

the hoofprint

Buffalo
High
School
Buffalo MN

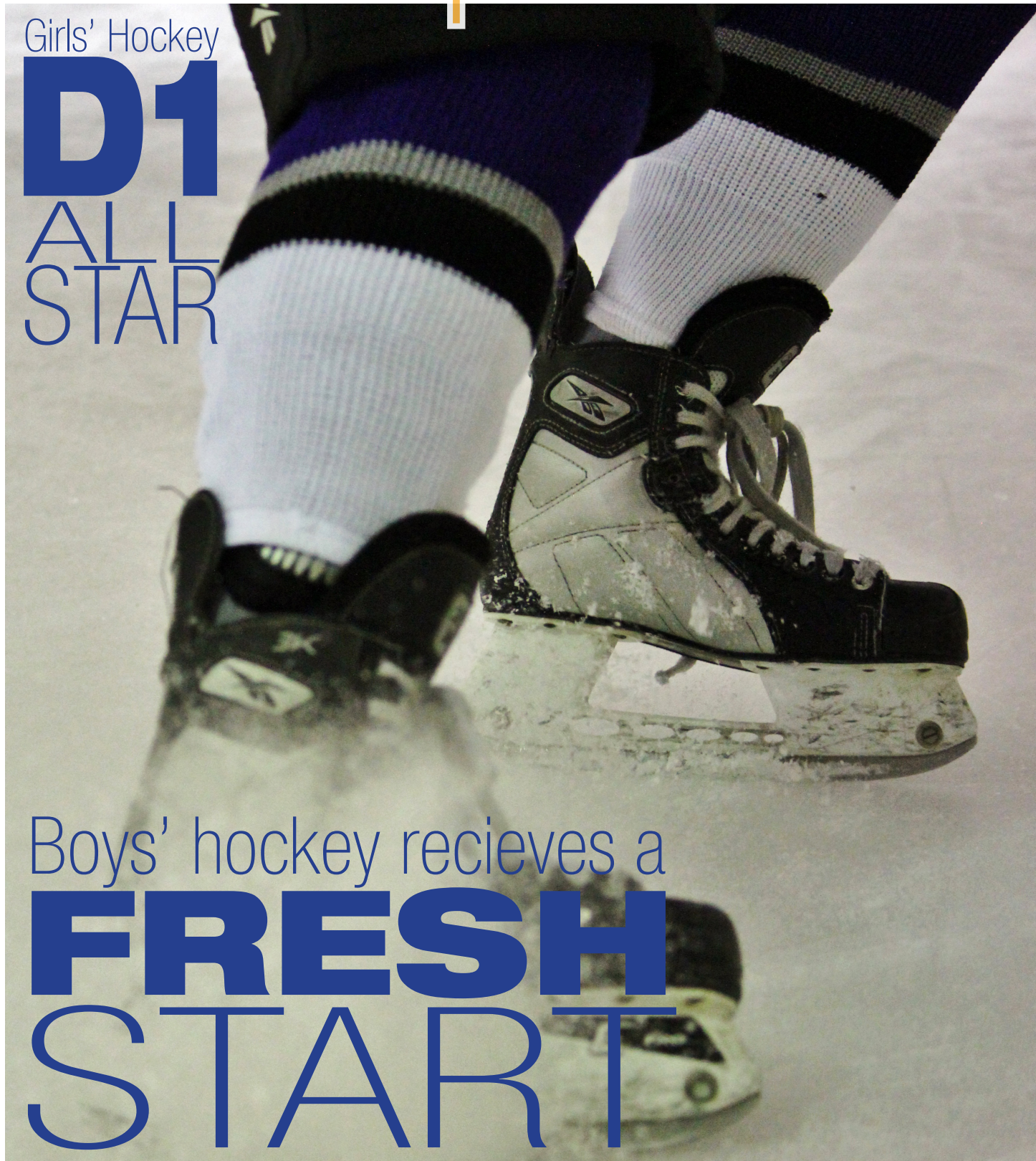
ISSUE 3
December
2013

Girls' Hockey

D1
ALL
STAR

Boys' hockey receives a

FRESH
START





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The Hoofprint

Volume 43 Issue 3

Editors-in-Chief Taylor Holt,
Whitney Nyholm

Managing Editor Taylor Susa

Photography Editors Mackenzie
Malewicki, Aric Haluska, Molly
McMullen

News Jay Mason

Activities Hannah Budde, Hannah
Calder

Arts & Entertainment Tiffany
Kramer

Features Cassie Bunkers, Molly
Kwakenat, Kayla Lehtola

Sports Kylee Zumach, Anna
Demgen

Opinions Erica Hoops, Jessica
McMullen

Spotlight Nicholas Swearingen,
Emily Vogt

Graphics Gordy Gerhardson

Artist Kathleen Tierney

Copy Editors Emma Henne

Photographers Sarah Lehtola,
Jessica Faust, Patrick Macnab,
Natalie Brady, Allie Swearingen,
Abby Christopher, Lauren McHenry

