THE BADGER PAUSE

Volume 12, Issue 3 — The Holiday Issue

5 Stages of grief: Winter break edition

by Julia Losasso, BP Editor

It's finally almost winter break, what you've been waiting for since the leaves started to change and the temperature dropped below 50 degrees. Soon the heavily romanticized cozy days of blankets and slippers by the fireplace will be upon us. Inevitably, this must come to an end. Just like any other loss, be it of a loved one or the end of your days of freedom, it is natural for a person to go through a process of grief. This, in its most basic form, is five stages long.

The first stage is **denial**. You just got off of school, and the majority of your first glorious days are spent sleeping in, watching Netflix, and eating as many Christmas cookies as you please. Initially, it seems that this is the life; you have no inkling of doubt that break will ever come to an end. Slowly but surely, as you can no longer plan daily outings with your friends for the coming weeks, dread finds its way into your thoughts. "I still have a whole week, it's not that soon," you may tell yourself, denying the looming return date.

Then comes **anger**, when you snap at your mom as she asks you to run one errand, and suddenly it seems that you're wasting your entire break, and even a quick trip to the store are minutes wasted. You're angry with yourself for not living every minute of your break like your last, and though you're proud of the six season of your favorite show you've watched on Netflix, you wish maybe you hadn't wasted so much time on it.

"Why on Earth does school break have to be so short?!" you wonder, annoyed. Then you start searching for any evidence that there might be a snow day (or three) on the week you return.



Photo courtesy of peacefulharmony.co.uk

Then comes the third stage, **bargaining**. You bargain with Mother Nature, perhaps wearing your pajamas inside out or flushing ice cubes down the toilet, and desperately hope for some sort of savior from, or at least delay of, the return. You bargain with your parents, even though there is no way they will let you skip, but one can hope.

Soon, all hope vanishes, and you descend into the fourth stage, **depression**. You are filled with the dread that only waking up before dawn and braving the elements to go to school can bring. The happiness and joy you felt all break is gone, replaced with complete and utter remorse.

Finally, you conclude that the only way to go on is to **accept**. Accept that life goes on, and the only thing you can do now is to enjoy your last days of break as much as possible. Sleep in, appreciate your family, and have fun with your friends.

Rate my CCP professor

by Alexis Caponi, BP Asst. Editor

Many Berkshire students this year are taking multiple College Credit Plus classes down the road at the Kent State Geauga campus. If you're looking into taking classes there next year, or have to pick out classes for the next semester, you'll want to know about the classes and the teachers. This is a guide that will hopefully help you out in that department.

If you're looking for a history class, Junior Claire Milano recommends Professor Belinda Vavlas. Claire says she's pretty "laid back… And an easy grader." She posts notes online, but also adds interesting information during her lectures. From experience, I can tell you that she makes you do a book review and a research paper for her class, but don't let this deter you. The study guides for her exams are the same questions that she uses on the tests.

English, however, is a difficult class to pick. Many students I've talked to hardly say anything good about their English professors. Junior Joanne Miller, says her professor, Bonnie Shaker, is alright as a teacher but is a harsh grader. Other students who have her all say they don't like the class. Both Karsten Bergmeier and I take English online with John Metz. All I can say about him is that you should stay as far away from this man as possible. He uses his own book to teach, and if you have any problems or question he says to just look in the book. ***continuation on page 2***

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Rate my ccp professor (continued from front page)

by Alexis Caponi, BP Asst. Editor

I've only ever heard of two sociology classes at Kent. Katie Uterhark, who had previously taken the class, warns against taking it with Professor David Heintz. Junior Asya Martin says that "he's not a hard grader… if you put in the effort… you'll get a good grade." If you're willing to work for your grade and not just get it handed to you, this sounds like a pretty good class. Senior Anne Ritts is taking the class with Mark George, whom she recommends. She enjoys both the professor and the class.

Another popular class over at Kent is Understanding Architecture,which also counts as a fine art credit here at Berkshire. Anne Ritts says that the professor, Judson Kline, is "easy to communicate with" and that she'd recommend the class to students who are interested. Anne also recommends Business Law and Ethics.

If you plan to take a math class down the road, Claire Milano doesn't recommend taking Algebra For Calculus, which is basically a precalculus class. Her teacher, Zhaoting Wei (AKA George), doesn't explain things well, and the notes he gives in class don't follow the tests. He's a new teacher and still learning how to work in an American classroom, so take it easy on him. Claire also takes Spanish with Pablo Gomez. Claire likes the class, but finds the class easy since she's previously taken Spanish here.

If you're considering taking classes down at Kent Geauga, it seems like the consensus is that it's a good idea. Be wary of a few teachers, but don't be afraid to take a class with a teacher that isn't on this list. So good luck to all those high school college students out there, and I hope your second semester classes go well!

