

# The Diking Chronicle

Volume 4 Issue 1

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## Time for Camp! *by Addison Taylor*

Camp Gilead is one of our school's favorite fun filled events. Each year all the junior high students take a relaxing trip to camp. Mr. Tom Pridmore, the organizer of event, says, "We go to Camp Gilead as a team building event to help old and new students get to know each other." Every year Mr. Pridmore and the student council work hard to make sure you have a fun camp experience. The council comes up with games like ultimate frisbee and capture the flag all on their own and brings all the stuff we need, making sure we have a good time. Brielle Weedman, a seventh grader, said she loved the camp and its activities. Brielle also said, "I liked getting a break from school and enjoyed the food, games, and free time." Camp Gilead has been something we've done at BCS for a long time and has always been a highlight of the school year.



Samantha Ratterree, Rebecca Qian & Katherine Gile  
Photo: Mrs. Graves



Tessa Burnett, Emily DeJonge, Cassie Wybenga & Esmee Birkeland Photo: Mrs. Graves



Mrs. Eble, Dani Snyder, Anna Dell'Osso, Liza Kudryashova, Abby Koorn Photo: Mrs. Graves



Jack Zylstra, Ryan Hazeur, Tony Mi, Marine Sohn, Aidan Morlock Photo: Mrs. Graves

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## Fall Semester Student Council *by Drew Penberthy*

The Camp Gilead retreat just ended and the council now has the rest of the semester to hold events and activities. Their teacher, Mr. Pridmore, has been doing his job for four years now and has no interest in stopping. The members in the council are Aidan Morlock, Lexi Salazar, Conner Banach, Zach Faley, Cassie Wybenga, Boston Borg, Jaybin Rippee, Ryder Brickman, Colton Harris, Benny Williams, Eve Henry, Calleia Neal, Emily DeJonge, Katherine Gile, and myself. The council is ready and excited for the upcoming year. Conner Banach said, "I am ready for a new experience." The council has been working hard on some upcoming events all throughout their time in class. Mr. Pridmore said, "I have a ton of confidence (in the council)," and so did the rest of their teachers. All of the students in student council were voted on by, not only their classmates, but also highly respected by their teachers. Many of them were known as leaders in their elementary school and are now leaders in the junior high. With the semester ahead of them, student council is more than ready to take on the year!



Back row: Mr. Pridmore, Benny Williams, Boston Borg, Colton Harris, Conner Banach, Drew Penberthy, Ryder Brickman, Jaybin Rippee, Zach Faley. Front row: Cassie Wybenga, Calleia Neal, Eve Henry, Emily DeJonge, Lexi Salazar, Katherine Gile. Not Pictured: Aidan Morlock. Photo: Ms. Fiechtner

## It's Chapel Time!

*By Caitlin Edison*

The chapel leadership team provides a fun yet powerful program, but still most people don't know how much work they put into it. After a brief interview with one of the students, Bentley Zylstra, you can quickly learn that they meet three times a week in room G-108. I began to understand how much work the team puts into chapel such as choosing songs, making power points, and working behind the scenes with lights and tech. When responding to the question why did you sign up for this elective? Bentley responded with statement, "I thought it would be a fun way to express God's love for us through music." The best part of chapel leadership according to Bentley is getting up on stage and singing to God. This shows that the team is inspired to do this and give a fun but powerful chapel that everyone can enjoy as one school and as one community.

**Chapel  
Now  
On  
Thursdays  
2:13 - 2:55  
p.m.**

## Meet Mr. Tollefson *by Caleb Wood*

Sometimes when we restart school everyone is tired, grumpy and sad. But this school year at BCS will be anything but boring because there is a new teacher! His name is Mr. William Tollefson and he is the JH/HS chapel leader and high school choir teacher.

Because Mr. Tollefson is a new teacher, he was asked a series of interview questions so everyone could get to know him better I first asked him, "Do you think the worship team will do well this year?"

Mr. Tollefson said, "Yes."

"What is your favorite food?"

Mr. Tollefson said, "My favorite food is nachos."

"What instruments you play?"

Mr. Tollefson plays so many instruments that it was agreed that three of the most important would be listed and they are guitar, piano and organ.

"Are there any instruments you would like to learn to play?"

Mr. Tollefson said, "Yes I want to learn violin."

"What do you like to do on an average weekend?"