Staff Writers Blaze Solberg,
Calista Susa, Kylee Nyholm,
Tyler Upham, Megan Shipley,
Carson Reichardt, Leighton
McAlpin, Lauren Holt, Meghan
Cahill, Jillianne Hovland, Madeline
Schwappach, Kenna Kunesh,
Maddy Personius, Taylor McNitt,
Emily Lindberg, Greta Tesdahl, Nels
Raisanen

Hoofprint.net Staff Jon Thielen,
Michael LaCasse, Andrew Scherber

Adviser Ryan McCallum

from the hoofprint

A Chance for Change

The ringing of bells at store entrances, snow tipped tree branches, and lit up hockey arenas can only mean one thing: Winter is once again upon us. Winter contains different meanings for everyone. For some, it's a wet and cold season that causes long and slippery drives to school. For others, Winter holidays bring feelings of warmth and love despite the cold weather. In this issue of the Hoofprint we would like BHS to think about the changes Winter brings to our school and what these changes mean.

The boys hockey team is adjusting to a huge change this winter season. They are welcoming a new head coach this year and are planning a very successful year of hockey. Senior **Lindsey Roethke** also knows what it feels like to welcome change. In less than a year she'll be on her way to play D1 hockey for University of Connecticut. Winter sends her reminders everyday that this change is getting closer and closer.

In this issue we not only question what changes Winter brings us, but also what changes our school can make during the Winter season. A great example is the tall holiday tree standing in the office covered in purple ornaments. For most students the tree is just that; a tree. A tree that celebrates the holiday season and decorates the school. Others question the tree's meaning though and whether it favors Christmas.

Through out this issue of The Hoofprint we invite students and staff to ask themselves what changes Winter brings for them and what they want to see changed. We also invite readers to take advantage of the new season. Winter doesn't have to be a burden that we all share because we live in Minnesota. Make something of your Winter and welcome the changes it brings.

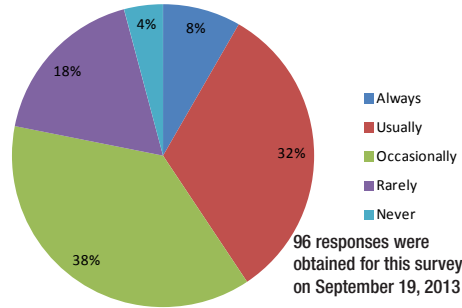
INTERNET @ BHS

80%

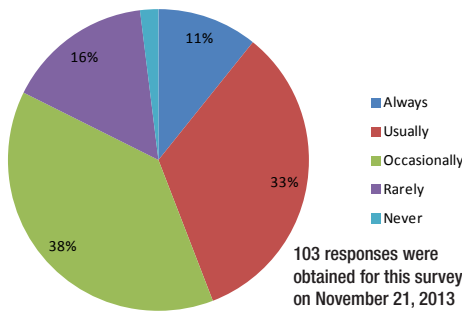
Statistics regarding internet use in the school

Of students report having trouble with the school's internet once or more per week

Is the internet at BHS sufficient?
(September)



Is the internet at BHS sufficient?
(November)



5.66 HOURS

Average amount of time BHS students spend on an internet device every day

38%

OF BHS STUDENTS

Have problems with the school's internet once or more per week

RESTORING CONNECTION

Frustration rises as the technology department works to resolve widespread internet problems

Jon Thielen - Hoofprint.net Staff Member

Internet problems have been widespread at BHS this year. Of 103 students polled, 80.6 percent report having problems with the internet once or more per week, and 38.8 percent say once or more per day. These issues are not unique to the high school; they have been occurring across the district.

"If there is an outage, it is typically district-wide," said Senior Technician **Paula Meister**. "We have yet to have just a high school outage."

The primary cause of these internet problems and outages has been with Lightspeed Systems.

"The main issue we have been experiencing (district-wide) is with Lightspeed, the company who provides our Internet filtering and virus protection for our district," said BHM Technology Director **Mat Nelson**. "[The Lightspeed] server has not been able to keep up with the increasing number of students logging on or authenticating to the internet."

