The Badger Pause

Volume 11, Issue 6 | 14510 North Chesire Street, Burton, Ohio | Febuary 2016



This virus travels from one victim to the next with the help of mosquitos.

The good, the bad, and The Zika Virus

by Abby Carlson, BP Staff Editor

We all remember, perhaps a bit too well, when Ebola took the world by storm and caused mass panic in millions of homes. Well the hysteria will soon be back and better than ever as the Zika Virus spreads into the United States, alarming many with its horrendous effects and ability to travel so quickly and easily.

Before you shout out to your neighbor to head for the hills, you may first want to know what exactly this new enemy is. The Zika Virus first attacked Brazil in 2015, quickly followed by Pan American Health Organization issuing an alert. According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), the virus very rarely causes death, and usually only results in one of five people contracting a fever, rash, or joint and muscle pain.These symptoms only last for about a week, and if you're lucky, only a couple days. However, for pregnant women and their babies, the virus can be much more destructive than to your average Joe. Zika causes a birth defect called Microcephaly, which means the infant is born with a small head, resulting in developmental issues with the brain. Sadly, there are no issued vaccines or medications that prevent or treat the virus, you simply have to endure it and hope for the best. You can, however, get plenty of rest, drink fluids to avoid dehydration, and take acetaminophen to relieve some of the pain and fever.

This virus travels from one victim to the next with the help of mosquitos who transfer Zika through infected blood. If a mosquito bites someone with this virus already present in their bloodstream, and then bites someone else, the second person will, obviously, contract the sickness. The virus can also spread through blood transfusions and sexual contact, as well as from mother to unborn child.

The Zika Virus has travelled to and from many countries, including: Africa, Southeast Asia, Pacific islands, Brazil, as well as most of South America, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa. No locally transmitted cases have been found in the United States up to this date, but there have been cases in travelers either visiting or returning to the U.S. Just recently, Florida Governor Rick Scott issued a state of emergency due to the virus, but all nine victims are believed to have contracted the illness outside of the United States.

Researchers are cautious of the olympic games being held in Rio de Janeiro this August, which is located in Brazil, for there are around 200,000 United Statesmen expected to attend. They fear that these travelers will bring the virus back to the United States in large quantities. This also affects the rest of the world, as there will be around 500,000 people expected to visit the games, and the possibility of Zika Virus spreading worldwide is likely.

2016 Iowa Caucus

by Kody West, BP Staff Writer

As 2016 progresses, we edge closer and closer to the General Election, where our nation will elect a new president to lead the free world for the next four years. However, before we can even think about the General Election, the Presidential Primaries need to take place in order to let the Democratic and Republican Parties know who they should elect as their party's' presidential candidate. With the Iowa Caucuses kicking off the primaries, you can already tell this primary season will be an exciting one. According to The Associated Press, Clinton beat Sanders by a mere .3%, Sanders calling it a "virtual tie." Republican Ted Cruz took the win over the national front runner Donald J. Trump, and Rubio following Trump by only 1.2%.

A select number of students from Newbury High School had the opportunity to travel to Iowa and get involved in campaigning with candidates of their choice. When asked about his group's participation in Iowa, Newbury Junior Mak Sanders (no relation to Bernie Sanders) stated, "We campaigned to get people to come out to our candidate's (Bernie Sanders) caucus. We mostly called people, or went canvassing door to door. When we weren't campaigning, we attended rallies and learned about the other candidates." Newbury Junior Sarah MacPherson had this to say about her time in Iowa: "The entire experience was outstanding and I would do it a hundred times over again." Sarah emphasises that, "Other people would definitely benefit from this opportunity because not only do you get experience as a professional but you get to get different perspectives on not only the Iowa caucuses but the work that the presidential candidates have to put through in order to win the election."

> "Your input does count. Every little bit contributes to a cause. It is important not to be the 'silent majority'"

Getting involved can really make a difference, in Mak's words, "The county we campaigned in, Bernie won the democratic caucus by a small margin. Knowing some in those margin could have been people we called is an amazing feeling." Mak went on to say, "Your input does count. Every little bit contributes to a cause. It is important not to be the 'silent majority' and make sure that things affecting your daily life have your input." Newbury Junior, Kevin Piczer "wasn't too politically involved before the trip, and [he] didn't know too much about the campaign", however, he later claimed that, "after the trip, it definitely opened my eyes to the whole realm of politics" Kevin learned that, "everyone's votes matter and people should start getting involved in presidential elections because they play a part in the country's future."

Lastly, it is important to hear out a candidate and their opinions, don't decide who you like best based on what others say. Going out and meeting candidates and listening to what they have to say is a great way to be an informed and involved citizen, Sarah, a Sanders supporter, commented, "[Meeting some of the other Candidates] didn't make me want to vote for them but it did make me like them more, I began to like Marco Rubio a bit after I met him just because he seemed like a nice man, but I still did not agree with him." Sarah also stated that it is very important, "that even if you don't agree with a candidate's views, you should consider the viewpoint from their side and their supporters. There were many Republicans on this trip and as a Democrat, I had to learn how to speak with them on political standpoints while remaining mature."



Newbury students (left to right) Trevor Conklin, Carah Katzendorn, Tim Blackley, Christina Weber, Sarah MacPherson, and Anna Koch attend the 2016 Iowa Caucus.

The trip allowed Newbury students an opportunity to see the inner workings of the campaigning process and a chance to get involved in something they believe in. In Mak's words, "I wouldn't trade it for the world."

There's a new line of Barbies, they're diverse! Page 4

Interested in the benefits of foster care? See page 8

Turn to page 6 for St. Patties day recipes & crossword

Check out Berkshire's proud students of the month on page 2

Check out page 7 for some wedding day debby-downers

For all the Pancake Breakfast details see page 3.

Welcome to the front lines

by Bree Barker, BP Staff Writer

The last nine years have been training for what you are about to experience. For the next four years you will be expected to sleep less and suffer more. Your entire existence culminates in your release from active duty. Some of you may decide to return while others may never again enter battle, but all of you are mandated to complete the next four years.

You will compete against your fellows for everything. From rank to attention, your life has been turned into a Darwin-esque survival of the fittest. Prepare yourself competition will be fierce. Your peers will not hold back in their fight for the highest rank, and neither should you.

On occasion there are rare opportunities to work with a small percentage of your peers. These are rare and often very grueling. The stress caused by these "opportunities" is not to be taken lightly.

In the first year of battle you will face many adversaries. Older, more experienced soldiers will put you in your place and knock you down. Be strong. It doesn't get easier from here. You must quickly learn to navigate the trenches and mess hall or fear the wrath of the generals and leaders. You are no longer in charge of any aspect of your life.

For your second year you will be more aware of the proper etiquette in duty. Venerated soldiers will still look down upon you, but new recruits will take your place as least experienced. More will be expected of you due to your experience on duty.