Photo courtesy of kent.edu



If you want to do CCP, this is the place to be, but know what you're getting into.

How's the water?

by Sam Martinjako, BP Staff Writer

Something that has probably caught the attention of fellow students as well as myself while wandering through Berkshire's halls is the inconsistent quality of the water from the water fountains. Some fountains are clearly a step above the other fountains, while others should probably remain more or less unused. So, the question is, which ones are which? There are about a dozen of them laid throughout the hallways. Well, wonder no more, as you're about to be informed on where to get the best water. The following data was gathered from a series of tests to determine the quality of the water from each fountain readily available for student use. The tests only focused on how the water tasted and how it was presented. No information about the cleanliness of the fountains or chemical composition of the water was gathered from these tests. Now, without further ado, please refer to the table on the right.

Once you're done with that, it's time for some explanation. The pressure refers to how high the arc of water goes. Low pressure means the arc is small and you have to get close to the fountain to drink it, moderate means that it's at a comfortable distance away from the fountain, and high means that it goes out farther than it needs to. Moderate-low and moderate-high pressures are somewhere in between these values. The temperature is exactly what you would expect it to be, though it is worth noting that this is the mostly likely factor to be subject to change based on the day or season. The texture is how the water feels when entering your mouth. A more or less smooth beam gets a smooth rating, while a beam that feels more like bursts of water gets a choppy rating. Crisp is somewhere in between and, perhaps to some, is the ideal texture for the water to be. The taste is self explanatory, though it could vary from person to person. The spray is rated either messy or clean depending on the likelihood of excess water getting on any part of you that's not your mouth. This includes the water landing and splashing onto you, the button leaking water, the spigot spraying some water in the wrong direction, or anything like these.

So, with this data in mind, the best fountain would seem to be the one by the chemistry room, 211. Though you may end up getting some water on yourself, which is simple enough to wipe away, the water is usually cold, tastes good, and has that crisp texture that makes it a pleasure to drink. If you're thirsty and nearby, I would recommend using it while you can. Most of the other fountains in the school are decent enough and don't really need to be avoided. However, if you can avoid using the fountain in the cafeteria (if it's actually working, that is) or near Mrs. Koler's room, 201, then do so. There are better places to get your water, so don't settle for mediocrity. Of course, you could also avoid the issue of where to get the best water by just bringing your own bottle, but that's just one more thing you have to carry, and it will definitely run out eventually.

Location	Temperature	Review
By room 211	Moderate	Cold, crisp, good tasting, messy
Between 213 & 214	Moderate-high	Cool, smooth, decent tasting, clean
By the upstairs men's restroom	Moderate-high	Cool, smooth, decent tasting, clean
Between 201 & 203	Absurdly high	Cool, smooth, poor tasting, messy
By the downstairs men's restroom	Moderate-low	Cool, smooth, decent tasting, clean
By the downstairs women's restroom	Low	Cool, smooth, decent tasting, clean
Near the elevators	Moderate-low	Cool, smooth, decent tasting, clean
Outside room 101 (left)	Low	Cool, choppy, decent tasting, clean
Outside room 101 (right)	Moderate-high	Cool, choppy, decent tasting, mostly clean
By the gym (tall)	High	Cool, smooth, decent tasting, clean
By the gym (short)	High	Cool, choppy, decent tasting, messy
Cafeteria	High	Almost room temperature, smooth, between poor and decent tasting, messy

Holiday

Witty Quips perfect for your Holiday Celebrations

by Abby Carlson, BP Editor

The best-selling Hallmark holiday is just around the corner, and unlike their cringe worthy movies, Christmas doesn't just mean finding love in a flurry of snow and giggly happenstance, but also means *queue the Death March number*... family gathWerings! You know, the ones where Great Auntie Marge comments on your relationship status (single as a pringle….still), and creepy Uncle Stan has five too many drinks and starts to get a little racist in the joke department. Sure you love your family, but how do you possibly answer their never ending questions regarding your future and personal life in a way that amuses you to the point of actually anticipating their prying inquiries? Please be aware that the following responses are dripping in sarcasm and should not be read as serious in any way, shape, or form.



"Everytime I see you, you've gotten taller!"

1). *No Grandma, if that were the case I'd be a tree. *deadpan**

Don't be afraid to throw some sassy metaphors in there, I'm sure Granny will admire your extensive knowledge in the subject of English.

2). *Why yes Gram, I have grown. Why, last time I measured I believe I was around 10'7". Thanks for noticing.*

Go ahead and mix it up with some numbers. Obviously, you are not 10'7", so hopefully she'll catch the sarcasm and move on.

3). *No. I think you just shrunk.*

Elderly family members will especially appreciate this one. Make sure to leave a serious look on your face, a smirk will ruin the oh-so tender and endearing moment.

