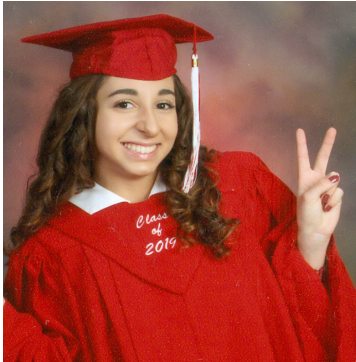


# BE TRUE TO YOURSELF



LAUREN GARDA

Throughout my years in high school, I've gone through many ups and downs and have learned many lessons from the experiences I've had- both good and bad. I strayed away from opportunities to do things I was truly interested in because I was scared of how others would perceive me. In the end, I thankfully took part in the activities I always wanted to and I'm the happiest

I've ever been! Joining the music and drama department, joining the tennis team, with the most welcoming girls I've ever met, joining the Satoma staff where creativity flows freely and there are numerous inside jokes, and numerous other wonderful activities were the best decisions of my time here. Not only did I grow in self-confidence, but I also grew in self-love and love for others.

My first word of advice for all reading is to not only get involved, but to find your people. My first two years here, I tried extremely hard to please everyone, but in the end, that (along with participating in activities that I didn't enjoy) only led me to poor friendships and a loss in sense of self. Once junior year came, I took it as a fresh start with a brand new confidence and outlook on life. Now, I have wonderful friends, have been blessed with so many amazing experiences, and have made the first two years and the last two years polar opposites. Getting involved

in things that interest you is an easy way to find people who have similar interests and personalities to you.

My second word of advice is easier said than done, but you cannot procrastinate. It takes forever to raise your GPA, but one little slack off and it can drop immensely! At many points this year, "senioritis" got the best of me and my daily mantra was "I can do it in home-room" or "I don't have to do it now, I can do it 15 minutes before the due time." You cannot let procrastination take over because senior year will hit you quickly, especially when college applications come around, so work hard now before anything comes back to bite you!

Another word of advice is to become your own best friend. Always reflect on not only your relationships with others, but on yourself, making sure that you're happy with the people in your life and in the way that they impact you. For example, if you're going to do something

that you don't feel great about, but your excuse is that "everyone else is doing it", then that's a big NO.

My last word of advice is to live every moment the way that you want and believe you should. Whether you're on the stage, the field, the court, or just in the hallways, make sure to highlight something positive that happened every day, no matter how small! High school goes by fast, so take in every minute of every laugh, every cry, every good, and every bad, and use all of that energy to grow.

Thank you all because whether you played a huge role or a miniscule role in my time here, whether things have been mostly positive, mostly negative, or if things have been a combination of up and down, you have taught me lessons I hold dear and have helped me to be someone that I can be proud of. As Ellen says when she's signing off of one of her shows, "Thank you and be kind to one another."

## A bittersweet farewell

For anyone who knows me, you probably know that at one point I kept an ongoing countdown on the board to two very important dates - Prom and Graduation. For anyone still keeping track of that countdown, it's been 14 days since Prom has passed, and Graduation is, well, tomorrow.

Walking into my first day of high school, I can honestly say that I had no idea what to expect. I knew that I was fortunate enough to walk in with a few friends from my middle school, but that was about it. I had absolutely no clue what my classes would be like, whether or not I'd ever learn how to find my way around the building, or what activities I wanted to get involved in. Even more than that, I didn't know what to expect walking out of my last day of high school, either. I wasn't sure what type of reputation I'd be taking with me, what memories or friendships I'd still be holding close, or what lasting impacts on the school I'd hopefully be leaving behind.

Four years later, only hours away from walking across stage and getting the diploma that I earned by

pulling a few too many all nighters, and I really could not be happier with the experiences that I am walking away with. Of course I am so grateful for the education I've received, being able to proudly say I learned what integration is and how to ask to use the bathroom in Italian, but I'm also extremely grateful for the opportunities I was given to develop a relationship with God, those around me, and myself.

I genuinely believe that certain things in my life could only have happened at this school. Only at Bishop



MEGAN LIM

Ahr would I have been able to make friends with someone after I accidentally backed into their car in the parking lot; would I have had an entire team of friends and teachers work together to put together the amazing proposal they did for me; would I and a bunch of other students be so excited to spend a night serving spaghetti nonstop to raise money; could I have danced to "Big House"; could I have won third place in a Gobbling Contest. Only at Bishop Ahr could I have made connections with the exact people that I did - ones that have pushed me to grow in every aspect of my life, whether it was to study harder, pray more often, be kinder, be bolder, unapologetically be myself, or to just have fun and grab every opportunity life hits me with.

While I reflect on all that I've been blessed to go through and how I've been shaped as a person during my four years in high school, I can't help but attribute it to the people who surrounded me. This doesn't just apply to people that I'm close to or had classes with, but the entirety of the graduating Class of 2019. Whether

or not I can say that we're friends or even had a conversation, I can wholeheartedly say that I am so proud to see this group of people succeed, and I am so sure that they will continue to. I look at all the individual journeys we've all been on, all the amazing qualities that we've defined ourselves by, how we've slowly learned who we are and what fuels us, and my heart just jumps at the thought of new people beyond high school having the privilege of getting to know my graduating class the way I did. I have so much faith in the fact that each and every one of us will have so much to offer after walking out of Bishop Ahr for the last time.

Writing this letter is such a bittersweet moment for me. I've been hoping to write it since freshman year, and now that I finally am, all I can really express is how grateful I am to God for putting me on the path He did and for having had it come in contact with everyone and everything at Bishop Ahr the way it did. As a honey-loving bear once said, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

# IT AIN'T OVER 'TIL IT'S OVER

BY: KISHAN PATEL

Who would've thought that 46 years ago, when Mike Wolfthal made the turn onto Tingley Lane to first drop off his application that he would've left such a mark on the BGA legacy. "When someone says Bishop Ahr, the first person you think of is Mike Wolfthal" GMC Executive Director Frank Noppenberger said. Mr. Wolfthal has worked as an Athletic Director for Bishop Ahr for 38 years. In his recent interview with My Jersey Central, he said, "the school became part of my soul." Though most have only known him as the Athletic Director, Mr. Wolfthal was Bishop Ahr's History Department Chairperson for eight years. He graduated from Seton Hall with Master's in Administration

and Supervision. He said, not even he would've known that 46 years ago, when he first applied for a teaching job at Bishop Ahr, that he would've worked as an Athletic Director, let alone for 38 years.

When asked what his favorite memory as an Athletic Director was, he replied, "I've had a great run with some amazing athletes and great coaches, I can't point out one specific memory because they've all been great." Mr. Wolfthal is someone that a lot of people have come to know, trust, and go to for help as he pushes every athlete to be the best they can. He uses his vast experiences coaching and participating in football, wrestling, and track to give athletes the best advice for trying to reach their season goals. "I just enjoy seeing BGA kids trying and

succeeding," Wolfthal says.

In light of recent events, Mr. Wolfthal announced his retirement early this year to further take care of his father and spend more time with his family. When asked what sort of plans and adventures he plans on doing after his retirement, he replied, "Honestly, life is an adventure, and whatever I do I'm going to be happy because I have my family." Mr. Wolfthal is commonly acknowledged as a family man; he said that he's "made sure I was around when my kids needed me." As an amazing father, his three children were very inspired by him, and all ended up in the education and teaching fields. Overall, his wife, three children, and father are all happy and looking forward to spending a lot more time with him after his retire-

ment at the end of the year.

From a coach, to a History Department Chairperson, to an Athletic Director, Mr. Wolfthal has been an inspiration for many students and athletes and will forever be remembered in the BGA community.



MR. WOLFTHAL TALKS ABOUT HIS TIME AT BGA. (IMAGE COURTESY OF BGA PRODUCTIONS)

## The end of another chapter

BY: MICAH KELLY

After twelve years of working at Bishop Ahr High School, Mr. Al Mohrmann has chosen to begin a new chapter in his life in retirement. Mohrmann worked as a member of the English Department and was also involved in both the boys and girls tennis programs along with the drama department.

