The Badger Pause

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Sign up for Europe Trip 2019 before it's too late.

Information on the 2019 Europe Trip

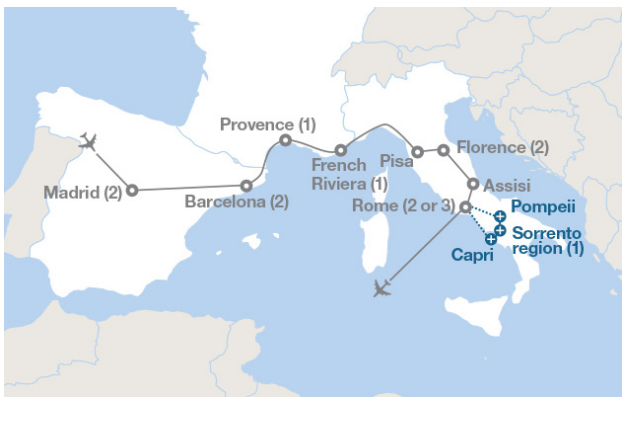
It is not too late to sign up for the June 2019 Europe trip. There are 19 students and adults from the Berkshire Schools community traveling to Spain, the South of France, and Italy when school ends in June. Highlights of the 12-day tour include exploring Madrid, Barcelona, the French Riviera, Florence and Rome, with many beautiful and historical stops along the way.

Students in grades 7-12, parents, and staff may go to the trip website at www.eftours.com/2041471BH to find information on the cost and look at a sample itinerary. Sign up is easy and can be done right on the site with two options for payment plans.

There is also a group/informational meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 6pm in the high school media center. Anyone interested or with questions about the trip may attend as well as those already signed up. Attendees can get important information about the trip while enjoying tapas and other regional bites from the countries we will be visiting.

EF Tours is coordinating the trip and is a leader in the world of student travel with a particular focus on safety, education, and affordability. All flights, ground/water transportation, hotels, and two meals a day are included in the price of the tour, along with several in-depth tours of historical sites and a 24/7 EF tour guide who meets travelers' every need.

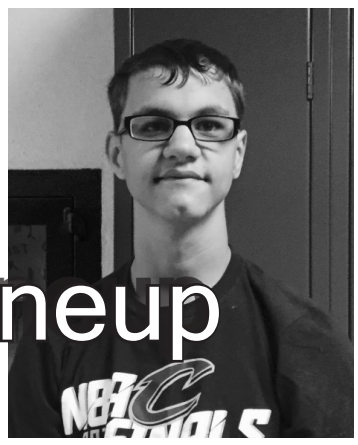
The trip is organized by Ms. Meghan Hull , who has led three previous student tours to Europe as well as domestic trips to NYC and chaperoned the D.C. trip. Questions can be emailed to her at meghan.hull@berkshireschools.org.



The above image charts the course for the trip.







The 2018 homecoming court lineup

by Hannah Espinosa, BP Staff Writer

Senior Court

Josiah Cheung

Cheung was "pleasantly surprised" when he heard his name announced for homecoming court, yet also very conflicted, as he was not planning to go to homecoming this year. Through attending Berkshire for his whole highschool experience, Cheung has gotten close to many teachers, mainly though, Mrs. Koler, the sophomore English teacher. He is happy to move on in life, but he is also nervous about what that new life would be. "I think that I am just going to miss the experience of high school and being young and stupid and having that be okay," he testifies. His favorite memory from highschool, to date, is his "spiffy" friend, Clark Jackson, who helped Cheung to remember his dreams to be an astronaut when he was five years old. His least favorite cafeteria food is "all of it." He confesses to having no regrets in regard to quitting the soccer team, as it has made him more available to compete on the cross country team and devote his time to theatre. Moving forward, Cheung has been looking at Calvin College, but is not yet entirely decided. Cheung would like to end on this note: "Despacito. 2/Too."

Olivia Freiling

Freiling was also quite surprised to be elected for court, as she assumed her previous election would exempt her from the running. She is thankful to have had the opportunity to get to know Ms. Prots, as a teacher, mentor, coach, and friend. Even though Freiling is pumped to experience the college life, she is also very nervous to leave. She is going to "miss this small community and being able to know everyone." Her favorite memories from high school are attending all of the sports events and playing volleyball with her amazing teammates. Flashing back to when she was five years old, Freiling wanted to be a model for the fashion shows. Freiling is involved in many extra curricular activities at Berkshire. She has been involved with AC4P since she was a freshman; she is on the C.A.R.E team and in the Spanish Honors Society, and she has been playing volleyball since third grade. Freiling has not decided on which college she would like to attend, but she would like to study law. Ending her article, Freiling would like to say, "Justin Bieber should be marrying me - not Hailey Baldwin."

Jacob Kastor

Kastor is happy that his fellow classmates nominated him to be on homecoming court this year. Kastor's teacher best friend would be Mrs. Leikala, the art teacher. He has always been close with her, even when he was at Ledgemont. Kastor is "happy that [high school] is over," but he is also sad to lose some friends. Kastor's favorite memory from high school is "definitely basketball," in which he's been involved since freshman year. At the age of five, Kastor wanted to be a firefighter. He has never bought a lunch so he does not have a least favorite food, and he has no confessions to make. Suspicious.

> "Zachary Wolfe won thiccest in the CVC four weeks in a row."

Kastor is not sure of what college he would like to attend, but he strives for a career in engineering. Last words: "Zachary Wolfe won thiccest in the CVC four weeks in a row."

Julia Kastor

Julia Kastor, like her brother, is happy that people voted for her to be on court. She promotes, "It's really cool to be nominated for prom court last year and then homecoming court this year." Also like her brother, Mrs. Leikala has been her closest teacher friend, which she has known her since she was in elementary school at Ledgemont. Kastor is glad that she is leaving Berkshire, but she is going to miss all of her friends, the teachers, volleyball, and being a senior captain alongside her friend Olivia Freiling. Her favorite memory of high school is last year's volleyball season, where the team won districts, was first in the CVC, and went to regionals. Like many five year olds, Kastor wanted to be a princess. A princess as in a Disney one. Kastor has been playing volleyball for four years, since eighth grade; she played basketball in ninth grade and plans to this season as well. Kastor's plans for the future are undecided, yet "maybe a teacher or my mom told me to be a guidance counselor." The last thing that Kastor wants people to read is that, "I've always been the better twin, and Olivia loves me more than Jacob."