This number of logins has increased to 3200 logins per day, with about 700 logins recurring every 90 minutes. Much is being done to resolve this issue.

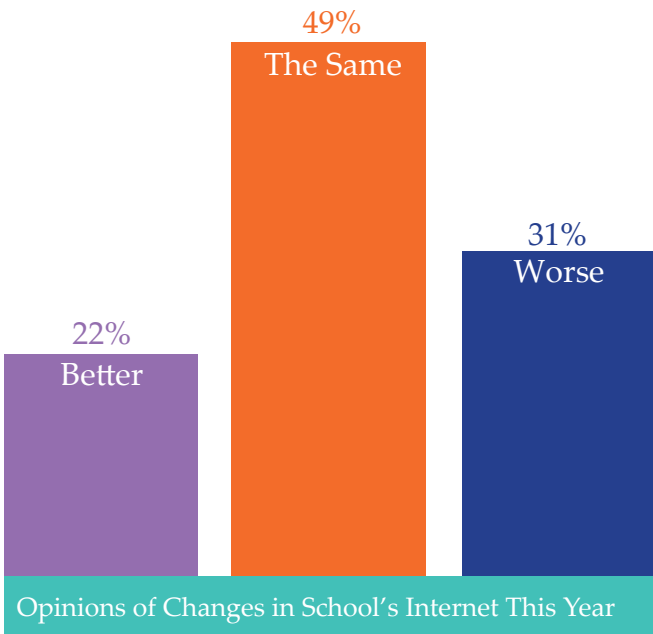
"Behind the scenes there is a lot going on," said Nelson. "The technology department is working directly with Lightspeed technicians to monitor this and respond. A client was installed on all windows machines that authenticates the user in a different way to reduce traffic on the main Lightspeed filtering server."

Other actions are also being taken to improve the connection quality at BHS. For instance, the Social Studies department received 150 Chromebooks and 70 iPad Minis this year, which helps to relieve the strain of users on the shared computer labs and mobile laptop carts. Also included are improvements to the Wi-Fi network.

"We've added 15 new access points throughout the building this year," said Meister. "We're constantly improving the building; two more access points are going in this week."

In the long term, the district is looking to resolve the main problem with Lightspeed by finding another company to work with.

"On more of a long term level," said Nelson, "we are currently exploring other companies to provide our filtering and virus protection for our district in hopes that we might be able to find a more effective service provider."



NO Shave November

Support for men's cancer is becoming a growing trend



Mason Jacobs



Jon Holtz



Levi Bean

Meghan Cahill - Staff Writer

No Shave November has become a national holiday to raise awareness for men's cancer. While it traditionally is just middle age men growing beards, students and staff here at Buffalo High School are helping spread the message.

For freshman **Jake Hendel**, being able to participate in No Shave November is exciting.

"It's fun growing a beard when most other 9th graders can't," Hendel said, "and it's nice not having to shave every day."

While this was a cool experience for Hendel, there were some downsides.

"My parents were constantly telling me to shave it off," Hendel said, "and you get a lot of crap from people about it."

It wouldn't be expected for a female

to participate in No Shave November, 4 female cafeteria workers, including **Nancy Allen**, decided to grow out their leg hair.

"We heard it over the loudspeaker and a few of us thought hey this shouldn't just be for guys," Allen said. "And we're all about helping out with cancer."

Allen unfortunately has had to go through the cancer experience with relatives in their fight against cancer.

"Many people in my life have had cancer my father, aunts, and uncles. I have a lot," Allen said.

No Shave November is Allen's opportunity to support her family in their fight and raise awareness in honor of her loved ones that died in their struggle

Photos by Partick Macnab

against cancer. Allen and her co-workers plan on participating again next year for another month of fun.

Senior **Bill Otten** has participated in No Shave November every year that he could.

"It has become a tradition between my friends and me," Otten said.

This tradition is fun in theory for Otten and his friends but it's not always exciting.

"If you can't grow a beard you get a lot of crap from your man friends," Otten said, "but for me my beard grows uneven especially in my sideburns and it's itchy so really either way it's not fun."

Otten sees the good and the bad in participating but either way it's for a great cause.

The Last Generation

Some gamers aren't buying new consoles and are instead sticking with their old ones.

Photos By - Bryce Bishop



Sony and Microsoft released new consoles last month with prices of \$400 and \$500. Many students are sticking with their old consoles.

