



Students Organize Successful Forum

By Lindsey Leary
Redcoat Review Writer

On Wednesday, October 13, the Berlin High School Debate and Youth and Government clubs hosted a public forum for the candidates running for Berlin's Board of Education. The students in both clubs worked collaboratively to develop questions for the candidates, with the goal of connecting students with those in charge of the decisions that govern students' lives, as well as informing Berlin voters about the candidates.

Mrs. Pamela Hamad, the advisor of both clubs, was present to host the event and aid the students.

Four of the ten candidates running - all of whom were former or current members at the time - Julia Dennis, Tracy Sisti, Mark Pruzin, and Matthew Tencza, were present at the forum, while the other six submitted brief messages for the audience, detailing their platform and background. Audience members in the Berlin High School auditorium included Berlin students, parents, teachers, and administrators.

The forum began with students outlining the expectations and guidelines: candidates in person would all be asked the same number of questions, though not each candidate would be asked each question; each candidate was given one minute for their response; there was to be no dialogue between candidates; and each candidate was given the opportunity for closing statements.

The questions, all designed by the students, varied in topic, ranging from the budget to equity within schools to the ongoing pandemic.



Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Hamad

Tamarah Al Mozani and Emily Kobus pose questions to the candidates during the Board of Education forum in October.

An example of one question posed to Dennis and Tencza asked them what they felt were the most pressing priorities at each specific school. Dennis shared that she felt it is important as a board member to "... get out in the buildings to meet with the school administrators and the teachers and see what those needs are first hand so on [her] end [she] can work to advocate to fulfill those needs."

Tencza echoed those thoughts, stating that it is necessary to "...take a look at what those schools look like, what work they need in order for them to be a good learning environment for the students."

Candidates were also asked their opinions on the role of social justice and equity initiatives within our school system. Pruzin described his time serving on the social justice and equity subcommittee of

the Board, stating that "...we have to be sure everybody is treated equally."

Sisti was asked how the Board can best ensure that all students are offered an equitable education. She first shared that it is extremely important that all BHS students feel safe and important in their schools, and then described that they must be given "...the tools that they need to succeed and enter the ever-changing world."

On election day, Tencza, Dennis, Sisti, Adam Salina and two new members, Melissa Gibbons and Gina Nappi, were elected for the next term.

This forum was a wonderful opportunity for those running to publicize their ideals, platform, and goals. The students at BHS wish the board members the best of luck as they serve the students, educators, and parents of the Berlin community.

Theater Returns with Stellar Production of *A Voice In The Dark: A Salem Story*

By Dan Lamoureux
Redcoat Review Writer

The Berlin High School Music and Theatre Arts program successfully put on their first in-person play since 2019.

On November 12 and 13, the Berlin community enjoyed a production of Elizabeth Downing's *A Voice In The Dark: A Salem Story*.

The spectacular cast of performers included: Madelyn Carlson, Ishani Patel, Calvin Delude, Achilles Niecikowski, Brynn Nogiec, and Ruth Brown. Seniors Emily Roche, Noah Miller, Laura Sarrazin, and Kylie Bacon all gave spirited performances in their headlining roles as well, making the most of the last play to be held during their time at BHS.

"I always love putting on the play, and we all always love putting it on," Bacon said. "It's definitely bittersweet for it to be over."

Miller reflected on his final play at BHS, where he played the leading man.

"I can't control it, but it's going to happen," Miller said. "All I can do is enjoy the precious time I still have left."

A Voice In The Dark is a drama set during the Salem Witch Trials. The plot focuses on a property dispute between Thomas Putnam (Delude) and Francis Nurse (Miller) that becomes the catalyst for serious accusations against the Nurse family. The cast delivered this serious story with conviction, always making the characters' actions and emotions feel real and tangible. This feeling of immersion was supported by the work of the ensemble.

Throughout the play, these performers helped make Salem come alive by providing the audience with a tangible representation of the mob, an integral piece of the story.

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Supreme Court Revisits 2nd Amendment

By Ian Saunders
Redcoat Review Writer

For the first time in over a decade, the Supreme Court of the United States revisited the Second Amendment last month in a series of deliberations. This action was due to a recent case presented by the New York Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. over Penalty Law 400 passed in New York and effective on January 1st of 2021.

The Second Amendment allows United States citizens to ‘bear arms,’ which means to own and carry firearms. As a result of increasing political strain in the United States, focus has shifted to the Second Amendment and the more specific rights it grants that were not explicit when the Bill of Rights was created.

The case *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Inc. v. Bruen*, which was first argued on November 3rd, 2021, argued against a new law passed by New York. The law requires a person to be of “good moral character,” and have a justifiable cause to be granted the privilege of carrying a concealed handgun intended for self-defense. A license has to be issued at the local law enforcement’s discretion before people can legally carry in all public places.

Two individuals, Robert Nash and Brandon Koch, each members of the New York gun advocacy group, applied to carry handguns for self-defense but were denied as they did not have ‘proper cause’ deemed acceptable for the Superintendent of New York State Police, Kevin P. Bruen. Both Nash and Koch soon sued under the

New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Inc, against the Superintendent as they claim Penalty Law 400 violates their Second Amendment right.

In an article published by *The Hill* titled, “Locked and Loaded: Supreme Court is Ready for a Showdown on the Second Amendment,” the author argues that the new gun regulation law passed by the state is too vague as it requires a “proper cause” of use.

This means the law expects an individual to have a justified reason to carry concealed firearms in the state. Chief Justice John Roberts had this to say on the matter, “The idea that you would need a license to exercise a right is unusual with regard to the Bill of Rights.” Many people question the New York law not only because of the vague wording used, but also the need to have a license to carry a gun that will be used for self-defense.

Some argue that people should have the right to defend themselves in high crime areas, especially cities, while there would not be much need to have a concealed handgun in areas with less crime.

