
FALL 2022

THE TORNADO CONNECTION

KEEPING THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN



Musicians Prepare for Winter Concerts

BY JORDYN CONNERS AND AVA GERBER

One thing that many students, teachers, and families alike look forward to is seeing and participating in the school's music program. This program, which consists of band, string orchestra, and chorus, creates many opportunities for students to learn about music and build and strengthen their friendships within the community.

Mr. Karenbauer, the BIHS band director who has taught for 28 years, reports that many Christmas-related activities are happening in band. Seventh graders are learning *Little Saint Nick*, *Let it Snow*, and *Bucket Full of Christmas Cheer*. Eighth graders are practicing *Feliz Navidad* and *A Christmas Song*. These students will perform alongside the senior high band members at the winter concert on December 6. Sixth graders are working out of the book to try and even out levels; however, all students work out of the book. Mr. Karenbauer chooses the concert selections by finding a good combination of music that will teach and interest the students and audience.

Haley Ice, a seventh grade trumpet player, loves participating in concerts to show off her improvement and is excited for the upcoming winter concert. According to Haley, "I like *Let It Snow* best because it's easy to play and has a fun sound. My least favorite is *Bucket Full of Christmas Cheer* because it has high notes, and those are hard to play." In order to prepare for these concerts, she lets herself "drift" into the music and focus on playing. She thinks that music benefits students by teaching them time organization, and helping them count. "Which percussionists can't do," she added.

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In orchestra, seventh and eighth grade students will be performing together at their winter concert, which is December 8. They are practicing *Jolly Old Saint Pachelbel* and *Secret Agent Sugar Plum*, two hand-selected songs from Mrs Black, the BIHS orchestra teacher. The orchestra, which consists of violin, viola, cello, upright bass, and piano, just finished their Orchestra Spooktacular, which took place on Thursday, October 27, and featured a “haunted hallway” and performance by the Senior High’s orchestra.

Orchestra members Riley Rittersdorf (cello), Olivia Cornish (viola), and Alyse Wells (violin) report that they enjoy creating music, seeing friends, and getting a more hands-on education. Olivia and Riley said that they are excited for the upcoming Winter concert, hoping that their work and improvement will pay off. Alyse, on the other hand, is excited for the POPs concert, which will take place on February 16. According to Alyse, “I get to play pop music, which is more ‘fun’ than classical. Plus the 80s had much better music than now.” All three agreed that *Secret Agent Sugar Plum* is their least favorite song, pointing out that they liked how it sounded but it took a lot of hard practice to get it right. In order to prepare for concert-related stress, Riley and Alyse “take it out on playing” while Olivia simply “doesn’t get over the stress.”

Last but not least, in chorus, students are learning *Hanukkah, It’s Snowing*, and *Listen to the Bells* in preparation for their upcoming Christmas concert, where they will show off their dedication to the art of singing. Chorus is a great way to help show support for the BIHS’s music program without committing to an instrument; however, it still requires passion and dedication. Like band or orchestra, students need to prepare for chorus performances by practicing, working with their vocal chords, expressing themselves, and paying attention. Best of luck to all of these musicians in their winter concerts.



Students Compete in Academic Games

BY TRISTAN CLARK, EDITOR

Academic games allow gifted students to compete against their peers in challenging, yet fun games. The games include Onsets, Propaganda, LinguisHTIKS, Presidents, and Equations.

The local competitions, which take place at Slippery Rock University, are an amazing way for students to learn while having fun. They encourage competitors to use outside-the-box thinking to outsmart their adversaries. The students prepare for the competitions by studying and learning the games during gifted pullout times and in their free time.

The games cover a lot of different areas of thinking. Onsets is a logic-based game which helps students use different ways of thinking to win. Propaganda requires students to identify different forms of propaganda in writing and advertisements. LinguisHTIKS uses grammar rules to make words and score points. Presidents is a trivia game about the presidents of the United States of America. Finally, Equations is a math game where students use rules, strategies, and math equations to outsmart their opponents.

The games take place throughout the year and consist of three rounds. Sixth graders have different dates for each competition than seventh and eighth graders. Onsets were in October, Propaganda took place earlier in November, and LinguisHTIKS are in December. Both presidents and Equations are in January. For the first round, all gifted students have the opportunity to sign up and compete. In the second round, also called Tribals, students who have gone “undefeated” in the first rounds, continue on to compete at Grove City College. The third round, Nationals, takes place after the third round, and it is for “the best of the best.” Nationals take place in Orlando, Florida in April of 2023.

The games are completely funded by the school. Parents are not required to pay anything for their child to participate. They are paid through the budget set aside for gifted enrichments.

BIHS students have historically done well in Linguistics and Equations, but have still done decently at the other games. At the most recent game, Propaganda, 13 seventh/eighth graders and 12 sixth graders competed. The coaches, Dr. DeThomas and Mrs. Sankey, have been training the students in various ways. They have been using the typical methods of teaching, but they have begun utilizing the gifted Google Classroom. The classroom includes small quizzes and ways to practice online.