Carson Reichardt and Nels Raisanen - Staff Writers

With the recent release of the Xbox One and PlayStation 4, stores are happily taking the money of customers who are eager to try out the new technology. Some gamers, however, are refraining from such a purchase, and they're perfectly content to play their old ones. Many of these players are sticking with the Xbox 360 or PlayStation 3, but others have their tastes in technology rooted further in the past.

This is true of Freshman **Max Brown**, who still plays his PlayStation 2. "I kind of like the old, retro PS2 games," he explained. "One of my favorite games, Star Wars Battlefront, is only on the PS2, and it's the greatest game in existence."

Brown does play more than Battlefront.

"There's a game, I think it's called *ATV Offroad Fury*," he said. "It's really awesome. The other one I play is a really fun James Bond game. I don't remember what it's called. I still play it, and I got it three or four years ago."

Aside from the games he listed, Brown also has a method of finding more to play. "I just go around and see if there are any good, old PS2 games that

you can find for, like, ten bucks at Target."

He has nothing against either of the new consoles. He simply wants to keep his old games and save his money. "I don't really plan on, per se, wasting my money on a new console if there's not going to be anything that I would like," Brown said.

His interests do spread beyond the realm of the PS2, however. "Most of the time, I'm a PC gamer," Brown explained. "If there's a new Elder Scrolls game, I'll get it on the PC."

Other gamers share Brown's mentality. One example is Freshman **Brian Irwin**, who also owns and continues to use his PS2.

"I have all the games that I want to play on my PS2," Irwin said. "Why would I buy a newer system to not play the games that I already have?"

With loyal fans like Brown and Irwin continuing to play the PS2, it's not surprising to see how successful the console and Sony, its developer, was. Whether or not the trend of success will continue into the new generation of gaming remains to be seen, but one way or the other, Brown and Irwin will be able to continue playing the games that they like.





Photo by Kayla Lehtola

INSIDE THE WALLS

IT'S NOT THE BIG THINGS THAT MAKE OUR SCHOOL BETTER, IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS

“I have to work hard enough so that what you have for an education in the building is what I would want for my own kids.”
-Principal Mark Mishchke

Kayla Lehtola - Staff Writer

Every day, 1,800 students with various families and backgrounds walk through the doors.

“The students that come in are interested in getting a good education and work tremendously hard. They care about their grades and they care about their school,” said Principal **Mark Mischke**. “The overall percentage of our staff that come into our building completely invest in providing a great education [for the students]. The effect of our staff to connect with their students and make them feel welcome in their classroom [gives] students a better opportunity to learn.”

The hard work of the staff shines through to the students.

Sophomore **Tiffany Kasheimer** said,

“Our school is a good environment to be in and there’s so many different activities that we can be involved in.”

The after school activities at Buffalo High School provide a chance to connect with others while doing something you enjoy.

School Resource Officer **Josh Erickson** said, “It’s getting involved in different things [that makes you go above and beyond], building relationships with people whether it’s student or staff or anybody in this building.”

The staff at Buffalo put their best effort onto their job.

“I consider [all of the students] as my own kids and I got to work hard enough so that what you have for an education in the building would be what I want for my own children,” Mishchke said.



Photos Submitted By Carl Sones

The Long Shots



Dreams become a reality when Sones and his band get to be the opening act for their favorite band

Kylee Nyholm and Lauren Holt - Staff Writers

Junior **Carl Sones** blacked out for fifteen minutes when he received a very unexpected phone call from a fellow band member. Tears ran down his face when Sones came to. The tears quickly turned to excitement and giddiness. This was the phone call that could change his life forever.

A couple weeks before the phone call, Sones's fellow band member and mandolin player, **Sophie Galep**, saw a chance of a lifetime to be the opening act for one of their favorite bands. Sones, Galep, and three others are in a band called The Long Shot. It has always been one of their dreams to open up for the Steel Canyon Rangers.

This was finally their chance.

"We had to apply for it. We sent in our names and youtube page. They watched our videos and that's how we got picked. One of our songs was named after them so we thought that would increase our chances," said Sones. "I didn't think they would choose us. It was kind of on a whim."

A month later, Sones received the unexpected phone call that made him black out. It was Galep who told him they would be opening for the Steel Canyon Rangers. Even through Sones's excitement, he waited until he got home to tell his parents the news.

