

November 2014

BHS Newspaper



Meets every Monday in room 226!

NOVEMBER EVENTS AT B.H.S. (and a few at McGee)
by Zoe Zimmer

• **November 1st, 2014**

• All Night Graduation Clothing Drive at the Berlin High School Parking Lot
8:00 AM- 4:00 PM
School Play @McGee
7:00 PM

• **November 2nd, 2014**

• School Play @McGee
2:00 PM

• **November 5th, 2014**

• All Night Graduation Meeting at the Berlin Community Center
7:00 PM
Drivers Ed Course Begins, sign up in the main office upstairs office
• **November 8th, 2014**

• SAT at Berlin High School
8:00 AM- 12:00 PM
• **November 10th, 2014**

• Band Parent Meeting

Inside this issue:

Cabaret	2
Gaming Club	2
Construction Interview	4
Play Review	5-7
Divergent Book Review	8
Advice Column	9
Inspirational Quotes	9-10

Welcome to the Newspaper!

Welcome to the first issue of Berlin High School's newspaper! The purpose of this newspaper is to let you know about school events, what's going on in the community and the world, and other topics that interest you. This newspaper revolves around what is relevant to you! The newspaper is created by students for students, so please let us know what you would be interested in reading about.

Here at Berlin High, we have a lot to keep us busy: we're involved with classes, sports, clubs, dances, and many other activities. What we don't have is an easy way to hear about these activities. How many times have you heard, only second hand,

about some great event or opportunity that you might have enjoyed, if only you had known about it? How many times have you wondered what went on in a certain class, or been curious about some student or teacher at the school?

This newspaper is an attempt to fill this information gap in Berlin High's life. Our goal is to report on what's happening, what's going to happen, and who's doing what in RedcoatLand. This is the first edition of what should be an informative and entertaining newspaper, which will be distributed for free to every member of the B.H.S. community.

Right now, a fairly small group of students is gathering news, drawing pictures, and writing for this newspaper. The more people, the bigger and better the paper, so think about joining our staff. The newspaper meets every Monday in Room 225 (the library). So, read on, enjoy the experience, tell your friends, and even think about helping produce our next edition. Look forward to future editions throughout the year. Mr. Scannell and Ms Larsen are advising the newspaper, so, if you can't find one of us with your questions, visit one of them.

What the Newspaper Means To Me

By Amanda Scalzi
The newspaper is an intro into the students' minds. The newspaper informs the students, and other members of the B.H.S. community about what's going on in the school. The

Newspaper is a chance for students and peers to express themselves. It's a chance for writers like me to express and give my opinions to the students of Berlin High School. It lets us inform the student population of what goes on in

school events and or what goes on in the real world. The newspaper is a chance for students to be who they are and be able to share their passions with others.

Cabaret

by Amanda Scalzi

The Cabaret performance was held on Saturday, October 25, 2014. It was a night full of musical delights, with students performing in groups, solos and duets. Students had worked very hard to prepare for their songs and group numbers. Everybody sang beautifully, and each song had the singer's own personal touches. Song selections ranged from *Les Miserables* to *Sound of Music* and *Disney favorites like The Little Mermaid, High School Musical and Frozen*.

Cabaret's Music Director: Mrs. Katherine Crabb Scherer

Cabaret Cast and Songs

Cabaret from Cabaret

Full Cast

"I Have Confidence" from *The Sound of Music*

Courtney Nelson

"Falling Slowly" from *Once*

Megan Waldrop & Ethan Hansen

"Part of Your World" from *The Little Mermaid*

Alexa Crowley

"At Last I See the Light" from *Tangled*

Megan Leary & Skyler Korn

"Put on a Happy Face" from *Bye Bye Birdie*

Skyler Korn

"Getting to Know You" from *The King and I*

Sammi Whitehill

The Song that Goes Like This from *Spamalot*

Caylie Whiteside & Mark

Bosse

"Something's Gotta Hold on Me" from *Burlesque*

Kathleen Bosse with Cara Gilaue, Ally Schultz and Megan Waldrop

"L-O-V-E" by Nat King Cole

Theo Reed with Emily

Lombardo on Tenor Sax

"Balcony Scene" from *West Side Story*

Melody Zielke & Ben Shemeth

"Home" from *Phantom*

Megan Waldrop

"Love is an Open Door" from *Frozen*

Ally Schultz & Joey Leary

"Mamma Mia" from *Mamma Mia!*

Megan Leary, Gabby Strain,

Sammi Whitehill & Megan Waldrop

"Stick to the Status Quo" from *High School Musical*

Gaming Club

by Matthew Burr

This year, I had the idea to start a club, made for relaxing. I wanted a place to hang out with friends and have fun times after school. This idea formed into the Gaming Club, a perfect place to have fun after school.