Mr. Tollefson said, "I get nachos, go to my friend's house and play D&D and play organ at my church on Sundays."

"What did you want to do when you grew up when you were a child?"

Mr. Tollefson said, "I wanted to be a marine biologist and study whales."

"What was the best birthday party you ever had?"

Mr. Tollefson said, "My 12<sup>th</sup> birthday party. We had a water balloon fight and I'll never forget it."

"What is your deep hope for this year?"

Mr. Tollefson said, "I hope that this year my students find a place in Gods timeless choir which has been singing since before they were born and will continue forever after they die!"

"What is your favorite song?"

"My favorite song is 'O God Beyond all Praise' by Gustav Holst."

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## Profe Taleno spreads Gods word in Spanish and English!

*By Bentley Zylstra*

Profe Taleno is a first-year Spanish teacher at BCS. She came to BCS because she loved teaching and it was much closer to her house. Before she came to BCS she worked at another school as a Spanish teacher. She wants to impact BCS by having a great relationship with her students and show students God's love. Profe Taleno wants her students to have great time in her class, enjoy learning a foreign language, and learn a lot of Spanish. Profe Taleno was going to be a math teacher, but she majored in Spanish and then became a Spanish teacher. Profe Taleno grew up in Nicaragua and has eight siblings! She has been a Christian since the age of 14 and has had a steady faith all her life. Profe Taleno had a pastor that really impacted her life and has brought her closer to God. She said, "Christ was living in him," and that she

**Continued on page 4**

## New Teacher, New Experience!

*by Sawyer Shirley*

Mrs. Amy Shockey, (born in Honey Brook, Pennsylvania) is new to BCS and making her debut as the choir and drama teacher. Everyone is excited to see what she will bring to Bellevue Christian. She said that the BCS community has accepted her like she had been here for ages, and that they are very supportive. When asked how she feels to be a new teacher, she replied that there are new things to get used to and she's having lots of fun. Besides being very qualified with a Bachelor's in Music and Science of Biblical Studies from Cairn University, she's also known about BCS 3-4 years having sung in the same choir with some other teachers here. What really sold the deal for her to even become a teacher however was being an assistant teacher in high school for 2 years. Just because she is new to BCS doesn't mean she hasn't had experience. Before this, she was a drama and choir teacher at Bellevue Christian Academy. Mrs. Shockey said that when teaching, she wants to, "demonstrate expressing God's love through theater and choir." During the week, she is busy teaching, but when the weekend comes, around it is just as crazy. Mrs. Shockey does yoga and likes to go to the park. Other days might include singing in her church choir and directing the children's choir. Mrs. Shockey has the teaching style every Christian teacher needs-building community and inspiring her students to use their unique talents. Everyone is excited to see what contributions she will bring to Bellevue Christian School!

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**Ms Taleno** (cont. from pg 3)

could see God working through him.

She used to be a boxer and loves everything survival. She loves the outdoors and every survival technique. The most memorable thing in her life was when she was six and she went to the theater for the first time. She saw an action movie with her family. Profe Taleno is excited to be at BCS and spread God's word both in Spanish and English!

## BCS Welcomes New Students Too!

by Max Bae

Jack Loveland has joined BCS this year. His family decided to send him to BCS. So far, he has enjoyed the school year and is looking forward to the rest of the year.

Jack is a seventh grader who enjoys playing video games and hockey in his spare time. He switched from his old school, Beaver Lake Middle School, to Bellevue Christian on August 27, 2019 (the first day of school). His parents liked Bellevue Christian's smaller classes and different curriculum. Jack was not very nervous on his first day at BCS, but liked the idea of a clean slate since he has not changed schools much. Jack has enjoyed his time at BCS so far and has particularly enjoyed his Social Studies class. Jack is looking forward to this year and hopes to get good grades.

## All about Mrs. Woodard

by Grace Wasenmiller

Mrs. Devon Woodard is new to BCS. She is a counselor working with 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grade students with last names from N-Z. Mrs. Woodard says, "I feel like God opened the door for me! Through prayer and pursuit, he led and guided me to BCS." Her strengths are being kind, patient, helping others and serving others. She thinks that God's path for her is difficult to know because she doesn't know what the future holds or where God is leading us, but she trusts him, and knows he has the best plan for her life. Mrs. Woodard thinks that God wants her to be herself. He created us all so uniquely and wants us to love who we are and glorify him in all we do. She first discovered Christ in elementary school through church and private school. She was born into a Christian family. Mrs. Woodard says, "I chose counseling for a job because I served as a junior high and high school leader at my church." Through that she learned that she loves working with students- mentoring and walking through life with them! "I wanted to work in a school to walk alongside students as they navigate life!"