"I said, 'Well it looks like you guys can have my ticket to the Steel Canyon Rangers concert.' My mom asked why. I said 'Guess who's opening for the band?' She was so excited and couldn't believe it," said Sones. "We kind of practiced together. We tried to anyways. A lot of it was on our own. I worked myself up about it. We competed in a bluegrass festival band contest, and we practiced a lot there. It was a good time to take advantage of to practice for the concert." Sones and his bandmates were full of nerves. When Sones finally met the members of the Steel Canyon members, he was shocked at how normal they were.



“We had to apply for it. We sent in our names and YouTube page. They watched our videos and that’s how we got picked,” said **Carl Sones**

Yet, he couldn’t believe he was in the presence of Blue Grass celebrities. When the time came to perform, it felt surprisingly natural to them.

“I was so excited. It’s kinda blurry. There was a lot of clapping. A lot of relatives were in the crowd,” said Sones. “We all got on stage and started tuning our instruments. It was quiet after that. Everyone was waiting for us to play. It was kinda cool.”

After the show, Sones’ band was able to go on the band’s tour bus. On the tour bus they asked for autographs. The Long Shot band members went to a bar with the Steel Canyon Rangers after. At the bar they had conversations about how their bands had gotten started and their biggest accomplishments this past year.

“We got to go on their tour bus. I was trying to get everyone to autograph my guitar strap. **Graham Sharp**, the banjo player from the Steep Canyon Rangers, was on the bus. Sophie was like a giddy school girl. I guess I was a giddy school girl too. We hung out a little bit after that and it was just great. It was one of the greatest nights of my life so far,” said Sones. “Afterwards I was super tired. We stayed up super late and went to a bar with the band. Don’t worry, no alcohol was consumed by any children.”

The Long Shots have many hopes for the future. They plan on making a CD and hope to do well in their competition this January in Nashville.

“After all of our accomplishments this year, putting this on our resume will look good. It was good exposure,” said Sones. “It was one of the biggest bands that we have ever performed for.”



Advocating For Change

GSA's advisor allows students to make equity a reality

Carson J.S Reichardt- Staff Writer

The signs of the Gay Straight Alliance's presence at BHS are everywhere. Multi-colored posters can be found on bathroom doors and walls. Some teachers mark their rooms with equally vibrant stickers, showing their support for the cause students are fighting for. The students involved in the GSA may be working on the front lines in the fight against homophobia, but all groups need a staff or faculty member in order to operate here. They need an advisor.

For the GSA, this advisor is English Teacher **David Robinson**, who helped start the group alongside two other teachers.

"I volunteered because I think it's important to have equity and diversity in school, and to allow for that diversity in Buffalo High School," Robinson said.

"I think we're getting more and more diversity, and that diversity really helps in the process of learning. There is value in diversity."

Robinson's role rarely goes beyond what someone would expect from his title.

"I'm here to guide, but not to guide too much," he said. "It's a student-run activity. I'm a way for them [GSA members] to have a faculty member, a license, if you will. They can have meetings and coordinate things."

As one might expect from the advisor of a group that takes on such a controversial topic, Robinson believes in what the GSA is trying to accomplish.

"I'm not paid for this," he said. "I think it's really important work that the students do. The GSA students are doing some really heavy lifting in the fight against homophobia."

He also seems to enjoy simply working with the students.

"I think everybody enjoys being thought of as helpful," Robinson said. "Helping out a cause, helping out peers, their friends."

In his mind, this thought of helpfulness is a part of something larger.

"It's part of that belongingness everybody needs," Robinson said. "Everybody needs to feel like they belong. I hope everyone feels like they belong — that there's something in this school that they recognize as something they're a part of, that there's a group they connect to."

Homophobia is still relatively common amongst Americans. Like racism, it may never disappear entirely, but with people like Robinson and the members of the GSA fighting it, it seems bound to suffer the same fate.



Photos by Natalie Brady

The War on Christmas

Are students really allowed freedom from religion in schools?

Greta Tesdahl - Staff Writer

As I push through the heavy glass doors into BHS at 7:04 in the morning, my thoughts don't extend past my lack of sleep or how I forgot to eat breakfast again. I'm not usually aware of my surroundings, especially not the Christmas tree standing in the office. Throughout the day when I rush past the office on my way to a class, I never notice that it's there.

Sometimes I do notice it though. I look at that medium-sized synthetic pine and wonder about the message it sends to me and the other 2,000 people that pass by it everyday. A message of exclusivity in a place that is meant to be inclusive. A message that I believe doesn't belong in our school.

"It's the legal precedent that a school neither support nor hinder religion," said English Teacher **David Robinson**.

