



In this issue... politics, sports and more!

BHS Presents *Shrek The Musical*

By Mason DiMauro and Nick Spinali
Redcoat Review Writers

With the help of more than 75 cast, crew, and orchestra members, the Music department presented its annual musical, *Shrek The Musical*, from March 8th to March 10th.

The show was directed by Mr. Tyler Boyle with special assistance from Mr. Jack Rudy, Mr. Chris Dresko, Mr. Michael Bane and senior Joey Kulinski. The production is based off of the Broadway musical and the DreamWorks film *Shrek*. The three sold out shows made for a great audience each night.

The show follows the notorious ogre, Shrek (portrayed by Aidan Rich), and his noble "steed," Donkey (Dawson Trotman), on their journey to return the mystic Princess Fiona (Meghan Fox) to Lord Farquaad (Kyle Parisi) in an attempt to make him a king and to free Shrek's home from the onslaught of Duloc's many fairytale creatures. Along the way, Shrek and Fiona establish what is believed to be true love, which finally becomes reality when the two officially unite.

"I think I can speak for everybody who has seen a show that has really struck a chord with them," Emily Roche said. "It affects people and it makes people really feel emotion altogether. It's just something that bonds a community."



Photo Courtesy of Berlin High School

Roche, who portrayed Pinocchio in the show, added that the diverse cast really energized the production of the show, specifically citing the crew's varying personalities and diverse acting styles as a driving force to make the show stand out.

Working with the production's dancers were choreographers Ms. Zoe Allard and senior Nicole Pinto. Some of the show's most memorable numbers included "I'm a Believer," made famous by the Monkees, as well as "I Know It's Today" and "Big Bright Beautiful World."

From the cast's costumes to the props and set, all of the scenes were

incredibly impressive and were more than deserving of the recognition that they received.

The musical not only serves as a source of entertainment, but it also provides a sense of inspiration. The audience watched as Shrek and Fiona surreptitiously fell in love despite the fact that Shrek is a despised creature in Duloc.

In the end, those who saw the performance walked away with a new sense of self confidence, knowing that it is indeed possible to accomplish what seems to be impossible despite the drawbacks that one's characteristics may seem to cause.

The Hottest Winter in BHS Athletics

By Nick Spinali
Redcoat Review Writer

In theory, the 2018-19 winter sports season should have come and passed similarly to those of the past few years. However, on the heels of a Class M State Championship appearance for the football team in the fall, the winter season proved to be an exceptional following act itself.

In basketball, the boys team were the CCC South Division champions for the first time since the 1970s. Led by seniors Gianni Fanelli, Ryan Hyde and Holden Murphy, the team made an appearance in the CIAC Division III tournament, earning a first round bye. The team played a strong Amistad team in the second round but lost after a solid effort that came up just short.

Meanwhile, the girls basketball team, led by junior Lyzi Litwinko and sophomore Ashley Wenzel, reached the semifinal round of the CIAC Class M

tournament. The girls' season included countless accolades including Coach Sheila King acquiring her 200th career win and Lyzi Litwinko pulling down her 500th career rebound in only her third season with the team.

The girls indoor track sprint medley relay team made an appearance in New York for the New Balance Nationals Indoor early in March. The team, led by Coaches Steve Soucy, Bryan Forman and Chinedu Amonu, consisted of senior Maxine Muscatello, freshman Kylie Gentile and sophomores Noelle Konior and Megan Perrotta. Following a combined time of 4:17.90 in the CIAC State Open Championship to qualify for Nationals, the team ran a combined 4:26.29 in New York to place number 42 in Nationals.

Senior Patty Mroczkowski competed in the Women's High Jump Championship at the National meet. She broke the Class M State High Jump record with a jump of 5-6.25 earlier in



Photo Courtesy of Berlin High School
From left, Noelle Konior, Megan Perrotta, Kylie Gentile and Maxine Muscatello.

the season in a meet at Hillhouse, and she was named the State Open High Jump champion. At Nationals, Mroczkowski set a new personal record with a jump of 5-8.75.

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Hindsight 2020: Democrats Primed to Join Crowded Field to Challenge Trump

By Justin Lamoureux
Redcoat Review Writer

Less than six months after the Congressional Midterms, in which Democrats took control of the House of Representatives in their largest congressional sweep since 1974, the party has fixed its sights on a greater conquest: the White House.



The next presidential election will not occur for nearly two years, but the battle for the Democratic nomination is already underway. According to *Fox News*, sixteen candidates- including a record number of women and minorities- have already entered the race, with several others seriously considering bids.

This is expected to be the most crowded field of candidates in modern history, which includes a record number of sitting U.S. Senators who are actively pursuing their party's nomination for the highest office.

The current roster of declared candidates includes Senators Bernie Sanders of Vermont - who ran for president in 2016, and has since fostered

his own political brand - Kamala Harris of California, and Cory Booker of New Jersey. Also declared is Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, who is making history as the openly gay presidential candidate. Former Vice President Joe Biden, who has been openly discussing a presidential bid since late 2016, also entered the race.

Initially, the party's internal battle over who can best finance their candidacy has been dominated by one candidate: Senator Bernie Sanders. According to *New York Magazine*, Sanders' campaign has evolved into an "early fundraising powerhouse," raising \$5.9 million- more than any other declared candidate- within 24 hours after announcing his candidacy in February. However, Sanders was quickly surpassed by former Texas Congressman Beto O'Rourke. O'Rourke, who raised a record amount of money last year during his unsuccessful senate campaign, raised \$6.1 million during the first day of his candidacy alone.

