The Badger Pause

Volume 12, Issue 1 | 14510 N. Cheshire Street, Burton, Ohio | September 2016

Important information: The Britannia Trip

By Abby Carlson, BP Staff Editor

If you've ever dreamed of seeing the world, visiting exotic places, and exploring various cultures, then the 2017 EF Tours trip to the Britannia will be right up your alley! The tour travels to England, Ireland, Wales, and Scotland, and will feature many interesting attractions such as the Book of Kells, Westminster Abbey, Stonehenge, and the London Eye. The price of the trip as of September 2017, is $3,020 with all expenses paid except for lunch, which students will be expected to purchase themselves.To sign up for this once in a lifetime experience, go see Ms. Hull in the library for more details, she would love to hook you up! Below is the itinerary for The Britannia:

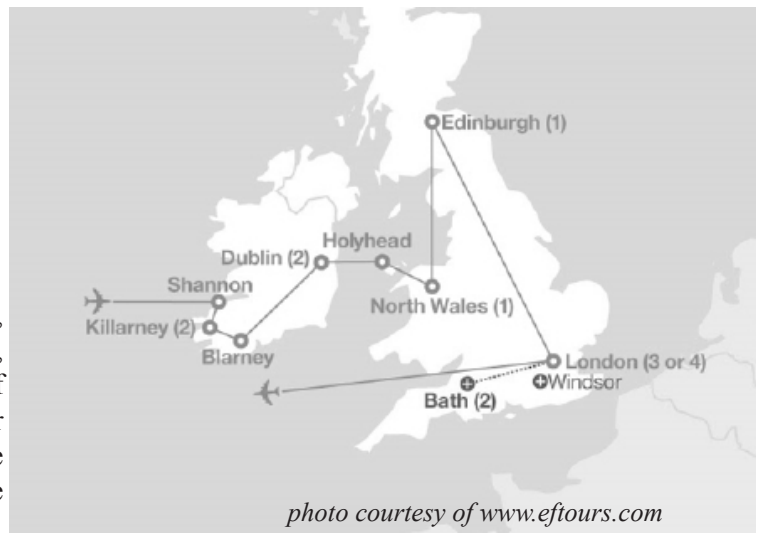


photo courtesy of www.eftours.com

The complete route of the trip.



Photo courtesy of nationalgeographicexpeditions.com

Beautiful cliffs of Ireland



Photo courtesy of londoncityscapes.com

Big Ben, lookin fine like always.

Day 1: Fly overnight to Ireland

Day 2: Shannon • Killarney
- Meet your Tour Director at the airport
- Travel to Killarney

Day 3: Killarney
- Take a tour of the Ring of Kerry
- Visit the Kerry Bog Village Museum

Day 4: Killarney • Blarney • Dublin
- Travel via Blarney to Dublin
- Visit Blarney Castle
- See the Rock of Cashel

Day 5: Dublin
- Take a guided tour of Dublin
- With your expert local guide you will see:
  - Georgian squares
  - O'Connell Street
  - St. Stephen's Green
  - Phoenix Park
  - See the Book of Kells at Trinity College
- Visit St. Patrick's Cathedral
- Explore on your own or add this in-depth excursion:
  - Gaelic Games

Day 6: Dublin • Holyhead • North Wales
- Take a ferry from Dublin to Holyhead
- Travel via Snowdonia to North Wales
- Visit a Welsh castle

Day 7: North Wales • Lake District • Edinburgh
- Travel via the Lake District to Edinburgh
- Visit Rydal Mount

Day 8: Edinburgh • London
- Take a guided tour of Edinburgh
- Visit Edinburgh Castle
- Enjoy lunch in Edinburgh
- Take a walking tour of Edinburgh
- Travel by train to London

Day 9: London
- Take a guided tour of London
- With your expert local guide you will see:
  - Big Ben and Houses of Parliament
  - Piccadilly Circus
  - St. Paul's Cathedral
  - Westminster Abbey
- Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace (if scheduled)
- Take a walking tour of London
- With your Tour Director you will see:
  - Strand
  - Trafalgar Square
  - Leicester Square
- Covent Garden
- Explore on your own or add this in-depth excursion:
  - London Eye

Day 10: London
- Explore on your own or add this in-depth excursion:
  - Windsor Castle

Day 11: Depart for home
- (Add 3 more days)

Day 11: London • Oxford • Bath region
- Travel to via Oxford to the Bath region
- Visit New College
- Take a tour of Oxford
- Take a guided tour of Bath
- With your expert local guide you will see:
  - Georgian squares
  - Roman baths

Day 12: Bath region
- Tour Cheddar Gorge, Glastonbury, and Wells
- Visit Glastonbury Abbey

Day 13: Bath region • Salisbury • London
- Travel via Salisbury and Stonehenge to London
- Visit Stonehenge
- Visit Salisbury Cathedral

Day 14: Depart for home

A Chat with an officer who has *class*

by Jeremy Koscelnik, BP Staff Writer

"I've been a class officer since birth."
-Kody West, Senior Class President

The Senior class was very enthusiastic this year to elect our peers to perform some of the most important tasks. There were many great candidates for these class officer positions, and they all delivered fantastic speeches. You have to respect their confidence; standing in front of their entire class and administration is most students' worst nightmare. However, four proud Seniors managed to persuade their peers to vote in their favor, and they couldn't be more excited to get started in their new positions. As Senior class treasurer, Anne Ritts (also this year's homecoming queen) managed to come out on top. Malia Miller just barely clinched the role of secretary, although the competition was fierce. Dan Bridavsky, although delivering his speech in fluent Russian, charmed the class into voting him as Vice President, using his famous foreign charm. And finally, as Class President second year running, The Badger Pause's very own, Kody West. The Badger Pause sat down with each of our candidates and asked them about their plans for their time in office.

Q: "Have you ever been a high school class officer?"

A: "No, this is my first year!" (Malia). "Yes, I was a Vice President as a Freshman and Secretary Sophomore year!" (Anne). "Yeah, I was literally the Vice President last year." (Dan). "I've been a class officer since birth." (Kody).

Q: "What are your plans for this year as a class officer?"

A: "I just want our class to be as successful as possible." (Anne). "Well, first of all, I think we should probably raise some money so we can afford graduation." (Dan). "I think it would be really fun to have some senior picnics and a cool class trip!" (Malia). "Raise enough money for graduation!!!" (Kody).

It's pretty clear that the one thing all of our class officers can agree on: we need enough money for graduation! If we don't get that money, who knows what could happen?! Either way, our officers are no doubt going to succeed and give us a great Senior year, even if we are on a bit of a budget.



Kody West, Senior Class President, Handsome man

Take a look into Berkshire's newest additions to the staff



Mr. Randall instructing his class for the day's activities.

Mr. Randall

by Kody West, BP Staff Writer

Mr. Joseph (or Joe) Randall is a proud new member of the Berkshire High School staff team, teaching Junior High Physical Education and Health, along with coaching the junior high cross country team.

Mr Randall had previously taught at Ledgemont for 17 years as both the Physical Education and Health teacher. His favorite part about his new position here at Berk is the actual facility, along with the "very friendly" student body.

Randall remarked, "We're like one big family." When asked about the Junior High Cross team, and his goal for this year and the years following, he stated that one of his biggest goals was to "get something set to build off of what we have."

Finally, Mr Randall would like people to know that even though "people think [he is] kind of hardcore, [he] still likes to have fun."

