

The Diking Chronicle

Volume 2 Issue 4

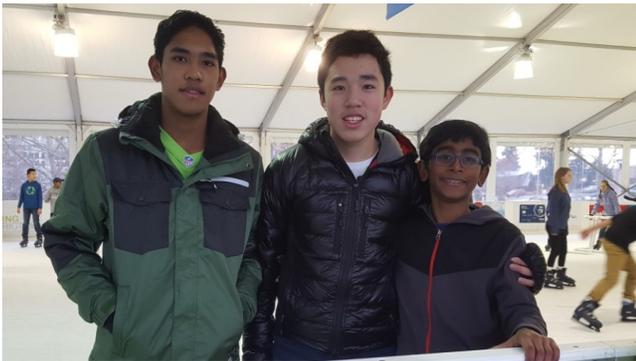
January 22, 2018

Junior High Community Day *by Nat Curran*

On Friday December 15th the Jr. High Student Council planned a Star Wars day for us to be together to hang out, make new friends, and to start our Christmas spirit. It was the last day before break and after the many calls, 3 weeks of planning and the help from several teachers, the Student Council had scheduled for us to go to the Bellevue ice skating rink and then to see *Star Wars The Last Jedi*. First we loaded onto the buses after a quick run through of the day by Vice Principal Mr. Mike Olson and JH Student Council leader Mr. Tom Pridmore. We went ice skating for a few hours enjoying some laughs and some falls, then we hopped onto the buses again and drove over to the Renton Landing Theatre to watch Star Wars. After the action packed movie ended we hopped on the buses head back to school, packed up and began our winter break. Spirit week was a week to remember and a week to thank our amazing Student Council for all their hard work and dedication to making sure that school stays full of surprises.



Kalie & Alissa Davis



Denmar Collins, Kevin Li & Noah Matthew



Sofia Soderberg, Olivia Turpin, Macie Foisset & Abigail Lew



Mr. Steel, Mrs. Eble & Mr. Kuiper

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***The Last Jedi* Review**

by Michelle Schober

The new Star Wars movie *The Last Jedi* was a big hit for the Bellevue Christian Junior High fun day on Friday December 15, 2017. Kathleen Kennedy and Ram Bergman, the Lucas film presidents, are who we have to thank for the movie along with J.J. Abrams, the executive producer for *The Last Jedi*. *The Last Jedi* was all about Rey trying to get Luke Skywalker to train her to be a Jedi; Luke was the only one who could teach her, but he didn't want to because of her earlier failure with Kylo Ren.

In all, the movie was exciting, action packed, full of fighting, justice, and a lot more. *The Last Jedi* had a few twists between the dark and light side which made the movie more likeable. I enjoyed this movie and I would give it a 7.5 out of 10 stars, a very good rating.

A Christmas Spectacular on the Lake! by Lauren Derheim

On December 23, 2017 at 7:30pm, my family and I went on our boat and headed into Lake Washington. We drove our boat over to the Kirkland City's Water Dock and waited anxiously for the Christmas Parade to begin. Right after we gathered around the Argosy's Cruise Boat, a bunch of other boats, big and small, came in and around the Argosy's Cruise Boat as well. There were probably 200 decorated boats and about 20 decorated kayaks. Some boats had a lot of different varieties of Christmas lights, others had all of that, but then they went the extra mile and added sleighs, presents, Santa Claus, and reindeer. It was just a magnificent way to see Christmas. They helped make Christmas so much more special than it already was not just for little kids but for everybody to enjoy!

But, my favorite part was when the Dickens Carolers sang a bundle of Christmas songs live on the Argosy's Cruise Boat. Their voices sounded so original and beautiful. I felt so relaxed and happy, so I sang along with them and soon everybody came out of their boats and started singing along, too. At the end of the night, when the parade was coming to an end, the Argosy's Cruise Boat wished us a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and then the captain asked us, "if you loved the Christmas Boat Parade please honk your horns!" Then, suddenly, there was this huge (and a little bit nerve-racking) noise coming from every single boat, and I realized everyone was honking! It was absolutely magnificent and very entertaining! At the end of the night, my whole family felt blessed and pleased to be part of the parade and we couldn't possibly have a better Christmas!