When asked to reflect on his time at Bishop Ahr, Mohrmann explained that there are many things that he is going to miss about teaching. First and foremost, he will miss the relationships that he has developed with his students and the ability to interact with the students on a daily basis. Whether it was teaching various types of poetry like Edgar Allen Poe or Robert Frost, or exploring humanity's struggles in John Steinbeck, Mohrmann always used teaching as an opportunity to influence and impact the students he came in contact with. One thing that Mohrmann noted has

changed since his first few years teaching English is that it is becoming more and more difficult to develop bonds and connections with students as more and more time is being spent interacting with cell phones. Even through all of the changes at the school and developments in education, Mohrmann's focus on developing a positive legacy at the school never wavered. Ultimately, Mohrmann wants to be remembered by both faculty and students alike as a teacher who was dedicated to his craft and was a truly fair teacher to all of his students.

For any student who has ever had Mr. Mohrmann before, there are many aspects of his class and his teaching that stay with you. For instance, it is in Mr. Mohrmann's class that most students experience the adrenaline and pride in watching the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry fight in the Civil War in "Glory." It is also in Mr. Mohrmann's class that most students are first exposed to the cyni-

cism of Holden Caulfield in *Catcher in the Rye*. Finally, Mr. Mohrmann's teaching can be characterized by his lively presentation, his thorough discussions, and his kind presence always welcoming students to his classroom before the period begins.

Although most people know Mohrmann for his time in the classroom, there are also many things that people might not know about him. For starters, he is a big fan of traditional classic rock with playlists that include the Beatles and the Rolling Stones as well as a supporter of jazz music. In addition, Mohrmann has a phenomenal sense of humor and the advice that he would like to leave to the students of Bishop Ahr is that, "if at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you."

It is a truly bittersweet moment to wish Mr. Mohrmann farewell from this community. We have been blessed to have had him as a member of our family and we wish him all the best in this

next chapter of his life. As the poet Robert Frost so eloquently put it, "these woods are lovely, dark, and deep, but I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep, and miles to go before I sleep." We wish Mr. Mohrmann happiness and success in the miles to come in his life.



MR. MORHMANN TALKS ABOUT HIS TIME AT BGA. (IMAGE COURTESY OF BGA PRODUCTIONS)

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# “Conquering fears and shouting cheers”

BY: GIANNA STRAZZULLA

Summer days and hands raised, big smiles and lines for miles, scary rides and super slides, loud screams and living dreams, conquering fears and shouting cheers, tasty snacks and laugh attacks are all moments that can be found at one place: a theme park. Whether it's the “happiest place on earth” or “the nation's thrill capital,” everyone can recall a fond childhood memory related to their favorite theme park. Since the 19th century, sweets treats and thrilling rides have lured Americans to these family friendly destinations. So, who's to thank for all of the ‘fun times and tan lines’?

The modern theme park is based on the centuries old concept of a “pleasure garden,” an area of public land set aside for recreation and entertainment purposes. Ear-

ly amusement parks in the United States began as picnic grounds that provided a place for working men to relax with their families and enjoy inexpensive entertainment and food. Expositions like the 1893 Chicago World's Columbian Exposition, Coney Island in the 1880s, Steeplechase Park, and Ambitious Dreamland Park all contributed important aspects to America's first theme park: Santa Claus Land.

Originally called Santa Fe, the town of Santa Claus, Indiana, began receiving thousands of letters from children writing their holiday messages to Santa in the 1850s. In the early 1940s, industrialist Louis J. Koch of Evansville, Indiana bought 260 acres of land to create an amusement park. Santa Claus Land opened in 1946, offering a dreamy, Alpine village with a toy shop, children's rides, and daily appearanc-

es from Santa himself. As the years went by the park started incorporating other holidays, eventually transforming into Holiday World.

While millions of people visit theme parks every year, many people don't know these trivia facts about them. In Disneyland, taking a page from Tomorrowland, a time capsule was buried in front of Sleeping Beauty's Castle on July 17th, 1995, for the park's 40th anniversary. A fun fact about Six Flags is that on Valentine's Day in 2000, Magic Mountain held a huge wedding ceremony on top of the Goliath roller coaster. Two ministers married 1,000 couples over the course of the day.

For many people, theme parks reconnect them to childhood memories of exciting rides, tasty food, and live entertainment. With over 70 years of history and counting, these parks have truly left their mark on American families.

# Splashing into summer

BY: SAMANTHA SOLDO

It's a well known fact that everyone loves theme parks. The thrill of rides that are built up as high as skyscrapers, the energy of kids running around to get to their favorite roller coaster, the fear that instantly turns into excitement after facing a scary ride. All of these elements make for a great way to spend a summer afternoon, but the problem with theme parks lies in the hours of waiting in long lines on unbearably hot days. There's one thing missing from theme parks that can be experienced in abundance at Hurricane Harbor but only in small doses at Six Flags: water!

A water park in its most basic definition is an amusement park that has fun water attractions, like slides, lazy rivers, wave pools, and more. Since their introduction in the 1940s, water parks have

become a staple in American culture. The United States has over a thousand different water parks all across the fifty states. What started off as parks with small slides and a few pools has evolved into an industry of heart-racing water rides designed to “wow” anyone that dares to ride them.

So what's the big deal with spending some time at a water park? For one thing, people are constantly being refreshed in a way that they wouldn't be at a theme park. There are many different types of attractions inside a water park that can provide a person some relief after standing under the hot sun for a while. To begin with, there's the water slides, and while they don't loop like a roller coaster would, some water slides curve and create huge funnels at their ends. Some water parks also have regular one to two feet swim-

ming pools with playgrounds built inside them, so that kids can play as they would traditionally but with a lot more water. Some park also have wave pools. A wave pool generates artificial waves in a deep swimming pool that are akin to that of an ocean. Another fun feature that can't be found in theme parks are splash pads, which are just like parks but with standing water. Typically, these splash pads have overhead water dispensers that can soak anyone standing under them when they least expect it!

To sum up a water park effectively: it's a theme park with lots and lots of water, that offers tube rides and swimming experiences that a regular amusement park cannot. Visiting a water park is the perfect opportunity to unplug from electronic devices, and enjoy a fun day with your family or friends.

# Detective Pikachu 'Catches' Critics Hearts

BY: JALEN BULIYAT

Pokemon once again jumps back into the mainstream spotlight with its new blockbuster, *Detective Pikachu*. Released on May 10, 2019, *Detective Pikachu* is the first CGI Pokemon movie to ever be released by Game Freak and Nintendo. The movie is set with a star studded cast that includes Ryan Reynolds, well known for his role in *Deadpool*, voicing detective Pikachu, as well as Justice Smith, Kathryn Newton, and Ken Watanabe. Rob Letterman, known for directing *Monster vs Aliens*, *Shark Tale*, and *Gulliver's Travels*, was in charge of directing the film while Mary Parent and Cale Boyter produced the film. The movie has received high praise from critics, describing the movie as one of, if not the best, video game films to date.

The film follows a loose interpretation of the story of Pokemon where instead of following Ash Ketchum from the popular kids anime series or its many protagonist from its wide array of game, it instead follows Tim Goodman. Tim Goodman, similar to many other folks who also grew up with Pokemon, has grown out of his love for Pokemon and is no longer a fan like he used to be. This all changes when his detective father mysteriously goes missing, leaving Tim with the task of finding out what happened to him. Teaming up with his father's former partner, *Detective Pikachu*, Tim goes out on an enthralling adventure through the sprawling, neon