Interestingly, Sanders and O'Rourke have both sourced an overwhelming majority of their donations from individual donors; Sanders' average donation is \$27- the same as his 2016 campaign- and O'Rourke's is \$47.

Initial statistics are indicative of a nominating contest that is as crowded as it is close. According to a recent poll by

Emerson University, from a national standpoint, Biden and Sanders appear to be in a dead heat with both polling at twenty-six percent. Likewise, Harris, O'Rourke, and Buttigieg are vying for third place, albeit with none polling above fifteen percent.

So who has the best chance of winning the nomination? There are a number of different factors which must be considered when answering this question. If polling - especially coming from early voting states, i.e. South Carolina or Michigan - is the primary indicator, then Biden is the one. However, from a financial perspective, Sanders and O'Rourke - despite the former Congressman's mediocre performance in many polls- both yield a considerable advantage.

Of course, this contest will also have a strong ideological bend. Since their stunning loss in the 2016 presidential election, Democrats have experienced a considerable identity crisis, which many expect will hurt their chances of taking back the White House in 2020.

More than anything else, this will be a question of who best reflects the party's future: a progressive firebrand, which is fueled by big ideas and equipped with an unprecedented grassroots army, or a mainstream pragmatist who approaches politics with a "middle-road" mentality and an appetite for bipartisanship?

Virtual Reality Classroom Gives Students Opportunities to Learn in Unique Way

By John Silva
Special to the Redcoat Review

This year, Berlin High School has a brand new Virtual Reality classroom, located in the Library Media Center's third floor mezzanine. It is available for students to use during classes in order to learn in new and exciting ways.

The main purpose of the Virtual Reality room, or VR room, is to have students learn by doing things that aren't necessarily possible or feasible in real life such as traveling the world or shrinking down to the microscopic level.

Mrs. Niro, the BHS Technology Integration Specialist, says that VR is not just a "textbook where you read the next paragraph and that's the next paragraph," but instead, you can go about your own way of learning in a creative and totally new way.

The VR room is currently mainly used by Science and Art classes. Art teachers have used an application called Tilt Brush by Google, which allows students to treat the room as their canvas. Anatomy and Astronomy classes are

exploring programs where you can go inside a body and look around or explore and manipulate the universe.

Other programs are being researched for use by English, Social Studies, and World Language classes. These programs include things such as touring the Globe Theatre where many Shakespearean plays take place, being a character in Hamlet, or even touring around the entire world with Google Earth.

Right now the VR room is only available to be used by classes, but Mrs. Niro hopes to start to open the room to students who have study halls during periods the room is not booked and eventually open an after school club for students. This would not be strictly for educational purposes, but many games would still involve problem solving aspects such as completing puzzles or escape rooms.

More applications and games are always being explored in order to improve the variety that the room offers as this new technology continues being developed. If you have any programs to suggest, contact Mrs. Niro.



Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Niro

Senior Joey Kulinski spends some time exploring in the new Virtual Reality Room at BHS. The 'VR' Room is located in the Library Media Center on the third floor mezzanine. It is currently being used mainly by teachers in Art and Science.

Faith Shattered But Not Broken

OPINION PIECE

By Mahad Khan
Special to the Redcoat Review

March 15, 2019. Al Noor Mosque and Linwood Islamic Centre in Christchurch, New Zealand would soon become the face of a global tragedy. After that day, everything had changed.



50 lives, taken.
50 lives, wiped off the face of this planet.

50 lives, consisting of well educated doctors, engineers, and leaders in society.

I was not alive at the time of 9/11, so one could assume that I have never been to exposed to such a great level of fear until the day of the shooting. I browsed the internet for the next couple of days to understand why or how such a massacre could occur. It would not have been so horrific if I were not exposed to

the livestream of the shooting filmed by the shooter himself. There laid the bodies of many innocent men, women, and children while one shooter remained standing. The video was so sickening and sadistic.

One of the victims was someone my family knew. My uncle had once met this man. Some of my relatives attended school alongside him. Syed Jahandad Ali. A family man. Logging into Facebook, I clicked on his account and viewed one set of words that aroused goosebumps throughout my body: "Friends 1 Mutual". One dreadful sight. For a victim of one of the biggest mass shootings in the world to be your mutual friend on Facebook. His profile spoke more for his character than anyone could imagine. A truly pious, loving, and educated individual. Having Pakistani roots makes me proud of how he struggled to obtain such a status and how he left behind such an enthralling legacy. It is hard to believe that such a pure soul could be lost in the aftermath of terrorism brewed by a corrupted society. However, there are stories of 49 other lives. One could understand why hate is resonated by incidents such as this that target one specific community

based on either their race, religion, or creed. This attack stuck a dagger into the heart of humanity and brewed mixed emotions of anger and sadness within me and many other Muslims.

However, I realized the shooter's intention was to breed these very radical ideologies by gaining attention. Islam is a religion of peace and love, teaching us that if one were to take a life, it would be as if he killed all of mankind. Love is the solution. Peace is the solution.

Compassion is the solution. The white terrorist agenda as written in the shooter's manifesto is to divide us all through politics, race, and religion. Little do they know that the agenda of pacifism shall prevail over the agenda of violence.

They will never win.

They burn our mosques, we spread more love.