Christmas Spirit Week by Annie Zhao

Spirit weeks are organized by the student council, the Christmas edition took place the last week of school before winter break. Sofia Soderberg, a fellow student and a student council member, says that Spirit week is one of the most important weeks of the school year because it brings the school together, to just have fun. She also said that she and the rest of the student council hope to have more and more Spirit weeks to get people excited and prepared for holiday. Sofia said that when the High School came up with their spirit week the whole student council got excited about the idea, so

they are going to continue the tradition. Another student council member, Katie Alteio, says that we need a second spirit week because it makes coming to school more enjoyable. She also says that spirit week is important because it makes school more fun, and it's a fun way for everyone to come together.

Amelie Theisen, an eighth grade student said that she hopes there will be more spirit weeks in the future, and she said that she felt she could really express herself through this week. She also said that this is a fun and interesting

way to see everyone prepare and spread the holiday spirit. Austin Harrison, a seventh grade student, also said that its just about having fun and bringing the school together; he hopes there will be more in this following year.



Highlighting Homework Club

by Abigail Lew

Homework Club is one of the many clubs offered during junior high club time and is designed to let students do their homework or make up any assignments at school. Ms. Caitlin Cotton, JH math teacher, and Mrs. Schmer, eighth grade social studies and French teacher, both run a homework club. Ms. Cotton's club was originally going to be a math help club, but changed into a homework one when very few people signed up for the math help club. Homework club is in Ms. Cotton's room, B107 and Mrs. Schmer's room, B108.

Macie Foisset, a seventh grader in Ms. Cotton's homework club, says she loves this club because, "I get to finish homework, it's quiet most of the time, and I like Ms. Cotton." Both Ms. Cotton and Mrs. Schmer agree that they like homework club too because they can finish their own work and talk with students. Ms. Cotton describes homework club as, "a place for people to work together to work towards their academic endeavors."



Christmas Chapel by Kaitlyn Novak

On December 12, 2017, all the Junior High went to a very special chapel. This chapel was the Christmas chapel. There were a lot of different activities for everyone to participate in such as decorating cookies, singing *The Twelve Days of Seattle*, a ginger bread house decoration competition, and so much more!

After second period, the Junior High went to the Commons to have a lot of fun. They did not know what Chapel Leadership had in store for them. Olivia Turpin, Chapel Leadership, said that planning the Christmas chapel took them about two weeks to plan. Her favorite part was finding the activity ideas for the chapel. She said that she liked to hear all the ideas and what people came up with. As we know, the activities that they chose were, decorating cookies, singing *The Twelve Days of Seattle*, having a ginger bread house competition, making human Christmas trees, guessing the names of Christmas songs, and a reenactment of the Christmas Story.

There were many people that participated in the Christmas chapel, and Amelia Greene was one of them. Amelia Greene, a seventh grader, said that her favorite activity was *The Twelve Days of Seattle*, because everyone was participating and having a lot of fun. She said, that it almost became like a competition to see who could sing the loudest, and have the biggest motions. Amelia said that the Christmas chapel was a blast, and liked that they were able to talk, and that the activities allowed them to get out of their seats. She thought that most of the games were really clever and when they played the games, they all got really excited and competitive. Amelia commented that her favorite part about decorating her cookie was the variety of sprinkles. There were green, red, and multicolored sprinkles. She said that she didn't decorate her cookie in any sort of shape or animal because she was mostly focused on drowning her cookie in sprinkles. Amelia thought that the Christmas song game could've been improved. She didn't think that it was very well organized or fair.

The Christmas chapel was very fun and exciting, and we thank Chapel Leadership and Student Council for planning this special Chapel for us. Even though the chapel had some flaws, the Junior High loved it.

Seattle Style



Letter Writing Success!

by Savanna Taylor

In seventh grade English class, students have been assigned to write a formal email to a person they admire. Many students over the past months have successfully received letters back. One of those students who experienced letter writing success was Abigail Lew. She wrote a lovely, and kind letter to the Duchess of Cambridge, acknowledging her success and suggesting a baby name. Abigail was thrilled to receive a letter back. The letter was written by Miss Claudia Spens of the royal office, she said on her behalf the Duchess of Cambridge was very touched by her warm, thoughtful letter and unfortunately was unable to respond personally, but wished her the most thanks for her delightful letter.

