

AHR STAR SPAGHETTI DINNER: THE TRADITION CONTINUES



INSIDE...

"THE GOOD DOCTOR" P. 5

ADVICE FOR FRESHMEN P. 9

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT P. 13

AHR STAR DINNER P. 2

NEW FACULTY P. 6

WABA DAY P. 10

VOLLEYBALL P. 14

EDITORIAL P. 3

INSPECTING CAROL P. 7

HURRICANE RELIEF P. 11

GYMNASTICS P. 15

STRANGER THINGS P. 4

HELPING IN HAITI P. 8

CURRENT POLITICS P. 12

POLAR PLUNGE P. 16

AHR STAR SPAGHETTI DINNER A SMASHING SUCCESS

By: JASMINE CHANG

For the past 30 years, Bishop Ahr has adopted two kids each year who suffer from a severe terminal or chronic disease. The entire community bands together to show support, love, and care towards these two children and their families. The community came together on Thursday, October 5th this year to organize the 20th Ahr Star Spaghetti Dinner as a fundraiser for these kids and their families. This year's dinner raised over \$12,000 over the course of 3 hours. Approximately 800 people were in attendance. Michelle Nice, chair of the English department, commented, "It's a wonderful community event that brings people who wouldn't normally necessarily interact with one another together."

The 2017-2018 Ahr Stars are Sadie Ally and David Santos. Sadie Ally has a Wilms tumor, a rare kidney cancer that most commonly affects children, as well as spots on her lungs. Though she is only 4 years old, she has already had one kidney removed and is still undergoing treatment. Sadie is the cousin of alumni Megan, Emily, and Elizabeth Colagrande. She has a 6 year old brother named Connor. Her mother, Katie Ally, said "It's an amazing program and we feel so blessed to be part of it."

David was born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, an extremely

rare congenital heart defect in which the left side of the heart is severely underdeveloped. Although currently there is no cure, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has come up with an innovative surgery as a way to combat it. Less than a year old, David has already undergone 2 open heart surgeries and will likely go through more. His parents, Jacquelyn Hegedus Santos and Jeremy Santos are both 2005 alumni. They said, "We feel so blessed by the overwhelming support of the Bishop Ahr community."

"We feel so blessed by the overwhelming support of the Bishop Ahr community."

~Jeremy and Jacquelyn Santos

The Ahr Star Spaghetti Dinner is truly a community event and almost every student participates. Underclassmen brought soda, while seniors provided the spaghetti. Teachers and students alike volunteered their time, while the sports teams came to show support for the Ahr Stars Sadie and David. A group of nuns came down from the Felician Convent to join in the festivities. Previous Ahr Stars and



AHR STAR REPRESENTATIVES JUDE ROCHE AND ALEXA ROMANELLA PLAY WITH AHR STAR SADIE AND HER BROTHER CONNOR BY TOSSING AROUND THE SIGNED FOOTBALL FROM THE FOOTBALL TEAM.

their families also attended. Mrs. O'Neill, mother of last year's Ahr Star Finley O'Neill, said "You come back and all the same emotions that we had when we first got here come back. Every year, it's the same feeling of Bishop Ahr coming together as a family, and that's what's so great."

Starting off the night with a blessing, the students, faculty, and staff sang, "God is a Good God." The Woodbridge Knights of Columbus helped to cook the meal itself, while the Smith, Dama, Roche, and Penny families donated

additional deserts and food to the dinner. There was so much food that the extra spaghetti was donated to TASK, the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen where many students volunteer every year. Just like when Jesus fed the thousands with five loaves of bread and two fish and had enough left over, there was much left over for those who needed it this year.

Sister Cyndi, together with the help of the Ahr Star Committee chaired by Jude Roche and Alexa Romanella, organized the entire event to make it a mind boggling success. Sister Cyndi herself added, "I am always touched by the generous hearts of the BGA family. This year's Ahr Star Spaghetti Dinner just solidified that for me. It was a Spaghetti dinner of love!"

The money raised from the Ahr Star Spaghetti Dinner was given to the families of the Ahr Stars to help defray their medical expenses. In addition, Sadie and David were presented with stuffed animals, puzzles, clothes, and toys. However, by the end of the night, it was the football signed by the varsity football team that Christine Houghton and personally presented to the Ahr Stars that Sadie was playing with.

The night was a success and the school community looks forward to the next Ahr Star event - the Ahr Star Mass in December.



ABOVE LEFT: SENIORS VICTORIA ALBANI AND KELLY HARMON SERVE DINERS WITH SMILES ON THEIR FACES



ABOVE RIGHT: DAVID AND HIS MOM, JACQUELYN, SHARE SOME LAUGHS WITH SR. CYNDI WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT THE DINNER

The **Satoma**
NEWSMAGAZINE

Principal: Sr. Donna Marie Trukowski
Associate Principal: Harry Ziegler
Vice Principal: Brian Brogno
Campus Minister:
 Sr. Cynthia Marie Babyak
Technology Coordinator:
 Michael Kowalczyk

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
 SIMON LLAGUNO

PHOTO EDITOR
 MAIA LIM

COPY EDITORS
 MARY PUCCI
 LAUREL PRIME

EDITORIAL EDITOR
 THOMAS KNAPP

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
 MAIA LIM

SCHOOL NEWS/SERVICE EDITORS
 JULIA KEBULADZE
 JASMINE CHANG

SPORTS EDITOR
 SIMON LLAGUNO

EDITORIAL WRITERS
 SIMON LLAGUNO
 MARY PUCCI

CURRENT EVENTS COLUMN
 MARJOLYN MEGALOUDIS

STAFF WRITERS
 NICOLE PETRICK, PAMELA PICERNO,
 MEGAN LIM, SAMANTHA SOLDI, GIRELY
 OYOLA, JULIA DUARTE, TRENT DEMESA,
 JAREN BULIYAT, KRISTEL RAMBAUD, AN
 NGUYEN, SYBILLE RATEAU

ADVISER: AMY KATE BYRNE

Vol. 48, No.1
The Satoma Newsmagazine is a student publication which is the forum of expression for the student body at Bishop George Ahr High School, One Tingley Lane, Edison, New Jersey 08820. Letters to the editor should be signed although names will be held upon request. *The Satoma Newsmagazine* is a member of the Quill and Scroll and the American Scholastic Press Association.

Phone: (732)-549-1108 ext. 655

Email: abyryne@bgahs.org

Web: www.bgahs.org/satoma.jsp

Is technology hurting or helping us?

Technology opens doors to curiosity and opportunity



In a technologically dependent society, iPhones, tablets, and laptops have become a way of life. Technological advances have shown various benefits that would not have been possible if we did not take advantage of these resources. Still, many argue that this dependency can be detrimental. Some believe that people have grown so attached to their devices that they focus less on forming relationships with each other. While this is true to an extent, we must ask ourselves an important question: Who's to blame: the latest iPhone or the person using it?

To state the obvious, new innovations have made life easier. The Internet is a primary source that almost anyone can access to acquire information. In the modern world, you don't need to take a trip to the library and borrow an encyclopedia

to find out what happened in World War I. Instead, you "Google" it. You don't need to ask a friend what the story in class was about; summaries are available online. Moreover, the Internet satiates random curiosities. Why is the sky blue? How do fireflies glow? What's the exact population? People can be inquisitive and search for questions, and the answer simple appears on a screen.

While these answers become more readily available, it also teaches students important lessons. Students learn how to find credible sources, so they know how to find accurate and reliable information. They are taught to avoid plagiarism. Proper MLA citation is a lot easier now that websites can do it for you.

One of the biggest innovations is the smartphone. As the name suggests, the device utilizes apps and programs to act somewhat like a brain. A calculator app does calculations for you. Siri actually listens and answers your questions, sometimes in a creative way (try asking

Siri what zero divided by zero is).

Smartphones have also made communication and networking easier than it has ever been. Texting and direct messaging have replaced letters and emails. Almost everyone has a social media account, as well. Instagram not only lets you keep in touch with friends, but also provides an outlet for self-expression. Snapchat lets people interact through pictures. Companies use these platforms to promote their businesses. Used in the right way, social media gives people the chance to enjoy life and improve their networks.