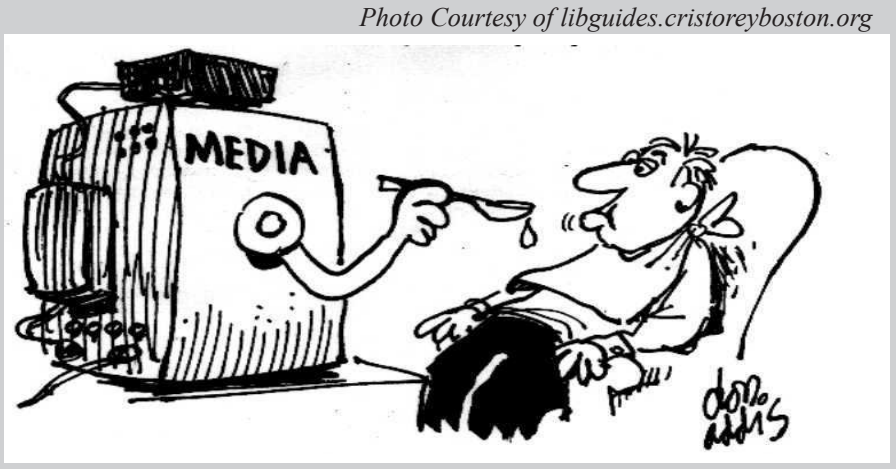
Year three will be the hardest of all. You will be held to the highest standards as you begin to complete the necessary documents for your release. This year is is pivotal to your future opportunities. The year is critical in determining promotion into the next phase of your life.

During the fourth year, you will spend all of your free time looking for new arrangements. You will focus solely on preparing for your future. The day will come when you are released from duty and the real war is only waiting for you. Reality will weed out the weak and only the strong will survive. It is up to you to determine which direction you'll go.

Do not think that the next four years will be easy. Before you, stand the trials and tribulations of a lifetime. These obstacles will either make you stronger or will bring you to your knees.

Welcome to high school.

Photo Courtesy of libguides.cristoreyboston.org



A man being force-fed by the machine of the media, just like everyone else.

The media and you

by Alex Yokules, BP Staff Writer

Every day, people live their lives, oblivious to the amazing gift we have: the media. The media is a beautiful collection of wonder and amazement that presents the best news stories to us every single day. If you're feeling sad after a long day at work, all you need to do is turn to channel 7 to see hourly puppy coverage instead of boring gang violence. I think the network that we take for granted is a network that we all know. I can't say it's name due to copyright reasons, so let's just call it Box News. Every day, they rigorously work to present to us the most unbiased information they can get their hands on. The reporters who work for this noble organization work from before dawn until after dusk to take every piece of news and unbias it. Yes, I used a new word. They literally do so much work to make their information as reliable as possible I had to create an entirely new verb to describe them. I think that every news organization should strive to be more like Box. Other networks try and trick the viewers into following their political agendas, and they sneak around like foxes. My personal favorite part about the media today is how they actively try to present the best stories to us. I appreciate waking up in the early morning hours to see coverage of how Oprah is doing her hair, or how often Donald Trump curbstomps immigrants, instead of the boring news about places like Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, or Russia. Those places will never affect us because we are America gosh dang it! And America is the greatest country in the world!

Students of the month: February edition

by Jeremy Koscelnik, BP Staff Writer



Maggie Topalian, Senior

Q: What is your favorite season?
A: Winter, for sure. I love the cold!

Q: How many siblings do you have?
A: None. I'm lucky to be an only child.

Q: What is your favorite sub at Subway?
A: Well, I don't eat subway very much but I would have to choose the veggie sub, considering I'm a vegetarian.



Adele Conklin, Junior

Q: What is your favorite band?
A: My fave band is totally The 1975. They have a really retro sound!!!

Q: If Miley Cyrus touched you, what would you do?
A: I would be honored because she is the daughter of Billy Ray Cyrus.

Q: If you were an alien, what would your name be?
A: My name would be Jupiter Bellyflower because I enjoy pant-suits.



Trevor Stotlar, Sophomore

Q: What is your favorite holiday?
A: Christmas. I love to be around family and eat good food and of course, get lots of presents.

Q: Riley says you like to ski. Do you also like bunnies?
A: No.

Q: If you were elected president, what color would you paint the White House?
A: White and black.



Jacob Young, Freshman

Q: If the sun was going to explode tomorrow, what would you do today?
A: Probably get some pizza.

Q: In your opinion, is Donald Trump awful or really awful?
A: He's pretty bad I guess.

Q: Do you think that I should cut my hair or like just trim it?
A: *nervous laughter* Um…



Alyssa Schafer, 8th Grade

Q: Do you know who A is on Pretty Little Liars?
A: Yes, I do. But I'm not telling.

Q: Kendall or Kylie ?
A: Kendall. Hands down.

Q: What your favorite store to shop at?
A: I love Rue 21!



Colby Mullet, Seventh Grade

Q: What is your favorite book?
A: Shiloh.

Q: What is your favorite band?
A: That would have to be News Boys.

Q: Do you think eyebrow shape matters?
A: Um.. I don't think about it that much but not really.

Shadow Project update

by Mia Monroe, BP Staff Writer

As all seniors know, or at least should know, the Senior Shadow Project is quickly approaching. The process may seem overwhelming at first but it is not as bad as it looks! Overall, the Shadow Project is an experience where seniors are able to spend two weeks shadowing a job of their interest and do small assignments after in order to get some real world experience (and skip the last three weeks of school)! May 6th seems very far away but we must keep in mind that there are requirements that you must meet throughout the school year. For starters, we must keep in mind that you have to be eligible to participate. There is a list in the beginning of your packet that will tell you all of the requirements but some may need to be reiterated. Such as the fact that we are only allowed to miss a total of 10 school days, and yes those tardies do add up. You also must be passing all classes as of April 29, 2016, so do not wait too long to bring those grades up.

There is also very important information and deadlines in the packet on pages 4-5 that you may want to go over. As of February 9, 2016 all seniors should have pages 9-13 completed and approved in order to participate in the Senior Shadow Project. Pages 6-8 give an overview of the assignments that you will need to complete during and after you Shadow Project which may take more time than you think, so start planning now! That includes the journal that you will need to keep and update each day you work. There is also a project reflection that will be a 2-4 paged paper along with an exit interview where you will submit your journal, reflection paper, thank you note, exhibit for senior night and your final timesheet. This seems like a lot of work but if you stay on top of it and use your time out of school wisely, you will be just fine.

Keep in mind that you will need to be in constant contact with you community sponsor as well as your faculty advisor. There is a lot of planning and preparation that goes into this project before it even happens. It is important to stay on top of your own project and keep in touch with Ms. Hull if you ever need help or have questions. Remember that you are getting out of school almost a month early, so this al is totally worth it. The goal of this project is to give you a head start on career opportunities and show you what life is like after school, so take it seriously and enjoy!



