



Redcoat Review

December 2017 / Issue 1

In this issue...book reviews, movie reviews, and more

Berlin High Welcomes Administrative Changes

By Connor Recck
Redcoat Review Writer

This last month at Berlin High School has come with an uncertain future for the school's administrative team after the announcement that Francis T. Kennedy would be leaving behind his position as the school's principal, a position he has held for six school years.

Kennedy began his role as the school's principal in the fall of 2011, and the school has flourished throughout his tenure. One current BHS junior reflected, "Mr. Kennedy was a real all star in the high school's administrative team."

Mr. Kennedy will be leaving Berlin as he assumes his new position as an associate director at the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, based in Burlington, Massachusetts.

With the principal's departure, a



Photo Credit: Connor Recck
BHS Administrators pictured from left, Kelly Maio, Barbara Ventura, Jeff Cronk.

necessary decision was made regarding the makeup of the new administration, whether permanent or temporary.

It was ultimately decided, effective November 1, 2017, that the school's current assistant principal, Barbara Ventura, who joined the team after leaving McGee Middle School, would become the high school's interim

principal through June 2018.

In light of this change, current supervisory head of the school's Social Studies department, Jeff Cronk, became interim assistant principal alongside Kelly Maio.

With this news, a BHS student noted, "With the new administration coming in, hopefully they will continue the work that [Mr. Kennedy] has put forth to ensure that BHS still works well with its students."

All the students here at BHS will deeply miss the care and appreciation that Mr. Kennedy showed for each and every student. In light of new administrative changes, all students, from freshmen to seniors, hope that Ms. Ventura, Ms. Maio, and Mr. Cronk will be championed advocates for the students and work with them to flourish growth as they enter into adulthood.

Redcoats Show School Spirit

By Ms. Gagnon
Special to the Review

School spirit at Berlin High School was especially high during the week of October 23rd, also known as Spirit Week.

The week's events consisted of coordinated dress up themes for each day, hallway decorating, a pep rally, the Homecoming football game Friday night at Sage Park, and the Homecoming dance on Saturday.

The high school community enjoyed seeing students and staff interpret the theme for each day of Spirit Week and watching each grade come together to decorate their hallway and compete in

activities at the Pep Rally.

This year was made even more special thanks to the coverage from Channel 8 news. Students had the opportunity to showcase their school spirit both on school grounds and at Sage Park for Channel 8's high school game of the week. The Redcoats did not disappoint as they beat Tolland 41-10.

Spirit week had a little something for everyone. James Negri's favorite part of the week was "the Pep Rally because of the Tug of War and the Basketball contest," since both "got him hyped." Ashanti Agosto's favorite part of the

see Spirit page 3



Photo Credit: Courtesy of BHS
Seniors gathered to show off their winning hallway on the last day of Spirit Week. The seniors beat out the freshmen for the honor.

Popular Good Reads a Sure Bet

By Samuel Turgeon
Redcoat Review Writer

Most of us tend to have a favorite author, someone whose books we as readers always gravitate toward and whose sequels we make sure to read the first chance we get. Once we find this author, we tend to go back to their books over and over again as we know that they will please us. Here are a couple of new books by popular authors.

Scythe by Neal Shusterman

Dystopian Science Fiction

Released in 2016, this new series by the author of the *Unwind* Dystology and the *Skinjacker* Trilogy is sure to keep you entertained from the start. *Scythe* is set in the distant future, when the world is practically perfect. Humans have almost completely cured death as they can recover from nearly any injury and reset a person's age as far back as 21.

Alongside this new ability comes the



issue of a rapidly increasing population. In order to fix this, the Scythes are created. The Scythes are a group of people who follow a set of rules that are very different than everyone else's. A Scythe's job is to kill a certain number of people every few months. People killed by Scythes are not resurrected, making their deaths permanent.