"Do you have a boyfriend/girlfriend yet?"

1). *Actually Great Aunt Sue, I have 3 boyfriends. I'm a reverse mormon. One man just isn't enough for all this *sweeping gesture towards yourself**.

Mix in some worldly knowledge of religions, you'll sound super intelligent and probably win her respect in no time.

2). *No, not anymore. The last two filed for restraining orders and I decided I probably shouldn't violate another law, so I've decided the world just isn't ready to handle all that is me.*

Great Aunts love jokes about breaking the law. They find them hilarious.

3). *I actually have some news… *clink spoon to glass to get everyone's attention* I'm engaged!! * feel free to add in an additional whoop to really drive the point home**

There's nothing like Grandpa having a heartattack to liven up a party.

"Have you decided what you want to be when you go off to college?"

1). *I'm actually skipping out on college. Instead, I'm following my true passion and becoming an exotic dancer. *do not break eye contact**

Dads will find this hilarious, they love hearing their daughters talk about that kind of stuff. This response is especially interesting if you're a guy.

2). *No, but I'm starting a band!*

This is always a great response, it always ends in fame and fortune... Never 50 year old dads in Hawaiian shirts playing in a garage next to a minivan. Hey, no judgment from me, you be you.

3). *Yep! I'm going to art school.*

As someone who actually really appreciates the arts, I'm allowed to poke fun at it. Plus, your parents need to be informed that they'll be supporting themselves and you for the rest of their lives.

"Did you really buy your pants with those holes in them?"

1). *I don't know. Did you really buy that shirt..? *look mildly disgusted, but don't overdo it**.

Be careful with this one. Make sure your audience is appropriate, no need to send Aunt Millie to the bathroom in tears.

2). *Well I didn't exactly buy them per say...*slightly squint eyes suspiciously**

This is especially great if you have a cop in the family, they find these kind of jokes especially amusing.

3). *Gramps… these jeans don't have holes in them… are you feeling okay today? *have concerned look on face*. (a little rub on the arm with a reassuring half smile is optional but recommended.)*

It's always a great idea to make your older relatives feel like they're losing it, it's not like they're already on the lookout for failing minds or anything.

Before you groan and whine about having to see all the little rugrats and overly touchy lovey-dovey grandparents, just remember that you can have a little fun of your own and make the night a memorable one!

Why is Catch Phrase so addicting?

by Claire Milano, BP asst. Editor

Every year at Thanksgiving and Christmas, my family and I get together to spend quality time with each other. Towards the end of the night, everyone is exhausted and ready to go home. That is, until someone whips out a game like Catch Phrase. Then, everyone is boosted with enough energy to play until 1:00 a.m. Literally. So the question is, why does everyone love Catch Phrase?

If you're like my family you'll stay at your grandparents' house until the last possible second, not wanting the holidays to end. The only problem is that everyone is that it's 10:00 and everyone is worn out. This is because of the chemical "melatonin." Melatonin tells your body that since it's dark out, you need to get ready for sleep.



Jimmy Fallon, enjoying a game of Catchphrase on TV

When someone mentions a game, or brain stimulation, dopamine (happiness) and adrenaline (energy) are released. The chemical adrenaline is released when your body is about to do some serious movement. Trust me, when you're leading the team opposite of your parents, you're gonna need that extra energy when you have to walk home.

For those of you who don't know, Catch Phrase is (depending on which version you get) a digital device that includes a timer and different phrases. These phrases have to do with themes like "Entertainment," "Family," or "Plants/Animals." There are eleven categories total, including one called "Everything" that consists of all 10,000 words and phrases. You'll need at least four people to play, but more is better. There are two teams: count out by two's (i.e. "1,2. 1,2."). Voila, you have Team 1 and Team 2. If you want to win, make sure you sit one person away from the older players. They are more knowledgeable and are likely to be on your team.

To start the game, Team 1 will press the "START" button on the timer. The timer is around two minutes long. One player from each team will attempt to get their team to say the word or phrase lit up on the device. Once the team gets the phrase, they pass it to the player on the left, Team 2. WARNING: DO NOT SAY THE WORD OR PHRASE. There are rules and conditions to this game. Make sure you read them before you play so the other team doesn't get a point from your mistake.

Adding even more fun to the game, the timer beeps out loud! It gets faster and faster as time runs out. If you are caught holding the game while the timer goes off, the other team gets a point. Basically, you're trying to get your team to say the phrase so it will move on to the next team when the timer stops. Whoever has the most points by the end of the game wins.

Anxiety and excitement are prevalent, so if you don't like either of those, well, don't play. Just know you'll be officially labeled a party pooper.