A controversial topic revolving around Academic Games is the games being classified as a field trip. Even though the students attend first and ninth period, they still have quite a bit of makeup work. Due to the classification, students who compete in the games have only one day to complete their work before it can be marked incomplete. Some students feel that the games shouldn't be classified as a field trip because they are doing educational things as opposed to visiting somewhere. However, others believe that students should be prepared to do the work. One of the coaches, Dr. DeThomas said that, "I think that with any field trip, students who want the opportunity need to be prepared, especially with the IHS." Another academic games coach, Mrs. Sankey said, "From my experience, students should be responsible for information that was missed during the activity, but making up every item from the missed classes is not necessary."

Though students' opinions on the makeup work differ, all agree that the games are a fun but challenging opportunity. The games are an interesting way to enrich gifted students. They help build critical thinking skills, develop logic and strategy in completing a challenge, and allow students to interact with like-minded people.

Scholtz Serves Students as Driver and Cafeteria Worker

BY DAKOTA VIEHMANN

Diane Scholtz has dedicated herself to caring for students before, during, and after school hours. As a lunch lady and bus driver, her day is full, but as she states, "It flows easily."

She has been driving six years for our school but has been driving buses for 22 years in all. Her shift as a cafeteria worker is 9:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. "I usually do this after my first shift of driving. Then I get a few minutes to myself before I go to my second bus shift." Her first bus shift is 6:15 -9:15 a.m., and the second shift 2:30-4:45 p.m. Diane loves coming to work each day, and her favorite part is seeing all the students. "Yes, I love kids. I would rather work with kids than adults," she said.

Diane doesn't recall ever choosing to work here. She was working up at the preschool, but then when her boss's husband died, the boss took off a little bit. "So they asked me to fill her place, and I just stayed here," she said. "But I very much like it, so it all worked out," she added. As for school lunches, some students have different opinions, but Diane feels as if the students have good, healthy options. She said, "I won't serve anything that I wouldn't eat."

According to Diane, lunch ladies like herself don't really mind that we call them lunch ladies. "After all, that's our job," she commented. After Diane's second shift, she usually has a break. "I get bored easily, so I keep working. Some people like going home in the middle, but I rather keep at work. Set up my station. I usually help Jill, a fellow lunch lady, and help other cafes. Whatever needs to be done," she explained.

After finishing high school, Diane went to college for coding, but she didn't finish college. Instead, she went to trade school for constructing roads. Some of Scholtz's past jobs include 22 years of driving and working at Lowes in the hardware and paint departments. Then, she worked as a flagman, and now she is here at the Intermediate.

As a kid, she lived in the state of Indiana. Then she lived in Chicago a few years later. As she got older, she moved out to Saxonburg, PA. Growing up, she wanted to be a cartoonist. "Cartoonists have a little tiny bit of money but not much. I wanted all that back then they didn't have too much of that around here. But I just wanted to work with kids mostly," she said.



Diane's favorite hobby, in her spare time, is making dream catchers. "My daughter has recently just moved back in, so I spend time with her," she added. Thank you, Diane, for all your amazing work and love for the students at Butler Intermediate High School!



Cast of *Seussical Jr.* Wows Audience

BY BELLA PERSICHINI, EDITOR

Drama students in grades 6-8 transported their audience into the magical world of Dr. Seuss on November 22 with two captivating performances of *Seussical Jr.* in the Intermediate auditorium. The show was directed by Mrs. Mia Tepper and Ms. Elizabeth Yanelli.

To prepare for the show, the cast rehearsed at least four times a week. A typical rehearsal consisted of a warm-up by singing a song, and then blocking a scene or reviewing the blocking of a scene. The students practiced the same with choreography in the music and polishing up the music.

According to Mrs. Tepper, she chose this musical for several reasons. "It is fun and colorful and has a lot of parts and a lot of opportunities for young people in theater," she said. Her favorite part of the show is the song, *Alone in the Universe*. "It encapsulates the true meaning of the show," she said. In the song, two characters sing separately about feeling alone, but because it is a duet, it reveals to the audience that no one is ever really completely alone.

This is not Mrs. Tepper's first rodeo when it comes to theater. She has been on stage since the age of three; she has done regional and local theater (in the Pittsburgh area). She has also done opera and musical theater in New York, and she loves sharing her passion with her students. "Drama teaches discipline and getting used to having a commitment," she said.

Mrs. Yanelli, a new co-director, was instrumental in making *Seussical* happen! She helped with the performers backstage when Mrs. Tepper was busy, and when students had a problem, they always went to her! She encouraged kids to share their amazing talent on stage and backstage when she assisted with the crew. "When Mrs. Tepper first asked me to help with the show, I could not help but say yes!" she commented.

Kyra Olivares, who played the role of Cat in the Hat, gives her all to the stage every time she is on it. She never viewed herself as a Cat in the Hat, but is glad she got the part. Kyra is not new to theater; she started in second grade and was into chorus and decided to try out for a bigger role in this year's musical. Kyra described the rehearsals as "chaotic, a little frustrating, but overall fun." Her favorite part of the show was *Amazing Maizie* because it's fun to listen and to move to.

Sienna Perhacs, played the part of Mrs. Mayor. "I was surprised at the part I got because I did not think the audition went very well, but I was glad I still got a special part," she said. Sienna likes to show her love for music and dancing on stage. Sienna also loves theater because she can have fun with her friends. Sienna shared, "I was in Willy Wonka last year, and it was very fun. I love musicals." Sienna's favorite song in the show is *Sollow Sollew* because "It is very pretty and fun to sing."