In the Gaming Club, we do exactly what the name suggests; we play games! Everything from the entire Super Smash

Brothers series, including Project M, to Yu-Gi-Oh, Pokemon, and just about any other card or video game! You may even bring your own games to introduce to the club, too. We have access to two separate rooms in the library, with couches, tables, and TV's set up for playing. Suggestions for making the club even better are greatly appreciated.

It's a great atmosphere to just come in and relax. The goal of the club is to take itself less seriously than maybe some other clubs do, and to have fun playing games with friends, and meeting new people. Games are a fantastic way to connect with people, and whether you like competing, having fun, or just hanging out, we hope there's something fun

for you to enjoy here! The club meets every Tuesday, right after school from 2:10 to 3:15, when the library closes. The club meets. If possible, it is recommended you bring your own 3DS, Gamecube controller, or Wii remotes and extensions. Mr. Scannell is the advisor.

Interview with Miss Larsen

by Rachel Cruz

Question: How do you like Berlin High so far?

Answer: I very much like Berlin High. I think everyone here is very welcoming and nice. It definitely has a good atmosphere as a school and a community. I've been in middle school before, so I've taught a lot of 7th and 8th grade. I thought I liked it, but I like teaching freshmen/high school more.

Question: How was the jump from middle school to high school?

Answer: I think high schoolers are overall more mature. I think 9th grade is a big transition year, so you're still getting used to the high school and how everything works, but I really like the age group and I

honestly can say I prefer teaching high school.

Question: What made you want to become a teacher?

Answer: I always like to read and I was an avid reader at a really young age. As a kid I would go through a couple of books a week. So I studied English in college, which is something I'm really passionate about. Another thing I'm really passionate about is working with kids. I babysat, I was a camp counselor, so I did a lot of that sort of thing. I got an undergraduate degree in English and then I was trying to figure out what do with my life. I decided to become a teacher, so I went to grad school for

that. So all my interests lead up to my decision to become a teacher, if that makes any sense.

Question: What is your favorite thing to teach in English class?

Answer: I actually really like short stories. We just finished reading short stories in class. I just taught "There Will Come Soft Rains", and I like Ray Bradbury a lot, so I enjoyed that unit. I also like to teach writing - not essay writing as much, but creative writing such as poetry or personal narratives, which I've taught in the past.

Fantasy Football: Follow All Season

by Sam Barton

What is Fantasy Football? Fantasy Football is an online community where players are put into the shoes of an NFL owner. You start out by drafting various players from different teams and put them head-to-head against other people's

leagues. Throughout the NFL season the players' you draft stats affect how your team do. Just like the NFL, you have one goal: make the playoffs. If and once you do make the playoffs, your teams plays against other teams for an accumulative score to see who is crowned that Fantasy leagues' Greatest. What will I write in the fu-

ture:? First off, I'll give a recap of the week in NFL (injuries, fines, free agency pickups, trades). I will also to give tips about Fantasy Football. These tips will involve Add and Drops, as well as who to start and who to sit.

Construction Issues: An Interview

by Eve Betterini

I interviewed Samantha Bengiovanni about her feelings concerning the construction going on around us here at BHS.

Question: What is your opinion on the construction?

Answer: It does bother me when I'm upstairs, but not downstairs. I find myself ignoring it now, and barely noticing the noise. Although, it does get annoying when our class is having a power-point, and while we're taking notes, the Smartboard shakes due to nearby jack-hammers.

Question: Do you find the construction an issue for learning? What about the fire drills and events like

that?

Answer: Sometimes, a fire drill or some other disruption occurs when the class is taking a quiz, and we don't get to finish. We also hear the construction equipment during lessons, which gets distracting.

Question: Do you feel the ongoing construction is dangerous?

Answer: No, because in school we don't really see what's going on. It's kind of like, out of sight, out of mind. But, outside the school, the building process seems dangerous, especially when there's smoke.

Question: Is it fair that you, as a sophomore, most likely won't see the finished result of the construction?

Answer: I don't think it is fair. In middle school, we had to go through construction, and now we have to all over again. We get all the distractions and drills, and we won't even get to enjoy the finished product. But, at least the students after us will get to enjoy the finished product.



Play Review

by Ms. Gallagher
Where were you the weekend the first week of November? If you did not attend the play Crazy-Town then you missed a wonderful show put on by talented actors and actresses, supported by gifted stage hands and directed by an exceptional teacher all from our high school. The play was only put on twice, but the crowds were large and the laughter was numerous.