The truth of the matter is the Christmas tree needs to be taken down because it is legally inappropriate. Having a Christmas tree in a public school undermines the freedoms given to us by the constitution. The first amendment gives us freedom of

religion and freedom from religion. BHS is a public school so it needs to follow the guidelines given to it by the United States government. This would be different if BHS was a private institution, but it's not. It's funded by the people, so it needs to follow the peoples' rules.

No matter what you call it, it's obvious that the tree is a Christian symbol. Calling it a 'holiday tree' is like calling a menorah a 'holiday candle holder'. This is an attempt at making something generic that hasn't been since the sixteenth century. Changing it's name isn't a solution to the complications the tree is causing.

To think that having a Christmas tree up is okay because no one will be offended by it simply isn't true. There are people at our school who don't celebrate christmas even though it doesn't seem that way.

"There is hidden diversity [in this school], people assume [there's not] and that's a dangerous assumption," said Robinson.

There are even people who do celebrate Christmas and still don't like having a tree up. The Christmas tree is an affront to your given rights, no matter what your beliefs are.



Photo by Allie Swearingen

The Christmas tree located in the front office is decorated in Bison Pride Colors.

I Pledge Allegiance...

Should the Pledge of Allegiance be required in schools?

Graphic by Kathleen Tierney



Samuel Hamann - Staff Writer

The Pledge of Allegiance is mumbled out every Tuesday morning as students throughout the school follow the lead of the voice on the intercom with right hands over their hearts. It almost sounds like a hymnal with low, serious tones, and blank looks on students' faces.

While the Pledge of Allegiance is an important piece of American history, it is severely outdated. It was last amended in 1954, before most of our parents were born, so how can this fossil of a phrase be what we would say for ourselves? I mean, this was the Cold War, where it was "Kill the Commies!" and "I want YOU to fight for liberty!", and the pledge definitely captures this all-for-America spirit. By repeating this pledge every week, we're saying that we are swearing to be faithful and hard-working servants to the country, which goes against the basic belief of liberty for all that this nation was founded upon.

"The pledge symbolizes the ideals in which our country stands for," said American History teacher Scott Palmer. The pledge gives us a common point that we can all relate to no matter who we are. Because every American is exposed to the pledge, we find that it becomes one of those pieces of American culture that defines who we are.

There is the freedom to not say the pledge. You can choose to stand up with your peers and simply not say it, or not stand up at all. You can pretty much do whatever you want as long as you don't outright insult the flag or the country. If it were really a decision, there shouldn't be any pressure at all, not to mention the controversial fact that it includes in it "under God", something that not everyone believes in.

Most people probably couldn't say what the pledge means off of the top of their heads, which makes it a false promise. It pretty much states that you, as a loyal and obedient citizen of the United States, are willing to give your life for your country. Why are we making a solemn promise to the USA itself when we don't even understand the terms? It's like blindly signing a contract with a shady businessman.

Lastly, the pledge leads us to believe that we are an amazing nation of liberty-loving citizens with everyone having a say in everything, and that the USA is superior to everyone else. While this may be true in some cases, it causes us to blindly follow our country wherever it leads us. Also, it changes the Flag from a symbol of freedom and liberty into an unholy idol that prompts many overzealous reactions.

Photo Poll: What does the Pledge of Allegiance mean to you?

Photos by Molly McMullen



"When I was little they always told us to say 'God bless America' after, and so I guess it's like God reigning down on our country." - Sophomore Tristina Aguirre



"I think that having 'under God' is a poor decision because we don't have a set religion in America."
-Senior Marah Walker

Where do you side?

FOR

AGAINST

- Essential part of American culture:**
 It symbolizes what America stands for, and what our Founding Fathers believed in, including liberty and justice.
- Teaches that America is the best:**
 It leads us to believe in America's greatness and ideals, to take pride in being American, and creates a camaraderie towards other Americans.
- Encourages protection of justice and liberty:**
 Creates a sense that liberty and justice are precious and that they should be defended throughout the country and world.
- Creates common thread for Americans:**
 Since everyone says it in school as a child, it's something unique that is common to every American.

- Outdated:**
 The last time that the pledge was changed was in 1954, making it obsolete. How can this antique possibly connect to us?
- Indoctrination/Idolatry:**
 Makes people follow America blindly and treat the flag as a sort of idol (against religious beliefs). Also, pledging loyalty isn't part of our ideals.
- Forces participation:**
 While the pledge uphold liberty, where's the liberty in pressuring students to recite this pledge repeatedly.
- Not understood:**
 How many students actually know that the pledge is suggesting undying obedience to the USA, or understand its basic concepts?