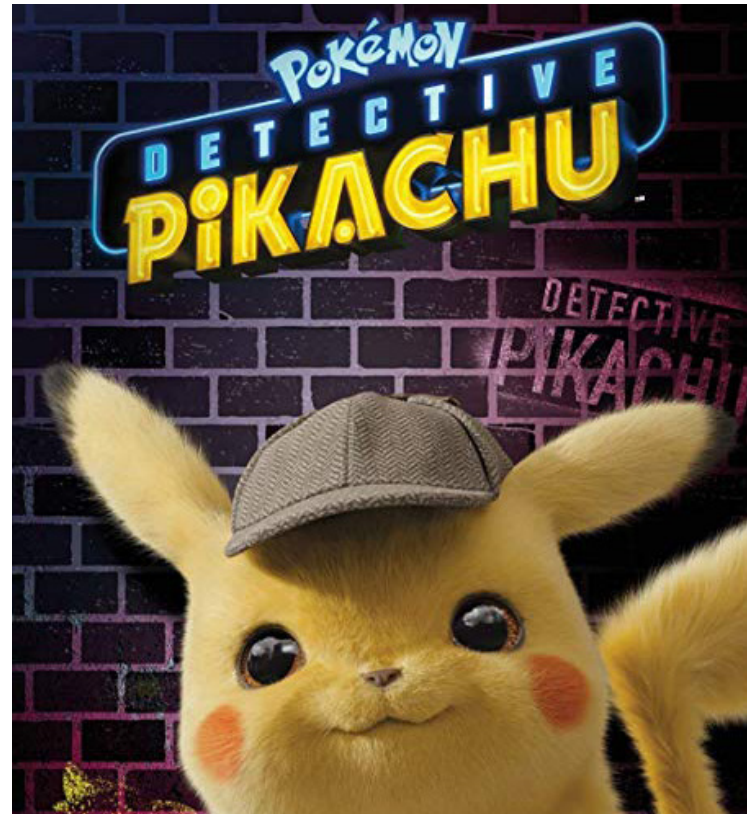
lit streets of Ryme City. Throughout their journey, the duo meet a large, diverse cast of pokemon ranging from cute to scary to awe inspiring. Some iconic Pokemon that make a cameo in the motion picture include the powerful fire dragon Charizard, the cute grass toad Bulbasaur, and the powerful legendary Mewtwo. Throughout the story we'll see as Tim and Pikachu form a pure, strong friendship while traveling together and Tim rediscovering the joy of pokemon.

As stated before, *Detective Pikachu* got good praise from critics describing the movie as a thrilling, humorous, and wholesome adventure that any age group can enjoy. Ryan Reynolds played a great Pikachu with critics writing that his witty and self aware performance was a fantastic addition to movie. Justice Smith also played a large role with the best part of the movie being the friendship between Tim and Pikachu. One of the movie's high points was its incorporation of pokemon into the world. Using slick, realistic CGI modeled pokemon, they are integrated intelligently in a way that makes it feel like it's a real, breathing world that challenges the likes of other big name fantasy worlds. The plot, although at first seeming simple and predictable, has number of bold choices that subvert the viewers expectations. The movie is said to be easily accessible to newcomers while having tons of subtle references to please hardcore fans. The film has adult humor along with gripping action scenes, making the

perfect film for parents and their kids.

*Detective Pikachu* overall meets exceptional amount of success, surpassing many critics' expectations along with breaking the curse of bad video game movies. This success can be Game Freak's big ticket into the movie industry and could

possibly be one of many movies that could potentially hit the big screen. Although *Avengers Endgame* will be all the rage coming spring and summer, *Detective Pikachu* should not go under the radar, being this spring's potential sleeper hit.



DETECTIVE PIKACHU IS NINTENDO'S FIRST ATTEMPT AT MAKING A CGI FILM. (ALL PHOTOS ON PAGE COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

# Just say the word: 'Shazam'

BY: KAITLYN DAVIS

The DC Extended Universe has not given the world the greatest movies. But, ever since the release of their surprise hit, *Aquaman*, moviegoers have been expecting a movie of the same or even better quality. According to its 90% on Rotten Tomatoes and several critical acclaims, *Shazam!* has delivered.

Those who have seen the trailers know that this movie has put a light-hearted and funny spin on the superhero genre compared to the normally grim tone of DC's past movies. With its use of bright lighting it captures the true cheerful mood being presented throughout the whole movie. *Shazam!*, however, does not stray away from dark themes such as aban-

donment, the foster system, bullying, and death. The lead actors in the film, Zachary Levi and Asher Angel, do a fantastic job of bringing the mixtures of genres and the plot to life.

The movie tells the story of troubled foster kid, Billy Batson, who is put into a new foster family where he meets Freddy, his disabled foster brother and future best friend. One day on the subway Billy is given special abilities that are activated by saying, "Shazam!" When the word is spoken, he turns into an adult with superpowers. Unlike most movies, Batson finds great delight in his new powers and uses them for his amusement. He gets revenge on bullies that were insulting Freddy and him and Freddy make youtube videos that show everyone Billy's powers. Ob-

viously, he must eventually make the transition from kid to superhero and fight off an inevitable evil force. Billy was not the kid people would expect to become a hero, but he took up the challenge nonetheless. His character is extremely relatable to moviegoers because he didn't have the greatest background but, that didn't stop him from wanting to make a true difference in the world.

*Shazam!* is a movie that has the rare ability to appease everyone. It is a family friendly film that does live up to its PG-13 rating. For those who have not seen the movie, you will not be disappointed. The movie is a blend of comedy, action, and a coming of age of film, but it never forgets that it is a superhero movie. Those who have seen the

movie, will tell anybody that it is a must see and they expect more movies like this from DC in the future.



SHAZAM PLAYED BY ACTOR ZACHARY LEVI

# ‘A WHOLE NEW WORLD’

BY: BIANCA VILLADOLID

Everyone knows Aladdin and Princess Jasmine. Their story is based on the eponymous Arabic folktale from “One Thousand and One Nights”. The charming street rat, Aladdin, was first introduced to pop culture in Walt Disney Pictures’ 31st animated film *Aladdin* in 1992. He embodies the traditional “rags to riches” story by starting out living in the slums at the beginning of the movie, but then eventually winning the hand of the Princess of Agrabah in marriage at the end of the movie. Princess Jasmine also plays a large role in the popularity of Aladdin. Although she is the daughter of the Sultan of Agrabah, she is not like a typical “Disney princess” figure who is dependent on men. Rather, Jasmine is a strong-willed, courageous female character who opposes her father’s wish to marry her off to princes by rejecting suitors and even running off to be among the common people. However, her heart softens when Aladdin takes her on the famous magic carpet ride over the city. All of this occurs while the devious vizier, Jafar, is try-

ing to gain possession of Aladdin’s magic lamp that could make all of his power-hungry wishes come true. With the help of his magical friend Genie, who came from the lamp, *Aladdin* not only learns more about the value of friendship, but also wins over Jasmine’s heart. It wouldn’t be a Disney story without a happy ending. Vital to the uniqueness and popularity of Disney’s 1992 *Aladdin* are Aladdin’s progression from rags to riches, Jasmine defying societal norms, the lesson of one’s self over one’s wealth, the magical flying carpet, and the funny, friendly Genie.

In October 2016, Disney announced that Guy Ritchie would direct a live-action remake of the 1992 film. Set to release on May 24, 2019, the remake will star Mena Massoud as Aladdin, Naomi Scott as Princess Jasmine, Will Smith as Genie, and Marwan Kenzari as Jafar. Walt Disney Studios released the official teaser trailer for the new movie in October 2018, and it showcases a few changes from the original version, causing some controversy among fans. From Will Smith’s blue Genie

to Jasmine’s attire to the less-than-genuine “Middle Eastern-ness” of the cast, fans seem to be disappointed in the trailers that have come out. Nevertheless, *Aladdin*, as it was known in

1992, is a timeless story recognized and loved by all. Aladdin-lovers and Disney fans alike, while excited for the remake of the classic, hope to see better cultural accuracy in the future.



THE NEW CAST OF *ALADDIN* BRINGS VIEWERS A NEW AND REIMAGINED LOOK AT A DISNEY CLASSIC.

# ‘We’re in the end game now’

BY: JAREN BULIYAT

If you haven’t seen *Avengers: Endgame* yet, then please stop reading here because there are many spoilers. Following the devastating *Avengers: Infinity War*, fans were anxiously waiting for the next movie. *The Avengers* assembled once again in order to restore the universe and undo Thanos’s destruction. Directed by brothers Anthony and Joe Russo, *Endgame* was a whopping 3 hours and 2 minutes! This makes it the longest movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). The movie was a smash-hit right from the start. On its opening weekend, the movie made \$1.2 billion! This makes it the highest-grossing film of the year thus far and broke the record for best-ever opening weekend. Eleven days after opening, it grossed \$2 billion.

Now onto the plot: SPOILERS ahead. After Thanos fulfilled his “destiny” of killing half of all living creatures in the universe, the remaining heroes team up to find Thanos in an attempt to reverse his actions with the Stones, but find out he has destroyed them. The movie then skips to five

years later where Scott Lang (Ant-Man) escapes from the quantum realm and finds out what has happened to the world. Lang, Rogers, and Romanoff go to Stark with the plan to use the quantum realm to travel back in time and get the Infinity Stones before Thanos could. Stark at first rejects their proposal because he now has a daughter with his wife Pepper Potts and doesn’t want to risk his family, but he reminisces of the loss of his protegee, Peter Parker (Spider-Man), and joins them.