Mrs. Woodard did go to church and started going in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. She says, "My main goal in life is to glorify the Lord in all I do and never stop learning from others." Some of her favorite things to do outside of school are hiking, going to Husky games, and spending time with her family.



Lockers in the B-Hall  
Photo: Mrs. Graves

## Frist Day Jitters

by Amelia Lowry

On the first day of school, I was very frightened. I thought that I would either miss a class, forget where my classes were, or be late to a class because I couldn't open my locker. When I went to the first orientation, Mr. Olson, the Junior High Assistant Principal, showed us where our classes were, how much time we had to get to each class, and how to open our lockers. That was very helpful, and it relieved some of the stress, but I still had a lot of stress on my shoulders. My parents could tell that I was stressed when we were driving to school, they talked to me and said, "I can tell that you're stressed but it's okay. You will learn where all your classes are in no time!" They sounded so excited for me, but I wasn't excited at all. All I was excited for was meeting my new teachers and decorating my locker!

## Books to Check out of the Library *by Andrea Johnson*

There are so many new books in the library for any reader. The librarian, Mrs. Johnson, picked out three books she thought the Jr. High would enjoy. Each story has different things that make them interesting. One story is called *Nevermore*. It's about a girl named Morgan Crow who is a cursed child. In the book, cursed children are supposed to die, but when Morgan meets a man named Jupiter, she has the opportunity to keep living. The second book is titled *Apothecary* which is set in 1952, London. He befriends an apothecary, a pharmacist or druggist, who pulls him into a dangerous and exciting adventure of keeping a book of secret medicines safe and saving his father. Last but not least is a book called *Itch*. A boy who loves to collect elements discovers a new element that takes him for a ride facing new challenges and use of all his knowledge in order to keep this new element safe. You can find all these books in the library as well as online. If you don't see a book you want to read, you can put a note on the suggestion board. There are dozens of books to check out today.

## 7th and 8th Graders get Computers

*by Adrien Niculescu*

This year at Bellevue Christian School new computers were delivered. They are slightly smaller and have new keyboard and monitor designs. Mrs. Ahnert, the computer teacher, along with various students, were interviewed about the new computers. "The gen2 look for the new computers functions the same as the gen1," says Mrs. Ahnert, but some students think the gen2 runs smoother. Half the students got gen1s and half got gen2s. The gen2s have a stylus inside them now. There aren't any new preinstalled apps either, although MS Teams now opens automatically as BCS classes are making use of Teams more and more. They also have slightly improved the blocking system, but it is still not perfect. When asked what sites students wish weren't blocked, some answered math game sites, but most said they wished YouTube wasn't blocked because, for example, they couldn't watch as-

signed videos on these computers and instead must use their home computers, which meant they couldn't watch during office hours either. Students mostly agree that their apps and sites for school are easy to access. Mrs. Ahnert also notes you should restart your computer occasionally, for updates, as not updating can slow down your computer. Most students noted that they enjoyed using the new computers more than the old ones. When asked what feature they would like to improve the most, students had a variety of responses. Around 50% said they wanted to improve the web blocking filter, although some said, "bigger screen" and "ability to install things." The new computers are an improvement over the older ones, but there are still things that need to be worked on, namely the web filter.