Tony Aldridge

Aldridge did not have much to say about how he felt being on court. He only felt that it was pretty cool. Aldridge is going to miss all of his friends at Berkshire, and he is going to miss all of the sports that he plays. As of right now, he cannot think of any memories of high school that stick out to him, but he has a whole year to make more. Like many kids at the age of five, Aldridge wanted to be a famous Major League Baseball player, as he has been playing baseball for his whole life. Aldridge has always packed his lunch and, therefore, does not have a favorite or least favorite cafeteria food. On top of his devotion to baseball, Aldridge has played basketball for Berkshire for two years. Next year, he is planning to attend Kent State University. He did not have anything to say for his last words, he simply leaves you with, "Nope."

New school, new leaks

by Hannah Espinosa, BP Staff Writer

As most of us know, Berkshire gratefully received $2 million on April 13th, 2018, to construct a new sports facility and the bond issue to construct a new K-12 campus passed in May. Most of us were overjoyed to hear this news, eager to have a building that does not smell of mold. Due to our curiosity, most of us were probably already think about what the new school will be like. I have gathered multiple questions from the staff and students to ask the administrators.

Will there be air condition throughout the whole building?

Well, I am glad to say that, yes, there will be air condition throughout the school! "Top to bottom. Top. To. Bottom" (King).

When are they going to start building the school and sports facility?

Mr. King hopes that in a few weeks, they will be able to start their planning meetings, which is where the staff, students, and community are able to talk about what they would like to see in the new school; whether it be how the classrooms will be set up, the walls, etc. For when they will start constructing, it might take a whole year just to plan everything, but the board, the superintendent, and Mr. King, hope that it will be shorter than that. King reported earlier, "The belief is that construction, of the building itself, will probably be around two years, maybe a tiny bit sooner." For the sports facility, they want to have the blueprint of the school building first and to know where it will be placed, then they can look into how much space they have left to work on the football stadium and the track. Baseball/softball fields will be later, due to money that needs to be raised, but once they have the outline of the building, they will start as quickly as they can! " There is a tiny, tiny chance" that they will get the sports facility going, hopefully, "next year, but that is highly doubtful. More than like the fall of '20"(King).

"Our ears are wide open because somebody may have the greatest idea that we have yet to hear."

-King

Will there be more time in between classes since it will be a bigger school?

" Were going to have to see because my guess is all three major wings will be on a different schedules, which you can with tones through the different speaker systems… Who knows. I know when the building is built, my guess is I will go from the top right to the bottom left and see how long it takes me" (King).

How will the system of teachers who work both middle school and high school courses work out?

" There may be some cases where a teacher may need to go from the middle school wing to the high school wing, or from the high school wing to the middle school wing. Things like that…. We'll try to do our best to take into account where people's passions are" (King).

How is k-12 lunch going to work out?

"No idea. We're going to be asking students. We're going to be asking staff. We're going to be asking ourselves. We're in a whole new world. You know, cafeteria design, the timing, the cafeteria staff, what it looks like, how it operates, what equipment. They're all going to be telling us what we can and can't do. Number of tables, size of space, what can we figure out. We've seen schools that the entire school has lunch at the same time because they eat it within their wings at the end of the hallway, so it's more of like a park like atmosphere. Students can eat and hang and sit and chill. Our ears are wide open because somebody may have the greatest idea that we have yet to hear" (King).

How many gymnasiums will there be?

" Three. One for the elementary, middle school, high school. The smallest one, which will be the elementary, will be bigger than our [big] gym now" (King).

Do they have faculty parking separate from student parking?

"The plan is to have faculty/staff parking separate from student parking" (Stoddard).

For security purposes, are teachers going to use fobs still , or are they going to turn to a hand or thumb scanner?

" We need to see the options that are available. What we want, what we believe is safest. And then when we know what options are available to us, we will talk to the the teachers and the staff about what they think they would like to see as well" (King).

Will the school start at the same time for all students k-12?

"The start time of the school will be something that we will engage the community about over the next two years. We will not have a decision about that until closer to the opening of the new school" (Stoddard).

How will the classrooms be set up? Will they be shared or will they be in departments?

"That is what we are going to start [asking] because we want to hear as much as possible and know as much as possible because I have my own ideas, but that doesn't mean that I'm right… The architects are still pulling themselves together to get ready for the project and soon as they're ready, we're going to do a lot of listening sessions with the students, the staff, the community, you know, what they want to see, what they want to hear" (King).

Will the school continue to have iPads and chromebooks? If so, will it stay the same system that it is now (10-12 IPads and 7-9 chromebooks)?

" The iPads were bought with a grant a number of years ago and they are getting older, so they are being phased out as the classes move up. So this year, in this building, 7,8,9 have chromebooks, so next year it'll be 7,8,9,10, then 7,8,9,10,11, then 7,8,9,10,11,12. So chromebooks throughout….but you definitely want to make sure that the students have the technology that matches the classroom" (King).

Is it official that the new track will be purple?

"That is under discussion. If it's something that the community decides overwhelmingly that that's a want, and it doesn't incur an additional expense, why not? You know, if it's what the community wants, it's the community's facility, and plus it would be pretty cool" (King).

Continued on page 10

Welcome back, Berkshire

by Nick Misconin, BP Staff Writer

Dread it, run from it. Destiny arrives all the same. And now it's here. Or should I say, school is. Berkshire Jr./Sr. High School has commenced once more, this time for the 2018-2019 school year. Unfortunately, this also means that officially summer is over. June wasn't terrible, until that heat wave at the end of the month. July was so-so, and felt like an eternity (luckily). August went by surprisingly quick. Which then leads us into the dreaded day that was August 23- the start of the school year. Junior Caden Neumore has told me that "time management is important. Getting enough sleep, balancing school work and free time."

Here are some tips to help you adjust to life for roughly the next nine months:

Get consistent sleep- Find a good bedtime - and stick to it. Inconsistent sleep cycles can leave you feeling groggy and sick in the morning.

