

THE REDCOAT REVIEW

BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL

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A PEP RALLY Full Of Surprises!

Photo Credit: Nicole Maroon



Top Left: Juniors and Sophmores seated in the Gymnasium
Top Right: Seniors parading their school spirit
Bottom: Tug of War - Juniors Vs. Sophmores

This year's pep rally was probably the most authentic one yet throughtout the years of Berlin High. The entire student body and faculty displayed their school spirit by showing off their pride, embracing their colors, and MOST importantly: the excitement and effort everyone put out there that surprised most of us that day.

MORE PICTURES INSIDE

QUICK LOOK

-INSIDE LOOK: NEW TEACHERS AND EXCHANGE STUDENTS

- NEW IPHONE 5

-TEACHER ART SHOW

-MINUS THE BEAR



-SUMMER READING BOOK SURVEYS

- THE EMMYS

- ALBUM REVIEWS



-SPOTLIGHT ON ALEX BEDNAREK

-NFL: REPLACEMENT REFEREES

- BHS NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

WELCOME TO BERLIN!

Get to know the new teachers at Berlin High

Mr. Recore - Science Department

1. What brought you to Berlin High School?

I came to BHS after working a year at Glastonbury High School. While I loved my time at GHS, the intrigue of a smaller school atmosphere, with such a big reputation, made my decision easy.

2. What made you want to become a teacher?

Since my freshman year of college, I knew I wanted to teach. At first I set my sights on becoming a college professor. Along the way, in talking to college undergrads about their high school physics teacher, I often heard that their teacher was not able to explain physics to them. I realized then that I could influence more lives, and get more students to gain the passion for physics that I have.

3. What were you involved with when you were in high school?

In high school I was involved in the band, both concert and jazz bands. I play tenor saxophone. I was also in the French Club, National Honor Society, Drama Club, Math Team, and Mock Trial. I did not play sports in my high school because my school was very small (only ~500 students from grades 7-12) and the two sports I was interested in, hockey and lacrosse, were not offered at my high school.

4. What do you like to do in your free time? Any favorite hobbies?

In my free time I try to stay active. I am usually jogging or riding my bike. I also like to relax and watch TV or read a book. I also love to hike; I have so far hiked to the top of Mount Washington twice, and have been at the highest point in each of the New England states. In the winter I love to ski! Finally, I am an outdoors enthusiast and love to go camping. I have spent weeks at a time “unplugged” in the wilderness.

5. Are you involved in any clubs, school activities, or athletics? Any reasons for choosing these activities?

I have really become active in BHS so far. I am working with Mrs. Kulpa as the Drama Club co-advisor. I chose this because as you read above, I was in the drama club in my high school and loved it. I also ride with the bike club on Thursdays. Lastly, I am in talks with Mr. Kennedy to begin an outdoors club which I hope to launch early December in time for a camping trip in the spring.

6. Where are students most likely to find you after school?

After school I can either be found in the auditorium, riding with the bike club on Thursdays or in my room (240) usually until about 3 or 3:30. I also usually arrive to school by 6:30 so you can find me in my room then too.

**Teacher Surveys Continued
on Pages 3 & 4**

Ms. Wischert - Business Department

1. What brought you to Berlin High School?

When interviewing with Berlin (BHS) I found that not only was the staff supportive, but highly motivated to achieve student success. In addition, I had the opportunity to be interviewed by a student. When speaking with the student I recognized that she represented a strong student body that desired to be both supported and challenged by teachers. I was highly impressed with the student and with what I heard; this ultimately led to my desire to want to join the BHS community.

2. What made you want to become a teacher?

My reasons for wanting to become a teacher are simple, I enjoy helping and educating others. I wanted the opportunity to help inspire and educate young adults. I believe that it is important to not only teach students, but act as a mentor and positive role model for them.

3. What you were involved in when you were in high school?

When I was in high school I was involved in the Student Spirit Club, Student Council, and Cheerleading Program.

4. What do you like to do in your free time? Do you have any hobbies?

I enjoy spending time with my family, friends, and being outdoors. I find that being outdoors and participating in activities such as hiking, walking, biking is a great stress reliever for me. I also enjoy taking my Black Lab, named Bruno, to the park. Lastly, I never thought it would be possible, but I have developed a love for camping.

5. Are you involved in any clubs, school activities, or athletics? Any reason why you chose these activities?

I am currently the Business Club Advisor along with Ms. Wicklund. I chose to be an advisor because I think it is important for students to have additional opportunities to succeed outside of the classroom. It also provides me with the opportunity to interact with students in a different environment, while acting as more of a mentor versus classroom teacher.

6. Where are students most likely to find you after school?

Students can most likely find me in room 135!

Mrs. Kulpa - Technology Education Department

1. What brought you to Berlin High School?

I had recently been transferred from my high school position to a middle school position. While that was a fun change, I found that I was missing the opportunity high school provides to get to know my students over the course of four years and help guide them as they pursue their goals. Berlin truly has a great balance between academics, sports, and community service and I am excited to now be a part of that.

Ms. Kulpa (continued from Page 2)**2. What made you want to become a teacher?**

Prior to teaching, I worked at an Architecture Firm in Boston as an Interior Designer. When my husband and I got engaged we decided to move home, back to CT. I found the design industry in CT to be a little “stuck” between Boston and NY so I decided to re-direct my skill set into teaching. Having been through the process of creating a portfolio to get into college, and having worked in the industry, I felt I could use my experiences to help students explore their interests in architecture, engineering, and design.

3. What were you involved in when you were in high school?

I was very involved in sports; I played soccer, did basketball, cheer-leading, and track. I started varsity as a freshman playing left wing. In my junior year in track, I won a state championship in a long jump, 17’3 ¼”. At the start of my senior year I tore my ACL in soccer. I was also part of the Art Club, National Honor Society, and Mentoring.

4. What do you like to do in your free time? What are some of your hobbies?

I am a mother of three kids ages 1, 3, and 6. I am married to my high-school sweetheart so there isn’t much free time, but if I can steal a minute, I enjoy video editing our home movies, creating photo books, shopping, and decorating. I’ve started playing soccer again in the West Hartford Women’s League. I am also taking a crack at coaching; I am my oldest daughter’s Assistant Coach for town soccer.