Technology has truly evolved and continues to advance, even taking on the tasks of humans. Nonetheless, we must remember that our smartphone is not a living creature. Is it the fault of an inanimate iPhone screen that people have become addicted to its use? Rather, we should focus on using technology wisely in order to maximize our own potential as human beings. If we do that then technology will only help us.

Smartphones aren't making people any smarter



Technology is something that permeates every aspect of our everyday lives. Every step of our days include some form of machine. Technological advances are needed and wonderful. They signify benchmarks in human progression and allow us to do more. However, it is impossible to ignore the many adverse effects technology has on the human condition.

Technology renders many basic skills obsolete. Basic arithmetic is no longer an issue as long as you have an iPhone with you. While small mental problems may seem trivial, it is one less time of the day where our minds are being naturally stimulated and worked. Otherwise, basic skills fall to the wayside.

With the ease of technology, we interact with fewer and fewer people on a daily basis. Basic social skills aren't being regularly used as many

things can be done over a screen. Things like reading body language and social cues are becoming more of an issue in younger generations due to this shift. A study from Duke University, has shown that an excess of technology also can lead to increased mental health issues like feelings of isolation, depression, anxiety, low self esteem, feelings of worthlessness, and stress. These issues stem from being in an alternate reality for too long without reprieve. General qualities of creativity and spontaneity have decreased overall in the general population due to the restraints technology puts on people. Technology may help supplement the idea, but without the freedom of a wandering mind, these ideas will continue to become less abundant.

Healthwise, technology is not on the side of the people. Due to the feelings of isolation technology provides, studies have shown time and time again that increased use of technology leads to higher rates of not only mental health issues, as listed before, but also physi-

cal health problems like obesity, chronic pain, and a deterioration of the overall health of a person.

In this day and age, nothing is private. Our lives are constantly being exploited on various forms of social media on a day to day basis. Since our phones and computers have become such integral parts of our day to day lives, websites like Facebook, Skype, and Google provide free services while collecting a frightening amount of data about its users. This information gets sold to other companies for mere pennies.

Technology has quickly overtaken our lives in the matter of a few decades. Since then, we have seen indisputable generational changes that stem from this shift. The level of technology has begun to alter the nature of the human mind. This is a change that we as people need to decide if it is something we want for us as a population. Technology may empower us, but we can also become its slaves without even realizing. We need to decide which way we will wind up going.

Are things getting 'stranger'?



CALEB MCLAUGHLIN, MILLIE BOBBY BROWN, FINN WOLFHARD, NOAH SCHNAPP, AND GATEN MAZZARA PLAY THE MAIN ROLES IN *STRANGER THINGS*.

BY: THOMAS KNAPP

The second season of *Stranger Things* offers the viewer everything the first season delivered upon, living up to everyone's expectations. Viewer who watched Season 1 of *Stranger Things* are probably watching Season 2 and loving how the show is going.

Warning: there are spoilers ahead! This season, the colorful

group of characters battles the latest enemy from the Upside-Down as the beast struggles to manipulate their friend Will. For most of the story, Eleven is separated from Mike, Will, Lucas, Dustin and the party's newest member, Max. She struggles on her own path to find justice for what has happened to her, and comes to terms with the anger and pain inside herself.

Season 2 delivers quality performances by all of the actors, especially by child actors Finn Wolfhard as Mike, and Millie Bobby-Brown as Eleven. An attentive and dedicated viewer can definitely detect the emotions between these two characters as they interact and how they did an incredible job of representing those feelings.

This season of *Stranger Things* is certainly leaving the audience with a desire for more. The story and plot was used to establish the new enemy in a cliffhanger ending that will definitely pay off in the third-season. However, most fans will be left with a sort of empty feeling. The first season was innovative, using the feeling of nostalgia and telling new stories while still capturing the elusiveness of the time period. Season 2 delivers all of these things just as well as Season 1 did, but without the innovation. Of course it was amazing and leaves any viewers immersed in a mysterious and attractive world, but that was exactly what Season 1 was.

With that said though, what Season 2 did expand upon were the questions left by the first season. What is the Upside-Down? Did research on the dimension continue? How were the researchers from Season 1 held responsible? Were the events ever made public? Many of these questions are answered in fantastic ways that will have people hung on their screens waiting to see what will happen next. Amazingly, there are still questions to be answered. The season ends with so many more questions that keep the show interesting, while not abusing the angle of suspense. Viewers aren't starved of answers or questions by the ninth and final episode.

Season 2 of *Stranger Things* offers the viewer what Season 1 did: a nostalgic trip, an intriguing plot, and wondrous world. Fans of the first season will love what this season brings to the table, and newcomers will feel welcomed if they are not caught up.

BTS: not behind the scenes

BY: MAIA LIM

Korean pop-group, BTS, has infiltrated America with record-breaking sales and rankings this year. Their name, BTS, short for Bangtan Sonyeondan in Korean, or Bulletproof Boy Scouts, was recently rebranded in English as Beyond the Scene. The members are: Jin, Suga, J-Hope, Rapmonster, Jimin, V, and Jungkook. They debuted under BigHit Entertainment in 2013 and their ever growing fan base is called 'ARMY,' fitting their determination and support well. Rapmonster, the leader, is fluent in his native Korean, English, which he learned by watching the show *Friends*, and Japanese. The other members speak Korean and have basic to advanced knowledge of Japanese and English.

Although they are in a smaller entertainment agency and started with a very low budget, they grew to catch global attention in 2015 with their music video, "Dope," now with over two hundred million views on YouTube. The group continued to rise in popularity, releasing the music videos "Fire," "Blood,

Sweat, and Tears," "Not Today," and "Spring Day," each with over a hundred million views on YouTube. They are known for a prominent vocal and rap line and intense dance choreography. The rap line is Rapmonster, Suga, and J-Hope, and the vocal line is Jungkook, Jimin, V, and Jin. J-Hope, Jimin, and Jungkook make up the dance line with J-Hope as the dance leader for BTS. The group became the first k-pop group to be nominated and win Top Social Artist at the 2016 Billboard Music Awards with the help of their *Wings* album, breaking Justin Bieber's six year streak.

Another reason why BTS appeals to the public is because many of their songs address social issues such as depression, social phobia, anxiety, and political issues. These songs include "Wale Change," "The Last" from Suga, "No More Dream," "Silver Spoon," and "Go Go," among others.

Their mini album, *Love Yourself: Her*, released on September 18th, is one of the four LOVE albums, all of which will be continued in 2018. The new album reached over 1.05

million pre-order sales, even resulting in shipping delays because of high demand. There are nine tracks in addition to two hidden tracks that make up the full *Love Yourself: Her* album. They released the music video for "DNA" on September 18 and reached 21 million views within 24 hours, becoming the first k-pop group to do so. Winning multiple awards across several large

Award Shows in Asia, BTS are rising above the charts. They even made Spotify's Top Hits playlist and appeared on the Viral 50, Global 50, and Demi Lovato's teen hits playlist. BTS also achieved their goal for 2017, reaching the Billboard Hot 100 chart. With their eye-catching concepts and unique personalities, millions are excited to see where BTS goes in 2018.



BTS WITH THEIR TROPHY AFTER RECEIVING TOP SOCIAL ARTIST AT THE BILLBOARD MUSIC AWARD
(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

Readers 'all the way down' with this riveting comeback

BY: MARY PUCCI

After a five year hiatus, the king of young adult literature is back and darker than ever. John Green returns to the world of dramatic teen novels with "Turtles All the Way Down." The novel zeroes in on protagonist, 16 year old Aza Holmes. Aza's story begins with a mystery - along with her best friend, Daisy, Aza sets out on a search for missing billionaire Russell Picket in the hopes of receiving \$100,000 in reward money.

However, the billionaire who left all of his wealth to a tuatara is not the most interesting plot line. The son of said billionaire is Davis Picket, a childhood friend of Aza's. The chemistry between the two is muddled with unsure intentions. To compound that, Aza suffers from debilitating OCD. The story opens

with Aza intricately describing the objectively simple routine of eating a sandwich. For her, however, the task involves the millions of bacteria within her stomach and the spiral of thought tightens around her. While this seems mentally exhausting for the reader, this is Aza's mindset throughout the entire novel - and perhaps the purpose of these mentally exhausting additions is to provide the reader with a taste of the pain someone with a mental illness suffers. A main theme is spirals and how Aza feels trapped within her own self. As John Green himself is a long time OCD sufferer, this attempt at chronicling mental illness is even more candid and raw.