Eat breakfast- Even if your running late, you're not too late to grab a quick snack. Getting your metabolism jumpstarted helps being awake in the early hours of the day quite a bit.

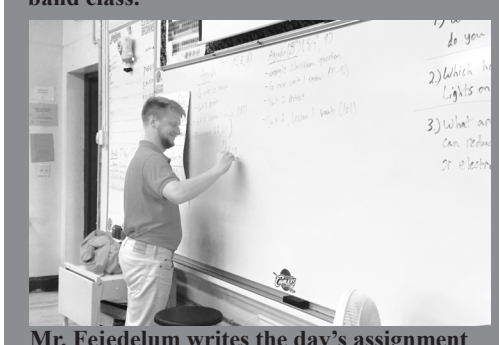
Manage your time properly- We have ALL heard this before, but procrastination has us all. Pace out a section of time to grind out your work. Or, split up the work in a few increments.

Meet the badgers (staff)

by Gennah Brown, BP Staff Writer



(Above) Miss. D'Ambrosia's enthusiasm is contagious in her eight period junior high band class.



Mr. Fejedelum writes the day's assignment on the whiteboard.

Here at Berkshire Jr./Sr. High School, we have to new teachers joining us for the 2018/2019 school year to fill the positions of seventh grade science and junior high/high school choir, band, history of rock and roll teacher.

Miss D'Ambrosia [Dee-am-Bro-sha], is a new, and wonderful, addition to the badger family. She is excited for her coming plans and those already in action. For example, there are plans for the marching band to go on a trip to either Disney or Chicago.

According to D'Ambrosia,"Seventh Grade General Music: I've kind of done my own take on that, so we're doing history of music from way back in Ancient Greece all the way to 60s/70s." She is also enthused for the holiday concert in December. D'Ambrosia hopes to build numbers in both marching band and choir.

She attended Willoughby South High School and Baldwin Wallace University. As a junior in high school, she acknowledged her passion for music but not yet that she wished to pursue teaching it as a career. She began to work at a music store giving trumpet lessons and realized she wants to be here.

D'Ambrosia also particularly enjoys ice cream, listening to Electric Light Orchestra, and her favorite color is teal.

Mr. Fejedelem [F-edge-ed-el-um], is our second addition to the badger team this year.

Mr. Fejedelem says "I really enjoy teaching weather and climate; it's just constantly changing and fun to teach." He also loves anything with force and motion. He was inspired by his many, many relatives who were teachers before him and the wonderful teachers who taught him.

Mr. Fejedelem was a high school graduate of Crestwood and later a college graduate of Hiram College. His favorite extracurriculars include sports (specifically coaching soccer and possibly track) and spending time with his wife and his two lab terriers. Mr. Fejedelem's favorite color is red, and his favorite scientist is Neil deGrasse Tyson.

Chess Club (Don’t talk about it)



by haisoJ gnuehC, BP Staff Writer

**Disclaimer: If you have not seen Fight Club, you may experience confusion.*

The first rule of Chess Club is - you don’t talk about Chess Club. The second rule of Chess Club is - you don’t talk about Chess Club. The third rule of Chess Club is - when someone says “I concede” or loses their king, the match is over. Fourth rule is - only two guys (or gals) to a match. Fifth rule - one match at a time. Sixth rule - No loud, obnoxious shirts, no squeaky shoes. Seventh rule - matches go on as long as they have to (or until the timer runs). And the eighth and final rule - if this is your first day at Chess Club, you have to chess.

That’s right, Chess Club is coming to the Berkshire Jr./Sr. High School this year - but it’s on the down low. You see, some of us got tired of the oppressive monotony of school life, and we thought, “What’s the exact opposite of an oppressively monotonous academic lifestyle?” Then we realized most of the answers to that question already existed, like playing sports or having a healthy social life. So instead, we started playing chess. And now, you can too.

Now, people don’t talk about Chess Club. That’s why you don’t know about it. In fact, I’m breaking the first and second rule of Chess Club right now. Luckily, I’m using my alias, so I should be safe. But if they find out, you might not hear from me for awhile, so take hold of this valuable information while you can.

First off, we don’t have a leader, but we will have a champion. A typical match has 90 minutes on the clock for the first 40 moves, 30 minutes for everything that comes after 40. This isn’t your momma’s checkers game. It’s a chance for guys (and gals) to vent their frustrations about the world in a one-on-one, gloves off, hardcore chess game. Because after Chess Club, everything else in your life gets the volume turned down. You can deal with anything. Got a bad grade on your last test? Throw it at your opponent’s bishop. Parents giving you a hard time? Give the kid across the board an even harder time. Questioning why you’re on this Earth when life seems inherently without meaning and happiness has no definition? Well, chess can be pretty fun.



A young Jared Leto and Edward Norton viciously Chessing one another.



Respected Educator Mr. Jim Lester loses his cool during an intense one-on-one.

Chess Club only exists in the hours between when Chess Club starts, and when Chess Club ends. And starting October 1st, those hours will be every Monday after school, in Mr. Lester’s or Mrs. Koler’s classroom.

But no matter when and where it takes place, here’s something to keep in mind: Who you are in Chess Club is not who are you in the real world. When you’re playing chess, you aren’t a student, or a nerd, or a jock, or a normie. You become simply one of the players. As soon as you enter that room, and sit down across from an opponent, you can do anything (within the rules of the game). When you wake up the next day you’ll feel different. Your hands will be cramped, and you might find cuts and bruises on your lip from concentrating hard the day before.

Pretty soon, people will start to notice. Your mom will wonder if you got in a fight, and you’ll say “no Mom, I played chess.” (The first rule of Chess Club doesn’t apply to your mom) And she’ll think you’re lying. And before you know it, you’ll start noticing other people with same markers. That kid in Algebra who keeps cracking his knuckles. The girl stretching her neck from having hunched over a board the day before. You might give them a nod, but that’ll be it. Because even if you could tell someone they had a good match yesterday, you wouldn’t be talking to the same person.

This kid, James - a cross runner - he’s got a bad heart, and it skips beats all the time. But James’ heart beat 100 times per minute when at the chess board he trounced a guy twice his size and very heart-healthy.

