

BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

MAY, 2015 **NO. 7**



Renovation completion: Long awaited, and coming soon...

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY MEMBERS OF THE BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

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Connecticut's Principal of the Year

By Tyrise Thompson

This year, Berlin's very own Francis Kennedy Jr., has won an honorable award for being the best principal in the state of Connecticut. Kennedy has served as principal of Berlin High School for 4 years. Prior to his arrival in Berlin, he had worked as a teacher, parent professional, and served as a principal for 15 years.

When inquired on some of his most pressing concerns, he said, "Trying to do our due diligence as an instructional team to make sure that the high school experience that the students have is a once in a lifetime experience that's irreplaceable and is always something they can look back on with pride and is in no way shortchanged by the building project that's going on around us...The most pressing issue is trying to keep that delicate balance between keeping the project moving forward so that it really is done for 2016, while somehow having the patience, the grace, and the clever strategizing to make sure that we can still deliver our curriculum in a meaningful way and give students an excellent high school experience." Berlin High School is currently undergoing intense renovations, and at the same time, must support the education of nearly 1000 students. The ability to maintain constructional progress with academic progress is something that Kennedy is recognized for.

Every step of the way, the principal of Berlin High School always felt that he had the entirety of the high school to thank for the immense progress made in improving the school with renovations and more academic success Mr. Kennedy said, "It is the students, faculty, staff, and stakeholders who helped me win this award. I think that if I were applying for that award and the school was not

successful, impressive, and wonderful, there is no way this award would be bestowed upon me. Without the help of excellent kids and their families, without the excellent teaching staff who are pulling together to make this place great, it would not be possible for me to get this award. Therefore, this honor, this distinction, is one that is truly collective, and it honors all of us. I just happen to be the very fortunate representative to represent all that is great here at Berlin High School."

At the end of this year, Mr. Kennedy will be representing Berlin High School in the nation's capitol, Washington D.C. with a speech. He is one of three state educators of the year in recent years from Berlin High, the others being Mr. David Bosso and Msd. Carol Virostek, both Connecticut Teachers of the Year.



Habitat for Humanity Builds

by Mackenzie O'Connor

Habitat for Humanity is an organization that helps those in need by creating a fleet of volunteers to work on houses; because of this free labor, the overall cost of the house for the future homeowner is lowered. Habitat for Humanity does not provide handouts. What the organization requires is that the future homeowner, along with volunteers, works on the house.

The Berlin High School Chapter of Habitat for Humanity this year has been run by: Megan Leavenworth (President), Stephanie Lesmes (Vice President), Sarah Hagen (Secretary), Mackenzie O'Connor (Treasurer), Kayla Maslowski, Melissa Stanton, Sarah Hoag and Sarah Ward (Committee Leaders). Throughout the year, the chapter has been fundraising to support the future of the club, and also to allow them to travel to Maryville, Tennessee to build houses. The fundraisers that were done included: bake sales; collecting donations at the past school plays/musicals, Walgreens and Stop and Shop; and running the Boo Grams and Candy Grams sales.

A group of 18 students and 3 teachers traveled down to Maryville during spring break. The students ranged in age from 16 to 18. The teachers accompanying them were Mrs. Wilkosz (Habitat Advisor), Mr. Munoz, and Ms. Portal. While they were there, they participated in numerous builds, and also helped out in the Habitat ReStore. The ReStore is a non-profit store that sells furniture and other home improvement items. The profits from these sales benefited the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity and will help to buy the land and obtain the materials for the houses that are being built. The group worked an average of

5-6 hours for 5 days, rotating between working in the Habitat Restore and the construction site, both in Maryville. The trip ran from Saturday, eight days to Sunday, so the Berlin team dedicated their entire spring break to give back to those who need it most.



VANS Art

made by Matthew Barden
and David Bordonaro

Two UConn ECE art students recently designed two pairs of shoes each that were entered into a "Custom Culture" competition sponsored by the Vans shoe brand. Matthew Barden, grade 11, and David Bordonaro, grade 12, both are students of Ms. Miller. The contest they entered "...was created to inspire and empower high school students to embrace their creativity through art and design, and to bring attention to diminishing arts education budgets," according to the Vans website.



What did you do for your April vacation? We built a house !



Jessie Alves
Danielle Asklar
Lindsey Brochu
Marisa Gagliardi
Sarah Hagen
Megan Leavenworth
Steph Lesmes
Kayla Maslowski
Max Muller
Mackenzie O'Connor
Cassie Simonidies
Melissa Stanton
Rachael Steck
Carolyn Stickel
Kim Tencza
Brittany Vannuccini
Nicole Veronsei
Kamila Zielinski

Shayne Munoz
Amanda Portal
Jen Wilkosz



Seniors Finish with a Flurry of Activities

by Daniel Paszkowski

With the fourth quarter already underway, the end of the school year is quickly approaching. For the seniors, this means their time at Berlin High School is drawing to a close. With this in mind, there are still numerous functions planned for our seniors to make their final days as memorable as possible. These are only a few of those planned.