Others argue that having the right to own a concealed and loaded gun in major public places, such as train stations, grocery stores, parks, and churches, poses too much of a risk for the general public. Someone may get a hold of the gun and cause more violence than what the government is trying to prevent because of the highly populated areas in New York.

For example, New York Attorney General Letitia James defends the law, as

she explains in a video conference prior to the Supreme Court hearing: “While communities across the nation continue to suffer senseless gun violence, the burden of protecting Americans from mass shootings falls on states...which is why our gun licensing laws are necessary...we are now in the Supreme Court, defending our right to prevent New York from becoming the next community devastated by gun violence.”

In a CNN article written by Ariane de Vogue, she explains that with the Supreme Court having more conservative leaning justices, a decision is expected to be made that expands Second Amendment rights further for U.S. citizens. This would declare the New York law unconstitutional despite expanding gun-restriction legislation. According to Pew Charitable Trusts, a division of the Pew Research Center, 50 states have pushed for more gun restriction related laws since 2018. This increase in laws is actively showing how gun use and rights in the United States are bound to change in coming years.

A Supreme Court decision is not expected until May or June of 2022, as the Supreme Court has a very important job to complete. But, people must remember that the Supreme Court only rules to say if a law is constitutional or not, they do not enforce that ruling, the President does. Also, Congress can change the wording of the law and continue with their goal of limiting gun use in the United States. Despite any decision the Supreme Court makes, the reality of gun control is just getting started.

Berlin High Says Goodbye to One of its Own

By Jessica Peck and Alexa Fallon
Redcoat Review Writers

Mr. Rudy, an amazing staff member of Berlin High School and director of Upbeat for the past five years, left his position in November 2021 to begin a new chapter in his life. He will be working as a teacher at the Department of Corrections and will be greatly missed by staff and students.



Upbeat house leader Jacob Ferland expressed how surprised he was learning of Mr. Rudy’s departure.

“I was extremely shocked and once the feeling of shock went away, I felt really sad thinking of all the things Mr. Rudy has done,” Ferland said.

Ferland said he will always remember the pancake breakfast, countless Christmas tree sale memories, and the many positive interactions he’s had with Mr. Rudy.

A 2009 Berlin High School graduate, Mr. Rudy participated in the Upbeat program as a student. After graduating, Mr. Rudy attended the University of Maryland. When he finished school, he started a job as a teacher in the Baltimore area before receiving the opportunity to move back to his hometown of Berlin in 2015, as the new director of Upbeat. Mr. Rudy jumped at the opportunity to come back.

“Berlin is a part of me,” Mr. Rudy said. “And even though I’m not going to be in the position anymore, Berlin will always be with me.”

Mr. Rudy experienced countless unforgettable moments during his time working at BHS. One of his favorite activities were the faculty versus student events. His fondest memory was scoring multiple baskets in a basketball game against the students, surprising both himself and others since he admitted he lacked basketball skills.

Mr. Rudy has dedicated his time and energy to Berlin High School, making him an important part of the Berlin community. Upbeat has changed his life, leaving him and others with countless memories of their time together.

“Being able to build these relationships with these students I know will carry on past me leaving,” Mr. Rudy said. “And being able to be a part of a school and community that has done so much for me is the best part of being at Berlin.”

Mr. Rudy discovered his true impact when he realized how much of a difference he makes in students’ lives. While witnessing the senior farewell during May weekend, which is when the upperclassmen tell the underclassmen what they have gotten out of Upbeat, Mr. Rudy recognized how appreciative the students are.

Apart from contributing to the Upbeat program, Mr. Rudy also dedicated

“Berlin is a part of me, and even though I’m not going to be in the position anymore, Berlin will always be with me”

- Mr. Jack Rudy

his time and energy to the Berlin High women’s lacrosse team, specifically to the junior varsity team. He was able to influence not only his Upbeat program, but also the lacrosse community during his year of coaching.

Mr. Rudy filled the vacancy and contributed to the team, even though he had no prior knowledge of women’s lacrosse, choosing to step up in a time of need.

“I appreciate how he stepped up for us, and for all of his help and dedication,” Natalia Olszewska, a sophomore lacrosse player, said. “Mr. Rudy was such a great coach. He was always so encouraging and enthusiastic, and really cared about us.”

Mr. Rudy’s decision to leave the Berlin school system was not an easy one. He said his decision to leave felt right to him, and he can now have the opportunity to grow as a person. This new chapter will allow Mr. Rudy to experience new challenges, and change the lives of even more individuals outside of the Berlin community.

“It would be easy to stay and continue, but I felt that I had to do what was right for me,” Mr. Rudy said. “Don’t be afraid to go down a different path that you never thought you would have the opportunity for.”

It Might Be Time to MOOve on from Beef

By Isabella Cloutier
Special to the Redcoat Review

Cows contribute a large amount of methane gas to the atmosphere, which is up to 25 times more potent than CO₂ gases, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas produced by the decay of organic material, consisting of one carbon atom and four hydrogen atoms. The consumption of dairy products and beef by the general public contributes to a mass production of cows. These cows then produce large quantities of methane gas which leads to climate change issues. This issue relates to worldwide catastrophes and is even affecting people here in Connecticut.

According to *The World Counts*, the world emits about 43 billion tons of carbon dioxide annually. The increase in CO₂ gases results in a plethora of greenhouse gases that trap in heat from the atmosphere. When thinking about this trapped heat, think of the ozone layer acting like a blanket, trapping in all of the heat underneath it.

According to the EPA, methane has a shorter lifetime in the atmosphere but is more efficient at trapping in heat. The trapped heat influences worldwide disasters such as rising ocean levels, melting ice caps, deforestation, increased heat, floods, drought, insect outbreaks, wildfires, and the list continues. The current era of climate change is directly attributable to human activity and the influence of agriculture.