Now I don’t wanna give it all away. I’m already breaking the rules. All I can say now is, look for it this month. Maybe talk to Mrs. Koler in room 202. You didn’t hear it from me, but she and Mr. Lester are acting as, you might say, coordinators. Just don’t tell them I sent you.

And in case I see you cracking your knuckles in Algebra, I’ll say it here.

Welcome to Chess Club.

The birth of the badger ballers

by Clark Jackson, BP Staff Writer

The winter of 2017 at Berkshire High School was a winter like no other in the school’s history. This winter marked the beginning of a new era for Berkshire athletics- an era of absolute and total domination. With the aid and supervision of Mr. Hiscox, sophomore Wilson Jackson and I created Berkshire’s first ever bowling program. While in its infancy it was just a club, the team was still able to compete against other teams unofficially, ending the season undefeated (4-0). Along with competing in the regular season, the team was also permitted to enter the sectional tournament. However, there are various risks involved when creating a new sports program at a school.



The Badger Bowling Team doing it to ‘em after trouncing NDCL in a match. The Bowling team went undefeated in 2017-2018.

Dean of Students and Athletic Director, Mr. Brian Hiscox, oversaw all the higher level paperwork required to start this program. “One of the biggest risks for starting a new program is not knowing how the students are going to receive it, and whether or not any of them would even be interested,” stated Hiscox. “Luckily for us, we knew students would be interested. Another fear was we didn’t want to take athletes away from other winter sports. However, in our situation, the students who approached us about the program and everyone else who showed interest were not already in a winter sport.”

A variety of players and coaches were interviewed in an effort to discover different perspectives on the bowling program. Senior Diego Peters, who bowled for the team last season, claims “it could not have gone any better.” Diego “saw a lot of improvement in both [himself] and the team overall,” and adds that nearing the end of the season, the team chemistry was “on fleek.”

Wilson Jackson, who had previously bowled in a league in Garrettsville, qualified to bowl at the district tournament for individuals.Wilson stated stated that “it was an honor and a privilege to perform with athletes ranked at a similar tier and skill level. It was truly a humbling experience.” Though Wilson did not advance to the state tournament, it was still an impressive result for a first year program.

“This winter marked the beginning of a new era for Berkshire athletics- an era of absolute and total domination.”

Coaching the team are Mrs. Maske, chemistry teacher and head of the science department, and Mr. Lester, upper level mathematics teacher. Maske claimed, “The best part was watching the kids get excited about bowling and watching the improvement in every member. This sport is a sport that anybody can take part in, which makes it so fun”.

Lester had a similar response, stating “The best part of last season was getting to know the students I didn’t know outside of class.” Although Lester wasn’t as involved with the team as he would have liked, due to various surgeries, he admitted that this season he is looking forward to “getting to actually practice and bowl with the kids.”

It is unclear what the future of the bowling club holds, but I have a feeling that this program will take off. “We really want to make this sport sustainable here at our school, and we would like to develop it into a conference sport and compete with other teams” noted Mr. Hiscox. While the bowling program is only offered to high schoolers, anyone could and should start hitting the alley to prepare for bowling season comes and be ready to leave a legacy with Berkshire’s newest sports club.

Cross Country: Notice us please!

by Jacob Wichert, BP Staff Editor

Berkshire's fall sports are a major topic of discussion amongst students and staff alike. The girls' soccer team is already running a winning record, varsity football reigns as the most popular sport in the school district, and the volleyball team has only lost once this season.

Amidst all of the hype surrounding these more than marginally successful sports, it's fairly easy for many of Berkshire's fall sports, as well as their participating athletes, to fly under the radar, for one reason or another.

Enter Cross Country; a sport that, quite frankly, people tend to forget about. Unique in the sense that it is one of two sports at Berkshire that doesn't involve a ball of any sort, competitive distance running requires its athletes' total dedication and unwavering effort. I personally have witnessed this dedication, being a member of said team, and know firsthand both the mental and physical strain that the sport demands. I've seen runners take a metal spike to their calves during races, and still finish in spite of the pain. I've witnessed during meets runners who after crossing the finish line, pass out almost immediately out of pure exhaustion. I've seen, and run alongside upwards of one hundred other athletes in the sweltering heat and the near negatives, of all of whom finished their race, and so begs the question:

Why does nobody ever hear about the Cross Country team?

It's not as though the sport isn't successful. In fact, quite the opposite is the case, given that it were the only fall sport to win CVC last year, and is on track to make it to regionals this year, in spite of some of its top runners being injured.

Senior James Patterson is one of three captains on the boys' cross country team. He expresses some frustration for the team's lack of recognition, beginning by describing his typical week, which consists of "about 30 hours worth of training and preparing for meets." On average, this equates to approximately 40 miles worth of running, not taking into account swim workouts, which Patterson frequently partakes in.



The Varsity Girls Cross Country team toils through hurdle warm-ups.

"I've seen a lot of runners finish races in tears, or almost pass out because of either the pain, or exhaustion" Patterson explains. "My heart [condition] also makes it really hard to run, but I always try to keep going because I'm so passionate about the sport."

While Patterson makes sure to to clarify that this effort "isn't so much wasted," because of the school's failure to recognize the team, "[the school] should recognise [their] effort more." He proposes that this be done through the morning announcements, for one thing, in which the cross country team has been previously mentioned few enough times to be counted on one hand, whereas nearly every other sport is wished good luck and congratulated after successful games.

"[People] have to go out of their way to find out how well we did at a meet," Patterson explains, which is unfortunate, as hard work and dedication should be recognized, especially so, considering that these are two core qualities that Berkshire so adamantly encourages. Its students to display.



The Varsity Boys Cross Country Team lines up at the starting line, eager to begin the race.

How to bolster the band

by Dani Zilka, BP Staff Writer

The Berkshire Band is ready to rock and roll this year with their "Rock Through the Ages" playlist. Starting this year off with new shiny drums for percussionists and a brand new director, Miss D'Ambrosia. The Berkshire Marching Band means everything to its members, and they've put years into practicing and perfecting their music. However, the band's number are continuing to decrease over the years.

This year, the band has hit a record low with only 21 marchers attending.

