

BERLIN HIGH NEWSPAPER

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"Know Where You Are"

**WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY MEMBERS OF
THE BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY.**

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FIRST Robotics Competes Successfully

by Sarah Mogielnicki

On March 13th and 14th, FRC Team 155, Techno-nuts, a FIRST Robotics team from Berlin, competed at the UMass Dartmouth District Event. Their five-foot tall robot made it to the semi-finals of the event and won the Team Spirit Award.

Every year, each team builds an entire robot in six weeks to successfully compete in that year's game. This year's game - *Recycle Rush* - requires robots to stack recycling totes on top of one another and put a barrel on top. They can get more points by throwing pool noodles - called "litter" in the game - onto the other team's side or placing them in the barrels on top of their stacks. At events, two alliances of three teams compete on opposite sides of the 27- foot by 54- foot playing field. The Techno-nuts have built a robot that successfully plays the game, working cohesively with the other teams on their alliance to score.

At the UMass event, Team 155 was seeded sixth out of the 27 teams at the event, making them an alliance captain for the final rounds. Their alliance was able to stack totes and lift barrels to progress through the quarter and semi finals. In addition to this, the Techno-nuts won the Team Spirit Award because of their participation in the town of Berlin's annual Scarecrow Contest and Memorial Day Parade.

The Techno-nuts also competed at the Waterbury District event earlier this season from February 28th to March 1st, where they won the Safety Award. They hope to qualify for the New England District Championships, which are from April 9th to April 11th at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The team is optimistic about qualifying, but they will not know for sure until the end of this month.



Berlin's Team 155, led by mascot "Nutty," receives Team Spirit Award

The WERB is the Word!

by Tyre Brinson

After 30 years, WERB is still on the air. The radio station is Berlin's only radio station and has hours of commercial free programs, along with a variety of music such as big band, swing, jazz, country, and rock. The station is run by Mr. Wolf, who also is the head of the radio club. He teaches kids how to run a radio station and allows them to man the radio.

"We're trying to promote the radio station," says Jack Tomascak, a freshman. The station began thirty years ago, and at one point it was in danger of closing down because the radio club was fading out. A station can lose its license within one year if it doesn't use it. So Mr. Wolfe stepped up and got the station and the club back in full operation again. Since then, the radio music has sending tasty jams to satisfy your ears and the rest is history.

WERB is enjoying the new state of the art studio on the first floor. Listen for the music as you pass by.

Renovations Will Cause School Opening Delay

Official Info

Berlin High students will start school August 31, in 2015. There will be no change in schedule for the other Berlin schools, which will start, for students, on August 26. The three day delay for the high school will permit the construction work on the building renovation to be even more complete when students do return. Teachers will still work a 188 day school year, with professional development days required for the three days that students will be able to extend their vacations.

B.H.S. Makes a Splash!

by Team Thurston

The Berlin High Swim Team has completed a very successful post-season run.

In the CCC South Diving Championships, James Sanders broke the 11 school dive record by 28 points with a stratospheric score of 448.90.

At the Class M Meet, the Men's Swimming and Diving Team had an outstanding performance finishing 9th out of 22 teams in the Class M State Meet. The medley relay team of Wojtek Kajzer, Adrian Wojtun, Kevin Klotz, and Tommy Wejda finished 5th. Kevin Klotz finished 3rd in the 200 IM, earning All State Honors, and finished 5th in the 100 Backstroke - setting a new school record of 56.43. Adrian Wojtun finished 14th in the 200 IM and 11th in the 100 Breaststroke. Tommy Wejda finished in 14th the 50 free and 8th in the 100 Backstroke. James Sanders finished 11th in diving. The 200 free relay team of Kevin Kennure, Steven Miano, Joey Leary, and Dan Paszkowski finished 12th, and the 400

free relay team of Tommy Wejda, Dan Paszkowski, Adrian Wojtun, and Kevin Klotz finished 9th.

Rounding out the state team were Andrew Leary, Nick Baruffi, John Long, and AJ Delgiorno.

Kevin Klotz continued competing in the 200 IM and the 100 backstroke, in the State Open at Yale.

Congratulations to Kevin Klotz on finishing 21st in the 100 backstroke and 21st in the 200 IM at the State Open. on [Saturday](#). Kevin moved up a position in each of these races and represented Berlin High School with class.

Coaches Dan Thurston, Andrew Thurston, Eileen Thurston, and Sean Ferris wish to thank you the Berlin High community for its continued support of the swimming and diving team.