America

Electoral Vote *versus* Popular Vote

by Tommy Blaha, BP Staff Writer

November 8th has come and gone and it will go down in history with the shocking result that Donald Trump is the United States of America's 45th President. However, this election is a lot like one of the more recent elections we had. The results are very similar to the race between the Democratic candidate Al Gore and Republican candidate George W Bush in 2000 where Al Gore won the popular vote but George Bush received the nomination. Other races that were like this were the races between John Quincy Adams vs. Andrew Jackson (1824), Rutherford B. Hayes vs. Samuel J. Tilden (1876), and Benjamin Harrison vs. Grover Cleveland (1888).



photo courtesy of politico.com

The winner.

Before that race there were only three other races for president that ended this way and they all occurred over 100 years ago. The similarities between all these election are that one of the candidates won the popular election while the other candidate won the electoral college votes. You may ask yourself how this can happen and why it is happening again now?

In the case of this election Donald Trump won the race and won the nomination for the President and Hillary Clinton won the popular vote. Even though Hillary won the popular vote she did not win the nomination for the presidency because it is the Electoral College that decides who wins the nomination. The difference between the popular votes of Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton is only about 670,000 thousand votes (as of the most recent results). As the last of the votes are being counted, the distance between the two grew. The result of this election has caused protest all over the country to break out due to the fact that the majority of American people didn't vote for Donald Trump and there is a lot of controversy over the fact that



photo courtesy of Huffington Post

The loser.

people believe that he is unfit for the job and this has all been exacerbated by his recent appointees to his cabinet and his nominations for the other cabinets.

The protesting has been peaceful and not peaceful depending on the location of the protest. With the results from this election all we can do is be optimistic and see how events unravel during the next few years. Citizens of the younger generations should care more about this election's results because this presidency will be the most important factor that will shape our futures and some people are not realizing this.

If I were the President

by Kody West, BP Staff Writer

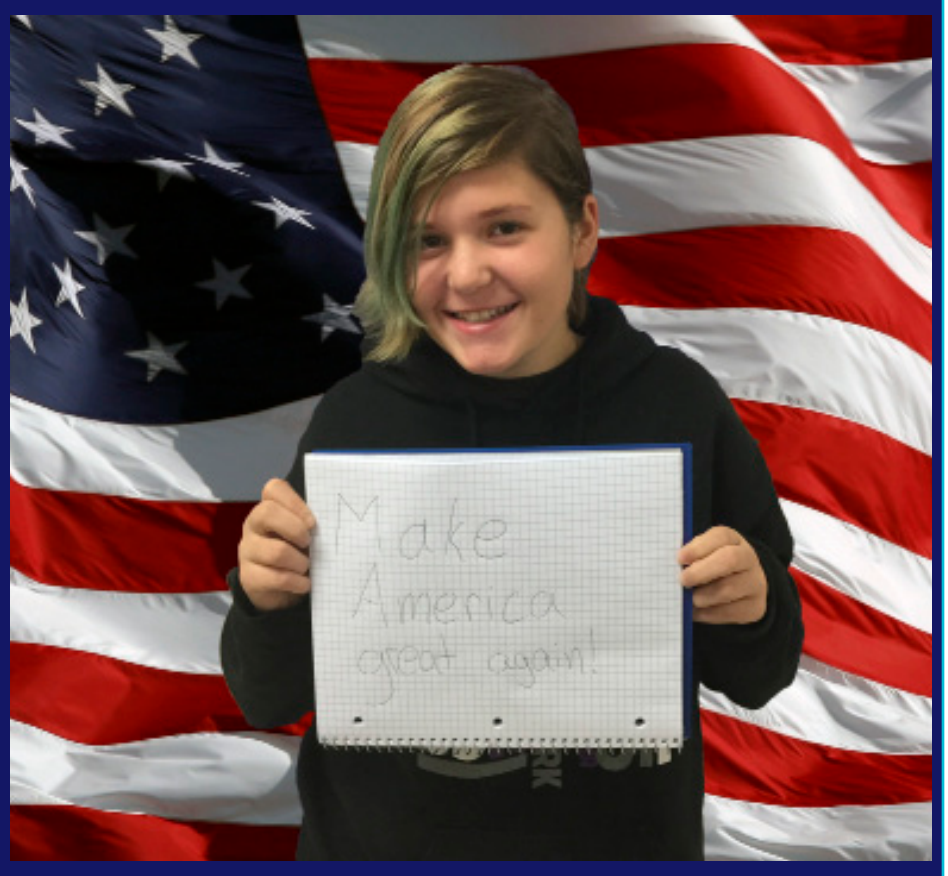
With perhaps what was the most negative and painful election in our country's history finally over, a victor has been chosen to replace President Obama in the White House this coming January. This article, however, is not about that victor, instead it addresses what issues would take centerstage and how they would be solved if… say, a 7th grader ran our country. Ignoring all laws that would prohibit this, what would a 7th grader do in office on their first day, 100 days and year? What would they hope to solve, and how would they solve it?