"I think that it's probably pretty good."
 - Junior Ethan Hosey



"I think it's fine and I like saying it because it shows respect for your country."
 - Freshman Anthony Muhich



"I never think about what I'm saying. It's just something we say every Tuesday morning."
 - Senior Annie Moore

A New Coach for a Fresh Start

The high school boys hockey team sees another new head coach

Taylor McNitt - Staff Writer

It's that time of year where hockey gets into gear once more; but this year, the boys' hockey teams have a new head coach - again.

Mike MacMillan coached the team from 1995 through 2010, co-coaching his last year with **Cory Laylin**. In 2011, **Jason Fairman** became the Head Coach. This year, **Aaron Johnson** became the team's third head coach in three years.

Last season, the Bison saw twelve wins, twelve losses, and two ties for the overall season and were the Mississippi 8 Conference Champions. The season was solid, but there was one thing that had many people wondering. Why was Fairman fired?

"I'm not really sure [why Fairman was fired]," said Junior **Gunnar Goodmanson**, an offensive player on the varsity team. "I don't think he was really ever given an explanation."

"Mr. Bauman fired him, and he didn't give any reasoning towards it, to anybody," said Senior **Justin Laven**, a defensive player on the varsity team. "To this day, [Fairman] still does not know why he was fired."

Was this really true? Nobody knew for sure, except, of course, Activities Director **Tom Bauman**.

"I think a lot of people want to get a definite answer why. There was no



New coach, Aaron Johnson, goes through plays at an early-season practice.

Photo by Leonie Drees

smoking gun, Coach Fairman didn't do anything major league wrong," Bauman said. "I think what happens is, after you spend two years with somebody, are you going enough in the same direction, do you have the same goals, and is that really clear? I always think of it this way; I say that the two year mark is the time where you decide. Are we going to continue? Because if we go to year three, then we're going to stay forever."

Bauman explained how the Buffalo High School staff is like one big family — the third year meaning that the staff member will stay as a part of the family for a long time. Coaches are a part of the staff, a part of the family, and the same thing holds true for them as well. When it comes down to it, some will stay, but it may not work out and some will have to go.

"It's not fun to be in this chair when your telling somebody 'I think there is a better setting for you somewhere else,'" said Bauman. "I thought hockey might have been growing away from the school a little bit, and if your family isn't going in the same direction, then you've got to do something."

And Bauman did do something, hiring Johnson as the new head coach. Each coach is different, has very different focuses and strategies, and Johnson is no exception.

"Our staff is bringing more of a finesse

game to the style of play that we play," said Johnson. "We want to control the puck play, be a team that plays it with high speed, high skill level, and be a puck possession team. I think that it might be a little different from the style of play that I saw out of Buffalo last year."

Before coming to Buffalo to teach health and become the varsity boys hockey head coach, Johnson guided the Orono team through six seasons with a cumulative record of eighty-eight wins, sixty-six losses, and seven ties. He has deep hockey roots and was a state renowned hockey player when he was in high school, and now has come to Buffalo to share his expertise.

"I think he's going to bring a lot of good things to the program," Laven said. "Younger coaches are more athletic, know more of what they're doing, and are newly from [playing] hockey. They're a lot more social, a lot more loose on the ice."

"I just want to watch Mr. Johnson behind the bench; he really understands how to get the most out of kids both skill level wise and in their minds," said Bauman. "He's got his brother, **Thomas Anderson**, as his number one assistant, and then he's got another guy that he's coached with for many years at Orono, and his name's **Rory Dynan**. I'm really looking forward to see how they work together and how they work with the kids."



Photos by Mackenzie Malewicki

BORN GREAT

Roethke prepares for an opportunity of a lifetime

Maddy Personious - Staff Writer

Starting hockey at age three, Senior **Lindsay Roethke** had no idea she would be where she is now. Making her first appearance on the varsity team as just a freshman in 2010. Roethke signed with Division I college, University of Connecticut on November 13, National signing day for Division I college-bound senior athletes.

"There are no words to explain it," Roethke said. "I've been verbally committed to Connecticut since last December. It's unreal to achieve such a high goal, I'm extremely thankful for this opportunity."

Roethke said that she relishes finally being a senior on the team.

"It's a special feeling," Roethke said. "It's really cool to be setting an example for the freshmen on the team. I never feel pressured to be a leader for the team."

Managing with schoolwork and

a sport can be tough, but Roethke gets help from her counselor setting up a manageable schedule.

