

The Diking Chronicle

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International Students Celebrate New Year with Hotpot

by Lisa Wang

Chinese New Year is the first day of the New Year in the Chinese calendar, which differs from the Gregorian calendar. It is also known as the Spring Festival or the Lunar New Year. Chinese New Year is on February 16 and lasts for 23 days. People usually go to other people's houses to celebrate for New Year. Children usually get red pockets where people put money inside from most families, so usually they are very happy. Thus teachers of BCS prepared a hotpot party to have international students celebrate the Chinese New Year. The international students in ELL class planned the hotpot party, and they invited some domestic students to join them. Mrs. Vicki Britton, International Student Program Coordinator, said the reason why she planned this hotpot party is she wants international students to integrate into BCS. She doesn't want to have a group of international students and a group of domestic students in the school. So the main idea of the party was to have the domestic students and international students develop deeper friendship, and have international students experience and learn more. The party was held on February 15th. Most of the international students attended. Annie Zhao, one of the international students, said that she appreciated the hard work of all the staff involved in this because in other schools they don't do all the special things for the international students.



Above: Alice Zhang, Denmar Collins & Allen Qiu



Right: Tony An, Isaac Britton



In This Issue

ISP Chinese New Year Hotpot
7th Grade Service Project
Focus on SAS
Staff Profile
State Trip—Leaders
New Student Council
New Chapel Leadership
Jean Twenge—Guest Speaker
New Fitness Class

A New Point of View

by Nat Curran

On January 23 our second period English class split into two groups to visit the homeless. I was in the group heading to Congregations for the Homeless. I had expected everyone there to be quiet and antisocial, but as soon as I walked in to the room it was full of life, laughter, and joy. I brought a box of donuts around to the men who were especially grateful. Some men told me that it was the first time in weeks that they were given donuts, let alone fresh ones. Everyone was a little awkward at first, we all stood there while the moms started to chat so I decided to go and watch the show that was playing on the TV. Then I glanced over at a man and he smiled at me and introduced himself, he said his name was Lance. I told him my name and we started talking. He was very social and kind. He lived in Bellevue and he really knew his stuff. We talked about real estate and all of the apartments that are going up. We talked about the show that was going on and we talked about his family. He told me about his brother and his brother's kids. We talked for a while and then he went and ate breakfast. Later I started talking with other men like Olin and Mark. Everyone was very happy and they loved sharing stories of their lives. My whole point of view on the homeless was changed. I had expected a gloomy place full of men eating breakfast but instead I walked into a room full of joyful men eager to talk to me and tell their stories.

Adventures at Camp Unity *by Sarah Alteio*

On Wednesday, the 24th of January some of Mrs. Graves seventh graders went to Camp Unity, Camp Unity is a homeless shelter in Woodinville, Washington. We took a bus to Camp Unity that was full of supplies like coffee, water, napkins, and some canned goods. When we got there a lady with this really cute dog showed us to the kitchen or hangout area. It was a large tent full of shelves with canned goods. I learned how most of the people who lived in Camp Unity had shops but the price of houses were so expensive they still couldn't afford to buy a house or apartment. Most of them slept on milk cartons just trying keep dry, but most of the time they still slept with a wet mat and wet sheets. At Camp Unity everyone pitches in and has to do their job. In the kitchen or hang out room they cook all their meals in microwaves or on the barbecue. They share the shower which is in a long trailer and also in the trailer is the sink where they can groom themselves. There is also a washer and dryer, when we went there the washer was broken. At Camp Unity, they are required to relocate every three months. Mrs. Brasted shared with me that, "The need to move so frequently brings a great deal of stress to the campers and those that support them in finding location moving and setting up new camps." This trip to Camp Unity really made me realize how lucky we are to get to go to school, have family and friends and that we know who God is. I am much more appreciative of all the things in my life, like having three meals a day, a place to call home, and a warm bed to sleep in at night. I definitely enjoyed my time at Camp Unity and I hope I get the chance to go again.