Another student who experienced letter writing success was Jade LaBossier. She wrote a fun letter to Wrigley, Jr. Company, explaining how much she loved skittles, and if she could have a sample. Jade received a kind letter back written by Jo White; the customer care representative of the company. She thanked Jade for expressing her love of the company, and that they loved hearing from such a big fan. Although she said unfortunately the company could not give away any samples because they get thousands requests for samples each year, and if they were able to give out free samples they would have to give them to everyone. She was sorry that they couldn't help, but hoped Jade would continue eating skittles and that she would



Love's Labour's Won!

by Hampton Kay

The Princess and the Porcupine, the Junior High Drama Play, premiered in the Commons on the 18th, 19th and 20th of January. The performances met the expectations of the audience and the actors and was by far, the best play produced by this drama group. This wonderful thespian production was put on by Mr. Ramquist, teacher of drama. His motivation for picking this work was the creativity of the story, the fact that it is a comic version of the classic cliché fairy tale, and its ability to be used for teaching theatrical elements, such as costume and lighting. "It was hard at first," he said, "especially getting everyone to learn their lines; but we did it!" He felt that while some cast members were scared, some excited, and some not sure of their position, we were united in our love of the theatrical arts. Of course, not all were so confident. Sam Reys, who played King Shmo, when pressed revealed that he had doubts about the quality of the play but felt that the challenge was great and that he must, "Sally forth." Of course, many things went into the production of the play. For instance, much time was spent practicing the choreography. Our choreographer, Lauren Derheim, hand-picked the music for the cabbage dance. She said, "Its difficult work but if we all try, we can do it." And she was right! A strong team spirit was built among the actors: a SPIRIT of friendship! A SPIRIT of community! A SPIRIT of SUCCESS! A spirit that is not easily lost.

have the best birthday possible. Overall, this year students have received more letters back than ever before; that's what I call letter writing success!



The Season Starts

by Jade LaBossier

This year the Junior High girls basketball teams have twenty-five participants. There are eight girls on D1, nine girls on D2, and eight girls on D3. I interviewed Mia DeJonge, who played on D1 last year coached by Paul Adams; this year she is on D1, like last year, but she is coached by Becca Brodine. Mia likes how Coach Brodine challenges her skills but is also fun to be around. Coach Brodine has played basketball since 1st grade and all the way through high school. She has been the assistant coach on a few teams the past couple of years because she loves the sport and being a coach. Coach Brodine is planning on coaching Bellevue Christian Junior High girls next year as well because she likes the idea of being consistent. Mia thinks that the BCS basketball program is a fun atmosphere and she loves being around all of her teammates. GO VIKINGS!

Booster Club

by Brennan Marlow

The booster club is a chance for the representatives of the all high school sports to come together and discuss certain concerns or ideas. The booster club meets once a month on a Monday. This annual tradition has been going on for about 25 years according to Mr. DeJonge. The president of this club is Mr. DeJonge himself. The booster club helps with things like school spirit organization, fundraisers for sporting events, and general high school

Mark DeJonge, Athletic Director

by Connor Farrell

I was fortunate to be able to spend some time with Mark DeJonge, the Athletic Director of Bellevue Christian School (BCS), and pass along his knowledge on athletics and coaching. He was kind enough to talk with me about his career, experience at BCS, and thoughts on improvements to the Athletic Department.

Mr. DeJonge has been working at BCS for twelve years. Before this he coached at a small private school in Issaquah, WA. He enjoys watching his students and teams get together to compete. Although he has no favorite sport, he particularly enjoys coaching basketball. He's clearly a competitive person, and encourages his students to also be competitive. However, he always makes sure every player is a fair sport when they win, and sees losing as a lesson and not a failure.

Mr. DeJonge's view is more than just your average athletic coach. He also sees coaching as an opportunity to be a Christian mentor and share his faith. With this comes someone who appears to be a good listener, someone who wants to understand each athlete and how they fit in their team. Sometimes his decisions are based on what is best for an individual, and sometimes they're based on what's best for the team as a whole.

When Mr. DeJonge was a kid, his parents were both coaches and his family was very athletic. He always looked up to his dad and wanted to be like him. When he reflects on his dad, he wants to do what's right not only for his student athletes, but for all of BCS. Mr. DeJonge expressed ways of improving the Athletic Department at BCS. He mentioned building improvements, like a new gymnasium, but also would like to see more utilization of what we have, specifically he mentioned more use of the weight room by all athletes.

My time with Mr. DeJonge was informative, both of him as an athletic director and of the Athletics Department at BCS. If anybody is interested in participating in a sport, or would like help figuring out what sport is best for them, Mr. DeJonge recommends the following:

If you're in 7th grade or lower, you can join two types of sports, either with cuts or without cuts, depending upon your skills and competitive drive.

If you're in 8th through 12th grades, you will either be on a cut team or have opportunities for training and practice sessions (ex., strength training).