Mrs. Giel

by Alexis Caponi, BP Assistant Editor

Heather Giel is one of the new Physical Education and Health teachers in the high school. This is her ninth year of teaching. Before Berkshire, she taught in Akron at Our Lady of the Elms, an all girl school. This winter season she'll be an assistant varsity coach for girls' basketball.

In the past, she's coached basketball, softball, and soccer. At her old school a coach was unavailable for the soccer season, and instead of seeing the program die, Giel stepped up and led the team.

Giel looks forward to starting off with a good first year, and also to "build relationships and start a good foundation" with the school. In her old school she started a color run, and hopes to accomplish the same here at Berkshire. She hopes to fit it into the spring this year, but she said she'd survive if it had to be fall of the next school year. Her motivation is "to promote school physical activity" in a fun way that will get all the kids involved.



Mrs. Giel explaining to her students how to golf during a class outside on the practice field.



Ms. Leikala feeling at home in her new classroom.

Ms. Leikala

by Aiden Burkley, BP Staff Writer

Carol Leikala, or Ms. Leikala to students, is teaching for her first year here at Berkshire High School, but her 31st year of teaching altogether.

Loved by many of the former Ledgemont students, she has lots of new ideas to bring to the art room, as she has always been an art teacher.

When asked what her goals for teaching this year are, she answered, "My biggest goal this year is to make sure we have a lot of art displayed. I don't want everything to stay in the basement, I want everyone to see how wonderful our students are."

Also, most importantly, when questioned what her favorite part of her job was, she promptly said, "My students."

Senior Q & A

by Jeremy Koscelnik, BP Staff Writer

Samantha Kaser

Q: How do you feel about Senior year so far?

A: "It feels like every other year except I get to leave and never come back."

Q: If you saw Miley Cyrus on a plane, what would you do?

A: I'd yell, "Miley, what's good?!"

Q: What brand of deodorant do you use?

A: "I use Dove right now, but I'm not sure if I like it, might upgrade to Secret."



Tommy Blaha (my king)

Q: What is your favorite season?

A: "Fall, because my birthday is in fall and I'm self-centered."

Q: Who do you hate most at this school?

A: *looks over at Nathan* "Nathan McFadden."

Q: If you could be any dictator, who would you be?

A: "Fidel Castro, because he had Cuban cigars."



Cennedie Hall

Q: How would you describe your sense of style?

A: "I would say that I like to dress modestly and classy with a 50's flair."

Q: If you could have any animal as a pet, what would you choose?

A: "I would want a gremlin but I promise I wouldn't feed it after midnight!"

Q: What is your favorite letter of the alphabet?

A: "R, because it's the most common letter."



Josh Espinosa

Q: How is your Senior year going?

A: "Awesome."

Q: If you were a girl, what would your name be?

A: "Stephanie."

Q: What brand of dish soap do you use?

A: "Dawn, because there's a duck on the front."



Features

A homecoming 65 million years in the making

by Jeremy Koscelnik, BP Staff Writer

Yet another homecoming has come and gone, the excitement that was brewing in all of us has passed, and we can now look back fondly at one of the most special nights of the year. For a lot of us here at the Badger Pause, the homecoming dance on Saturday was one of the last we get to experience, and it couldn't have gone better. The proud king, Josh Espinosa, strutted down the sea of students to a roaring cry of applause, and he looked the happiest out of anyone. The reigning queen, Anne Ritts looked stunning as she accepted her crown, a childhood dream for many young girls come true. However, the other candidates are no less important. The Senior boys in the running for kingwere: Emil Hess, Aaron Pawlak, Kody West, and Tommy Blaha. The queen could-be's were as follows: Gabby Skolaris, Katie Dingman, Julia Losasso, and Kylie Scott. Hopefully, it was one of the best nights ever for them, because after all, it's not about who wins, it's about having a good time.

Aside from the excitement of homecoming court, the student council proudly boasted their creative side with an original theme: Jurassic Park-Homecoming. Mrs. Jen Ray worked tirelessly with her student council members to give us a very special night. With a minimal budget of just $300, Mrs. Ray managed to pull off a great event, complete with a green screen photo-booth, fabulously inventive center pieces, and some cleverly placed dinosaur chompers. This was truly a homecoming 65 million years in the making.



The kings and queens of the jungle put their claws away to pose for a dinosaur-sized picture.

Rack up the hours

by Lexi Caponi, BP Asst. Editor



The pumpkin lady posing in front of our local rehabilitation center- a great place to rack up some senior service hours.

Most people need volunteer hours, but few people enjoy getting them. I've taken the liberty of looking up a few places nearby that give a variety of options for getting in those hours that most academic clubs, like National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society, require students to achieve throughout the school year.

If you prefer to work with senior citizens, Burton Health Care is just across town from the high school. During this time of the year they'll likely need volunteers to help set up decorations for the fall season. They also need people to help with the crafts that the residents make. After the holidays they need volunteers to aid in taking down the decorations. They could always use help year round, so don't forget to check in with them.

Another place to receive volunteer hours is Geauga Medical Center. They take volunteers for in-house mail delivery, transporting patients, food services, and gift shop operations.

If you prefer not to work in a medical or health care center, there are plenty of other places. The Girl Scouts of the USA are looking for troop leaders at the moment. This type of volunteering obviously takes more commitment than simply showing up one or two days. You can send in an application online for the surrounding area and get together with a great group of young girls to help them grow and learn.

United Way Services of Geauga County has a lot of options for getting your hours in. They have a call line that gives out information about health, social, and government resources, and work with educational services, health care providers, human services, and other agencies to better the community. Things that younger volunteers can do with them are the Big Brother Big Sister program, counseling at Camp Ho Mita Koda, building ramps for seniors who can't easily get around their houses, and reading to kids.

Rescue Village from Geauga Humane Society are always accepting help. Different types of volunteers are morning prep workers, who help clean cages and housekeeping areas in the compound, and Cat and Dog volunteers, who work with socializing with the animals and walk the dogs. The Village has people who train the volunteers to be able to walk the dogs. They also accept student service projects, and work to accommodate students, if they are informed beforehand.

Go out there and put in the hours of work that will not only look good on a resume, but will also make you feel good while helping others. Whether it be a dog, elder, or child, the work you do will make someone's day!

Exploring the extracurriculars of Berkshire

by Jacob Wichert, BP Staff Writer

From tyrannizing Freshmen to involuntary gladiator fights, it's no secret that Berkshire's extracurriculars have their fair share of strange traditions. Regardless of what you participate in, one can always expect to witness at least one type of abnormal behavior during their after-school hours. Some of these traditions have seemingly existed since the beginning of time, whereas some have just begun to appear within the last few years as part of a long-running joke (typically only understood by the participants of the extracurricular). Being the overly curious person I am, I set off on a quest to uncover these secret traditions and learn more about the students of Berkshire.

My first destination was the band room. As a previous member of the marching band, I've seen firsthand the abnormal and seemingly ritualistic behaviors designed by its members and simply put, there are a lot of them. Out of the plethora of musically-inclined students, I ultimately chose to interview the trombone section, which consists of Clark Jackson, and Cameron "McCoolguy" Layne. Together we discussed their belief system known as Marksism (not to be confused with Marxism), in honor of their late band director. Marksism requires a specific ritual to be carried out during Berkshire's weekly football game known as "The Circle" which I can only assume is the source of the band's power. I tried to probe into what sort of activities take place inside the circle, but was promptly stopped by Clark who simply stated, "What happens in the circle stays in the circle." I suddenly felt nervous, and decided to change the subject. I then inquired about other activities that take place during band and, simultaneously, both interviewees blurted out the same two words: "fight pit." I was both interested and concerned. Cameron, noticing my obvious discomfort, immediately made the disclaimer: "[It's] not real fighting, but a real pit." It was comforting to know that the band draws the line at actual violence, but I still felt uneasy, and decided to end our interview there by offering a polite "goodbye" and hurriedly walking away.