On Saturday, May 2nd, the senior class took the Aqua Turf Country Club by storm for their senior prom. Tickets for the event were sold the week of April 6th, and over 200 individuals were in attendance. It was held from 6:30 PM to 11:30 PM, and it is certain that it was an unforgettable experience for all present at the Gatsby Gala.

Then, on Monday, June 1st, the senior class will take a trip to Holiday Hill in Prospect for the annual senior class outing. The fun-filled event is a chance for seniors to celebrate their upcoming graduation. More information concerning the outing is planned to be distributed to the seniors in the coming weeks. It will last from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Class of 2016

Berlin Art Students' Work on Display

by Miss Larsen

The talented artists of Berlin High School had several opportunities to showcase their art work recently. The UConn ECE drawing class, which is in its first year held an art show at the Berlin Peck Library. The opening reception was on Tuesday, April 28th from 6:30-8:00 and the show ran until Saturday, May 2nd for viewing.

Additionally, the Berlin Public School's annual art show was at the New Britain Museum of Art recently. Art students from across the district were able to display their artwork to the public. The opening reception was on April 21st from 6-7:30 pm. Visitors were able to view the students' artwork as well as the other famous art that was on display in the museum. The show could be viewed for free from April 21-26 at the museum.



UConn ECE Drawing Class

New B.H.S. Library is Close !

The renovated Galvin Library at B.H.S. will be open for business next year. It will be a state of the art facility with spaces for a variety of activities. Plan to visit in September. Bring a friend.

2016 MLB Awards Predictions

by Sam Barton

With the MLB season already underway, there are a lot of unanswered questions of who is going to come away with the title. Let's see how my opinion differs from the experts.

World Series Winner-

Experts- Washington Nationals

Me- Washington Nationals

Unless the Nats don't stay healthy through the season, I don't see anyone stopping them from winning the series. The rotation is insanely good. Their #1 starter is a Cy Young winner, who is locked up in Washington for the next seven years. Max Scherzer is in my opinion a top three pitcher in the league. Then their #2 is Jordan Zimmermann. A lot of experts say that he is the best pitcher on the team, and some are even going as far as saying that he is going to be the team MVP. The stats show that he is not better than Scherzer, but some of the different pitches he is able to throw suggest differently. Next, in the middle of the rotation, is former Rookie of the Year, Stephen Strasburg. There is no team in the entire league that wouldn't take Strasburg. Lastly, their 4 and 5 starters, Doug Fister and Gio Gonzalez, could easily be #2 starters in any other club. The only real problem the Nats could face is the seniority of their lineup. They have solid players, but some are old and injury-prone, like Jayson Werth.

Rookie of the Year AL-

Experts- SP Andrew Heaney, Los Angeles Angels

Me- OF Rusney Castillo, Boston Red Sox

I like Andrew Heaney, don't get me wrong, but I don't think he is necessarily yet ready to succeed at a high level in the big time. But Rusney Castillo is ready. I love what Castillo has to offer; he can hit and he has a cannon for an arm. Some experts see a similarity in arm strength to Yoenis Cespedes'. Heaney is going to be a very good pitcher, but give him another year.

Rookie of the Year NL-

Experts- 3B Kris Bryant, Chicago Cubs

Me- 3B Kris Bryant, Chicago Cubs

As long as he plays in the majors, there is no doubt that he is going to win the Rookie of the Year award. Bryant has drawn comparisons to Mike Trout, with some people even saying that he is better. Although he had a bad debut, you can't judge a guy by one game. The only thing I can see getting in Bryant's way would be his questionable fielding skills. If he can play even just a decent third base for the Cubs, this guy is basically a shoe-in to win.

MVP AL-

Experts- OF Mike Trout, Los Angeles Angels

Me- OF Mike Trout, Los Angeles Angels

Of course, whenever anyone brings up MVP talk, Mike Trout's name is always at the top of the list. This guy is an absolute freak-athlete. Whether it's smashing homers deep into the outfield stands or robbing home runs and gunning runners out at second, Trout can do it all. He has already shown how good he is this season by bombing a homer deep into straightaway center at his first at-bat of the season. Plus, this guy is the face of baseball with Derek Jeter in retirement. Trout is a fan-favorite who is always willing to sign autographs and take pictures with fans. Little things like that can never hurt anyone's MVP consideration.

Me- 1B Paul Goldschmidt- Arizona Diamondbacks

MVP NL-
Experts- OF Giancarlo Stanton- Miami Marlins
Me- 1B Paul Goldschmidt- Arizona Diamondbacks

The funny thing about the probable candidates for this year's National League MVP voting is that it looks like it is going to be a battle of 2 or 3 players who play on the worst teams. Do I think Stanton could win the MVP? Definitely. Do I think he is going to win it this year? No. Playing into your first year of a brand new, record-breaking 13yr/\$325M contract is a lot of pressure. I just don't think that Stanton is ready yet. Goldschmidt, on the other hand, is a really safe pick to win it. The only thing that kept Goldy from winning the MVP was the fact his season was cut short by a broken hand in August. Watch out for Goldschmidt to win it this year.