One of the causes of greenhouse gas emissions is animal agriculture. Our generation is responsible for the mass-production of ruminants, such as cows, which alone contribute to 18 percent of



Photo Credit: Isabella Cloutier
Swanton, Vermont May 28, 2021

all greenhouse gas emissions.

To lessen the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced by cows, humans can reduce or even stop their consumption of beef and dairy products. Lessening the consumption of cow products can even be more effective at reducing greenhouse gases than having fuel-efficient transportation. According to Jacob Silverman, a staff writer at *The New Republic*, "it's been estimated that methane gas from cows is 23 times more damaging to the climate than the carbon dioxide from cars."

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has reported that there are currently a total of 108 operating dairy farms in the state, and between 2007 and 2017, milk production in Connecticut increased by 67 million pounds per year. This demand on milk production in the

state of Connecticut will only continue to increase, causing the need for more dairy cows. According to the EPA, current factors in the state of Connecticut that are being caused by climate change have been stated as the increase in temperature by three degrees in the past century. This heat will increase the amount of mosquitoes and ticks that reproduce annually, resulting in a higher risk of contracting illness. According to the EPA, "average rainfall will also continue to increase, causing flooding in some places but will cause droughts in others." Decreasing warming emissions will help stabilize or even decrease these factors.

A stable way humans can help decrease the rate of animal agriculture would be by avoiding or decreasing consumption of factory farmed meat, dairy, and eggs by shopping at farmers markets or buying directly from farms. Buying these products from farms that have good management can also help bring down the number of mass produced cows. More specifically, farmers can help reduce the amount of methane produced by cows by controlling the diet of their livestock. Managing manure can also help lessen the amount of methane released into the atmosphere. Cow manure can be reused for fuel or turned into electricity instead of just being used for fertilizer.

Other things people can do to decrease greenhouse gas emissions would be reducing energy consumption, driving more efficiently, and learning more about one's carbon footprint. Bringing awareness by communicating this issue to as many people as possible can also help people want to make a difference.

Isabella is a member of the 21st Century Journalism and Media Literacy class.

Play Highlights a Dedicated Crew

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The behind-the-scenes crew also helped create the atmosphere of this production. Sound design by Emily Kobus, lighting design by Tyler Chamberland and Michael Vignone, and the period-accurate costume design by Viviana Lamb all helped create the aesthetic of Salem.

"This was the first normal production we had in the auditorium in almost two years," Vignone said. "It was great to be back on the stage before we were out as seniors putting on productions for people to see."

This production could not have happened without the dedication of Director Tyler Boyle. Boyle, who also directed the Music and Theatre Arts Department's first production since the pandemic with last Spring's *Mamma Mia*, said the production was a success.

"It was great to be able to put on a production that felt like a normal year," Boyle said. "I think our kids are much more used to comedies, so it was nice to do something more dramatic. They were able to perform it very well."

A live production has the ability to bring the community together. Across



Photo Courtesy of Berlin High School

Members of the cast and crew back on the indoor stage for the first time since 2019.

the show's run, students were able to enjoy the atmosphere created when people are brought together by pieces of great entertainment. An atmosphere that has sadly been largely absent from BHS for the last two years.

The play's impact can extend beyond pandemic-related misfortunes. The show's themes remind students not to believe everything they hear, and to avoid giving dangerous rumors the ability to grow.

The production of *A Voice In The Dark* is also relevant because it reminds us of how we should treat each other when we are together, an important lesson to remember.

MEET OUR STAFF

The *Redcoat Review* is made up of a variety of writers and editors in all grade levels. Students have the flexibility to contribute regularly or simply submit a special one-time article. Students will learn how to write for a newspaper and receive support throughout the writing process.

The *Redcoat Review* meets weekly after school in the Library Media Center. We have a Schoology group to communicate meetings and information. We are always looking for new members to write, edit, take photos, contribute artwork, learn layout and design.

In this issue, the following students contributed: members of Mrs. Dumas' 21st Century Journalism and Media Literacy class, along with Lindsey Leary, Taylor Desmarais, Allie Nawalaniec, Alyssa O'Leary, Kristen Kozlowksi, David Perkins, Garrett Fallon, Ryan Stec, Patrick Matassa, Jethro Grumo, Dan Lamoureux, Alexa Fallon, Jessie Peck, Nadia Malec, Katie Tierney, Maddie Lazara, Ben Fisher, Ian Saunders, and Alexa Molina.

If you are interested in joining or would like more information, contact Mrs. Rice, Mrs. Masterson or Mrs. Joslyn.

Climate Change Climbs: Erratic Weather on Rise

By Nadia Malec and Katie Tierney
Redcoat Review Writers

Over the course of the past year, fires have burned across California, flooding has caused tragedy throughout the country, and the East encountered a horrible hurricane and tropical storm season.

Connecticut has experienced a range of weather this past year, largely due to the growing fluctuating climate.

According to NBC Connecticut News, in recent months Connecticut has experienced temperatures in the 60s and 70s, followed by unseasonably cold temperatures that included snow and flurries the very next day.

One big reason for this erratic weather is climate change. According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), climate change is a change in the typical weather found in a specific location. It is slowly changing our environment. For example, a NASA model shows that Groton, Connecticut, about 50 miles from Berlin, is most prone to sea-level rise, among other effects of climate change.

Throughout 2020, California was impacted by its worst fire season. The Los Angeles Times reported that six of California's worst fires occurred that year. Wildfire season occurs when conditions are hot and dry, and these conditions lead to California wildfires. According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the summer wildfire seasons out West are recorded to be 40 to

80 days longer than they were 30 years ago. Thirty years ago, the wildfire season was around 5 months long. It has now stretched to be 7 months long for some states in the West, and it is expected to get longer if a change does not occur. Climate change is considered a key driver of this trend.

