

Berlin High School Newspaper

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B.H.S. 1950

Composed and assembled by and for the Berlin High community.

Be a part of this: meetings every Monday afternoon in the library.

Talk with Mr. Scannell or Ms. Larsen

Eat more greens - they're good for you.

Dancing the Night Away

By Jillian Ruscito

The homecoming dance was an extreme success thanks to our homecoming committee and their tremendous efforts in making this one of the best nights of the year.

On October 24th, from 7 pm to 10:30 pm in the Berlin High School gym, BHS students danced the night away at the space themed dance.

Leading up to the homecoming dance, the president of homecoming committee, Heather Mader, said, "It is a lot of work; it's like you have no time to do anything since it came so fast." Although it was a lot of work, Mader said it was fun to be the leader of this committee and hear everyone share all their contributing ideas.

Last year, the committee sold 400 tickets, and this year they sold even more. They sold 500 tickets; the committee added a unique space theme on each one.

The theme of the homecoming dance revolved around space, and Mader said it took a while to come up with this idea considering the group had to keep in mind a smart budget in order to produce an amazing outcome. BHS students spent many hours every day after school until the event - planning, making decorations, and planning for the homecoming football game as well. Some other students on the homecoming committee include Hayley Wilhelm, Steven Dickerson, Megan Waldrop, and Matt Wnuk.

"We are now in the process of assembling the decorations for the 24th!" says the advisor of the group, Ms. Gagnon.

"I am fortunate to be working with a dedicated group of students. They did an excellent job planning for the game and for the dance. The process of assembling the decorations for the 24th came out fantastically!" says the advisor of the group, Ms. Gagnon.

Besides the dance, the homecoming football game festivities went off successfully. The prom king and queen walked across the field with wide smiles. Our Homecoming king and queen were Evan Cornwall and Kelli Salimeno, and they both looked great. Unfortunately, the Redcoats lost, 21-14, to their opponents from Avon, but it was overall a good game and a great night for football.

The homecoming dance was a huge success for Berlin High students, and everyone had a night to remember. Everyone danced and the DJ was excellent. One senior from the dance, Courtney Scolaro, said, "This was the best night ever, we owned it!" The event could not have been achieved without the group members of the homecoming committee, and all of their tremendous work.



Berlin High School Holds Annual Cabaret Fundraiser Event

By Sammi Whitehill

Musical season has begun at Berlin High School, and, in preparation, the students involved in the musical held an annual Cabaret fundraiser.

A night of songs, delicious food, and a silent auction was held on Saturday, October 17, in the Berlin High School cafeteria. The many students involved in Cabaret had worked very hard since the beginning of the school year to put on a great show. About 120 people attended, and over \$2000 was raised.

To start off the night, the students came out and performed the song "Cabaret" from the Broadway musical *Cabaret* to welcome all that attended. Highlights from the night included Megan Waldrop's performance of "Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again" from *Phantom of the Opera*, Mark Bosse's performance of "Extraordinary" from *Pippin*, and Maya Wolanin's performance of "You Can't Stop the Beat" from the musical *Hairspray*. The night concluded with the winners of the silent auction being announced, followed by the finale group number, in which the students sang and danced along to the song "Footloose" from the musical *Footloose*. In a final announcement, director Mrs. Scherer announced that the name of the spring musical is *The Music Man*.

Senior at BHS and assistant director for the musical Nicole Foertsch shared her excitement about the fundraiser. "...it is a good way for people who potentially want to be in the musical to get involved," Foertsch said. "It's a good performance opportunity." All proceeds earned at the silent auction and through ticket sales are going toward the annual musical that the high school puts on. Director of the musical, Mrs. Scherer spoke about the

spoke about the importance of the fundraiser in regards to the musical. "It's our biggest fundraiser for the musical," Scherer explained, "Funds go towards buying and renting costumes, set building, hiring pit musicians, etcetera."

The students involved in Cabaret had been working tirelessly to ensure that the night was eventful, fun and enjoyable. To them, it was a very exciting warm up to the months ahead



Where is the Library This Year? By Larry Swanson

For the third year in a row, B.H.S.'s Thomas Galvin Library has moved. The good news is that, this year, it has returned to its original location, modified and upgraded to house a much more modern operation. Mr. Scannell says: "The new library space is flexible, which will allow us to have a number of activities going on at the same time." Mr. Scannell and Ms. Fazzio are in the midst of selecting which books will go on the beautiful hardwood shelving of the new facility. Still to come are a class-sized set of desk-top Macs, a gigantic wide-screen TV, and a modern Smart Board.