However, both she and Davis are trapped; Aza in her thoughts and Davis in his money. As much as they want to make it work between them, their differences become evi-



JOHN GREEN SHOWS OFF HIS NEW YOUNG ADULT NOVEL (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

dent. Aza's OCD makes any form of intimacy nearly impossible. Davis expresses the need to be appreciated "up close". The relationship comes to a bittersweet end.

Despite these differences the two form a novel worthy bond. The

story continues showing the parallels between the two. While the novel often repeats itself and communicates in metaphors and symbols, it resonates. The story of Aza is one that many can and will continue to relate to.

ABC gives its own portrayal of autism

BY: SYBILLE RATEAU

On September 25th, 2017 the first episode of *The Good Doctor* aired on ABC. The show tells the story of Dr. Shaun Murphy, a young man who has achieved his aspiration to become a surgeon at a reputable hospital. Doctor Murphy has finished medical school and evidently possesses more than enough of the satisfactory intelligence that is necessary to be a surgeon. Still, he struggles to be taken seriously and gain the respect of his co-workers simply because he bares the diagnosis of autism and Savant Syndrome, a condition that causes a person with autism to exceed the average amount of intellect in some areas while still having a significant deficit in others. Although he repeatedly proves himself as extraordinary and clearly shows a passion for helping

people, Dr. Shaun Murphy has yet to convince everyone around him that he is just as qualified to be a surgeon as all the doctors in the hospital and just as worthy of respect as anyone.

For far too long, television shows have only featured characters who exemplify what people generally perceive as normal. *The Good Doctor* allows the general public to observe a way of living that is a little more unconventional. The show represents the fact that autistic people are indeed different—that all people are different—but, perhaps, it is trying to accept and understand the diversity of all people that will lead to the betterment of society. *The Good Doctor* subtly educates people about autism and Savant syndrome, showing viewers that autistic Savant can be seen as an advantage, rather than a setback. More importantly, *The Good Doctor* depicts people with autism or any mental condition as they truly are: people. The show invites its audience to normalize the idea of autistic people potentially having exceptional capabilities. *The Good Doctor* demonstrates that they are capable of love, hurt, and happiness, just like anyone else. It portrays autism not as a disorder or form of handicap, but rather, simply as a different life style. Viewers have much to learn from this emotional, new TV series, showing every Monday night at 10 p.m. on the ABC network.



FREDDIE HIGHMORE AS DR. SHAUN MURPHY PREPARES FOR AN OPERATION

Get ready for a thrilling ride

BY: MAIA LIM

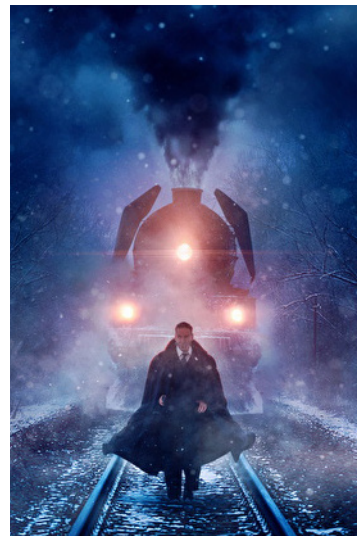
Based on the popular novel by Agatha Christie, *Murder on the Orient Express* is a film, newly released today, that many are looking forward to watch. The novel was published in 1934 and became a favorite of people over the years. This is the second film making since 1974 and is directed by Kenneth Branagh.

This stylish and suspense filled mystery and drama is about thirteen strangers stranded on a train in Europe where all the characters are suspects of murder. One man, Detective Hercule Poirot, races against the clock to find the true culprit before someone else is killed. The entire plot is inspired by the real life death of Charles Lindbergh's toddler son. The child was kidnapped at only twenty months old and held at ransom for the value of half a million dollars. Two months later, after the ransom had been paid, the child was found dead on a road four miles from the crime scene.

The main characters in the film include Detective Hercule Poirot, Mary Debenham, Ratchett, Mrs. Hubbard, and Pilar Estravados. The cast holds many well known actors like Kenneth Branagh, Daisy Ridley, Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Penelope Cruz. Sergei Polunin, who was the youngest ever male principle in the Royal Ballet and

attracted millions of views with his dance cover of 'Take me to Church' on YouTube, also appears in the film. This will be Cruz and Depp's third collaboration since 2001 and Pfeiffer and Depp's first collaboration since 2012.

According to the film ratings site *Rotten Tomatoes*, ninety-nine percent out of about eight thousand people want to watch the movie. With the crowd's obvious interest and a renowned novel as a foundation, *Murder on the Orient Express* is a film held with high expectations.



DETECTIVE HERCULE POIROT ADVANCES AHEAD OF THE ORIENT EXPRESS

SAY HOLA! TO SENOR ROCA



MR. ROCA SMILES AS HE CALLS ON A STUDENT (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BGA PUBLICATIONS)

BY: AN NGUYEN

As a soccer referee in high school and a Sam's Club sales associate in college, Señor Stephen Roca has always wanted to be a teacher. The community now gives

him a warm welcome as one of the Spanish instructors! After attending Rutgers University, Señor Roca worked part time as a substitute teacher, as well as a sports reporter, which came effortlessly to him. He stated, "I always knew that I liked working with students and I knew it would give me the opportunity to coach as well. I enjoy teaching and I wanted to change the experience I had as a student for others, because I feel I'm more relatable since I'm not a native speaker, unlike my teachers." Roca also believes that he'll be able to connect and relate with his students in a way that a native speaker wouldn't necessarily be able to do.

Señor Roca saw an extremely welcoming school with an amazing staff, saying that it's almost as if everyone were family here. "The school is really open to helping others and it understands the meaning of togetherness. I think they work hard to provide students the best education they can." Along with teaching, he has several hobbies and interests outside of the classroom. For instance, he loves to watch and play sports such as football, basketball, soccer, and track and field. Along with sports, Señor Roca enjoys playing video games and hanging out with his friends.

When asked what his favorite movie is, Señor Roca was quick to

reply with the famous blockbuster, "Rocky." Roca is particularly interested in the Puerto Rican singer/songwriter, Nicky Jam.

Señor Roca has been able to get involved with the school community. Becoming a Spanish teacher allowed him to create important advice for any student: "Work as hard as you can and do your best, because these years are important and it's critical to try out new subjects to see where your strengths lie," he advises, "If you don't, you'll find out in college and that could hurt you or you could never find out and be missing what you're talented in." Be sure to say "Hola!" to Señor Roca.

ASSISTING AHR STUDENTS

BY: NICOLE PETRICK

Bishop Ahr just welcomed a new Student Assistant Counselor, Ms. Crystal. She attended Rowan University for her Bachelor's in psychology and Monmouth University for her Master's Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. It's easy for her to talk about job

experience with students since she was a lifeguard in high school and a waitress in college. She also played basketball in both high school and college.

When asked about BGA she said, "It's a great place to be. The students and staff were all very welcoming." Her hobbies and interests include basketball, going to the

beach, playing with her son, watching "A Bronx Tale", and listening to Bruce Springsteen.

Her advice for students is to get involved as "time in high school flies by; don't be afraid to try new things."

Be sure to take a minute to stop by room 115 and say hello to Ms. Crystal.



MS. CRYSTAL AT HER DESK

WARM WELCOME, MR. TOCCI

BY: MEGAN LIM

The Bishop Ahr community recently welcomed one of its newest faculty members to the school – Mr. John Tocci is not only 9.7's home-room supervisor, but also one of the school's Geometry teachers.

Before joining the Bishop Ahr family, Mr. Tocci attended Thomas Edison State University. While studying and working hard in col-

lege, he also managed to juggle two jobs. He pumped gas at a nearby station and was also a McDonalds' crew member.

Aside from his time spent studying and working, he also devoted his time to his many interests. 'Til this day, he is an avid fan of football, auto racing, and hockey; above all, Mr. Tocci takes great pleasure in music. Not only does he enjoy

listening to his favorite musicians, Led Zeppelin and The Beatles, but he also loves to sing and play the guitar.

He continues to enjoy these hobbies as he works at Bishop Ahr, which his first impression of was "very welcoming and supportive." To his students, Mr. Tocci advises to "always try your best and never be afraid to ask questions!"