AL Cy Young-
Experts- SP Chris Sale- Chicago White Sox
Me- SP David Price- Detroit Tigers

I'm one of the many believers out there that think Chris Sale was robbed of a Cy Young win last year. But I do not think that Sale can repeat last year's performance. A safe pick to go with is David Price. Every year, Price is always a premiere pitcher in the MLB. Even when he was on a horrible Tampa Bay team half of last season, Price still found a way to strike out numerous batters and win games.

NL Cy Young-Experts- SP Clayton Kershaw- Los Angeles Dodgers

Me- SP Clayton Kershaw- Los Angeles Dodgers

Not only is Kershaw the clear-cut best pitcher in the NL, there are a lot of people who believe he is the best player in the NL. There's not really much competition for Kershaw this year either. The only guy I can see giving Kershaw a run for his money

would be Matt Harvey. This year Harvey has had a tremendous season. However, Harvey needs to stay healthy. Kershaw will definitely put together another Cy Young worthy season; you can count on that.



Matt Harvey, Mets Ace

Prom Promise Assembly

by Sam Barton

On Friday, April 24th, BHS sophomores, juniors, and seniors all attended an outside assembly. The assembly was about drinking and driving and all of the associated dangers. There was a mock car-crash to simulate the dangers of drinking and driving as well. The assembly emphasized the importance of wearing your seatbelt, not driving while distracted, and not consuming alcohol while underage. Students attended the assembly during an extended advisory period.

Mr. Fuller and his firefighting class arranged the demonstration. the mangled automobiles and laborious extrications our students witnessed may stick in young minds as reminders of the quick and permanent consequences of driving while at less than 100%.

Author Visit to B.H.S.

Berlin High School was proud to welcome Neal Shusterman to Berlin High School on May 5th. Mr. Schusterman is a *New York Times* bestselling author of more than thirty award-winning books for children, teens, and adults. His books include *The Unwind Dystology*, *The Skinjacker* trilogy, *Downsiders*, and *The Schwa Was Here*, which won the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for fiction.

Mr. Schusterman's novels are some of the most popular titles in the B.H.S. library, where they are available both in print and ebook formats. According to Mr. Scannell, the newest Schusterman book, which is a work of fiction,

Mr. Shusterman was at Berlin High School to discuss the writing of his new book, *Challenger Deep*. This new book is fiction, and is heavily influenced by Schusterman's son's experiences with adolescent schizophrenia.

We enjoyed Mr. Shusterman's interactive and engaging presentation .. Personalized, signed copies of the book were available for \$15.00 immediately following the presentation.



Neal Schusterman

Bob's Furniture Helps Out

For the seventh consecutive year, Bob's Furniture has donated a certificate to the Berlin High Library for the acquisition of a new reading chair to be enjoyed in the Thomas Galvin Library.



Mr.Scannell uses these chairs to create a comfortable reading area. The new chair will join those already in use to help make the renovated 2015 library a welcoming place for all members of the Berlin community.

NFL Draft

by Sam Barton

With the NFL Draft no in the rearview mirror, let's take a look at who were the winners and losers of the first-round.

Winners:

New York Jets

Pick: DT Leonard Williams, USC

The Jets got an absolute gift with Williams basically falling right into their laps. Going into the Draft, there were three definite players who are impact performers, Jameis Winston, Dante Fowler, and Leonard Williams. The fact that Williams went sixth overall was an absolute mind-blower. The only downside to Williams on the Jets would be the fact they are already overcrowded as it is on the defensive line. They have been fielding trades for Muhammad Wilkerson, though. Getting rid of Wilkerson should give Williams the spotlight he deserves.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Pick: QB Jameis Winston, Florida State

There was no real surprise here. The Bucs publicly said that Jameis is their guy, and they didn't drop any jaws when they picked him first overall. As long as he stays out of trouble, this guy is going to be a superstar. He has the skillset that comes any great quarterback in the NFL nowadays. He's a pocket passer with one heck of an arm. Plus, he can run if he has too, which is always a plus. There are only 2 real downsides to this guy. First, he comes with some off the field issues. These will be addressed in the NFL because the Bucs won't tolerate anything and will monitor him as much as they can. The only thing he really needs to work on would be running out of the pocket too late. He tends to stay in the pocket too long and gets sacked more often than he should.

Miami Dolphins

Pick: WR DeVante Parker, Louisville

I never really bought into Parker until I watched some of his college tapes. After seeing them, I am now a firm believer in what Parker brings to the table. Adding him into an already overall strong receiving corps with Jarvis Landry and Kenny Stills is vital to Parker. The thing that a lot of rookie receivers face is being thrown into a situation where they go from college to the #1 receiver on an NFL team. The Dolphins should do a great job easing him into the NFL.

Pittsburgh Steelers

Pick: DT Alvin "Bud" Dupree, Kentucky

A lot of people (including me) thought that Dupree has the capability to be a top-10 pick. Honestly, he should have been one too. This guy is fast, big, and can stop the run. He's one of those players that make offensive coordinators cringe every time that they see him tackle their running back.

