

# HOOFPRIINT

4 NOVEMBER 2010



# Freedom to Read

Controversial literature at BHS impacts students, parents, teachers

BETHLEIPHOLTZ  
SPORTS EDITOR

In honor of Banned Book Week (BBW), the Buffalo High School Media Center set up a display that contained books that have been banned in different schools across the country. One side of the table consisted of banned classics, while the other contained the most banned and challenged books of 2009.

The American Library Association acknowledges BBW each year, and states that the foundation of this week is intellectual freedom, which is the freedom to access information and express ideas, even if the information and ideas might be considered unorthodox or unpopular.

"There has been a lot of interest [in the book display] so far," said Media Specialist **Judy Loberg**. "Many of the books have been checked out because kids are curious. They want to know why the books would have been banned and what the subject matter is like."

Some included books were the *Twilight* and *Harry Potter* series.

"People become concerned because they're about vampires and witch craft," said Librarian **Karen Smith**. "What they're really about is good versus evil, and good usually wins. After 9/11, fiction became a positive example, for kids, that good does exist."

Recently, a concerned parent contacted the Media Center about a book called *Weetzie Bat*. She doesn't plan to officially challenge the book, but merely wanted to express her concern. She felt that the book contained controversial issues, such as pre-marital sex, gay issues, drinking, and voodoo.

"As soon as someone says, 'Don't read something', it perks every one's interest," said Assistant Principal **Kris Thompson**. "I feel like it makes me a better person to read. It allows me to reflect on my own personal values, morals, and beliefs."

Although *Weetzie Bat* will not be officially challenged, controversial books do have the ability to become largely covered media events. The novel *Speak* is currently being challenged in Missouri. **Wesley Scroggins**, an Associate Professor of Management at Missouri State University, wrote an opinion piece for his local newspaper that expressed his concerns about the book. He called it "filthy and immoral" and "soft pornography" because it contains two rape scenes. The author of the book responded in multiple ways, basically stating that she feared that people would read Scroggin's piece and believe his claims, therefore being denied the opportunity to form their own opinion.

English Teacher **Denise Wahlin-Fiskum** is teaching *Speak* this year, in place of *Lord of the Flies*. She plans to bring this conflict into her teaching, in hope of generating discussion.

"After we finish the book, I want them to read two articles relating to the conflict," said Wahlin-Fiskum. "I want it to generate a class discussion and debate about whether this book belongs in high schools. They should be able to pick a side and express themselves verbally."

A few students chose to read ahead and finish the book early and were surprised by the outcome.

"I really didn't expect it to end the way it did," said Sophomore **Taylor Walter**. "I still think it should be allowed in high schools. It's good for people to know what can happen. I think books get challenged because there are people who were maybe bullies and they don't want people to know what they have done or could do."

Wahlin-Fiskum, who has been teaching for 31 years, has a wide knowledge of books and reading in general.

"I'm a great believer of not having kids read in a vacuum, but instead what they're drawn to," said Wahlin-Fiskum. "They read to figure out how they fit into the world, based on their reactions to what they read. They don't read to find someone to copy. If a young girl reads a book about a whore, she isn't going to decide that's what she wants to do. Teenagers are more sophisticated than that and are able to distinguish fiction from reality."

# Determine your Impact

Students continue their roles as Impact Leaders to drive positive change

SANDYSWANSON  
STAFF WRITER

Every year, during Senior Appreciation Day, the seniors hurry out, and the incoming freshmen rush in. On that day, freshmen will get to feel what high school is really like.

The impact retreat happens each spring, but there is a lot of preparation that goes on throughout the year to make sure everything goes well. Impact Advisor Vicki Cary's main focus is to get the leaders to connect with the incoming freshmen.

Cary started her administration job three years ago, moving from an English teaching job to working in the staff development and helping with test taking. Her main goal each year is trying to get the freshmen to comfortable with BHS so it will not be so intimidating their first day.

"I want to help them decrease their fear and realize the culture of BHS," said Cary. "It's all about positive impact. Encouraging freshmen to get involved at BHS is a high priority."

Sophomores and juniors have the meetings throughout the year to prepare for the incoming freshmen. Freshmen who are going to be sophomores are also welcome to join with a teacher's recommendation. Cary mentioned that it's nice for the freshmen to see a familiar face when they arrive on the first day. They will never go to school with the current seniors, so Senior Skip Day is the ideal time.

"I enjoy watching the leaders take over and doing what they do best," said Cary. "It's not just the straight A average kid, it's the kids that you don't expect that sometimes make the biggest impact. Using your experiences to guide a freshman is extremely helpful."

Sophomore Bailey Braatz accepted immediately when Science Teacher Cliff Wold offered her a place on the impact team. She was excited to help make someone's day easier and less chaotic.

"The impact retreat sounded like a fun, and good experience. I was willing to give something new a shot," said Braatz. "I would never have met some of the freshmen if I hadn't done it. I am definitely getting involved again next year."

"It's not only a good experience for the freshmen, but for the upperclassmen too," said Cary. "Anyone who wants to make a positive impact at BHS, and on themselves, should be a part of the impact retreat."



MICHAEL SWEARINGEN

Copies of some of the most frequently banned books are on display in the Media Center.  
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# BHS vs The Rest

As schools compete with online classes, other districts, and Post Secondary options, what makes students choose BHS?

EMILY DEVORE  
STAFF WRITER

An obnoxious ringing blared from beside him. Reluctantly, Freshman Cameron Eller pulled out of his dream and blindly threw his hand toward the sound. When it finally stopped, he forced his lids up and rolled over. It took a few seconds for the blur to fade enough that the big 4:30 a.m. on his alarm clock was readable. The blankets seemed so much more welcoming than the bitter air outside of his warm nest, but as usual, he swung his legs over the side of the bed. As he rubbed his eyes, he stood up and proceeded to pull on a shirt, knowing it wouldn't be long until the bus pulled into his still darkened neighborhood.