5. Are you involved in any school activities, clubs, or athletics? What made you choose these activities?

I recently became co-advisor of the Drama Club and I am super excited to be involved. I have no experience (or talent) in terms of acting but I am hoping to bring the designer’s eye to the production. We offer a Set and Stagecraft course here at BHS within the Tech Ed. Department. My goal is to run this course year after year and help bring to life each show for both the play and the musical.

6. Where can students most likely find you after school?

Typically I will be in my room 138/139, which is labeled the Research & Design CAD Lab. However, you may find me in the auditorium with the Drama Club, or any of the other Tech Ed labs... Woods, Graphics, Electronics, and Metals.

Ms. Crabb - Music Department**1. What brought you to Berlin High School?**

I previously taught at the middle school level but wanted to teach high school chorus. High school choirs can learn more difficult music, they are very motivated to be in chorus, and their more developed voices have a greater potential. When I found out that BHS was looking for a new chorus teacher, I was thrilled and applied immediately!



ON IT'S ANOTHER SEASON SO I WANT TO SEE SOME HOSTILE OUT THERE!

Photo Credit: Cartoonstock.com

2. What made you want to become a teacher?

All of my most important role models have been teachers. If there is any chance that I could be something like these amazing individuals, then I would be satisfied.

3. What were you involved in when you were in high school?

Not surprisingly, I was involved in Madrigal Choir (my fiancé and I were Madrigals partners!), the musical, and piano and voice lessons. I was also involved in the Speech Team, and I was captain of the Indiana State Champion Brain Game team for my high school.

4. What do you like to do in your free time? Any hobbies?

I love crosswords, yoga, Zumba, and especially cooking and baking!

5. Are you involved in any school activities, clubs, or athletics? Any reason why you chose these activities?

I am the director of Madrigal Choir, Jazz Choir, and I will be heading up the musical this year. Get excited!

6. Where can students most likely find you after school?

After school I am normally in my classroom trying to get sticky tack not to melt off of my walls or preparing for a rehearsal!

Mrs. Desorro - Art Department**1. What brings you to Berlin High School?**

Last year, I met some teachers from the Berlin School District, and they had wonderful things to say about the town, schools, and students. A short time later I saw that there was an open position for a pottery and sculpture teacher. My specialty is three-dimensional art, so it seemed like a perfect fit! I am happy to say that those other teachers were right about Berlin. I have had a great experience so far and am looking forward to sharing all of my knowledge of pottery and sculpture.

2. What made you want to become a teacher?

Growing up, I always enjoyed the arts. When I was in high school, I took all of the art classes I could and learned a lot about techniques and materials. But when I started taking art classes in college, I realized there was so much more to art than I had ever realized. I began learning about different cultures, genres, and movements, and how to make meaning and tell a story using visual art. These experiences led me to teaching because I wanted to share all of the exciting things I was learning with others.

3. What were you involved in when you were in high school?

I was part of the art club, which gave me the opportunity to design and paint my own mural. I was also a dancer and took every class that I had time for; tap, jazz, ballet, lyrical, hip-hop, and more.

4. What do you like to do in your free time? Any hobbies?

I’m so busy with work and graduate school, that I don’t have a lot of free time. Though when I do find a few minutes to myself, I like to do something quiet and relaxing, like taking a walk or bike ride or getting lost in a book.

5. Are you involved in any school activities, clubs, or athletics?

I'm not involved in any club or activities at the moment. I am currently working towards my Master's Degree and am getting married in a few short weeks, so I don't have much time for anything else! Hopefully next year I will have the opportunity to become involved in some of the activities at Berlin High School.

6. Where are students most likely to find you after school?

Usually after school, students can find me in my classroom. Teaching pottery and sculpture is a lot of fun, but it also comes with a lot of preparation and responsibilities. There always seems to be something to do after school, whether it be loading/ unloading the kiln, recycling clay, organizing materials, or cleaning the room.

Mrs. Piecewicz - English Department

1. What brings you to Berlin High School?

My story is an interesting one, but I'll try to keep it short. I have been in education for 17 years, most recently in the position of Principal at Saint Paul School in Kensington. Although it was a position I worked very hard for and found rewarding in many ways, I truly missed working with students. Being that I was working in Berlin and just around the corner from BHS, it became clear very early last year that there were great things happening in the Berlin Public Schools. The move to Readers Workshop is one that I strongly support and had experience with. The role of English department supervisor at Berlin High School was very appealing to me because I knew it would allow me to keep one foot in the classroom while working directly with the faculty and administration to implement new initiatives. I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of an outstanding faculty and to be working with fantastic students this year!

2. What made you want to become a teacher?

I wanted to be a teacher since I was a little girl. My aunt was a teacher and I remember going into her school over the summer and setting up her classroom. I would bring books home and set up "school" with my stuffed animals. The defining moment came in 8th grade when my English teacher said to me, "I can see you becoming an English teacher one day." Mrs. Lacey was the kind of teacher I wanted to please and was afraid of letting down. She used to tell us how much she enjoyed her job and her passion for teaching was simply contagious. I've long since lost touch with Mrs. Lacey, but I often wonder if she has any idea how far her inspiration has taken me!

3. What were you involved in when you were a teenager?

I was very busy as a teenager. I was a cheerleader through the fall and winter sports seasons and also studied ballet, tap and jazz. I participated in all of our school musicals, always as a dancer since I truly lack acting and singing abilities!

I was also on the student council and served as an editor for our senior yearbook. My participation in Safe Rides and SADD (students against drunk driving) is work I continue to be proud of today.

4. What do you like to do in your free time? Do you have any hobbies?

As the mother of two very active and athletic sons, I don't have a lot of free time! My sons are 13 and 10 and stay very busy playing ice hockey for Central Connecticut Youth Hockey Association. We spend just about every weekend from September to April traveling to all corners of the state and beyond for my boys' games. As my older son gets ready to play for Wethersfield High School, I have to admit that I'm a bit nervous about where to sit during the Wethersfield vs. Berlin games! I'm sure I'll find a way to cheer for both teams from a neutral place in the crowd!

5. Are you involved in any school activities, clubs, or athletics? Any reason why you chose these activities?

At this point in the new school year, my time has been dedicated to managing my time between teaching, planning, grading, ordering books and supplies for the English department, and getting to know my students and the faculty here at BHS. In the future, I would like to bring some of my previous experiences to the students by forming either a human rights awareness club or course.

6. Where are students most likely to find you after school?

Students will find me at my desk in room 220 on most days after school. If I'm not there, I hope to see them out on our sports fields for athletic events or at any activities that allow me to see them perform in a different setting.