The story follows Citra and Rowan, two children who are chosen to apprentice a scythe. Neither wishes to kill for a living, but their apprenticeship will grant their families immunity from the Scythes for a long period of time. When Citra and Rowan's mentor brings them to a meeting of the Scythe Council, the council makes a decision. Only the better of the two apprentices will become a scythe; the other one will be killed.

I definitely recommend this book. I assure you that Citra and Rowan's battle for survival will keep you up at night reading for days on end.

Rating: 8/10

Generation One by Pittacus Lore

Dystopian Science Fiction

When thinking of a popular series, it is almost impossible to skip over the "I Am Number 4" series. This is the kind of series that you rip right through, and when it ends, you are disappointed that it is over. Fortunately, the author Pittacus Lore was kind enough to write a spin-off series.

Generation One is set after the end of the first series. In the first series, nine aliens were sent to earth after their planet was destroyed. The nine aliens look exactly like humans, but there is a big difference. Each of these aliens have powers called Legacies, and they are being hunted. The aliens who attempted to destroy their race have realized that they still exist and they are willing to do anything to catch them. *Generation One* follows a group of human teenagers who deal with the consequences of this alien conflict.

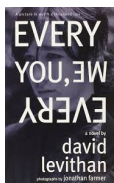


Rating: 6/10

Every You, Every Me

By Hannah Cox
Redcoat Review Writer

What would you do if you were walking to school and saw an envelope containing a picture of the exact spot you were standing in? And the next day, there was an envelope with a photo of you in that spot?



In David Levithan's book, "Every You, Every Me," this exact thing happens to the main character, Evan. Evan's best friend, Ariel, recently disappeared - no one is aware of what actually happened to her - and he starts to believe that these photos are from her and that she is trying to send him a message.

This book is short and contains photos from Jonathan Farmer and oddly structured chapters and paragraphs, which is intriguing. Overall, Levithan's writing style is different and makes for a fascinating story. Rating: 8/10

Talking Heads '77' Worth a Listen

By Donald Roski
Redcoat Review Writer

The Talking Heads, an art rock and funk inspired group, put out quite a few solid albums during their 16 years of activity, including reunion shows in 1996 and 2002 for their induction to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The album, '77', released in the year 1977, is the home of a few classics such as "Uh-Oh, Love Comes to Town" and "Psycho Killer" that can be heard occasionally on the radio.

The four piece band is headed by David Byrne on vocals and guitar. Byrne also did songwriting on all tracks along with a collaboration with fellow band-mates Chris Frantz (Drums) and Tina Weymouth (Bass guitar) on the song "Psycho Killer."

Jerry Harrison compliments the music flawlessly with his backing guitar and keyboard ingenuity.

The whole album has an overall fun feeling, led by a steady rhythm and vocals that are sung with a kind of energy that makes you feel like singing along, or at least nodding your head to the beat.



Girls Soccer Soars



Photo Credit: Courtesy of BHS

The girls' soccer team enjoyed an outstanding season reaching the Class M state championship game this year for the first time since 1998. The team lost to Granby 3-0.

Top 10 Tips for Underclassmen

1. Try to keep your grades up because when it counts, it will be harder to pick up the slack.
2. Take your quizzes seriously, they only get harder.
3. Fill up your study halls with classes so when you get to be a senior, you won't have as many classes to take.
4. It doesn't matter how cool you are in high school. You should focus more on your schoolwork in order to get a good career.
5. The grades you make freshman year do count. Take them seriously.
6. Your grades do not define your intelligence.
7. Join lots of clubs; it makes your college applications look great.
8. Don't rush to get to your senior year. Live it up for the rest of the time you're in high school.
9. Don't let someone else try and define you based upon what you do and don't know. Everyone learns at a different pace.
10. Have fun!! These will be some of the best years of your life.

~ Senior Xavier M. and Friends

Students Show Off School Spirit

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week was "Throwback Thursday." If Ashanti could go to a time in the past, it would be the 1990's. She enjoys the R&B Music from that time period and liked dressing in clothing from that decade that day.