Students who live outside of School District 877 can still choose to attend BHS if they want to; this is called open enroll. Eller is an open-enroll student at Buffalo High School. He lives in Anoka, but decided to go to BHS because of the Arts Magnet Program. Every day he must wake up at 4:30 a.m. and catch his bus while all his friends are still sound asleep. But, for him, the experiences that he wouldn't get in Anoka outweigh the lack of rest.

"I like drawing and acting," Eller said. "I thought by coming here, I could get more involved in arts stuff that would help me improve. I went to an arts magnet school last year, so I decided to keep going with that."

The move was completely his choice, his parents just encouraged him. But even when he chose it, he knew it wouldn't be easy. Eller said that the beginning of the year was confusing and intimidating for him. One his experiences on the first day of school was having to figure out lunch. The lines and options were completely different than his middle schools'. From choosing the meal, to getting through the line, to finding a place to sit; he had a lot to get used to.

The difference between Eller's first day and most of the other freshmen's, was that they had known the rest of their grade for at least three years. In those few years they made friends that could help them when they got to the high school. Without that, Eller started completely new with no one to go to about questions. He explained some of the other difficulties of living so far away.

"I can't do any after school activities without getting home at seven, and hanging out with people around here is really tough. Overall I like my decision. This school is better kept, [BHS is] really

clean. The staff is cool and all the students are really nice."

Junior Danielle Kennedy is another student who decided to open-enroll at BHS. Last year she attended Monticello High School, but in August she became a Bison.

"I chose to come here because there's a lot of drama in Monticello," said Kennedy. "In the middle school there were a lot

**"I believe we can be the best high school in the state and we're well on our way. 'We can be the best,' sounds selfish, but I just think because of what we offer, students can have the best experience here."**

**-Principal Mark Mischke**

of bullies who threaten to beat you up. I guess you could say there's a lot of violence, but here there doesn't seem to be. This was kind of a chance to start over."

Kennedy said she was scared to move at first because everything was new, but she's glad that she came here because the people are friendlier and accepted her into their friend groups.

"In the line for class pictures there was a girl that came up and just started talking to me. She said she didn't know me, but wanted to," Kennedy said, "I thought that was really cool of her to reach out."

The people weren't the only difference she saw between BHS and Monticello. The atmosphere and the building itself caught her attention.

"The school is so well kept. In Monticello kids would go around throwing garbage on the floor and trashing the halls. The people here respect the building so much more."

This year 100 students, who were new to the district like Eller and Kennedy, came to BHS. Out of those 100, 18 of them were open enroll. The other 82 include previously home schooled students and students who moved here from all grades.



Students entering Buffalo High School on the first day of school.

"More often than not, students want to come here", said Principal Mark Mischke, "Open-enrolling is more the students' choice than the parents. There's a huge variety of reasons that students choose BHS. Arts Magnet is a big one, and we also draw from smaller districts. Other things are our languages, music, and just how we set up the day. Having four blocks gives you more electives. When I talk to students, they say the block scheduling is outstanding and the staff is looking out for them."

Even Mischke chose to come to BHS. Before he came here in 2008 he was Assistant Principal in Stillwater.

"My wife and I chose Buffalo for a lot of reasons," Mischke said, "but the most important is that we wanted to raise our three daughters where they would get great educations. Stillwater just didn't feel like home and we knew this was a respected school."

Ever since making that decision, Mischke has worked to keep this a respected school and make it even better for everyone that's a part of it. He talked to each grade this year about making the school all that it can be. He wants students to realize how many opportunities they have and get them involved with activities.

"I believe we can be the best high school in the state and we're well on our way. 'We can be the best,' sounds selfish, but I just think because of what we offer, students can have the best experience here. The set up of our building – welcoming and clean – there is something to be said about that. The students, staff and opportunities make our school," said Mischke.

Having a choice of where you go to school is becoming more common. Instead of just going to school in the town that they live in, students have many more options now. The options include open enroll, post-secondary, and taking online classes. Because of that, there is more pressure for schools to offer what students want. If they have extra-curricular activities or more educational opportunities than other schools, students might come to them instead. Mischke is working to create more options at Buffalo because he understands that the people and the opportunities they get are what forms the school.

For other students making a decision about where to go to school, Eller says, "Look into all the options you have and what will suit you best because it really depends on what you want to be doing."

# Blood Drive at a Glance



NICK WEEKS  
3 Michael Patchen converses with D.J. McMoil while he donates his blood to the Red Cross.

**125** × **3** = **375**  
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# Truant with school, playing hookie with life

The personal and social cost of truancy, and dropping out of high school

MITCHBUDDER  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

“Education is the most important thing in your life”. I have heard that so many times that it is now nothing more than another simple cliché. Unfortunately for those that treat it as such, it is one of the truisms in life that can’t be ignored. Students who feel that they can get away with skipping a few days, or even can get by without a high school education, are making their futures exponentially harder. Some of their burdens go beyond them individually, and affect society as a whole negatively.

You could argue that skipping a few days of school is your problem, and it would never lead you to dropping out. Attitudes such as this can have dire consequences in a school environment. While it’s true that truancy is a far cry from dropping out, it has a negative impact on all aspects of school. The Bill and Mellinda Gates Foundation has found that habitually truant students are 75% more likely to drop out. Also it is students who need the most help that are most regularly skipping class. Grade levels drop, and it is harder to make up, and understand, content outside of the classroom.