## 42 Minutes of Entertainment

*by Logan Pope*

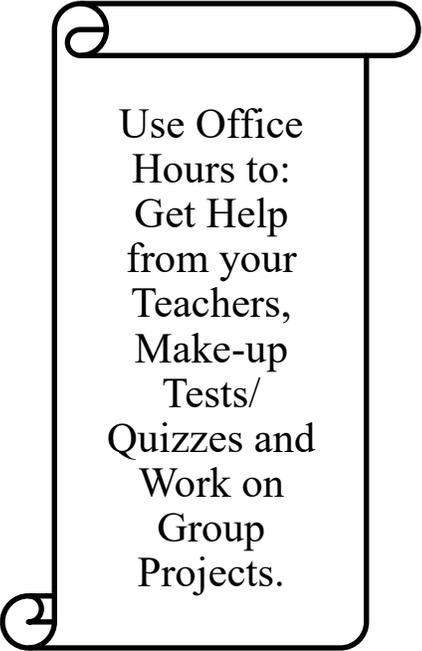
Mr. Olson, Assistant Principal of the Junior High, explained how clubs works and what clubs will be available this year. He said the clubs have been around since the 2010 school year. He stated how they tend to offer a similar amount every year and how it depends on the teacher's availability. The clubs don't change too often, but this year there are several new clubs, including book club and yearbook club. Occasionally, he supervises the leadership club and the "Man club", a male worship group. He's been subbing for these clubs since they have been around. Mr. Olson mentioned how the clubs are designed to give the kids the academic support that they need, provide entertainment, and build community. The feedback that he gets from students is mostly positive, but the teacher's is different. They like the idea of clubs, but they think that the structure is somewhat loose. Finally, Mr. Olson was going to reveal his favorite club, but he didn't really have a favorite club. He likes it when kids like the clubs and when they contribute to them. Let's see how clubs can leave BCS better than they found it!

## Office Hours

by Griffin Burt

If you are an eighth grader, you have probably noticed that office hours are different. Not only that, but chapel has been on a different schedule. Even clubs have been different! The schedules have changed and Mr. Olson, Assistant Principal, can tell us some about this. Last year clubs were twice a week, and chapel was in the morning. Now, chapel is in the afternoon, and clubs are once a week. What took the extra hour? Office hours! "Having more office hour time can give students more time to connect with their favorite teacher," said Mr. Olson, "it can also give them more time to get stuff done."

So, if some things seem different, especially if you're an eighth grader, now you know why the changes were made. According to Mr. Olson, "It really gives students more time to work and connect during school."



Use Office Hours to:  
Get Help from your Teachers,  
Make-up Tests/  
Quizzes and Work on Group Projects.

## What Goes on in Open Gym? by Brock Huber

BCS open gym is a hit. Every kid needs a place to go to burn off some energy and open gym is the perfect place for that. What is open gym you might ask? Mason Hill, a regular attender of open gym said, "It is a place you can go and mess around with your friends and have fun." Normally there are around 30 kids that participate during open gym. It is a mix of seventh and eighth grade boys and girls. Students usually play basketball and volleyball during this mid-day break. Open gym takes place Wednesdays and Fridays around lunch. I asked Mason if he thought open gym should be available for students every day, and he said, "Yes it should because it is a good time to get energy out and play with friends." Also, looking into obesity rates in the United States, it could provide a place for daily activity that many kids are not getting. Open gym also gives students a chance to hang out with friends in a low-key team environment, get exercise, and be able to better focus for the rest of the day. From my experiences at open gym it is normally the same people that attend, and that's why I want to get more people involved. If there were more activities and more space for open gym, then many more students could attend. There are so many benefits to getting exercise during a long school day and if more people attended then afternoon classes might be calmer and more focused.

## Mrs. Johnson is Expecting a Baby!

by Easton Becker

An interview with Mrs. Caitlin Johnson, junior high math teacher.

**Q:** When is the baby due? **A:** January 3, 2020

**Q:** Is the baby a boy or a girl? **A:** Baby is a boy

**Q:** Do you have a name picked out? **A:** We have few names in mind but have yet to decide.

**Q:** Do you have any plans to celebrate the baby's arrival? **A:** My mom, mother-in-law and sister will be planning a baby shower.

**Q:** What is your husband's name? **A:** Ben.

**Q:** What are you thinking about names? **A:** At this point, we are considering using my husband's middle name for the baby's middle name which is Reed.

**Q:** Are you coming back to work? **A:** Yes, I am planning to be back before the end of the school year.

**Q:** Are you going to have more kids? **A:** Eventually we want to have more kids because I have always wanted a big family.

**Q:** How many kids? **A:** We aren't sure how many more kids we want to have.

**Q:** What are your plans for the future? **A:** I am not sure how many more years I will teach, the future is full of unknowns at this point. I'm sure that plans will change as my family adjusts to life with a new little one in the picture.