They shoot our people, we spread more love. Some of the victims' families and survivors of the attack have forgiven the shooter for they know that a grudge is too great of a weight to bear. To promote this agenda of peace, I will volunteer at my local charities, and I will be kind to those around me, and I will help others, and I will smile, because that is the simplest act of charity.

Berlin High Recognizes Civic Engagement

By Jack Carroll
Redcoat Review Writer

On Wednesday, March 20th, Berlin High School welcomed the inaugural class for Rho Kappa. This year's class is composed of 24 students, and on the day of the induction ceremony, Speaker of the House Joe Aresimowicz awarded each member with an Official Citation issued by the state's General Assembly.

What exactly is Rho Kappa?

Created by the National Council for Social Studies, an organization founded in 1921 and since has members all throughout the United States, the District of Columbia, and 35 countries, Rho Kappa is the only national council for juniors and seniors that recognizes excellence in the Social Studies.

Believe it or not, the program made its way to Berlin High School through a brochure. Mr. Rush along with Dr. Bosso, both teachers in the Social Studies department, claimed it all began with a brochure: "We were sent a brochure from Rho Kappa and we discussed it in our department meeting, and teachers began to advocate for it to be a part of our school."

In order to become a member of Rho Kappa, students must maintain a GPA of 3.5 on the 4.0 scale for all Social Studies courses, along with a 3.0 overall GPA, complete 4 semesters of a Social Studies course and be on track to



Photo submitted by Jack Carroll

Members of the inaugural Class of Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society pose in the Library Media Center at BHS following the induction ceremony.

complete 6, have demonstrated civic engagement within the Berlin community and high school, and receive a letter of recommendation from one Social Studies teacher (who has taught the candidate in class) as well as one from a teacher, administrator, or community service sponsor.

In addition to Mr. Rush and Dr. Bosso and the program's co-advisors Mrs. Marchetti and Mrs. Wilkosz, various guest speakers were in attendance for the event including Town Mayor Mark Kaczynski, Superintendent Brian Benigni, Board of

Education member Adam Salina, Principal Eileen Eustis, and Aresimowicz.

As noted by the program's advisors Dr. Bosso and Mr. Rush, moving forward, Rho Kappa members are looking to identify future community projects and ensure that the organization continues to be lead by each student's hard work ethic and leadership skills that were responsible for the program's successful establishment at Berlin High School to begin with.

Jack Carroll is a proud member of the inaugural Rho Kappa Class.

Redcoats Change Standard for Future Players

By Jake Holmes
Redcoat Review Writer

The Berlin Redcoats varsity basketball team had a terrific season, finishing 15-8 with a 14-6 regular season record. Fourteen wins does not come often in Berlin basketball, but one could see the potential this team had from the beginning of the season. Proven playmakers like Holden Murphy, Ryan Hyde, and Gianni Fanelli were returning for the Redcoats, and with a talented front court featuring a mixture of Giancarlo Tufano, Alex Halkias, and Jeffrey Madeia, the Redcoats were ready.

The team lived up to their potential as Hyde led the state in assists with eight per game, Holden Murphy was just shy of 20 points and five rebounds a game, and Madeia lead the team in rebounds. Tufano was able to knock down 15-foot jump shots, and Fanelli averaged 18 points and three steals per game to earn Berlin a CCC tournament berth. The CCC features powerhouse teams like East Catholic, Windsor, New Britain, and Farmington. The Redcoats advanced to the quarterfinals despite having the smallest enrollment of all the schools, which really exemplifies how good this team was. Here are several games that proved how great this team was.

Berlin Versus Middletown: January 18th

With Holden Murphy out sick, many wondered who would step up to defeat the Middletown Blue Dragons. Fanelli answered. In a roller coaster of a game, Berlin edged out Middletown by a score of 51-50. There were several lead changes during the game, and Fanelli finished with 29 points. Madeia had a huge game on the boards, totaling 10 rebounds, which resulted in several fast break points. Tufano and Hyde both helped in



Photo Credit: Mrs. Cugno

The boys basketball team had many reasons to celebrate this year.

scoring with 7 points a piece. Camden Murphy erupted the Red Sea with a block in the corner to give the Redcoats much needed energy. With his first varsity start, freshman Michael Ciarcia contributed to the win with two points and the game winning assist.

After a poor shot by Middletown, the Redcoats got the ball back with little time remaining. Fanelli's first attempt was a layup to tie, but the hustle from Madeia paid off as he grabbed an offensive rebound which led to Fanelli's buzzer beater three pointer to knock off the Blue Dragons. The Red Sea stormed the court with an uproar of emotion to cap off an amazing night.

MVP - Fanelli: 29 points, 5 steals, 5 three pointers, 1 buzzer beater.

Berlin Versus Platt: February 16th

The last time the Berlin basketball team won a conference championship was 1974. The number of basketball banners in the gym were limited; that changed when the Redcoats defeated the

Platt Panthers 66-62 to solidify the CCC South division. Berlin had lost to Platt early in the season, and this win exemplified the change of this team for the second half of the season. These players will remember the fact that they made history for their school by ending a 45 year drought. During this game, the Redcoats had a commanding first quarter lead but lost it in the second quarter getting out-scored 19-8.

However, a strong start to the second half provided another lead for Berlin, and they were able to limit Platt's attempt of a comeback in the fourth. This win was lead by Hyde's distribution, totaling a staggering 13 assists. Holden Murphy had another 20 point outing with Fanelli bringing in 25 points.

Once again, the two scoring machines showed how lethal they can be on the offensive side of the ball.