These consequences go beyond offending students. School funding is based largely on attendance. BHS’s attendance is hovering around 95%. This is certainly a

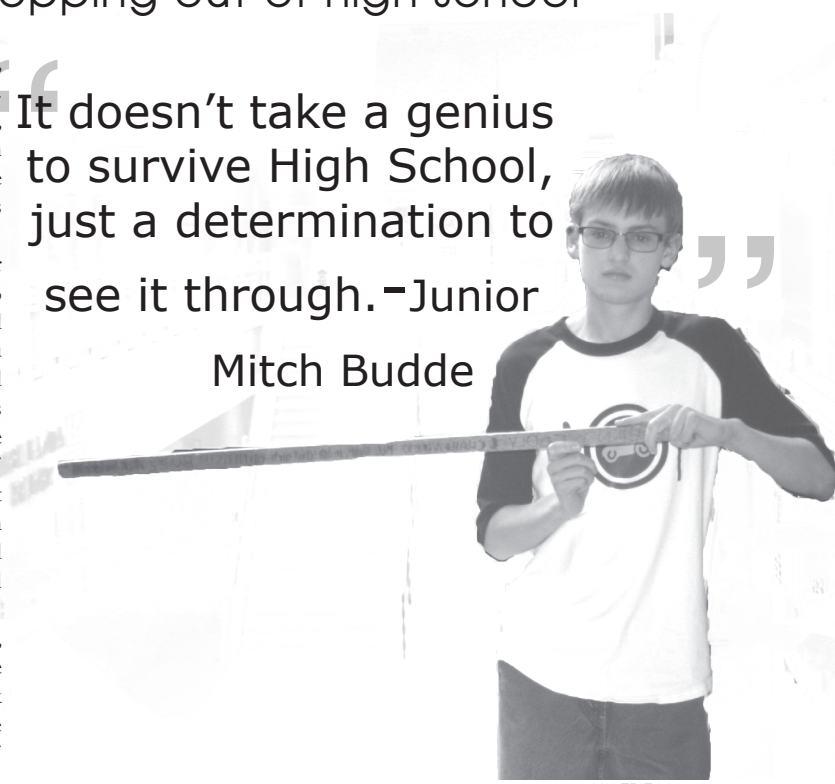
good score, but with a district on an already lean budget, it really is up to us to help maintain school funding. Our school offers options both during the school year, and summer, to help students make up everything from missed days, to missed credits. We should strive to make it to school so that funds used in those make-up classes could be allocated more productively.

According to the US Department of Labor High School students who do drop-out have a 15.5% unemployment rate. That’s 6.1% higher than the national unemployment rate. In addition the US Census Bureau reports that 22.2% without a high school diploma will be poor, living on an average of \$16,615 a year. That’s \$1,384.60 a month to live off of, when the average rate of living in urban areas is \$2,530. That’s a deficit of \$1,145.40 (see, that math’s paying off already). The cost to the rest of us will be much more fundamental than dollar signs. Drop-outs are more likely to work low skill jobs. Those with diploma’s work higher skill jobs, and provide a greater benefit to society with their work.

It doesn’t take a genius to survive High School, just a determination to see it through. That is why those with diploma’s are better off. Hiring business’s are look for workers with a drive to better themselves and those around them. You may be right though, it’s all a waste of time. I guess that’s a chance I’m prepared to take.

“It doesn’t take a genius to survive High School, just a determination to see it through.”

—Junior Mitch Budde



VALERIEOSTVIG

## THE BANE OF OUR EXISTENCE

Instead of furthering learning, excessive homework negatively impacts students’ lives



ANDREWPIERRE

VALERIEOSTVIG  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Tuesday night of last week I was at my homework for seven hours. That is ridiculous and, unfortunately, common. My efforts leave me more confused and frustrated than before. The only things I gained were a lack of ambition and bags under my eyes.

Studies performed by Duke University’s Education Director, Harris Cooper, conclude that doing more than two hours of homework a day in high school leads to lower standardized test scores. A poll performed by the Associated Press found that elementary school students were averaging an hour and 18 minutes a night. There is something wrong here.

Out of a 24 hour day, I will spend six hours and 35 minutes at school, attempt to reach the healthy eight hours of sleep, and spend four hours on homework. This leaves me with five hours and 25 minutes for extra curricular activities and working to save for college. That frankly isn’t enough time, so I go with less sleep. Now, aside from stressing me out and giving me a feeling of inadequacy, homework is leaving

me exhausted.

Great, now I’m drifting off in class. According to the National Sleep Foundation’s 2006 “Sleep in America” poll, more than 25% of high school students fall asleep in class. Now your homework is literally working against you. The time you spend on homework takes away from the time you spend fully conscious in class, which takes away from what you learn and therefore what you understand on your homework. Now you’ve fallen into a deadly cycle that is nearly impossible to claw your way out of.

I understand that, in moderation, homework can be used to further learning; The problem is that “in moderation” does not entail five hours a night. Education systems need to look deeper into what homework actually accomplishes. The result of homework shows clearly on our faces, we are mentally and physically worn. The benefit from over loading students, if there is any, doesn’t show so clearly. Unless, of course, you think lower standardized test scores, lower grades, and less time for extra curricular activities make those five hours of homework worth it.

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LEAD TO  
LOWER TEST  
SCORES

# Big shoes to fill

On short notice, Jim Kocherer takes the reigns of the FFA program agriculture department

MEGAN NESKE  
STAFF WRITER

“Shhh... You guys keep the noise level down for the dog, okay?”

Sporting head-to-toe camo and a backwards baseball cap, Agriculture Teacher Jim Kocherer looks right at home watching one of his students give a dog grooming demonstration to the class. He calls on most of his students by name, though he’s only been teaching at Buffalo High School for a few short weeks.

In early August, FFA members and Agriculture students were saddened upon the news that Agriculture Teacher Todd Lubben had accepted a new position at East Central Schools in Sandstone, as Head High School Principal and Assistant Superintendent.

“I was cautiously optimistic, because we have an extremely good Ag program,” said Principal Mark Mischke.

Students and staff had mixed expectations of what his replacement would be like.

“If I didn’t like the teacher I wasn’t gonna stay in FFA,” said Junior Michael DesMarais.

Of multiple places, the job was posted on the University of Minnesota website, where Kocherer was looking to see where the student teachers that he had previously worked with had gotten jobs.

“I applied within one week”, said Kocherer. “I talked to Lubben first though, to see what the story was...The joke had been for years: ‘Lubben, when are you going to grow your program so I can come teach with you?’”

Upon accepting his new position, Kocherer was inundated with tasks, from keeping the school’s fish farm alive to meeting with the FFA officers to familiarize himself with how the Buffalo program has been run and to see what kind of improvements can be made. Kocherer is no stranger to revamping FFA chapters, having chartered one while he held his last position in Andover.