Spring Sports Update

Despite the unseasonably cold and snowy environment, spring

NFL Free Agency

by Sam Barton

With the NFL Free Agency pretty much in the books, let's see who came out with stronger teams, and who came out looking shaky for next year.

Winners:

Buffalo Bills- The Bills went into free agency with a clear motive: playoffs. They knew what they wanted, who they wanted, and which positions needed upgrading. First, they brought in Running Back LeSean McCoy from Philly, only having to give up overrated Line Backer Kiko Alonso. Next, they brought in Wide Receiver Percy Harvin. This is a great pickup because paired with Sammy Watkins, not many teams have two elite corners to cover these receivers. Lastly, they re-signed stud Defensive Lineman Jerry Hughes, who is one of the leaders of the Bills' underrated defense.

St. Louis Rams- The Rams didn't make too many huge moves in free agency, but they made a trade that should help the struggling offense just go over the top. The Rams picked up Quarter Back Nick Foles from the Eagles for a good price: Sam Bradford. Rams staff and fans were apparently growing impatient with Bradford's subpar play consistent injury. With receivers like Tavon Austin and Stedman Bailey finally coming out of their shell, Foles should be able to help the young offense become very productive.

Jacksonville Jaguars- The Jags came into free agency with a ton of cap space, so they were looking to make a huge splash and pick up a franchise player. They did just that. They picked up extremely talented Tight End Julius Thomas, who had a rather down year this year, but was still worth the price. Then they signed speedy corner Davon House, who bolted from Green Bay to join the struggling team. Lastly, they picked Jeremy Parnell, who should be a great complement as well.

New York Jets- In my opinion, the Jets had the best free agency for this year. They picked up Corner Back Darrelle Revis, who was one of the most sought after free agents this year. Also, they added Antonio Cromartie and Buster Skrine to their defense, both of whom are above average defensive backs. But, in my opinion, their best move came on offense. They made a great trade for WR Brandon Marshall, who will automatically bolster their receiving corps. Paired with Eric Decker, Marshall should really succeed in New York.

Losers:

Baltimore Ravens- As a life-long Ravens fan, this year was a real low for free agency. First, they traded away Haloti Ngata, basically the captain of the defense. This move was better than Ravens fans expected though, as they picked up two mid-round picks for him. But, then came the real stab in the back. Their franchise receiver, Torrey Smith wrote a letter to Baltimore fans that went kind of like this: "Dear Ravens fans, I love the city of Baltimore and I'm committed to this city, but I'm going to leave for 1 million dollars a year extra because I don't believe in hometown discounts." Torrey Smith nothing more than a traitor in my book. Also, to add insult to injury, the Ravens also lost Defensive Lineman Pernell McPhee. So all in all, I am officially back to hating free agency.



Student Artists Display

by Ms. Miller

The Berlin High Advanced Placement Studio Art class delivered a public showing at Peck Memorial Library. The show, which ran from March 3 through March 7, focused on drawing and painting, two dimensional design, and three dimensional design.

Berlin High School AP Studio Art is excited to announce their show dates at Berlin Peck Library.

These students have spent the past year creating as part of a College board certified class, and this was their opportunity to share the product with the Berlin public.



These are the members of the AP Art program who displayed their work: Daniella Snedeker, Alexa Bosse, Margot Paul, Richard Cassineri, Hope Reed, Alyssa Vasil, Danna Szymanski, Melissa Stanton, Olivia Bednarek, Lillian Peccerillo, Sikander Nizami,

“The Walking Dead” Season Finale Review

by Tyre Brinson

“The Walking Dead” has been one of my favorite TV shows of all time. Its season finales have always left me on the edge of my seat, gasping for air. This most recent

finale may have been the best of them all. Not only do we get an amazing set up for next season, but we also are reintroduced to a long running character. The 90 minute long finale also gives us three separate characters with three different stories that develop each character even more, and show us how far they will go to survive in this post apocalyptic world. The episode also gives us a stark contrast with a group that has lived in relative peace against a group that has spent most of its time out in the wild facing threat after threat of the undead.

Through these characters we discover loss and insanity, and we question whether or not being alive is defined as living and breathing. Blood is spilled, and a decision is made that changes the fate of this new community forever. I also admire the treatment of Pete’s death, as adapted from the comic; he uses Michonne’s sword to take an innocent blood. A recurring symbol has been this seemingly cursed sword that she is forced to carry in order to protect her friends in this harsh environment they have been forced to call home for so many years - but they may be able to establish a new society for those who have survived.



I’m eagerly anticipating next season’s “Walking Dead.” For those of you who haven’t caught on to the series yet, I suggest you remedy this by catching the first six seasons over the summer.

