

# Berlin High School Newspaper

April 2016



**Composed and assembled by and for the Berlin High community.**

**Be a part of this: meetings every Tuesday afternoon in the library.**

**Talk with Mr. Scannell or Ms. Larsen.**

## **New Head Football Coach for the Redcoats** **By Mr. Erwin**

It is with pleasure that the Berlin Public Schools has selected Joe Aresimowicz as the new head football coach at Berlin High School.

Joe is a resident of Berlin and has served as the freshmen football coach in Berlin since 2009. Joe was elected to the Connecticut General Assembly in 2004 representing the 30th Assembly District and currently serves as the house majority leader for the Democratic Party.

Since 1998, he has served as the Education Coordinator of AFSCME, Council 4. In his role at AFSCME, he designs and provides educational training to the members of Connecticut's largest labor union. He coordinates all seminars, conferences, and educational programs.

In addition to serving as the freshmen football coach, Mr. Aresimowicz has served as a director and coach in Berlin's Midget Football Program and has worked with the Berlin Little League and with the New Britain Rising Stars AAU basketball team.

We look forward to an exciting and productive 2016-17 football season.



## **Berlin First Wins!** **By Sarah Giullano**



The Berlin First Robotics team is enjoying another successful season. In early March, the team spent an exciting weekend in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, competing in a New England Regional meet. The Redcoat squad, which teamed with two other town's teams, finished the competition in first place, which reflected not just their superior preparation, but also their ability to work cooperatively .

Berlin First is a combined team of thirty one middle and high school students who, with eleven adult mentors, cooperatively complete tasks by building robots. Mr. Griswold, from McGee, is the team's main mentors, while Ms. Dennis, from BHS, takes care of the myriad of behind the scenes operations that make the team's success possible.

Next up for the Berlin First team will be a competition in Hartford, to be held over the April 2 weekend.

### **23 Dresses for Girls In Need!** **By Nicole Cyr**

As the Berlin High Interact Club Vice President and prom dress collection chairman, I, along with my fellow Interactors would like to thank everyone who donated to the Princess & the Prom dress collection.

This year, one hundred and twenty-three dresses were collected. It was an amazing turnout and the Interact Club could not thank the community enough for helping them run another successful collection.

The Interact Club would also like to thank Good Cause Gifts in Berlin, for partnering with us and rewarding dress contributors with a 10% off coupon. Also, a special thanks to Best Cleaners in Berlin, CT for cleaning all 123 dresses for free!

All dresses will be donated to a local organization called, Princess & the Prom. Princess & the Prom will provide a free dress to any Connecticut high school girl who may otherwise not be able to afford a prom dress. Another prom dress collection will be held next year, around the end of January.



### **Interact Club- Tabs for Tots!** **By Angie Perrone**

The Berlin High School Interact Club needs your help with collecting can tabs for Tabs for Tots. Any donation is greatly appreciated! All the collected tabs will then be delivered to Shriners Children's Hospital and the money from the tabs will go towards helping patients at the hospital.

All tabs can be delivered to the Berlin High School Interact Club. The collection ends on June 10, 2016. If you have any questions, please email Nicole Cyr, the chairman of this collection at [berlininteract@gmail.com](mailto:berlininteract@gmail.com).

### **The Library is a clean and well lighted place**



## **BHS Business DECA Students Achieve Recognition at the Connecticut DECA State Conference**

**By Ms. Wischert and Mr. Parisi**

Tuesday, March 1, 2016: On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 11 students and Advisors Robert Parisi and Marisa Wischert, from Berlin High School Business DECA Club, participated in their first Connecticut DECA State Conference and Competition at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville, CT. Students found this event to be an exciting opportunity for them to showcase their business knowledge in a competitive and business professional atmosphere.

The students spent much time preparing for their competitive events which included: Accounting, Business Law & Ethics, Financial Management & Planning, Principles of Marketing, and Principles of Business Administration. As their first year participating in the Conference, we are proud to announce a victory. Over 1100 students from Connecticut participated in over 45 events. Evan Cornwall (Senior) placed 4<sup>th</sup> for Financial Management & Planning Services Team Role Play, Alan Guild (Senior) placed 4<sup>th</sup> for Financial Management & Planning Services Team Role Play, and Connor Ladd (Senior) placed 4<sup>th</sup> for Accounting Series Individual Role Play.