At Congregations for the Homeless: Wendy Zylstra, Keon Saburi, Ella Hay, Noah Mathew, Dale, Tyler Pelts, Kevin Li & Olin

Learning People's Stories *by Payton Schlepp*

Mrs. Graves' English class has been learning about homelessness and in January we went to a few different locations to talk and learn about their stories, as well as give out food. One of the locations that a few classes went to was Downtown Seattle, near the King County Courthouse. On Tuesday January 23, 2018 my class went downtown and gave out food and water to the homeless people of Seattle. The seventh grade wanted to do this to help the homeless to feel known, seen, and loved, and to learn about their stories.

When I went to Downtown Seattle, at first, I was a little nervous, but as a few people stopped by our table and chatted with us, I realized most homeless people are genuinely nice and just want someone to talk to. One man came by and he spoke about his New Year's resolution and how he got a gym membership. It made me happy that he saw the positive side of things and was trying to rebuild his life. I think doing this was very eye-opening experience and a chance to learn the homeless' stories and build compassion.

Jean Twenge's Talk *by Gus Oslund*

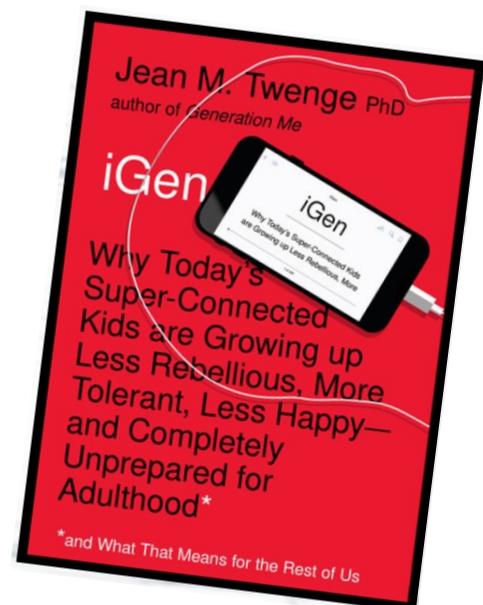
Jean Twenge, a professor of Psychology from San Diego State University, came to talk at Bellevue Christian at chapel. She talked about generations with and without smart phones and how it can affect people to the Jr. High and High school. She compares and talks about ours and older generations and how phones have changed it.

She showed charts about sleep, friends, good and bad trends, and adult activity. She then compared them to this generation to older generations. Professor Twenge showed a graph of social media and showed the difference between guys and girls and the ages. Then she talked about how phones could be the cause of unhappiness, sleep deprivation and even suicide. Right after, she explained what we can do to fix the problems. She said that limiting screen time, taking a break, sleep, and exercise can help. Professor Twenge talked about the use of our phones, how we should use them, and where they should be. She showed graphs and charts about how generations have changed with phones and what has happened. She gave suggestions about how we should use our phones and what we should do.

Don't Freak out, but IOWA tests!

by Jesse De Jong

The Iowa tests or the IBTS test are standardized tests distributed by the college of education of the College of Iowa hence the name. The tests will be taking place the last week of February for grades 3-8 and will test basic skills of all the students such as Computation, Reading and Writing, Logical Thinking and English. The test is graded as a percent and are used to tell you how you stack up to the common score (I.e. top 50%). This makes the test very unpopular with the students, the ones taking it say, "I hate the IOWAS!" We do not know where the test will be held. It will be most likely separated by grade and last name. The student council will be hosting activity rooms in between sessions of testing to ease the stress of testing. As for their slogan the "Measurement you can trust." - after repeatedly filling in up to 400 bubbles all day, I hope you can trust it.





Back Row: Mr. Pridmore, Sean Ball, Martin von Fuchs, Melanie Jump, Amelia Greene, Sophie Hinz, Middle Row: Jesse De Jong, Steven Escobar, Sophia Bold, Mia DeJonge, Ashley Lemery, Haley Ro, Marieke Wybenga, Sanae Loutsis, Ana Becker, Front Row: Nat Curran, Ben Schroeder, Alissa Davis, Not Pictured: Natalie Morris, Amanda Pippel, John Wehrle, Karina Herrboldt.

