

The Viking Chronicle

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Visit to Congregations for the Homeless

by Conner Banach

One of the places that the 7th graders went to see what homelessness is like in our community was Congregations for the Homeless. Last semester, second period went there on January 24th. Congregations for the Homeless is just outside of downtown Bellevue, so they are close to us. It is a homeless shelter just for men that is a place for them to eat, shower, do their laundry, and be in a warm spot. They get meals every day and get a place to sleep at night.

When we went down there, we didn't really know what to expect. We were all just waiting to see what it was like. When we first arrived, I think we were all confused. Bennett Schwarz, 7th grader, said "When we first got there it was stuffy, and I expected it to be cleaner. I was a little scared at first, it was not what I expected. Eventually I started talking to some people, all the people I talked to told me about their hobbies, and what their life was like before homelessness." One story that stood out to Bennett was a guy who claimed to skateboard down Mt. Rainier at around 120 miles per hour. Bennett said, "Some of them seemed to enjoy the company while others didn't. It was a cool experience, I would totally go back as long as somebody else went with me."



Bentley Zylstra, Logan Pope, Erik Pulkka, Jack Vlahovich, Adrian Niculescu, Amelia Lowry, Andrea Johnson & Drew Penberthy with a guest at Congregations. Photo: Mrs. Graves

Walking the Streets

by Brock Huber

Walking around the streets of Pike Place was an interesting experience. Our job was to help the homeless and pick up garbage. We left school and took a bus to Pike Place on Wednesday January 22nd. We were looking at different ways that people experience homelessness. We were also trying to interact with the people in a positive way. On our outing we were in a group of five students with two chaperones. One of the chaperones was my mom, Kelli Huber. When asked about her experience at Pike Place and if she enjoyed it, Mrs. Huber responded by saying that she had a nice time but wished the weather had been nicer so that we might have met

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Pike's Place (continued)

more people. The few people we interacted with were all kind and appreciative that we were there to talk to them and bring them a few supplies. We met a nice man and his dog and talked to him about the Seahawks and all things football. He was fun to talk to and get to know a bit. It made us realize that people that must live on the streets are just the same as anyone else. Easton Becker was one of the students on the trip. When asked, Easton said he enjoyed his time at Pike Place. When asked what happened on the trip he said, "Our group collected garbage and gave our materials to the homeless." Easton said, "I felt good helping those in need."

Camp Unity

by Maggie Stepanian

On January 24th two seventh grade groups visited Camp Unity which is currently hosted by St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church in Woodinville. Trey, the man we talked to, was living there and was camp supervisor. Everyone who was working there were volunteers and lived at Camp Unity. They build their tent city on a platform and add a tent sort of thing. They cover it with tarp. They have a community kitchen and dining area. There is also a trailer for laundry and showers. According to Olivia Lee, a 7th grader who visited Camp Unity, "God blessed the people at Camp Unity by showing them a way to where they could be safe and live a good life. I think people are trying to

Seventh Grade Visit to Mary's Place

by Graham Foster

Two different groups visited Mary's Place shelter, one on January 23th and one on January 24th. "I was extremely surprised by the fact that people were helping the people that stay there find a job," said Zach Faley, 7th grade student. The people at Mary's Place had easy access to specialists that would help them find housing or a job. He also didn't expect for the shelter to be in an old bank, he thought the shelter was going to be an actual shelter. "I was shocked by the amount of people who were not at the shelter," said Trey Hodo, 7th grade student. Most people at Mary's Place had jobs while their kids were at school. It surprised everyone who visited Mary's Place that almost no residents were there at the time. Students who visited spent time helping sort clothes as part of their service.



Emma Tkach, Boston Borg, Katie Metteer, Noel Martin, Cassie Wybenga, Mackenzie Morlock, Anahit Khachatryan sorting clothes at Mary's Place. Photo: Mrs. Graves

help the people living at Camp Unity to make them feel as normal as possible and give them essentials they need to live." Camp Unity is a very clean and organized shelter and a nice place for people who are experiencing homelessness to live.