NBC Connecticut News reported that last summer, the fires led to a hazy film in our weather pattern here in Connecticut, which is about 2,300 miles from the source of the fires. The air quality during the summer was recorded at a new low.

Another concern this year has been flooding. During the summer, the United States encountered a dreadful bout of rainfall, which caused major floods across the country, specifically across the North and East. One major hurricane that exacerbated this issue was Hurricane Ida, which hit the East Coast on August 26th, 2021. Eastern states were hit the hardest. Some states still have not recovered from the damage caused.

Climate change has affected the amount of flooding Connecticut receives. According to the *Weather Channel*, in 2020 Connecticut recorded a monthly average of 3.78 inches of rain. However, in July 2021 alone, Connecticut received 9.6 inches of rain. Joe Furey, a meteorologist for WTNH News 8, explained that, "the warmer these oceans get, the more moisture the atmosphere can handle and the bigger the flooding situations, the bigger the storms, the bigger the hurricanes. That's why we get very worried

that we're setting ourselves up right now for major flooding."

A NASA study released in 2018 demonstrated a connection between the warming of tropical oceans and more frequent extreme rainstorms.

In addition to the excessive flooding, the hurricane season has been frightening at times. Through October 31 of this year, 21 storms were classified by the National Weather Service as a tropical cyclone or hurricane in the Atlantic region.

According to an article by CNN, approximately 7-10 of those storms were labeled as hurricanes, a classification determined by a wind speed over 74 miles per hour. Three of those hurricanes, Grace, Ida, and Larry, were Category 3 hurricanes or higher, meaning the wind speeds ranged from 111-157 miles per hour. These hurricanes and tropical storms were key factors in the flooding experienced this summer. The increase in the number of hurricanes has been linked by meteorologists to climate change.

The wildfire crisis, the excessive flooding, the surge in tropical storms and frequent hurricanes all have one common origin: climate change.

There are actions you can take to minimize the spreading of climate change. The average high school student can spread awareness, reuse plastics like use a reusable water bottle each day or reduce water waste by taking shorter showers.

These actions must be taken before the fire season becomes year round, before the flooding endangers more people, and before hurricanes destroy more homes.

Newcomers Lead Girls Cross Country to Success

By Kristen Kozlowski
Redcoat Review Writer

The girls cross country team is one of the most successful athletic teams at Berlin High School.

This fall, the girls continued their winning ways, remaining undefeated in the Central Connecticut South Conference for the 10th straight year. The team finished with a 14-0 record, including a first place finish at the CCC South Conference meet, as well as a sixth place finish in the Class M State Meet.

Head coach, Steven Soucy, and his assistant coach, Jeff Ladd, relied on a group of newcomers throughout the duration of the season. Out of the seven seniors on the team, only two had run cross country prior to the 2021 season.

The team, made up of four freshmen, two juniors, and seven seniors, performed above Soucy's expectations.

When asked about how he felt coming into the season, Soucy said, "I had limited expectations because of the amount of new runners we had."

Despite the large number of inexperienced runners, the young team stepped up to the pressure and maintained the team's successful reputation.

For a team of small size, the 12 girls combined their running strengths to beat the five other teams in their conference: Middletown, Plainville, Maloney, Lewis Mills, and Bristol Central.

BHS freshman standout Natalia



Kmita led the team this year, earning All-Conference and All-State honors for her second place finish at the Class M State Meet. Her impressive race landed her as one of the top three freshman runners in the entire state.

The young team also relied on the leadership and experience of captains Anna Butrimas, Claudia Jankovich, and Gianna Uba throughout the season.

In past years, the Redcoats have produced collegiate runners such as Megan Perrotta (UConn), Audrey Jankovich (Springfield), and Julianna Cancellieri (CCSU). These runners all had large impacts on the team's past success, and Coach Soucy often referenced these runners and their accomplishments through-

out this season to motivate and guide his young, inexperienced team.

While cross country can be a challenging sport, the 2021 girls team proves that no experience is necessary to join. For a team that will be losing seven seniors next year, Butrimas and Jankovich, both juniors, hope to recruit new members for the 2022 season. Anyone with interest in the team can reach out to Butrimas or Jankovich for more information.

The 2021 season was a success for both the runners and the coaches because of the energy and speed the youthful group brought to the already accomplished cross country team. The team is eager and prepared to continue their hard work into the indoor and outdoor track seasons.

An Evening with Silk Sonic Sure to Impress

By Jethro Grumo
Redcoat Review Writer

On Friday, November 12, Silk Sonic's long awaited first album, *An Evening with Silk Sonic*, was released. Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak's virtuosic project is filled with class and oozes with talent. It includes features from Bootsy Collins and Thundercat, who are both skilled musicians in jazz, funk, and R&B. Surely, *An Evening with Silk Sonic* deserves to be a contender for album of the year at the Grammys and is worthy of multiple awards.

With only nine songs, the album is fairly short; however, the quality is excellent. The album draws influence from music of past eras, such as the late '60s and '70s motown genre, as well as pop and R&B from the '80s and '90s. Although Mars and .Paak employ a sound that is reminiscent of the past, their music still feels new and fresh. Their rich and modern-sounding mix, in addition to the catchy and soulful melodies sung by Mars and .Paak, allow for an effective blend of the past and present.

An Evening with Silk Sonic begins with "Silk Sonic Intro," a short yet thrilling opening. The first act sets the tone with a tight groove and ascending chord progression, which creates excitement as listeners can hear and feel the song's intensity bloom. Playful lyrics further add to the excitement, which ultimately leads to Collins introducing the group's name: Silk Sonic. It is the perfect opening act to an album filled with smoothness and class.