Next up was the golf team. Because there isn't a golf class during school, (for obvious reasons) I chose to interview golfer, and Badger Pause writer, Stuart Horvath. And so, I made the long journey from one side of the library to the other to ask questions. The golf team has fewer traditions than marching band, but those that do exist are no less interesting from what I've discovered. Stuart was considerably less forthcoming when discussing his after-school activities, which makes me wonder what he, and the rest of the team, may be hiding. What I did discover however, was rather shocking. According to Stewart, for one week straight, the golf team's freshmen must endure frequent tormenting from the upperclassmen on the team. He claims that this is all in good fun, but I don't buy it. There's something much more sinister going on here, and one day I fully intend to get to the bottom of it.

As much as I would love to continue to delve deeper into the traditions of Berkshire's extracurriculars, I unfortunately have other responsibilities to attend to, and must end my research here. Perhaps one day I'll continue my studies, but for now the remaining activities' secrets remain hidden to all but those who participate in them.

Boys soccer

by Sam Martinjako, BP Staff Writer

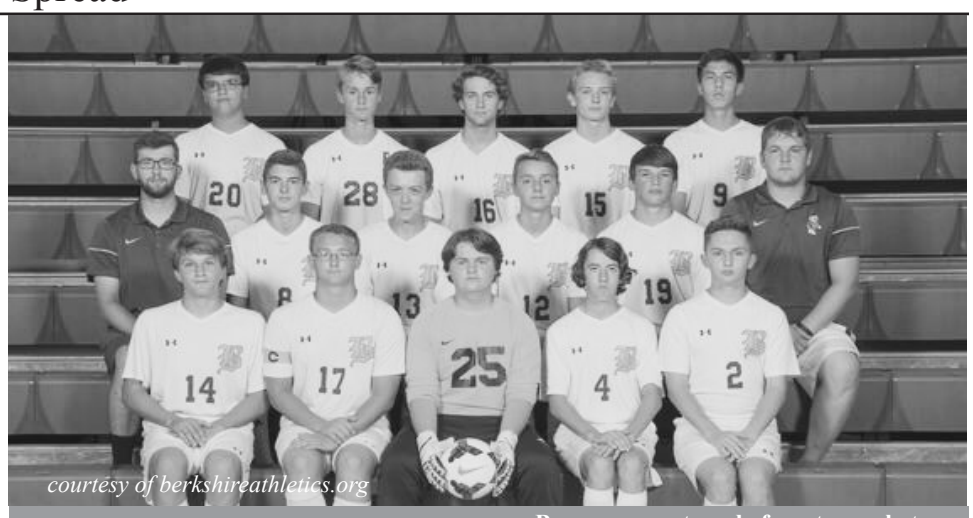
With the passage of time, sports teams must evolve along with the tides of the people involved in them. Coaches come and go, Senior players graduate, and new Freshman players take their places. The new boys soccer coach this year is Dalas Provost, and it is his first time being the primary instructor for Berkshire's team. His goal this year is nothing specific, but he says that he wants to "Progress as the year goes on." To get a better insight on how the team feels about this, four members were asked to give statements.

Senior member Nathan McFadden, one of the only two Seniors left, stated, "I like all the kids on the soccer team. I think it's a good group of people. Hasn't been the best season. Our team is mostly Freshman and Sophomores, and we've come a long way already. We're only going to get so much better before the end of the season." He is not alone in having this sentiment, most of the team does. Karsten Bergmeier, a Junior player, adds, "We are a young team made up of Freshmen and Sophomores with only two Seniors. In the next years we should be getting better and better." Nick Romask, another Junior, in a similar way to the previous two, explains that, "Everybody is pretty new, we're growing as a team, but everything else will come with time as we develop and grow as a team together." The opinions of the team are not extremely varying. Fortunately, according Nick Boyk, the other Senior team member, there is nothing to worry about. "Berkshire soccer... Prepared for the future," he reports. Getting better as a team is always a great goal to have, but it's an especially important goal for them with their current 1-10 record (as of this article being printed.)

The current roster for the soccer team consists of:

Head coach, Dallas Provost
Assistant Coach, Tyler Briggs
Caleb Clem, 2, forward
Lenny Barcikoski, 3, defense
Karsten Bergmeier, 4, midfield
Nathan McFadden, 6, midfield
Dakota Schaden, 7, midfield
Nick Romask, 8, defense
Josiah Cheung, 9, defense
Tommy Jadach, 10, defense
Lucas Schaden, 11, midfield

Sam Roach, 12, forward,
team captain
Kevin Murphy, 13, midfield
Zac Wolfe, 14, defense
Logan Byler, 15, defense
Sam Adams, 16, goalie
Nick Boyk, 17, defense, team captain
Jacob Hanson, 19, forward
Dean Peters, 20, defense
Will Steigerwald, 25, goalie



courtesy of berkshireathletics.org

Boys soccer get ready for a team photo.

Boys golf

by Stuart Horvath, BP Staff Writer

The boys JV golf team is about halfway through the season with a record of, 2-11. For the team as a whole, the main focus is preparing for the future and getting used to the competition and improving individually and as a group. Head coach, Hannah Bomback, is an 8th grade social studies teacher here at Berkshire and has 6 years of head coaching experience. Coach Bomback has two goals for the boys and girls on the team: "For the girls, it's to prepare and improve each match to get ready to have a girls golf team again next year." "For the boys, it's to get used to the competition of competitive golf and prepare and get better for boys varsity golf in the future."

The team remains positive win or loss and the main focus is preparation and growth. Freshman, Kayley Kelley, is focused on improvement and doing her best each match: "I want to do the best I can every round and improve each time." For freshman, Caden Neumore, improvement is another main focus for this season: "I'm getting better with every match we have, and having my friends on the team also makes it more enjoyable." The team has a big roster consisting of 10 golfers. Juniors: Ian Scott and Rachel Breckenridge. Sophomores: Katrina Ostrander and Emily Nelson. Freshmen: Kayley Kelley, Caden Neumore, Andrew Young, Lianna Tiber, Anna Brent, and Alex Mulacek. The JV boys golf team is a hard working group that is competitive, fun, and strives for improvement each match and for the future.



Let's cheer our boys on this season!

JV golf

by Rachel Breckenridge, BP Staff Writer

Ten CVC first place finalist. Berkshire golf. The team is mentally strong, and loves the game. Every time there is a tournament or match we always get very prepared and score as best as we can. The man helping with all of these tournaments is our coach Dave List. He has been coaching for almost 30 years, and has coached golf at berkshire for 19 years. He is very helpful when we are on the course. He knows what to do and how to be a coach. He has taken four students to the state championship and he is also a heck of a golfer.

The underclassmen on the team are 2 man Forrest Kuchling, 3 man Stuart Horvath, 6 man Cole Crea, and also 6 man Tim Pilot. Next year we will all be ready to do the best we can.The seniors on our team are 1 man Miles Chapman, who is the most dedicated person I have ever met, and Anthony Granny, the 5 man who can make anyone laugh at anytime, and the 4 man Spencer Adams. If you do not know him you need to talk to him because if there is ever a day that is just terrible this kid can make it better. Brian Malkus is also our 6 man and he might be one of the nicest guys you will ever meet. That's our team. Some great quotes from them include Cole Crea saying "The warriors blew a 3-1 lead" also another from Tim Pilot "don't reach young blood" and a great quote from Brian Malkus "we do golf".