MVP - Holden Murphy: 20 points, 7 rebounds, 8-8 free throws, 1 block.

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Winter Sports Season Among the Best

Continued from page 1

Following the spring track season, Mroczkowski will be a jumper on the track and field team at UConn. Other seniors departing include Muscatello, Alexa Monroe, Madison Monroe, Julia Ladd, Victoria Santiago, Carly Urso and Lindsay Walsh.

This year, the boys indoor track team appeared in meets at Hillhouse but fell just short of qualifying for the State Open. Also coached by the trio of Soucy, Forman and Amonu, they were led by seniors Colin Asklar, Jack Crowley, AJ Khan, Ben Labadia, Josh Ladd and Jimmy Grieco. Other standouts from this year's meets include Chris Bantle, Zach Cancellieri, Ben Fischer, Tim Lewis, Ryan Munch, Michael Parzych, Tyler Rice and Nick Spinali.

The wrestling team wrapped up a strong season by appearing in the CIAC Class M tournament. The team had one first place winner, one second place winner, and one third place winner,



Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Veleas

From left, seniors Sebby Malespini, Dan Veleas and Max Schlein

totaling 82 points and a 13th place finish. Senior Sebby Malespini took third place in the 170 pound bracket, with senior Max Schlein placing second in the 220 pound bracket, and senior Dan Veleas being named the Class M State Champion for the 145 pound bracket. This was the third straight Class M championship for Veleas, who also placed second in the State Open.

The boys swim and dive team was named CCC South champions this year

after placing first in the CCC South Divisional Meet. The team, coached by Daniel and Eileen Thurston, was led by captains Kurt Bauer, Aaron Gauvin, Connor Reck and Andrew Roberti. The team advanced to the CIAC Class M Finals and set a new school record in the 200 free relay with a time of 1:31.47, good enough for 6th place. The girls swim and dive team was led by captains McKenna Evans, Nadia Humen, Gabby Pattavina and Alina Whiteside.

And finally, the boys hockey team recorded an outstanding regular season to finish third out of sixteen qualifying teams in the CIAC Division III rankings, finishing 15-5. In the first round of the CIAC Division III tournament, the boys crushed a strong Trinity Catholic team 9-0 and advanced to meet Tri-Town, which they beat 3-2. The team was eliminated in the semifinal round after a well fought battle against the Lyman Hall/Haddam-Killingworth/Coginchaug squad with a final score of 4-3.

BHS Youth and Government Club Participates in YMCA State Conference

By Jack Carroll
Redcoat Review Writer

Youth and Government is a YMCA nationally-ran program that provides high school students all across the country with an insight into how the government functions at the local, state, and international levels.

This is anything but a boring tour to the state Capitol, where students follow a mundane tour guide who ends the trip with a discount to the food court. Oh no, it is very far from this.

Each year students in Youth and Government, from participating schools all throughout the state, get to develop a bill that addresses a current issue at the state level. A bill could address funding to a certain state-run program, an Amendment to the state Constitution, transportation laws, marriage laws, and the list goes on.

Prior to the three-day trip to the Capitol, where students from all over Connecticut present and try to successfully pass their bills in the House and Senate floors, pre-states are held a few months before the actual conference to provide delegates with constructive feedback to help them better develop, prepare, and present their bills.

This year, the following BHS delegates were in attendance for both pre-states at Platt High School and the State Conference at the Capitol: Senators Ryan McGowan, Dawson Trotman (Governor's advisor), and James Michael Grecio III (Co-committee chairperson); Representatives Nadia Humen, Lucas



Photo credit: Mrs. Downey

Berlin High School delegates pose in the Connecticut House of Representatives on March 23rd during a field trip to the State Capitol.

Impelluso, Jack Carroll, Anna Sarrazin (Co-committee chairperson), Madhav Patel, Emma Roski (Co-committee chairperson), Kat Geschimsky, and Hannah Smolicz.

This year, Berlin High School delegates presented a diverse collection of bills ranging from early voting restrictions, substance abuse and opioid overdose protection, raising the marriage age to prevent coercion, and physical force as a form of self defense to redistricting, physical education requirements within public schools, and to assessing the future financial potential

of CTfastrak. On the final day of the State Conference, awards were presented to delegates who showed an exemplary performance in open-debate and bill-writing, and the official, high-ranking positions for the following year were announced as well.

In addition to receiving an award for the best bill, as far as structure and its resemblance to ones that are passed in the state House and Senate, Trotman was sworn in and will be next year's official Governor for YMCA Youth and Government in the state of Connecticut.

Jack Carroll is an active member of the Youth and Government Club at BHS.

Seniors Gear Up For Capstone

By Samantha Goode
Redcoat Review Writer

On December 18, Berlin High School seniors were filled with enthusiastic energy as they presented their Capstone projects to an audience of peers, parents, and community members. The seniors presented their Capstone projects during and after school and displayed their learning by fielding questions at a designated table space set up to showcase their research-based topics.

During their senior year, students take a half-year Capstone class, which provides support for their presentations. Students apply many of the research and presentation skills acquired throughout their high school years when developing an engaging presentation on the topic of their choice. This sense of independence is encouraging for students who will be leaving for a career or secondary education soon.

There are also important skills that are learned through this course that will be necessities in the workplace. For example, students have the opportunity to present information in compelling ways instead of

just reading text off of a slide. Some topics include the teen mental health crisis, such as the research presented by Emma Klepacki, and the color of hospital rooms and its overall effect on patients as presented by Abby Wendehack.