This causes issues; with such a small number of people it limits what can be done as a band. Not only do we have a smaller selection of songs that we are able to play, but we don't sound as capable as a larger band. Due to such factors, I believe many see the school's marching band as a joke.

Students no longer support the band due to their inability to create a rounder, larger sound. Five years ago however, the band won multiple trophies at multiple band shows, since then the band's numbers performance has been declining. The question is, why? What has happened to the once prideful marching band and its supportive school and can we restore it to its former glory? Is it due to lack of members? Or the student body's mindset on the school band? It most certainly cannot be from shortage of interest because, if asked, any student could go on about their music preferences.

A big thing that influence the band's performances is the school's support. If the students are not enjoying the music then the band doesn't enjoy playing as much. When students complain that the opposing team's marching band is so spectacular and ours is lousy, it lowers confidence and quality of playing. How would you feel if something you dedicated so much time to is criticized for something out of your control? The band cannot improve its quality when we are lacking instruments and marchers.



The Berkshire Marching Badgers pose elegantly for a picture.

So it appears that the school and band are at a stand still, because in order to gain the student body's support, we first need to prove ourselves. However to improve, we need more more students to join and actively participate.

In recent years, fewer junior high students have been joining band during their first two years in high school, and even fewer have stuck with it to join the marching band. Many believe it to be due to lack of interest and passion, which may be true, but I believe it to be lack a of knowledge. At the elementary school, there is a single music teacher, in charge of teaching seven grades, (K-6) and the class offered covers just basic music knowledge.

Those in fifth and sixth grade have the opportunity to join band, however there is no designated time in their schedule to participate. Students must find a way to get to school early for lessons and band practice when many students do not have the ability to do so. Without time during school for band, many students never get to a skill level at which they can enjoy playing an instrument. It is not that students' lack interest, but that they don't have the ability.

Can we blame the high school marching band's lack of members on the elementary? No, because you can always start playing in junior high. At the high school, students who join band do not get a full study hall and participation and is not necessarily encouraged during scheduling.

With the continued changing of band directors, it has been hard for anything to get rolling within the band. At the high school, in the past five years, no director has kept their position for more than two years, making it impossible for the program or band to grow. The program needs a director that will be dedicated for longer than two years. Hopefully then with a strong base, the program can start to grow and reach its full potential; becoming a band that the whole school can once again be proud of.

Don't lose hope because you believe it is not possible, because it once was a reality at Berkshire. Throughout the 1990's, the Berkshire High School Marching Band had 100+ members, and throughout the 200's it held strong at 80+ members. District enrollment was close to the same then, plus now we also have the students from Ledgemont, so it is possible to have a band to be proud of again, we just have to make it our priority.

Survival of the fittest:BHS Edition

by Hannah Keough, BP Staff Editor

Calling all seventh graders! Welcome to Berkshire Jr./Sr. High, where the hallways are narrow, and the air is thick. Unless you are of enough social privilege to have an older sibling who has previously navigated these halls and suffocated in this air, you're likely feeling a little lost right now. Teachers and parents gave you all they can; you (hopefully) gained a few insights during orientation, but living through it is much different than what you were told. I am here, as a near survivor of the wilderness of high school, to provide you with your High School Survival Guide.

First, you'll need a **tool kit**. Of course, you'll need a pencil. I recommend many. Keep a supply in your locker because those things tend to disappear. Always keep a stash of loose-leaf paper. A folder - of some sort. There should be no piles of papers tucked in notebooks or loosely in your arms. You will lose them.



A horde of students is migrating from class to class in the most congested hallway in the school.

You will also need to know how to keep everything in that tool kit. The concept of "borrowing" is lost. Avoid "lending" materials, especially pencils, to your comrades. This is not communism. What's yours is not theirs. It's every man for himself in these woods.

Don't let your **stress** consume you. It can eat you like a bear if you let it. If it's stress about an approaching due date or difficult assignment, speak slowly and calmly to the approaching predator and gradually back away. If it's a spreading rumor or drama, stand still and keep your eyes on the problem, without making direct eye contact, and be prepared to use deterrents.

Find a **buddy**. Yes, I just told you it's every man for himself. Don't worry; that is still true, but you still must know who to trust. Find a friend to walk with in the hallways between each class. If your friend Brian has first period math and second period science with you, stick by him; you're less likely to get run over or lost. I recommend befriending the upper class; they'll get you through.

Speaking of **hallways**, I know you might wish you were in Europe because of health care, cool accents, and the metric system - but you're not, so stick to the right side of the hallways. Walk fast, and as always, stand close to your locker.



Fellow BP Staff Writer Hannah Espinosa grabs her materials for class, abiding by the close-to-locker

Lockers: You may still be getting the hang of the very precise pattern of rotations. Don't panic. Take your time. And ask for help if you must. Rest assured, we all still screw it up sometimes.

Finding water: Just as in the wilderness, water is crucial, and not all water is good water. Avoid the fountain outside of room 202 at all costs. You'll find the most desireable nectar at the corner by 211.

Avoid the rain and build a fire. I mean this figuratively, of course. Please do not start a fire. What I mean is, don't let others' harsh words dampen your day. These halls are full of criticism, but they can also be full of compassion, so dry off the negativity and be the warmth to those around you.

That's all, kids. For the rest, you're on your own. There are people here to help you, though. Never be afraid to ask questions, and for more helpful survival tips, most wilderness survival guides will prove applicable.

The beginning of THE END

by Josiah Cheung, BP Staff Writer

Ah, senior year. The time to kick back, relax with some AriZona Green Tea™ (not sponsored), and slowly come to terms with the fact that life as you know it is about to end and be replaced by a dark world where all of your actions have consequences and neither success nor happiness is guaranteed! Ahhh, sip that iced tea, because it's the Beginning of the T H E E N D!

And in honor of these Days of Our Lives, I have compiled several tips, taken from interviews of Berkshire Alumni, that will hopefully give you seniors that early-year jumpstart that will carry you through graduation and straight to college, the workforce, or for the less ambitious, your parents' basement. So without further ado, straight from Berkshire Alumni, here are three pieces of advice to make your senior year the most worthwhile (I.E. the least psychologically damaging):



Berkshire graduate Nick Boyk taken from his glory days.