After Bootsy Collins fades away, the sound of drums transitions listeners into the next song, "Leave the Door Open." This was Silk Sonic's first single of the album, which was initially released on March 5, 2021. The song, in addition to the music video, showcased Mars' and .Paak's new and unique sound. The single



quickly rocketed up to the number one spot on the Hot 100 as it encapsulated listeners with layered vocal harmonies, tight drumming, and numerous key changes. This song was one of multiple demonstrations of Mars' vocal prowess as he shows off his range. Although he is not as superhumanly talented at singing as Mars, .Paak's light and raspy timbre provides a nice contrast to Mars' deep and rich sound.

The next song, "Fly As Me," is led by .Paak. The syncopated, or offbeat, bassline instantly sets the groove as .Paak raps over it. The lyrics are boastful and filled with swagger as they talk about how "fly" they are, which is not inaccurate. The influence from motown and funk music and their take on introducing that style of music to a larger audience can be heard.

"After Last Night" changes the tone, setting a slow and romantic feeling. As the title may suggest, the song is about a man falling in love with a woman. The song features Thundercat, a bass player, as well as ad libs from Bootsy Collins. Here, Silk Sonic's sound is very reminiscent of old school boy bands and slow love song ballads from the '80s and '90s. This song is filled with raw emotion and features a climactic build up towards the

end, even including a guitar solo from Mars.

"Smoking out the Window" was the final single released by Silk Sonic. This song quickly grew popular, perhaps due to its catchy melody. The style is similar to "Leave the Door Open" as it features verses from both Mars and .Paak. With that said, this song is a very solid radio song that could be universally enjoyed.

The sixth song on the album is called "Put on a Smile." It is the album's only somber song. The song ultimately builds up as Mars leads the way to a dramatic key change with his impressive vocals. This leads to the conclusion of the song, where the sound of thunder is heard. This small addition highlights the overall progression of the song and ends it on a gloomy note.

"777" is the next song on the track list. It is similar in style as "Fly as Me" with a more upbeat drum groove and has a filter on Mars' voice to make it sound like an old speaker. Filled with confidence and swagger, this song is another solid fit in the album.

The next song, "Skate," was the second single released by Silk Sonic. The style is heavily influenced by disco with a catchy melody, outlined by strings, horns, and drums.

The final song is "Blast Off." The songwriting in this piece was spectacular, making it the perfect ending to this album. It is more laid back; however, the conclusion of the song slowly builds up, changing keys effortlessly until the song ends with a few final words from Collins. In addition to another guitar solo, each element blends well together, making it another very good song.

Ultimately, *An Evening with Silk Sonic* is destined to be a classic. Mars and .Paak coming together to combine their musical abilities was extremely effective. This album set the bar high for today's music. Rating: 9/10.

Interact: Making a Difference

By Maddie Lazzara
Redcoat Review Writer

Interact Club has been very busy this year. After having very limited opportunities due to COVID last year, the club is back to doing many service activities with a new advisor and new members of the board.

Ms. Donielle Joslyn, an English teacher at Berlin High School, has taken over as advisor replacing Mrs. Lisa Downey, who moved on to a new school.

The board consists of a group of students dedicated to service and making a better community throughout the town of Berlin. The students serving positions on the board are co-Presidents Grace Lazzara and Saige Beatman, Vice President of Club Relations Isabella DeFrancesco, Vice President of Social Media Relations Lindsey Leary, Vice President of Public Relations Sarah Al Mozani, Vice President of Morale Leah Peck, junior representative Julia Wanke, and sophomore representative Madelyn Lazzara.

Interact is a great club to join if looking to make a difference and get

involved in service projects. The club is partnered with the Rotary Club of Berlin and New Britain. Some favorite yearly service events include working the Mini Donut Booth at the Berlin Fair, Pumpkin Palooza, Angel Tags, and Salvation Army Bell Ringing.

Al Mozani said her favorite thing about Interact is "that it is a club that gives a lot of opportunities to help the community while also having fun with your friends. You get to meet new people and bond while helping out."

As the holiday season rolls around, so does the annual Salvation Army Bell Ringing. DeFrancesco has credited this holiday service tradition as to why she loves Interact.

"My love for Interact first started when I had volunteered for the holiday bell ringing event sponsored by the Salvation Army," DeFrancesco said. "I love the cold and helping those in need, so it was a perfect fit. I have made memories in the club that are irreplaceable! For that I am thankful for the club, and all the members who helped make all our wonderful service events happen!"



Photo Credit: Grace Lazzara

Sophomores Madelyn Lazzara and Alliana Wicik volunteer at the Mini Donut Booth during the 2021 Berlin Fair.

"Interact has something for everyone, and is always looking for those who want to make a difference in the Berlin community," DeFrancesco said.

Interact meetings are held every other Wednesday after school in the Video Amphitheater. If you are interested in joining feel free to talk to Ms. Joslyn or any of the club's board members.



Mrs. Pires Named District Teacher of the Year

By Allie Nawalaniec and Taylor Desmarais
Redcoat Review Writers

The one and only Mrs. Pires was recognized as the Berlin District Teacher of the Year for the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Pires was one of five teachers recognized in Berlin this year. Mrs. Cooper (McGee), Mrs. Donovan (Griswold), Mrs. Prior (Hubbard), and Mrs. Valinsky (Willard) were also named Teacher of the Year in their respective schools.

As the District Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Pires was the Convocation speaker in August and was honored at the Board of Education Meeting in November.

“I feel extremely honored to be acknowledged,” Mrs. Pires said. “I feel privileged that my work ethic and contributions to this school were recognized by my fellow colleagues.”

A member of the Berlin community for 15 years, Mrs. Pires plays a vital role at Berlin High as both the supervisor of the school counseling department since 2014, and an advisor for the Class of 2022.