“I applied within one week,” said Kocherer. “I talked to Lubben first though, to see what the story was...The joke had been for years: ‘Lubben when are you going to grow your program so I can come teach with you?’”

-Agriculture Teacher James Kocherer

“I worked with him my junior year to get the Andover FFA chapter started, and he worked really hard to help accomplish everything”, said Andover Alumni Alexandra Hemingson. “Although, we learned along the way that Rome wasn’t built in a day.”

Now that Kocherer has had time to adjust to his new duties, the question remaining is whether he is big enough feet to fill Lubben’s shoes.

“I think he is outstanding,” said Senior Neske. “He has adapted very quickly, especially for such a short-notice job. I think he runs fun classes and has a lot of really neat projects and activities.”

## No Longer Just a Hobby, It’s a Lifestyle

World Champion Jordyn Broten

ALYSSASNAVELY  
STAFF WRITER

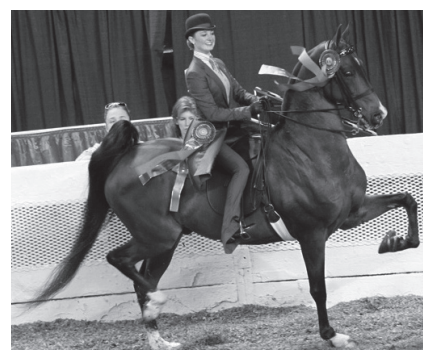
said Broten.

She became interested in horses because ever since Jordyn was born, her mom has been showing them. Like mother like daughter, some would say.

**Junior Jordyn Broten’s** life is pretty average. She loves her family and friends, shopping, and just hanging out. Like every teenage girl. But, one of many other things that make her life special and different is her love for showing horses. She has been showing horses since she was just nine years old. “My family raises American Saddle breeds. They’re a type of riding horse and I guess they are known as the ‘peacock of the horse show world;’ that’s what my mom said.”

Jordyn has many other animals too, like dogs, cats, and fish. She says they treat their horses like any other animal; they love them all the same.

“We like to name our horses cool names like



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY: JORDYN BROTEN

Sampson, Georgia, Fancy, Rock, Jesse, and Moe. My younger siblings think it’s really fun,”

“My mom and I are super close, so when we get to travel to Kentucky, or wherever the show is, sometimes we just go, me and her, leave my other four siblings at home with my step-dad and have a girls week or however long the show is,” said Jordyn.

Broten has always loved horses; she grew up with them because her family has always owned them. Last year their barn burned down. It was really devastating, but it only took a year for them to rebuild it and have more horses than ever before, over 100.

“I just love the thrill of showing them, and never knowing how you’re going to place, it’s really exciting to go to different states and see the competition,” said Broten.

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# High School in Freshmen's Eyes

As new students coming into the school, the class of 2014 remarks on the differences at BHS.

CHEYENNE HICKMAN  
STAFF WRITER

Moving from the Middle School to the High School can be hard for most freshman. There are many changes, from the multiple hallways to new people that seem like they could push you around.

Freshman **Cadie Risser** is glad to be out of the middle school.

"I hope that this school is a lot better than the Middle School," said Risser.

Freshman **Katie Gatzke** had different thoughts when coming into the high school.

"I was a little bit scared. I knew where all my classes were and I knew a few sophomores, so that helped too," said Gatzke.

Risser was glad to be starting school but sad that summer was coming to an end.

"I wished summer could last forever. I didn't want it to be over because during the summer I have so much more free time," said Risser. "When school starts I'm busy with sports."

When Risser first walked into school, she wasn't really scared but her heart raced.

"The reason I really wasn't scared was because most of my friends were already in the High School," said Risser.

The delay of figuring out when lunches were is the only current dislike she has about the high school.

"I wish we figured out what lunch we have earlier so we can talk to our friends and figure out what lunch they have," said Risser.

Knowing that the years of being in school are coming to an end, Risser is excited to get out in the world to start making a life for herself.

"I hated school. Especially getting up early," said Gatzke. "But I do love the fact I'm in high school. It's much better than being in middle school."

4&5



1. Freshman **Katie Gatzke** expresses her experiences of coming into the High School. 2. Freshman **Katie Miller** makes her rocket in Mr. Wold's natural science class, a required project that nearly all freshmen partake in.



1. Freshman **Joe Shoulak** braves the senior hallway on Class Color Day. 2. A freshman performs an experiment in her science class.



"I do love the fact that I'm in high school. It's so much better than being in middleschool."  
-Freshman **Katie Gatzke**

# Perspectives

From freshmen to foreigners, each has their own thoughts on school.



Sarah Durst

## High School in America

Changes in schools causes Kylee Rula to ponder about the new "normal of schooling."

RYLEEKULA  
STAFF WRITER

Change has been a part of the world, and schools have to adapt to this fast-paced world. Look at Discovery Elementary School, the building that was once the High School, to what the High School is now, all because of change.

"So many things have dramatically changed about high school," said Sophomore **Nicole Bonin** "Especially at BHS, because everything I remember my brother and sister telling me about this school has changed. That includes the teachers, the rules, and the activities. We have added and lost a lot of clubs over the years."

Many don't take notice how much their schools has changed because they grew up with the technology which is now considered the norm. Online "high schools" are now becoming more and more popular, thanks to advertising on Facebook and word-of-mouth.

"A few kids I know take online classes," said Sophomore **Jordan Hesse** "But I would definitely recommend going to public high school because it teaches you social skills and, in my opinion, you learn more."

More and more people are taking online classes. Nearly 12 million post-secondary students in the United States take some or all of their classes online. This number increases every year and within the next five years, it will skyrocket to more than 22 million students. By then, only 5.14 million students will take all of their classes in an actual classroom.

"I plan on having my kids in a normal classroom," said Junior **Kristina Melrose** "Whether its cool or not. I think my kids would actually like the experience that I went through when I was younger."

## Exchange Student's Perspective

Exchange Student **Lotta Pelkonen** explore the United States and it's oddities.