New Student Council *by Anne Han*

There is a new student council this semester at BCS, last semester, the student council organized many fun (and delicious) events such as handing out bacon, giving hot chocolate and cider, organizing a glow in the dark infection game and many more. The goal of the student council is to improve and grow our community, to try to get everyone closer together, helping out, fundraising and more.

This semester, the student council includes Sean Ball, Ana Becker, Sophia Bold, Natalie Curran, Alissa Davis, Jesse De Jong, Mia DeJonge, Steven Escobar, Amelia Greene, Karina Herrboldt, Sophia Hinz, Melanie Jump, Ashley Lemery, Sanae Loutsis, Natalie Morris, Amanda Pippel, Hayley Ro, Ben Schroeder, Martin von Fuchs, John Wehrle, and Marieke Wybenga. Natalie Morris, a member of the student council shared why she wanted to be in the student council, why she wanted to be part of it and even shared one thing they're working on. Natalie said she wanted to be part of the student council because she wanted to help her school grow as a community and make the students feel good. On top of that, Natalie gladly said her favorite part about the student council is Mr. Pridmore and his jokes. (He's actually hilarious.) Last, but not least, she said the student council are currently working on a couple of things for Iowa week. In that case, we should all keep an eye for some treats or activities coming for our way.

Please keep on supporting the student council, respect them and cheer them on! After all, the student council are the ones who provided all the delicious food and drinks. They are here to serve the Lord, and are wonderful beauty creators.

Behind the Scenes of Chapel Leadership Class

by Elise Tjoelker

Every Tuesday, Jr. High meets for a weekly chapel. We don't realize how much work gets put into the class. Every 2nd period in classroom E101, a few students meet and plan our chapel. This semester 7th graders Sarah Alteio, Brett Olson, Kate Finch, Cianna Brady, and Olivia Turpin; and 8th graders Caden Tuscon and Kiki Wang, are in our Chapel Leadership class. Olivia Turpin said, "We journal about worship and then work on chapel for the rest of class." She also said "I'm looking forward to working on being comfortable in front of a crowd." This class helps students to work on public speaking and planning.

We are sad to say that Ms. Montzingo is leaving, and that her last day is March 2nd. We are excited that she has accepted her dream job of being a pastor at a Covenant church. She is moving to Cleveland, Ohio to work at a church there. We support her, but we will also miss her. We wish her luck in her new job, and we will be



Brett Olson speaking in Chapel

You may have asked, what is SAS about?

by Lucas Hage

SAS is a program for kids that have organizational or learning disabilities. SAS stands for Student Academic Services. This program helps kids that have either organizational weakness in academics, planning, or outlining. There are different kinds of programs that the SAS instructors have students do depending on what areas students are strong in and what areas are they weak in. The areas they work on are the ones in which students are weak in to make them become stronger in that part of academics.

The work that students do in SAS is not the kind of work you might picture. For an example one of the programs is called "Rhythmic writing." In Rhythmic writing the SAS instructor draws an '8' on the chalkboard and what the student's supposed to do is trace the '8' and when the chalk is going toward the left side the student says "left" and keeps on tracing, when the student is going to "right in the opposite direction" of the '8' then the student says "right" sometimes the SAS instructor says "change" the student is supposed to go in the opposite direction of the '8'.

Where is the main SAS room located? The main SAS location is in the back of Upper D building, in room 204 right next to the field. Sometimes kids have both of their electives as SAS and that means that every day at school the student has to go to SAS; however, that is not always the case, sometimes kids only have one elective as SAS. On average most kids have to spend 3-5 years doing SAS.

Why do parents sign their kids up for SAS and does it help? Most parents believe that the program will help their child become a successful adult. Now you might be wondering does it work? A child that is currently taking the SAS class may not see very many changes however, some of their friends, teachers and their parents see the small changes in me. So, yes the program works. You might be thinking, "Wait, who created this program?" From Mrs. Fournier, the program director, I got an verbatim answer, "SAS was adopted at BCS in 1982 from the NILD program- National Institute of Learning Development. The program was determined to give students skills and strategies to become more successful, independent and confident in their learning."