This season was very successful. We ended the year 4-2 in the CVC and in 3rd place. There is no reason to be angry about how we finished. We did the best we could, and I'm very proud of that and I'm proud of my sophomore year golf season.

Girls soccer

by Julia Losasso, BP Staff Editor

Roster: Jenna Landrus (Senior Captain and forward, number 4, Jenna Landrus.

Brianna Kleckner (Senior forward and midfielder, number 3, Brianna Kleckner.

Anne Ritts (Senior Captain, defender and midfielder, number 6, Anne Ritts.

Julia Losasso (Senior Captain and midfielder, number 21, Julia Losasso.

Asya Martin (Junior Captain, forward and defensive player, number 1,

Joanne Miller (Junior defensive player, number 14, Joanne Miller.

Lexi Caponi (Junior midfielder and defensive player, number 7, Lexi Caponi.

Catherine Lillibridge (Junior goalkeeper and forward, number 20, Catherine Lillibridge.

Hailey Long (Junior midfielder, number 6, Hailey Long.

Jill Landrus (Junior defensive player, number 18, Jill Landrus.

Amber Taraska (Junior forward and midfielder, number 8, Amber Taraska.

Arielle Sokolowski (Sophomore forward and midfielder, number 19, Arielle Sokolowski. Grace Lillibridge (Freshman defensive player, number 13, Grace Lillibridge.

Megan Filby (Freshman midfielder, number 29, Megan Filby.

Lexi Boyk (Freshman forward, number

Monica Mraz (Fr.) defensive

Ryverz Durman (Fr.) midfielder and defender

Cameron Schaden (Fr.) midfielder

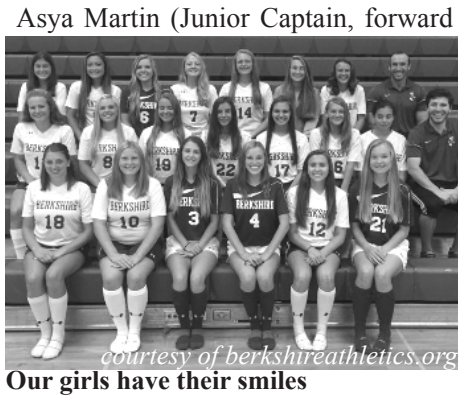
Clara Agawa (Fr.) forward

Katelyn Zeliznak (Fr.) midfielder

Julia Landrus (Fr.) midfielder

The Berkshire Girls Varsity Soccer team has come out stronger than ever this year. After starting the year off with a record breaking shutout streak, their current record is 6-3. Thus far, they have broken the school record for goals scored in a single game, as well as in a season. The girls on the team all love the family atmosphere, agreeing that it helps the dynamic of the team! "We all connect well together" says Senior Captain Anne Ritts, "I'm excited to see where this season takes us because we have a lot of talent on the team." That sentiment is echoed by Freshman Lexi Boyk, "I think we're doing pretty good

this season, even when we have our off days, we're able to learn together." When asked about the season and team, second year Head Coach Rick Nerone said "when we work hard we are great, but when we don't, we get our butts kicked." That translates into his goal for the season, for the team as a whole to play hard, and have fun. For Freshman Katelyn Zeliznak, that hard work comes in the form of scoring, "I'm going to score one goal," she says, "it's going to happen." All in all, the girls varsity soccer team isenjoying the present moment and their current record, as well as looking towards the future. When asked about her hopes for the rest of the season, Senior Captain Jenna Landrus summed it up, "I'm looking forward to breaking more team records this season and going into the postseason."



courtesy of berkshireathletics.org

Our girls have their smiles on for this season

Let's tackle this season, Badger football!

by Isaac Winstead-Bryant, BP Staff Writer

Head Coach- Josh DeWeese
Offensive Coordinator- Nick Burzanko
Defensive Coordinator- Ron Brown
Special teams coach- Rich Klemencic
Line Coach- Mike Calobuno
Backer coach- Tom Hinkle



Brandon Lorenzo #3
Joey Hauser #5
Mike Legend-Sender #8
Jacob Young #11
Emil Hess #12
John Kuhmer #20
Joe Bennington #22
Will Blechschmid #25
James Lorenzo #27
Chauncy Gerber #28
Jared Hinkle #30
Nick Hunt #32
Jacob Hanson #33
Griffin Urban #34
Paul Mitrovic #52
Austin oth #55
Isaac Winstead-Bryant #60
Riley Carey #68
Richie Klemencic #69
Steve Ellis #70
Jesse Becker #73
David Tucek #75
Jon Tanner #79



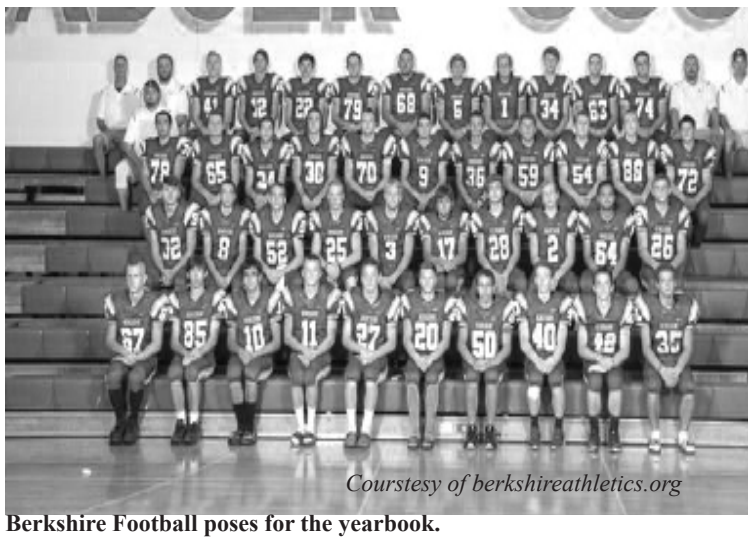
"Our seniors are doing a great job we just need work as hard as they are".-Jake Sinkenbring.

There's nothing a high schooler loves more than summer break. Especially in Ohio, when summer means no more bitter 10° weather but finally a molten 75° average. Though for most summer can't last long enough there's a certain few who thrive when the leaves change colors and they find themselves in the season of fall, and consequently Football season.

Berkshire's boys of fall work tirelessly through the entire summer in preparation for their beloved 10 weeks playing the sport they pour their hearts into, hoping that all of their hard work will translate into an eleventh week.

Many of the players will tell you that this season is starting off pretty rough, but then again so did last year, and last year was Berkshire's best year of football in 30 years. It was filled with shattered records, 16 in total, and a trip back to the playoffs, even if they got sent home sooner than expected.

This year the team, as well as spectators, believe that their Badgers are just as talented as last year, they just have a few issues to press out and get back on track. These issues notice by the Captains and underclassmen alike, but all believe that these are a quick fix with the right work ethic.



Courstesy of berkshireathletics.org

Berkshire Football poses for the yearbook.

When talking to the Captains Will Blechschmid, Emil Hess, and David Tucek they expressed that they all had generally the same feeling about the team. They don't think it has anything to do with how talented or hardworking the team is, it's the amount of motivation.

Captain Tucek said, "if we can just gain and keep the energy we need we'll do Fine". While it's clear to see the team has it struggles, but what football team doesn't? The team is still extremely hopeful and not to much keeps them down even though they are 2-2 they believe that recent hoco game has turn them around, and now prepare the iron curtain that every team faces against Kirtland.