The BCS Athletics Department has competitive and noncompetitive opportunities for our entire student body. It is led by a great person, passionate about both athletics and faith.

sporting fundraisers. It's also a chance to get to know the parent volunteers while planning a fundraiser pot-luck.



A Glimpse into the Life of an Exchange Student

by *Edwina Tian*

Peter Jia, a Chinese exchange student, transferred from Xi'an, China. Peter didn't choose to come here to Bellevue Christian School, his parents made him transfer here. Instead of not wanting to come here, Peter was actually excited about coming to America. His parents made him go here because they heard there was good education and that there was a better environment. Some of the things he was excited about was being able to learn a new language and culture! Peter transferred in 2016 and has been enjoying his time here since. He enjoys BCS because he has been able to make a lot of new friends, experience a whole new culture, and play sports! Now that Peter has come to BCS he says that he feels more free and independent, and would love to stay at this school. Exchange students can come from anywhere, China, Korea, Japan and way more to list! Anyone from around the world is welcome here at Bellevue Christian School.



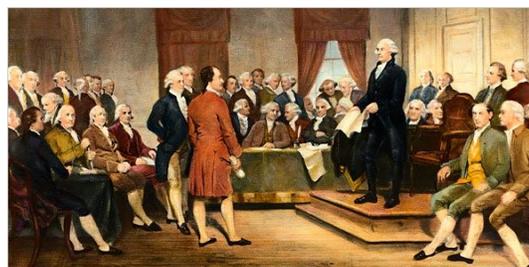
Seventh Grade Biography Projects in Depth *by Sofia Soderberg*

With a new curriculum, seventh grade Social Studies teacher Mr. Steel decided to take a new approach into learning about the Founding Fathers of colonial America. Mr. Steel introduced the idea of combining both Social Studies and English classes into one thirty-point project, which takes up the same portion of our grade as a longer test would. As this is the first time for both a new curriculum and the combination of two different classes, Mr. Steel hopes to continue the project if the presentations go well. He believes that the project was an effective way of helping students see the connection among subjects and how this type of learning will affect students' future careers. Mr. Steel says that the idea of reading an IRB and presenting on the topic originally came from a TFT, or Teaching for Transformation, session. Reading a biography allows

students to learn about one founding father in depth and as Mr. Steel touched on, "remembering the father as a real person, and not just another idea.", which isn't something that students can always gain the full importance of when taught a lesson or when reading from a textbook. The choice of going into depth about the founding fathers specifically is mainly because Mr. Steel thinks that these people are the initial identity of what we can call our country as they are the really remarkable foundation of the evolution of the United States of America. The presentations themselves are set to take place at the beginning of the third quarter and should take about five to seven minutes. The presentations should discuss the person's life and their significance as students will pretend to be their chosen

subject/father. The project, as a whole, will show students a new perspective of the people in our textbooks; however, becoming the person through the presentations can elaborate on the emotions and individuality of the founding father.

Mrs. Graves, seventh grade English teacher, also contributed to the project by introducing how to read a biography and in creating a reading guide which can help with students' note taking skills. Ms. Fox, the librarian, also helped by coming up with the reading lists featuring a variety of recommended biographies about various founding fathers.



The Sound of Holiday Cheer *by Karina Herrboldt*

On December 13, from 7:30-9:00 p.m., our own Commons was filled with the sound of Christmas cheer. Why? Because the Junior high and high school symphonic band was playing that night, to show all their dear parents how much they have learned in these past few months. I, for one, think the band members played exceptionally well! Natalie Morris, euphonium player, was kind enough to give me the inside story of how she felt about the performance of herself and her peers.

“I felt we did much better than last year, and the concert before this,” she said to me after careful thought. I’m glad to hear that I am not alone in my feelings about this event! Some of the songs played were “And All The Bells Shall Ring”, and our school favorite, “The Polar Express”. Natalie also told me that “And All The Bells Shall Ring” was her favorite song because she got to do a solo with the clarinets in the song. The high school symphonic band and the symphonic wind ensemble played after the junior high band. Some of the other songs they played were “Fanfare For Christmas”, “A Charlie Brown Christmas”, and “Dashing Through The Snow”. Anyone who skipped this show of talent really missed out!

Ms. Reynolds’ Faith Walk *by Regina Janse van Rensburg*

Ms. Reynolds teaches seventh grade Bible class as well as junior high and high school band. I asked her about her faith walk and teaching.