The play was a parody of a news show set in the fictitious town of Crazy-Town. The anchors reported on stories that could only take place in a place where the absurd was the norm. Babs (Megan Carroll) and Jim (Dylan Stetson) repeatedly faded in and out of the play introducing ridiculous news features that made the audience chuckle and giggle with pleasure. My personal favorite was when Babs asked Jim to repeat a phrase over and over using different voices. Jim's ability to change himself in the actual person with his actions and voice was uncanny with his straight on delivery of JFK, Robert Di Niro, and even Matthew McConaughey. Babs, too, in a blond wig, used great skill in making

her character outrageous. I loved her great one-liners and her reactions to the extreme news segments. Other supporting actors to include Don (Greg Parisi), Doris (Morgan O'Connor), Jay (Troy Haynes), Kevin (Jordyn Tabury), Olivia (Emma Wilcox), Austin (Aidan Jones), Brody (Andrew Rich), Zelda (Emily Kozon), Jeremiah (Tom Pietruszewski), Carl (Heather Mader), Tabitha (Emma Wilcox), Josh (Kate Frederick), Gretchen (Meghan Oates) and Old Man (Aidan Jones) rounded out the multi talented news team. They all added many, many hilarious portions to the news broadcast. Interspersed throughout the news show were interesting commercials that made the audience laugh and think too. Additional features were part of the newscast as well. Each of these major stories continued to add to the audience's enjoyment. "No More, Mister Nice Guy" was a piece that put a "nice" man (Ben Shemeth) in an interrogation room with some hard-core police detectives (Dan Paszkowski and Matt Barden) and a "jerk face" (Aidan Jones). All actors were 100% believable in their interpretation of what would happen if someone committed the crime of being

too nice. The "jerk face", Ricky, was so convincing that the audience could almost smell his despicableness. "The Future is in Your Tiny Hands" feature included most of the cast. Two first grade students (Kade Lamontagne and Alyssa Gable) debated the issues in order to be elected student body president. Sophia (Lauren Salee) did a fine job moderating the debate and the many students in the audience asked important questions of the candidates. Some of the "questions" included "Girls are gross" and "I love tater tots...". Both would be presidents were funny and persuasive in their portrayal of first graders. One might even believe that they indeed were first graders at some time in their lives.

After a quick intermission, the next feature that came was "May the Best Fan Win". The two sports announcers (Dan Paszkowski and Andrew Rich) watched and reported on two competitors (Tom Pietruszewski and Dylan Stetson) who were competing for biggest couch potato while watching a sports game. All in this cast were exceptional. They all played their roles with amazing accuracy. The announcers were so convincing with their tone and cadence that either could easily replace any actual TV reporter today. They were that good! The couch potatoes too were super and I am sure could replace any other couch potatoes, maybe even ones in your home. These "losers" were so dedicated to making the audience believe them that they even ate stale chips, whole bananas, rock hard candy and they sipped olive oil all while staying in character for the audience's enjoyment.

Play Review Continued

The additional cast of the ref (Alyssa Gable) and Roddy (Jordyn Tabury) added more enjoyment and laughs to this very funny segment. The final additional feature again included most of the cast. The "Least Offensive Play in the Whole Darn World" had two sale persons (Kade Lamontagne and Anna Woodin) selling us (the audience) a product that would clean up offensive plays. They were true to life in their interpretation of pushy salesmen, making fun of a product that is "needed". Various plays were "cleaned up" and the results were uproarious! The entire cast took their roles with extreme professionalism even when done with "crazy" line changes. The stage crew (Becky Carriere, Matt Barden, Megan Carroll, Elise Catan, Sara Mogielnicki, Patrick Carroll, Stephen Dickerson, Damon Eldah, Andrew Bosco, Tom Pietruszewski, Rebecca Soderburg, Tiffany Nguyen and Anna Reyes) did an incredible job!! Although some were not on stage physically their amazing work behind the scenes and in the details helped to make this play what it

was. Becky Carriere and Matt Barden, the stage managers, and right hand persons to the director made it known to everyone involved that their expertise in all areas was second to none. The director was quoted as saying "Becky and Matt were the glue that held this show together; their attention to detail, ability to lead their fellow students and dedication to their craft brought this show to a professional level". Both of these students are truly amazing.

Finally, Mr. Recore, the director of the play did a fantastic job! His dedication and work with the students was beyond admirable. His students not only respected him as their director, but they truly looked up to him as a role model. His calming presence and straight talk helped to bring out the very best of these actors and stage crew. He is extremely talented with his skills as a director AND as an actor himself. He could have played ANY role in the play and he would have done a darn good job! Mr. Recore is a consummate professional and he loves his "kids". Furthermore, he

was quoted saying, "One of the best additions to this years cast/crew was Ms. Gallagher. When she approached me asking if I needed help with the play I quickly and graciously accepted. Ms. Gallagher's presence, calm demeanor, and ability to lend a hand wherever was needed made my job much easier". We look forward to continuing our collaboration on the next show. PS- If you were unable to attend this production I urge you attend any of the upcoming plays. We have some incredibly talented actors and actresses in our school and I know that you will have a wonderful time!!