The group only has one chance to get the Stones and return. Banner, Rogers, Lang, and Stark travel back to 2012 in an attempt to get the Time, Mind, and Space Stones in the battle of New York from the first *Avengers* film; they successfully get the Time Stone and Mind Stone. In a series of unfortunate events, the group is unable to retrieve the Space Stone, so Rogers and Stark travel back to the 1970s to retrieve the Stone. Rocket and Thor travel to Asgard prior to the death of Thor’s mother and retrieve the Reality Stone and Thor’s old hammer. Nebula and James “Rhodey” Rhodes/War Machine

travel to Morag to steal the Power Stone before Peter Quill/*Star-Lord* does, but present-Nebula and past-Nebula’s memories collide, allowing Thanos to scan past-Nebula’s memories and see the future. He sends past-Nebula to the future under the guise of present-Nebula as a spy. Barton and Romanoff travel back to Vormir to retrieve the Soul Stone, but Romanoff sacrifices her life so Barton could receive it.

All those left of the group return to the present day. Stark builds a gauntlet that could handle the power of the Stones and Banner nominates himself to snap his fingers and restore the universe. But past-Nebula brings past-Thanos to the present day and he, along with his army, seeks the gauntlet.

As Thanos’ army approaches, those that have disappeared in *Infinity War* come back thanks to Banner. The huge army of all of the heroes in the MCU and Thanos’ face-off in a monumental battle. In the end, the *Avengers* win, but at the loss of beloved Stark, who used the Stones to turn Thanos and his army to dust.

*Avengers: Endgame* was the per-

fect ending to this 22 movie saga after 11 years. These movies have not only entertained audiences, but have inspired everyone to find the superhero within themselves. None of this would have been possible without the genius of Stan Lee. On behalf of all of those hearts you have touched, Stan Lee, we “love you 3000.”



THE POSTER FOR THE MOVIE INCLUDES ALL THE BIG STARS.

## Every drop counts

BY: AN NGUYEN

On Thursday, April 4th, members of the National Honor Society, along with the New York Blood Center, coordinated the annual Spring Blood Drive. Donors began signing up in February and over 100 people participated in the event. Approximately 85 units of blood were collected at the drive, which can ultimately help up to 255 people in need of transfusions. The team of seniors who organized the drive helped Mr. John Roche to gather donors, run the event, and assist the workers from the blood center.

NYBC provides blood services to nearly 200 hospitals throughout New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. After giving blood, donors are notified as to where their donation ended up. Through this organization, an astounding 2,000 units are collected and distributed to more than 20 million people each



STUDENT VOLUNTEERS AT THE BLOOD DRIVE (IMAGE COURTESY OF BGA PRODUCTIONS)

day. Although it may seem like Bishop Ahr's donors are only a minor part of this statistic, the blood we gather immensely impacts those who need it. With other locations throughout the tri-state area, it is extremely easy to help save a life.

Thousands of people are in need of blood donations each day, which is only possible with the help and dedication of volunteer blood donors. Once the blood is donated, it gets processed and tested at a lab. From there, it makes its way to hospitals throughout the metropolitan area and is stored for upcoming patients in need of blood transfusions. Whether it be for a cancer patient or a patient undergoing surgery, blood is vital for those who are sick in hospitals. The blood collected at the drive plays an essential role in ensuring someone has another day to live. Mr. Roche expanded on this, saying that "Running a blood drive requires a lot of hard work, early morning meetings, and a lot of recruitment. The NHS Blood Drive Team worked really hard to pull this drive off. I'm happy that their hard work paid off and that we were able to help collect so many donations!"

The next blood drive held at Bishop Ahr will be in the fall. A huge thank you to all of the students, teachers, and parents who donated blood and made this blood drive a huge success!

## Having a ball at the volleyball tournament

BY: LAUREN GARDA

On April 11th, teachers set aside their ties, turned off their power-points, and put on their war paint to compete in the Student vs. Faculty Volleyball Tournament. This event had a turnout of 14 teams overall: twelve of those being students and the other two being the faculty. The teams came in early to warm up before the big game, each player growing in confidence, energy, competitiveness, and tension. Ms. Fucci and Mr. Kowalczyk gathered everyone around to explain the rules of the game and pump the room up. The teams were then announced and the games began.

With two nets and four teams each, the student teams started the tournament off. This broke the game down a bit into two brackets: the redemption bracket and the winners bracket. The winners bracket brought in the moment awaited for throughout the night: the teachers finally joining in the rounds to play. Here, the teams that won their last rounds go forward in the competition head-to-head in an attempt to win it all. Meanwhile, the redemption bracket had the students who lost their past round play one more game in an at-

tempt to make a comeback. After all of the serves and spikes, there were four teams left to showdown.

After all of the pressure, the students won the tournament! The team that claimed victory consisted of freshman Tyler Kadi, junior Christian Kadi, Tyler Kadi, and seniors Ryan Loftus, John Loftus, and Ryan Pittari, who played a very challenging final round against the faculty team of Mr. Matthew Roche, Father Keith, Mr. Fiore, Ms. Collazo, Mr. Roca and Ms. Perulo. In the end, though this is a game of competition, we're all friends and family and it's all in good sportsmanship. Each team is proud of the others and can't wait for next year's tournament to come around in hopes of reliving the same enjoyable experience!



THE WINNING TEAM (LEFT TO RIGHT): JOHN LOFTUS, CHRISTIAN KADI, RYAN PITTARI, TYLER KADI, AND RYAN LOFTUS (IMAGE COURTESY OF BGA PRODUCTIONS)

## The Baccalaureate Mass symbolizes a clean slate for the seniors

BY: KRISTEL RAMBAUD

On May 30th, the class of 2019 gathered together for the annual Baccalaureate Mass at St. Helena's Church to celebrate the seniors' achievements and how far they've come since their freshman year. The theme for the mass this year was "Ahr Puzzle."

At the Mass, the seniors, just like in previous years, were presented with symbols to represent their high school years. Fitting into the theme of "Ahr Puzzle," one of the symbols was a puzzle piece. The puzzle piece represented how each person in the class fit together to make the class its own unique collection of people. To represent the friendships they have formed throughout the years,

the friendship chain, made in their freshman year, was brought forward. A varsity letter, drama mask, and music note symbolized together the collective accomplishments that the seniors have had. Seniors were also presented with the latest edition of Satoma and this year's yearbook to remember everything that had transpired in their final year of high school. Other symbols were a cross and Bible, roses and flowers, a diploma and cap, and home-room pictures. Finally, a clean slate was brought forward to echo Sister Donna's words at the start of their freshman year: they came to Bishop Ahr with a clean slate. Now, they are leaving and once again have a clean slate, leaving it up to themselves to make their own legacy.



A GROUP OF SENIORS RECITING THE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT AT THEIR FINAL MASS TOGETHER (IMAGE COURTESY OF LORS PHOTOGRAPHY)

# Dancing with the stars

## Seniors commemorated for their achievements

BY: ALYSSA PITTARI

On Friday May 3, the Junior Prom was held at The Imperia in Somerset. Students from the class of 2020 gathered together to have fun dancing the night away. The day began with juniors leaving school after fourth period to begin getting ready for the big night. Ladies spent the hours leading up to the prom applying makeup and fixing their hair, while the men were preparing their tuxedos. Despite the chilly temperatures, there was no rain, allowing perfect backdrops for pictures.

Students began arriving at The Imperia in limos, party buses, and cars at around 7:00 P.M. Ladies in elegant dresses and men in handsome tuxedos met inside the party room during cocktail hour. Students mingled while snacking on small appetizers. As more and more juniors arrived, the night began to take off. Inside, the tables of The Imperia were decorated with sparkly Hollywood themed centerpieces and black and gold confetti. There were also specially wrapped chocolate bars on the tables for guests to take home as a favor.

Once everyone was seated and the night of dancing was about to begin, junior class officers Craig Mollica and Alyssa Pittari addressed the students with some opening statements. Then, Sister Cynthia led the students

in a prayer, followed by a blessing by Father Keith. After salads and pasta, it was time to dance. Students flooded the giant dance floor to rock out to their favorite songs. The DJ played a blend of all types of music, including some of today's hits, traditional party songs such as the "Wobble," remixes, and some well-loved oldies. After some dancing, the juniors sat down to have dinner, but they quickly returned to the dance floor to have some more fun.