**Martin Rathousky:
The Ridiculously Tall Slovakian
Foreign Exchange Student You
Might Know..**

Yaryna Hyrnyukh, Student Voices

Have you seen the really tall blond kid walking around the halls of BHS? If your answer is yes, then you've probably already seen Martin, and if you didn't know who he was before, well now you do. You can think of this as a sort of informal introduction. Go ahead, stop him in the hallway and say hi. He might say hi back, or he might just get really creeped out, which is the likelier outcome of that situation but enough about you. This is about Martin, the ridiculously tall Slovakian foreign exchange student.

I met Martin about two months ago in our gym class when he was still the shy quiet kid who hardly knew anybody. But look at him now; he's friends with half of the students at BHS. They grow up so fast. I recently sat down with Martin to conduct a short interview for this article. So now that I've wasted a sufficient amount of your time with the background to this article, let's get into the interview.

YH: *What do you want to do after you finish school?*

MR: I would be a pilot.

YH: *What are some things you would tell people if they were going to visit Slovakia?*

MR: "Watch Out!" (*He was kidding, I hope*)

It wasn't actually quite as short, but I spent a good deal of that interview laughing and we all know how difficult it is to laugh and write at the same time. No? We don't? It's just me? That's cool too. What can I say? Martin is a funny guy. Despite my bad interviewing skills, or maybe because of them, please allow me to paraphrase the rest of the interview for you so you can have the pleasure of getting to know Martin a little bit better.

Martin came to the U.S. just a week before school started and after spending a few days in New Jersey for an orientation he arrived in Berlin right on time to start his first Cross Country practice the next day. I got right into harassing him about how school was in Slovakia. And you'll be happy to know that he thinks it's more fun here. In Slovakia schools don't offer the extra curricular activities that schools in the US do, so the only thing you can do after school is go home and stare at your ceiling. Here, Martin is involved in Cross Country, Upbeat and plans to join Habitat for Humanity. In terms of school subjects he said math was the hardest, but only because of the language barrier and all the math-specific terms that he has to learn. Marine Biology is currently his favorite class. According to Martin, the class material here is easier than what he was learning in Slovakia. When asked if he would come back to study here for a second year he said he wants to come back and has been looking at some schools that offer programs for future pilots. Although he's enjoyed his time here so far, he did say that "[We] go to school too early for [him]". I think we all know exactly how he feels, we go to school too early for us too.

I asked if he missed his family yet and got a firm and resounding "no" in response. There was of course a quick addition to that statement. He doesn't miss his family yet, but according to him most people don't until about their third month away. He does, however, keep in touch with his friends (who he already misses) through



Photo Credit: Yaryna Hyrnyukh

Above: A picture of Martin hanging out after school with Cassidy Goodwin, Emily Michaud, and Emily Russo

Facebook (which is taking over the world). So that now you know a little bit about Martin, it totally won't be awkward if you stop him in the hallway and whisper in a raspy voice "hi... I know who you are". I'm just kidding; it would be really awkward and not to mention extremely creepy. Don't do that, unless you never want him to talk to you, ever. But do get to know him if you don't already, and if you need a conversation starter, make sure to ask him about Slovakian Easter traditions; they seem like they are way more fun than ours.

Meet The Lovely Giorgia Rossetto, another one of Berlin High's Exchange Students!

Olivia Jablonski, Editor in Chief



Photo Credit: Olivia Jablonski

Below: Picture of Giorgia on her way to her next class

Have you ever wondered what it could be like attending a different school in a completely different country? Would you enjoy taking your chances on meeting interesting kinds of people and getting adapted to their kind of lifestyle and culture? I took a few minutes to sit down with one of the exchange students from Italy that transferred here to Berlin High School, Giorgia Rossetto, to talk about her first time here at an actual American high school and what her experience has been so far:

What's it like living in the U.S.? Do you have any relatives or friends you live with out here?

Giorgia: It's very different here. My mom and her friend had gone to the same school together in Italy and eventually became longtime friends. She found out that she was moving out here and now I live with a friend of mine who attends to a school called The Greater Hartford Academy.

Is this your first time here or have you traveled a lot into the U.S.?

Giorgia: I actually came here for vacations twice. For the first time, I went to the west coast where I had traveled to San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. I had also gone to the Grand Canyon. The second time I came here I went to New York, Miami, and Mexico. I wanted to come here mainly to focus on my studies and challenge myself with opportunities that could be out there for me.

Do you miss Italy? What's their lifestyle like there?

Giorgia: Yes, I do. I like it here better, but I wouldn't live here. In Italy it's always busy; you always have something to do there. It's like you never have any free time for yourself because you're always busy doing certain things with people and such. Sometimes we're either with our friends hanging out or studying, we go out to town; when you're there you can always find something to do and never get bored with anything.

What made you decide to go to school here?

Giorgia: I wanted to experience what it's like starting over at a new place. It's very challenging and I wanted that for myself. When I came here I didn't know anyone, but I met a lot of great people so far, and most importantly I came here for my studies.

For those that have thought about leaving another country or just going abroad from the States, it can honestly be the best decision you can possibly make. If you think about it, Giorgia has taken on the biggest chance of her life to be somewhere else where she can explore her options and become influenced by many individuals to do something good for herself. Hopefully everyone can take the opportunity to experience Giorgia's perspective on taking risks and chances. Remember that it's a once in a lifetime opportunity to actually venture out into the world and find out what people are like out there.

Discover Apple's Newest Addition: The iPhone 5

Brian Chant, Staff Writer



Photo Credit: Forbes Magazine

Waiting, and waiting and waiting. That's what it felt like for me over these past few years up to the announcement of the iPhone 5. I have been anticipating this phone for the past few years now and was amazed at just how brilliantly designed it really is. It features a taller body with a four-inch retina display. The phone is also 18% thinner, making it one of the thinnest smartphones in the world. Plus, the iPhone 5 is 20% lighter, making it an incredible achievement for mobile phones in general. A dual core A6 chip that's incredibly faster, a new sapphire crystal camera lens for better light as well as the ability to shoot panoramic pictures, powers the phone. The iPhone 5 has an all-new lightning dock connector and with this smaller dock connector comes a larger battery. The battery on the new iPhone 5 is great. It offers up to 8 hours of battery life running on 4G LTE which is breathtaking, and speaking of 4G LTE, iPhone 5 is a powerhouse when it comes to these download speeds, up to two times as fast as 3G. The iPhone 5 is just a revolutionary device in its own right. I personally having much experience with Apple, and I have no doubt in my mind that this will be a blockbuster device. In fact, based on current estimates, Apple has sold 2 million units in one day so I can tell Apple has hit a real homerun with their newest invention.