Ms. Skaff, SAS Therapist

by Colby Kuhia

Student Academic Services (SAS) is an educational therapy program at Bellevue Christian School. Ms. Joanna Skaff is an educational therapist in SAS. She focuses on strengthening students' learning challenges. Ms. Skaff likes working 1-1 with students. She is able to go in-depth on how students process information. Her favorite part about teaching SAS is when she and her student 'think together' so that the student demonstrates new learning skills.

Ms. Skaff is in her 26th year at BCS as an educational therapist. Rhythmic Writing is one of the techniques students will do in SAS. Rhythmic Writing helps to strengthen sensory and language processing. RW is a multi-modal technique. Students are doing more than one thing at a time. They are looking, speaking, hearing and feeling the movements/counts as they trace 8's and write motifs. Ms. Skaff uses faith in her teaching. As she partners with her students, she partners with the Lord. The Holy Spirit gives counsel and encouragement.

The Fabulous Mrs. Olson

by Toni Denholm

Have you ever met the SAS teacher Mrs. Olson? For two full years she has been working with students one-on-one to help them better understand and comprehend their homework and what they are learning. Mrs. Olson works odd days at the JH campus and even days at the Three Points campus. She has to work extra hard to individualize the session for each student according to the student's strengths and weaknesses for every week. SAS is a one-on-one class 3 hours a week. Mrs. Olson has worked at BCS for 21 years. She

worked as a kindergarten teacher, a computer teacher, a sixth grade teacher and a coach. Her husband is the assistant principal and she has three kids, two of them go to BCS. She is really good at helping me understand and I'm so glad I got her as my SAS teacher.

Capture the Flag *by Josiah Clark*

Many students went to the school event of Capture the Flag, last semester. In this article we will go over how well the event went, and some interviews with people who went there. Our first interview features Annie Zhao.

What did you enjoy most?

“Getting to hang out with 8th graders, and get our energy out.”

Did you have fun?

“Yes, I had fun.”

Anything to add?

“It was wet and cold, and the flag was way too hard to find.”

Many students had fun, but some people hated it. A lot of the time it was wet, and cold, so people felt like the day was chosen poorly. If the day was sunny, it would have run more smoothly. The weather was a huge contribution to how much capture the flag was enjoyed, but also the game had kinks. There was puppy guarding, and the flags made it more of a find the flag game than a capture the flag one. Since I didn't go to this event, I decided to interview somebody else that had gone, but had more of an important input on this. So, I interviewed student Ana Becker because she was leading the event as part of the 1st semester student council.

Did you think capture the flag went well?

“All things considered I do think that it went well. The only thing I would have changed, would have been to make last longer. We only had about an hour and a half, which only allowed us to barely finish one round. I would have liked for it to last at least 2 hours.”

Why Capture the Flag, and not some other game?

“We chose Capture the Flag because we knew that the Junior High as a whole had enjoyed it when we held it in the past, and since we were nearing the end of the semester, it was something that we could plan both quickly and easily, without it interfering with the other things we had going on as a council.”

Anything to add?

“That's about it, but I do think more participation would have been appreciated. Also, we had asked for kids to bring canned food donations as their "entry fee" (although no one was left out) we only got maybe 10 cans total out of 30 or 40 people.”

So, I learned that capture the flag seemed to go well. Some things could have gone better, but that remains true for most all events. Here at BCS, we are lucky to have a great student council to work on events that help us enjoy Jr. High more.



Girls Basketball Ends Season Strong *by Annie Zhao*

This season of Girls Basketball was great says Lisa Wang, a D3 basketball player. It was her first year playing for the BCS basketball team, she played the wing and says she wants to be remembered as a strong defender. This year the D3 team won almost every game that season. Another D3 player Angel Jiang, says that she was proud of herself as this was her first year on a basketball team ever. Other D3 players say that Angel has probably improved the most out of any girl on the D3 team. Jenna Owen, a player on the D2 team and student says that this season went really well, she said that there were so many injuries on the D2 team this season that it was a bit of a struggle. But they worked with it and still made this season count. Another D2 player, Abigail Lew, says that she feels that Coach Pridmore really pushed them this year and she is thankful for that. An eighth grader, Lily Li, a player on the D3 team says that she feels it was a really memorable season because not only did they win almost every game but they had a lot of fun too. Sixth Grader, Eric Du, watched some of our D3 games and feels that we did really well. A seventh grader, Quinn Myhre, says that the D2 team could work on a few things like being more focused on the ball, and they could work on speed, too, but he also says that they really know how to work as team, much better than any of the D2 teams he watched.