According to Riley Hornak, the first thing she would do is "Solve hunger." The specifics of how she would accomplish this aren't exactly clear, but a pressing issue indeed!

Emma Musick stated that her goal in her first 100 days of being president, would be "to fix climate change" by "dedicating more money to clean energy."

Finally, Leo Peric wanted to make clear that in his first year of being president he would be sure to "create more jobs for the homeless" by "building more factories." That's a really big goal!

These are all big ideas that could make our world a better place. Maybe with a little luck, and if we as a country remain hopeful like these young souls, we will be able to achieve some of these goals.



Is Christmas okay in November?

by Aidan Burkley, BP staff writer



Singing Christmas carols right before Thanksgiving seems alright to some, but others might hate you for it. This controversial topic undoubtedly returns every year and never ceases to annoy people. November just seems to be a month full of confusion, holiday cheer, and perturbed people, and it's all here at Berkshire!

The interviewees below have their own clear stances on this controversial perspective:

Ashley Bostick

How do you feel about people celebrating the holidays in November?

"I feel like it defeats the whole purpose of celebrating it in December"

How do you feel about Christmas Carols being on the radio?

"They shouldn't be broadcasted 24/7."

Jessica Skedel

How do you feel about people celebrating the holidays in November?

"Christmas lights are acceptable. Any more than that is ridiculous. I don't like to know that the stress of Christmas is upon me. I freak out."

Is it okay for people to play Christmas music before Thanksgiving?

"He(ck) no!"

Olivia Przybyla

How do you feel about people celebrating the holidays in November?

"I'm okay with it because I like to see early celebration, it makes me happy."

So, you like to hear Christmas music before Thanksgiving?

"I like it whenever!"

There really doesn't seem to be an in between to this. It might just be the best idea to hide in your house with holiday-less decor to keep yourself self for the inevitable Christmas carols and lights. Here's to hoping December comes soon!

Seasonal classics to enjoy all year

You don't know what a Hallmark movie is? Well basically it's a gooey romantic movie, where there is always a man and woman who fall in love in the end. Usually ending in a dramatic kiss.

Not many people know just how popular Hallmark movies are. In 2015 Hallmark was the second most watched channel among all cable networks, only falling behind ESPN who was number one. This is a huge accomplishment for Hallmark. In the year 2014, they released 35 Movies, and most received decent ratings. Two famous people that have been in Hallmark movies include Candace Cameron or DJ from Full House. Another famous actor that has appeared in Hallmark movies is Christopher Lloyd, or Doc from Back to the Future. The most famous Hallmark movies are holiday themed. Christmas especially is when the Hallmark Channel starts bringing all kinds of new movies. On Christmas Day the Hallmark Channel releases a specific movie, and there is always something special about it. If you are looking for something to watch while opening up your presents, tune into the Hallmark Channel.



Boys varsity basketball to defend their CVC title

by Rachel Breckenridge, BP Staff Writer

The boys varsity basketball team is ready for another outstanding year. After two consecutive CVC championships under their belts, the Badgers are ready for a three- peat! The Badgers come back this year with a great amount of leadership and experienced varsity players that will be their key to success.

Head coach of the boys varsity team, Keith Clapacs, has high aspirations for the team this year after a strong past two seasons. When asked about the leaders on the team this year, Clapacs mentioned the importance of the team's seniors and how their experience at the varsity level will lead them to success: "We have a very good group of seniors this year, so we are excited. Emil Hess has been a three-year starter and an all-league guy. Ryan Johnson and Nick Guarnera are also multi-year starters, so we have some good experience. Aaron Pawlak is another guy that has played a lot for us; he received honorable mention all-conference last year. Aaron Pawlak and Brian Malkus have been our leaders in preseason and in November. We are really excited about those seniors, they will provide a lot of good leadership for us besides their experience and will help the young guys grow."

Coach Clapacs and the team's main focus is to represent everyone they can to the best of their ability and to keep competing at a high level: "Our goals are always the same. We want to compete to the highest level, and really just represent our school, the Burton community, and the parents to the best of our ability. That is always the most important thing that we are playing the right way and

representing everyone well. We are a competitive group, and have been fortunate to win the CVC the past two years. It would be a big deal with a new group of guys coming in to win it again, and also give us a chance to win a district championship when playoffs come around."

Coach Clapacs has been the varsity head coach of the Badgers the past four years and is achieving great success. The coaching staff also includes Brian Hiscox, Dave List, and Patrick Chapman. The Badgers kick off the year with their first game on December 2, at Lake Catholic High School with JV at 6:00 pm and varsity to follow. The team is ready for another fantastic year, headed by great leadership and high aspirations, the Badgers are on their way to their third consecutive CVC Championship.