Pictured above: For many students, the onset of the symptoms of senioritis starts before they've even attended class.

Pictured below: Michelle Sohm's condition is so lugubrious that she finds it necessary to crawl under the Chemistry Lab's tables and contemplate the life that senioritis has afflicted upon her.



Berkshire's epidemic

by Alex Sanda, BP Staff Editor

Berkshire's deadliest disease runs rampant in the hallways throughout the year, but it is especially brutal in the springtime. A high number of students have it; some show symptoms and self-diagnose, but it strangely only targets the seniors. Those who have it may not even be aware of its presence.

Symptoms

At times, senioritis is confused with laziness, but there are real side effects, including, but not limited to:

-Lack of desire to do work

-Existential angst

-A 'can't-do' attitude

-A minimal amount of effort put forth

-Adopting the mantra "I don't care"

-Lack of presence

-Constant complaining

-Increased aggression (towards underclassmen)

-Increased sassiness

Being a senior...It is impossible for juniors to contract senioritis, as Justin Politzer scientifically explains: "I don't have senioritis. I'm just lazy." Ain't that the truth.

-Being as lazy as humanly possible

Effects on Personal and Professional/Educational Lives

-Poor grades

Take for example, Nathaniel Blaine Schultz's personal experience: "When asked a question that I do not know or really care about, due to senioritis of course, I sometimes answer: Google says…"

-Lack of respect for peers and superiors

-Better personal relationships

-Tardiness

-Sub-par attendance

-When you have senioritis, those 18 days don't really matter

Wise Advice

Some of our wonderful resident seniors have experienced the worst of this disease and would love to help any poor soul currently dealing with senioritis.

On coursework:

Jarett Smetana claims that "all you must do is take the amount of questions given and divide by ten. That's how many you are then required to do."

Smetana also thinks that the quote "Is there any homework? I don't care; I'm not doing it anyway" sums up senioritis perfectly.

Particularly English:

Schultzy has an easy, no effort, and full-proof plan: "When asked a question about something being significant to me, I just answer that it isn't."

On life in general:

Michelle Sohm, who is involved in an abundance of extracurriculars, clubs, and AP classes, encourages you to "Just quit."

The best thing to do? Deal with it. Keep going. Graduate. Get outta here and move on. Even more crippling than senioritis is a bad attitude. So to cope...be like Ms. K and "Keep on truckin'!"

The Pancake Breakfast club

by Kaitlyn Moses, BP Staff Editor

There may not be pancakes on the water tower, but this March, Berkshire's cafeteria will host the annual Pancake Breakfast, courtesy of the Burton/Middlefield Rotary Club. Each year, Interact Club assists the Rotary by acting as the servers, bussers, and cashiers. Second-term Interact president, Cori Rockefeller, encourages all to come and enjoy the wonderful pancakes, sausage, omelets, and refreshments this March.

Cori adds, "I love the Pancake Breakfast, it's my favorite event to volunteer for." The Pancake Breakfast will take place in the cafeteria on March 6th, 13th, and 20th. Those each are on a Sunday, the only Sunday not included in March is the 27th. For many, the breakfast serves as a long-standing tradition that brings the community together and provides great food. Those attending come from all over to get a taste of what Burton has to offer and to meet up with friends old and new.

Interact needs help to put this on, however, any volunteers are welcome. Those looking to sign up should visit Ms. Furst in room 100.

Photo courtesy of app.slidebean.com



A stack of delicious pancakes to fill your cravings!

Pancake breakfast will be March 6th, 13th, and 20th in the high school cafeteria. There will also be a craft show in the large gym.

A twist on a classic toy

by Lexis Sell BP Staff writer

Its seems more recently than ever the move to create diversity and promote being yourself has taken off, and I don't think there are any signs of going back. Living in America we are exposed to every social aspect thinkable, we are given freedom to do what we want and the opportunity to follow our dreams. We don't have a set of restrictions to follow since our whole atmosphere is compiled of the idea that we can be who we are and that's what makes us all special and unique.

The curvy market has taken off, every high end fashion ambassador and textile market is upgrading their models to be more approachable looking. Size 12 /14 is the average size of an American women, while in stores these sizes are considered plus. Women such as Ashley Graham, Tess Holliday, and Iskra Lawrence are just a couple of the most influential promoters of the “real women” campaign. They are embracing their body while giving confidence to other young women dealing with the same body issues. The mantra women should hold that healthy is beautiful.



Do these typical Barbie and Ken look like you?

In early February, Mattel, the barbie branding company has decided to take their unrealistic barbies and create dolls for a bigger market; the realistic market of curvy girls and average body typing. The Barbie brand has formed this environment of blonde hair, a flawless face along with a perfectly lean shaped figure. Every woman doesn't look like that, but that's the idea that's pressed into a child's mind at a young age, that they need to be this ideal woman. While the creators never had the intention of creating self esteem issues that were centered around one stereotypical women, it has become a reality.

Barbie sales have dropped by 14 percent in this past quarter; Mattel President and COO Richard Dickson says “I actually think this is one of the most exciting times for the brand, broadening girls' choices… What Barbie looks like -- her body type, her ethnicity, her career - this is all part of the evolution of the brand and what we believe is the right conversation around the world to have with kids today." The new barbie will come in petite, tall, and curvy while giving the dolls different hair colors and different ethnicities.

The mind games

by, Lexi Caponi BP Staff Writer

Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) is characterized by unreasonable thoughts and fears that lead to compulsive behaviors. A huge misconception is that OCD is just about people who are afraid of germs or need to constantly keep things in a neat order. While those two examples are some of the most well known, there are plenty of other compulsions besides these. Others include hoarding, meaningless repetition of one’s own words, ritualistic behavior, and more uncommonly, swallowing different items. Michelangelo, the famous artist and sculptor, had OCD. He would often isolate himself, and he always slept in all his clothes, even his shoes. He hardly ever removed his boots, even when they started to cause problems with his feet. Nikola Tesla was also suffering from OCD. It was said that he hated touching round objects, disliked hair that wasn't his own, always used 18 napkins, tended to do things that were in numbers divisible by 3, and insisted on guessing the mass of the food he was about to eat.

Bipolar disorder is associated with episodes of mood swings, which range from manic highs to depressive lows. Episodes can last from a day to weeks at a time. When an episode occurs it is an uncontrollable and sudden shift in emotion. Mania symptoms include high energy levels with a low need for sleep. Depressive symptoms include the inability to feel motivation, low energy, and loss of interest in previously enjoyable activities. These quick shifts in emotion often leave the body with fatigue or restlessness. There seems to be no compromise during these episodes, for the person is either extremely tired and sad, or overly happy and unable to fall asleep. It was suspected that Vincent Van Gogh suffered from bipolar disorder and it was the mental illness that affected his work. Van Gogh was said to have bouts of despair and hallucinations in which he couldn't work; these were likely episodes of bipolar disorder. Van Gogh shot himself in the chest, and died a day later from infection. His brother, who had come to visit him, said his last words were “the sadness will last forever.”