Want the iPhone 5? Pick it up in stores today!

The New WiiU

Dan Fasciano, Staff Writer



Wii U

Photo Credit: Time.com

The Wii was one of the most successful consoles, selling over nearly three hundred million units. It tracked down diehard Nintendo fans and casual gamers alike through its revolutionary motion control technology. Recently, Nintendo has announced a new console, which will eventually take the Wii's place: the WiiU. While similar, it bears many striking differences compared to its predecessor. One of the biggest factors that distinguish it is the new controller. The WiiU gamepad looks almost like a tablet with traditional buttons and control sticks around the sides. It features a stylus and is a touch screen a la the Nintendo DS. However, it is not only just an extra screen. The gamepad allows for a new style of gameplay which Nintendo has christened asymmetrical gameplay. In this manner people can interact in different ways. One player can be playing with the gamepad and others can play using the typical Wiimotes. This opens up many new realms of gameplay, which Nintendo has proven through a variety of tech demos. Some games will be able to be played on the gamepad screen itself, so other family members can watch TV while you game. The gamepad will come with a program that will allow it to double as a TV remote, which can be extremely useful for navigating channels. The WiiU is launching this November, with two prices: \$299 or \$349. The cheaper variety will be white and have only 8GB internal memory, and the more expensive one will be black with a 32GB internal hard drive and the bundled game NintendoLand, which is a collection of a dozen mini games based off of famous Nintendo franchises. The WiiU will mark the beginning of the next console generation, and it can be expected that Sony and Microsoft will be preparing to launch their competing consoles in the next year or so.

Faculty Art Show

Nicole Maroon, Staff Writer & Photographer

The faculty art show was held at Berlin-Peck Library on September 13th. The faculty art included Berlin High School teachers, Mrs. Reid, Mrs. Daniels, Mrs. Miller, Ms. Galasso, and Mrs. Thurston. The event also included a band made up of faculty members. It was a great night of great art and we hope it continues next year.



“My Rendition of Nina Simone” created by Mrs. Miller in 2011, using coffee and ink

Assorted Knitwear made by Mrs. Daniels



Faculty and family viewing and discussing the displayed work

Pep Rally Pictures:

Photo Credit: Emily Deutsch



Above: Mr. Arnold and Mr. Hanna riding on a Tandem bicycle as they're shooting shirts out in the air

Left: Cheerleaders dancing off to their routines

Right: Whip Cream Contest - Seniors vs. Juniors vs. Sophomores vs. Freshmans



Soccer Star Spotlight

Kas Colasanti, Staff Writer

Photo Credit: Olivia Jablonski



Above: Alex Bednarek with teammate Steve Burns

Alex Bednarek, a junior at BHS, has been building his spotlight as a star athlete on the soccer field this fall. Alex has been playing soccer since he was eight years old and now, as a sixteen year old, he continues his love on the Berlin High team as well as Beachside Soccer Club. He leads the Redcoats this year as one of the captains on the varsity team. Out of their first six games, the boys' have managed to rack up 3 wins, 1 tie, and 2 losses. Bednarek has contributed to the Redcoats' success by scoring six goals as a leading midfielder and occasional forward. His hopes for the season include representing Berlin soccer and coming out with as many wins as possible. When Alex was asked, he told us that his goal for the team would be "to win the conference and do well in states." Teammates, teachers, family, and friends only hope the best for Alex and his future soccer career. He is not certain which school he would like to attend after graduating from BHS, but playing in college is definitely one of Alex's top priorities. Alex is in the process on getting scouted and making himself noticed as a player. He will continue the rest of his years here working hard in the classroom and on the soccer field. Best of luck Alex; good luck on the rest of your season!



Photo Credit: berlinwall.org

Wrong Whistles

Dan Stafstrom, Sports Editor

Although the beginning of the 2012 NFL season wasn't as hyped as last year's lockout, something else was grabbing headlines. The trustworthy and reliable NFL officiating crew had gone on strike demanding specific pension options. With the NFL referees waiving their services the commissioner, Roger Goodell, had to begin to hire replacement referees.

The operation was more than horrendous. All throughout the preseason games and into the regular season it was extremely clear that these stand-ins were far underprepared and much less experienced than the full time refs. A list of the obvious miscues include:

1. Late in the fourth quarter, Eagles quarterback Michael Vick fumbled and then recovered the football. The Browns challenged the call. The play required six minutes of consultation to determine that the play was not eligible for review.
2. Hours before the start of the week 2 game between the New Orleans Saints and the Carolina Panthers, the league removed replacement ref Brian Stropolo after uncovering that Stropolo associated himself as a Saints fan on his Facebook page.
3. No flags were thrown on a helmet-to-helmet hit by the Steelers' Ryan Mundy that left the Raiders' Darrius Heyward-Bey unconscious. Heyward-Bey was carted off the field and required to spend the night in a hospital with a concussion and a strained neck. Later, Mundy was fined \$21,000 for the hit.
4. In overtime, Detroit Lions defender Stephen Tulloch received a 15-yard penalty for a helmet-to-helmet collision on the Tennessee Titans' Craig Stevens. Stevens catch was overturned properly, as the ball had hit the ground. However, the officials slipped up when they enforced the penalty on Tulloch from the Detroit 44 instead of the Titans' 44, effectively increasing the penalty incorrectly to 27

yards. On that same drive the Titans kicked a 26-yard field goal to win the game.

Perhaps one of the worst calls in NFL history came on ESPN's Monday Night Football between the Green Bay Packers and the Seattle Seahawks. In the final seconds, Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson threw a Hail Mary touchdown pass to wide receiver Golden Tate that officials ruled was simultaneously caught by Packers safety M. D. Jennings. Although, after replay, it looked quite apparent that Jennings intercepted the ball before Tate latched on. To add to the mess, prior to the catch, Tate shoved a defender with both hands, which the NFL later acknowledged should have drawn an offensive pass interference penalty that would have negated the touchdown and resulted in a Packers victory. Many believe this was the tipping point for Commissioner Goodell as NFL offices received thousands of complaint calls and hate letters galore.