The rest of the cast helping the Seussical world come to life included: Bella Persichini (JoJo), Mason Varner (Horton the Elephant), Bryson Myrlie (Mr. Mayor), Kayden McConahay (Gertrude McFuzz), Isabelle Colonna (Mayzie La Bird), Adelyn Kerner, McKenzie Rawdon, Salem Bellaji (Wickersham Brothers), Sienna Stuz, Kendall Adams, Addy Bushre, Beatrix Medva (Bird Girls), D'vyne Times (Sour Kangaroo), Edin Ottinger (Young Kangaroo), Alexa Calihan (Judge Yertle the Turtle), Troy Cherry (Vlad Vladikoff), Gabriel Kappler (The Grinch), Maranda Horstman (Thing One), and Olivia Bush (Thing Two). The cast also included about 30 ensemble students and about 20 backstage crew members. The imaginative props and sets were made by the after school stagecraft and the stagecraft ESP.

IHS Library Open for Business

BY MARANDA HORSTMAN

Students and teachers agree that there is a fantastic library in the Intermediate High School, and it is run by our outstanding librarian Ms. Eckert.

In October, Ms. Eckert hosted the Scholastic Book Fair for students and their families. Most of the money after the book fair goes toward paying Scholastic, but the rest of the money is used to buy books for the library and the Battle of the Books competition. The average book in the library costs anywhere from \$8 to \$20 depending on the quality. If books are damaged or lost, they are replaced from Books-a-Million, All for Books, Amazon, or Target.

Books in the library are categorized into three main sections: fiction, nonfiction and graphic novels. Currently, Ms. Eckert is sorting a lot of books that came in from the middle school selection and getting them into circulation for younger readers. At the same time, ninth grade level books are being sent up to the senior high school.

The rules of the library are simple according to Ms. Eckert, "The library is not a playground. I have too many heavy furnishings for that." When students borrow books from the library, they can keep the books for up to two weeks, and students can check out a maximum of four books from the library or three books in Sora, the online library, at one time. Students can come down to the library any time between 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., and a whole class can book the library.



When not helping students with books, Ms. Eckert is helping students and teachers with chromebooks. According to Ms. Eckert, "My day is split 50/50. Half the time I'm helping with books, and the other half is helping with computer issues." Ms. Eckert has been our librarian for five years and before that she worked as an elementary school librarian for 19 years.

To learn more about the library, students and parents can go to the library website on the Butler Intermediate High School homepage.

Dr. White Explains Budgeting

BY HARPER GEIBEL AND ZOE GREEN

All schools have a system of how they distribute money within their school. According to Dr. White, there are many different processes on how we fund our school because there is more than one budget in play.

The biggest budget is the general fund budget which pays for staff, buses, and the general buildings. This budgeting process starts around October/November when the committee looks at all of the past expenditures and projects what will be needed for the following year, based on enrollment and other factors.

Of course, all of these items must be paid for by incoming revenue. The three main “buckets” of revenue include state, federal, and local funding. Within each one of these funding buckets, there are different lines of funding that vary somewhat from year to year. For example, there are typically 6-7 lines of funding that come from the state each year, but that may change depending on the state’s budget. “We have to look at each of those funding streams and decide if we will have more money or less money the next year or the same,” explained Dr. White.



In addition to the general fund budget, the district has a food service budget, which is more straightforward. “It is pretty self-contained. We have the money students pay for lunches. Plus, we get reimbursement from the state and federal government for lunches. That is compared to the costs of operations and what we want to offer the students in our food service program,” said Dr. White.

Then there is the capital fund budget, which is where the district saves a little bit of money each year to save for the big projects, like a new field or band uniforms or the project at the Senior High School. In addition to the three big budgets, there is a series of smaller budgets as well.

According to Dr. White, “The process starts in the fall and culminates in June. Between the beginning and end of the budget planning process, we put together a series of projections and go to the school board and other stakeholder groups to create the preliminary budget. Once there is a preliminary budget, we put it out there for the public to see. That way any member of the public can provide feedback.” The final budget is due in May to the school board, but the state budget has a lot of influence on our final budget.

Typically our general fund budget is \$106 million dollars, which may seem like a lot, but costs are cut more often than many people think. It is a challenge that the school board has to face some years and can be very difficult to work around. Dr. White also described the process for when this happens. “First, you look at what is mandatory and then what you are spending money on that is a choice,” said Dr. White. Then they look at what is most impactful on students, and they look at what is not working. “If something costs a lot of money, we have to look at if there is a way to do it better for less money,” he said.

One of the major budgeting decisions in recent years was the decision to close the middle school. According to Dr. White, it would have cost 25-40 million dollars to keep the middle school operating in the 100 year old building, without the major improvements it needed to keep it up to code. However, they could add an addition on the senior high school for only 12 million dollars, and add a second gym for only 2 million. Another large problem was the circulation in the middle school. Even before COVID-19, the air circulation in the middle school was not up to code. Because of this, the federal stimulus money from COVID could be used towards the project at the senior high, since it will provide better air quality for the students. In the end, building an addition became the more affordable and ethical choice.