Insight on Mrs. Pam Johnson

by Savanna Taylor

As you may notice there are a lot of different people who work in the LRC at the main campus. Among one of those people is Mrs. Pam Johnson; Ms. Fox's assistant. Mrs. Johnson has graduated with a degree in technical writing from the University of Washington. She also has always loved reading, and has written quite a few stories. Furthermore, she plans next year to finish her Master's degree in library science from the University of Washington. Mrs. Johnson came to Bellevue Cristian through her sister-in-law Kristel Fawcett who had started working in the library at the Mack Elementary Campus. Over the course of that year she began helping out in the library at Mack Elementary with Mrs. Fawcett. She began to enjoy it very much. Then she eventually switched to the Main Campus and became Ms. Fox's; the head librarian's, assistant. In total Mrs. Johnson has worked five years at Bellevue Christian, three years at the Mack Campus, and two years at the Main Campus. Some interesting facts about Mrs. Johnson are: she lives in Duvall, and has a small blueberry farm. She also has many pets, including a miniature donkey, an adorable corgi, and two horses. Next time you find yourself looking for a book in the library, make sure you say, "Hi" to Mrs. Johnson and she will help you find the perfect book.

State Trip Leaders

by Brennan Marlow

Ever wanted to go on an awesome adventure with your class mates to visit a beautiful city on the west coast? Well that's what the eighth graders are doing. The state trip is a great way to get to know classmates you don't know very well. I have interviewed Mrs. Schmer, the statetrip coordinator, about how chaperones are selected. She replied "We have an application process for chaperones. As coordinator, I compile the list of potential chaperones and give this to Mr. Olson and Mr. DeYoung for review. In addition, chaperones complete a background check with the District and submit driving records to the BCS transportation department." It must be awesome for the eighth graders to plan their own vacation! In fact, Mrs. Schmer said, "The majority of students **love** the trip because they plan it. This is a student-planned trip in which they get to decide which parks, businesses, historical sites, landforms, etc., that they will visit. In addition, they make decisions on where they will stay and what they will eat. They then choose 2-3 service projects to do during the week. There is also the social aspect - Statetrip gives students an opportunity to spend time with other students in their grade, and they get to know our fabulous chaperones as well. We meet fascinating people on our trip - people who are passionate about what they do. Personally, I have been on Statetrip 6 times, and each one

has been a grand adventure. I had the awesome privilege of chaperoning my daughter's group when we visited the Southwest region. For many students at BCS, **it remains one of their favorite memories of Junior High.**" Sounds like a blast!! My brother, Hayden Marlow, a former eighth grader at Bellevue Christian School, has been on one of these extravagant adventures and he came back saying "It was the coolest experience of junior high." Personally, I can't wait to hit the road and discover a new place our beautiful state has to offer! Statetrip is action packed with four days of hanging with friends and exploring the great outdoors with two work days prior to the trip and one day after the trip for projects, making the total experience eight days! All ten groups will be going to six places which include the Olympic Peninsula; Southwest Washington (Vancouver/Astoria); Northwest Washington (Grand Coulee, Lake Chelan); Southwest Washington (Yakima/Tri-Cities); the Gorge (Columbia River, Multnomah Falls); and Okanagan. I asked Mrs. Schmer how the places were selected, and she said "Students choose the places they will visit with help from the chaperones. Chaperones give each day leader pair a certain section of the region they are visiting, which the students then use to find interesting places to visit." So that's the scoop about statetrip!

Fitness Class

by Andrew Wei

Mr. Walters is the teacher of the new fitness class and he trains the students. There are different kind of training for example speed and agility. Fitness class takes place in the strength training room. It takes place 3rd period on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Mr. Walters wanted to train the students in Fitness class because he wanted to try and make the students get more fit and accomplish their fitness goals. In the strength training room, there is a lot of equipment for fitness, lifts, bench-press, power-squats, and more that makes you fit and healthy. When asked, what do you like about fitness class? Mr. Walters said, "Students can get things done and accomplish some of their fitness goals." What is the point of fitness class? "Students can learn more about being fit." How do the students improve in fitness class? "They can time themselves and see their time for the first week, and after 6 weeks they will time themselves again and see if they are faster than the first time they started."