The outside patio was open throughout the night. Students flooded in and out, taking pictures in front of the beautiful flowers and backdrop. The photo booth was

used by students during the night. They snapped pictures with their friends using the funny props, creating memories that will last forever.

Toward the end of the night, the junior class officers once again took over the dance floor to announce the prom king and queen. The title of prom king was awarded to Ryan Gagliardi and Eri Ajao was named prom queen. They both received a crown, sash, and a tub of Starburst candy. Once again, this year's Junior Prom proved to be a great success. From dancing with friends to taking funny pictures in the photo booth, students experienced a night that they will never forget.



A GROUP OF STUDNETS DANCING THE "WOBBLE" (IMAGE COURTESY OF BGA PRODUCTIONS)

# Seniors celebrate at their prom

BY: MICAH KELLY

On May 16, the senior class gathered at their prom at Arianna's Grand banquet hall located in Woodbridge, NJ. Students began to arrive around 7:00 p.m., attired in tuxedos and dresses. Because of the good weather, students were able to go outside and take plenty of pictures to commemorate the night. Dinner was shortly served afterwards, preceded by a blessing from Father Keith. Some of the food that was served that night was chicken fraisee, eggplant rollatini, and salmon.

After dinner, the dancing portion of the night had begun. Students danced and sang their hearts out to music played by DJ Venom Productions. Later that evening, Mr. Reilly announced the prom king and queen: Ishan Bhavsar and Meliana Coasanti. The students savored every moment, dancing the night away with their classmates until the night

finally ended at 11:00. Students were also given a class of 2019 bag as a favor, as well as a chocolate bar. The

seniors had a great night at prom and it was most definitely the best way to celebrate before they graduated.



A GROUP OF SENIORS HAVING A BLAST AT THEIR PROM TOGETHER (IMAGE COURTESY OF BGA PRODUCTIONS)

BY: KRISTEL RAMBAUD

With the school year completed and the seniors ready for graduation, we take a moment to acknowledge the many accomplishments and achievements that the Class of 2019 have garnered over their time here.

The first awards were given for leadership within the school community. Lauren Garda and Megan Lim received awards for their roles as Editors-in-Chief for The Satoma, the school newspaper, while Gabriella Jakielaszek and Jenna Sheedy were recognized for their roles as Editor-in-Chief and Senior Editor respectively for Insight, the school yearbook. Student Council officers were also recognized for the work they did as leaders in the school, including President Kevin O'Neil, Vice President Nicholas Schroll, Athletic Chairperson Ryan Breta, Social Chairperson Sohini Bhattacharjee, and Social Media Chairperson Laurie Jimenez.

Many awards were given to members of the Drama and Music Departments as well. The Director's Award for Outstanding Stage Performance went to Trisha Ponik, while Lauren Bonavitacola and Kyle Heyman received recognition for Technical Excellence. Morgan Frazee received the Director's Award for Excellence in Acting. Shakthi Boobalan won awards for Outstanding Dedication to Music and the Louis Armstrong Award, while Carl Rubinski Jr. won the Woody Herman Jazz Award. Cara Makoski was named a member of the National School Color Guard and was recognized with the National Choral Award along with Kirkzebedee Olandres.

The Class of 2019 also had many students who were recognized and celebrated for their commitment and success to their academics. Some highlights were Jessica Soos winning the Art Award, Sachi Negri and Ryan Pittari winning the Health and Physical Education Award, Jacob Domingo winning the Italian Award, Arnav Bhavsar winning the Math Award, and Avery Murillo winning the Social Studies and Religion Awards.

The Class of 2019 has done phenomenal things during their time at Bishop Ahr and have set a high standard for what success means. This class is ready to tackle the difficulties that stand in their way as begin their new journeys.

# Satoma's Summer

## Upcoming Fair Dates:

- June 16: Doubleday Food Truck Festival, Mendham
- June 21-July 8: State Fair Meadowlands, East Rutherford
- July 4: Jersey City's Annual Freedom & Fireworks Festival, Jersey City
- July 25-29: Monmouth County Fair, Freehold
- August 3-11: New Jersey State Fair, Augusta
- August 31-September 2: Annual Labor Day Carnival, Mendham

The sun is shining, the birds are so does our excitement for the summer to reach our many academic upcoming months of summer. But maybe there's *so much* to do that summer vacation, and before school most of your break! Here's the ultimate list this summer, packed with

## Activities to do:

- have a bonfire
- go camping
- have a day in the city
- have a Giant Slip 'N Slide
- have a karaoke-night
- go laser tagging
- have a movie marathon
- go night swimming
- have a picnic
- have a photoshoot
- read a book
- go rock-climbing
- have a Spa Day
- get a tan
- go on a long bike ride
- have a water ballon fight

Make Every



# Summer Bucket List

chirping, and the days are getting warmer! As the temperature rises, start of summer 2019! After a year of working hard in school and striving for goals, we all undoubtedly deserve to kick back and relax in the next few weeks. What about those days when we struggle to find something to do? Or when you don't know what to do first! After all, there are 104 days of summer left to come along to end it, the Satoma staff wants to help you make the ultimate Satoma Summer Bucket List - a list of all the things to cross off your list of fun outing ideas, upcoming blockbuster movies, fair dates, and more!

## Places to go:

- a boardwalk
- a bowling alley
- a carnival
- a concert
- an escape room
- mini-golfing
- a museum
- on a roadtrip
- a theme park
- a water park
- on vacation

## Things to See:

- fireworks
- stargaze
- sunrise/sunset

## Summer Blockbusters:

-*Spider-Man Far From Home*: July 5

-*Toy-Story 4*: June 21

-*The Lion King*: July 19

-*Annabelle 3*: July 3

-*The Angry Birds Movie 2*: August 16

Day Count!

# Hitting all the right notes

By: ISABELLA HAMM

On May 1 and 2, Bishop Ahr's very own music department showcased their annual "Spring Concert Without A Theme." Directed by Mr. Joseph Cullinan ('02), the jazz band, concert band, select choir, and concert choir performed the music they had learned and practiced for months prior to the concerts.

After an introduction by Mr. Cullinan, most of the main gym went dark—the remaining lights leaving only jazz band in the spotlight as the melody of "Sharp Dressed Man" began. After "Autumn Leaves" and the lively "You Can Call Me Al," the rest of the band joined them and played through their set. They opened with the energetic theme "The Magnificent Seven" and followed with the calmer "The Water Is Wide." Juniors Maia Lim and Alex Domingo pacified the atmosphere with a violin and

piano duet, each played respectively. The concert band then finished powerfully with the iconic "Avengers Theme." As intermission began, the choir set up their stage as quickly as possible. Once the audience returned to their seats, they built energy in the room with the beat of Queen's "We Will Rock You" and harmonized smoothly in Ben E. King's "Stand by Me." Afterward, the mood took an emotional shift in "Jesus Walked This Lonely Valley," followed by "Ave Maria" and "Teach Your Children." Then seniors Trisha Ponik, Lauren Garda, and Shakthi Boobalan performed a mashup arranged by Mr. Cullinan. The concert choir then closed out with their rendition of "Go the Distance" from the Disney movie *Hercules*. Their hard work and dedication left the audience enthralled with their performance. The music department has long been cultivating students' musical abil-

ity. In fact, a good portion of the band members play an instrument they hadn't played before joining the band. When asked about this year's concert, senior Lauren Bonavitacola expressed that her four years in the department have "helped me to become an amazing musician. I came in freshman year not knowing how to play any instruments, and now I can say I proudly play five. I'm so glad I get to display my abilities at my last

concert." She, as well as many other members of the department, appreciate the care that goes into developing musical ability—such as trombonist and select choir member Joey Valenzuela. "I love being involved in music," he stated. "Music has always been a huge part of my life and I'm so grateful for the opportunity BGA has given me to grow and develop my talents further." Mr. Cullinan hopes to continue bringing these opportunities to more students in the future.