For Larry St. Pierre, the week's events made Friday night's game even more exciting. He enjoyed being able to go to the Homecoming Dance on Saturday night to celebrate Friday's win.

Ms. Gagnon's favorite memory of the week was walking down the hallway Thursday night at 6 p.m. seeing students laughing and working together as a team to complete the task of decorating their hallways.

Spirit Week was a great success thanks to all the hard work and dedication of the students and staff at Berlin High School. We look forward to the fun and excitement that next year is sure to bring!



Photo Credit: Courtesy of BHS

Freshmen walk through the Looking Glass.



Photo Credit: Courtesy of BHS

Juniors went with a Greek Mythology theme.



Photo Credit: Courtesy of BHS

Sophomores recreated 'Finding Dory'.



Photo Credit: Courtesy of BHS

Seniors took top honors with 'Seniors Wars'.

Cross Country Finishes Strong

By Juliana Cancellieri

Special to the Redcoat Review

The 2017 Cross Country season was a huge success for both the boys and girls teams.

The girls finished first place in their CCC South Conference meet for the seventh straight year. Madison Marolda, senior, Juliana Cancellieri, sophomore, and Megan Perrotta, freshman, made the All-Conference team.

At the State meet, the girls came in second place in their Class M division, qualifying for the State Open. At the State meet, Perrotta and Cancellieri qualified as individuals and as a team for the State Open. In Class M, Cancellieri placed 6th with a time of 20:21 and Perrotta placed 10th with a time of 20:54. At the State Open, they placed 19th as a team. Cancellieri placed 22nd overall, qualifying for the New England Championship in Maine and finishing 114th with a personal record of 19:59.

The boys team placed second in the Conference meet and fifth at the state meet in Class MM. Michael Parzych led the team, placing 11th with a time of 17:46 and qualifying for the State Open. At the State Open, Parzych placed 112th with a time of 18:00.

The girls varsity team had a lot of talent this year. Freshmen Megan and Sarah Perrotta, Noelle Konior, and Gabby Foster made a huge impact on the team from the start. Sophomores Audrey Jankovich, Cancellieri, and Emma Roski continued their second season on the team and had many accomplishments along the way. Although Jankovich hurt her iliotibial band halfway through the season, she never gave up and made sure to get the rest she needed before continuing her season.

Juniors Madison and Alexa Monroe always brought smiles to the team and were the people that others relied on for

advice or help. Monroe's season was cut short during the first meet due to a hip injury, but she still proceeded to be a part of the team.

Finally, the seniors will be missed tremendously. Madison Marolda and Morgan Luciani filled the team with positivity and made sure to make freshmen feel welcomed. They were great role models as captains.

The boys varsity team was also filled with talent this year. None are seniors, which means they will all be returning next year. There were two freshman this year, Chris Bantle and Cole Primo, who quickly claimed their spots on varsity. Though Primo was injured at the Windham Invitational at the beginning of the season, with rest, he was finally able to continue his season.

Sophomores Ryan Munch, Mike Parzych, and Nick Parzych had a successful season as well. Mike Parzych led the boys varsity team and continued to improve over the course of the season. Juniors Gianni Fanelli, Colin Asklar, Josh Ladd, James Negri, and Jimmy Grieco filled the team with laughter and constant support.



Photo Credit: Mrs. Lucy Bantle

Members of the 2017 Cross Country team had a great season for Berlin High.

Although practices were tough and meet days were long, everyone was supportive of each other. Everyone left the meets feeling proud of what they accomplished and looking ahead to the next race.

Without coaches Steve Soucy and Bob Casey, neither team would have been able to have the success they did this year. The coaches pushed the teams to do their best and were incredibly supportive.

Club Feature - GSA +

GSA+ Everyone is welcome. GSA+ is a welcoming and accepting space where people can speak freely and openly. Meetings are every other week and our next meeting is December 4 at 2:15 in room 2402. We hope to see you there!