"I finally got to do a research project that I was genuinely interested in, and I got to help out the community while doing so," Wendehack said. She also made toy kits and donated 10 of them to the Hospital For Special Care in New Britain through the BHS Red Cross club.

Katie Rochette, who presented on mental health education in elementary schools said, "It was eye opening to see what Berlin elementary students knew about mental health!"

Students are looking forward to seeing the presentations for Semester 2 students, supporting a friend or sibling or even taking the class itself. The students tend to enjoy this project due to the independence and a genuine interest in the topic they choose.

The date for the Spring Capstone presentations is May 23rd, and we're excited to see this group of students and their topics.

MEET OUR STAFF JOIN OUR TEAM

The *Redcoat Review* newspaper club includes a variety of writers, editors and graphic designers. Students may choose to contribute regularly or simply submit a special one-time report. In this issue, we feature articles from students in the Journalism course taught by Mrs. Glass. Students do not have to have experience in newspaper writing or reporting to join.

In this issue, the following students contributed: juniors Jake Holmes, Jack Carroll and Justin Lamoureux; sophomores Nick Spinali, Sam Turgeon, Tyler Rice, Mason DiMauro, Samantha Goode and Gina Scalero. Senior Jack Melville assisted with editing and revising.

We will be holding a final meeting of the school year to discuss next year. Any student interested in becoming more involved is welcome to attend. We work virtually through Schoology and welcome new members. Any questions, please see Mrs. Glass or Mrs. Rice.



Spring Sports Season Underway at BHS

By Nick Spinali and Mason DiMauro
Redcoat Review Writers

Spring is here, and it's grind time for spring sports. Berlin High School's spring lineup includes baseball, softball, lacrosse, tennis, outdoor track, and golf, all of which help students be active.

Track and field is a sport that includes athletic contests primarily based on the skills of running, jumping and throwing. Track is more of an individual sport where one challenges themselves against the clock. When participating in an event, there are points that will contribute to the whole team at the end of the meet. Track and field impacts athletes mentally, physically, and emotionally and shows them that they're capable of great things with hard work and discipline. For example, running and jumping help develop muscles which make it easier to maintain good balance. Having good body balance makes it easier to move and helps prevent injuries. BHS track and field is notorious for many athletes who work hard and excel in their events. Last year, Alex Halkias broke a record at BHS for the 200 meters reaching. The 2019 track and field season should be a great year of potentially more record breakers for the school.

Lacrosse, a team sport that is fast paced and extremely aggressive with physical contact, dates back to the seventeenth century. Players use the head



Photo Courtesy of Mr. Rossi

The BHS Boys Lacrosse team is excited to build upon the success from last year.

of the lacrosse stick to carry, pass, catch and shoot the ball into the goal. Last year the BHS varsity team went 14-4. Cole Primo, one of the varsity players, is very excited for this season.

"I am feeling really good this season because we have a lot of guys on the team that are good but they also have a lot of respect for the team and the teams we play," Primo said. With the 2019 lacrosse season underway, it looks like they are going to have a great year.

The boys tennis team is playing its first season without long-time coach Mr. Rex Smith who passed away in early November 2018. The boys team is currently coached by Mike Flannery.

The girls tennis team is coached by Andrew Thurston, who said that the team

is off to a good start this year.

"We have battled through some tough opponents including a thrilling match against Simsbury that came down to the very last point," Thurston said. "We hope to use our great depth to keep [our] momentum going against our divisional foes."

The girls golf team is lead by captain Bridget McQuillan. So far in the season, their record is 2-1. Jessica Nappi is feeling a lot of good vibes and hope towards her team for the season.

"This year is going to be fun and I feel like our team has a lot of potential to make it to states," Nappi said.

The boys golf team is off to a 9-1 start.

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Boys Basketball Season to Remember

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Berlin Versus Middletown: February 18th

Fanelli once again shattered the hearts of the Blue Dragons at the buzzer. This game was oddly similar to the first one. The only differences were the court: Holden Murphy on the floor for Berlin, Donte Pope on the floor for Middletown (Junior transfer that did not play in the first game), and much more on the line. It was simple. If Middletown lost this game, their season was over. In a back and forth game, Berlin needed a buzzer beater layup by Fanelli to cap off a thrilling game. In this game, Fanelli had a lot of help from Holden Murphy, totaling 20 points and 4 rebounds. This game also saw Tufano step up in a major way; his 15 points and 5 rebounds were influential in the win for Berlin. One of the most memorable moments was Ciarcia hitting a three that cut the lead to 2 with close to a minute left to play. This shot impacted the energy, momentum, and confidence for the Redcoats. Then, Fanelli in transition stuck the dagger in Middletown and stripped them of any chance of entering the playoffs.

MVP - Fanelli: 17 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals, 1 buzzer beater

Berlin Versus Shelton: February 19th

It was senior night for the Redcoats, and after a huge win the night before at

Middletown, their momentum carried over. Fanelli totaled 34 points to lead the Redcoats over the Gaels. Due to a commanding first half lead, the Redcoats managed a win after a big second half from Shelton. This stems from the leadership and play of Hyde, the captain. The ideal team player, Hyde demonstrated his playmaking abilities, totaling 8 assists and 12 points. Just shy of two assists to get the double double, this stat line exemplifies the type of player Hyde is. He was able to get guys open and create a shot in the lane for himself at all times. Holden Murphy had another regular outing with 17 points, 4 rebounds, and 5 assists.