ANGELAROBASSE & EMILYACKMANN  
STAFF WRITER

As **Lotta Pelkonen** sat down at lunch Wednesday afternoon she peeled two pieces of bread apart, put two slices of turkey on each piece and ate them separately. With nothing to drink, she also put croutons in her soup while she eats her salad with no dressing.

Going to the Minnesota State Fair was a "different experience," according to **Lotta**. The foods were unusual and "crazy." In Finland, the most common food is potatoes.

"Chocolate and carmel covered apples are the most interesting foods," said Exchange Student **Lotta Pelkonen**. "Deep-fried snickers are the weirdest thing."

**Pelkonen** is one of 6 exchange students visiting BHS. They hail from Thailand, Greenland, France, Germany, Finland, and Japan. Though things are different in each country there is usually something that can tie two people, or two families together.

"We have similar families and a similar lifestyles," said Spanish Teacher **Nancy Einynek** who is currently hosting an exchange student "Except **Mateo** had never eaten sugar snap peas, and when I was eating them he thought I was crazy."

Coming into a new country, family and school, exchange students often don't know what to expect. During their stay, they will face some kind of challenge that they will have to overcome. A daily challenge at school for **Pelkonen** is having to eating lunch without a knife.

"The food is really cheap here!" said **Pelkonen**. "Finland is the most expensive country in Europe for food. I thought everyone was going to be fat, but was surprised when a lot of people were not."

Most people when coming to the United States are expecting to see obese people. 27.5% of Americans are obese compared to Finland's 15.7%.

"Students here are more outgoing and willing to talk to strangers. Someone in each of my classes came up and started talking to me on the first day," said **Pelkonen**. "Even though they are outgoing they aren't as blunt here. In Finland people speak their minds more and we talk about everything."

The many little differences between Finland and America are the things that **Lotta**, and the other Exchange students, miss the most about there home.

"I do get homesick and miss my friends," **Pelkonen** said, "but I think that it will get easier the longer I'm here."

## AT A GLANCE

**1,980** Total number of American high school students sent on exchange for either a school year, or semester.

Total number of international high school students that come abroad to America. **28,142**



# Walsh named state's top Music Educator

## Choir director wins Music Educators Association award

KAYLASCHIMMELE  
A & E EDITOR

With 31 years of teaching under his belt, Choir Director **Mike Walsh** has done more than educate students about music. From helping establish the Tri-M Music Honor Society, directing music in the school musicals, to having his concert choir be selected to perform at the state convention twice, Walsh has made numerous contributions to BHS. His helping hands have created a surprise for not only him, but to music directors all over Minnesota. The surprise came his way in June of 2010. He was asked to send in a biography for a nomination and was notified that he won in August.

The nomination for the Music Educator of the Year award is presented by the Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA). This award is the second-highest honor in Minnesota that a music director can receive, next to being named Hall of Fame. Nominations are sent in by a variety of people—other teachers, parents or grandparents of students. The candidates are chosen by the board members.

"In this particular case," said Walsh, "I was nominated by a grandparent of a student who was a former Music Educator of the Year. He solicited recommendations from a number of different teachers and parents and so forth. They put together a nomination package that went to the board. [The members of the board decided] based upon whether they thought the candidates were qualified to receive the award or not."

In the past three years, only one candidate has been chosen, but years before that between two and five people have been selected to win. The number of educators nominated each year is kept secret by the board, and with that, Walsh's family enjoys teasing him about winning.

"The joke around the house," said Walsh, "is that there must have been pretty slim nominations this year for me to get the award."

Walsh is now the second teacher at BHS to become a Music Educator of

the Year.

"Lee Kjesbo, former band director who retired a couple years back, was also recognized for Music Educator of the Year in 2006 along with a few others," said Walsh. "It's very unusual that you'd have two teachers from the same school to be nominated for this award."

No matter how many directors were nominated this year, Walsh's hard work played a large role in earning him this award.

"As a teacher it's nice to be appreciated," said Walsh, "but I also feel like I could probably name lots of other people who do what I do and deserve the award just as much."

Walsh will be receiving his award at the MMEA Midwinter Clinic in February. His name will be forever shown in the lobby of the Ted Mann Concert Hall at the University of Minnesota campus.

"It's nice to get a plaque, it's nice to get the recognition," said Walsh, "but for your name to go up someplace and be up there forever, that's pretty cool."



Photo by: [www.mmea.org](http://www.mmea.org)



Photo by: [www.brazosport.edu](http://www.brazosport.edu)



Photo by: [www.rtfseason.org](http://www.rtfseason.org)

# Beyond the Stage

## Flaming Idiots brings a challenge for actors and an opportunity to laugh for audiences

MARISSAMACK  
STAFF WRITER

"There's a lot of sadness in the world today," said English Teacher and Theater Director **Tracy Hagstrom-Durant**, "we need more opportunities to laugh."

The desire to make an audience laugh again led Durant to pick *Flaming Idiots* as the fall play. The play is the first farce for the theater department since 2008's performance of *See How they Run*.

For *Flaming Idiots*, there's a challenge with the cast. There are more boy parts than girls for characters, but there are more girls than boys in theater.

"We have to change the gender of a few characters," said Durant, "Phil may become Phyllis... Phil is

supposed to be bossy, a girl would be good for the part."

Phil, along with other characters, are described as average guys. In order to make these characters come alive, students have an assignment of making a whole background for the character, and giving them a life story.

"It's more than just a play," said Durant. "The students develop the characters."

Not only are there challenges for casting, but also for the set designing. The script requires many doors for slamming, but the set needs to be strong enough that the walls won't shake when a door slams.

"You need all the materials ready," said Senior Rebekah Herd-

klotz, "you don't want to build something that won't work."

Durant said that she gets nervous when watching one of her plays be performed, but it's a feeling she's getting used to. She has directed over 100 plays since she began her teaching career.

"It's like releasing my babies into the wind," said Durant, "If I've done my job, they should be ready."

She also shared her thoughts on how theater has changed from when she was in high school until now.

"Here, it's a much bigger deal. Before, arts came in second to sports," said Durant. "We're blessed to have a good program, and I'm proud of that."