Meet Our Staff

The Redcoat Review writing team includes freshmen Ting Fisher and Samuel Turgeon, sophomore Jake Holmes, junior Connor Recck, and seniors Hannah and Haley Cox, and Donald Roski.

The Redcoat Review welcomes new members. Co-Advisors are Mrs. Rice and Ms. Briganti.



Redcoats Dominate Gridiron

By Jake Holmes

Redcoat Review Writer

The Redcoats handled business Friday, October 6th against the Plainville Blue Devils. The final score was 42-14 with the Redcoats scoring all 42 points inside three quarters. The Junior running back Alex Halkias lived up to his nickname (The Greek Freak) by running all over the Blue Devils' defense. Halkias finished the game with three touchdowns, which gave him seven on the year after this game. However, now, after ten games, Halkias has 12 touchdowns.

"Nothing feels better than breaking loose and dashing to that end zone," Halkias said. Other weapons the Redcoats used were the two sophomores Zach Hrubiec and Larry St. Pierre Jr. Hrubiec scored two touchdowns for Berlin, showing that he is lethal on both sides of the ball. Hrubiec hauled in a touchdown, then punched in a 19-yard touchdown on the ground. St. Pierre started off the game with a huge punt return. The return went the distance and sparked a fire for Berlin.

When asked how he personally thought the team played overall, junior quarterback Kevin Dunn said he thought that the team "played our best football from the first snap... tonight was our most complete game."

The Redcoats have many go-to guys throughout their offense, so when Dunn was asked what he expects from the offense moving forward, Dunn told me, "When we are consistent and don't beat ourselves with silly mistakes, our offense is very deadly against any defense." Come playoff time, don't be surprised to see many points for this Redcoat offense.

Berlin has shown why their defense should not be underrated or slept on. In five games, the Redcoats have had four interceptions and 10 caused fumbles. After speaking to Senior defensive back Matt Wojciechowski, one could get the idea of what the whole defensive mindset was. Wojciechowski said, "As a DB, we all



Photo Credit: Special to the Redcoat Review
The Redcoats have enjoyed success this season.

challenge each other for picks." When I asked him how it felt to get that first pick on the season, he replied "exciting."

This game was a turning point for the Redcoats' season. It was by far their most complete game, and it has shown throughout the season. The Redcoats are sitting at fourth in the Class M standings at 8-2 with a couple of huge wins against Tolland and Bloomfield.

In each game, the Redcoats were doubted but prevailed with a win. Although, the last two games of the season didn't end the way they expected. On Friday November 10th, the Redcoats suffered a loss to the undefeated Rocky Hill Terriers. Then, the following Friday on November 17th, the Redcoats lost to the New Britain Hurricanes.

Redcoats Shutout Falcons

By Haley Cox

Redcoat Review Writer

On October 20, 2017, the Redcoats took on the Avon Falcons at Sage Park and won 37-0. The first touchdown of the night was made by Giancarlo Tufano, a junior, during the first quarter. He also made the field goal, making this the start of a great game for the Redcoats.

Further into the game, sophomore Larry St. Pierre Jr., received the ball at the 20 yard line from a kick and ran an exciting 55 yards. The Redcoats' crowd was very enthusiastic, cheering anytime the team made an amazing play. In the end, it was a fantastic game for the Redcoats.

Benjamin Button a movie worth watching

By Ting Fisher

Redcoat Review Writer

Shortly after World War 1 ended, Benjamin Button was born in New Orleans with the appearance of an old man.

After being abandoned by his father, Benjamin was left on the doorstep of a nursing home to be parented by Queenie and Mr. "Tizzy" Weathers.

The movie follows the journey of Benjamin's life as he ages in reverse. While doing so, he makes mistakes, grows up, and falls in love.

The movie is far from just an old man turning into a young boy. It has many plot twists and heartwarming scenes. With its compelling beginning to its tragic yet heartwarming ending, it has to be one of the best movies around.