Before the game, the Redcoats celebrated with coach Mike Veneziano, giving him a poster that read, "CCC South Division Champions Men's Basketball 2019." The smiles on the faces of the players and coaches said it all. After a long 45 years, Berlin was able to enjoy a CCC South Division Championship. However, the players did not do this all by themselves. The coaching staff of Mike Veneziano, Daron Ayotte, and Kevin Stritch were able to control, help, and better this team in all aspects. This was perfectly displayed on senior night against the Shelton Gaels.

MVP - Fanelli: 34 points, 5 rebounds, 2 steals, 1 assist

Berlin Versus Southington: February 21st

When Holden Murphy hit a three pointer to take the lead with a minute left, he showed he had ice in his veins. Holden Murphy was able to create shots all over the court, scoring 18 points on 5 field goals. The Redcoats were down 18 to 6 in the first quarter, and it looked ugly. Forcing terrible shots, not rebounding the ball, and giving up costly turnovers made the outcome appear to be in Southington's favor. However, as the first quarter went on, the Red Sea grew. Mind you, this was an away conference tournament game. This should have supported the Blue Knights, but the students of Berlin traveled extremely well and basically gave the Redcoats a home game. Berlin ended up going on a run to end the second quarter, which gave the Redcoats a glimpse of hope going into the half. The third quarter saw a stalemate with both teams scoring 18 points. However, Berlin exploded in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Blue Knights 18 to 3. Berlin won the game, and the student section stormed the Southington court, which was one of the most memorable moments of an already memorable season.

MVP - Holden Murphy: 18 points, 7-8 free throws, 6 rebounds, 5 assists, 2 blocks, 1 steal, 1 three pointer to take the lead with 1 min. left

BHS Named A Gold Standard School

By Sam Turgeon
Redcoat Review Writer

Berlin High School was recently named a Gold Standard school by Next Gen Personal Finance. Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF) is a non-profit organization that prepares students for the future by offering classes in Personal Finance. The Gold Standard is the highest rank that can be given to a school within NGPF's school search tool, which ranks schools based on their Personal Finance programs.

When asked about the benefits of Finance classes, BHS Personal Finance teacher Mrs. Nelson said, "Sending kids out into the real world without a Personal Finance 101 doesn't make any

more sense to me than letting a 16 year old get behind the wheel of a car without taking a Drivers Ed class."

One of the main goals of high school is to prepare students for the future, and Personal Finance classes help educate students on one of the most important areas of life: money management. Personal Finance class has recently become a graduation requirement for students in BHS. This is very much in line with the goals of NGPF as they hope to provide every student in America with a high quality Personal Finance course. In addition to encouraging the introduction of Personal Finance courses in schools, NGPF also provides resources and materials that help teachers create

curriculum that is most meaningful for students, covering topics such as taxes, insurance, investing, credit management and future career options.

"Personal Finance encourages students to understand the ins and outs of having a job by [teaching skills such as] efficiently budgeting earnings and using various methods to plan ahead," stated Connor Berardi, a sophomore in Personal Finance class.

NGPF's website states that their mission is to have 100% of students receive "guaranteed access to at least one semester of Personal Finance instruction before graduation" by the year 2030.

Mason DiMauro and Nick Spinali contributed to this article.

Students Experience Upbeat Weekend

By Gina Scalaro
Redcoat Review Writer

On March 15th, 16th, and 17th, the Berlin Upbeat program went up to Camp Woodstock to partake in another successful Advanced Peer Leadership Weekend. Around 60 students involved in the program dedicated three days of their time to better themselves as student leaders and public speakers. Students participated in a variety of workshops throughout the weekend to advance their skills and awareness regarding speaking in front of large crowds.

On the first night of the weekend, Mrs. Amenta presented a lesson on public speaking to kick off the activities. During her workshop, she encouraged students to break out of their shells, especially the underclassmen, and to interact with other grades to help increase their confidence. This was an excellent way for everyone to feel comfortable with each other for the rest of the weekend, and it was very enlightening to hear the input of an eloquent public speaker.

Another highlight of the weekend was the Speech-Off that was held on Saturday night. Students were able to use all of their prior skills from the previous workshops to help with their public speaking. Depending on the grade level, each student was tasked with creating a speech of a certain length on the spot in accordance to a prompt and deliver it to a portion of their peers and teachers. There were some really difficult prompts ranging from what the acronym PTO could stand for to what life as a doorknob is like, which really got students thinking.

Once everyone finished delivering their speeches, they received feedback from the adults at the workshop.



Photo Submitted by Gina Scalaro

Students then held a vote in order to send four people into the Speech-Off later in the evening. Juniors Anna Sarrazin, Dawson Trotman, and Alex Zawadzki and sophomore Gina Scalaro composed the four finalists. Each gave a two minute and thirty second speech in front of the whole camp about a moment or experience that impacted their life. Each finalist delivered a very well-spoken speech, but Dawson Trotman won over the judges, allowing him to place first.

In order to work on some other leadership skills, students came together to plan a lesson that they will soon deliver to either fourth or fifth graders of Berlin about topics such as empathy and respect. Students were tasked with coming up with an action plan of how they would execute and organize these lessons and reach out to teachers from the elementary schools themselves. These groups are currently working on the final stages of their lessons and working with teachers to finalize all of the details.