Grants also assist in funding our schools. It is a way the government can fund ideas and projects to provide public service. "Our school district has approximately 40 active grants," said Dr. White. The grants range from \$500 to several million dollars.

Dr. White explained that he welcomes input from parents and community members because it means that they are invested in our schools. When people want to know where their tax dollars are spent, Dr. White likes to show them our students and teachers engaged in the learning process. "Our biggest expense in the school district is people, and people really matter. Having enough teachers, having enough paraprofessionals, having enough principals makes a real difference in the operation of a school. Having people see that really helps them understand why things cost what they do," he said.

Looking towards the future, districts may be impacted by a lawsuit that is now in Pennsylvania's Supreme Court. The organization Pennsylvanians for Fair Funding is fighting for PA to distribute the state's school funding not equally, but according to district needs. According to this lawsuit, the fair funding formula was enacted in 2015, but it hasn't been used properly. If Pennsylvanians for Fair Funding wins the case, schools may see a big change in how districts are funded.



Fall Athletes Reflect on the Season

BY LUCIA LEYLAND

This fall, athletes from BIHS participated in girls' and boys' soccer, girls' volleyball, football, and cross country.

This was Coach Leyland's first year coaching Butler girls' soccer, and his 29th year coaching soccer. His goal of the season was to improve the team the best he could. For practice, the team would warm up, do some stretching and muscle activation, have a brief meeting to discuss the goals for the practice, the last game, or other things important to the season. Then get into our activities for the practice and end with a scrimmage.

Coach Leyland's favorite part of the season was observing the team's growth and development. He asked the girls to adapt to a new style of play and formation that would best utilize the players that he had. According to Coach, the Kiski game was one of highlights of the season. "We won 1-0, and the goal we scored was a combination with a few players that were working together. We also played well defensively," he said. The teams' record this year was 13-4.

By playing soccer or participating in sports in general, Coach Leyland believes that student athletes can learn lessons in perseverance, accepting criticism, determination, goal setting, working together, and overcoming challenges. He feels as if the team improved by playing more as a cohesive unit, while allowing the team strengths to be showcased. The competition and the excitement and passion made him fall in love with the sport, which is the case for many of the players on the team. Coach Leyland enjoys coaching to promote what he loves and to fill the need for coaches. His advice for the off-season: "Train and play more than your competition."

Ashlyn Vance, who played right wing, and Izzy Skal, who played left back, both played on the BIHS Girls soccer team and enjoyed the experience. They both liked the bus rides to the game because they liked hanging out with their friends. Izzy's and Ashlyn's favorite game was Seneca and Knoch. Izzy chose the Seneca game, which the team won 2-1, because of the challenge and the under-the-lights experience. Ashlyn chose the Knoch game, which the team won 2-1, because she got to play a lot. The girls' felt like every game their confidence and passing went up.

The boys' soccer team also had a great season. This was Jackson Stewart and Thaddeus Mago's second year of Junior High soccer. Both agreed that many improvements were made, such as Thaddeus's distribution and switching of the ball from goal, and Jackson's understanding of the runs he had to make and the placement of the ball.

They both agreed that their second Hampton game under the lights was their best performance. They won that game 3-2 with Jackson scoring the winner. Their favorite part of the season was bonding and forming a relationship with the seventh graders. Jackson and Thaddeus both hope that next year's season will be as great or better than this year's.

Another fall sport is volleyball. The girls' volleyball team won six of their games this season. According to Coach Holt, "The biggest team improvement would be in serving. At the beginning of tryouts, many of the girls couldn't make the ball over the net. By the end of the season, we were really strong in that area." These improvements came from hours of practice. "Typically, we would start practice with a warmup and stretching, then we would work on passing and serving. After that, we would go into drills and play to work on our rotations and game play," Coach Holt said.

Her favorite part of the season was seeing all the girls progress and build on their skills over the course of the season. Coach Holt also enjoys the connections she makes with the players and seeing the impact she's had on them. She believes that student athletes can learn discipline and teamwork through the sport of volleyball. "Volleyball relies on everyone working together. This is something that they will use all through school and life," she commented.

Abbie Steele and Kimora Harrison enjoyed playing on the team. Kimora played as back row, and Abbie played as the libero. They both agree that they got better at serving this season. Kimora's favorite game was the last game against Fox Chapel because they played well, while Abbie's favorite game was against North Allegheny because "I had a lot of hard hits and practiced my digs." Abbie's favorite part of the season was playing her last game of the season. Kimora's was the connections she made with her teammates. Both are excited for the next season of volleyball.

This year's football season was exciting for both the players and the coaches. Coach Popovich was one of this year's coaches, marking his fourth year as a coach. The team had a 4-1-2 record this year, with plenty of improvements made in the areas of aggressiveness and knowledge of the game. These improvements were seen in practice, where the athletes participated in warmups, individual sessions to work on skills specific to the player, team sessions, and scrimmages. They would then showcase their growth out on the field.

Coach Popovich believes the last game against Kiski was the best showcase of their growth. "It was by far the best team performance all season," he said. Coach feels that the life lessons that can be learned from sports are important as well. "Athletes learn that great success comes from hard work," he commented. He enjoyed seeing his players get excited about their successes and seeing them smile when watching film. This and wanting to do as much as he can for the football program drives him to keep coaching. Like many players, he fell in love with this sport because of the competition and the aggressiveness. Coach Popovich's advice for the off-season is simple: "Get stronger."