Depersonalization, or derealization, disorder is when one feels detached from their surroundings or their body. Depersonalization is when a person feels as if they aren't in their body, or also feel subjectively detached from themselves, including their feelings. People describe it as feeling robotic-like, or as an automaton, feeling like they lack control of their own speech and movements. Episodes of derealization are characterized by a feeling of unreality from, or unfamiliarity with, the world. Individuals feel as if they’re in a fog or bubble; surroundings may seem colorless and artificial to them. Derealization is often accompanied by visual defects, such as blurriness and two-dimensionality. Edvard Munch, artist of The Scream, has depersonalization disorder, which inspired the painting.

“Teaching is the art of changing the brain.”

- James E. Zull

Kleptomania is the disorder where individuals feel a need to steal things, not out of spite or anger, but because of compulsion. People describe it as an itch that can never seemed to be scratched. Items that are stolen tend not be expensive, and are usually random objects. Megan Fox was caught stealing a $7 bottle of lipstick, which she could have easily afforded. She has had multiple bouts of kleptomania, and is now banned from Walmart for life.

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is characterized as depression that occurs during the same time every year, for a person. It is, essentially, an annual bout of depression. People feel fatigue, hopelessness, social withdrawal, hypersensitivity to rejection, and lack of concentration. Most often, these episodes occur during colder months, around fall or winter. It’s rare for it to happen, but sometimes there are cases during the spring and summer months. SAD occurs more commonly in younger people, teens and young adults, and in females. Though when men have it, their symptoms tend to be more severe. Poet Emily Dickinson showed signs of SAD, writing three times as many poems in the summers than in the fall and winter. Her poems and letters written during the winter months were more centered around dark and lonely thoughts, than her lighter-hearted literature in the spring and summer.

Seasonal Affective Disorder: Winter depression

by Sydney Mighton, BP Staff Writer

Have you ever noticed that when the fall months come to an end you begin feeling an overwhelming weight on your shoulders, or even a sense of depression? Or if not personally, perhaps you have noticed this change in one of your close friends or family members? There is a popular belief that spring, summer, and fall seasons are the most pleasant times of the year and coincidentally people are the happiest during these months. Whereas when the winter months roll around, the change in what seems to be the whole human population’s mood, seems to go downhill. This is not, however, just some random belief that someone came up with, this is actually a mood disorder called Seasonal Affective Disorder.

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is a seasonal depression that lasts only for a few months and occurs at the same time each year, which in most cases, is during the winter months. Although, for some people, SAD occurs during the spring or early summer. This mood disorder is found more in women than men, and is actually more common in individuals who live
farther from the equator. Reduced serotonin, a neurotransmitter that affects mood, is a primarycause of SAD, a decrease in sunlight can also increase your susceptibility SAD.
You may think it's just the winter blues, and just something you have to tough out on your own. This is the exact opposite of what you should do. There are many different medications you can take, being prescribed by your doctor of course, that mainly include antidepressants. Although, the most effective way to treat SAD is by a technique called light therapy. Basically what you do is you sit a few feet from a special light therapy box so this way you are exposed to bright light. This technique mimics natural outdoor light and actually causes a change in brain chemicals linked to moods. Other techniques simply include socializing, eating healthy, receiving an immense of support from your loved ones. Although medications and different types of therapy may help, dedication to your lifestyle change is what will really help with this mood disorder in the long run.



photo courtesy of substanceforyou.com

Dreading the cold snowy days in Ohio

Ask A... Round two

by Sam Martinjako, BP Staff Writer

A continuation of last month's article, here are some of the questions originally, possibly intentionally, left unanswered.

Q: What kind of support do you offer for college loans?
A: Emotional.

Q: Can I not write a question?
A: No, it's 100% required. If you don't write a question then I will find you, and I will MAKE you write one.

Q: Why do you want me to ask a question?
A: I can't just come up with my own questions to answer; that wouldn't be as fun.

Q: Why can't you come up with your own questions? *Drops microphone*
A: Get out.

Q: Where are the good noodle charts?
A: Probably at boating school, which unfortunately Berkshire doesn't offer.

Q: What about Tony Hawk?
A: #BringBackTheHawk

Q: So how about that airline food?
A: I don't know, Mr. Seinfeld, what is up with the airline food?

Q: How bulky is Sam Fisher on a scale of one-to-Duda?
A: Duda 2.0

Q: Why don't we have pizza parties anymore?
A: Because pizza is served in the cafeteria pretty much everyday.

Q: Why is pizza served everyday?
A: So that we don't have to have pizza parties anymore.

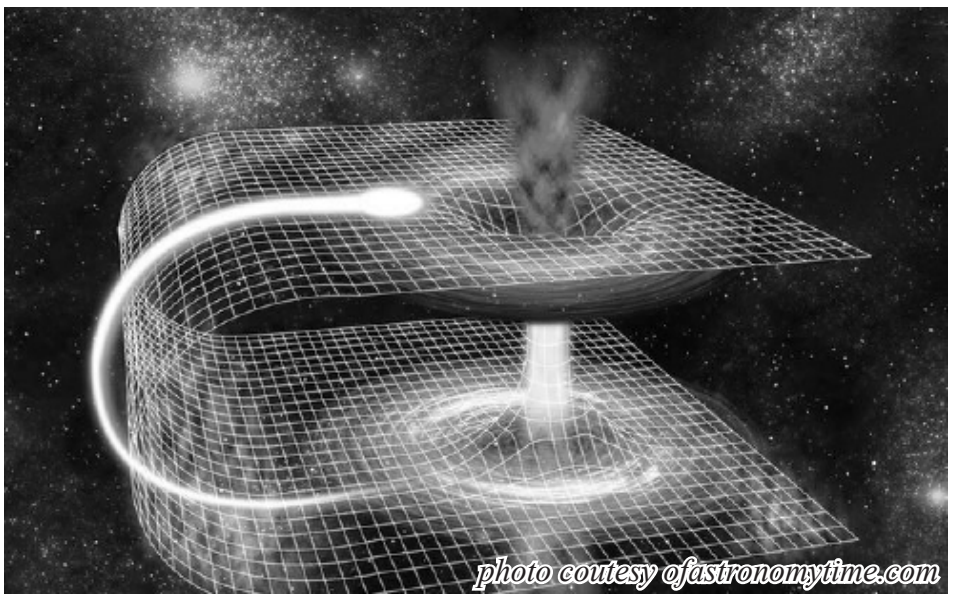
Q: I heard Cardinal doesn't have homework… Any input on how this is fair?
A: I mean, seems fake, but okay.

Q: Why can't we drink coffee in the morning during class?
A: Some teachers do allow coffee in their classes, so your scheduling may be the issue here.