In addition to the books the library will

serve this year as home for the Writing Lab, which will be staffed by UConn. trained students, who will provide assistance to their peers in achieving their full capability as writers.

Also, the Media Center is the home for both this newspaper and the literary magazine. Soon, the Gamers' Club will resume their weekly meetings, setting up their apparatus in a shady corner of the room.

Mr. Scannell wants everybody to know that the library is open for business. "Students are welcome to visit and make use of our facility during studies, unassigned periods, and from classes (of course, with a pass) . Also, many

Library's collection of books, including reference, non-fiction, memoirs, and fiction – including a large group of graphic novels. As well, the library offers eleven databases for student research, all of which can be accessed at home, in classrooms, and in the library itself."

Ms. Jen Niro, the school's Technology Integration Specialist has her office in the library. From there, she provides tech assistance to students and staff, while supporting the schools 1 to 1 Chromebook initiative with advice training, and , as many students have already discovered, loaner Chromebooks for people who forgot to charge theirs overnight.

Ms. Fazio, who is entering her third month as Library Aide, has been very busy setting up the room, and is looking forward to even more student use. She reminds that the library is open daily, from 7:15 to 3:15. The library is open right now, as the staff continues to make it an even better resource for the B.H.S. community.



Ms. Hatton & Interact Honored By Ms. Keuthman

Ms. Lisa Hatton was inducted into the Paul Harris Society at a Rotary luncheon in October. This is a very prestigious award within the Rotary Network. Ms. Hatton received this recognition and was presented with a certificate and a pin for all of her hard work with Interact.

Nine students from BHS, representing the club, attended the luncheon. Hannah Lavoie spoke about her experience traveling abroad this past summer. Nicole Cyr spoke about this year's plans for Interact. Zach Phillipon spoke about his June experience at RYLA, which is an all day leadership conference at Springfield College. The rest of the students introduced themselves and explained their role in the club or talked about the experiences they have had as a part of the club.



Lending hands and hearts through volunteering

By Derrica Reid



The Berlin High Upbeat Hospital for Special Care volunteers are changing lives for the better with their frequent and efficient interaction with the hospital's patients.

The students of Berlin High volunteer through Upbeat, which is a drug and alcohol prevention program funded federally to ensure safe and productive teens, where they are shown the ropes of volunteering and given the opportunity to interact with patients. Berlin students have been volunteering their efforts for years. Upbeat Coordinator Alice Mitchell explains how the Hospital for Special Care volunteering came to be, "Mrs. Crowe wanted to see if we could expand what we were doing as volunteers at the hospital. She started working with the Director of Volunteer services and we were able to start sending groups of volunteers every Tuesday and Friday. The program has been going strong since that time."

Many of the volunteers start off their freshman year of high school and continue volunteering for the rest of the

most of their days, the hospital has a program where volunteers come in and get to spend time with patients. The collaboration with the Upbeat program and hospital volunteering program has given patients an opportunity to build relationships outside of the hospital by broadening interaction, and even given students experience with patient interaction as well as being in a hospital environment. Mitchell states, "Some of the peer leaders have worked with the same patient for many years and establish nice connections. Many of the peer leaders who volunteer at the hospital, decide on majoring in a variety of health careers in college. Their experiences at the hospital provides a wonderful opportunity for them to explore, first hand, all the different fields you can study in the medical field." Volunteer Jamie Kasulis states that she was able to build a relationship with her patient that they both are confident will be a long lasting one.

According to research, outside interaction has done much good for patients whose relationships are otherwise limited. Research supports that positive interaction positively affects a person and ensures a better mood. The hospital volunteers' efforts and dedication never goes unnoticed. The Hospital for Special care has always given positive feedback and speaks highly of the volunteers according to Mitchell. She stated, "Yes, we have had an excellent working relationship with the hospital and the Director of Volunteer Services." when asked



Chasing the Championship

By Max Wade

The 2015 Redcoat cross-country team is one of the most successful the school has ever seen. Running an approximate 18-20 miles per week, the cross-country team has a commendable work ethic, leading to the success story they have become this year. In dual meets, the boy's team has only one loss, and the girls' team is undefeated.