Jordan Vicari played starting center and defensive end for the team, and he felt like he improved his game this season too. He increased his speed, strength, and his quickness. His favorite game was also the Kiski game. "Everyone thought we were going to lose, but we proved them wrong," he said. He enjoyed messing around with the team during the season. Football is very important to Jordan. "It was always an escape from reality for me," he said. "It just honestly made me happier than anything."

Macie McLister was one of the runner's in this year's cross country team. According to Macie, the team would run around two miles every practice to prepare for the meets. She is always looking for places to improve. Among the improvements she made were "working harder and not letting people get into my head." The Butler County Classic was one of her favorite meets because she won it for Butler. However, the Pine Richland meet was when she was most proud of her team. "We came really close to winning, and everyone did amazing," she said.

Congratulations to all of the fall athletes and coaches on a successful season!



Word Generation Aims to Increase Vocabulary

BY WILLIAM FIELDER

The Word Generation program, commonly known as Word Gen among teachers and students, is a research-based vocabulary program that was implemented by sixth grade teachers three years ago. Since then, it has expanded, and it is a part of the curriculum for grades 6-8.

Word Gen was presented to the sixth grade teachers through PaTTAN, or the Pennsylvania Training and Technology Assistance Network. Before fully implementing Word Gen, sixth grade team members had to work with PaTTAN to properly instruct all aspects of the program. Following the carefully developed curriculum, students were exposed to five new vocabulary words each week in four different lessons that took approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. They were able to prove that by having students learn about academic vocabulary words and use them in all core classes, students better understand and remember the words and their meanings. After the school proved that it was effective for the sixth graders, they were able to obtain a grant to fully implement the program.

According to Mrs. Hovancik, "There was a core group of sixth grade teachers selected by Principal Huffman at the middle school to pilot Word Gen." They were selected to be the teachers who had to be the leading force in helping the program become implemented. They were working with PaTTAN, and they were the ones who had to convince everyone that WordGen was effective. The model used by the sixth grade is now shared with schools all over the state.

The words are introduced through a series of articles that present both sides of a debatable issue. Students read the article and are introduced to the new words on day one, complete a math problem on day two, a science assignment on day three, debate as a class on day four, and write on the topic using the vocabulary words on day five. The topics differentiate per grade level so that sixth graders, seventh graders and eighth graders can all have topics that are at their level.

Some grade levels have eliminated certain topics out of the curriculum because of the controversial topics being discussed. Seventh and eighth graders had some topics cut out because many teachers felt they would be too personal, one of them being "Should There Be Open Adoptions?" Sixth grade was the only grade to not cut out any of the topics because the sixth grade topics were meant to be more controversial to encourage controlled classroom debates between students.

According to Mr. Dunn, "We are always trying to improve our program. For some of the grades, the process is new; others are more experienced. Research indicates that the Word Gen program works, and we hope that it impacts our students positively."



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TORNADO CONNECTION

STUDENT SECTION

Sixth Grade Student Spotlight: Kyla Hortert

BY KENDAL MCCORRY AND JULES LEYLAND, EDITOR

Kyla Hortert is an 11-year-old sixth grader who was born on April 9. Her favorite thing to do in school is to make up for missing work to help her grades. Also, she enjoys math because it comes easy to her.

Outside of school hours, she likes going to cheer and learning tumbling. She has one brother who is 10 years old. In addition, when she grows up she wants to be a teacher so she can teach students who need help in their academics.

Her dream vacation is to go to Hawaii because it is hot there, and she would like to bring one of her best friends. Kyla enjoys eating spaghetti, vanilla ice cream, and sweet tea. She doesn't like reading, but she enjoys pop music and her favorite song is Champion by Carrie Underwood.

The one rule that her parents have that she wishes she didn't have to obey is going to a trampoline park while being supervised. If she had \$1,000, she would save it towards college and school.



Kyla Hortert

Seventh Grade Student Spotlight: Brady Dumbaugh

BY KENDAL MCCORRY AND JULES LEYLAND, EDITOR

Brady Dumbaugh is 12 years old, and his birthday is February 8. As a seventh grader at Butler Intermediate High School, he also has one sister that is 9 years old. Brady likes history class, which is why he likes history and war books.

In his spare time, Brady enjoys playing lacrosse because he does it with his friends. He also plays the alto saxophone and enjoys learning challenging songs. Brady takes the TV video ESP course because he likes to edit and make videos.

His dream vacation would be to go to New York so he could ski and snowboard with his cousin. Brady enjoys steak, mint chocolate chip ice cream, and he likes root beer. His favorite genre of music is country, and he doesn't have a favorite song because he has too many favorites.

If Brady could have \$1,000, he would spend it on new snowboarding equipment.



Brady Dumbaugh



Juliana Lockwood

Eighth Grade Student Spotlight: Juliana Lockwood

BY KENDAL MCCORRY AND JULES LEYLAND, EDITOR

Juliana Lockwood is a 13-year-old eighth grade student who was born on May 7. She has four siblings, one brother that is seven and three sisters that are 17, 21, and 25. She enjoys math class because that is the only academic subject at which she excels.