In addition to receiving a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Connecticut, a Master of Science in School Counseling and a 6th Year in Educational Leadership from CCSU, Mrs. Pires is currently pursuing a Certificate in College Counseling from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Her determination, work ethic and desire to be an active learner are all major factors in her success.

“I could not be more proud of Mrs. Pires for getting nominated and selected for not only Teacher of the Year but also Teacher of the District,” said Mrs. Hickey, a school counselor at BHS. “This is a great representation that the definition



Allie Nawalaniec (left) and Taylor Desmarais take a selfie with Mrs. Pires.

of ‘teacher’ has many meanings. As a school counselor, Mrs. Pires is a uniquely qualified educator; one who possesses a multifaceted skill set which is required to address all students’ academic, career and social/emotional development needs. She is innovative in her approach to designing, implementing, evaluating and enhancing the Berlin Public Schools’ school counseling curriculum.”

“Mrs. Pires works collaboratively across grade levels to ensure that all students in our district have access to a comprehensive school counseling program that promotes and enhances student success,” Mrs. Hickey continues. “With the rise of mental health, I think having a school counselor win this award shines light on the important work Mrs. Pires and the department do.”

Tucked away on one side of the building, Mrs. Pires has many responsibilities being the head of the school counseling department. For example, she created a program where students participate in freshman, sophomore, and junior workshops. This program allows students to explore different education and career paths and provides students with support in order to explore and plan their futures.

Outside of the workshop lessons, the school counseling department is always ready to handle any student or teacher needs that may occur on a regular basis. “No day is normal,” Mrs. Pires said. “You have to be prepared for the unexpected.” Mrs. Pires utilizes time management and hard work to manage her everyday life, which includes her role as a mother of two daughters, ages 10 and 12. She also leans on her husband, Mr. Pires, who is an English teacher at BHS, to help her decompress.

“I was extremely proud that Patty Pires was bestowed the 2021-22 Berlin District Teacher of the Year,” Mr. Pires said. “I am continuously impressed with the amount of effort she puts into her job on a daily basis. She always puts the needs of the students in the district of Berlin at the very top of her priority list and always has time for a student in need of assistance.”

Mr. Pires also adds, “since receiving the honor, Mrs. Pires continues to do the little and big things that earned her the award in the first place. Berlin is very lucky to have her as such an important part of their community.”

Mrs. Pires credits the environment at Berlin High School for helping her to achieve this outstanding award. She recognizes the support that the counseling department both provides and is given.

“Our current administration understands and values the role of a counselor,” Pires said.

Mrs. Pires shared the advice her father gave her, which has influenced her teaching philosophy: to do things to the best of your ability. By living through her dad’s philosophy, Mrs. Pires has impacted the lives of her students and fellow colleagues.

“You should always be proud of what you do and do it to the best of your ability,” Mrs. Pires said.

Boys Cross Country Wraps Successful Season

By Dan Lamoureux and Ben Fisher
Redcoat Review Writers

After having a somewhat gutted 2020 season due to COVID-19, the boys cross country team got back into the swing of things and wrapped up a successful fall season.

The season began with a scrimmage at Cromwell in a race that had been omitted from the schedule during last season’s abnormal year. Returning runners were eager to test themselves in this race, which established Berlin’s top three varsity runners as Ben Fisher, Austin Vale da Serra, and Will Turgeon.

The first official race of the 2021 season was the Stratton Brook Park Invitational in Simsbury, on September 11, a course considered to be one of the most difficult in Connecticut. Runners had to race over two massive hills, through sandy terrain, and down winding paths through the woods. In spite of these obstacles, the team had a strong showing with three runners placing in the top 50 (Fisher, 12th place, 17:58; Vale da Serra, 29th place, 19:15; Turgeon, 50th place, 20:31) and 8th overall.

The team competed in a tri-meet

against Platt and Bristol Central on September 13. Berlin came out on top against Platt, but sadly failed to clinch the meet against rival Bristol Central by one point. Top finishers for Berlin were Fisher (2nd place, 17:55), Turgeon (4th place, 19:06), and Vale da Serra (5th place, 19:27). The team participated in another tri-meet on September 21, competing against Lewis Mills and Bristol Eastern. Berlin beat Bristol Eastern by a few points, but came up short against home team Lewis Mills. Top finishers for Berlin were once again Fisher (4th place, 17:42), Vale da Serra (8th place, 18:15), and Turgeon (9th place, 18:50).

On September 25, the team participated in an invitational at one of the team’s favorite courses: Winding Trails. Once again, Fisher, Vale da Serra and Turgeon braved the loose terrain, resulting in strong top 3 times for Berlin. Fisher was able to pull off a tremendous top 5 finish overall with a 5k time of 17:12.

From there, the team hosted its sole home meet of the season on the wet pavement of Pistol Creek. The team had a solid showing, with several juniors and sophomores stepping up to help beat both

Middletown and Maloney in spite of the poor weather and conditions.

The team had their last regular meet of the season on October 6th, coming up short against home team Plainville. The ending of the 2021 season consisted of three successive meets at Wickham Park. First was the Wickham Park Invitational on October 9, in which a combination of good conditions and strong competition resulted in several strong finishes. At the division championship on October 19, the boys placed 4th in the CCC South Division, with Ben Fisher finishing 3rd for the division. Varsity finally finished up the season with the state meet on November 1st, placing 9th overall.

The boys ended the season with a winning record and the promise of a bright future in the hands of their rising upperclassmen.

As the captains of the 2021 team, it feels necessary to acknowledge the hard work every member of the team put in this year. Friendships were forged that will last long beyond our years of running in a circle for 3.1 miles. Throughout the season, everyone worked together, overcame challenges, and most importantly, had fun.