Q: How old were you when you first went to church? A: 4 years old
 Q: How old were you when you were baptized? A: Christened as a baby and then submerged (dunked) as an 11 year old.
 Q: How old were you when you called yourself a Christian? A: 7 years old
 Q: Have you ever doubted your faith and Why? A: Yes and no. As I entered my early 20’s I did a lot of searching and reading and came to claim my faith as my own.
 Q: What is your view on Christianity currently vs when you went through the harder parts of your life?
 A: Faith in Christ has always been a part of my life now as well as when my brother died of addiction and my mother died of cancer. He is a constant support for me.
 Q: How do you think God has worked through your life to want to teach the word of God to kids? A: I want to share the Bible with students so they can see themselves in the greater story. Humans are all broken, no one is alone, and God loves and wants to save us.
 Q: What role does God play in your everyday life? A: He is my constant support. I pray constantly though performing music.
 Q: What are your thoughts on people growing up with out God in their life? A: I think it is unfortunate but I believe God can meet people where ever they are and through unexpected things.
 Q: Do you feel God has called you to teach his word for a specific reason? What reasons? A: I have always wanted to be a teacher- it has always been apart of me.
 Q: What is your favorite part about teaching kids the word of God. A: Helping them on their faith journey.

Mr. Pep’s Take on Pep Band

by Natalie Morris

Pep band. What is it? Pep band is the small band that goes and cheers on the varsity basketball teams. For this article I got to interview Jacob Robblee, also known as Mr. Pep. He got this nickname for being the peppiest person in pep band. He’s been in pep band ever since the start of seventh grade. I asked him what it was like when the new students joined pep band. He said that it was amazing, because last year there were very few people, making the band sound less peppy. In pep band, some junior highers are allowed to join, but mostly the high schoolers are in pep band. The junior highers that joined this year are Amanda Pip-pel, Josiah Clark, Zachary Chronister, and me, Natalie Morris. More people joined this year, but they were in high school. Jacob also said that he would definitely consider joining a college pep band because it would be even peppier, and there would be more instruments making it sound better. Although there’s a lot of background noise it can help, Jacob says. It can help tune to the first note of the next song. Altogether, pep band is a very fun place, and it helped me make friends. Mr. Pep and everybody else is very nice, and we all work well together to bring cheer to the entire gym during the games.



Celebrating MLK Day *by Cam Aaselund*

Martin Luther King Jr. day is federal holiday and there are a lot of long standing traditions. One reason it is celebrated is that it promotes that the USA has equal rights regardless of its citizens' backgrounds. Some people have to go to school on MLK day but, they take a break of their normal schedule and just teach students about MLK and the hardships he went through. MLK day is also known as Equality day in Wyoming. The King holiday honors the life of Martin Luther King Jr., a great champion of racial justice and equality. The leader not only braved the chance he would get beaten, thrown in jail, or maybe even killed for a color-blind society. Another reason he is remembered is that he did not do violent protests; he did peaceful protests and they never got out of hand. This holiday is here to honor the man who got harassment threats and beatings and even bombings. We celebrate the man who went to jail 29 times to get freedom for others. He knew it would be a hard path but he kept on marching until he had won.



The Inside Look at Our School *by Payton Schlepp*

The Open House was a chance for people considering applying to Bellevue Christian to get a better idea of who we are as a school and get accurate information about BCS. It was also a chance for any questions people might have, to be answered. The Open House was on January 16th from 7:00 to 8:30pm. It took place at Bellevue Christian School in the Clyde Hill campus. At the Open House, an overview of who we are as a school was given, as well as a tour, and a chance to talk to some teachers and the principal. The Open House was for prospective students and families considering enrollment at BCS.

Anyone can come to the Open House, mainly people considering staying or applying to BCS. Normally around 50 people attend the Open House. Mr. Olson, Junior High Assistant Principal, says that Mr. DeYoung, Principal, leads a discussion about our school's philosophy, our history, and the vision and mission Bellevue Christian School strives for. Also, another thing that is discussed is who we are as a school and what makes BCS different than other schools. The benefits of the Open House are that parents get an inside look and accurate information, which can make them feel more confident in what they know about our school. The Open House is a great time to come and learn more about Bellevue Christian School if you are considering enrolling your child and want to know more about BCS and what makes it different and special.

Upcoming Events

January 23—January 25—Finals
 January 25—Girls BBall D1, D2 Games
 January 25—Capture the Flag
 January 26—No school
 January 29—Start of 2nd Semester
 January 29—Girls BBall D1, D2, D3 Games
 February 1—Girls BBall D1, D2 Games



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