Outside of school, Juliana likes to skateboard with her friends, and she also participates in basketball and track. Juliana hopes to someday go to Hawaii because it's tropical, and she would bring three of her friends with her. Juliana enjoys cheeseburgers, chicken tenders, and cookie dough ice cream. Her favorite drink is Dr. Pepper. She doesn't like to read, but her favorite book is Restart.

Country music is Juliana's favorite type of music. Juliana wishes she could go out on a school night, though her parents' rule is that she can't. If she had \$1,000, she would spend the money on new shoes.

Popular Clubs Entertain During Period 4

BY MACKAYLA MCCANDLESS

Are you interested in joining any clubs? Yo-Yo Club, Chess Club, and Sixth Grade Swimming Club are three of the many clubs you could join. The sponsor of Yo-Yo club is Mr. Trueman, and Chess Club is run by Mr. Waseleski. The leader of the Sixth Grade Swimming Club is Mrs. Kauffman for girls and Mr. McAnallen for the boys.

The Yo-Yo Club is sponsored by Mr. Trueman, a student teacher with Mrs. Behrens from Slippery Rock this fall. According to Mr. Trueman, "Our club is a good opportunity to learn the basics of Yo-Yo or different tricks."

Mr. Trueman said his biggest inspiration for the club was Nicholas Savannah, an eighth grade student. They bonded over their love of yo-yoing, and the club was born. "My goal for the club is that eventually everyone in the school owns a yo-yo," Mr. Trueman said. He plans to run the club until December 8, which is his last day as a student teacher, and then another faculty member will take over the popular activity.

In the Chess Club, members learn "basic chess strategy and how to interact with others. Advanced chess players learn more complicated chess skills," according to the sponsor, Mr. Waseleski. "We aim for improvement in each member's play, no matter what level they are," he added. Mr. Waseleski chose to run the club because he loves the game of chess. "I have had a high interest in chess since I was a kid, and I noticed that there was a high interest in it here. It also helped that the club existed when this was a ninth and 10th grade building, so supplies were available," he said.

His favorite part of the club is that kids from different social groups that typically wouldn't interact with one another can share an interest in chess. The biggest drawback of the club is the limited amount of time. If he could, he would have at least one tournament per quarter. The club is mostly all student run.

Another popular club is the sixth grade swim club. Mrs. Kauffman sponsors the girls' club, and Mr. McAnallen sponsors the boys' version. According to Mrs. Kauffman, "The best part about the sixth grade swim club is the student enthusiasm."

The students are only able to join the swim club if they are currently enrolled in gym class. Boys swim on Mondays, and girls swim on Fridays.

The club is different from other clubs because it is not limited in size. "We accept everyone in physical education. There is no set limit for the amount of kids," she commented. Swim club allows the sixth grade students to get an idea of what will be included in their physical education course during the next two years in the building and have fun at the same time.

A record number of students have joined clubs this school year, and new clubs are still being added! Pay attention to announcements for new opportunities coming your way!



Yo-yo club founders: Mr. Trueman and Nick Savannah



Chess players practice their strategies

A Random Pairing: *Hocus Pocus 2* and Arctic Monkeys Album Receive Mixed Reviews

BY MORGAN GAURRICH

New movies and music are always popular, and this fall, lots of people have been talking about *Hocus Pocus 2* and *The Car* album by Arctic Monkeys for positive and negative reasons.

Many people were hoping for a *Hocus Pocus 2*, but now they are not very proud of it. They have stated that the first one will forever be the best one out of the sequel. The whole point of view of the story was changed because the witches were changed into good people. There were also a fair number of people not very happy that one of the original characters, Max Dennison, was not in it and the actor, Omri Katz, was disappointed he was not offered into the movie. In addition, the authentic "witchy edge" of the witches was not a focus in the new *Hocus Pocus* like it was in the first one.

Some parents feel that *Hocus Pocus* and *Hocus Pocus 2* are not appropriate for young children because of some inappropriate jokes. One critic said, "*Hocus Pocus 2* was a waste of production. The rising point was geared off the original movie but tacky. The punchlines were weak, and the only funny thing in all the movie was the Roomba flying broom(s) that ate the salt. The high schoolers look like college students, and this boring movie, which tried to repeat history while shoving Disney's agenda in every filler scene, was annoying and eye-rolling."

In the music genre, *The Car* album by Arctic Monkeys had many people excited to listen but a lot of people had mixed feelings about it. Fans have been less generous by describing the album as "boring and tedious." A reason for these negative feelings might be because they don't have the same feeling as they did as they did when the other albums came out.

Arctic Monkeys' career has skyrocketed, and the sound might not be the same anymore. "The other albums have been far more interesting," said another reviewer. One last reviewer had stated, "This is the most boring album in the Arctic Monkeys' discography. I mean, there isn't one song to get excited about whatsoever. This sounds like a bad Alex Turner solo project. All these AM's fanboys saying this is a masterpiece? I don't believe you. If any other band released this lounge music rubbish, you wouldn't listen to it!"