Students @ Camp Unity
Photo: Mrs. Graves

New Face in JH Math

by Trey Hodo

Mr. Jon Formantes has been working as a substitute for the beloved Mrs. Johnson who is the Junior High math teacher. Mr. Formantes will continue to work as a substitute until spring break which is when Mrs. Johnson comes back from her maternity leave. Mr. Formantes has a major in math and has worked as the study hall teacher and as a tutor to some of the high school students here at BCS. Students see Mr. Formantes as a fun change of pace, and he has even more ways to make learning fun. Mr. Formantes is grateful that he gets to teach here at Bellevue Christian and enjoys the company of his new seventh and eighth grade students.



Mr. Formantes Photo: courtesy of BCS website

Back row: Logan Pope, Nathan Wasson, Wren ter Kuile, Jane Sigl, Roman Venti, Sawyer Shirley, Rebecca Qian, Mr. Pridmore
 Front Row: Bennett Schwarz, Grace Wasenmiller, Maggie Stepanian, Katie Metteer, Andra Smith, Olivia Lee
 Not Pictured: Mackenzie Morlock, Eve Henry
 Photo: Mrs. Graves

Matthew Morin: The Sound Guy

by Josh Kidd

Matthew Morin, an eighth grader at BCS, manages the sound and lighting for Jr. High chapel. He also does this at his church where, about four years ago, he first learned how to adjust the sound of the instruments and microphones. His favorite part of his job is, “creating new sounds and lighting designs.” He also creates electronic music released on Spotify, Soundcloud, and YouTube. His favorite part of that is working creatively, without limits. Matthew said that, “the lighting and sound isn’t as hard as it looks, as long as you’re willing to learn.” Check out Matthew’s music at <https://open.spotify.com/artist/0CzRsXm6UDi8lYvHMhPjRV>



Matthew Morin @ the sound board. Photo: Mrs. Graves

2nd Semester Student Council



Welcome to BCS, Anna

by Kendreah Beazer

Anna Sipes is a new 8th grader this year. She joined the BCS community coming from her old school Renton Christian. Anna was brought to Bellevue Christian because she wanted a head start to 9th grade. She was also brought to this school by Tatum Ford who is also in 8th grade. Anna really does like it here. She said everyone is welcoming especially the friends she made and the ones she hangs out with. Anna is already doing dance and is fully committed, but if there was another sport, she would want to try it would be cheer. Our school has many wonderful things about it, but a couple things that stood out to Anna was our schedule, and the electives. She said the electives are very fun and teach you a lot. Anna is doing Woodshop, Art, and Makers Space. Those three have lots to do with creativity and inspiration on what to make. Out of those three electives Anna said Makers Space is her favorite because you can turn things into something totally new and reconstruct the items. It's wonderful to hear that we are a welcoming school and a welcoming community.

Anna Sipes Photo: Mrs. Eble



The Return of Justus!

by Garrett Bold

The return of Justus Loving-Williams is exciting to everyone. He is currently an 8th grader. While it was hard to leave his friends and his teachers, he decided to go to Timberline Middle School in Redmond, Washington. The main differences are that the Timberline Middle School is a much newer school, opening in the fall of 2019. Also, the classes had less structure and had 30 to 35 students and were an hour each day. Justus also said that the lunch felt very rushed compared to our lunch. They had about 25 minutes for lunch where BCS has 35 minutes on a normal schedule, and 45 minutes on long lunch days which are Wednesday and Friday. Justus decided to leave Timberline Middle School because the culture was very different than BCS. Although he did love the teachers and the incredible

electives, it was also nice to have a 7-minute commute. The school was very technology based; they used their laptops in class everyday compared to BCS when we use our laptops often but not in every class. He mentions the facility was modern and high-tech. Also, the BCS culture is more respectful between students and teachers, and the classroom learning is productive and Christian based. He played lacrosse in the fall for the Juanita Rebels. Justus still has friends from Timberline Middle School that he will for sure keep in touch with. Everyone is excited that Justus has come back!