"My counselor helps me make a simple schedule for the hockey season," Roethke said. "In the off season I really try to get my work done in class to stay on top of things. I also do some hybrid classes."

Along with hockey, Roethke is involved in tennis during the fall, impact leaders during the spring and participates in SSU. Continuing with hockey after college is a possibility for Roethke. Roethke is planning on majoring in Pre-Med and hopes to minor in Spanish. She is also trying out for an allied science program.

"It's every player's dream to play after college, and if I am not able to play on a team then I would coach my kids when they play and even if my future kids don't play, I will still coach," Roethke said.

From beatboxing to harmonizing

Two musically talented guys share their stories on their unique musical stylings

Kenna Kunesch and Calista Susa - Staff Writers

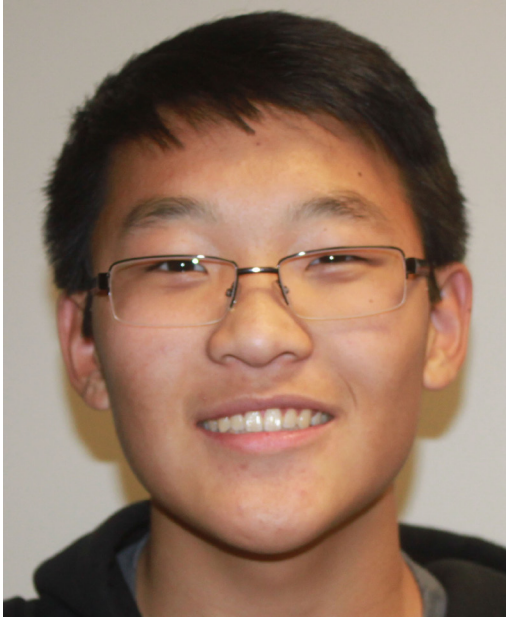


Photo by Meghan Cahill

Matt Kiernan

Not many people can beatbox; it is a rare talent. Freshman **Matt Kiernan** discovered this talent in third grade with his friend **Jordan Thielman**.

"I just randomly started watching videos on beatboxing and started doing it. At first I thought I was an amazing beatboxer, but I really sucked," said Kiernan. "I just found a technique that worked for me and stuck with it. I had to practice at it a lot."

Learning to master his beatboxing technique was the key obstacle in Kiernan's road to success.

"I can do eight to ten beats," said Kiernan. "With my mic, I make them sound good."

Practice makes perfect. For Kiernan, that became very true in his beatboxing. It may have taken a lot of work, but to Kiernan it was worth it.

"I finally became really good and strong by eighth grade," said Kiernan.

This past spring, Kiernan even performed his beatboxing at his choir concert.

"My mom thought it was amazing that I could beatbox. She bought an amp and mic for me," said Kiernan. "There's times where I even find myself beatboxing to a song inside my head randomly."

Michael Wegter

When trying out for American Idol, all that may be crossing the mind of the contestant is how they're going to impress the judges. For Senior **Michael Wegter** however, trying out for American idol this past summer was a breeze .

"It's totally different than what you see on TV," said Wegter. "It was set up with 10 tables with a bedsheet in between each table, so it wasn't sound-proof, which made it harder to concentrate."

Wegter went into the auditions with an open mind.

"It could've gone two ways," said Wegter. "I might make it, I might not."

Wegter sang Sweet Pea by **Amos Lee**. Even though he didn't make it, he totally would try out again.

His singing career first started in ninth grade when he decided to join choir instead of band. During his freshman year, he and fellow Senior **Ben Lepinski** did voice lessons with Vocal Teacher **Rikka Estenson**.

Wegter looks up to singers like **Jason Mraz**, **John Mayer** and **Andy Grammer**. He is involved in many music associated groups.

Concert choir, BHS singers, music listening contest, and Ukulele Club of Wright County are just a few of the groups that he participates in. He has also been in the musicals; Fiddler on the Roof and Phantom of the Opera. Open Mic nights and Honor Choirs are things that he enjoys as well. Wegter is even a member of the MN All State Choir.

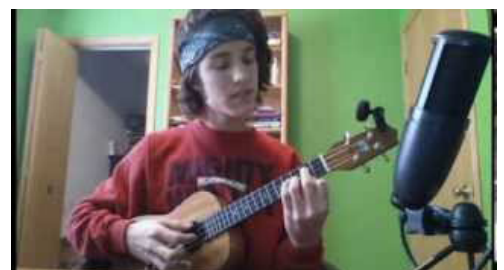


Photo from Michael Wegter's YouTube Channel