This is a great accomplishment for these students, the BHS Business Department, and for all 11 students who participated in representing the BHS community. In addition, the students were recognized and awarded for successfully completing a chapter campaign to begin a new DECA Chapter at the school during the 2016 school year. The students received a plaque for this achievement, which can

found on display in the school.



## **Romeo and Juliet in the Library**

**By Larry Swanson**

This did not happen.

Berlin High's newly renovated Thomas Galvin Library has recently been the site for a very creative Shakespearean performance. The redesigned configuration of the room provided an ideal venue for a most untraditional rendition of "Romeo and Juliet." Not only was the setting not the usual proscenium stage, but the scene changes were different as well. In this production, the audience, standing in the long central aisles between bookshelves, moved from area to area, each area representing a different scene in the play.

The library's long open central space became the streets of medieval Verona. There, Montagues and Capulets clashed, and Tybalt and Mercutio fought their fatal duel. Also there, ironically, by the 800 Reference section, Romeo wreaked his revenge upon the hapless Tybalt. The noble Duke and lovelorn Juliet declaimed their pieces from the open landing halfway up the stairs from the library to its mezzanine. A darkened area by the library's door served well as Friar Laurence's cell, and Juliet's nurse

delivered her advice from behind the book check-out desk. The lovers' tragic deaths were enacted in Mr. Scannell's office, with the play's audience watching through the glass door panel. A ringing descent of venetian blinds signaled the young lovers' departures from an unwelcoming and unhappy world.

The play's performers were dressed in 21<sup>st</sup> century garb; each actor carrying a special hall pass signed by Mr. Kennedy to move from one scene locale to the next. Upon the sad yet optimistic final scene's closing, Chef Tim, of BHS's food service department, served all present a refreshing meal of roasted lark's tongue and non-alcoholic mead.



Next up for the Redcoat thespians will be a very exciting rendition of "Moby Dick." Tentative plans are to flood the video amphitheater's lower half, and to import an actual whale for the title role. Mr. Fuller is already hard at work creating a wooden leg for the Captain Ahab character. Casting for "Moby Dick" will take place very soon – listen for it on daily announcements.



## A Fleet Win in NYC

By Mr. Soucy

March 12, Redcoat senior, Jodi Diccico, already a Connecticut Open Champion, achieved a fast success in a national indoor track meet in New York City. Jody ran a personal best and school record, finishing the 3200 meter course in 11:09.45. She finished 27th in the event that featured over 50 runners from 17 different states, some from as far as California. The Berlin High School prior record in the 3200m had been 11:40. Jody had completed a full 2-mile race (18 meters longer) in 11:09, so this finish represents a huge drop in her time.



## Berlin Athletes Take It to the Next Level

By A. Nonymous

On March 14, five BHS athletes participated in a public signing ceremony, indicating their commitments to study and compete at the collegiate level.

After a short talk by Mr. Scavone, the following athletes signed letters for their respective schools: Lindsay Brochu, University of Arkansas, soccer; Taylor Budney, Merrimac College, track; Jodi DiCicco – Sacred Heart

University, track; Olivia DeGroff, University of Delaware, swimming; and Owen Taylor, CCSU, football.

Following the signing ceremony, parents and friends were treated to light refreshments provided by Mr. Scavone.



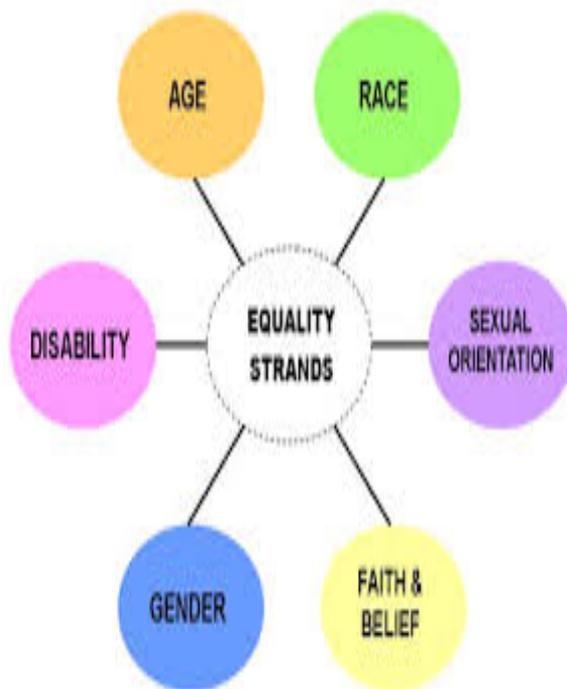
Cath Wilson, Treasurer is Hayley Wilhelm, Social Chair is Haley Stites, Secretary is Tishaya Thompson, Art Director is Kaileen Langlois, and our Teacher Advisor is Ms. Hurley. When interviewing Jamie, I asked her why she had decided to become president. She stated that she “decided to run the club because I really liked the projects that the GSA+ did when I was a freshman and sophomore, and I wanted to make sure that we kept doing good work”.