JENNIFER RIHACEK, CAROLYN FOLEY, AND ANNA HOEGLER FOCUS ON THEIR MUSIC (IMAGE COURTESY OF BGA PRODUCTIONS)

# Having fun at the faire

By: JENNIFER RIHACEK

On March 5th, 2019 Bishop Ahr held its very own school-wide Maker Faire. Over the course of two months, students had been working diligently on their own experiments, art projects, and other STEM-related activities to showcase at the faire. The Maker Faire was a very big success, including over 35 different stations and activities for visitors and students to participate in. Some projects showcased included live fish, 3D printing, knitting, LEGO's, and much

more. With a large variety of projects, the Maker Faire was full of fun!

Many students stated that they truly appreciated the Maker Faire, commenting how it was a very unique experience seeing what other people discovered or made. "Next year I would like to do something artistic that all ages could understand and get involved in," says one freshman student. The Maker Faire truly inspired many students to think of their own ideas to showcase at next year's faire.

After-school clubs such as the Art Club met in the Makerspace

many times in anticipation for the Maker Faire. The Makerspace, located in the upstairs science wing, is where many of the machines used to create the projects of the Maker Faire can be found. A 3D printer, laser cutting machine, and more are open for use to anyone who wants to create! By joining a STEM-related club, or just by simply going to the Makerspace, everyone can create whatever they can imagine.

Although the Maker Faire was held at Bishop Ahr, there were also students from neighboring gram-

mar schools such as St. Joseph School and St. James School showcasing astonishing projects. Their projects included aspects of social studies, music, and more. It was quite an experience to have grammar schools from the community to come share what they had made!

So, what's next for the Maker Faire? Will there be one next year? The answer is yes. Next year, the STEM department of Bishop Ahr hopes that more students will join in with the faire and show off their original creations to the student body.



A GROUP OF STUDENTS LEARNING HOW TO MAKE PAPER ORIGAMI (IMAGE COURTESY OF BGA PRODUCTIONS)



A GROUP OF STUDENTS MAKING CUSTOM STAMPS. (IMAGE COURTESY OF BGA PRODUCTIONS)

# Our Valedictorian is 'Adorable'



BY: MEGAN LIM

When she's not binge watching old Hollywood movies, hanging out with friends, or volunteering at JFK Hospital, senior Isabella Adorable

goes above and beyond in taking time to study hard, getting her assignments done, and helping others with school work. Upon learning that her astounding GPA of 4.781 earned her the title of Valedictorian of the 2019 school year, she felt extremely honored and that all of her hard work had finally paid off.

Bella's impressive academic record of 4 AP classes in combination with her vivacious personality and roles such as team manager for the boys' basketball team, co-president of Science Club, CMT, CSAC Exec. Board, Ahr Star Exec. Board, Medical Explorers Exec. Board, Safety Ambassador, National Honor Society, Math and Science National Honors Society, Latin Honor Society, Student Ambassador, Peer Leader, and choir, has led her to being accepted into multiple schools such as NYU, Boston University, and Rutgers Honors College. She was also accepted into the #1 public university in the

nation, UCLA, where she was given an Achievement Scholarship of \$10,000 a year - contributing to the nearly \$1million given to her in total scholarships. Knowing that UCLA is associated with one of the best medical centers in the country and an abundance of school spirit, Bella is excited to go back to the state that she was born in to study Biochemistry on a Pre-med track. Through her studies, she hopes to eventually achieve her dream job of being a pediatrician, and to be successful, financially stable, and happy overall.

When speaking to Bella about her excitement for college, she did not fail to mention that she will remember what influences her high school career has had on her. She emphasizes that she will truly miss being able to see and be in the same place as her best friends everyday. She will especially miss the friends that, in addition to her unconditionally loving family, support her and

help her to be the dedicated, accomplished person that she is. One of these friends commented that she "knows we'll stay close with her because it's in her nature to constantly reach out to her friends and support them from no matter where she is, even when it's 3,000 miles away; we may be far from her, but we have the utmost confidence that she's going to do such amazing things in college because it's impossible for her not to with how intelligent, independent, and dependable she is."

Before graduating from high school, Bella left a piece of lasting advice, "Don't procrastinate and see to it that you actually stop procrastinating. Whenever you're stressed, just remember that you're strong, you can get through this, and it'll be over soon. Enjoy your time at BGA and appreciate the time you have with your friends because it'll go by so quickly. Live your life and have fun, you deserve to relax."



## Salutations from the salutatorian



BY: GIANNA STRAZZULLA

Arnav Bhavsar was awarded the title of Salutatorian for the graduating class of 2019. Bhavsar ended his high school career with a GPA of 4.737 and numerous academic recognitions including the Spanish Honor Society, Math Honor Soci-

ety, Science Honor Society, National Honor Society, finalist for the NJ Scholars program, and four years on the Principal's List with straight A's. In addition to excelling in academics, Bhavsar did cross country for four years (lettering his junior and senior year), ran varsity winter track for two years, was a STEM lab technician his senior year, and was a member of the chess and international clubs. He was also part of the BGA band for three years where he was able to showcase his musical talents; Bhavsar has been playing the cello for nine years and the piano for twelve. And of course, no BGA high school career would be complete without service. Bhavsar has collected an impressive amount of service hours over his four years through various school activities such as Ahr Star and CSAC. However, he took it one step further by spending three weeks in India teaching underprivileged, poverty-stricken children important life skills in the hopes of helping them achieve a better life.

Looking towards the future,

Bhavsar is attending Rutgers as a part of their Honors College and is majoring in mechanical engineering. For a major that involves so much math, it is a good thing that it is his favorite subject. He likes it because, "there is only right or wrong answer and no in between. Math uses realistic situations and helps people develop their problem-solving and analytical skills. It can be used in so many different ways and is crucial in everyday life even though it is just simply some numbers and letters." Fueled by his love for the subject, he intends on pursuing a career in sports engineering because, "It combines my logical reasoning and passion for engineering with my love for sports." He hopes to be able to create equipment/gear that reduces the risk of injury and improves athletic performance.

Before Bhavsar said his final goodbye's to BGA, he reflected on some of his fondest moments. His favorite class was AP Physics taught by Ms. Savner because, "She was a great teacher and physics is very math-

ematical and realistic so it was the perfect class for me. It was challenging but fun at the same time." He will never forget his senior retreat, which is his favorite high school memory. When asked what he would miss the most about his time at BGA he said, "Definitely the community that I became part of and all the friends I made over the years. The atmosphere at BGA was very comfortable and I will miss being a part of it."

Finally, when asked if he had any advice for underclassmen, Bhavsar had this to say: "Academics is important but don't let it overwhelm you and cause you to be stressed out. There is no need for all nighters. If you need a break, take a break. It's ok to relax and enjoy yourself a little when you think there's too much to handle. You can be better prepared for anything if you are not constantly worrying about it. Make time for your friends outside of school and appreciate the time you spend with them."

The BGA community sends their congratulations and wishes Arnav Bhavsar the best of luck .

# Spirit of Notre Dame still burns in the hearts of the people

BY: OLIVIA RIVERA

The Catholic Church has suffered time and time again, prevailing through tragic wars and uprisings. Through all of the adversity and the various trials, the Catholic Church has continued to strengthen and unite while continuing to spread Jesus' message on Earth. Many churches have been built around the world for this specific purpose: to keep everyone united, if not physically, then spiritually. When a person, a group of people, or a sacred structure is attacked, it not only affects the people involved but the whole world.

Sadly, on April 15, 2019, another one of these horrific and unimaginable episodes occurred to the horror of many nations and peoples around the world. The Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France caught fire and burned for hours, causing serious detrimental damage to the beautiful church. The 850-year-old Notre Dame Cathedral is an example of the resilience and faith of the Church and the world. It has withstood the test of time over and over again, becoming a sanctuary for millions of people, both

within France and around the world.

That Monday of Holy Week should have been a sacred, momentous occasion for citizens of France as well as tourists visiting the cathedral, but it quickly became a time of heartache and grief over the loss of such an important part of history. The fire was eventually put out by firefighters early that Tuesday morning, but the damage had already been done. Smoke could be seen from miles away as it poured out of the damaged oak wood roof built in the 13th century, making the skyline of Paris dark and dreary. Soon after the blazing fire started, the beautifully constructed spire located at the top of the church collapsed and caved into the church.

Thankfully, precious pieces of art such as the Crown of Thorns and the legendary bell towers were able to be salvaged and saved before the fire could spread further. The fire was initiated in the attic of the cathedral, but the cause of the fire and whether it was intentional or not is still unknown. Fortunately, only one out of the hundreds who came to the church's aid was seriously hurt.