Finally on September 26th the NFL and its referees reached an agreement, ending the replacement era. Although it was crazy and hectic, it is certainly an experience that will not go unremembered.



Photo credit: img.allvoices.com

As The Beloved Coach Day Steps Down, an Experienced Athletic Director Strives To Do More Than Fill the Shoes

Andrew Charbonneau, Staff Writer

Coach Day was a fantastic Athletic Director at Berlin High School. Over the course of many years, he was a leader to his staff while being a father figure to students. He was always one to encourage students and never missed a beat of his professional “work” priorities. Coach Day acquired a unique style at BHS which made him a motivator to student athletes and a confident person. During his tenure as AD at Berlin, there were many athletic titles earned, more than thought possible. Although Coach Day has retired as the Athletic Director, you may still see glimpses of him in his current job as the wrestling coach here at BHS.

The new Berlin High School Athletic Director may be new to us, but Mr. Scavone’s knowledge of the job is anything but new to him. Mr. Scavone grew up as a “city boy” in Waterbury, Connecticut. He was quite the athlete as a kid, trying any sport available to him. But during his high school years, he narrowed his choices down to track and wrestling. Mr. Scavone was persistent with his academics earning his undergraduate degree at Springfield College and his graduate degree at Southern and he earned his advanced degree at Sacred Heart.

When he was growing up, Mr. Scavone always wanted to be involved in sports and making athletes better. Mr. Scavone started his career training athletes as a strength and conditioning coach. Along the way he stumbled into a job as a health teacher, which brought him to education. The next chapter in his career would be the one destined for him. The first school where he was an AD was Woodland High School in Beacon Falls. After his experiences at Woodland HS, he moved over to Nonnewaug High School for a different experience with students and athletics. His next job was Athletic Director at Danbury High School before coming to Berlin. This was surely a



Photo Credit: ski-cartoon.jpg

Photo Credit: Andrew Charbonneau



Above: Mr. Scavone, BHS Athletic Director

challenge since Danbury is the largest high school in Connecticut. Mr. Scavone kept Danbury High’s athletic program running like clockwork. Having experienced different cultures of schools, along with 10 years of experience as an AD, he is running like a well-oiled machine so that BHS won’t skip a beat. Since most athletic directors require universal responsibilities, some other attributes separate good from great. His positive impact and organized composure separates him from the rest.

I personally interviewed Mr. Scavone on several topics. One important subject that created conversation between us was the majority of athletic fields located away from BHS property. Although compliments of the well kept Sage Park were overwhelming to me, some negative issues came into play. For one thing, the expense is much greater than it would be if the fields were on-campus, and traveling for the athletes, coaches and even student spectators would be a breeze. But without lights at BHS, night games would be no more. Even with the negatives of Sage Park not being on campus, Mr. Scavone said, “Sage is a beautiful complex.”

I can only conclude that Mr. Scavone is not only a tough and experienced Athletic Director, but he is up for any challenge BHS throws his way. We should feel comfortable with Mr. Scavone being with us and we will continue our elite athletic programs under his direction.

Got Nerve?

Emily Deutsch, Contributing Writer

Did you know that Berlin High School has an Alpine Ski Racing Team? The coach of this team, Mr. Hanbury, says that to join: “You need to be at least an intermediate skier and be willing to try something new.” What this team does is race against other high school teams in Connecticut at Mount Southington. Last year, the Berlin girls won third place in their States division. If you are interested in joining, you do not need racing experience, but “helmets, goggles, and skis are required.” See Mr. Hanbury in Room 248 for further details before it’s too late!

Here Comes Southern Stereotypes?

Emma Morelli, Arts and Entertainment Editor



Photo Credit: People Magazine

TLC has turned some heads recently by airing the new reality show, “Here Come Honey Boo Boo”. The show follows the breakthrough star of “Toddlers & Tiaras”, Alana Thompson, 6. It’s a look at the everyday lives of a child pageant star and her family. Alana lives in McIntyre, Georgia, along with sisters Anna “Chickadee”, Jessica “Chubbs”, Lauryn “Pumpkin”, mom June “Mama”, and dad Mike “Sugar Bear”.

So far on the season, the family has shown a trip to The Redneck Games, a quadding trip in which they swam in mud, a junk food auction, and a teen pregnancy.

They have faced their fair share of criticism coming from everyone from moms to *The New York Times*. Critics of the family say that they are acting, or enhancing, harsh stereotypes. However, through it all they maintain Mama June’s moto, “It is what it is.”

To me as a watcher, I am a huge fan, and I feel that they are a very real kind of reality. The show simply follows their lives and what they say is funny, but it is also a way to understand another culture. No matter what happens, Honey Boo Boo has tremendous ratings and I think it is worth a watch.



Photo Credit: bsckids.com

The Emmys

Emma Morelli, Arts and Entertainment Editor

The 64th Annual Emmy Awards were Sunday, September 23rd. The evening's host was late night talk show host Jimmy Kimmel. Kimmel did a great job throughout the night. Skits included his search for pants with the assistance of all of the lead actresses in a comedy and a prank on viewers that made it seem like Tracy Morgan had collapsed. This award show had everything that you can ask for—upsets, wardrobe malfunctions, top fashion and laughs. The results of the night were:

- o Best Drama Series: Homeland
- o Lead Actor in a Drama Series: Damian Lewis (Homeland)
- o Lead Actress in a Drama Series: Claire Danes (Homeland)
- o Directing in a Drama: Tim Van Patten (Boardwalk Empire)
- o Best Comedy Series: Modern Family
- o Best Actor in a Comedy Series: Jon Cryer (Two and a Half Men)
- o Best Actress in a Comedy Series: Julia Louis-Dreyfus (Veep)
- o Directing in a Comedy: Steve Levitan (Modern Family)
- o Best TV Movie/Miniseries: Games Change
- o Best Actor in a TV Movie/Miniseries: Kevin Costner (Hatfields & Coys)
- o Best Actress in a TV Movie/Miniseries: Julianne Moore (Game Change)
- o Directing TV Movie/Miniseries: Jay Roach (Game Change)
- o Best Reality Competition Show: The Amazing Race
- o Best Host for a Reality Competition Show: Tom Bergeron (Dancing with the Stars)



Photo Credit: Houstonpress.com

**A&E CONTINUED ON
NEXT PAGE**

Album Review: Night Visions - Imagine Dragons

Emma Morelli, Arts and Entertainment Editor



Photo Credit: 402 Productions

The debut album of Imagine Dragons, *Night Visions*, is a great start to a career. It follows the band's EP *Continued Silence* which held the hits "It's Time" and "Demons" and the album holds some potential hits itself. A personal favorite is the first track, "Radioactive". This anthem-like song is a powerful start to a collection of exciting and empowering hits. However, it has to be said that if you are looking for a slower song or an album that tells a story from song to song, this is not the album to buy in its entirety. Instead, sample the songs and pick your favorites. All in all, this is a good album and fans of "We are Young" by Fun, and "Tongue-Tied" by Group Love should listen to Imagine Dragons.