Q: Why do girls have to change there dress code because guys can't help themself (leggings) from looking?
A: Hello, grammar police?

Q: Why do we have Senior volunteer hour projects instead of just regular volunteer hours?
A: To make you, specifically you, suffer.

Q: Is Mr. Gattozzi a communist? He doesn't seem to care much for America.
A: Of course not, Mr. Gattozzi is a true American patriot! I would know, I asked him myself.



A theoretical bridge through time and space

Q: Can we have a snow day next week?
A: Better start doing a lot of wishing unlike the slacker from last month.

Q: Why do people judge so much?
A: We live in a free country, and people have the constitutional right to express their opinions. Not always necessarily for the better, mind you, but everyone has the freedom of expression.

Q: Why do people always stand or sleep in the middle of the hallway?
A: To inconvenience others. They just want to watch the world burn.

Q: Why does it have to be below -20 degrees Fahrenheit to cancel school?
A: Because we're not weak, we are strong like bull.

Q: Will I ever get married?
A: Maybe someday.

Q: Do you believe in the theory of a wormhole?
A: Worm Holes, for those who don't know, are theoretical bridges in space/time that are said to be like shortcuts to far away places. While it does seem to be a bit far-fetched, I would not deny the possibility of such a thing occurring. Though, I do believe it could be potentially very dangerous. It is definitely an interesting concept and I would say that it has a lot of potential for science-fiction stories, and no doubt it has already been used many times. However, once again, since we don't know enough about them, or if they even exist in the first place, it might be best to just not bother with them as it could be disastrous to humanity. Though, at the same time, it may be necessary in order to further advance the human species as a whole, and the science community could benefit from it greatly. But I digress, as only time will tell if this theory proves to have any sort of truth to it.

Survey says...

by Tyrone Blackjack, BP Staff Writer

Surveys are very important in the survival of the human race. Without surveys we might never have gotten to the point we are at in our current state of humanity. Surveys are used in everything, whether it's for a little enjoyment, such as this one, or for collecting data for an experiment that might help people in the future. The most important reason though, is for the enjoyment. Even television shows go out of their way to interview people. For example, Family Feud surveys people for every single one of their episodes, so in a way you are just getting your enjoyment from hundreds of surveys they ask people. Some surveys are completely pointless and will probably be forgotten after a few weeks. Sometimes, people gain nothing out of reading surveys and are even annoyed by them. This survey however, while giving you no personal gain, may just be the information you needed to write your own survey.

Krystal Mechling, Junior

What season is your favorite?
"Fall because the weather is wicked cool."
Who is your favorite candidate running for president in this year's election?
"Politics curdle my blood."
What is your favorite flavor of juice?
"Aaaaaaw man orange juice for the win."
How tall are you?
"5'1"
If a stranger offered you a banana would you accept? Why or Why not?
"I'd accept then promptly throw it away because that sounds really off putting."
Are you looking forward to graduating from college?
"Oh absolutely, I'm actually 25 years old."
Do you think this survey was completely pointless?
"No it offered a lot of insight."
In your own words why do you think I asked all these questions?
"Because you're Tommy Blaha and this is your grade"

Michelle Sohm, Senior

What season is your favorite?
"Fall."
Who is your favorite candidate running for president in this year's election?
"B dawg, sassy sanders."
What is your favorite flavor of juice?
"The kind that doesn't taste like juice."
How tall are you?
"Tall enough."
If a stranger offered you a banana would you accept? Why or Why not?
"Only if they agreed to trade shirts with me as well."
Are you looking forward to graduating from college?
"Considering I can't look backwards, yes."
Do you think this survey was completely pointless?
"Yes. It could have had more knives."
In your own words why do you think I asked all these questions?
"You asked these simply because you are trying to take over our bodies with tiny aliens and you need to know what size alien will fit. You also need to know what kind of lifestyle that alien will have to live, as well as the most efficient form of getting in alien into our bodies (via juice, or bananas) Lastly, and probably most importantly, you need to know who needs to be terminated immediately and are not candidates for a host, via their preference in any political candidate other than Donald Trump."

Nathan McFadden, Junior

What season is your favorite?
"Summer."
Who is your favorite candidate running for president in this year's election?
"Bernie Sanders."
What is your favorite flavor of juice?
"Uhh… Mango."
How tall are you?
"I'll give it to you in cm."
If a stranger offered you a banana would you accept? Why or Why not?
"Yeah, If it was a good looking banana."
Are you looking forward to graduating from college?
"No. From college? No."
Do you think this survey was completely pointless?
"yeah pretty much."
In your own words why do you think I asked all these questions?
"Because you couldn't think of a better article to write."

Kody West, Junior

What season is your favorite?
"Hunting season. I love to shoot."
Who is your favorite candidate running for president in this year's election?
"Love the Sanders. His views align nicely with mine."
What is your favorite flavor of juice?
"I love the juice that loves me, apple juice."
How tall are you?
"As tall as my personality, 6'3.""
If a stranger offered you a banana would you accept? Why or Why not?
"What kind of banana we talkin' here?"
Are you looking forward to graduating from college?
"In Spanish they say "sí""
Do you think this survey was completely pointless?
"About as pointless as life. Make of that what you will."
In your own words why do you think I asked all these questions?
"To help prevent the invasion of mainland USA from the evil communist polar bears."

The luck of the Irish

by Julia Lossaso, BP Staff Editor

Are you planning on wearing green? Partying the day away? Or possibly going to one of the many parades thrown by cities, towns, and municipalities? Whichever way you choose to celebrate St. Patrick's day, on March 17th, you're taking part in a heavily commercialized (but still fun!) version of a once cultural and religious holiday.

St. Patrick's day began as a religious holiday in Ireland in celebration of their Patron Saint, Patrick. Born in the fourth century, St. Patrick dedicated his life to converting the Irish to Christianity. Before his death on March 17, 461, he successfully established monasteries, churches and schools throughout the country. Since his death, there have been many legends surrounding the life of St. Patrick, some of which account for the symbols and characteristics popular in the modernized celebration of the holiday. One such legend is the representation of the shamrock in the Irish culture, which has translated over the years to one of the most well known symbols of St. Patrick's day. Legend has it, St. Patrick, knowing the importance of the Celtic culture and the abundance of shamrocks in their native land, used the three leafed clover to describe the holy trinity in an attempt to convert them to Christianity.