MR. TOCCI WRITES AN EQUATION FOR HIS STUDENTS

BIENVENIDO, MS. DINICOLA-TAPIA

BY: MARY PUCCI

This year is the year of Spanish teachers as the staff has gained another, Ms. Susan Dinicola-Tapia! She attended Saint Peter's University and Seton Hall Law School. She also shared with her Spanish class, "in Spanish of course," that she worked at a variety of places including a supermarket, dry cleaners, retail clothing store, and a medical clinic.

When asked about Bishop Ahr, she offered, "Everyone is so welcoming from the faculty to administration to the students. BGA is definitely a special place that is vibrant and has an energy all its own. The students I have encountered so far are motivated to learn!"

For interests, she emphasized horses. She rides her horse a few times a week, enjoys being in nature, cooking, painting, and reading a good book. Her favorite movie is

"Seabiscuit," "It combines my favorite things... history and horses." She also listens to Bruno Mars and Bon Jovi.

Her advice for students is, "You're in a great place at BGA. Appreciate that! Also, please don't be so busy that you neglect the beautiful things in life... your families, true friends... yourselves. Stop, relax and be in the moment."

If you see her in the halls, be sure to say, "bienvenido!"



MS. DINICOLA-TAPIA SHOWS AN EXAMPLE TO HER CLASS

PRODUCTION PROVIDES A CHRISTMAS TWIST

BY: SAMANTHA SOLDO

At Bishop Ahr, the month of November doesn't just signify the coming of Thanksgiving break or the await of turning the clocks back, but also an exciting Fall performance put on by our very own drama department. Christmas is coming early with this hilarious, ingenious holiday comedy! Inspecting Carol, the straight play of the drama sea-

son, is nothing short of a comedy about a theatre company struggling to get their foot through the door in their annual production of Charles Dicken's A Christmas Carol. While balancing putting on a show and paying their bills with what little funding they have, the company learns that to make it through to next year, they have to impress a mystery inspector from the National

Endowment of the Arts in order to receive a grant. With a zany cast under the utmost pressure, only disaster can ensue, sure to leave the audience clutching their stomachs in laughter. From this play you can expect a fun-filled night at the theater, and a little bit of a mystery! Don't hesitate to purchase your tickets and see the play on November 15th, 16th, or 17th!

NOVEMBER 17TH @ 8PM
NOVEMBER 18TH @ 8PM
NOVEMBER 19TH @ 3PM

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Tickets available on the Bishop Ahr website under Fine Arts/Drama Dept.

Mischief night done right



ABOVE LEFT: THE CREATURE GLANCES AT HIMSELF IN A MIRROR
ABOVE RIGHT: DRACULA TRIES TO TURN MINA INTO A VAMPIRE

BY: NICOLE PETRICK

On Monday, October 30th the Drama Department performed the Halloween Spook-A-Rama for a sold-out audience. This year the two one-act shows chosen were Kochenderfer's Dracula and Kochenderfer's Frankenstein. The first show, Kochenderfer's Dracula, follows the story of a real estate broker named Jonathan (Sean Zagarola) as he attempts to sell a castle to Count Dracula (Jordan Goins). Jonathan heads to Transylvania to negotiate the deal but soon finds himself abducted by Dracula and trapped in his castle. The Count then tries to win the love of Jonathan's new fiancé Mina (Alexa Romanella), who he believes is the reincarnation of his dead wife Elizabeth. Jonathan eventually escapes Dracula's grasps and returns to Mina. Then Mina's teacher, Professor Van Helsing (Sarah Shanahan), comes into the story and composes a search party to hunt down the vampire. After hours of searching the posse finds Dracula in Jonathan's house talking with Mina. The posse attempts to kill the Count but instead they end up being bitten by him. In the final scene, Jonathan drives a stake through Dracula's heart right before Frankenstein (Jude Roche) runs in

warning everyone that Dracula is the only creature who can destroy his barbaric monster.

The second act was Kochenderfer's Frankenstein. In this show, Frankenstein accidentally creates his monster for a school assignment when he misinterpreted the project's objective as assembling a creature instead of dissecting a creature. Not long after its creation, the Monster (Daniel Devitt) escapes from Frankenstein's apartment. Frankenstein goes searching for the creature and the Monster admits that he accidentally murdered Frankenstein's brother and that he wants a wife created for him. He threatens to kill Frankenstein's family if he does not comply. When Frankenstein refuses, the Monster murders Frankenstein's wife, Elizabeth (Faith Dodge), before heading to the North Pole. Devastated by the loss of his loved one, Frankenstein pursues the Monster to the North Pole where the two have a stand-off. Frankenstein ultimately freezes to death leaving the Monster alone until Count Dracula appears. The social outcasts become friends until the Monster convinces Dracula to dance with him in the sunlight, and it instantly kills the vampire. In the final scene of the show Professor Van Helsing appears and drives a stake through the Monster's heart, killing him and ending the show.

A 'dream' of a show

BY: JULIA KEBULADZE

To conclude a long and relaxing summer, the drama department put on a stunning rendition of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The thirty-seven person cast and crew rehearsed for a month and a half to produce this classic Shakespearean comedy with a modern twist. Although the language was all from Shakespeare's original script, the theme of the entire production was the eighties! All of the costumes, music, and motifs drew inspiration from that time period.

The comedy takes place in a forest near Athens as well as the city itself. Unlike most plays, not one, but three compelling plots develop throughout the play, the stories of the fairies, the mechanicals, and the four lovers. The four lovers are caught in a web of love and turmoil, which often gets scrambled throughout the play by the fairies. The fairies are also in conflict. The fairy King Oberon, played by Michael Pacitti, and the Queen Titania, played by Alexa Romanella, are fighting over a child in Titania's custody. Accompanied by their groupies, Titania with her fairies

and Oberon with Puck, played by Sarah Shanahan, confront each other many times throughout the play.

In fact, for revenge, Puck retrieves a magical flower that when used, makes the person it has been applied to madly in love with the next person or creature they see. This flower is used many times throughout the play, both on the four lovers and the queen. Unfortunately for Titania, she falls in love with a man whose head was transformed into that of a donkey! The man's name is Bottom, who is part of a theatre troupe with five of his fellow struggling actors. They are preparing a play called "Pyramus and Thisbe", a parody of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. They are all failed actors, but miss their transformed friend Bottom.

All the conflicts in the three plots find resolution and come together in the latter end of the play by watching the mechanicals perform their play. As predicted, the play does not go well, but all the actors and actress' join at the end to dance to iconic 80's song "Celebration". The play concludes with Puck saying, "Give me your hands if we be friends, and Robin shall restore amends".



THE MECHANICALS GATHER TOGETHER TO DISCUSS THEIR PLAY (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BGA PUBLICATIONS)

F r e s h m e n

Helping Haiti Anali Rodriguez

BY: JULIA KEBULADZE

For two years in a row Anali has traveled to Haiti on a service trip. Once a year, she flies with her father, her priest, and a few other community members to the capital of Haiti, then drives for three hours into the more rural parts of the land. They volunteer at shelters, schools, and orphanages. The group brings supplies, activities for the school children, and they cook for the sickly. When she arrives at the Catholic school, the children put on a short play or presentation as an act of gratitude. They play with the crayons and other crafting items provided by the service group, which is always a “fun and inspiring

experience,” Anali says. Anali says she got started from her dad, who took these trips twice a year, and he was inspired by his priest who began the trips. The need to help others using the strength of their community was what called Anali to this program, and it taught her not to take things for granted. “No pictures can describe the feeling I get from this experience,” Anali says, “It just makes me feel like I’m truly doing God’s work for others”. Her favorite part of this humbling experience is going to the local shelters and cooking food for the elderly. “Seeing them enjoying themselves for the first time in probably a long time gives an incredible feeling fulfillment” Anali says.



ANALI AND HER SISTER AMARILIS HAVE GROWN CLOSE TO THE CHILDREN THEY’VE HELPED IN HAITI.
(PHOTO COURTESY OF ANALI RODRIGUEZ)

Furry Friends Thomas Koenig

BY: SIMON LLAGUNO & THOMAS KNAPP

Whether it be due to a disability or simply old age, many people depend on dogs to be their companions to function in everyday



THOMAS SMILES AS HE TRAINS SOME OF HIS DOGS.
(PHOTO COURTESY OF THOMAS KOENIG)

life. First, however, it is important to determine if a dog is capable to undertake some of the responsibilities of a human. Thomas Koenig has been doing just this with *The Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs Incorporated*. Starting at the age of nine, he has been working with dogs to determine if they will be eligible to potentially become therapy dogs. His love for dogs also started at a young age, as Thomas is the caretaker of three of his own dogs.