The juniors were truly showcased on this weekend since they planned a variety of activities that took place and helped take charge during other activities. This catalyzed the transition

of the juniors becoming the future leaders of the program for next year and also helped the juniors get a taste of what having more responsibility in the program is like. The seniors were able to take a step back on this weekend and take in one of their last weekends before graduation. They also were able to give very valuable insight on their leadership roles in the program for underclassmen, especially juniors, aspiring to take on a larger role in Upbeat. The house leaders spoke to what their role in Upbeat consists of and how it's a great way to get more involved in the program. Along with them, the coordinators -- Christian Damiana, Maya Patel, Suhanee Patel, Nicole Pinto, and Aidan Rich -- shared with students the many benefits that come with the job of a coordinator as well as what being a coordinator entails.

Overall, this year's March Weekend was a huge success. Being a part of the Upbeat program and participating in the weekends truly allows students to feel as though they have a safe place at the school where they can always build new friendships.

Without the Upbeat program and all that it does, a vital part would be missing in our community here at Berlin High School.



Missions Trip to Honduras Life Changing

By Rachael Meade

Special to the Redcoat Review

March 18th through 25th was a life changing week for me. I've always known I wanted to enter the medical field, but now I'm absolutely certain of it because of my visit to the country of Honduras. For that week, I went with my church on a missions trip to serve the people of Guaymitas, Honduras.

Part of our team of 21 consisted of 4 nurses who had come with us to meet basic needs, administer medicine and treatment, and show love to the people of Guaymitas. When one woman, easily over 60 years of age, walked a full hour and a half just to come to our free clinic, my heart was broken and full at the same time. I saw the light in her eyes as she was tended to by these nurses, and I realized that I have a purpose to serve others who need it most.

Another woman who came to our free clinic left a lasting impression on me. Though I don't know how far she traveled, I will never forget that she did not know how old she was. When the nurses asked her for her age, her reply was, "I don't know." My heart was broken again. Here I was seeing the needs of people who don't have the blessings we do in America.

The first day being back in the US was extremely hard because throughout the trip, my eyes were opened to how truly blessed I am to have a roof over my head, clean water, healthcare, a beautiful school, and so much more.

The blessings we have in America go far beyond our basic needs. Americans don't realize how lucky they are to turn



BHS Senior Rachael Meade takes a selfie with her teenaged students during a mission trip to Honduras.

on a faucet and have clean, healthy running water to use. They don't realize how privileged we are to have cars and drive on paved roads everywhere we go. Americans are incredibly privileged and blessed, yet so many have the audacity to complain about the taste of their water, the fact that their car makes a funny noise, or the fact that they don't have the latest and greatest possessions. It is inflaming that Americans complain about not having enough when they have above and beyond what they need. It is this abundance that has changed my heart toward and for others forever.

The people of Honduras were the most joyful, content, and happy people I have ever met in my life, and yet most of them have next to nothing. Everyone

was smiling and so beyond kind. It didn't matter that there was a language barrier between me and them; I could feel the love through their smiles and hellos. The trip to Honduras was metamorphic for me, and it is pivotal for others to understand that they as Americans are blessed beyond measure.

The next time that you decide to complain about the taste of your water or the fact that you don't have the most recent iPhone, think about all that you do have and how blessed you truly are. There are people in the world who are in true poverty and only dream of having the blessings Americans do.

You are privileged. Appreciate the blessings that you have been given.

Mr. BHS Talent Show Deemed a Success for the Class of 2019

By Angela Perrelli

Special to the Redcoat Review

There was a sizeable turnout in the Berlin High School Auditorium on the evening of Sunday, March 31st as family and friends gathered to watch the Mr. BHS Talent competition.

Competitors included seniors Kyle Muller, Kyle Chant, Daniel Veles, Giancarlo Tufano, Aiden Rich, Jack Melville and Alex Halkias. The show consisted of questions, talent competitions, and challenges, all in support for the Class of 2019's All Night Graduation.

The competition started with a comedic walkout to music as each member of the show was escorted by a girl of their choice, which was soon followed by each competitor performing a dance. The host of the night, Mr. Pires, asked questions about each member of the show as they gave an introduction of themselves to the audience.

The show then went on to a beach

scene where each member of the show was asked a question and competed for the best answer.

From there, talent competitions began; the competitors sang, danced, performed magic, and even accepted some random challenges to showcase their skills.

Chant's comedic magic and singing combination rang in as the highlight of the night, winning him a hardy third place. Chant said, "It was a great experience performing in front of our peers."

Throughout the show, Muller proved to be the superior competitor with his constant humor and top notch answers in response to the questions he was asked, which won him first place and the title of Mr. BHS for the Class of 2019.

Muller stated, "It was a fun and exciting experience that I was happy to be a part of. Once [I got] over the fear factor, it was a smooth show that I'd do again."

You heard it right here from our very own Mr. BHS -- this year's show was a definite success!



Photo Courtesy of Berlin High School

This year's Mr. BHS Talent Competition was another fun event, thanks in part to Senior Kyle Muller who won the first place prize.

Band and Chorus Perform in Disney

By Justin Lamoureux
Redcoat Review Writer

Members of the Berlin High School band and chorus recently had an opportunity to kick off their spring break with a trip to Disney World.

Students traveled to the renowned resort for several days in early April, enjoying visits to all four theme parks: Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Hollywood Studios, and Animal Kingdom. Each day was very long -- often involving many hours in the parks -- but the sunny weather and warm temperatures more than compensated for the packed schedule.