Bump...set...spike! Prots leads the Badgers again

by Claire Milano, BP Asst. Editor

Head Coach Joni Prots is in her 12th year as a coach for volleyball. Her goals for this season are, "for the team to get better everyday and to win CVC!" Senior Kylee Minick plays right-side. When asked, she shared that being on Varsity is tough because the coaches hold you to a higher standard. Freshman Alyssa Shafer says, "Playing on a high school team is really fun and challenging. It takes a lot of work for practices and games. I've put in a lot of time and determination." Let's all support our girls as they face off against skilled teams this season!

Varsity

Freshman Kayla Dingman- #4
Sophomore Jessica McKinney- #1
Sophomore Madison Chapman- #14
Sophomore Julia Kastor- #22
Sophomore Olivia Freiling- #23
Junior Mckenna Tucek- #7 Team Captain
Junior Bridget McMahon- #10
Junior Sarah Conklin- #12
Junior Casey Sinkenbring- #16/L33
Senior Katie Dingman- #5 Team Captain
Senior Kylee Minick- #8
Senior Brea Pennypacker- #9/L0 Team Captain
Senior Anna Loveland- #13



courtesy of berkshireathletics.org

Berkshire Varsity smiles with their coaches.

JV

Freshman Alyssa Shafer- #2
Sophomore Teagan Farley- #6
Sophomore Marisa Miller- #17
Sophomore Hailey Gifford- #18
Sophomore Madelyn Carver- #19/L32
Sophomore Catie Wendl- #20
Sophomore Olivia Freiling- #23
Sophomore Dani Leonetti- #24
Junior Alli Dingman- #3
Junior Lizzie O'Connor- #15

Freshman

Tiffany Purcell- #1
Jillian Kumher- #2/L33
Maria Pryzbyla- #3
Katie McGee- #6
Anthea Hopkins- #8
Makayla Hart- #9
Erin Miller- #10
Gianna Skolaris- #12
Heather Papp- #14
Amanda Jansto- #16/L35
Tressa Urban- #17
Kylie Kiggins- #21
Sarah Flauto- #23

Take your mark... A Look at Berkshire CC

by Jacob Wichert, BP Staff Writer

The high school cross country team, led by Coach David Kindall and Coach Aimee Green, is midway through its season, and as of right now, their future looks pretty bright. Leading the girls' team is Kylie Scott, with the impressive personal record of 19:45. On the boys' team Dan Bridavsky currently holds the fastest time at 17:25. In order of fastest times, both teams' lineups are as follows.

(Captains are bolded)

Boys		Girls	
Dan Bridavsky	17:25	**Kylie Scott**	19:45
Seth Byler	17:29	Julia Losasso	20:15
Kody West	18:05	Madison Romask	20:30
Robert O'Conke	18:22	Natalie Gerolamo	21:13
Jacob Turk	18:38	**Emily Dingman**	22:07
Ben Pelletier	20:13	Lizzy Dingman	22:52
Jacob Wichert	20:25	Amy Pfiester	23:07
James Patterson	20:41	Morgan Scott	24:15
Jack Squire	21:58	Riley Schultz	25:23
		Ethan Bennington	24:06
		Chase Rotz	27:10
		Seth Brigham	N/A

(Times recorded September 3rd, and are subject to change)





Photos courtesy of A. Green

What a good lookin' team

It's proving to be an exciting year for newcomers to the sport, as well as long-time runners. Team captain Kody West states: "...We have a really good team this year, and I'm honored to be a part of it." Freshman Robert O'Conke has big plans for this season, stating that, "Cross country is like a flight of stairs. Every step is a limit and every step you take is a limit broken, until you're on top."

The girls team shares similar opinions about the season so far. Junior Amy Pfiester highlights the more social aspect of the sport, saying "I'm enjoying the pasta parties, and the team has a really nice atmosphere." Freshman Madison Romask also expresses her enthusiasm for the sport, stating "We're doing pretty good." Both teams are striving to achieve the coaches' goal to make it to State this year and with the way things are looking, that could very well happen.

Life beyond Earth

by Sam Martinjako, BP Staff Writer

The human population on Earth continues to grow enormously each passing year. Soon enough, the total amount of humans living on the planet may even be above 8 billion. Seeing as there are only so many resources on Earth, it may not be completely ludicrous to consider the colonization of another planet in order to obtain more materials and living space. However, none of the major planets in our solar system are immediately habitable, so the question arises: are there any other planets that can support life other than earth? What are the odds that another planet just like earth exists somewhere in the universe? The likelihood of this occurring is probably higher than you would expect. After all, the universe is infinite and still expanding, so planets such as our own must exist somewhere.

As a matter of fact, we may have already found planets that can sustain life. Proxima B is a planet within the "habitable zone" of the star Proxima Centauri. Its size is comparable to that of Earth's, and there is a good chance that it has an atmosphere that would allow for the possibility of liquid water. Liquid water is one of, if not the most, important components required for supporting life. Emphasis on "liquid", as it is very possible for water to exist in the form of ice on celestial bodies that may not have atmospheres. Case in point, our own moon has large deposits of ice deep within some of its massive craters, but life is definitely unable to form there. If Proxima B contains an actual ocean rather than just rocks, it is a good sign that life may have already started here. Though, aspects such as tidal-locking, planet composition, and overall stability also play a large role in determining the habitability of a planet. It seems that right now there are too many unknowns to be certain.

Depending on who you ask, you may be told that there most definitely is life beyond Earth, despite us not finding anything conclusive quite yet. Not only do some suspect that there are simple living beings, they also believe there to be a species of intelligent extraterrestrials, perhaps even multiple. Possible evidence pointing to this could be something like the Wow! Signal documented in the 1970s. The Wow! Signal, for those who don't know, was a signal over one minute long and 30 times as strong as any white noise being picked up by the Big Ear Radio Observatory. The signal was baffling, as it was focused on only one channel and seemed to come from an unnatural source. Due to it only being observed a single time, it is still unknown where the signal came from and there are very few details we can gather from such an occurrence. Another radio signal somewhat reminiscent of the Wow! Signal was recently recorded, and it is believed to have come from over 90 light years away. However, scientists doubt that it was any sort of message, as the energy requirement to have come from such a far distance is astronomically high (get it?). The prospect of aliens attempting to contact us is exciting, so it will be interesting to see if we end up intercepting any other signals such as these.


Photo courtesy businessinsider.com
Could planet Proxima B contain fellow life?

One firm believer in alien life is Aiden Burkley. When asked about whether or not she truly believes in them, she responded, "Yes. I think it's dumb to think they're not real". So, according to Burkley, there is no doubt that aliens exist. The question, now, is: how advanced would they be? Burkley also states that, "It depends on when they came about. I feel that there could be different types. I don't really know if they would be more advanced or less. I guess what really matters is if they're peaceful or not." Considering the universe is eternal, alien life has had plenty of time to develop. Though, it's hard to assume that they developed in the same way humans did. Their technology could be vastly different, among the other infinite possibilities presented with this conjecture. Aiden says that we shouldn't be afraid. When asked if she had any personal experiences with extraterrestrial lifeforms, she replied, "No, but my uncle has. I just watched the entirety of the X-Files". If alien life does exist as she says, where are they from? Well, Burkley is a bit unsure. "Mars?" she questions, "I don't know, maybe some planet not from our solar system."