Training dogs is an integral part of Thomas’ life, and impacts those with certain disabilities that dogs can assist. The best part of his job Thomas says, is passing dogs he has successfully trained. The worst part to him, is failing dogs that have not passed the course.

What he loves about training and interacting with these dogs is that they are relatable to everyone. Thomas also said that his favorite breed of dogs to work with are Chihuahuas, because the first dog he successfully trained, was a Chihuahua!

Fighting & Fencing Abby McCarty

BY: MARY PUCCI

Abby McCarty has an unusual hobby: fencing! “I get to fight with swords, it’s great,” she joked. She came upon the hobby and fell in love with the sport. “I love the enthusiasm everyone has,” she explained. She elaborated on how the motions and aggression involved with fencing allows her to focus her energy.

The way she explained it, fencing is about both mind and body. There are many different forms that need to be memorized and there is much technique involved; it’s not just pointing a sword. Abby competes at Hub City fencing. There are three types of fencing and she practices saber and foils. Saber matches are around three minutes in length and focus on the waist and up, “they usually only last five seconds actually though,” she claims.

She also competes with foils which also focus on the waist and up but these matches take a bit longer. Abby says that her sport is interactive, helps her deal with pain, and is helpful. Abby also expressed



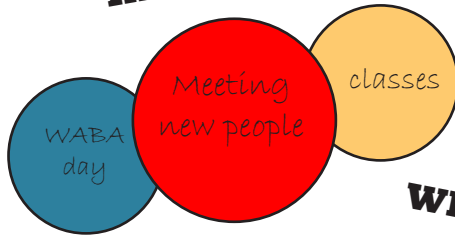
ABBY PREPARES FOR HER NEXT BOUT.
(PHOTO COURTESY OF ABBY MCCARTY)

that she wants more involvement and exposure within the fencing world. She claims that there is so much room for everyone in the sport and in her words, “more please!”

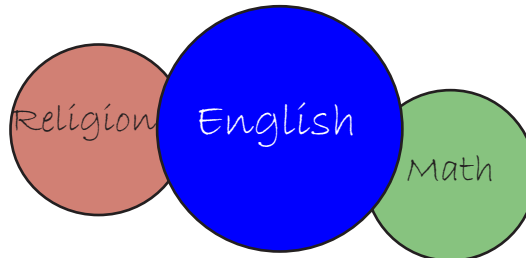
n Feature

FACTS ABOUT THE FROSH

What have you enjoyed most so far?

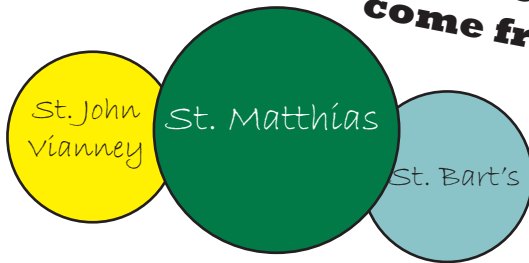


Favorite subject?

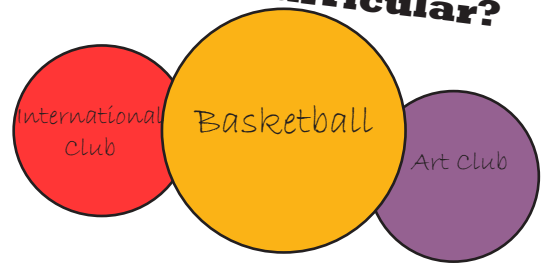


**Based on top three results on survey given to the freshman class*

What school did you come from?



Favorite club/extracurricular?



FRESHMAN FORUM

How do you study and manage time well?

"When I have a lot of work and tests, I like to break things up, do a little at a time and plan ahead"
Ryleigh Greenwald '18

"Don't procrastinate. Deadlines are real. Plan your tasks accordingly and don't freak out, you'll get through it."
Julianna Pastore '18

"Make sure you have a balance between extracurriculars and school. Find the best way to study that suits you."
Julia Hauss '18

What should I get involved in?

"Join a bunch of clubs and never be afraid to try new things."
Bryon Plonski '19

"Get out of your comfort zone and take risks. It'll help you make the most of your high school experience."
Briana Gil '18

"Get involved in activities and clubs that fit your personality. There's a club or activity for everyone."
Ryan O'Leary '18

Any other advice?

"Be a positive influence to those around you."
Joshua Minick '18

"Don't let drama get to you. Surround yourself with good friends."
Kathryn Quiang '18

"Don't miss out on school events. Go to school dances and football games."
Janiel Azcona '19

We Ahr Bishop Ahr!

BY: MAIA LIM

This year's WABA day was charged with a great deal of excitement and school spirit. The event kicked off with Sister Cynthia's "BGAHS is here!" cheer, echoed by the upperclassmen as the freshmen streamed in through the main gym's doors. As the class of 2021 settled down, spread across the gym floor, religion and psychology teacher Lynne Braine began the traditional rain game. This created a graduated rain sound effect, from hushed snapping to deafening feet stomping. Next, the upperclassmen met their freshmen for the day and split into homeroom groups, preparing to play the competitive word game, run by math department chair Linda Czajkowski. As two teams reached the final round, they struggled to spell, but finished the activity in positive spirit.

Separated into three groups, the freshmen and their upperclassmen either stayed in the gym, went off to the Little Theatre, or headed to a

classroom. Teachers and volunteers had activities prepared for students who went to classrooms. In Kahoot, they learned that Father Keith Cervine was not a Rangers fan and the atmosphere was charged with excitement and chaos as they played "Get off the Bus". Other activities included "The Human Knot" and line games.

In the Little Theatre, the upperclassmen student council members started things with a skit about school extracurriculars, inciting laughs here and there with humorous acting and fun videos. The experience encompassed the "graduating seniors" reminiscing about the engaging activities done in various clubs, the music department, sports and the spirited school events like football games and drama productions. Next, music director Joseph Cullinan took the stage, teaching the traditional songs to the freshmen. Upperclassmen led the wave of voices in song, motions and clapping. The freshmen and their guides

left the Little Theatre, savoring moments of cheering and singing to "Big House"

Lastly was the scavenger hunt organized by Czajkowski. Using QR scanners on their phones and a Riddle Sheet, students scouted the building for letters to unscramble the message at the bottom of the sheet. Snacks and drinks waited for them in the cafeteria after they finished the game. Finishing the way they started, all the faculty and students concluded WABA day with a school cheer along with assistant campus minister Kevin McCarthy and science department chair Elizabeth Savner's legendary split.

TOP RIGHT: SENIORS ABIGAIL LANCIA AND ALEXA ROMANELLA LEAD FRESHMAN IN WABA DAY ACTIVITIES

BOTTOM RIGHT: FRESHMAN JOIN WITH UPPERCLASSMEN IN WABA DAY GAMES

(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BGA PUBLICATIONS)



Coming home

BY: SIMON LLAGUNO

On a chilly fall evening, students gathered in the bleachers to enjoy a night of football and festivities. Before the boys stormed the field, the homecoming ceremony took place. Minutes before game time, the football field was turned into a red carpet for this year's homecoming

court. The band echoed their drums, while cheerleaders waved their pompoms. Sister Donna Trukowski and Mr. Harry Ziegler presented each couple with a sash and flowers.

For the freshman couple, Jaren Buliyat and Eleni Alvarez were chosen as prince and princess.

Kishan Patel and Gabriella Toryk were crowned the sophomores. Jay Turiano and Laurie Jimenez represented the junior class.

The senior court consisted of five couples. The first couple was Joshua Hornilla and Briannie Hernandez. Next were Simon Llaguno

and Joo Eun Lim. They were followed by Toure Simon and Mariel Gomez. The last senior prince and princess were Alex Santiago and Katie Mazzarelli.