# School Picture Day.

Will you be remembered?

**KALACZANSTKOWSKI**  
A & E EDITOR

“Chin up. Tilt your head a liiiiittle bit. Liiiiittle bit more. There! Don’t move. Smile!”

We’ve all heard that same phrase year after year on school picture day. But we all have different life stories. Why do we have to conform for a picture? How much do these pictures say about us?

“Kids come to school dressed nice with a cheesy smile ‘cause that’s what they were taught to do,” said Junior **Jessica Elsenpeter**, “I wish I could take a picture in the moment so I can genuinely smile and you can see how happy I am. School pictures look the same to me year after year, smile after smile. They bore me.”

We spend so much time just doing busy work that it causes many people to forget or ignore what’s going on around them. Time is much larger than this moment. Fifty years from now, we’ll just be asking, where did the time go and what did I do with it?

“I am extremely busy outside of school,” said Junior **Nicole Bunton**, “I go post secondary online at Normandale community college and have a job at Culver’s. I go to my dad’s two to three times a week in Minnetonka. Usually, the drive there is forty five minutes. I leave in the morning [for school] at about six.”

We use yearbook photos to our advantage. How much of Kindergarten is remembered? First grade, second? With time, our memories fade but, we use photos to remember. However, one could take a million pictures, and it’s not going to stop time from taking a toll on our memories.

Senior **Marissa Moe** found out the hard way that we have to conform. “No Hats, bandanas, etc – Male or female” says the senior photo specifications for the 2011 yearbook. After submitting a photo featuring a hat, Moe was asked to send in a new senior photo. Four students, denied yearbook space for their photos because of hats. Four students who wanted to leave their mark on the halls of BHS.

That’s all we want. Students want to be remembered for who they are. We’ve worked from the age of three to be known by classmates but in fifty years, no one will remember us beyond our school picture and maybe how we sign each other’s books at the end of the year. But that’s it. In the scheme of the universe, we’re smaller than the smallest speck of dust. Memories are temporary- how do you want to be remembered, and for how long?

Photos by Senior Nick Weeks  
Bottom right corner photo by Carbert Photography



# SUPPORTIVE SPEECHES

Rohl sets an example and encourages pre-game motivation

MORGAN LUBBEN & TYLER BURG

STAFF WRITERS



1 Senior Dakota Larson tackles a Cambridge-Isanti opponent. The Bison lost to the Blue Jackets 0-34. 2 Senior Dillion Miller gets support from his teammates as the starting players are announced before the game begins in St. Michael-Albertville. 3 Head Coach Gerard Rohl pumps his team up with a motivation speech prior to the start of a game. Photos by Nick Weeks

Head Football Coach **Gerard Rohl** paces the wrestling room in front of his 74 football players. The room is silent, as the boys listen to every word that Rohl has to say. He tells this very story of courage to his team before the big game.

On September 11, 2001, Rohl begins, a young man on flight 93 calls home with news that his plane has just been hijacked. His dad's response was to have his own son take down the very plane that he was on, in order to save more American lives. Prior to this phone call, two planes had already hit the twin towers in New York City. Flight 93 was taken down by the passengers aboard the plane. It crashed in an open field, killing everyone on board.

"I was trying to get the point across that it's all about courage and what you can do yourself and how you can be a game changer," said Rohl.

This is just one of many influential stories that Rohl has told to his players prior to a big game.

"Rohl's pregame speeches really get us jacked and makes us think," said Senior **Matt Lingo**.

But Rohl isn't the only one motivating the team before a big game.

"[Seniors] **Cody Pederson, Louie Clifton, and Cody Elletson** get us all into a huddle and start screaming at us," said Lingo. "We start chanting the chant that Elletson and [Senior] **Vincent Menth** made up. It really gets us fired up."

The boys practice daily, which leads up to Friday night's game.

"It takes a lot of courage and poise to go into another school's territory in front of thousands of strangers and come out with a victory," said Junior **Colton Haight**.

Haight isn't the only one who enjoys taking the field every Friday night in front of hundreds of spectators.

"Playing under the lights on Friday night is the best feeling in the world," said Elletson. "It's cool that everyone is watching you and cares about the football team. It makes you want to win for them."

Playing under the lights is a unique experience for each player.

"It's just an incredible feeling," said Lingo. "You get all pumped up being out there. It's something that can't be explained unless you've personally experienced it."

The Bison are 1-3 after their first four games, with a strong performance in Princeton, winning 33-0. The Bison, however, have lost to Cambridge, St. Michael and more recently, to Becker on homecoming.

"The first game, they were expected to win," said Rohl. "We had to get over it and move on. The down pouring rain against STMA made it tough to score, even at the one foot line. They watched film and realized that they made way too many mistakes to come away with a win."

The Bison have two more games before sections.

"We're really aiming to have a strong section run and make it to the section finals plus one more game," said Rohl. "Brainerd is going to be tough to get through, with 16 returning starters from last year."

Players are also hoping for the same success.

"I really hope we can get to the section finals like last year," said Haight. "It would be awesome to take revenge and make it to the Prep Bowl."

## SOCCKER

"Once we're done stretching for warm ups, it's all laughs and giggles and dancing and singing until the buzzer sounds for starting line ups. Then after the anthem we pray as a team and are mentally ready to go out."

-SENIOR CALLI DURST

## TENNIS

"Lots of times just eating a snack and thinking about the match helps. We huddle in a circle and say our chant then hope for the best."

-JUNIOR STEPHANIE CATTON

## SWIMMING

"First we all get ready in our suits and get everything set up, then we sing as loudly as we can to random songs. We do dances on the side of the pool and just tell each other that we can do it."

-SENIOR LAUREN LAHR

## CROSS COUNTRY

"Every night before a meet, we have a dinner where we all get together and bring food. We all have fun on the bus, but once we step on the field, we all focus because you can't run without being mentally prepared."

-SENIOR JOSHUA WEDEMEIER

## VOLLEYBALL

"We jam out to music in the locker room and do our pump up before the game. We read a quote about leadership and motivation."