As for your humble author, I too believe that there could be life somewhere else. As a matter of fact, I have had a personal experience with them. One time while riding with my brother at night, a mysterious extremely bright light appeared above the car. It stayed over our heads for a few seconds before it disappeared. There was no source that possibly could have created the light, and there was nobody around either. The only explanation, obviously, is that we were almost abducted by aliens. No two ways about it. Definitive proof right here.

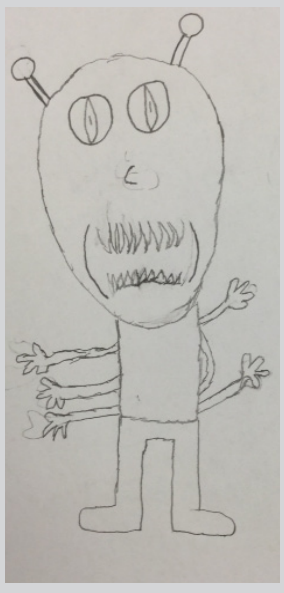
Berkshire students answer the greatest question of...*The Universe*

by Kody West, BP Staff Writer

Ever since man has first looked up at the stars, the world's best and brightest minds have pondered big questions such as "are we alone?" and if we aren't "what could life be like on other planets?" Well good news, because these questions, and many others, have been answered thanks to Berkshire students!

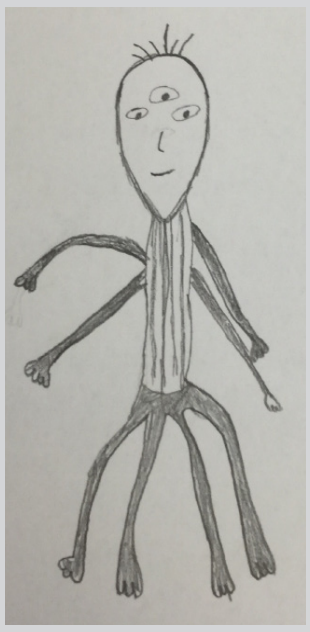
Cole Lanesky,
7th Grade

Cole thinks there is life somewhere out there, even if it's just simple like plants. With Cole's alien's, life would be very different because the planets would be very different! He thinks there could be sentient life, but it would be much more advanced than us technologically, and they would have "super smartness." Cole's aliens would be different colors, have several arms and legs, and they would have antennae.



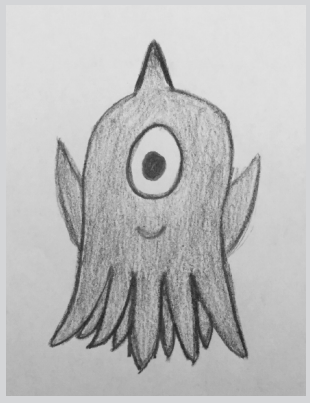
Tori Vannoy,
8th Grade

Tori is also a believer in sentient life on other planets. She thinks aliens would have more than two arms and legs, be very tall and skinny, and have the ability to use x-ray vision! Her aliens are much more advanced than us, and she believes that they know about us, or maybe even live among us!



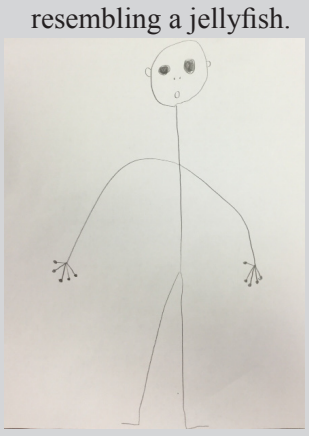
Morgan Scott,
9th Grade

Morgan has officially joined the club of believers that has formed at Berk. She thinks aliens would be cute, tiny little guys, with nine cute little tentacle arms. They would have one eye and a horn. On top of that, they wouldn't have legs, so they would fly! Her aliens even have the ability to use telekinesis! Morgan strongly believes that these cute little suckers are directly responsible for most missing persons, and that the aliens have probably eaten them.



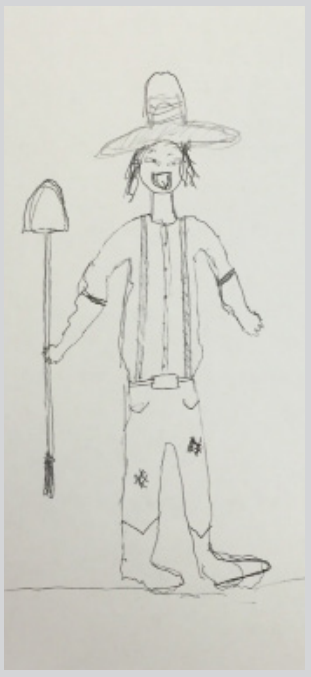
James "Jimbo" Patterson,
10th Grade

Jimbo believes that the universe is so big that it must be inhabited by many different species of aliens. He thinks that the technology of the aliens would depend on when their planets developed and what the climate is like. Jimbo thinks that there may be life that knows about us, but they just can't reach us. He also believes there could very well be aliens in our own solar system in the form of microbials or maybe even something resembling a jellyfish.



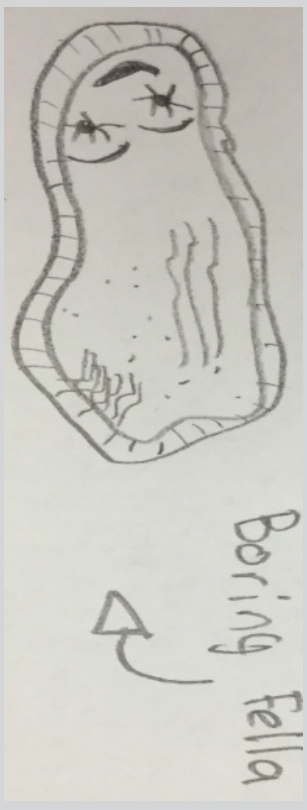
$eth Byler,
11th Grade

$eth is a proud believer in aliens. He thinks aliens would be pretty average and not very smart. They would be less advanced than us because most of their time would be taken up by farming. In particular, dirt farming, for a low income. They would be low income dirt farmers.



Nathan McFadden,
SENIOR

Nathan is very ecstatic about his belief in aliens. He isn't too sure about how complex or intelligent they would be, but he thinks there is definitely life in the form of microbials. The only detail Nathan is sure about is that they would not be as handsome as humans are.



Return of the 90s

by Julia Losasso, BP Staff Editor

It's that time of the decade again, when fashion trends of yesteryear make a comeback. You think you're wearing the latest and greatest fashions of the moment, having just seen your favorite celebrity or fashion mogul wearing something similar, but the truth is, it's most likely a recycled trend. Most likely something that has been in style before, approximately ten years ago, and somehow looking much better now. This summer's style can be summed up in one decade: the 90's. Chokers, denim skirts, and crop tops, to highlight a few key pieces that scream 90's kids, or teens, but are also making a comeback in the world of style.

First things first, chokers. This skin tight necklace that has been brought back into our lives by the likes of, well, pretty much any and every 20-something female celebrity. The classic choker, made popular in the 90's, is thin and woven to look almost like a tattoo designed on your neck. Though not classic yet, the simpler, single dark cord with a small pendant attached, is the next best thing. Additionally, you can go from basic ribbon chokers to ballroom style jeweled chokers without ever missing a step in the catwalk that is life.

Now let's talk essentials: the top, the bottom, and the shoes. To get an idea of this, Google "90's fashion," tone down all the neon and bright colors, and voila! I can almost guarantee that you will see at least one of the following: button up mini-skirts, high waisted pants of some sort, crop tops, rompers or overalls, and lace up shirts. Now go look through your Instagram feed, and marvel at the similarities. Pair any of these clothes with a fresh pair of Adidas superstars, and instant throwback fashion is yours.