For 2015, the cross-country team has had both strong individual and group performances. Every course is a uniform 3.1 miles, or 5 kilometers. Freshman Giovanni Finely and Junior Dan Percales of the boys team have both ran low 17:00's, an impressive feat. Fanelli even ran a low 17 at the Wickham Invitational, ranking in the top ten lowest times ran at Wickham Park in Berlin history. Also, recently at the conference championship meet at Wickham Park, Peralas and Fanelli ran impressive times, each in the 17:00's.

The boys' team is not the only team that has had respectable showings, however. The girls' team, undefeated, has earned a conference championship. This strong team is led by senior Jody Diccico, who has run low 19's this year, and just recently finished first in the Girls Unseeded Varsity race at the Wickham Park Invitational. In every race she has run, prior to the conference championship, Jodi finished first. At the conference championship, Diccico's undefeated streak ended; she placed 3rd overall, and first within the division, with a time of 19:45.

Kevin Russell, one of the varsity captains, has been running cross-country for four years. Russell states that he loves the sport because of the "social - family mentality that the team provides." While he loves cross-country, his least favorite

his least favorite parts are "losing, and running bad races." JV is the less competitive side of the team, although they still have some fun. Matt Baroni, one of three JV captains, has been on the team for four years. Initially joining because his friends are on the team, he says that XC is a "fun atmosphere."

The cross-country team doesn't look like it will be running out of steam any time soon. The team competed successfully in the state class meet. Jodi Diccico finished 2nd, while leading her team to a 4th place finish. For the boys, Gianni Fanelli's 17th place brought the team to a 6th place result. Both Jodi and Gianni have qualified to compete in the Connecticut Open Championship race. Next up: State Open, from which the best runners, including Jodi, have qualified for the New England Championships.



Keeping the Flame going at Berlin High School

By: Shawn Drain

When people think of taking an elective in school, their image usually involves sitting in a classroom, learning from a teacher. At Berlin High School, there is one class that runs very differently. That class is Firefighting. For the past 9 years, the firefighting class has been giving students a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience what it is like to be a firefighter. Berlin High School is one of three schools in the state that offers this class to students.

The Firefighting class reaches beyond the walls of Berlin High School. A former student, and a current firefighter at Kensington Fire-Rescue, Geoff Magisano, has chosen to make firefighting his career by pursuing a degree in fire science. Jeff aims to, one day, contribute as part of the New York City Fire Department.

Mr. Russ Fuller, who has over 40 years of firefighting experience, has been teaching the firefighting class for 9 years at BHS. The class covers all of the topics in a Firefighter 1 course, which is the entry-level amount of training that every firefighter receives. However, the skills learned in the class go beyond firefighting. Fuller states, " The students learn life skills: what to do in an emergency situation, teamwork and communication."

Q & A about GSA **BY Rachael Gasparini**

Q: What exactly is GSA?

A: According to GSA Network, "GSA is a student-run club in a high school and middle school that brings together LGBTQ and straight students to support each other, provide a safe place to socialize, and create a platform for activism to fight homophobia and trans phobia."

Q: I'm not gay, so does that mean I can't join?

A: Of course you can join, no matter what your sexuality is. The club is all about uniting people of different genders and just overall different types of people - with the goal of diversity and acceptance.



Q: How often are meetings held?

A: Meetings are held biweekly, so every second Monday from about 2:10-2:50/3:00 in Mrs. Hurley's room, which is room 2123.

Q: Would I ever have to disclose any personal information about myself and my sexuality?

A: Never ever would you have to give out any personal information that you do not want, though it is encouraged to share your preferred personal pronouns.

Q: What is done during your meetings?

A: During the meetings, we pretty much just all hang out and talk, playing games, and getting to know each other.

Heisman Predictions **By Sam Barton**

By now, with the college football season in full swing, this year's Heisman decision has been a big question mark. Unpredictable injuries have occurred, as they do every year. Nick Chubb's and Marcus Lattimore's injuries have given voters cause for serious consideration of three outstanding college backs.

Running Back Leonard Fournette- LSU
This year Fournette has put up ridiculous numbers. In his sophomore year, he has rushed for 1,202 yards and 14 TDs. This is pretty unheard of for a running back, unless they're truly talented. This year against rival Florida, he put up 180 yards with 2 TDs. Three weeks prior, he recorded 244 yards with 3 TDs in Syracuse. These kinds of numbers have been a weekly showing for Fournette. If he continues the season he's having, Fournette should be a lock for the Heisman.

for the Heisman.