The Youth and Government Experience

By Alex Ott

In the age of standardized testing, and thus standardized learning, the Youth and Government program was a breath of fresh air. A handful of BHS students, including myself, spent the weekend of March 20 working in a mock Congress setting with our peers from around the state. With little to no expectations, it felt as though we were simply going along for the ride.



YOUTH & GOVERNMENT
"Democracy must be learned by each generation"

Little did I know that these past four years I had been missing out on one of the greatest educational opportunities a high school could offer.

Mr. Cwirka of the math department had been a part of Youth and Government when he was attending Platt High School in Meriden, and wanted to bring the club to Berlin. He reached out to several of my friends and myself for members in January, about two months after every other school begins preparing for the weekend in March. I like to think that I am fairly politically minded, and I know that the rest of the seniors that went on the trip also have an interest in the political process in the United States. The seniors include myself, Mitch Pitkin, Chris Morelli, and Matt Kyczynski.

Each participant was required to author, or coauthor a bill that would end up being debated in the Senate and House of Representatives. The Senate and House were made up of students from

joining the Bachelor Party, only after we were almost coaxed into joining the Lauralton Hall political party: The House Party. At the end of the day, Mr. Cwirka had his kids in his former political party, just the way it should've been. The rest of the first day was spent in committee, rating bills, and nominating party candidates for next years Youth and Government officials.

The next day the BHS troop was shuttled to Hartford to begin debating bills in the House

and Senate. Myself and the other representatives from BHS actually sat at the desks of real representatives in the House, the same goes for the senators. Once we were able to grasp the concept of Youth and Government, we were able to participate in a fashion that would have made Berlin's own Joe Aresimowicz proud. One by one we stood up in front of our peers saying, "I am in full support of this bill," or "I am in complete opposition to this bill," at which point the Berlin delegates unleashed a stream of rhetoric that would make our group fairly respected among the other participants. I know that people respected us because they went out of their way to say how well we did. The last day, Sunday, was an extension of Saturday, where more bills were debated. The only special thing that happened was the elections of the Youth and Government 2016 meeting. Apart from the educational aspect that happened during the day, the evenings were also quite the

experience. The hotel had a section that had a dance floor, where Matt Kyczynski put the rest of the state to shame, and even had an ice cream bar on Friday night. It seemed to me that the social aspect of the weekend was just as beneficial as the educational aspect.

I can only wish that Youth and Government had been around since my freshman year. Of all the clubs that Berlin High offers, this one has got to be one of the most beneficial of all. An interest in politics is not required in order to enjoy this trip. An interest in anything can open up a world of debate within this program. At any moment, a bill that addresses a topic that you feel strong about can pop up on the docket. The atmosphere is so accepting, and so friendly that anyone can find his place. My one hope is that BHS gets behind Mr. Cwirka and this fledgling program and continues to build it up. Sometimes the best way to learn is to experience, without any guidance, and this program offers exactly that form of education.

From the Stage

by Mr. Recore

Improv

On March 27, our own Berlin Improv Team, known as *Chomping at the BIT*, hosted our fourth improv show of the year. *Chomping at the BIT* consists of 8 students (10th-12th grade) who work tirelessly learning the art of Improv. This show also added a musical improv opening act from Andrew Bosco and Alec Rich, where they 'jammed' about 10 minutes prior to the show. We also fed our audience, of course, with a nice dessert platter consisting of cookies of all variety. After the musical opening, the team performed some Short Form games, which incorporated audience participation (optional). Finally, we closed [the night's](#) performance with a new style of Long Form Improv called Movie, in which the team created a 20-30 minute movie based only on a title they were given. No animals were

If you haven't seen our improv show, yet, please come out [for April's edition](#) - you will not be disappointed!

Senior Play

May 8th through 10th are the dates for the annual Senior Class Play. May 8th and 9 shows commence at 7pm. May 10th is a 2pm performance. All performances are at McGee auditorium. This year's production, which has already been rehearsing for about one month, is "Romeo, You Idiot," by Tim Kochenderfer. It is a dramatic comedy adaptation of Romeo and Juliet. This rendition looks at the classic tale of love in a new way. With multiple choreographed sword fights, classic characters, the iconic balcony scene, and a tragic love, you are sure to be entertained in all facets. Historically, our attendance at the Senior Class Play has been lower than we'd like, so please try to come out and see the 40+ seniors (with 10+ underclassmen who are on stage crew) during one of the shows.



Move !

Over April break, most science classes will be moving to their new rooms. Teachers and students are wicked psyched about the transition.