Roster

Seniors: Joe Bennington, Josh Espinosa, Nick Guarnera, Emil Hess, Ryan Johnson, Brian Malkus, and Aaron Pawlak.

Juniors: Justin Barabar, Cole Crea, Chris Morgret, Tim Pillot, and Jake Trushel.

Sophomores: Ky Bowman, Bobby Czekaj, Jacob Kastor, Richie Klemencic, Forrest Kuchling, Sam Roach, Zac Wolfe, and Zach Yokules.

Freshmen: Sam Adams, Joe Barcikowski, Lenny Barcikowski, Ethan Bennington, Peter Brent, Nate Looker, Andy McKinney, Zac Nehas, Matthew Politzer, Donald Reis, Jake Sinkenbring, and Ben Wasson.



From left to right: back row; Cole Crea, Joe Bennington, Emil Hess, Josh Espinosa, Ryan Johnson.
From left to right: front; Aaron Pawlak, Richie Klemencic, Sam Roach, Jacob Young, Tim Pillot, Nick Guarnera, and Brian Malkus



From left to right: back row; Alyssa Schafer, Kayla White, Madison Chapman, Joanne Miller, Catie Wendl, Lexi Caponi, and Kayla Dingman.
From left to right: front; Grace Lillibridge, Catherine Lillibridge, Shaelin DeLong, Anne Ritts, Lexi Boyk, and Rachel Breckenridge.

Ready to win: Girls varsity basketball

by Rachel Breckenridge, BP Staff Writer

The girls varsity basketball team is ready for a big year. With six experienced upperclassmen, great leadership, and many talented underclassmen, the girls basketball team has a new year and new achievable goals. Beating Cardinal is always a priority, and in the past, Badgers have done just that. They have won both regular season match-ups against Cardinal two years in a row.

Anne Ritts is the only senior on the 2016-2017 girls basketball team. When asked about her role on the team and being the only Senior captain, she mentions how important attitude and consistency is: "Being a captain comes with big responsibility, courage, and consistency. I feel positive that I can carry the role on the team. Also by being a captain, I hope to be a good role model for the underclassmen. I have a great feeling about this season because of the chemistry, attitude, and dedication." The team has been working together well in practices and in scrimmages thus far. They have been exerting a positive and hardworking attitude that has been infectious for the girls this season.

Captain, Anne Ritts, gives her team goals for the season: "My team goals for this season are to win the rivalry games against Cardinal, work hard everyday, keeping up the positive attitudes, and to leave all that we've got on the court." Dennis Lory is the head varsity coach of the Badgers. This is his tenth season as head coach of girls varsity basketball at Berkshire. He is assisted by Heather Geil, who is the high school physical education and health teacher here at Berkshire. Other assistant coaches include Doug Lory and Kristen Csontos. The girls basketball team is hosted by Chalker High School for their first game of the season on November 28th, JV at 6:00 pm and varsity to follow at 7:00. With great leadership, experience, and positive and hardworking girls, the Badgers are excited ready for a fantastic year.

Roster

Seniors: Anne Ritts

Juniors: Rachel Breckenridge, Lexi Caponi, Catherine Lillibridge, Joanne Miller, and Kayla White.

Sophomores: Madison Chapman, Shaelin DeLong, and Caitlyn Wendl.

Freshmen: Lexi Boyk, Kayla Dingman, Kayley Kelley, Grace Lillibridge, and Alyssa Schafer.

A salute to our wasted childhoods

by Jacob Wichert, BP Staff Writer

Ah, youth. A time when we all had seemingly unlimited amounts of energy, so much so that we resented activities such as sleeping and relaxing; as they hindered our ability to sprint around the house and climb trees, among other things. All of this ended for me as soon as I was placed in front of our first family computer. I was immediately exposed to a world where I could create virtual characters to expend their energy for me. It seemed too good to be true. Before long, I was spending large amounts of time on the computer, not paying any attention to hours passing by, completely engrossed in whatever virtual world I had discovered most recently. The following are just a few of these worlds.

Club Penguin- The only game that could ever convince me to enjoy snow. In this game, the player creates a penguin character and is dropped into the world with literally no goals, other than to snag their parents' credit card from under their noses in order to become one of the upper-class citizens of the game; the members. Life is hard for non-premium users. Often times they roam the sub-zero streets with no clothes, scraping by in life by completing menial tasks such as making pizzas and carrying coffee bags, while the privileged members party in the family-friendly night club, while dancing in an equally family-friendly manner.