Finally, the homecoming king and queen were announced. Nico Tirri and Sara Decker were called, as they walked down the 50-yard line. Sara is a Peer Leader, student ambassador, and senior class president, as well as captain of the girls varsity basketball team. Nico is a member of Ahr Star and helps with the freshman-for-a-day program. He is also the captain of the varsity soccer team.

The night was far from over after the homecoming ceremony. In a red-out themed game, the football team battled Middlesex. At halftime, senior athletes were recognized for their dedication to their respective sports. Whether students were decorated in dresses or suits, or simply bundled up in blankets in the stands, homecoming was yet another night to remember at Bishop Ahr.



ABOVE: STUDENTS CHEER ON THE FOOTBALL TEAM IN A "RED-OUT."
RIGHT: NICO TIRRI AND SARA DECKER ARE CROWNED HOMECOMING KING AND QUEEN.
(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BGA PUBLICATIONS)



‘Out of this world’ competition

BY: JULIA KEBULADZE

This year’s annual Grammar School Competition was charged with excitement. A wide range of catholic grammar schools come together once a year to compete in a variety of categories, and this year was no different. The kids were fueled with enthusiasm and a competitive edge that made all of the activities super fun. From jeopardy to problem solving, from drama to athletics, all of the children got a chance to participate in the events.

In drama, the children plus two BGA students came up with a skit about aliens presenting a commercial for space shoes. In problem solving, the kids worked in teams with their schools in a race of intellectual competition to figure out the puzzles presented. In jeopardy the children played the popular daytime television game in a series of different topics. Lastly the athletic competitions, which included flag tag and basketball.

The day concluded with the awards ceremony, in which Saint John Vianney placed third, Immacu-

late Conception placed second, and Saint James placed first. All of the schools that participated put in their best effort and let their creativity and intellect shine through their accomplishments. The children as well as the student leaders, teachers, and moderators had a blast having a little fun competition.



GRAMMAR SCHOOL CHILDREN CONTEMPLATE PROBLEM SOLVING (ALL PHOTOS COUTESY OF BGA PUBLICATIONS)

‘Sweet’ relief for hurricane victims

BY: KRISTEL RAMBAUD

On Tuesday, September 26th and Wednesday, September 27th, students and faculty had the chance to live out their childhood dream of finding a golden ticket in a chocolate bar. For the price of one dollar, students and faculty purchased a chocolate bar in the hopes of finding a golden ticket on the inside. There were 1,400 chocolate bars that had the golden ticket on the inside. Those who found a golden ticket placed their names into a jar. Eight lucky winners were drawn from the jar. These winners were Jude Roche, Joe Strunak, Kerrinann Howley, Gabriella Nasto, Katie Bodnar, Sean Healy, Roxanna Maroun, and Megan Herka. Four of them won a \$25 Amazon gift card and the other four won a jar filled with an assortment of candy.

The chocolate sale was organized by CSAC, Student Council, and three sophomores from Seeds of Hope. Together, they organized

the sale with a good goal in mind. While the sale let people pretend they won a trip to Willy Wonka Chocolate Factory, there was a bigger purpose to the sale. The sale was organized to help raise money for all those who were affected by the natural disasters in throughout the month of September.

A Category 4 hurricane hit Texas, a Category 5 hurricane hit islands in the Caribbean and Florida, and a Category 5 hurricane hit the islands that were already damaged by the last hurricane. The three hurricanes together are estimated to have caused at least a total of \$135 billion in damage. Not only did hurricanes devastate the land, but two earthquakes struck Mexico, one being a 7.1 magnitude and the other reaching a magnitude of 8.4. The earthquakes decimated buildings and led to hundreds of deaths.

Sister Cynthia, who helped lead the sale, had a few words to say about how it went. She said

Blood drive a great success

BY: JULIA DUARTE

On Saturday, October 21st, the National Honors Society teamed up with the New York Blood Center to collect blood for the 2017 NHS Halloween Blood Drive. The event had a turnout of 70 donors, and a total of 51 units of blood were collected. Rather than feeding hungry vampires this Halloween, all the blood collected will be used to help save the lives of over 150 people on the blood donation waiting list of the NYBC who desperately need it for transfusions or other vital operations. The drive was made a successful and fun event thanks to all the NHS students and supervisors, NYBC staff, and donors who came to support this great cause. When participants were interviewed about their opinions of the blood drive, both donors and student volunteers shared views on the importance blood drives like this have.

All the donors and NHS student volunteers agree that donating at blood drives like this is extremely important because this is the only way to obtain necessary blood used

for surgeries. Blood can’t be manufactured, only collected from people who are willing to make the choice to donate. Donors made the decision to give one pint of blood during the drive in the hopes that it can give someone the gift of life. Even though some participants thought that they were just one person, their single donation makes all the difference. Everyone believed their work at the drive, whether volunteering or donating, was rewarding because they all rallied together to share the gift of life with others.

All participants of the event hope their contributions to the blood drive help impact the lives of recipients for the better by giving them new opportunities in life health issues had previously prevented them from having, and hopefully encouraging others to become future donors.

The NHS will hold their Winter Blood Drive on Friday, December 1, in the Catanazaro Gym. The volunteers this year did a great job helping out those in need.

to me, “The sale was awesome! Not only did those who bought a candy bar get to eat a delicious snack, the BGA community once again proved that they have big hearts and showed how much they care about the victims of the recent natural disasters. Every time I see pictures of the victims of the terrible devastations in so many places, I am comforted by the fact that we-the

BGA family-took care of some of them.”

The sale was a true success. The NHS also contributed to the total earnings by giving their profits from their Back to School Night bake sale. With their contribution, the total earnings added up to \$2,500. All the money was then sent to the Disaster Relief Donation Fund, Diocese of Metuchen.



VOULENTEERS KATIE MAZZARELLI AND EMMA HERBAN SELL HERSHEY’S CHOCOLATE BARS DURING LUNCH PERIODS (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BGA PUBLICATIONS)

HURRICANE MARIA HITS PUERTO RICO

BY: MARY PUCCI

The island of Puerto Rico was met with destruction at the hands of Hurricane Maria. The storm was the strongest within United States territory in close to a century. Maria thrashed major parts of the Dominican Republic before making landfall on September 21st in Puerto Rico at 11:15 BST in the town of Yabucoa. It clocked in with 155mph winds and knocked out power to the entire island. All 3.4 million residents were left in the dark.

Puerto Rico Governor, Ricardo Rossello, predicts a long recovery period. Many experts echo his statement. According to Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner Jennifer Gonzalez, "The devastation in Puerto Rico has set us back nearly 20 to 30 years. I can't deny that the Puerto Rico of now is different from that of a week ago. The destruction of properties, of flattened structures, of families without homes, of debris everywhere. The island's greenery is gone."

The island is already burdened with the weight of a bankruptcy crisis, the fact that the island was also hit by Hurricane Irma, its distance from other countries, and the fact that many relief organizations are currently spread thin in the wake of other recent storms.

Currently, the island is on the verge of collapse. Hospitals are filled to capacity, power is still lost, and food is running low. Many are questioning if the island will be able to rebuild itself.

The United States' response has caused somewhat of an uproar as Puerto Rico is a territory of the country. Many including Rossello himself have criticized the response and have claimed that Puerto Rican citizens are receiving second class care. After visiting the island and surveying the damage, the United States government dispatched an Army one-star general to the island and then quickly increased that command by sending in a three-star general. President Trump also waived

the Jones Act temporarily to allow an influx of supplies to the island.

In spite of all the controversy, the tragedy has brought many together. Many charitable efforts have been organized by ordinary citizens. Also, many celebrities, including Ricky Martin, a well-known Latino actor and singer, have made great efforts. Martin had this to say, "We are alive. Even though we lost everything, we didn't lose hope, we are smiling, and we're fighting for what needs to happen for Puerto Rico to be back to what it was."



HURRICANE MARIA BARRELS TOWARDS PUERTO RICO

CURRENT EVENTS COLUMN

BY: MARJOLYN MEGALOUDIS

Right and left wing politics in America have been opposed for decades. However, this political spectrum has been more than opposed in the last two years. In fact, the division between left and right wing politics has increased so much that many different groups advocated for violence. It's also been the cause of news and media to become more biased and argumental. All of these problems unfortunately, are dividing America every day.