Despite countless brutal reactions to *The Car*, there are also many fans who spoke out strongly in its defense. They described it as a "masterpiece" and praised it for showing the band's "progression in songwriting and subtlety." One article had said that *The Car* is truly Arctic Monkeys' masterpiece – they incorporate so many musical themes from across their career with aplomb, culminating in a simply wonderful record. The strings on this album are utterly inspired, and make this record what it is. People have been saying that it was absolutely amazing and has a nice chill and relaxed vibe to it. I totally love it!

Sources: rollingstone.com, nme.com, imbd.com, and commonsensemedia.org

Guidance Counselors Sponsor Weekly Question

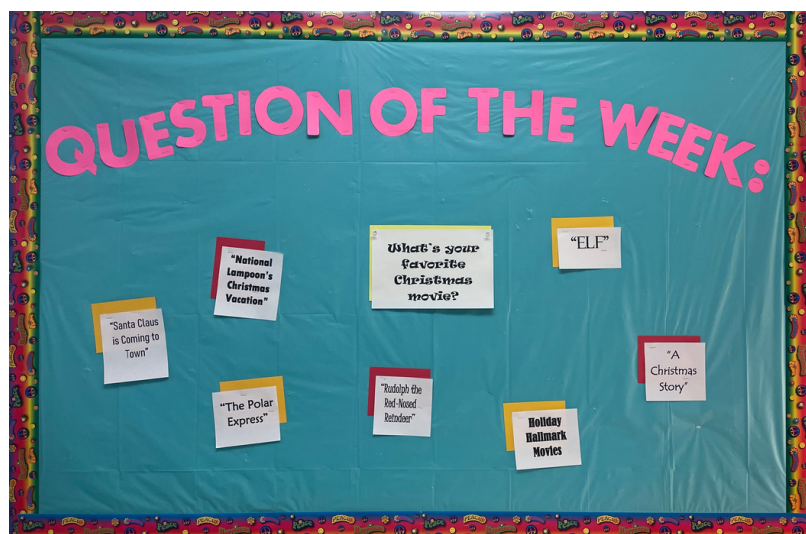
BY JOEY HUFF

What is your favorite classic movie? Your favorite Halloween costume? What superpower would you like to have? These are just a few of the fun questions of the week that the guidance counselors have posted this year. Students can stop in the office, answer the question, and one lucky student then wins a prize.

According to Mrs. Caton, "We wanted a reason to see students who usually don't stop in the guidance office. This gives everyone a positive excuse to open the door and visit." The first question was brainstormed by the counselors and posted in mid September. Interest has been growing ever since!

Mrs. Caton is currently the seventh grade guidance counselor. Mrs. Misencik and Ms. Philipkosky have sixth and eighth grade students respectively. When students attend the Intermediate, they have the same guidance counselor for all three years. "You get to know the kids and their families to help them move from one grade to the next," said Mrs. Caton.

Prior to becoming a counselor, Mrs. Caton taught seventh grade English and sponsored the drama club. She currently belongs to the Starfish committee and is on the PBIS team. She hopes that her students would describe her as a kind and compassionate person who gives great advice. If you haven't had a chance to visit the guidance office, be sure to make time to stop by, introduce yourself, and answer the Question of the Week!



Students Sound Off on Trends

BY HARLEY SMITH AND AVA TIRK, EDITOR

Butler IHS students including Madi Buser, Addison Keene, Brooke Styer, and Kara Lubinsky have a hot take on all things trendy. Staying up to date can be challenging at our age, and each student has a unique perspective on topics such as clothing trends, music, and social media.

The student population has a wide range of views on the school's fashion choices. These ranged from types of shoes to the most popular hairstyles. Brooke believes that the most popular clothing brand is Lululemon. "Their leggings match with any shirt," she said. Brooke also loves sweatpants and sweatshirts, not only because they are comfy, but because they are cute. She would want pockets in every type of pants, not just fake pockets because she needs somewhere to put her phone and money.



She would rather have necklaces on than a bracelet because bracelets get in the way of many activities, and they hurt when she's at volleyball practice. She would rather have creased shoes because she would rather be comfortable. "They will get creased anyway. Plus, I'd rather walk normally," she said. As for brands, Brooke would also have Nike shoes over Jordans because "Jordans are too expensive."

Addi Keene believes that the most popular clothing style is preppy. "I like sweatpants and sweatshirts because they are comfy, but they make me feel lazy," she said. One prerequisite for clothes of any kind, though, is she prefers to have pockets to hold her claw clip and phone. She is a number one bracelets fan, and she is always scared that the necklaces are going to choke her. Addi would rather have no creased shoes because it makes the shoes look and feel newer. She would not have Jordans or Nikes because she prefers her own personal style: Converse.

most popular clothing item is mom jeans. She also loves a sweatpant and hates that some people view them as "lazy." "They're phenomenal and should be more normalized," she explained. She thinks that pants should have pockets and not fake pockets because she doesn't like to carry her phone in her hands all the time. Necklaces are better because there are more styles of them. She believes that shoes are better creased because they are meant to be worn. "Nikes are better than Jordans because Jordans have bright colors and do not match well with most outfits," she added.