Red Sea Momentum Continues

By Patrick Matassa
Redcoat Review Writer

With the Winter season underway, the Red Sea wrapped up their return to the football field with successful themed games. Every home football game, the Red Sea arrived at Sage Park ready to show their school spirit. The November 19, 2021, Senior Night game in particular was full of great energy as the Redcoats won, 51-12.

Throughout the fall sport season, school spirit has grown significantly at Berlin High School both in and out of the school. At Sage Park, students have consistently shown their support to their classmates and players by showing up with a great stance. The Red Sea has impacted how students interact at the home football games and get students to participate with the weekly school spirit themes.

Senior football captain Tanner Sparks shared that “the Red Sea impacts us a ton. Having all our peers watching and supporting us from the stands means a lot to us players.”

The October 22, 2021 Homecoming football game was Halloween costume night and brought students to the stands. The members of the Red Sea did not disappoint as they made up the majority of the crowd and showed their school spirit.

“It's fun to see everyone come together and coordinate every week in the stands,” Sparks said. “I loved to see everyone get involved this year all in the name of supporting us student athletes. It makes us feel like we have supporters and our whole town behind our backs.”

The goal of the Red Sea is to get students involved, and make the sports games as fun as possible for both the students and the players on the field. In previous years, we've seen just the start of the Red Sea until Covid-19 put things on hold. This year, the Sea kept the tradition running with new themes and a new vision of what school spirit looks like.

On October 29, 2021, the Red Sea brought Berlin school spirit on the road to Newington High School. The Redcoats fan section was just about as big as Newington's, and Berlin gave a warm welcome by chanting for the Redcoats. The final score was 43-33 and after the game, Newington's High School Football Instagram fan section page acknowledged the crowd with a post.

On November 5, 2021 the Red Sea took back the bleachers with a theme of white-out. Even with the freezing temperatures, the fans still came to show support.

Senior captain Jamie Palmese said having the Red Sea at football games



creates a whole different atmosphere for players.

“It's a great thing to see a whole row of students supporting the team and having fun,” Palmese said. “They bring a lot of energy to Sage Park and the team loves the support from them.”

School spirit has grown throughout the fall sport season and the Red Sea hopes to expand on ideas of how to bring BHS together. Sparks had a final message to the Red Sea.

“I speak on behalf of our football team in saying thank you, for all your support and hard work to make our football games an awesome experience for everybody,” Sparks said.

Throughout the rest of the school year, the Red Sea and Berlin High School plan to expand on how we represent our school and use our school spirit. The winter sports season has now arrived and the Red Sea plans on having a crowd for as many winter games as the Sea can get.

Boys Soccer Rebounds, Reaches State Tourney

By Monty Malinauskas
Special to the Redcoat Review

After a rough start to the season, the Berlin boys soccer team found their groove and fought to earn a spot in the Connecticut state tournament for the first time in four years.

From their first win on September 9 to the senior night victory where they clinched states, the Redcoats finished the season with a final record of 10-4-2.

Head Coach Sal Parafati stated at the beginning of the season the goal for the team was to reach the state tournament.

“Everything after that is an added bonus for the team,” he said.

Senior Ryan Garrity, a varsity player who has been with the team for four years, said, “In previous years we've always believed we'd be strong our senior year given that we had a class of nine players who could contribute to the team.”

While a 1-4-2 record after the first seven games presented the team with some doubts, they got themselves back on track beating New Britain 7-3 at Veterans Stadium.

“We were very strong going into this game knowing that this was a must-win,” senior Adam Kozubal said. “We didn't take our opponent lightly and brought everything we had and ended up with the result we needed to start some momentum.”

Adding a second win to the Redcoats season gave them some needed confidence moving forward. The Redcoats went on to win their next seven games. A few of those game highlights include a 2-1 over Southington on October 12, a team that has proven to be a tough opponent.



Photo Courtesy of Zach Cancellieri

Members of the boys soccer team from left are Coach Dom, seniors Adam Kozubal, Garrett Fallon, Sean Hunt, Ryan Garrity, Zach Cancellieri, Monty Malinauskas, Marco Marino, Jacob Ferland, Griffin Hilbie and Coach Parafati.

Griffin Hilbie, a senior captain, explained what he believes was the biggest focus during this game.

“Our back four defenders along with our keeper needed to play well in this game and they definitely did,” Hilbie said. “Along with this our offense was definitely on against Southington. Working together, our defense was able to hold off Southington while our offense was able to close the deal and get us the win.”

The Redcoats were confident after two more wins, including a 7-0 blowout win for the Redcoats on their senior night which sealed the deal and gave them their ticket to states.

“We were very confident going into this game but the energy from the team and the fans that night was very different, giving us the edge we needed to win by how much we did,” Jacob Ferland, one of Berlin's three varsity captains, said. “We were able to get everyone involved and at the end of the day we did what we knew we had to do.”

Knowing the game was a must win,

along with the energy from the crowd really fired up the team, especially the nine seniors who started that night. These factors combined contributed a great deal to the 7-0 victory.

Following the 9-1 Platt win on October 28, the Redcoats went on to play Bristol Central, possibly the toughest team they would face in the regular season.

The Redcoats were riding a five-game win streak but it was Central's senior night so the expectation was that it would be aggressive from the start. The Redcoats and the Rams battled it out on Central's home field for 80 hard-fought minutes. Both teams went back and forth with strong attacks and scoring opportunities. However when the final whistle blew, Berlin had shocked everyone in the CCC with a 4-3 victory over the Rams on their senior night.

“Ever since our class were freshmen, we believed our senior year would be our year,” Zach Cancellieri, one of Berlin's three captains, said. “To see it actually happen is mind blowing. Just taking in everything that's been happening is a great experience.”

The Redcoats last regular season game took place on November 11 against Plainville. Although Berlin was missing two starters due to injuries, the Redcoats were able to finish with a 1-1 tie heading into the State Tournament for the first time in four years.