Wizard 101- A game in which the players assume the role of a child who is involuntarily teleported into a magical world, where they are trained to become, you guessed it, a wizard. Similar to Club Penguin, a noticeable social hierarchy exists in the game, forcing non-paying users to roam the streets as a joke for the paid users to laugh at, unless you empty out your pockets and pay monthly for a membership. In spite of this, I vividly remember my easily-entertained self spending a considerable amount of time on this game, when I could have been doing, you know, literally anything else…

Webkinz- After asking around, I quickly discovered that nearly everybody used to play Webkinz, a game that requires you to leave the comfort of your home, and buy actual stuffed toys that you use to play the game for a limited amount of time. Once your pet comprised entirely of ones and zeroes expired, your five to twelve year-old self had two options: Watch hopelessly as it was lost to the abyss of the Internet, or beg your parents for hours at a time to drop whatever they're doing, and buy another Webkinz until they ran out of endurance, and caved. This dangerous cycle often continued until one child alone would come to school, bragging about the 100+ Webkinz that they owned.

Embarrassingly enough, this isn't even half of the total online games that my childhood self has sunken hours of time into, and admittedly, there were an infinite number of more beneficial ways to spend my early days. Regardless of whether or not I'd enjoy these activities today, to my six year-old self, they were masterpieces.

In spite of the countless hours that I've spent on these games, they aren't necessarily staples of everybody else's childhoods. So, in an effort to learn more about others' early years, and make me feel less pathetic, I asked around for other hidden gems that people have played. Shockingly, there were more than a few people with hours of their lives lost to virtual worlds, such as Runescape, which Cory Crawford describes as "... very addictive because you could [live] in a fantasy world, and be whatever you wanted,". Another name that surfaced several times was Adventure Quest, which I vaguely remember logging into once or twice.

erhaps you too spent a copious amount of time staring brainwashed at a computer screen during your early childhood. Maybe you, like me, sometimes regret not spending your elementary school days doing more productive activities, but regardless of whether you look back on these nostalgic times with fondness or regret, there's no denying that at the time, there was nothing else that you would rather have been doing.

The DYSTOPIAN cliché

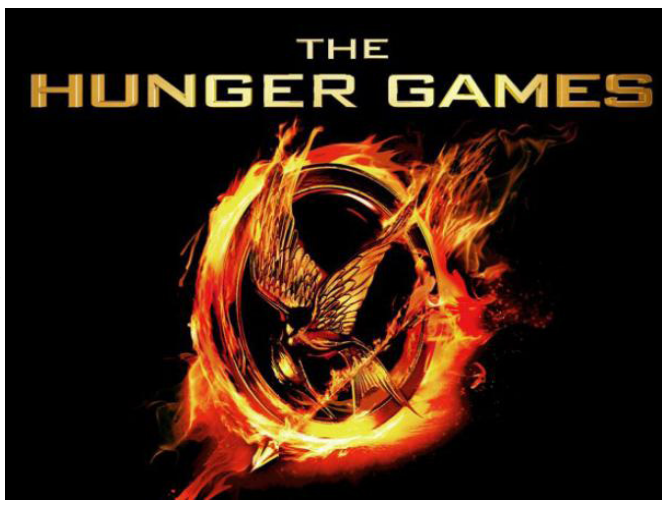
by Isaac Bryant, BP Staff Writer

Recently a popular genre of movie and literature came in the form of the "Dystopian world". It is a genre of science fiction or fantasy that is set in the near future or an alternate timeline a few years ahead of our own. A few novels and movies that have been released from this genre are The Hunger Games trilogy, Divergent series, The Maze Runner, and The Host. All of these were extremely popular in both book sales and cinematically. The Hunger games has sold over 50 million copies with all three original copies of the trilogy, The Maze Runner sold 6.5 million copies, Divergent 7 million copies, and Host with roughly a million copies sold. The Host may not have sold as well because of it being overshadowed by its author's other book Twilight, though The Host was successful in theaters. As this is being written, these heavy hitters of this genre have sold almost over 70 million copies altogether. In an age where almost everything done and read is online this speaks 'volumes' about the popularity they have.