Minus The Bear Show

Olivia Jablonski, Editor in Chief

In a smoky crowded room full of strangers, everyone was crammed up next to each other. They were swaying and receiving the good vibes from all the music each band performed on stage. I truly felt the love and connection with these people around me as they sang to their songs. The music was filled with happiness as all this glittery confetti was floating into the air popped off from these inflated balloons. Minus The Bear performed on that unforgettable night, along with openers: Moving Mountains and Cursive at the Webster Theatre.

Vocal-guitarist Jake Snider, guitarist Dave Knudson, bass player Cory Murchy, with Alex Rose on the vocals and synths along with Erin Tate on the drums had formed the indie rock band in 2001. They originated from Seattle, Washington and they had recently come out with their new album, "Infinity Overhead" which was released on August 28th of this year. Their most notable single on the record is "Steel and Blood" and "Lies and Eyes" which were also the songs they performed at the Webster on September 22nd. When one of their songs "Into The Mirror" had come up, the crowd immediately crazed in astonishment and danced in joy. When they heard that one song play so vividly and lively, they began to dance in joy.

A special celebrity female guest was also singing along with them to some of their other songs including "Into The Mirror". After that song, the crowd automatically grew wilder and began to have all this energy to hear more from them. "Excuses" from their fourth album "Omni" which was produced by Grammy Award-winner, Joe Chiccarelli of The White Stripes and My Morning Jacket, was another song the band performed. It began off slow with its calm melody, giving you that sense of affection when you heard the words Snider lyrically singing "running out of excuses, when we know what the truth is, I'm into you and when you hear this song, you'll say you knew all along, you're into me too".

Minus The Bear continue to what they do best, creating sappy, vigorous, captivating songs on each record they come out with. They touch on every idea that has made their band a big deal in the first place, and it's certainly not disappointing at all. Pick up "Infinity Overhead" in stores today!

Album Review: Green Day - Uno

Emma Morelli, Arts and Entertainment Editor



Photo Credit: Billboard

The first part in the trilogy of albums called *Uno*, *Dos*, *Tre*, is a disappointment compared to what it follows. Compared to *American Idiot* and *21st Century Break Down*, this album is too punk for the band and a little too young for a band approaching their forties. The hits like "Oh Love" and "Let Yourself Go" are great and catchy like a classic Green Day. However, the rest of the album is very played out and expected of the band with lyrics that you would expect to be written by a teenager. My advice for anyone thinking of buying this is that if you are not a big Green Day fan already- buy their earlier albums but not this one.

Album Review: The xx - Coexist

Olivia Jablonski, Editor in Chief



Photo Credit: CMJ

It's not what the xx put into their music. It's what they leave out. The British indie band is back at it again with their soft, whisper-pop gem album, "Coexist" and to be honest it will not surprise old fans, but it will definitely not disappoint them either. According to *Rolling Stone*, the xx haven't altered their sound; they just refined it by simply adding a splash of arena guitar and a clubby 4/4 thump here and there. In fact, this album is the group's singular, shallow obsession with romantic love, compared to their last self-titled album which wooed audiences with a delicate sound of theirs that made loneliness some form of art.

One of their singles on the new record, "Chained" has a melody that sounds a bit similar to their other song, "Night Time" which was on their previous self-titled album. The two songs have a slow rhythmic, flawless sound which makes the music feel very catchy and relaxing. It's almost as if you were exposing yourself into a cool, new environment while you listen to the xx streaming right into your ears. *Billboard Charts* wrote that "Angels" seems like a stunning, straight forward paean to love and devotion as vocalist, Madley Croft, sings it out with her bass guitar and drum machine swelling and receding beneath her wrenchingly vocal performance. Also with "Tides", its sound washes in and out as artists, Sim and Croft sing, "You leave with the tide," meaning to abandon of never giving their partner's complete full attention. They had taken more risks with this current album than with their previous one, and it's safe to say that everything about this record is absolutely melancholic. Most of their songs are slow and quiet, but utterly amazing. If you haven't heard this kind of genre, you should definitely look into this new wave of up-tempo music, because you're completely missing out. Buy the xx's "Coexist" which is out in stores today.



Photo Credit: Backbeatseattle.com

Thursday Night Television: “Comedy vs. Drama”

Nicole Maroon, Staff Writer

Cook a batch of popcorn and snag a box of tissues, because Thursday night Fall Television is back and better than ever! This year, comedy is going head to head against drama in a full out time slot battle. The combat participants include ABC, FOX, CBS, and the CW, all duking it out over the 8:00 PM and 9:00 PM airing times. Prepare your DVRs or make a tough choice between thrilling drama and cackle inducing comedy, because Thursday night TV has returned with a bang.

8:00 PM

CBS: *The Big Bang Theory*



Photo Credit: hometownsevier.com

The 6th season of *The Big Bang Theory* kicked off on September 27th, with the episode entitled, “The Date Night Variable”. The episode followed the main characters through romantic plotlines and cleverly written jokes. Sheldon, Amy, Leonard, and Penny all have dates, but when Raj is asked to tag along on Sheldon’s date, the inevitable interference occurs. The plot line plays out humorously as Raj goes on to ruin Leonard and Penny’s date also. Directed by Mark Cendrowski, who has directed 55 other *Big Bang Theory* episodes, the comedic light of the show truly shines through and captivates the audience. *The Big Bang Theory* is a clear choice if you desire Thursday nights filled with shameless laughter and gut busting jokes.

9:00 PM

ABC: *Grey’s Anatomy*



Photo Credit: Examiner.com

From season 1 to the current season 9, this show has undergone countless changes and improvements to reach the caliber it’s at today. Every episode has a new medical discovery or trauma case, jam packed with emotional outcomes and expressive acting. Last season’s heartbreaking plane crash finale quite literally brought its audience to tears, and the writers have continued the tear inducing plot into the new season.