Quarterback Trevone Boykin- TCU
Boykin came into the preseason as the number two pick for the Heisman, behind now-injured Georgia RB Nick Chubb. Boykin has compiled some respectable stats this year, throwing for 2,539 yards with 25 TDs, while also rushing for an additional 440 yards and 5 TDs. Take Fournette out of the equation, and Boykin would have this award on lock. The only thing hurting his case is the weakness of the opponents that he plays. Some of his notable performances come against SF Austin and Minnesota, while some of Fournette's big games come against Florida and Syracuse. Boykin will be in contention, but I think that Fournette will edge him out.

Running Back Ezekiel Elliott- Ohio State
Elliott made his splash last year in the college football playoff, where he ran all over the defense of Alabama and Oregon. Many believed that he was the next Bo Jackson, as he could run fast and run people over as well. Coming into the season, he was fourth in projected finishing of the Heisman behind Chubb, Fournette, and Boykin. Elliott has had a solid year, rushing for 998 yards and crossing the plane 11 times. His only problem is he is well behind Fournette. Of course, the team that Elliott is on is better, but his stats aren't as good. I see Elliott at the Heisman finalist special, but he won't get the necessary votes to win.



NBA Outlook **BY Sam Barton**

With the NBA season knocking at the door, let's take a look at my predictions for the individual awards, as well as who will win the title.

MVP: Power Forward, Anthony Davis- New Orleans Pelicans

At only 23 years old, Davis is already a driving force in the Association. The man put up freakish numbers last year. He averaged 24.4 points per game last year on a team that finished 8th in the West. Plus, Davis is great on the boards. Bringing in 10.2 rebounds per game is absolutely insane. After finishing 4th in MVP voting last year, "The Brow" may finally see his time for greatness.



Defensive Player of the Year: Small Forward Kawhi Leonard- San Antonio Spurs

Leonard took home this award last year, and I can see him doing it again for sure. The guy saw all of his defensive numbers explode last year. His total steal count skyrocketed from 114 the previous season to 148 this year. When Leonard was on the floor, Leonard allowed on 2.3 points per game with pick-and-roll defenders. At 6'7" and with hands so big he could palm the basketball court, Leonard will see his

see his numbers go way up this year.

*Most Improved Player: Center Gorgui Dieng-
Minnesota Timberwolves*

Ok, I know a lot of people have never heard of him. But Dieng should be a household name after the end of this season. The former Louisville star will see his minutes and numbers steadily rise this year. He is technically behind Nikola Pekovic in the lineup, but Dieng will still see a lot of playing time in Minnesota's scheme. He is fast, tall, and can rebound like a DeAndre Jordan type player. Watch out for Dieng this year.

*Rookie of the Year: Center Jahlil Okafor-
Philadelphia 76ers*

Being a part of the worst team will be a blessing and curse for Okafor. It will be good because he will get the ball so much more than anyone else, so that means his stats will be beefed up. But since Philly is going absolutely nowhere this season, many of the voters will look at him and ask this question: How can he be valuable if his team went nowhere? With guys like Karl-Anthony Towns and D'angelo Russell hot on his trail, this one could be close, but I think Okafor takes it home.



Other Notable Awards:

*NBA Champions: San Antonio Spurs defeat
Cleveland Cavaliers in 6 games*

Finals MVP: Kawhi Leonard

*Sam Barton "Worst Free Agent Award": Forward
DaMarre Carroll- Toronto Raptors*

**Girls Soccer, Running Past Opponents
By Michaela Dehm**

BERLIN - The Berlin High School women's soccer team has had a great start to their 2015 season, defeating opponents left and right. They have faced tough opponents such as Rocky Hill, Wethersfield, Newington, and Middletown. Rocky Hill was the only tie of the season ending with a score of 1-1. RHAM and Northwest Catholic have handed the Redcoats their only losses. Wethersfield was a 2-1 win, and Newington was a back and forth game, but Berlin overcame by winning 3-2 in overtime. The girls have ended the regular season ranked 1st in the CCC South division, 5th in the overall CCC conference, and 6th in Class L. The Berlin booters are looking forward to the state Class L tournament, which begins in mid-November.

Two soccer players who have high hopes for the post-season are Danielle Skates and Olivia Norton. Skates says that, "We are different than other teams because of our strong team bond. It's something special that other teams don't always have." Norton agrees, and says, "I am very excited for the postseason to begin, I think we could do very well."

Both players, along with the rest of the team are very excited about future tournament play, having already achieved many regular season goals.

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE BERLIN
TEAMS AS THEY COMPETE IN
TOURNAMENT SEASON !**