In the most recent presidential election, these views began to become more apparent. It all started in the middle of 2016 when untrusted news anchors and media correspondents began to take sides on who was right and wrong in last year's election. The divide became so atrocious that professors began forcing their views and opinions on students. Moreover, speakers of a certain party were not allowed on college campuses, and violence began to break out in peaceful protests. More and more violence began to break out as both Republicans and Democrats continued to argue on different social justice issues such as gun rights and religious freedom. "The more we blame speech for violence, the more likely we are to use violence to stop speech." (Los Angeles Times)

Republicans and Democrats were arguing over who was right and who was wrong, which issue should be addressed the most, and more importantly, who they thought to be more trustworthy. This led to violence on campuses, attacks on right-wing peaceful demonstrators in Berkeley, and the uprising of A-ntifa. Over 66% of voters say they were attacked verbally or physically by their personal political opinion. The buildup of tensions in the media arouse many to distrust their newscasters. Studies show news has become 30% more biased in the last 10 years than any other decade. The growing gap between Republicans and Democrats continue on as more and more ideological uniformity has been recognized.

NORTH KOREA THREATENS NUCLEAR WARFARE

BY: THOMAS KNAPP

Year after year since Kim Jong-Un has taken power in the dictatorship of North Korea, everyone seems to hear about the seemingly empty threats of war the despot spouts with little response from the US, until recently. Their latest verbal tactic of intimidation is claiming that the US has declared open war, and that they claim a right to open fire on US and South Korean bombers, even if not in North Korean Air Space. Threats have been thrown increasingly between North Korea, the US, and it's backed allies in the past months. This all begs the question, what has changed between the two countries to spur the growing hostilities?

The responses from the US to the routine threats of war from North Korea has changed due to

two major reasons. The firepower the North Koreans put behind their threats has developed rapidly in the past few years. In 2013 their missiles couldn't reach a few miles off of their own coast but recently they have demonstrated the capability to reach past the eastern coast of Japan. Their recent advances in ballistic missiles also brings a new weapon into question: The Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP). EMP detonations can severely cripple America's electrical grid, which is unprepared for such an attack. With this being said, the likelihood of a successful EMP attack by the North Koreans is slim at best.

Another reason for the difference in reaction is that President Trump has taken a much more antagonistic approach to responding to North Korea than his predecessors, going as far as to directly threaten the country back with "total destruction" in a speech to the UN, against the wishes of White House aides.

The area is vital for trade, and any loss in industrial produc-

tion will hurt not only the countries in the region, but the world itself. Japan and South Korea are crucial importers of electronics and vehicles primarily to the US. This will affect how many electronic products are available to the global market. This meaning broken electronics will not be easily replaced if the situation escalates

In attempts to reign the rogue nation in, the UN and US has imposed multiple sanctions on the nation to strangle their trade with China and others. The companies within the country that are affected need only to change their names, and resume business. When these name-changes occur, they skirt any negative impacts by these sanctions. However stronger ones are now being enacted, which some specialists theorize could lead to a toppling of the government in as soon as a year.

The one person who doesn't want to attack the US is Kim Jong-Un. Leaders want to lose their power by dying of old age naturally in their bed, and attacking with nuclear warfare is a terrible way to prolong your own life. Speculating what the tyrant's end-game could be is moot, because the radical nation seems to do something crazy each week.



NORTH KOREA TESTS SHORT RANGE MISSILES. (PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)



Name: Gabiella Nasto

Nickname: Gab

Grade:12

Sport:Soccer



Who is an athlete that you admire? Mr. Matthew Roche

What is your pump up song?
LoveBug by the Jonas Brothers

Name: Sam Manu

Nickname: Sam

Grade: 12

Sport:Football and Track



Who is an athlete that you admire? James Harrison

What is your pump up song?
We Right Here by OMX

Name:Nastasha Espinosa

Nickname: Na-stash

Grade: 12

Sport: Volley-Ball



Who is an athlete that you admire? Curtis Granderson

What is your pump up song?
Pretty Boy Swag by Soulja Boy

Name: Reminiss Funderberk

Nickname: Remy or Rem

Grade: 12

Sport: Football



Who is an athlete that you admire? Lamar Jackson

What is your pump up song?
A Thousand Miles by Vanessa Carlton

Name: Jude Roche

Nickname: Judy or Judifer

Grade: 12

Sport: Soccer



Who is an athlete that you admire? Dax McCarty

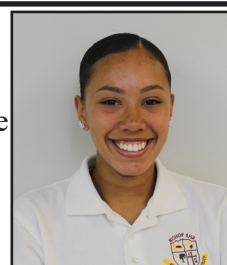
What is your pump up song?
White + Blue by Tobey Keith

Name: Mariel Gomez

Nickname:None

Grade: 12

Sport: Cross Country



Who is an athlete that you admire? Jesse Owens

What is your pump up song?
Moves by Big Sean

Name: Julianna Pastore

Nickname: Julie, Dave, Cub

Grade: 12

Sport: Varsity Soccer



Who is an athlete that you admire? Julie Johnston

What is your pump up song?
We Get Turnt Up by Team Twin

Name: Sarah Glazewski

Nickname: G

Grade: 12

Sport: Soccer



Who is an athlete that you admire? Tobin Heath and Christen Press

What is your pump up song?
Jordan Belfort by Wes Walker and Dyi

Name: Kelly Harmon

Nickname: Kel or KelBel

Grade: 12

Sport: Soccer



Who is an athlete that you admire? Saquan Barkley

What is your pump up song?
Any song by Dan Bilzerion

Serving up a stellar season

BY: LAUREL PRIME

The girls volleyball team served up one of its finest seasons yet before bidding adieu to its cherished seniors at senior night on October 18th. This year, the team won the Blue Division undefeated and finished with an overall division record of 14-6 with several wins passing a twenty-point margin.

Outside player Tamara Sawyer broke the record for most aces in a season. The team's most prized memory was beating their toughest competition – Mother Seton – twice in the season for the division championship. Three of the players won division: setter Caroline Trevino, middle Nastasha Espinosa and libero Megan Crocco made all division.

Espinosa says, "I feel very fortunate

to play with the girls that are on my team. This season has been the best out of all four years I've played volleyball. We played harder each and every match, and at one point, we won 8 straight matches in a row – our record being 13-1. We won division champs, and grew stronger as a team with every passing practice and match."

Coach of the year in the Blue Division, Arlene Jaronczyk, expressed similar sentiments saying, "Very hard working team and I am so proud of all of them. We had a terrific season and I couldn't be happier for all of us. All my five seniors [Sawyer, Erin Pepe, Espinosa, Giulia Capasso, Crocco] will be dearly missed, hard to see them move on, but I will always be their biggest fan."



MAKILA BILLINGSLEY BLOCKS A SPIKE FROM AN OPPONENT. (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BGA PUBLICATIONS)

Finishing strong

BY: TRENT DEMESA & SIMON LLAGYUNO

This year, the boys cross country team kicked it off with a positive start, competing in about 6 races. The team was led by senior runners Max Calero, David Essel, Anthony Leung, Augustin and Cristian Sullivan, and Christian Torres.

The team had an impressive showing at the GMC championship. Senior David Essel scored a time of 16:48.80 minutes on the 5k run, becoming just the fourth BGA runner to run the Thompson Park 5k in under 17 minutes. Freshman Chris O'Connell also had 3 different seasonal records.

Hard work and dedication to the sport resulted in a strong season for the boys. They continue to train hard and prepare for next year.

Kicking off Ahr season

BY: GIRLEY OYOLA

Girls soccer started off their season with the arrival of a new coach, Mr. Matthew Roche. Throughout this summer, he trained them to their fullest potential and pushed them to perform their very best.

The girls began their season on September 9th with a win against New Brunswick (5-1). Returning players, Jill Balsamo, Anetha Jenkins, Morgan Maguire, and Jenna Sheedy scored and played an amazing game with the help of the rest of the team. The girls would continue

to improve as they welcomed new top goal scorer Trinity Upton onto the team.

They defeated their biggest rival, Sayreville, on October 12th, winning with a score of 2-0. The first goal by Julia Viviano was scored from 20 yards out. Emma Herban scored the second with an assist by Sarah Glazewski. The girls were motivated, from their defensive line, including 14 saves by goalkeeper Sachi Negri, to their speedy forwards, who made them unstoppable. This win kept the opposing team from taking the division.