STOP worrying about your future!

Yes, this is your last year at Berkshire. And yes, the future awaits with cold, merciless arms. But, really, there's nothing to worry about. You know why? Because thousands of people have been in your exact position, and most of them turned out okay! Take Nick Boyk, a humble graduate of the class of '17. He had everything planned out at the end of his senior year, but things didn't turn out how he expected: "I'm a Junior Developer… I took a closed door from the Air Force," he told me, but quickly followed it up - "and I'm learning a lot more now!"

Dan Bridavsky, another '17 graduate, reported, "life has turned out better than I expected. I love school, my friends, and all of the things I'm involved with."

And Krystal Mechling, graduate of '17, told me "You won't figure it all out after high-school, so you're DEFINITELY not going to figure it out during."

So don't sweat it too much - the vast majority of people don't end up where they think they will by the end of their senior year. And if you've already got a plan for the next year, five years, ten years, whatever, that's great! Just don't freak out if things don't work out the way you planned. In the words of Mechling, "don't have a panic attack if the unexpected happens - have fun with the unexpected because it'll make a good story at some point."

So if you're scared about this year, and what comes after, don't be. Instead, go grab an AriZona Green Tea™ (Not sponsored) and kick your feet up - this is your last year, so don't spend it worried about the future.

Keep friends close, and keep close friends closer.

Maybe the most universal piece of advice I got from alumni was to keep your friends close during this last year. Because this is the last year you'll get to spend with all of them. Seth Byler, a recent graduate of '18, said "It was just nice to be with my friends for one more year of school," and Kylee Minnick, a '17 graduate, said the most important part of senior year is to "just enjoy the friendships and make memories with people now, so you can think back on them later in life and thank them for a wonderful high school life."

So clearly, if anything should matter to you during your senior year, it's your friends. Krystal admitted to me that "senior year is still important to me today, because it's the only year that I, along with my 'colleagues', vividly remember. When I think of senior year, I picture my friends and I spending the entire year scheming at lunch and finding the best ways to make each other laugh… I also remember the fish prank that I take full credit for."

So take it from a senior whose prank could have kept her from graduating - that stupid thing you and your friends did (and almost got caught doing), that conversation you had that you just couldn't have with anyone else, that night out that was just really, really great - it may seem small now, but the older you get, the bigger your past becomes. So don't take those times for granted, because years down the road, you'll wish you didn't.

Make this year YOUR year.

Finally, but not futilely, I must reiterate that this is your last year. So whatever you focus on - whether it be your grades, extracurriculars, friends, future, or all of the above - make sure you give it a full send. Dan told me his senior year was "probably the most important year of my life to date… because senior year is the year I learned the most about myself, and the year I decided on a college, and the year I stopped taking a back seat in my life."

You're young adults now (or you're getting there), which means that your lives are now yours. And the whole world awaits. Nick said to me, "You know the old addage - one door closes another door opens? They don't tell you that you're the one that has to open those doors. Like, nobody is going to open them for you." So start opening doors.

By now you've probably finished your AriZona Green Tea™ (not sponsored), and hopefully your year is looking a little bit brighter. Because whether you end up ruining it or not, the world is now officially your oyster. So be a pearl.



Pictured above is an accurate representation of the inside of a senior's mind

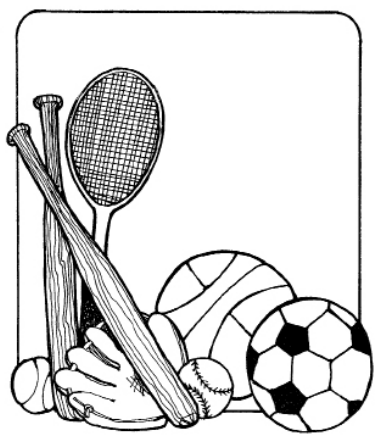
ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN NOTHING: GET INVOLVED

by Ben Pelletier, BP Staff Writer

Getting involved at Berkshire may seem challenging at first glance for new students. I participate cross country, track, Care Team, and Spanish Honors Society. Balancing these with my schoolwork is not very challenging, if you're disciplined and devoted. Since I've had experience with getting involved, I'm here to give a guide for some of the easiest and most fun ways to become involved.

Playing sports is one of the quickest and most obvious ways to get involved. There is a variety of different sports to play, so you can choose what best fits you. The football team seems like a natural place to start, because many people attend the games on Fridays. However, not everyone likes to watch or play football, so I'd suggest taking a look at cross country. Although cross country can a be a very tough at times, it is definitely worth the time and energy. The team is very close and you'll get to spend lots of time with the team, especially on Friday nights at the weekly pasta parties.

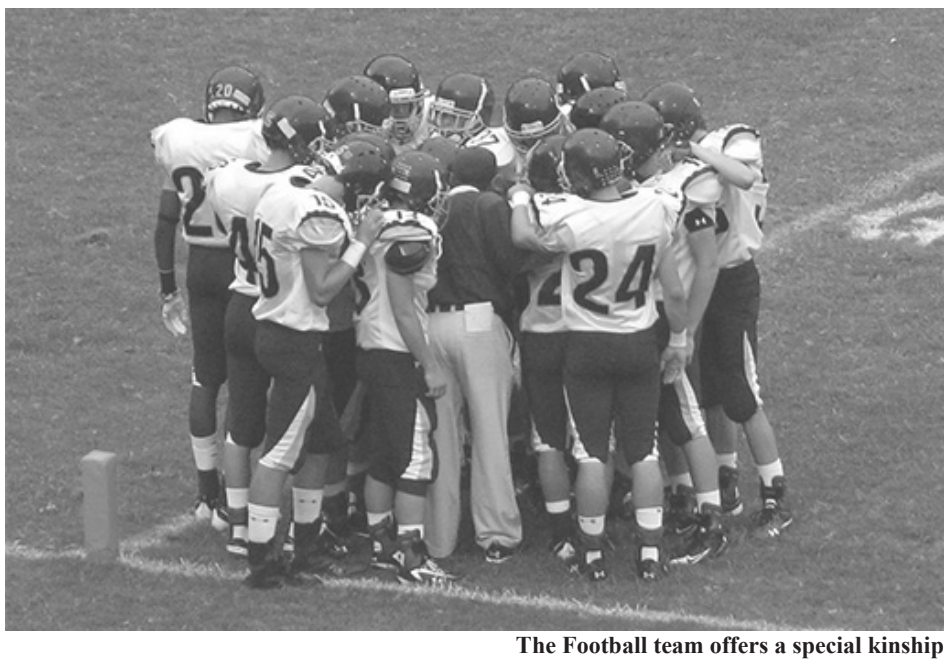
Perhaps you're not someone who's into running or catching. Then you're in luck because the bowling team is always looking for new members. The bowling team has a lot of great members such as Clark Jackson who shares, "Anyone can join the team. You don't need to be crazy good at bowling because there is always room for improvement." There are many other sports offered at Berkshire, such as track, baseball/softball, volleyball, soccer. If you're thinking of doing any of these sports, then I would advise talking to Mr. Hiscox about joining. Many of Berkshire's teams are looking to bolster their participation, so don't be afraid to give it a try.