## Boys Soccer Team—Having Fun and Learning

by Jack Vlahovich

At 0-2 on the season the soccer team is having a slow start, but is improving. The practices are Monday through Thursday on the Sacred Heart field. Easton Becker, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade player on the team, said, “We are all great friends and good teammates.” During last game against Bear Creek the team did good a job passing to each other and getting into good spaces for a pass. Games are usually after school, but sometimes the games are earlier and the bus leaves during school. Soccer is a fun sport and Easton said it is especially fun when they scrimmage in practice. One of the players said that they don’t think that they will have a winning season, but it’s the fun that counts. Let’s see how JH boys soccer team can improve throughout the season.



Luke Evenson, Levi Bengelink, Ryder Brickman Photo: Mr. Evenson

## Hard Work And having Fun On The Girls Soccer Team

by Esmee Birkeland

It’s obvious when you’re watching the girls soccer team practice at the Sacred Heart field that the girls work really hard and have lots of fun. There are thirteen seventh and eighth grade students on the girls soccer team. They practice Monday – Thursday for an hour and a half. The girls have played two games in the first month of this school year and sadly lost both, but continue to play with confidence and hope. Their next game is October 2, at Marymoor Park.

“I love being on a team, playing with my friends, and scoring goals,” said Addison Taylor, a seventh grader playing forward mid on the team. Addison has been playing soccer since she was four and has always loved the sport. Sachi Culver says she has been playing since she was in first grade and she loves, “the sport in general and playing with [her] friends.” The girls soccer team is excited for the season and inspired to keep doing their best in the sport they enjoy most.



Maggie Stepanian follows the action from goal Photo: Mr. Stepanian



Meredith Wetter, Annalise Ortega & Addison Taylor Photo: Mrs. Ortega

## Picking up the Pace! *By Erik Pulkka*

The Bellevue Christian School Junior High cross-country team is picking up the pace. Tatum Ford, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader who is one of the cross-country team captains and is the coach's daughter said that there are 14 students on the team now -- that's 7 more than last year. The team practices Monday through Thursday, and Friday there is an optional practice. Training is 1 hour and 30 minutes at the end of the school day. During practice, the kids run where the coach wants to build speed and endurance. For race day, the team competes in a 1.5 mile distance.

Tatum Ford has done cross country before as well as cross training in other sports that help improve cross country running. A lot of runners cross train but for Tatum she does soccer and track. She also said that the coach has won state champion before. She also responded with that it's not that different having your mom as coach, other than you get more tips and you get to see them at home.

She also said how to get a winning mindset is to practice and do lots of running. She said that if you're struggling, the way you improve is by running. She said her goal for this year is to be able to run a 6-minute mile. She was asked what the 7-11 run is, and she explained it is when the cross country team runs to 7-11 and buys snacks. The goal of the run is just to have fun. She also told me she really likes to go on the run and people buy slushies and candy. The 7-11 is about 1.5 miles away. She also said that the 7-11 run is going to happen when every person on the team can run 1.5 miles without stopping. With a deeper bench, a variety of training, and experienced coach, the team looks ready for a fast run!



Kallie Alford, Tatum Ford, Mia Hawley



Aidan Morlock, Erik Pulkka, Trey Hodo, Maddox Ness, Bennett Schwarz, Logan Pope, Garrett Bold, Angus Pulkka, Blake Kusak  
Not Pictured: Ryan Hanson Photos: Coach Ford



Brielle Weedman,  
Wren ter Kuile,  
Lexi Salazar  
Photo: Mrs Walters



Kendrea Beazer, Kylia Philips, Cassie Wybenga, Wren ter Kuile Photo: Mrs. Walters

## Bump! Set! Spike! *by Emily Cheng*

The JH volleyball team has been practicing and playing games the past few weeks. The girls on the BCS JH volleyball team have been practicing after school since the beginning of the school year. They walk to the church near the school to practice. They practice for about one hour and fifteen minutes every day. There are d1 and d2 teams who both are JH volleyball teams and practice at the same place but as two small groups and play games separately. They work very hard for their games and they do very well. Sometimes if the game is very soon after school, they have early release and the coaches will drive the girls to other schools or places. They have lost and won but winning wasn't the most important thing to them. "I think that winning is great, but it really is just a game that you play to have fun!" said Amelia Lowry. Another meaningful thing is teamwork. "Teamwork is one of the most important things for a team, and we are all very good friends, I think we did very well on that," said Christina Liu. Let's see how they will do on the rest of the season!