This year, Julianna Pastore, Dayna Dobkowski, and Gabriella Nasto were team captains. "We had some disappointing losses, but we played as a team and had a lot of fun together," said Pastore.

The team motto for this season was "Respect all, fear none." Coach Roche explained, "It was developed by the girls to carry ourselves by. We were confident enough in ourselves that we could be successful regardless of the other things."

The team ended with a record of 10-7-1. They advanced to GMCs and states and were very close with a loss of 1-0 against Immaculata. Nonetheless, the girls are ready to come out stronger than ever next season.



GABRIELLA NASTO MAKES A MOVE ON HER DEFENDER.

May the course be with you

BY: JAREN BULIYAT

The girls cross country team has had a phenomenal year. Led by Coach Tim Miller, the girls improved every day. Coach Miller had a demanding practice schedule with exhausting workouts.

The team had a number of strong runners this year. The runners on this year's roster were Gabi Stankosh, Mariel Gomez, Maricruz Azcona, Lily Azcona, Brianna Disla, Anna Caruso, Katie Abrams, Eleni Alvarez, Yamyka Pichardo, Alani Anderson, Guliana Santiago, and Francesca Citro.

One notable race was at the Stewart invitational on Sep 30, 2017 in Morris Plains, NJ. Freshman Alvarez got a time of 12:40.75 in a two mile race; she placed 6th out of 80 runners. Stankosh got a time of 20:29.91 in a 5 kilometer race. She placed 9th out of 113 runners. Last but certainly not least, Katherine Perez achieved a personal record of 20:48.52 in the same 5 kilometer race. She placed 16th out of 113 runners. All runners received a medal for these extraordinary performances.

"The freshmen honestly have a lot of potential," said Perez in a recent interview, "As for the future of the program, I'm pretty confident



GABI STANKOSH FOCUSES ON HER STRIDE.

that it will continue to be a strong group. Each year brings along different girls with different abilities, and it adds a lot to the team."

"I'm most proud of how the team has come together and how far the freshman have come so far. I'm looking forward to how they finish the season," said Coach Miller. Coach Miller will do whatever it takes to improve his team, under any circumstances, and he proved that point this year with his practice schedule and hard workouts. "The practices are hard, but it's all worth it," said Alvarez. Cross country is a mental sport that takes more mental strength than physical strength to do.

Flipping and winning Boys have high goals

BY: PAMELA PICERNO



KRISTEN BRADY PERFECTS HER ROUTINE ON THE BEAM.

This fall, just like every fall, the gymnastics team managed to live up to its amazing and award winning season. The team was led by seniors Kristen Brady, Jessica Morowski, and Natalie Stilo. Because it was the girls last season, they managed to put even more effort in than usual.

Perhaps the highlight of the season was Saturday, October 21. For the 18th time in a row, the gymnastics team placed first in the GMC (Greater Middlesex Conference) Championship, not an easy feat by any means. As a whole, the team scored a total of 111,875 points, out of a possible 200. One outstanding player was junior Ariyana Agarwala, who was the all-around winner of the championship.

As a whole, the season was fantastic, and managed to keep an 18 year streak of wins. All the team members should be incredibly proud, most of all the graduating seniors, whose last season will be bittersweet but full of memories.

BY: GIRLEY OYOLA

The boys varsity soccer team began another season with the coaching of head coach Tommy Lacson. The team is in the Greater Middlesex Conference Blue Division. Returning seniors Jude Roche, Robert DeSantis, Nico Tirri, and John Dallaganese were captains leading the team to perform their best.

In their opening game, they defeated their biggest rival, South River with an impressive win of 4-1. Goals were scored by Roche, Rylan Krikorian, and Isaiah Salazar with assists by Ryan Loftus and Roche. Goalkeeper John Loftus had 11 saves and commented, "South River has always been a very tough opponent for us, so this win is a great start to the season."

The team welcomed new members such as freshmen goal scorers Salazar and Krikorian. Salazar scored against Saint Joseph's with a goal from 30 yards out, unassisted.



JUDE ROCHE LOOKS TO PUSH THE BALL IN THE OPEN FIELD.

Experienced players such as top goal scorers Roche and Dallaganese also had a rewarding season.

Altogether, with new and experienced players, the boys are built on their team bonding and chemistry, good communication, and positive mindsets. Although their overall record doesn't reflect the time and hard effort they put into their practices and games, the boys never let that affect their playing or mentalities.

Fighting for first down For the 'love' of the game

BY: SIMON LLAGUNO

The varsity football team worked relentlessly this past season to overcome obstacles. Under the coaching of Mr. Joe Vigilante, the Trojans adjusted their gameplan with new changes in the program. With a wave of star players graduating, the seniors stepped up and showed their leadership. The return of quarterback Ryan O'Leary provided stability in the offense. Running back Joshua Minick was also one of the impressive athletes on the team.

In a victory over Metuchen High School, the Trojans finished the game strong in an 18-0 shutout. Minick and Remiss Funderberk combined for 234 rushing yards. Minick alone tallied 19 carries for 146 yards. On a big play, O'Leary connected with Rashan Ruff for a 19 yard completion on fourth down. O'Leary was 4 of 12 and threw for 61 yards. On the defensive line, Luke Vizzoni limited Metuchen to only 76 yards in the game.

Reflecting on the season, Minick commented, "Being a part of this team has helped us grow together. We look out for each other and understand it's more than just football." With high hopes, the boys look to come back next year stronger than ever.



REMISS FUNDERBERK BREAKS FREE FROM A TACKLE AND RUSHES FOR A FIRST DOWN. (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BGA PUBLICATIONS)

BY: JULIA KEBULADZE

Swinging into yet another successful season, the girls tennis teams have had another action packed year. One of their greatest accomplishments was forming a JV team for the first time, which participated in several matches. Both the varsity and JV teams practiced hard from early August all the way into mid-October, snagging eight wins overall. Coaches Al Mohrmann and Steve Chaneski were very proud of the girls' accomplishments like their productive practices and impressive matches. This year's team has greatly multiplied from previous years. The hope is that as the sport will continue to grow in popularity, the number of wins and achievements will increase as well. Senior varsity captain Disnie Thambugala says, "My experience on the tennis team is one of my favorite memories from BGA! I made really great friends that are super talented and it was great to meet people who are



DISNIE THAMBUGALA TAKES A SWING AT THE BALL.

just as enthusiastic about tennis as I am. Our trips to the US Open were extremely fun and Mr. Mohrmann is the best coach ever. Tennis at BGA is something that I will always remember."

Prom Gown Collection!

WANTED - New and Used Prom Gowns

Gowns should be new or usable, current styles, and clean with no stains or rips!

Gowns can be brought to Rm. 106A from February 5th – 9th, 2018

Fill out the prom gown form and return it to the Main office by Jan. 31st!

Adopt a Family for Thanksgiving!

Bring to RM 215 from Oct 11– Nov. 17: *cranberry sauce, gravy, stuffing mix, instant potatoes, canned soup, canned veggies, macaroni, peanut butter, powdered milk, dried beans, tuna fish, etc.*

Bring frozen turkeys in only on Wednesday and Thursday, November 15th and 16th!



Adopt a Family for Christmas!

Bring to RM 215 from Nov 20 - Dec 15: *canned soup(hearty), canned vegetables, macaroni, peanut butter, tuna fish, powdered milk, tomato sauce, dried beans, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, boxed mashed potatoes, bag/box rice*

Christmas Cotillion "Christmas Candy Land!"

Date: Saturday, December 2, 2017

Time: 7 – 11 p.m.

Where: the Main Gym

Cost: \$30 per ticket (check preferred)

Tickets go on sale –Tuesday, November 14

Only 400 tickets will be sold!
Get yours now!

Polar Bear Plunge!



THE ANNUAL AOH POLAR PLUNGE

DATE: JANUARY 28TH, 2018

PLACE: DONOVAN'S REEF, SEA BRIGHT, NJ

TIME: CHECK IN 10:30AM-12:30PM
PLUNGE @ 1PM

PLEDGE FORMS CAN BE PICKED UP IN THE MAIN OFFICE, FROM MRS. CHIPPENDALE IN RM. 118, OR FROM MS. BYRNE IN RM. 203

\$25,000 = MR. ZIEGLER PLUNGES!
\$50,000 = MR. WOLFTHAL PLUNGES!
\$100,000 = SR. DONNA PLUNGES!