Honestly, what's not to love about this style? It is cute and practically screams effortless perfection, with a touch of boho hipster. Whether you like to live in the look, or take select pieces and make them your own, today's trends are perfect for either. It looks like the style of the 90's isn't entirely lost, and will most likely be even better next time it comes around. As for everything else, I guess that's something only 90's kids will ever understand.



Photo Courtesy of telegraph.co.uk

Donald Trump caught in his famous "I don't care" stance.

It's not funny!

by Claire Milano, BP Staff Assisitant Editor

"There are some people who should be wearing spandex. There are also those who shouldn't ."

The previous quote was said at the 2016-2017 Junior and Senior class meeting on August 24, while discussing the Berkshire dress code. It was said as a joke to 16-17 year old students. Some people in the room chuckled at the easy-going nature of the authority figure who said this. Others, like myself, stared dumbfounded at the insulting gesture towards a woman's body. Dayna Rakoczy, Sophomore, explained that she "wasn't exactly shocked. [She's] heard people say things like that before." She also admits that it's not right to say this to young, impressionable students. Unfortunately, society has conditioned us to accept the lie that women are objects, not humans. It is because of this that we have body-shaming and the ignorance of the meaning of the word "no."

Other examples include Donald Trump's numerous insults towards women. All I had to do was type "Donald Trump sexist" into Google and I found over 20 pages full of articles with first-hand accounts of the presidential candidate's immature comments. A great resource is Claire Cohen's article "Donald Trump sexism tracker: Every offensive comment in one place." (Check it out for yourself in The Telegraph). In 2006, Trump called Rosie O'Donnell "disgusting, both inside and out. If you take a look at her, she's a slob. How does she even get on Television? If I were running The View, I'd fire her. I'd look her right in that fat, ugly face of hers and say 'Rosie, you're fired.'"

Beauty Queen Cary Prejean stated in her book that before the Miss USA pageant would begin, Trump would order the women to parade around him so that he could pick out those he found attractive and those he didn't. It seemed justifiable to him that since he co-owned the organization, he should be the one to judge these women. Leaders abuse their power to influence others. Take Vladimir Putin, president of the Russian Federation, on Hillary Clinton: "It's better not to argue with women… When people push boundaries too far, it's not because they are strong but because they are weak. But maybe weakness is not the worst quality for a woman" (2014).

Whether my fellow classmates were sincere in their merriment or not, I was deeply disappointed, offended, and disrespected by this "joke". Leaders state their opinions as facts without regards to sexism, racism, or the matter of discussion. What I took from this joke was "Only skinny women are allowed to wear spandex, not heavy women." The sad part is, now everyone in that room could potentially view this as the truth. So tell me, Junior and Senior classmen: Why is that funny?

Movie Review: 50 First Dates

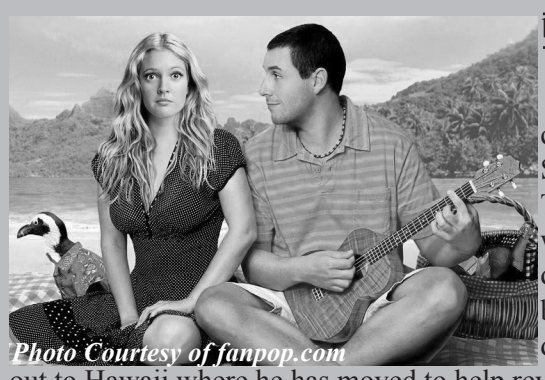


Photo Courtesy of fanpop.com

by Issac Bryant, BP Staff Writer

50 First Dates is a romantic comedy movie starring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore. The story revolves around a womanizer trying to finally settle down and get his life on track, but his reputation as a playboy doctor followed him all the way out to Hawaii where he has moved to help revive an old clinic his friend used to own. It is there he meets Lucy, a beautiful young lady completely filled with joy, life, and ambition. He immediately falls head over heels for her, and tries desperately to win her over; although by the time he does, she returns the next day but it's as if she doesn't even know him. This forces Henry to come up with new ways to find excuses to meet her again, day after day. Henry would soon discover that she has short term memory loss causing her to completely forget the day prior. Her memory reset presents a huge problem for Henry because he's fallen in love with her, and must win her heart over again every single day so that he can be with the woman he loves.

50 First Dates is a very unique story and is definitely worth the watch if you want a nice romantic comedy to watch with the Mrs. Its comedic aspect lifts the sometimes heavy mood that naturally comes from the topic and turns it into a truly heartwarming story.

AC4P

ACTIVELY CARING FOR PEOPLE

by Abby Carlson, BP Staff Editor

Actively Caring for People, or more lovingly referred to as AC4P, is a club offered here at Berkshire where students learn how to put others before themselves. With respect, love, acceptance and compassion, AC4P builds friendships and families, helping to create an empathetic community for, not only our little town of Burton, but our world as well.

High hopes rang out at the first meeting of the year after an appreciative visit was made from honored Virginia Tech friends who brought the program to Berkshire a couple years ago. After some exercises focusing on compassion and the beauty of anonymous help, AC4P members talked about what needs to change to make our world, simply put, better.



Photo Courtesy of auburncc.org

Virginia Tech students Shane and Megan brought AC4P to Berkshire.

Mrs. Paluf, one of Berkshire's beloved counsellors, discussed with a few incredibly eager students on what it is AC4P plans to do this year, and how they can make the community a better and more welcoming place to live for everyone. Plans to fundraise for the Women's Shelter, support the homeless, help the animals at the Geauga Dog Warden, and make the holidays special for all Berkshire students were discussed and are eagerly awaited. If you would like to join them in helping others, see Mrs. Paluf for more information, AC4P would be ecstatic to see some new, smiling faces!

Mysteries of the ocean

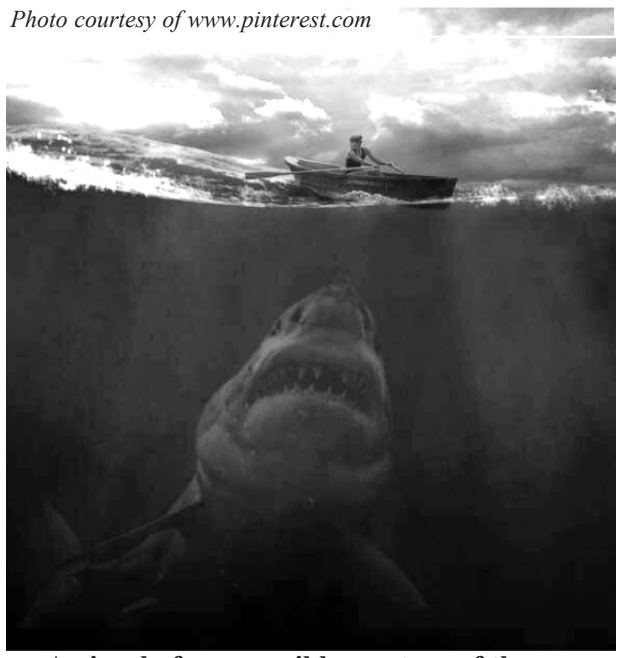
by Aiden Burkley, BP Staff Writer

More than 700,000 species of creatures live in our oceans, two-thirds of which have yet to be discovered, or much less, even seen. It's reasonable to say that we haven't yet explored all the infinite miles of space, but unbelievably, we're just as clueless about the depths of the ocean as we are about what lies outside this Earth. With ocean floors still untouched, and species like the Frilled Shark (living examples that prehistoric creatures continue to roam our waters) conclusions can't just be made about what exactly is lurking all the way beneath. With such inconclusive information from this part of our earth, there is no telling what could be there.