The reactions of the people present at that time were shocked, heartbroken, speechless, and a number of other emotions. However, the love and the connection between the people and the cathedral could be felt amongst the huge crowds of people who came to stand outside the burning church and support each other during this tragic time. They sang songs in French and prayed together as the support of the community throughout the world contin-

ued to grow. The Notre Dame Cathedral had always been a symbol of amazing architectural feats, as well as the beautiful French culture and everything the French people stood for.

The French President Emmanuel Macron quickly took action to combat this attack on their nation, making a public address to his people. He spoke of his plans to rebuild Notre Dame within the next five years bigger and

better than ever before, and that the French nation would build this grand structure together. The University of Notre Dame donated \$100,000 for the restoration of the cathedral, and not long after, approximately \$1 billion was raised from generous organizations, businesses, and individuals from all nations. Rather than accept this defeat, France stood together to support one another and find solutions to this travesty, knowing that their story was not over.



THE NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL TRAGICALLY BURNING (IMAGE COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

# A different kind of war

BY: FAITH SMITH

One of President Donald Trump's biggest campaign promises was to raise tariffs on imported goods, or goods brought into the United States from another country. This tactic was designed to increase pressure on businesses who are outsourcing their labor and on foreign businesses from countries who have a currency that has lesser value than that of the American dollar, which are two things President Trump considers to be cheating the American economy. As the trade war between China and the U.S. wages on, many are wondering who exactly this tariff will affect. Will it affect the foreign companies and outsourced businesses or will it affect the American consumer?

First let's start with the basics. What is a tariff? A tariff is defined by the Oxford Dictionary as "A tax or duty to be paid on a particular class of imports or exports." In more basic terms, this means that any item being sold in the United States from

another country will be charged a tax before it can be purchased by a consumer. A tariff is designed to try to strengthen the American economy and American businesses by hindering foreign businesses, in this particular case, China. Trump, who believes that this country is being taken advantage of with the current climate of trade relations with China, believes that this will help to strengthen the US economy. While in some cases this is effective and motivates businesses and consumers to buy American, other times the consumers wind up shouldering the brunt of the cost, which could very well happen in this case.

What is the case in America's situation? Trump has already imposed tariffs on \$250 billion worth of Chinese imports and is planning to impose tariffs on the rest of the goods, which is estimated to be worth about \$300 billion more than the original tariffs. Many of our most popular companies manufacture in other countries, and some of these brands have actu-

ally stated that these tariffs will only increase the prices for the consumer. If the newly proposed tariff of 25% more were to actually be enacted, it is projected by economists that the cost to consumers may end up being around \$7 billion per year. As the duties on imported raw materials also increase machinery prices are also taking a hit. Washing machine prices have increased by 12% since January 2018, and U.S. consumers have already paid an additional \$3 billion.

Although past precedents have


been set on the outcome of trade wars, no one is really sure how this will end as China seems adamant on imposing its own tariff on American exports including soy beans, corn, and other agricultural products. Trump is standing firm that these economic policies will hurt China's economy and force them to the negotiating table before the American consumer is truly impacted. Time will tell if this trade war will come to a peaceful conclusion or if it will continue to rage on.



THE TRADE WAR BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WAGES ON. (IMAGES COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

# SPORTS Spotlight

Name: Gregory Polanco  
 Nickname: Greg  
 Grade: 12  
 Sport: Wrestling



What are you looking forward to in the summer?: Going to Japan to visit family

Favorite Childhood TV Show: *Spongebob*

Dream Vacation: Going to France

Name: Britney Rafols  
 Nickname: Brit Brit  
 Grade: 12  
 Sport: Lacrosse




What are you looking forward to in the summer?: Going to the beach every day

Favorite Childhood TV Show: *Full House*

Dream Vacation: Going to France

Name: Ian Johnson  
 Nickname: Irob, Ion, Irob\_the\_boy  
 Grade: 12  
 Sport: Lacrosse




What are you looking forward to in the summer?: Surfing

Favorite Childhood TV Show: *Invader Zim*

Dream Vacation: Melbourne, Australia

Name: Harry Allegra  
 Nickname: Hank, Hamma  
 Grade: 12  
 Sport: Baseball




What are you looking forward to in the summer?: Playing baseball in college

Favorite Childhood TV Show: *Spongebob*

Dream Vacation: Italy

Name: Ryan Pittari  
 Nickname: Big Guy, Pittari  
 Grade: 12  
 Sport: Baseball




What are you looking forward to in the summer?: Spending time with friends

Favorite Childhood TV Show: *Drake and Josh*

Dream Vacation: Barcelona, Spain

Name: Richard Ptaszynski  
 Nickname: Richie, Rich  
 Grade: 12  
 Sport: Lacrosse



What are you looking forward to in the summer?: Summer lacrosse, relaxing

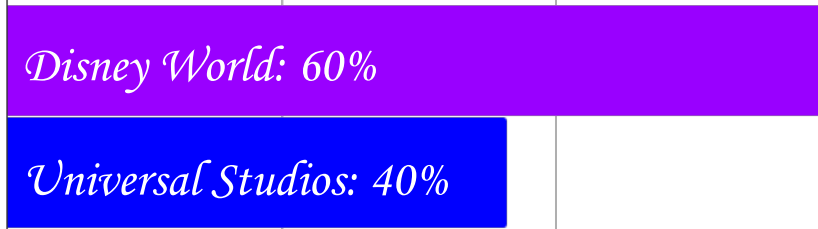
Favorite Childhood TV Show: *Scooby-doo*

Dream Vacation: Italy

## Satoma presents: question of the quarter Disney World or Universal Studios?



THE CINDERELLA CASTLE IN DISNEY WORLD. (IMAGE COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)



THE UNIVERSAL GLOBE IN UNIVERSAL STUDIOS. (IMAGE COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

## Showing 'love' to the tennis team

BY: THOMAS KOENIG

Tennis, also known as the “gentleman’s sport,” is an exceptional way to get outside and have fun. Tennis for Bishop Ahr is a quiet sport that most people don’t even consider because it is not a commonly played sport, but it truly is quite the challenge. Tennis requires footwork, balance, along with various other skills that are needed to be obtained in order to improve one’s game, such as the groundstroke. This sport requires patience and the ability to work as a team in a doubles match.

The progression of the team as a whole is pretty amazing. Thanks to the coaches, Mr. Mohrmann and Mr. Chaneski, the team improves every time they are taught a new skill, whether they are trying attempt a lob or completing the simple task of placing the ball it comes down to the little things during a match. The varsity team this year consists of Jacob Pil at first singles, Jin Zhou at second singles, Lizhe Zhang at third singles, Christian Vozza and Joey Dunn at first doubles, and Brandon Cangialosi and Thomas Koenig along with the help from Nachiketa Gosukonda at second doubles. There is also a junior varsity team that consists of James Zheng, Jonathan Zheng, Connor Owens, Dan-

iel Devitt, Nihaal Walia, and more. Every person on this team gives it their all to get better and show off their skills to their fellow teammates during practices and games.

Tennis is for anyone, whether they want to be competitive or just wants to have fun and make friends. As Wayne Gretzky says, “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take,” so don’t be afraid to give tennis a shot.

Tennis is a fantastic way to use one’s gifts and talents in life in the future. People may not realize the truth until they see what is possible with it. Yes, tennis may be a gentleman’s sport, but a fine sport indeed.



NACHIKETA GOSUTANDA WAITS TO RETURN THE SERVE (IMAGE COURTESY OF BGA PUBLICATIONS)

## Looking 'fore' victory on the green

BY: ALISON PICERNO

It’s spring again this time of the school year, and the change of the seasons brought back sports such as lacrosse, baseball and softball, and golf. The golf team had a short season from April 1 to May 11, but was filled with matches and practices at Top Golf in Edison. The team is open to everyone, both boys and girls, and no experience is needed. Coach Clement Bottone worked to make sure that all the new members understood the game and felt confident before playing.

The golf team started out strong with a win against Perth Amboy, and with only a few weeks in their season, the team continued to play hard. Throughout the season they had multiple wins, including matches against New Brunswick, winning by 16 points, and against Perth Amboy, winning by 30 points. Over Easter

break, the team defeated Perth Amboy with a final score of 200-229. Low scores of 43 and 49 by Emily Abrams and Kiara Cronin were especially helpful in securing the win.