Right: 8th Grade Girls

The Legendary Club

by Quinn Myhre

This club is the next best thing, the greatest club, the hour with power it's **INTRAMURALS!!** This club is one of the champions. Intramurals has people begging to be in that club. Andrew Wei had this to say, "It is a great way to blow off steam after a long day of work." When you are interactive in intramurals on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:13-2:55. The intramurals club has been popular for many years and will be popular for many more years. The intramurals club is fun and amazing so sign up and be active.



Johann de Villiers, Trey Weedman, Ben Schroeder, Zach Potthoff, Juan Gatchalian, Martin von Fuchs, Spencer Rankin



Steven Escobar, Connor Farrell, Colby Kuhia, Gus Oslund, Leo Trepte, Tyler Pelts



Amelia Greene, Kaitlyn Novak, Michelle Schober, Savanna Taylor, Abby Moehring



Brilliant Fools! by Hampton Kay

The Bellevue Christian High School student directed play *Fools* premiered the night of February 8th and ran through February 10th. It is a heart-warming story of a small Russian hamlet struck down by the curse of a jealous lover. “What is this curse?” you may ask. Ignorance. Ignorance is the plague that afflicts this town. This play is full of comedy from start to finish, whether it’s the 19 year old girl who just learned to sit down, or the belief of the people that rain is the result of the Count on the hill throwing buckets of water down on the town, or that milking a cow upside down will result in more cream. It’s a hilarious romp in the Russian countryside as a love struck teacher, Leon Tolchinsky tries to break the curse. But it’s not all comedy. For this we turn to the director Savannah Cullen, who pointed out that the play has one underlying theme: Even through adversity, we can learn and become better people. She also mentioned how important the idea of student directed plays is, how it allows people to come together in teamwork and friendship who might not have done so otherwise. “The work of a director is not just directing, but also choosing the right people for the parts, people who work well together and can embody the role they are playing”, she said. One example she gave was Joe Heinemann, who plays the villain, Count Yousekevitch. He originally auditioned for a minor role, but Savannah said, “As soon as I saw him, I knew that he would be perfect for the Count.” Thus came together a work of ingenuity, bravery, comedy and teamwork that is *Fools*.

President’s Day by Conner Sapp

President’s Day is on Monday, February 19. You might be thinking, what is President’s Day? Well President’s Day is an American holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February. Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, it is still officially called Washington's Birthday by the government. Here are a couple other facts you may or may not have known. Do you know why we celebrate President’s Day? We celebrate it because the day honors presidents of the United States, including George Washington, the USA's first president. Also that very first president, George Washington, was the only president to get the whole country to vote for him.



Valentine’s Day

by Jessica Elbert

Valentine’s Day is a day for love and celebration. It is celebrated on February 14. People usually give flowers, cards, letters, or presents to their partner or spouse. They also could arrange dinner. Some of the most common symbols for Valentine’s Day are hearts, red roses, and Cupid. When they send the cards, letters, or flowers it is usually anonymously. It is not a public holiday. Buses run their regular route, restaurants run on schedule even if they are more crowded than usual. It is also a very popular wedding date. Valentine’s Day started with a man named St. Valentine. He lived in the 3rd century. There are a bunch of theories on how Valentines Day started.

One is when he was in prison he fell in love with the jailer’s daughter and on February 14 he sent her a love letter and signed it “From your Valentine.” another theory is that the Catholic Church used St. Valentine’s martyrdom to Christianize the old Roman Lupercalia, a pagan festival held around the middle of February; Valentine’s Day is in remembrance of this Martyr. This year, Valentine’s Day and Ash Wednesday both land on the same day. Ash Day is the first day of Lent, in Western Christianity. It is celebrated 46 days before Easter. It can land as early as February 4, and as late as March 10.