-JUNIOR SHANLEE BRAUN

some variations of motivation

# MIXING IT UP

Current volleyball players differ in age, ability, and experience

CADIERISSER  
STAFF WRITER

Freshman **Kylee Zumach** stands 6 feet 1 inch tall. She is also the youngest person on the Varsity Volleyball Team. Zumach first made varsity when she was in eighth grade. She never played middle school volleyball, but instead went straight to playing high school volleyball after finishing with Jr. Bison Volleyball in elementary school.

"I got involved with volleyball because my mom played in college and she told me to try out for it. I did in 4th grade and I absolutely hated it," said Zumach "But she convinced me to try it again and I liked it this time because I was playing with older girls."

On the current 2010 team, there are a total of 15 girls. Six seniors, five juniors, three sophomores, and one freshman make up the team. Buffalo has a record so far this year of 8-3.

"Being the only freshman on varsity is fun," said Zumach "I get a lot of attention, but I don't really relate to anyone so I mainly hang out with the JV team."

Many people have a favorite aspect of volleyball that they enjoy focusing on most, such as bumping or passing the ball, setting, spiking, or serving. All are different ways to hand the ball off to a different player on the team or get it over the net. Different things tend to

determine why a certain aspect interests someone more than the others.

"Hitting, because you are in all control," said Zumach "It's fun to hit it really hard. It is a good way to take out your anger."

Skill level also comes into play.

"I like passing because it is the easiest way to get the ball to the setter," said Junior **Marissa Mack** "Plus, it is probably what I'm best at."

There are differences among the Varsity, Junior Varsity, B squad, and Ninth grade teams, the largest being an age difference.

"The freshman are really timid," said Sophomore **Emily Spier**. "Some girls will be shaking when all the teams have practice together because they don't want to let a ball drop. Our coach makes us run if we drop a ball."

Although there are many positive aspects, there is a down side to volleyball as well.

"I just take it way too seriously and get close to tears sometimes," said Zumach "I don't know, I just get too competitive."

As all sports do, volleyball has a tendency to become time consuming.

"It takes up a lot of time so I don't have as much time to be with friends and relax," said Spier "but since it's something I like to do, it doesn't bother me how time consuming it is."

# From Past to Present

## VARSITY ATHLETES THEN & NOW



### SENIOR BLAKE SOLBERG

Sport: Cross Country

Years on Varsity: 4

Biggest difference from freshman to senior year: As a senior you have a lot more expectations. You always have to be a good model for the younger kids.

Advice to young varsity athletes: Cross Country can be a big mental game. You have to push through and never give up. A good quote is "Every runner who has ever ran fast believes in what they are doing."



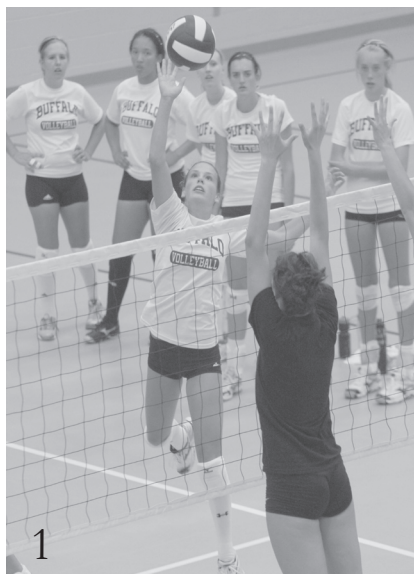
### SENIOR OLIVIA HAGGERTY

Sport: Soccer

Years on Varsity: 4

Biggest difference from freshman to senior year: I feel like I'm a calmer player now. I know the teams and I know the drill.

Advice to young varsity athletes: Don't be intimidated by your older teammates. You were chosen to be on varsity for a reason so just believe in yourself.



1 Junior Alexa Thielman attempts to spike the ball during a scrimmage in the beginning of the season. In total, four other teams attended the scrimmage.

2 The team huddles up for a pre-game discussion before playing White Bear Lake. The Bison won the match. 3 Junior Shanlee Braun passes the ball to a teammate during a scrimmage which was used to establish teams. Photos by Nick Weeks

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Friday, November 12

Swim/Dive sectional meet at Elk River High School

### Saturday, November 13

Swim/Dive sectional meet at Elk River High School

### Monday, November 15

Opening day for Girls' basketball, Boys' Hockey, Gymnastics, and Nordic Skiing

### Tuesday, November 16

Girls' JV and Varsity Hockey game at Brooklyn Park Arena

### Friday, November 19

Girls' JV and Varsity Hockey game at St. Louis Park Arena

### Monday, November 22

Opening day for Boys' Basketball and Wrestling

# Building a sanctuary

Students collaborate to build a hospice closer to home to provide the community with a more peaceful refuge.

CAITLIN BLACK  
STAFF WRITER

Freshmen **Deanna Jurgens** lost her grandmother to a stroke less than a year ago. It was difficult to see her grandmother inside a cramped hospital room that could only fit in about three people total.

“Everyone wanted to see her, but eventually we had to end up taking turns going in to talk to her,” said Jurgens. “Then after a while, we would come out so others could go in. The doctors and nurses always seemed mad at us that we were there. It made it hard to want to go back again.”

After her grandmother’s death, Jurgens was introduced to the idea of a hospice. A hospice is a place where people who are ill can go at the last stage of life. The residents are cared for to make their passing more comfortable. Anyone is allowed to live in the house.

Jurgens was determined to do what she could to help out, along with freshmen **Kaylee Knutsen** and **Caitlin Black**. They have set a goal of raising over \$1,000,000 to start construction a hospice in Buffalo.

They haven’t raised enough money yet but have made some ideas of what the outside would look like and what furniture and rooms would be inside. Their ideas include putting a game room in the house for younger children to have something to do while their parents and older siblings visit and talk with their family member, a spa that would make it easier to get clean and melt any stress away, a living room where the family could sit and talk together, and even a kitchen for the workers and families of residents could cook meals.