A lot of the golf team members were new and without experience but with the help of Coach Bottone and team captains Emily Abrams and Ryan Gluchowski, players worked hard to improve their skills over the course of the season. First time player and sophomore Kiara Cronin said, “I really enjoy being on the golf team, because every match was another opportunity to improve the player. I really enjoyed the social aspect of it, as well as the learning process of the sport.”

The practices that occurred at Topgolf were not only a chance to work on their swings, but to have fun. The golf team had an overall successful season, and they hope to improve for next year.

## 'Sax' to the max



CASSIDY VELTRE RUNS DOWN THE FIELD (IMAGE COURTESY OF BGA PUBLICATIONS)

BY: CAROLINE DiMAGGIO

This year the Bishop Ahr girls lacrosse team continues to work harder than ever. As a team, the girls continuously make progress to improve. While competition has caused the team to experience some losses, the determination and unity that the team shows is exemplary of the Bishop Ahr spirit. The girls work hard at each practice by doing drills and conditioning to perform their best on the field. Matt Roche and Josephine Cutietta leads the girls to work toward success as the head coaches. They do their best to keep the team positive and motivated through the ups and downs of the season. Coach Roche had this to say, “Success isn’t easily achieved and sometimes per-

severance has to be the focus for our group.” Constant support from the coach, captains, and teammates is what keeps the girls lacrosse team motivated to achieve great things.

Captains Britney Rafols and Shay Cartalla have enthusiastically led the team and brought them together all season. When asked about her experience on the lacrosse team, Britney shared her positive and touching experience. “If someone told me when I was a freshman that I would be playing lacrosse, I wouldn’t believe them. Although the sport was something I thought I never would’ve tried, I wouldn’t have traded the girls, my coach or the experience for the world. My favorite part about this team was that we built each other up on and off the field. No matter how hard times got, we would always be able to rely on each other. I had a blast working with this team and I’ll never forget the times we shared”. The three graduating seniors will be greatly missed on next years’ team. Sybille Radeau, Britney Rafols, and Shay Cartalla are the senior athletes who have been strong influences on the team this year and have contributed so much. The Bishop Ahr girls lacrosse team is on its way to reaching its goals as they work towards a great season.

## Sprack is back

BY: FIORELLA MERRIMAN-MENDEZ

Spring entails not only Easter break and the blooming of flowers, but also perfect running weather, which, for those running spring track, is especially important. Training for spring track began on March 1, starting the effort to get the runners in shape for the start of the racing season in April. Each day the team would warm up together and then split into different groups- either sprinter, long distance runner, or thrower- to begin their practice. The team is led by captains Eleni Alvarez and Chris Rodriguez, who help everyone to push themselves and succeed. Throughout the season, many runners and throwers have medaled, most notably at GMCs and Divisions. However, with more meets ahead, the team hopes to carry that momentum. So, while running laps or doing sprints might be a punishment to those in a different

sport, for those doing spring track, running has become their reward.



CHRIS RODRIGUEZ SPRINTS TO THE FINISH LINE (IMAGE COURTESY OF BGA PUBLICATIONS)

# 4 bases, 3 strikes, 2 teams, 1 winner



ented athletes came out and gave it their all in order to try and land a spot on one of Bishop Ahr's two outstanding teams. Players went through a four day series of tryouts and were then placed on either the junior varsity or varsity teams, both of which have done extremely well with their seasons. They started out the season with high hopes, and they definitely delivered. Both teams defeated a rival Edison school, JP Stevens, played at the home field. The girls have practiced every weekday that there was not a game. During these practices, they practiced fielding, pitching, hitting, and other drills to keep their skills sharp in preparation for their games.

They moved up from the White Division. They proved their dominance throughout the season, winning some games by impressive margins; they defeated Piscataway 20-3 and East Brunswick 10-0. Their record earned them the title of Red Division champions and later the #1-seed in the GMC tournament. They went on to win their second consecutive GMC tournament in a 3-0 victory against JFK. Junior pitcher Alyssa DeJianne was named the overall MVP of the tournament. In regards to the state tournament, they were seeded #3 in their bracket.

Also several players achieved numerous milestones throughout the season: senior Colleen Cronin and junior Megan Herka both got their 100th hit, DeJianne got her 200th career strikeout, and Herka broke the homerun record, accumulating 23 career homeruns.

The girls on the team all knew the importance of hardwork, as well as team work. The group never failed to come together, and win or lose, continued to play the sport for the joy of it. They were constantly cheering each other on and off of the field, and were always striving to make each other better. Congratulations to the softball on having such an excellent season!

ALYSSA DEJIANNE IN THE MIDST OF PITCHING AGAINST THE BATTER (IMAGE COURTESY OF BGA PUBLICATIONS)

BY: CARISSA MATRALE

Starting on March 1st, this year's girls softball team started off their season with tryouts. So many tal-

ented athletes came out and gave it their all in order to try and land a spot on one of Bishop Ahr's two outstanding teams. Players went through a four day series of tryouts and were then placed on either the junior varsity or varsity teams, both of which have done extremely well with their seasons. They started out the season with high hopes, and they definitely delivered. Both teams defeated a rival Edison school, JP Stevens, played at the home field. The girls have practiced every weekday that there was not a game. During these practices, they practiced fielding, pitching, hitting, and other drills to keep their skills sharp in preparation for their games.

The varsity team, coached by Ms. Collazo, finished with a 19-2 overall record (at time of writing) and 13-1 record in the stacked Greater Middlesex County (GMC) Red Division after being

# Running the bases



SEBASTIEN PEREZ UP AT BAT (IMAGE COURTESY OF BGA PUBLICATIONS)

BY: SEBASTIEN PEREZ

With the return of a core group of talented starters and some new and promising talent arriving on the scene, the baseball team under the direction of Head Coach Tom D'Agostino, looked to use this season as an opportunity to take positive steps towards accomplishing success in their division.

The boys were led by returning starters and seniors Harry Allegra, Kyle Orta, and Ryan Pittari along with junior Gerard Chiricolo as they looked to take on tough competition in the Greater Middlesex Conference Gold Division. The season started off with a mix of results against strong opponents like South River, Edison, and JP Stevens, but the team got things on track with wins against Highland Park and Dunellen behind strong pitching from Ryan Pittari and Gerard Chiricolo. Ultimately, the boys ended up with a strong record of six wins and three losses in their division, which saw the Trojans finish second overall.

The future looks bright for the Trojans in the upcoming seasons with a group of key pieces returning next season. Junior Gerard Chiricolo will be back for his senior year with another season of experience under his belt as he heads the Trojans pitching rotation. Other pieces are in place for the Trojans as well with the return of sophomore Daniel Rankin who had a breakout season pitching and newcomer Tyler Kadi who was named the New Jersey top freshman baseball player of the year. Coach D'Agostino is hoping to rely on this talent to propel the team to new heights in the seasons to come.

# They practice hard, play strong, give it their all, and 'lax' on

BY: RILEY RAMOS

Ever since the start of the season, the boys lacrosse team have been working extremely hard. Led by head coach Jahnno Symister, they have fought this whole season. The captains were senior brothers Nelson and Dyson Hardwick, who play defense and attack respectively; senior Ritchie Ptaszynski, who plays attack; junior John Campagna, the goalie; and sophomore Anthony Maya, who plays midfield. Throughout the season, the boys remained dedicated and continued to work hard which led to their first victory against J.P Stevens High School, with a final score of 7-0. Goals were scored by Bret English, Dyson Hardwick, Zekari Jackson, Ptaszynski, and Andrew Xon.

The team's tremendous effort on and off the field made for a great season. They wouldn't be the same without Campagna. Along with being the goalie, he controlled the defense and called all defensive

plays. Campagna had 112 saves this season. Dyson Hardwick was their lead offensive player, scoring 21 goals and accumulating 13 assists. Other strong offensive players were Ptaszynski and English.

Sadly, the team will be losing multiple seniors but will continue to strive to be the best they can in the upcoming seasons. The Trojans showed nothing but hard work, resilience, and strength all through the season.



NELSON HARDWICK CHARGES FORWARD WITH THE BALL (IMAGE COURTESY OF BGA PUBLICATIONS)