The audience sees the main characters dealing with the aftermath of the plane crash and learning to live with their loss. Once again, the main characters must adapt to change, a feeling incredibly relatable to the spectators this show attracts. Through this season, the viewers will follow the main characters through a time of spiritual and professional growth as they learn life lessons and ultimately continue to survive the human experience. *Grey’s Anatomy* provides a relatable and serious approach to television that viewers less concerned with comedy, and more concerned with drama, will enjoy.

The Vampire Diaries is back for a drama packed 4th season, filled to the brim with episodes that will introduce more plot twists and traumatizing villains. After season 3’s nail biting, cliff hanger ending, Elena and the Salvatore brothers are back to fend off another vampire hunter along with the two remaining vengeful original vampires. Each commercial break leaves the audience hanging with suspense and questions of what will happen next. Opposed to the comedic side of romance seen in *The Big Bang Theory*, *The Vampire Diaries* presents a thrilling, supernatural romance through a teenager’s point of view. At the end of season 3, the audience saw Elena make a choice between the two Salvatore brothers, ****SPOILER ALERT**** choosing Stefan, but ultimately it seems for a romantic, supernatural drama, *The Vampire Diaries* is most likely the choice for you.

8:00 PM

The CW: *The Vampire Diaries*



Photo Credit: impawards.com

9:00 PM - FOX: *Glee*

Once you’re finished immersing yourself in humorous acting or dramatic romance, channel hop over to FOX to tune into *Glee* for some musical comedy. Returning for its 4th season, *Glee* is once again juggling two major plot lines within one show. They dabbled in double plot lines back in season 2 when Kurt transferred to Dalton Academy, and this year they’re following Kurt once again as he makes the big move to New York City.



Photo Credit: Fanpop.com

Each episode seems to be split down the middle, half of the episode focusing on New Directions’ experience at McKinley High and the other half focusing on Rachel and Kurt’s experience in the Big Apple. The tunes from the show continue to excite and impress the audience, often landing them number 1 spots on the iTunes charts. This show blends the perfect amount of music, comedy, and drama together to create an inspiring show that entertains people of all ages.

Privilege? Or a Petition for a Chance at the Crown?

Nikki Harris, Staff Writer

Several students of Berlin High School recently started a petition with the hopes of regaining a long-lost privilege. Every year students from each grade anxiously await the fall formal, known as Homecoming.

The two-day event includes a football game and a dance the following night. Each year two students are selected to be their class's Homecoming Attendant, along with the senior king and queen.

A few years ago, the right to vote for the Homecoming court members was abolished due to a prank pulled by various students to vote one girl in as a "joke". This year, a group of students drafted a letter explaining to faculty why they believed the voting should revert from its state of randomization back into an actual voting poll conducted by the students themselves.

Along with the letter several sheets of paper were passed around to students encouraging them to sign their name for the cause. Even though the papers did have a large amount of signatures on them, the decision was made to keep the process random as a way to ensure no one was a target of bullying. Several of the students still disagreed with the process of assigning and picking random numbers because they feel it limits their freedom and voice as a student population.

On the other hand one anonymous student says, "I think it would be a poor decision to allow people to vote for who they want to because everyone would treat it as a joke. The same thing that happened a few years ago would just happen again and no one wants to be at the other end of a joke like that. There would be some people who took it way to seriously and others wouldn't care at all who won what. So it's just best to leave it up to chance."

While many were hopeful about regaining the prerogative to pick a king and queen, actions of the past spoke louder than the words of the present when it came to the final decision.

Only with time, and good behavior will there be a chance of obtaining an elected Homecoming court.

WANT TO GET SOMETHING PUBLISHED?

Do you have a great paper you once wrote, a graphic, painting or drawing you got a good grade on, or is there an engaging blog you typed up a while ago? Do you want them to get published? Well, how about giving them to us. We are always looking for contributions from the BHS community. As long as it complies with school policies, the Red-coat Review can publish it. See Ms. Bafumi for more details.

Summer Reading

Yaryna Hrynyukh, Opinion Editor

Ah, summer: warm sunny days, waking up late, no school, the beach, good times. Good times that are now but a fond memory. As we head into fall, I wanted to remind you all of those good times, and of the reading that I'm sure everyone did this summer. Yes, I said reading and summer in the same sentence, and oh my goodness, I just did it again! This is absolute craziness, but it's mandatory craziness, so we decided to find out what some of you think about it.

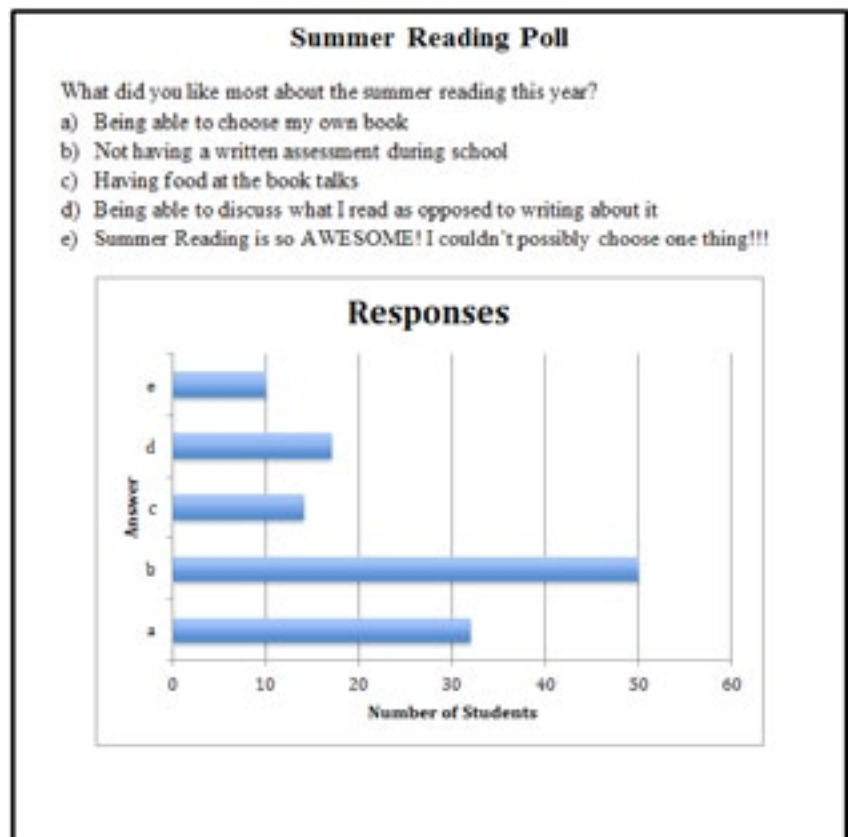
Like the seasons, things are changing at Berlin High and the Summer Reading Program was no exception. This year BHS replaced the old program with a new and, according to our survey, an improved one. Students definitely had more freedom choosing their own books and it seems that most appreciate it. Eighty-four percent of surveyed students said they read their summer reading books this summer as opposed to sixty-six percent who said they read them last year. Not a single student answered no to the question "do you like being able to choose your own books" and ninety eight percent said they prefer being able to choose their own books as opposed to having to read books from a pre approved list.