Divergent Book Review

by Tyre Brinson

Divergent is the first book in a trilogy written by Veronica Roth. The story is set in a dystopian society where the world's government is separated into five factions, each with their own set of beliefs and ways of life. The book follows the story of Beatrice, or Tris, a young woman who belongs to the faction of Abnegation, a faction devoted to selflessness and modesty. When she takes the test to decide her faction, she learns that she is a Divergent and is capable of adapting to more than one faction and breaking free of their requirements. Soon she is forced to battle against the faction's corrupt government and is hunted and pursued by the faction of the Erudite.

What started off as a

story with promise and an interesting set up quickly became a boring knock-off of The Hunger Games. Divergent starts off as good book with an interesting setting - all people are divided into five different groups. But we don't find out why society has developed this way. Unfortunately, most characters are weak-willed and don't seem to have any natural chemistry. They are generic teenagers with little to set them apart from each other. The women in the book are superficial, and too much concerned with unimportant things. The story is slow paced and the narrative tone is monotonous. There are many times in the story when character's actions seemed forced, like the

romance between Tobias, one of the Dauntless faction leaders, and Tris. Even though Tobias is ordinary by all accounts and in no way stands out from the rest of the initiates, he suddenly falls in love with Tris without having shown any earlier interest, which makes the romance feel forced and unnecessary. . The book feels like a bad version of Romeo and Juliet, except with a post apocalyptic background. In conclusion, I don't recommend that you read Divergent if you want to avoid being disappointed by mediocrity and a poorly done Hunger Games-inspired story. Divergent has so much unfulfilled potential that it's enough to make you cry.

Questions and Suggestions

by Eve Betterini

Question:

How can I improve my time management?

Suggestion:

Searching the vast and exciting world of the internet can be entertaining, but when is enough, enough?

Let's jump to the facts. Given the choice between doing school work and partaking in sports, most students would pick playing their sports. Please don't misunderstand me, those that choose schoolwork instead; I give you credit. School work should be one of a

student's main priorities, but everybody also wants to enjoy the exciting and entertaining events in life. What every student should learn is how to balance in between the two.

To improve time management, organization is recommended.

Suggestions and Advice Continued

Not much of it, but just enough that the student is satisfied. If your soccer game is directly after school and lasts two hours, find time to do a bit of work here and there. Whilst I'm waiting, I do homework. By the time I get home it's around 9:00 p.m., and, to my relief, all of my homework is done. For those who aren't required to stay at their games, depending on the bus trip, do a worksheet or two on the bus as opposed to having a jam session with your fellow teammates. If no homework is to be found, study for any upcoming tests or quizzes. Bus karaoke does seem more interesting than

doing the above tasks, but when you're half awake at 12:00 a.m., finishing that agonizing chemistry project, it does not seem worth it.

Projects or assignments that are assigned one week or even a month prior to the due date should be completed shortly after being assigned. No one likes handing in a disorganized project written in a Sharpie that bled, and no teacher appreciates grading them. Instead, it is better to take your time and do the assignment piece-by-piece.

If you as a student choose to abide by these suggestions, com-

pleting homework and studying should be a breeze. Yes, everybody gets lazy from one point to another, but there's a time when it is necessary to budget your time, and find a balance between fun and education.

Quotes of Inspiration

by Amanda Scalzi

Welcome to Quotes of Inspiration! Quotes are helpful everywhere and anywhere. Students, teens, and even adults use quotes. The aim of thinking about their messages is to help the reader feel better, feel encouraged, work harder, be more successful and be more

able to follow dreams.

The thing about quotes is that they make you feel as if you can do anything. After reading this column you should feel like you can do anything and everything, be anyone you want to be, and be able to ac-

complish anything you set your mind to! Here are some hand-picked quotes to get your mind thinking about who you want to be and what you want to accomplish! Enjoy!

Quotes Of Inspiration

"Do one thing every day that scares you."
— Eleanor Roosevelt

"Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird, that cannot fly."
— Langston Hughes

"Sometimes the

questions are complicated and the answers are simple."
— Dr. Seuss

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."
— Albert Einstein

"Sometimes people are beautiful. Not in looks. Not in what they say. Just in

what they are."
— Markus Zusak

"Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself."
— George Bernard Shaw

Credits

We hope you enjoyed the first edition of our newspaper! Look forward to future editions throughout the year. Mr. Scannell and Ms Larsen are advising the newspaper, so, if you can't find one of us with your questions, visit one of them.

This edition's contributors are: **Sam Barton, Eve Betterini, Tyre Brinson, Matthew Burr, Amanda Scalzi, Larry Swanson, and Zoe Zimmer.** Maybe you could be on the list for the next edition. Just visit the library after school on Monday to get involved.