Justus Loving-Williams
Photo: Mrs. Eble



New Student from Thailand

by Esmee Birkeland

Tonnam Akarasirikanchana is a new eighth grade student this semester. Tonnam is from Thailand and she moved here because of her dad's business. Tonnam has two siblings that go to Three Points elementary. She also has three dogs and three cats that live back in her home country.

Tonnam says she is liking BCS, "I like it a lot here actually." She used to go to an international school in Thailand called Prem Tinsulanonda International School that she really liked also. As for sports and hobbies, she says "I am really into volleyball. My hobbies are watching movies, volleyball, swimming and reading comics." She attends New Hope International Church in Bellevue.

Bryce and Brock are Back! *by Chengyang Song*

Brock and Bryce Ryan, 8th graders, are brothers who attended Bellevue Christian School from 5th grade to 7th grade. They left BCS at the end of 7th grade to go to another school, but they came back at the beginning of second semester of 8th grade. Why did they come back? Both felt that students at their new school weren't as kind and respectful as in the BCS community. It's really great to see them back!

Both of them are excited to be back and see their friends again. Brock said with excitement, "I'm very happy to be back and to be back with my friends." Bryce, his twin brother, exclaimed, "It feels great to be back. I missed the small great environment of this great school!" Talking about why they left the school, Bryce explained, "We went to the other school because we thought that we had tons of friends there." Also, Brock said, "The reason why I wanted to go to my other school was that I thought that it would be cool to go to a cool modern middle school." But the school they both thought would be good, did not turn out well. Brock added, "After the first couple of months I realized it's not the building it's the kids and teachers." Bryce sighed, "It turned out that we really didn't have friends." Brock and Bryce think BCS is an outstanding school; there are a lot of wonderful teachers and friends, more importantly they feel more involved with positivity. They love this school and we are glad to have them back to our BCS community.



Bryce Ryan
Photo: Mrs. Eble



Brock Ryan
Photo: Mrs. Graves

New Seventh Grade Student

By Daniel Garland

Collin Whalen is a new 7th grader who came to the BCS community around two weeks ago. He says he is happy here. Collin went to Chief Kanim Middle School before he came to BCS. He says he's made a lot of new friends here. Collin and his parents made the decision to come to BCS. He says he does like BCS more than his old school. Collin and his parents made the decision to come here because of the better environment. He likes his classes. He said they are great and that BCS has treated him very well.



Collin Whalen
Photo: Mrs. Graves

JH Wrestling has Started

by Logan Pope

The BCS wrestling team has a slight problem. They can't find any other schools to wrestle! They've been practicing since February 3rd in the MPR after school with the High Schoolers. Justyn Peterhans and Evan Melin are two of only four Junior High students on the team. Justyn has been wrestling since 2nd grade, while Evan decided to give it a try this year. The reasons they enjoy wrestling are that they both think it's a good way to get fit. Justyn enjoys physical contact sports and Evan believes it's an easy way to learn self-defense. They were asked what they do in practice. They both responded with an hour warmup, like running, drills, and exercises for your body. Then, they train and work on different wrestling moves. They would love if other people joined the wrestling team next year so they could have enough for meets.

Swoosh!

by Amelia Lowry

At Bellevue Christian Junior High, we have a girls basketball program. The season just ended. One of the girls that was on the team, Meredith Wetter, said that ball handling was the most important trick to be a good basketball player. She also said that she started in first grade and has been playing ever since! "Ball handling, ball handling, ball handling," said Coach Pridmore about the most important basketball skill for junior high players. The girls basketball teams had a great season this year. The D2 team was undefeated! All the girls had great success. Thank you to Coach Pridmore and Coach Kelly for helping us get better and have fun during the basketball season.



D1 Game Photo: Mrs. DeJonge

The Cast of *Cinderella and the Substitute Fairy God-mother*