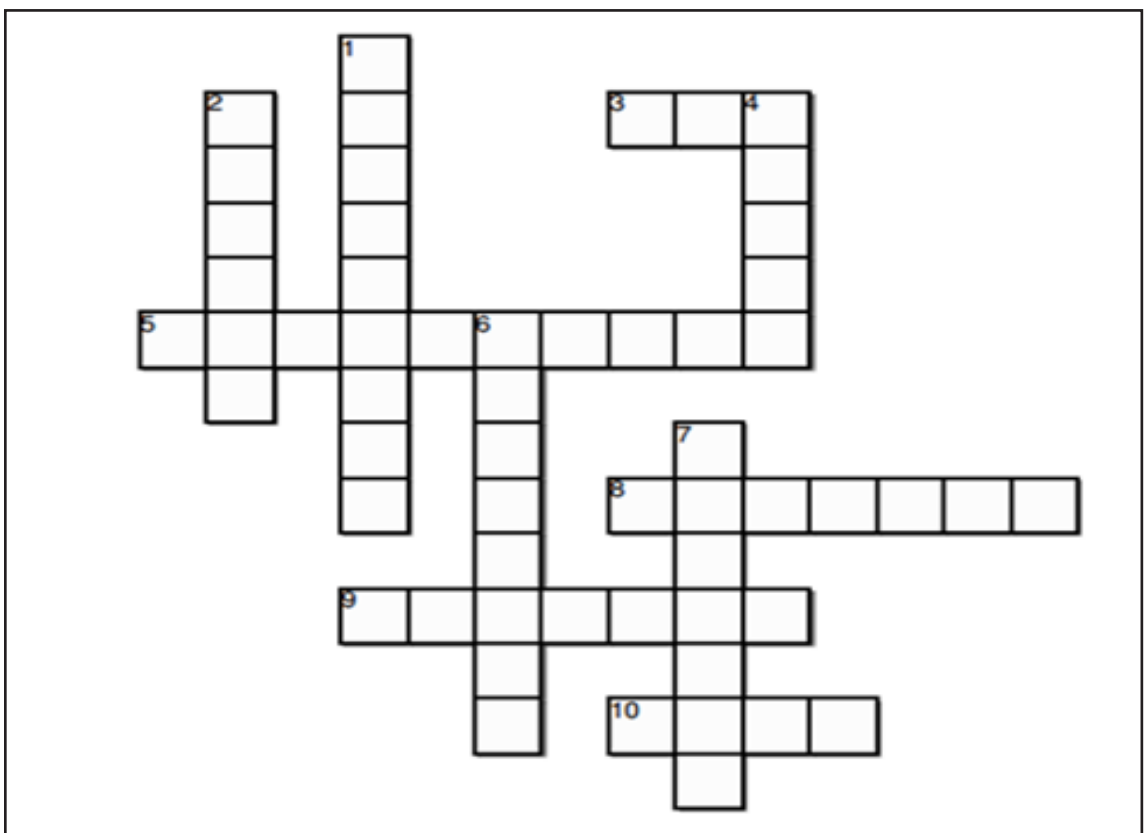
The popular Irish feast was introduced to American culture by Irish immigrants as early as the 1700's, and soon grew to take on its own types of celebrations within the early United States. According to Britannica, St. Patrick's day eventually day became the "secular holiday of revelry and celebration of things Irish" that it is today. The first St. Patrick's day parade was held in Boston, in 1737, followed in 1762 with



I hope you're as ready for St. Patty's Day as this Leprochaun is.

one in New York, after which many cities with large Irish populations followed suit. Perhaps one of the most iconic, or extreme, celebrations of the Irish holiday began in 1962, with the coloring of the Chicago River with 25 pounds of green dye. The color green has long been associated with the day, but it wasn't always that way. Blue was the original color of St. Patrick's day, but the green color of the shamrock apparently used by St. Patrick gained popularity, and now, not only represents the work of St. Patrick, but the color and one of the symbols of Ireland and St. Patrick's day.

Though it is now a day for all things green, red haired and Irish, St. Patrick's day has retained a small peice of its meaning. Whether it be feasting on the traditional corned beef and cabbage, or gathering with family and friends, St. Patrick's day has carried on in the United States as a joyous celebration of food, friends, and of course, the Irish.



Down:

1. The person for whom this Holiday commemerates
2. A four leaf _____.
4. The color reperesting this holiday.
6. A traditional served dish
7. A bunch of gold is found at the end of this.

Across:

3. A type of Irish Dance
5. Minature person who likes to play tricks and LOVES gold
8. The specific date of St. Patricks day.
9. Country associated with St. Patricks day.
10. This is often found in a black pot.

Cooking Corner

by Julia Lossaso, BP Staff Editor

It's often said the Irish know how to party, but one other thing is for sure: they know how to feast. St. Patrick's day is telling of this, originally a day of feasting and celebrating the life of St. Patrick, certain traditions and recipes have made their way across the pond to us here in the United States. From Traditional Irish food, to dishes and desserts that pair perfectly, discover your inner chef this St. Patty's day, and impress family and friends while you're at it!

Cinnamon Sugar Apple Cake

Servings: 20 Time: 60 minutes
Recipe courtesy of: Pinch of Yum
Ingredients:
1 1/2 cups brown sugar
1/3 cup canola oil
1 egg
1 cup buttermilk*
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 cups chopped apples (any kind!)
1/2 cup sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 tablespoon melted butter
*In place of buttermilk, you can substitute milk and lemon juice, or greek yogurt.
Directions:
Preheat oven to 325 degrees F and grease a 9×13 inch pan with cooking spray.
In a large bowl, whisk together brown sugar, oil, egg and buttermilk.
Stir in baking soda and vanilla.
Add flour and apples to the mixture.
Pour batter into prepared pan.
For the topping:
In a small bowl, combine sugar, cinnamon, and butter, mixing gently with a fork.
Spread mixture evenly over the previously prepared batter. It will not fully cover the top.

Bake for 40-45 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Corned Beef or Venison

Makes one 2 to 4 pound roast.
Prep Time: 5 days
Cook Time: 3 hours
Ingredients:
1/2 gallon water
Heaping 1/2 cup kosher salt
1/3 cup sugar
1/2 ounce Instacure No. 1 (sodium nitrite)
1 tablespoon cracked black pepper
1 tablespoon toasted coriander seeds
6 bay leaves, crushed
1 tablespoon mustard seeds
1 tablespoon dried thyme
1 teaspoon caraway seeds
1 cinnamon stick
6 cloves
A 3-5 pound venison or beef roast

Directions:
Add everything but the roast to a pot and bring to a boil. Turn off the heat and cover, then let it cool to room temperature while covered. This will take a few hours. Meanwhile, trim any silverskin you find off the roast, leave the fat. Once the brine is cool, find a container just about large enough to hold the roast, place the meat inside and cover with the brine. You might have extra, which you can discard.
Make sure the roast is completely submerged in the brine; I use a clean stone to weigh the meat down. You can also just flip the meat every day. Cover and put in the fridge for 5 to 7 days, depending on the roast's size. A 2-pound roast might need only 4 days. The longer you soak, the saltier it will get - but you want the salt and nitrate to work its way to the center of the roast, and that takes time.
After the allotted time has passed, you have corned venison (or beef.) To cook and eat, rinse off the meat, then put the roast in a pot just large enough to hold it and cover with fresh water. You don't want too large a pot or the fresh water will leach out too much flavor from the meat - It's an osmosis thing. Partially cover the pot and simmer gently - don't boil - for at least 3 hours and up to 7 hours. The meat itself will be cooked in a hour or less, but you want the sinews and connective tissue in the roast to soften and that takes time.
Eat hot or cold; pair with mustard, sauerkraut, cabbage, carrots, and potatoes.



photo courtesy of pinchofyum.com/

Debt-tramony

by Abby Carlson, BP Staff Editor



Photo courtesy of waringis.com

Though the moment is special, the price is high.