In 2014, researchers were left speechless from the results a washed up tag had given them. Previously, the tag had been hooked onto a nine foot long Great White Shark, but the tag showed eerie evidence as to why the tag went missing off the shark. The tag showed that after plummeting to an unreasonably lengthy fall of 2000 ft, the temperature of the tag heated up- showing the same characteristics of something being consumed. Predictions and doubts can be made as to if the shark was even attached to the tag at the time it was "eaten," but it cannot be certainly ruled out that the nine foot Great White had been preyed on by something miraculously larger.

In less alarming events, not all of the unknown creatures appear to be hostile. In one particular case, a lonely and unidentified whale-like creature roams the waters emitting its cry for researchers to track and investigate. The wail from this creature is unlike anything from common species of whale, and holds a ranking at 52hz- a drastically higher pitched signal than the Blue Whale's 40hz and the Fin Whale's 20hz call. This phenomenon was first found in 1989 by the US Navy, and the mystery of this lonely whale continues to stun researchers today. It even caught the attention of Leonardo DiCaprio, who donated $50,000 to fund a documentary and further investigation on the whale. Whether it's a cry in search of a mate, or another member of the species, it cannot be concluded. Is this some strange hybrid of a whale, or the remainder of a prehistoric species? The unexplained leaves that up to you to decide.

Photo courtesy of www.pinterest.com



A visual of one possible mystery of the sea.

In a change from mystery creatures, there happen to be other enigmas that the oceans cover with their tides. In the Baltic Sea, 2011, a team of Swedish treasure hunters came across an astonishing discovery. Something that looked much like the Millennium Falcon was hidden beneath the waters, much to the researcher's surprise. Upon sending another crew for more information, it seemed that it was actually a rock formation of immensely odd quality. For one, this formation has straight edges, and has a diameter of about 60 meters long. People began to make predictions that it was an aircraft crash site, but, of course that couldn't be proven. Though, the idea that it was merely a rock formation cannot be proven either. To this day, it continues to be among the unexplained, baffling scientists and people everywhere.

From sea monsters to strangely advanced rock formations, there is no doubt that our oceans are capable of holding infinite secrets from us. What we may discover and what long awaiting questions we'll answer in coming years might be life-altering. The unexplainable lives all around us without doubt, but there's so much out of our reach that we cannot just assume anymore, especially when it takes up 70% of our planet! Next time you dip your feet in at the beach, or catch a boat across the waters, try to imagine the layers that we cannot see or comprehend- the miles upon miles of water and ground that we've never touched.

Rundown of the White House

by Stuart Horvath, BP Staff Writer

The White House, The President's Palace, The Executive Mansion. All names for the magnificent house our nation's leader lives in. The White House is a very well known building in America. Because it has almost 6000 visitors daily, when people go see the white house, they do not get to see everything. The visitors will not walk into the 132 rooms the White House has. They might, however be able to see a few beautiful fireplaces, mainly because there are 28 of them throughout the building . Another great part for visitors is that they won't have any problem finding the bathrooms. It is very easy to get to different floors of The White House because there are three elevators. And maybe when your tour is over, you can stop at the bowling alley inside and play a quick game.

Designs for the White House began in 1790, and building began in 1792. Unfortunately it burned down in 1814 because of the British. John Adams was the first president to live in the White House, and President Theodore Roosevelt gave the White House its current name today. The White house is a beloved building in America, with The White House comes many special secrets and history behind it. The Oval Office is in the white house, and it's where the President does his work. Currently Barack Obama is staying there until November 8th when we elect our new leader.

The President of the United States can go to his own movie theatre while he/she is in the White House and, The President can play tennis or even go jogging on his/her track. The White House has many significant features. There is 412 doors, 147 windows, and seven stair cases. If you went on the 8th grade Washington D.C. trip you know what the White house looks like and how beautiful it is. So if you ever visit the White House I hope you know how much of an honor that is.

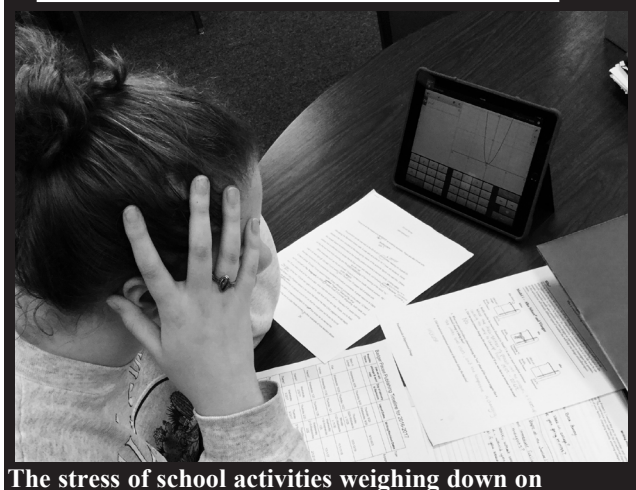
Photo courtesy of www.washington.org



The Presidential Palace itself.

The stress that we love

by Rachel Breckenridge, BP Staff Writer



The stress of school activities weighing down on Junior, Claire Milano.

You are in class the day before a big test. All you can think about is your soccer game tonight. You look up, see your coach as your teacher. Then you realize your coach actually IS your teacher - he has two jobs! The school year is much more stressful during sports season. Athletes come to school the next day after a tough practice and can be extremely sore. Senior, Isaac Bryant (football), states that: "You get physically abused and are sore all of the time, and this can be a distraction while in class." During class, all you can think about is how much pain you are in and how much you want to go home. Having to learn and sit all day in class while being sore and tired can be a huge distraction during class, making it even harder to focus.

Getting home late at night from a practice or game can also make it hard to study and do homework. Junior, Joanne Miller (soccer), agrees with this issue which seems to be the greatest struggle among athletes: "Most of the time you are more focused on that sport than school. Half the time you get home late from practice or games and don't have enough time to do homework." Arriving home late from practices and games makes it harder to motivate yourself to come home, study, and do homework. After a long game or a tiring practice, you are mentally and physically exhausted and just want to go to bed. Being a student athlete, one of the greatest challenges is realizing that just because you are an athlete does not mean the teachers will give you any leeway on due dates. After games or practices some athletes are up late hours of the night trying to study and get their homework done, even though they are exhausted.

Keeping your grades up is another struggle for most athletes. Not having enough time to study at night, your mind on other events, and being exhausted during the day can take away from concentrating on the task at hand. Senior, Kody West (cross country), agrees: "It's hard because you have less time for homework, and it takes away from your studies." Athletics can not only take away from your studies by not having enough time to study and do homework after school, but by making you distracted, or not have time to ask a teacher for help at the end of the day because you have practice.

School can be boring for all students, but being in a sport makes you antsy all day to get out and go have fun at practice or a game. Sports are fun for athletes and they would much rather be doing their sport than sitting in school. Freshman, Alyssa Schaefer (volleyball), finds this statement to be true: "There is not enough time after school to do homework, you are more focused on your sport than school because it's more fun." Athletes would much rather be doing their sport and having fun, rather than sit in school and be bored and just thinking about their event later in the day. Being a student athlete is very rewarding, but also very challenging and takes great commitment.