“We are thinking of putting in a fairly large kitchen to make food for the residents and to cook for ourselves if the food the workers make does not seem edible,” said Jurgens, stifling a laugh.

Knutsen and Black started promoting the house at the end of eighth grade, and Jurgens started the following summer. All three walked in the Buffalo Days Parade and walked the 5k Walk for Hospice on September 26. They also worked with college student **Beth Schmid** to record a video to send in to “The Ellen Degeneres Show” and “Extreme Makeover Home Edition.”



“The walk for Hospice was fun and hard since we had to walk about three miles,” said Jurgens. “We were so tired afterwards but we felt good that we were helping out.”

“Everyone wanted to see [my grandmother], but eventually we had to end up taking turns going in to talk. The doctors and nurses always seemed mad at us that we were there. It made it hard to want to go back again.”

-Freshman Deanna Jurgens

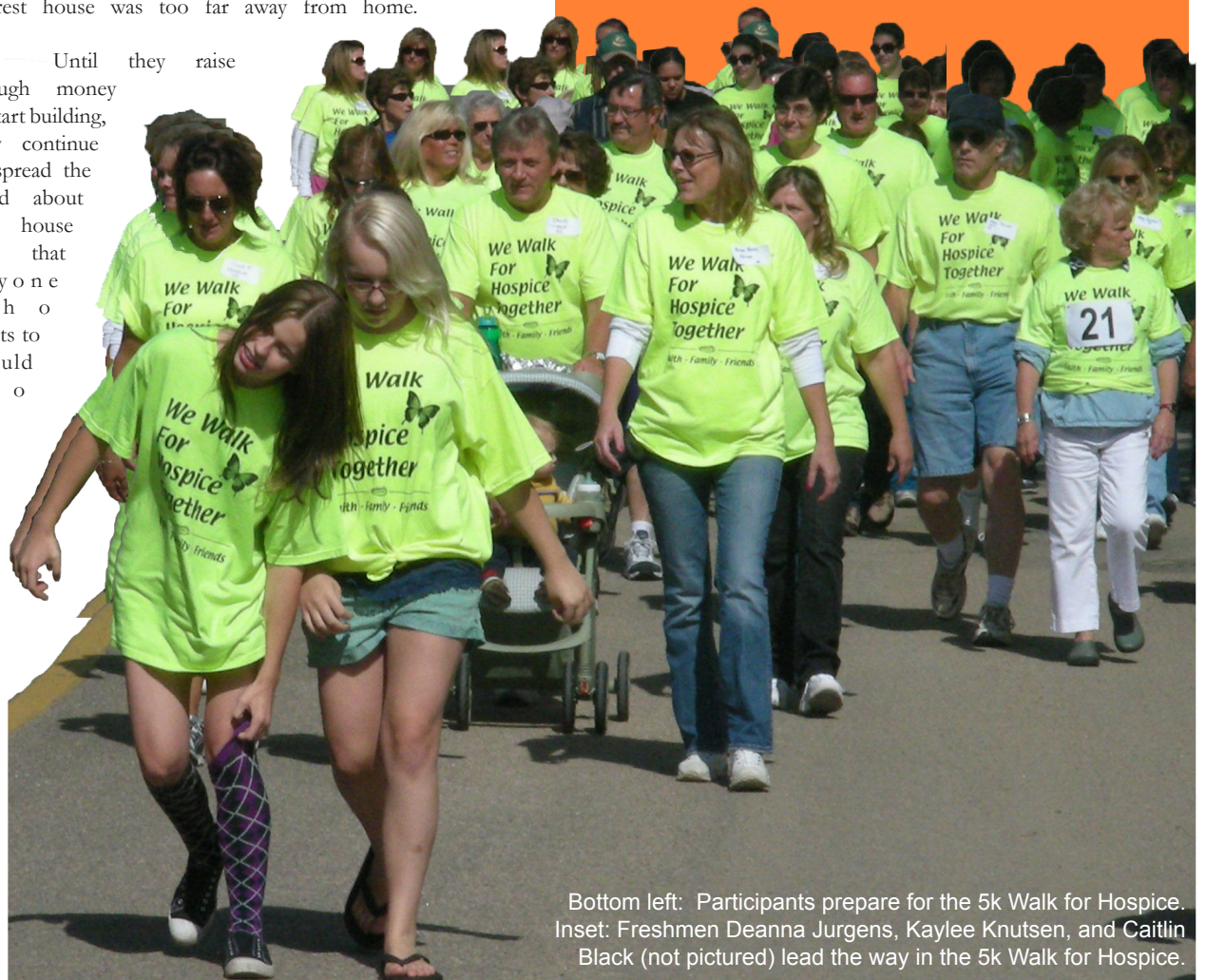
Black also described how the cancer disabled her father to move or do anything himself. Both Jurgens and Black wished they could have had the option for Hospice care but the nearest house was too far away from home.

Black also described how the cancer disabled her father to move or do anything himself. Both Jurgens and Black wished they could have had the option for Hospice care but the nearest house was too far away from home.

Until they raise enough money to start building, they continue to spread the word about the house and that anyone who wants to should do

Building a hospice in Buffalo interested the three girls because they all have lost a loved one due to a sickness or a tragic event. Knutsen lost her mother to unknown causes which are still being looked into. Black lost her father Mark to cancer about three years ago.

“It was really hard to try and take in that my dad was sick and in pain all the time,” said Black. “But the hardest thing to deal with was the silence. While my dad was sick we always had to be quiet. We weren’t allowed to run around or laugh like we used to, afraid that the noise would disturb him. It was always so difficult to even look at my dad—my own father—but I couldn’t. He just didn’t look like himself anymore.”



Bottom left: Participants prepare for the 5k Walk for Hospice. Inset: Freshmen Deanna Jurgens, Kaylee Knutsen, and Caitlin Black (not pictured) lead the way in the 5k Walk for Hospice.



Pictured above is the Hospice’s front side. Layout plans include a game room, spa, communal living room and kitchen.

~\$155,000

has been raised to begin the hospice construction

The students hope to begin building the hospice in **Spring 2011**