Dylan O'Brien, the star of the novel-based movie: The Maze Runner

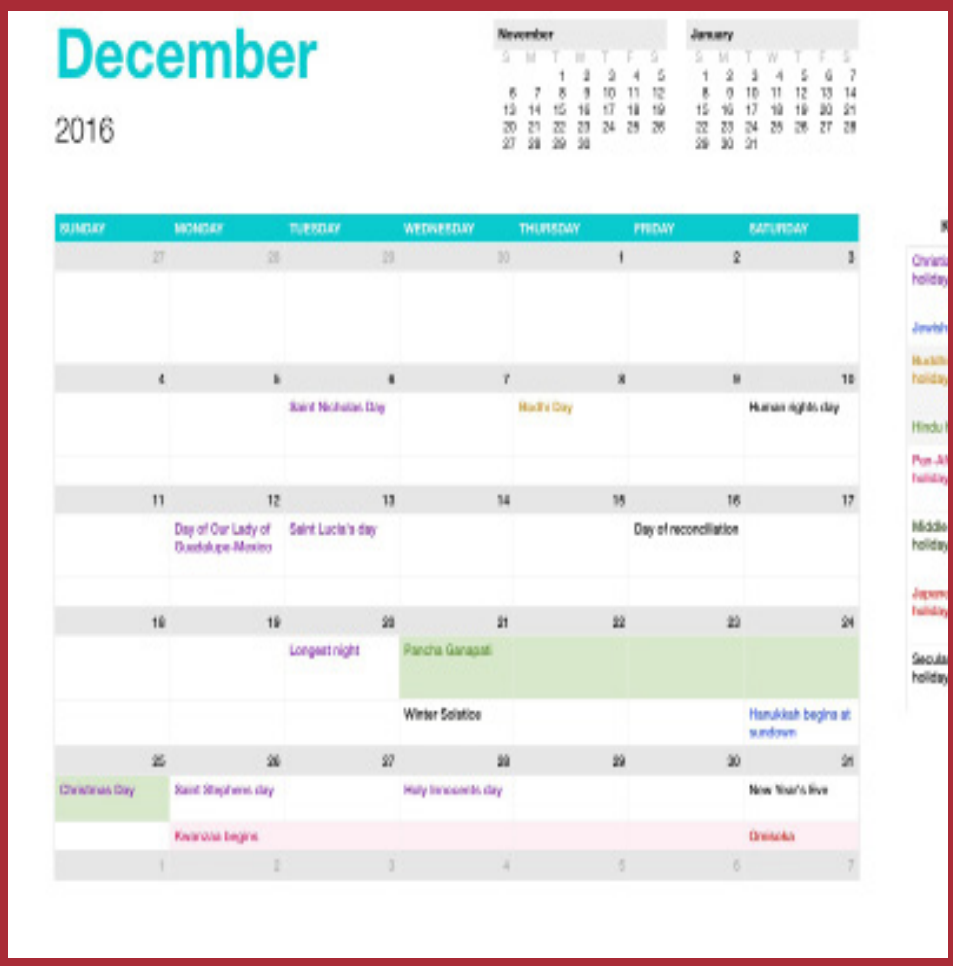
Even so, with their massive appeal it can be argued that the genre as a whole has begun developing its own cliches. Such is, the leading female role finding herself in a love triangle with the most attractive young men on the planet with impossibly great haircuts even though all the barbershops have been wiped out in the apocalypse that created their world; or the age of the main character and the majority of their group with them being teenagers or in their early twenties. As well as the pure amount of Deus ex Machina that saves our hero or heroine when their plan must change on the fly do to a very obvious but forgotten variable. Especially the cliche of the cringe worthy naivety of the main character's or main support character's younger sibling. The list goes on, but it appears that over the past 10 years or, so Dystopian writing has developed its own formula. By no means is it a bad one, but the mold for them is starting to show. The genre is still somewhat new in popularity so there is plenty of time to see how future Dystopian books or movies will separate themselves from the rest. It would be interesting to see if the genre became more serious like if The Hunger Games took a darker tone, or if it becomes more light hearted like Pendleton Ward's Adventure Time series with Cartoon Network. Whatever may come for the Dystopian Genre, hopefully it will be just as successful, if not better than, it's predecessors. Perhaps it would help to make the cliches a little less apparent than what they have become.



Holiday calendar: 2016/2017

by Julia Losasso, BP Staff Editor





Calendar by Julia Losasso

Highlights for December & January

Saint Nicholas Day-
December 6
Leave your shoes outside on the porch and St. Nicholas will leave candy in them!

Bodhi Day-
December 8
The Day of Buddah's Enlightenment

Human Rights Day-
December 10
The Day on which the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico)-
December 12
Thousands of Catholics all across Mexico travel to the Basilica of Guadalupe to gaze upon the image of the Virgin Mary.

Saint Lucia's Day-
December 13
A church feast day, most popularly celebrated in Scandinavian countries.

Day of Reconciliation-
December 16
South African celebration of the end of Apartheid

Longest Night-
December 20
In support of those suffering from a loss

Pancha Ganapati-
December 21
Festival in honor of Lord Ganesha

Hanukkah-
December 24

Christmas Day-
December 25

Saint Stephen's Day-
December 26
Christian Feast Day of the Martyr Saint Stephen

Holy Innocents' Day-
December 28
Christian Feast Day remembering all children lost to King Herod in his search for Jesus.

New Year's Eve-
December 31

Kwanzaa-
January 2
Pan-African cultural celebration

Omisoka-
January 7
Japanese New Year