Sports aren't the only way to get involved at Berkshire. Berkshire offers many other clubs that you can join. Thespians, for example, is a great way to become involved. The Thespians have always produced amazing plays, but in order to put out these plays they need people who want to act. If you are even remotely considering acting, I would suggest talking to Mr. Lester about auditions. If you like theatre but aren't sure about acting, think about joining Stage Crew/Tech Crew for behind the scenes work.

Joining student council is also a wonderful way of getting involved. If you love homecoming then student council gives you the opportunity to plan homecoming. As well as there are many great clubs offered at Berkshire for sharing your talents and helping others. For instance AC4P, Relay for Life, or PenOhio. AC4P otherwise known as Actively Caring for People, is about solving common world problems by doing fundraisers. Relay for Life is a great way to get involved, but it's also done for a good cause. Relay for life is an awesome way to raise money for cancer research. Members gain sponsors to sponsor you while you walk around a track for a certain amount of time. Based on the time that was walked will determine how much money your sponsors will give to the cancer research.





The Football team offers a special kinship

Ms. Green, who is the leader of Relay for Life says, "If students are looking to get involved, then they should look at Relay for Life. It's for a good cause and any Seniors looking to complete their senior service hours should look into Relay for Life."



Finally PenOhio is great way to show off your writing skills. PenOhio is a writing club, where you'll write short stories or narratives that will be entered into competitions. Many of Berkshire's former PenOhio writers have gone on to win many outstanding awards for their essays, such as senior Josiah Cheung who placed 2nd in the state competition. For students in grades 7 and 8, Power of the Pen is an excellent group to showcase and develop your talents.

There are many different sports and clubs offered at Berkshire. Even if these activities are daunting at first, it's definitely worth the time and effort. It brings a student closer to other students, and it brings them closer to the community.

Who are the Cults of Berkshire?

by Dani Zilka, BP Staff Writer

All students would describe Berkshire differently. Grace Lillibridge, a junior at Berkshire, describes the school in a list of cults on the social media app Twitter. Grace includes what she believes to be the groups, or cliques, that make themselves known at the school. She mostly lists sports teams and clubs that take place at the school, but also includes groups that do similar things, for example kids who wear the same things; ("kids who wear cutoffs, jeans, and cowboy boots.") Grace believes the tweet accurately describes the people inside Berkshire's old brick walls and properly lets outsiders know that "this is what's actually going on here in Berkshire."

Some find the list of cults to be hilarious, some find it to be missing a numerous groups, while others find it rude to be considered a cult or to put people into groups based only on their interests. Freshman Kelsey Adams says, "I am proud to be a part of a cult, but I definitely think stage crew, or theatre kids deserve a spot on the list."



The elite society that runs the school from the shadows



The tweet that started it all

However, some find the tweet to be too defining, by sorting people into groups by a single aspect of their like. "Yes, I love band, but there's more to me than that," speaks Senior Skylar Nettles. The tweet was meant to be humorous, but it sparks a saddening truth about today's society. Today's world is all about putting into people into boxes, whether by their looks, personality, or interests, like this tweet does.

Many groups are proud to have made a name for themselves. Jacob Wichert speaks for the identified cult of the cross country boys saying, "We are proud to have finally been publicized." Other groups don't enjoy the negative connotation that follows with the word cult. "I don't like it. I don't know, I just don't think it's a good attitude," says Senior Hailey Gifford. When the word cult comes to mind, good things normally do not follow, so some groups wish to not be included.

Regardless of personal opinions, most people find the tweet to be humorous and accurately represent groups at Berkshire.

You thought you knew: The legend of Sasquatch revealed

by Clark Jackson, BP Staff Writer

For centuries, tales of a giant, hairy ape-like man stalking through forests have haunted and intrigued scientists of all spectrums. However, what is the truth behind this mystic monkey? Through years of research and field expeditions, I now believe I have uncovered the secrets of the notorious Sasquatch. Bigfoot, its alius, is commonly seen as a large, dumb gorilla stumbling through the woods, simply looking for its next meal. Contrary to popular belief, this great ape is actually a highly advanced and intelligent biped. For those readers who are unsure as to what a biped is, it is simply an animal who primarily walks on two legs rather than four.

Despite being labeled as unintelligent animals, Sasquatch prove themselves to be one of the most advanced organisms on the planet, although still being rendered as wild animals. The vast majority of witnesses claim that while the Sasquatch was not seen, various woops, howls, whistles, and/or tree knocks were heard. These simple methods of communication are used by advanced apes across North America. Although it is not believed that the species is isolated to North America, most of Bigfoot's inhabited area is within this continent.

In terms of hunting, this animal is right at the top of the food chain next to us humans. Bigfeet (plural for Bigfoot) are omnivores, eating just about anything they can find. Evidence and eyewitness accounts have shown that they consume fruits, vegetables, prey animals, and sometimes even leftover garbage from humans. Most breeds of Sasquatch will hunt by stalking their prey. Then, with a quick burst of speed, they will disable the target so it cannot escape. For example, hunters have come across leg bones of deer and noticed that the area around the ankle was cleanly snapped in two.This doubtlessly indicates a sasquatch attack, as the clean break of bone signifies the deer having been caught off-guard by the abrupt launch of the biped. This type of hunting is of the highest order, as this creature is smart enough to elude the detection of a deer, and disable it because it knows it cannot run the prey down.

