; his nephew, Anthony Vincequerra; and his niece, Tracy Peck.

## **Rich Mills, Bishop Grimes**



Richard "Rich" F. Mills, 68, of Liverpool, peacefully passed away on Sunday. He was a 1974 graduate of Bishop Grimes High School.

Rich was predeceased by his parents, Eugene and Helen Mills and his two brothers, David and Randy Mills. He is survived by his daughter, Kristina M. Wescott; his best friend and lover, Jessica Carr; his brother, Eugene Cheryl Mills; his two sisters, Cindy (Alson) Clarke, and Lori (Michael) Fisher; his sister-in-law, Shirley Mills; his three grandchildren, Devin, Troy and Kristian and several nieces and nephews.