Most importantly, both the band and chorus were able to utilize their musical talents by participating in workshops run by Disney cast members with experience in the performing arts. Both workshops provided students with hands-on training in a studio environment; they sang (and played) music featured in various Disney films, ultimately recording their finished

products and uploading them to footage from actual movies. Each group also had an opportunity to perform publicly at Disney Springs, the resort's main shopping and entertainment complex.

One noteworthy aspect of the trip was the size of the crowd. Between the band, chorus, and color guard, 116 students traveled to Disney World. Besides Mr. Dresko and Mr. Boyle, six faculty members- Mr. Rudy, Mrs. Eustis, Mrs. King, Miss Johnson, Mr. Forman, and Ms. Portal- went on the trip as adult chaperones. Their responsibilities involved supervising student activities and providing groups with assistance when necessary.

The journey was certainly exhausting for everyone who went and involved many long days, as well as several (exceptionally) long nights. Nevertheless, it was a truly unforgettable experience, which provided people with a unique chance to view the "most magical place on earth" from a different perspective!

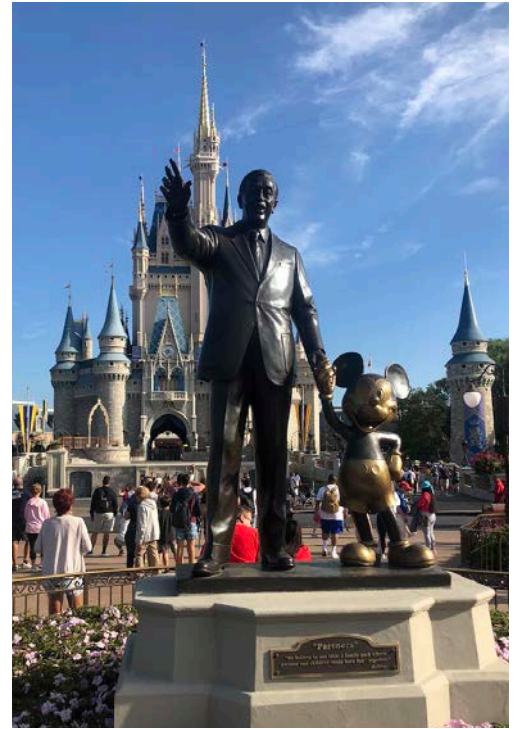


Photo credit: Justin Lamoureux
Students from BHS enjoyed Spring Break in sunny Orlando, Florida this year.

Spring Sports in Full Swing

Continued from page 6

They are ranked #3 in Division 2 and in the top ten in the state, according to boys golf coach John Line.

"We just beat Glastonbury and Farmington - 150 - 165 - 167," Line said. "It was the best performance by a Berlin team in recent memory. This group has great chemistry." The team is led by seniors John Downes, Matt Czerepuszko, Mike Lamoureux, Paul Califiore, and sophomore Jacob Lindsay.

Led by Hall of Fame coach Leo Veleas, Berlin can expect another solid campaign from their baseball team in 2019. Looking to build off of a solid 2018, the team features many old and new faces. In order to be successful, the newcomers will need to be key

contributors on both offense and defense.

On the other side of the fence, the softball team is led by Coach Jason Pires. The team will turn to their youth in hopes of competing for a conference championship in 2019. Many of the team's returning players were underclassmen in 2018, and the hope is that these players can use their exposure to the competition to improve on their game in 2019.

Sports are a good way to bring people together and cause them to treat one another like a family and with respect. Sports also bring out the best in people either by causing them to play their heart out for the game or finding their full potential with a sports-related skill.



Photo Credit: Mrs. Miller

AP Studio Art Students from left: Meghan Fox, Jenny Lin, Ishanee Patel, Alex Dumas, Rebecca Stanton, John Gagliardi, Matthew Bacon, Sofia Sierra, Benjamin Labadia, Lillian Bierwirth, Annie Sznaj, Sophia Dombrowski and Jazmine Rivera. Not pictured: Bo Dehm Wicklund.

The Berlin High School AP Studio Art Students will be having their Opening Reception on Wednesday, May 8th from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Art League of New Britain, located on 30 Cedar Street, New Britain CT 06052-1381. Other viewing hours include Friday, May 10th 1-4 pm, Saturday, May 11th 1-4 pm and Sunday, May 12 from 1-4 pm.

MODEL UN CLUB

By Jack Carroll
Redcoat Review Writer

On November 30th and December 1st, Berlin High School was in attendance for the "World Affairs Council of CT: 2018 Model United Nations" at the University of Hartford. The conference began with registration and a special welcome from the University of Hartford President Gregory S. Woodward. From there, students were split up into our committees with other delegates from schools all over Connecticut.

The Model UN Committees include Disarmament and International Security, Economic and Financial, Social, Humanitarian and Cultural, United Nations Environmental Programme, Special Committee-70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Historical Committee, UNICEF, IMO, WHO, and Security Council. All committees worked to complete a certain objective through debate, teamwork, and creativity.

I was a part of Committee 5, and by the end of the two day conference, we had to successfully make a revision or develop an alternative draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In an alignment with North Korea, Egypt, Libya, and a surplus of other countries, we proposed a copy that, in short, recognized and respected the unique cultural differences of each country.

For example, article 3 of the revision called for "adequate housing for all" as dictated by the laws of the government. Other rights such as freedom of speech or an education were also dependent on the laws and beliefs of a particular nation. The new UDHR we cosigned excelled in eliminating a western bias that the original UDHR has been criticized for in the past.