One GSA+ fundraiser was the cupcakes sale during the week of midterms and finals. Unfortunately, according to Ms. Hurley they are “no longer able to do it due to the new policy that the school has put in place”. Instead, GSA+ holds a fundraiser called “Sharpen Up For Midterms.” During this fundraiser they are sell pencils that say “GSA+ Love & Support.” The pencils sell for a dollar.

An important GSA+ activity is the day of silence, which is a school day when volunteer students stay silent from 7:25 to 2:00 and then meet outside and break the silence.

## **GSA+: A Club For All** By Ashley Braga

A small club that’s been around a while is starting to make a big impact in the Berlin community; the club is called GSA+. GSA+ stands for “Gay Straight Alliance and More.” The GSA+ is very active in helping gay, lesbian, transgender, straight or any other sexual orientations in the BHS community. The club consists of about 10 very committed members, and operates like any other club. The president is Jamie Kasulis, Vice President is



## **Monstrosity to Mediocre** **By Carolyn Stickel**

When I walk into Forever 21, I am surrounded by beastly piles of clothing. To my right, a wall of ominous black crop tops; to my left, a pile of suspender jeans, their buttons eyeing my every move as I become quickly lost in the store. This scene best describes my first impression of the store, seven or so years ago when I first entered. Clothes were strewn about every which way, like the room of a teenage girl tearing apart her closet because “she has nothing to wear”. Since then, though, the store has made some improvements. The clothing quality, store organization and style has improved, but the return policy has not.

After serious alterations to the store, I have found that the quality of the clothes is slowly improving. I used to buy clothes a size too big from Forever 21 because I knew that my purchases would shrink in the dryer. Plus, the shirts would only last a month or so before they got holes in them or ripped somehow. I can now say that some shirts I have bought from Forever 21 have lasted me well over a couple months, quite possibly a year for a few shirts. Additionally, the store organization is not so disorganized as it used to be. While the store still has an insane quantity of clothes, there are now specific sections for kids, men, and women’s clothing. The different styles of clothing are categorized accordingly -- all the flannels seem to be placed in one area, while all the graphic tees are in another section.

With that being said, Forever 21’s style has improved to engage more of the general public. When I was younger, some of the clothing would be outrageous, covered in rhinestones or lace, or maybe even both. While I have nothing against

hard to shop for everyday outfits at the store. Now, Forever 21 has styles all over the place. The store is not confined to basic outfits, but is also not just filled with unique articles of clothing. The store has found a good balance between almost all styles.

The one downside to Forever 21 that has not been upgraded at all is the dreaded return policy. Forever 21 states that, “purchases...may be returned within 30 days of the ship date. Refunds will be made in the form of the original payment and are only available for online purchases returned by mail. Merchandise returned to any [store] location... will be eligible for exchange or store credit towards your next purchase” (forever21.com). In other words, any money you spend purchasing items from Forever 21 will only be returned to you through store credit. I would favor the store a lot more if I could get my money back on a shirt I bought on a whim.

Forever 21 has made leaps and bounds from the first time I walked in, but there are still some improvements that I would like to see made, including the return policy and quality of clothing. It is not my favorite store, but occasionally I will shop there with my friends.

## **Art on Display** **By Vince V. Gogh**

The creative geniuses of Berlin High’s AP Studio Art class were on display to the general public for the first week of March. March is Youth Art Month, and BHS’s most accomplished artists will exhibited their work at Berlin Peck Library from the 1st through the 5th. All were invited to an opening reception on the evening of March 1st, from 6:30 to 8:30. Reservations absolutely were not be required, reports Ms. Miller, who is the exhibiting group’s guru.