From beating teams like Southington and Bristol Central, to making the state tournament, the Redcoats can walk away from their final season with their heads high knowing they've hit the goal they set out to reach.

Monty Malinauskas is a member of the 21st Century Journalism and Media Literacy class.

Sophomores 2021 Powderpuff Champions

By Garrett Fallon
Redcoat Review Writer

Following an off year in 2020, the annual Berlin Powderpuff Football Tournament returned on November 23 at Sage Park. Despite the frigid temperatures (in the low 30s) parents, students, and community members bundled up to watch the teams compete. Powderpuff football is an annual girls flag football tournament held around Thanksgiving. It is a tradition in many local towns, and was back in Berlin for the first time since 2019.

“It is all about giving the girls the opportunity to be under the lights, playing football, getting that ‘Friday night lights’ feel,” Powderpuff organizer Mr. Jim Arnold said.

Although there was no admission fee, donations were collected to benefit the Nick Zuk Foundation, Berlin Helping Berlin, and the T. Cop Foundation. Due to the generosity of numerous individuals, over \$1,000 was raised solely at the door. A required \$10 donation from players, cheerleaders, and coaches generated even more funds for the aforementioned organizations.

On the gridiron, six teams competed for the title. The senior and freshman classes each fielded two teams, while the sophomores and juniors had one each. Each team consisted of 14 players, with seven on the field at one time. The teams competed in a single elimination tournament. Both senior teams were granted a bye for the first round.

In the first round, the juniors (blue) barely scraped out a win against the freshman (red). The game went to multiple overtime periods before the juniors were able to score a touchdown, moving the final scoreline to 28-21. In the other first round matchup, the sophomores



Photo Courtesy of Berlin High School

Members of the sophomore class celebrate with the Powderpuff trophy at Sage Field. Pictured below, seniors share their enthusiasm for the game.

(orange) defeated the freshman team (black).

In the semifinals, the younger teams spoiled both of the senior teams’ title hopes. In the matchup of seniors (gold) versus juniors (blue), the rushing attack of Taylor Bellizzi and Jenna Wenzel combined with stifling defense carried the juniors to victory.

The other semifinal matchup between the seniors (white) and the sophomores (orange) was a defensive battle from the get-go. Led by strong play on the defensive line from Taylor Desmarais and tight defense in the secondary, the seniors shut down the sophomore offense from the start.

However, the sophomores held their own, particularly in the red zone, coming up with some key bat-downs and tackles behind the line of scrimmage. At the end of regulation, the score was knotted at 0-0, sending the game into overtime. With a chance to secure the victory, senior Clare McGeever broke free from

the defense and seemingly broke the goal line, leading announcer Kyle Carlone to proclaim a touchdown and victory for the seniors. But the referees marked McGeever just short of the goal line. On the next play, the seniors ran a draw, which was easily detected by the sophomore defense, forcing a turnover on downs. On the next possession, the sophomores were able to finally reach the end zone with a touchdown from Julia Palmese.

In the final, the juniors (blue) entered as the heavily favored team. Returning nearly all players from the team that won the title two years ago, the juniors seemed destined to capture another powderpuff championship. But, the sophomore team had different ideas.

A fierce defense led by Kaleigh Ouellete and Alyssa Wenzel, the sophomores (orange) shut down the juniors’ rushing attack. On offense, spreading the ball around was paramount to their success. Using multiple rushers and multiple quarterbacks, they were able to confuse the junior defense and open up big holes in the secondary.

Julia Palmese scored two touchdowns, including a breakaway reception from Madison Stec, while the defense did the rest, forcing a shutout.

In their first year of Powderpuff action, the sophomores obtained the Powderpuff trophy by a score of 14-0.

“It meant a lot to win,” sophomore Alexa Fallon said. “So far, we haven’t been that successful in competitions between grades, so winning the championship in our first year of playing is important to us.”

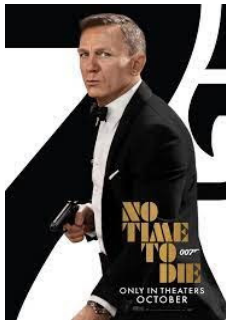
The Powderpuff game was a fun night for all. Intense matchups on the field and memorable moments off of it make Powderpuff a cherished tradition for players, cheerleaders, coaches, parents, and fans.

Latest James Bond: A Must-See

By David Perkins
Redcoat Review Writer

The legendary run of Daniel Craig’s James Bond saga has finally reached an emotional and epic conclusion with its latest installment, *No Time To Die*.

Bond (Craig) is called back into service after a biological weapon is stolen from MI-6 and is used against the villainous organization Spectre.



While on the hunt, Bond must face the secrets of his past, while meeting new and old friends, such as the new 007 (Lashana Lynch), Felix Lighter (Jeffery Wright), and his ex-wife, Madelyn (Lea Seydoux).

New antagonists such as Safin (Rami Malek), and Blofield (Christopher Waltz) are also out for vengeance. With tensions running high and time running out, James Bond must do whatever it takes to complete the last mission, even if it

means sacrificing everything he holds dear.

Directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga, the latest installment in the grounded interpretation of Bond is beautifully written and keeps the audience emotionally invested, with each character getting the perfect amount of character development.

Hans Zimmer, who also released an incredible soundtrack for *Dune*, did a fantastic job of making the music compelling and interesting. Scenes seem grandiose and epic, and cleverly add to the classic James Bond theme for multiple sequences.

The cinematography was done by Linus Sandgren, and each action sequence was perfectly photographed and coordinated, making everything seem like a grounded and realistic film.

No Time to Die has had massive success at the box office with more than \$600 million in profit worldwide, overtaking *Avengers: Endgame* at the U.K. box office.

It is a must-see cinematic experience with lots of unique storytelling, explosive action, and romance.