Lastly, Madi believes that the most popular clothing genre is preppy and sweatpants. "I like sweatpants, and I wear them all the time," Madi stated. She agreed that all clothing needs real pockets because they are more convenient. Necklaces are better than bracelets because they do not get in the way as often. She believes that no creased shoes are better, but creased shoes are more practical. "You can walk comfortably," she said. Finally, in her mind Jordans are better than Nike because they look better.

Students also have distinct opinions on music and the technology they use to listen to that music. Brooke would rather have Bluetooth headphones. According to Brooke, "The wires don't get in my way when doing activities, and I can charge my phone and listen to music at the same time." Her favorite genre of music is either hip-hop or rap. Her favorite music artist is Kayne West. Instead of just wearing a band t-shirt, she actually listens to old music because her dad used to play it all the time.

Addi isn't very passionate about music, with interests including orchestra and discovering new music. Addi would rather have Bluetooth headphones, but she thinks that wired earbuds are more stylish. "The fashion trend of wired earbuds with outfits has really become more prominent in recent days," said Addi. She does not have one favorite genre of music but enjoys rap, indie, and old rock. "My favorite artist always changes, but I like Arctic Monkeys." She does not own any band shirts, but she does listen to older music.



Kara said that she would have Bluetooth headphones because they don't get in her way. With those earbuds, she loves to listen to indie pop. She does not have a favorite artist because it changes a lot. Kara only wears shirts, and she does not listen to oldies music.

Madi's views of music were very different from the other students. Madi would rather have Bluetooth headphones because then she can charge her phone. Madi loves R&B and K-Pop. She says that BTS is her favorite band. She hurriedly said, "Yeah, obviously I'm not a poser, I swear."

A discussion of trends wouldn't be complete without mentioning social media. Specifically, the girls talked about Snapchat. Brooke believes that the best old Snapchat filter was the big eyes with rainbow throw-up. She likes to snap back and forth with people instead of texting. Whenever she snaps people back, she prefers to snap back without a filter. Her most used filter is the "Kachow" filter.

Addi's favorite old Snapchat filter is the dog face, both the original and the dalmatian. She likes to both snap back and forth and text. Whenever she snaps back and forth, she snaps without a filter. Her favorite filter is the "Ski Glasses."

Kara's favorite old Snapchat filter is the puppy ears with tongue. She also likes to text and snap for conversations. Whenever she snaps back and forth she does not use a filter. Her favorite filter is the "Broccoli" filter.

To conclude, it is fun to snap and text on snapchat, and there are many good old and new snapchat filters.



Sixth Grade Mystery Teacher

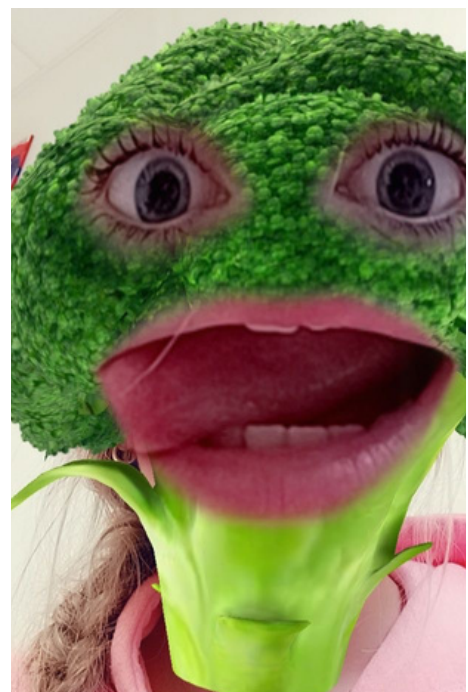
BY TYLER SCHAWL

Our sixth grade mystery teacher grew up in Greensburg, PA and once lived in Philadelphia and Indiana, PA. He sings and plays guitar for fun, and also loves to play soccer. He has two sons and a pug named Titus.

This fun teacher states that his favorite part about teaching is "helping and getting to know students." If he had to teach another subject, he would teach science.

While he was in school, he was in NJHS, musicals, and chorus. He was also on the soccer and tennis teams. He went to three colleges: Dickinson, IUP, and Pitt. He ultimately chose to become a teacher because he was inspired by his teachers when he was in school.

Check out the pictures on the next page for more hints!



Seventh Grade Mystery Teacher

BY TYLER SCHAWL

The seventh grade mystery teacher has lived in Butler her whole life. She has a daughter that is almost two years old, and she has two cats. According to her, "I became a teacher because I like having fun and getting to know the students." She added that if she were to teach another subject, it would be gym because she likes to get up and move.

When this teacher was younger, she was involved in cheer, and she was also in a math club. For college, she attended Penn State Behrend. She became a teacher because she had an 11th grade math teacher that made a huge impact on her. An extra hint: This bubbly person has a lot of energy and called herself "a little crazy."



Eighth Grade Mystery Teacher

BY TYLER SCHAWL

For eighth grade, the mystery teacher grew up in a small town called Brush Valley, PA. She likes to ride quads, dirt bikes, and participate in any outdoor activities. She is good at figure skating, ice hockey, and scuba diving.

This awesome teacher also has 15 chickens, two geckos, one dog, and one fish. She likes teaching because she gets to be creative daily. According to her, she would never teach another subject except the one she teaches.

When she was in school, she was involved in basketball, track, cross country, and skating. Finally, she attended IUP and CAL U for college.