The majority of us girls have, from a young age, planned out the wedding of our dreams. From the perfect dress to the most exquisite bouquet of flowers, we've covered all the bases. As a child, it's perfectly acceptable to dream of a huge wedding, not even taking into account the issue of cost, because at that time, money isn't even in our realm of thought. However, when it comes time to plan and put together the big day, it seems as though everything is centered around how grand and expensive you can go, not the fact that you're about to be bound to someone for the rest of your life.

From the minute your guy or girl decides to buy an engagement ring, the push and pull from society starts to take hold, and absolutely refuses to let go. All of a sudden, you have to find the ring. The perfect stone, the perfect size, and the perfect cut, after all, that's what all those commercials say, and they would never lie to us. The stress builds, and you're terrified that the one you choose will make her sad or upset, because it's not, well, perfect. Guys, this isn't a brilliant trilogy written by J.R.R. Tolkien, the ring should not have this much power over you. It's just a ring, the meaning behind this gift should be a bit more significant than the size and shine of the stone. On the other hand, if he decides to go to Walmart and pick up one of those two rings for the price of one deals, leave him. Leave him now. (However, you can always keep it classy with K-Mart). But seriously, the significance of the ring should mean more than the dollar value, and if it doesn't, you need to sort out your priorities.

And now, we move on to the matter of the dress. We've all seen at least one episode of Say Yes to the Dress, and if you haven't, then you're lying. It's absolutely insane how much money people spend on a dress you literally wear one night of your life. I understand that you want to look and feel beautiful, because that day is a special one, and hopefully one you'll remember for the rest of your life. But does that really call for a $10,000 dress? In my opinion, that money could be set aside and used for your future together, for oh, I don't know, maybe a house to live in, or perhaps even a car to get you to work each day. There are so many beautiful gowns out there for less than a tenth of that price, and there's no reason not to purchase them. Tying into the dress, is of course, the extravagant bouquet of flowers. Surprisingly, these guys cost upwards of $150, which may not seem like much compared to the rest of the ceremony, but when you actually think about it, they're just flowers, and that money will come in handy later on if not spent now. Call me old-fashioned, but I see no problem in ordering a bouquet and table toppers from your local florist, or even better, go out into the marvelous outdoors and pick some yourself. There's no need to blow a ton of money on something that can be so inexpensive.

It's likely that the majority of people invest most of the money spent in their wedding on the venue. After all, it has to be held in this enormously grand and expensive old church, because if it isn't, everything is ruined. Everything. Stop being so dramatic and take a step back to look at the big picture. You're marrying someone you love, you're surrounded by people who love you, so why let this get in the way of your big day? Instead, have your wedding somewhere that actually means something to you, perhaps the church you used to attend as a child, or even outside somewhere. Stop worrying about what others will think of you based on the amount of money spent on your wedding, and wake up to realize that their wealth-oriented opinions shouldn't matter to you.

As for the cake and meal, have some close friends and family help out with the menu. A huge wedding cake whose purpose is to show that you have money to blow really doesn't impress anyone. Instead, make it a bit more sentimental. Maybe you have a friend that loves to bake, and if not, go hit up the local bakery, I'm sure they would appreciate the business. As for the menu, ask your family to help out, if everyone brings one dish you'll be golden. Weddings aren't meant to impress everyone, they're meant to bring everyone together to celebrate your marriage, so try not to get sidetracked with the whole "bigger is better" ordeal, because a lot of the time, it just isn't.

Remember when...

by Mckenna Brown, BP Staff Writer

Anybody would return back to Elementary School classes if they could, right? It's easy to reminisce about Fun Friday in Mrs. Duns' or Mrs. Johnson's First Grade Class. Every kid wore sweatpants and Aeropostale shirts while trading Pokemon cards during recess. You had a 'late night' if you were watching "The Suite Life of Zack and Cody" in your bedroom at 8:00. Here are a few other fads that your childhood had to consist of and if they didn't… Did you even have a childhood?



Photo courtesy of: http://www.amazon.com

Silly Bandz. This choking hazard was all the buzz but fizzled out fast. They were rubber bands; ie animals, numbers, or any other object imaginable that somehow kept their shape. Others were ridiculed when they didn't have the signature Bandz, the knockoffs. The real ones would lay flat when taken off of your wrist but the fakes would curl up. Silly Bandz didn't last long, most likely because kids would flick others with them and they were subsequently banned and in a matter of months, nobody at school even bothered to wear them.



Photo Courtesy of ; http://tracymuller.edublogs.org

Webkinz. I spent four years collecting approximately 54 of these stuffed animals. Once you got one of these animals, from a collection of thousands, you would go to the Webkinz official website and adopt it by entering a secret code then giving it a cute name. Hours were spent creating mansions for your online pet and earning "Kinzcash" by playing games such as Candy Bash and Hungry Hog. Never had a Webkinz? It isn't too late; the website is still up and running!

Zip Off Pants. The best and worst fad since powdered wigs. Did you decide to go hiking in pants and now you're hot because of the bipolar weather of Ohio? Then it's a good thing that you owned a pair of Zip Off Pants. Every father-son duo owned a pair of these oh-so distasteful pants. These pants recently made a guest appearance in the Netflix documentary, Making A Murderer, when Brendan Dassey was being questioned at the police station. These pants can be found anywhere in retail stores and especially in the back of your parent's closet.



Photo Courtesy of: http://www.dx.com

Crocs. These water shoes are still popular today, but back in the fourth grade, Crocs were the Air Jordans of the late 2000's. Nowadays, you can only see a pair of these "Walk in comfort, Wear in style" slip-ons adorned to a lone Eighth grader running late to class, or a senior sleeping in study hall. Crocs do have pros to them. Other than being super stylish; fellow classmates wear them at work because they are non-slip, waterproof shoes.



phot courtesy of: http://www.hardmob.com

So by now, everybody should agree that we definitely need to bring these trends back to Berkshire. They fill a void in our heart that we haven't been able to rid. These trends may even come back again if 6th graders now look up late 2000's trends. Pre Order your Crocs online, as well as the new and improved Tamagotchis.