I'm going to do a little bit of Monday morning quarterbacking right now, but these results are not all that surprising. We like trying to be independent and we like every bit of freedom we can get our hands on. If we have to do a summer reading assignment for school over our vacation, letting us choose our own books lessens the burden of schoolwork looming over our vacation time.

We also asked students what they would change about summer reading, and a large portion of them said nothing. Summer reading seems to have fared well this year. However an equally large portion of students said they would make it mandatory to read only one which is understandable. After nine months of functioning on six hours of sleep per day, I'm sure some of us would prefer not to have anything to remind us of school. Other suggestions ranged from having more food at the book talks to making summer reading optional to clarifying the directions and having a better grading system.

I suppose we'll have to wait until next year to find out if summer reading will once again be changing, but until then, you can at least be happy that you no longer have to get herded into a room at the beginning of the year and sit silently for an hour pretending that you read a book and that you can write about it. If that's not progress I don't know what is.

That being said, students read a wide variety of books on many topics, including sports, high school problems, murder, history, all types of fiction and non fiction, love stories, adventures, thrillers, and classics. Someone even read about green eggs and ham (a personal favorite of mine).



Above: Summer Reading Poll from Students

It is 2012 and Teen Anxiety and Depression is Worse than Ever Before

Kristy Wezdenko, Contributing Writer

Anxiety and depression are found in many teenagers, especially in today's society, as a result of the social and academic pressures they face day in and day out.

In fact, there are multiple factors, according to research and studies, that contribute to the anxiety and depression young individuals suffer with.

"Teens deal with constant pressure from their parents, their peers, their teachers, the media and themselves. They're trying to figure out who they are and what they want to do with their lives" says Michelle Bolyn, a credible news writer.

Teenagers trying to find themselves and where they belong, which includes fitting into social groups, is such a major point. Peer pressure causes teens to do things they normally wouldn't do just so they can fit in. This may cause conflict at home, at school as well as within themselves, which may cause a tremendous amount of stress and anxiety. "I see 13 and 14 year olds even running away from their homes" states Dr. Lee Benjamin, an Assistant Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics at Duke University Hospital in Durham, North Carolina.

School is another stress factor. "Young people experience stress at a high rate, and females more than males", an MTV survey states.

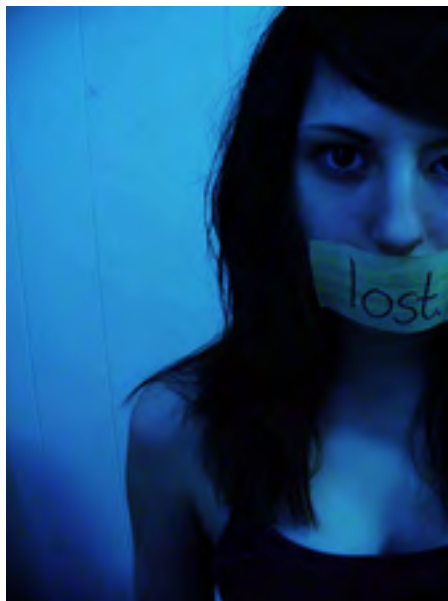


Photo Credit: Myrkothum.com

These factors have caused stress for students for years, so, what makes anxiety and depression so bad today? The answer is simply technology. These major issues can certainly be linked with the high rate of technology and the downfalls that come with it such as cyber bullying.

Multiple symptoms come with anxiety and depression. Some of them may include:

- Dry mouth and shortness of breath
- fast heartbeat
- insomnia or excessive sleeping
- constant mood swings

In addition, changes in attitude, isolation, spending more time on the internet, random outbursts and a decrease in school performance are symptoms and red flags.

Anxiety and depression have certainly raised many concerns since 1 out of 4 teenagers have experienced at least one of these; therefore, more studies are being conducted and analyzed for people to become even more familiar with this rising issue.

Poetry by Lauren Baretta

Parts of Steel

Smiling faces up on a hill,
I am to birds as fish are to fill.

We all are just here to take up space,
As cameras are to courage as teaching
is to face.

The world is as complicated as it seems,
As silence is to forgiveness as informality
is to dreams.

We exist simply to be parts of steel,
As brick is to broken as nothing is to
real.

And all that we can hope for is new
understanding,
As time is to rocket as hope is to landing.

We stand, we sit, we wonder, we pray,
As yesterday is the present and tomorrow
is today.

Life is a chance we might as well take,
As dice are to death as you are to fake.

We are all in this eternity together,
As love is to liberty as brain is to feather.

Laugh, play, ignore the expressions,
After all, joy is to promise as acceptance is to lesson.

The Beast of the Birds

The beast of the birds
The birds of the beast
Are coming to get you
Are fishing for you.

You better run
Faster, faster
Oh, what does it matter?
The end is inevitable.

I am the beast of the birds
I am the birds of the beast
And I am coming to get you
I am fishing for you.

Ah, the end
It's coming
It's coming soon.
I can hear it in the twilight tune.

The only way to fight fire
Is with branches.
Listen, listen
Feed the fire.

You continue to ask how to make the chase stop
And my answer is to simply drop,
Lie on the ground
Await the inevitable.

Wait, what is this?
I, the beast of the birds
I, the birds of the beast
Has ceased the hunt
You have won.

The beast of the birds
Has been killed with words
The only scrap of hope
There is left in this world.

**Want some of your writing displayed?
Submit any kind of poetry or flash
fiction to the Redcoat Review! ALSO
submit your book reviews!**