Features

Being a foster parent: Are you up for it?

by Abbie Maschek, BP Staff Writer

Whether you choose to believe or not, our neighborhoods, communities and world are filled with abandoned children. They are left in hopeless situations, with not even the slightest glimmer of hope. These children are left and forced to grow up at an innocent age, who can help them? Who is there to come into a dark situation and become the hope that a child so desperately needs? Who will be the one to allow a child to actually experience a memorable childhood? Foster parents are those people. They choose to love someone else's child as their own. They lovingly take abandoned children into their own homes and help bring restoration to many lives.

Each week in America, 60,000 children are abused or neglected. Each year, 900,000 children are confirmed as abused or neglected, out of those 900,000 children, only 520,000 of them are fortunate enough to become a part of the foster care system long term and are possibly put up for adoption. In America, 800,000 children each year are only temporarily in foster care system. Out of all of those children, 40,000 are infants. Some enter the system directly after leaving the hospital. A total of 126,000 children are put up for adoption each year. On average, a foster child will go through three different foster homes. Most children are in the foster care system for about three years, then adopted by the foster parent, or is reunited with the family or a relative. For those that are older, 20,000 of them stay in the system until they turn 18. Once a foster child turns 18, the simply "age out" which means that they are to old to be considered a foster child so they are forced to start a life on their own. The children that are in the foster care system have run out of options, their families are no longer able to take care of them, or they are simply unable to provide the necessary care.

My sister, Beth Sommer as well as her husband, Tim, have been foster parents for six years. I was able to sit down and ask her a few questions about her experiences. When I asked when she first knew that she wanted to become a foster parent, she replied: "My husband started feeling like we needed to be foster parents first because he felt called by God to do so. Because of this verse in the Bible, James 1:27 ' Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.' For me it was actually a couple of years into fostering where I really felt like I was doing something I was meant to do. God calls us to obey Him and trust Him even when we don't feel like it's something we can do on our own. You can be certain that I am glad I followed His direction." Next, I asked Sommer about the first time a child was placed in her home, I wanted to know what it felt like and which types of emotions she personally experienced. "It was a whirl of emotions when we first got the call for our foster son, Michael. It was overwhelming and fulfilling at the same time." As a foster parent, personal challenges are very possible. When asked about her biggest personal challenge, Sommer wrote: "The biggest challenge is the unknown. Not knowing how long they will be in your home. Not knowing where they will be going next and if it is safe or not. Not knowing how I'm going to react if they don't go back to their parents/family and I'm faced with a life long decision whether to adopt this child (or two). The unknown is by far my biggest personal challenge. " Foster ing brings so many different types of rewards. When asked what the most rewarding part about being a foster parent, Sommer happily explained with: "The most rewarding part is giving love to a child in an unloving situation, I also like to build a relationship with their family and help them in any way I can if I see they are working towards a reconciliation." To finish up, Sommer was asked if she could give any words of encouragement to anyone who might be considering becoming a foster parent, she knew just want to say. "Expect the unexpected. It's never the way you think it's going to be. It's hard but don't give up because it gets easier and it's very rewarding when all is said and done."



Foster children of Beth Sommer, Zaniyhia and Henry embrace each other for a photo.

Foster parents are needed. Each county has their own system that you could get involved with. Here are a few of the necessary requirements. You must be a U.S. citizen who is at least 21 years old and in good health. Your home must have enough living space as well as bedroom space, as well as pass a home study. If you are married, or are living with someone, both of you need to be fully committed and involved. You will also need to make sure that you currently have a steady income. Personal records will be checked, you can't have any fe;pmoes or have committed any crimes. Lastly, you will need to be approved by the County of Departments of Human Services. It is common for foster children to have children who also end up in foster care. Will you be the one to help change that vicious cycle? If you have been thinking about becoming a foster parent, give it a try! Kids everywhere need your love and your help.

Our sister city, Chardon

by Claire Milano, BP Staff Writer

Chardon is the beautiful city about fifteen minutes away from Burton. Like our own town, Chardon consists of many different shops, restaurants, and parks to visit. My personal favorite is Beans Coffee Shop. I moved to Chardon when I was three years old, and I have been visiting the beautiful square ever since.

In 1812, Chardon became one of the 24 townships in Geauga County. The land was bought from a Boston entrepreneur named Peter Chardon Brooks. Therefore, in 1810 the land was named Chardon. Interestingly enough, other names considered for Chardon were Brookfield, Brookville, Marshall, and Chardonia. Founded by Captain Edward Paine Jr, Chardon became the county seat of justice. Paine built his house as a log cabin, which would later become the city courthouse. The park in Chardon Square was the base for town the construction. Originally, Chardon was built according to traditional New England townships, with a green in the center and the important buildings and shops surrounding. Unknown to most people, the original buildings were destroyed in a great fire on July 24, 1868. The courthouse and public library were burned down. However, most of the records were saved. Ten years later, the Chardon Town Hall was built.

Enough of the history, let's talk about the fun stuff. Of the many shops



A winter day in the streets of Chardon

in town, my favorite is Antiques on the Square, owned by Pat Martin. If you're like me, and really into cute knick-knacks, this place is perfect for you. Martin started this business in 1985, along with 20 other dealers. Inside are thousands of old toys, books, furniture and even clothes! There are three levels: the basement (not a creepy basement, trust me,) the main floor, and the upstairs. In the basement are mostly books, records, and old postcards. They have two giant rooms dedicated to the interesting postcards and stamps they've collected over the years. On the main floor is where they keep the furniture and other fragile antiquities. Upstairs, numerous pieces of china, dresses, WWII memorabilia, and cameras lie. I bought one of these cameras, an Ansco Shur-Flash, and with a little research found that it was manufactured in 1953. In other words, this beauty is 63 years old!

As mentioned before, in the heart of the square there is a coffee shop named Beans. Like Coffee Corners, Beans provides delicious coffee, smoothies, and bakery products. I recommend the Mocha (hot) and if you're looking for lunch, the Grilled Cheese sandwich with bacon and tomato. Two exciting upcoming events include the Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt (both on March 26), and the Geauga Maple Festival (April 21-24). Unfortunately, there are no events during the month of February.

Not many of you visit Chardon as often as you should. Take my word for it: visiting the park, Geauga Lyric theater, and the coffee shop will bring back childhood memories. Maybe you can create new memories with friends and family.

Actualización del Proyecto Español

by Alexis Caponi, BP Staff Writer

A few weeks ago, Sra. Rea's Spanish III class broke off into partners and picked a Spanish-speaking country to do an oral presentation on, speaking only in the foreign language. Countries ranged from Spain, Mexico, Chile and Argentina, to Costa Rica. A week after the groups presented, lasting 10 minutes without speaking in English, they had a small fiesta where groups brought in food from their country. All types of food were brought; beans and chicken, rice, cakes, empanadas, hot chocolate, guacamole, and sandwiches. The food was all flavorful, whether sweet, salty, or savory. The parties were lighthearted, with music, singing, and taking a small break from class work to resemble the real-life feeling of eating Spanish cuisine.