Despite what the average human will say, the amount of sightings and raw evidence is simply too much to continue ignoring. However, it is important to understand that these creatures are not to be feared, but respected. They do not consider humans prey, nor do they wish to harm us. In fact, they don't even want to come in contact with us. Perhaps someone may ask, "Well if Bigfoot is real, why haven't we uncovered any bones?" Sasquatch are just like humans in the sense that they bury their members, because they don't want scavengers to chew up the bones, and they definitely don't want us knowing about them. Although, labs have received strands of hair which they believe to belong to Sasquatch. The lab results matched the strands to no known animal species, but possessed a high percentage of similarity to apes. Given enough time, I'm sure a scientific breakthrough will uncover the secret of the elusive biped in the woods.



The famous Patterson film taken in California depicts a female sasquatch.

The I.T. mystery:

Year two and new faces

by Jacob Wichert, BP Staff Editor

The 2018-19 school year is in full-swing, bringing about a slew of new students, courses, and opportunities. As a rule of nature, however, no good can exist without the bad, and thus new dangers have already made their presence known to those with a keen eye and sharp survival instincts. Fear not, as the BPPD has reunited and remobilized to ensure the safety of Berkshire's students.

You may remember the BPPD for its thorough investigation last year on Torrey, the mysterious IT guy who used to lurk around the halls of Berkshire, disappearing at will, pulling strings unbeknownst to the general public. Though this case was closed from further investigation during the previous school year, recent developments in regards to this case have caused some unrest among those paying attention, and thus I have been assigned to take a closer look at the situation.

Chief investigator Meghan Hull has recently briefed me on new developments within the IT department, which has undergone significant changes since last year. Following Torrey's recent and unexplained disappearance, along with the rest of the previous IT department, new mysterious men have begun to occupy the fabled glass office, working quietly on God knows what.

What raises red flags within the BPPD isn't these people's mere presence at Berkshire, but rather their behavior. They come and go quietly, and speak little. In fact, I personally, have only seen them speak in response to being addressed, which makes me wonder what reasons they may have to act so covertly.

As the sole investigator of this case, I am hindered by my inability to be in multiple. places at once. Fortunately, the BPPD are not the only ones who have taken notice to the new IT department and their abnormal behaviors, as whisperings of a grand conspiracy centered around these mysterious figures have begun to pop up throughout the halls of Berkshire.

To get to the bottom of this mystery, I'll need to play the field, and gather as much information as possible through the knowledge of the public.

This document will be edited with any further developments that may occur during the investigation.

9/10/2018-9/14/2018

I began my investigation as simply as a could, as often the simplest methods yield the most useful information. Unfortunately, this was not so in the case of the new IT department, as I would soon come to find out. For hours at a time I would sit in the library, awaiting the arrival of the persons of interest. To my dismay, they never appeared.

I continued practicing this method for several days, before concluding today that, so long as one is searching for the IT department, they will not appear. For the time being, I will list this seemingly omnipotent awareness as a universal characteristic of all IT guys, as this parallels my previous investigation on Torrey almost exactly. I will further investigate this hypothesis as the case unfolds.

9/15/2018

I shifted the direction of the investigation towards eyewitness accounts, as previously planned, due to the sudden absence of the IT department. It would appear that I was correct originally, in assuming that the students of Berkshire would serve as the most fruitful source of information in the case of this investigation. I took to the streets, filtering out chatter about homecoming plans, and upcoming tests. I was here for one thing, and I would not be deterred from the investigation.

Finally, with the help of a patient mind and many years of criminological experience, I caught wind of what i was looking for. It was at this point that I met junior Caleb Klem, who upon being asked, was more than willing to share what he knew about the IT department. "They just kind of appear out of nowhere," he explained, checking over his shoulder as though expecting a sudden ambush to occur at any moment. "They don't say a single word to each other, or anybody else. They just go into the library and don't come out."

This statement shook me to my core. Clearly, this is definitive proof of teleportation capabilities within the IT department. Furthermore, it is an ability possesed not just by one individual, but most likely every single one of them, evidenced by the daily disappearance of not just one IT member, but multiple.



One of the new "I.T. guys" focuses on his "duties".

More questions arise with this discovery. If teleportation, alongside any other potential superhuman abilities are innate within members of the IT department, could this justify classifying these people as a different species entirely? Klem speculates that the IT department is composed not of any biological lifeforms at all, but rather robots, which would make sense when linking Torrey's disappearance to this case.

Perhaps the new IT department was simply sent as as a replacement for Torrey as a new generation of highly intelligent androids. Still, if this is the case, somebody at Berkshire is allowing these synthetic imitations of human life to exist within the walls of Berkshire. This would certainly indicate sinister intentions, as the students have not been informed of this truth, but rather hidden from it. I will further investigate these topics as this case unfolds, and will compose an updated case summary alongside any new developments. One thing is for certain: this case is far from over, and I solemnly swear that I will see it through to the end. For now, this is Lt. Jacob Wichert of the BPPD, signing off. Stay safe out there, folks.

I GRADUATED, YET HERE I AM, STILL WRITING ARTICLES FOR THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

by the soul of who once was Sam Martinjako

To those of you who actually read my final article last year (thanks to all two of you), you may recall that I stated that seniors physically drop dead once they graduate and find it strange that my writing is still somehow appearing in this newspaper. Well, for you, I have answers, but first I must give some background. The month is about to be October, and we all know what that means! It's now an overrated season when people pretend to like the occult a lot more than they actually do, when pumpkin becomes the "it" flavor for pies and coffee for no real reason other than the fact that you're already surrounded by the things anyway, and when nature decides we didn't appreciate summer enough, punishing us by attempting to freeze us to death and bury our remains in leaves.

The spookiest part of this season is not the horror movies in theatres, the Halloween decorations in homes and stores, nor is it the same vine of some skeleton dancing that you've reposted for now the fifth year in a row. The true spookiest part is how overrated it all is. God could only know how many times I've seen tweets saying "spooky szn" with something related either vaguely or entirely to Halloween. And to think, it's only September as I'm writing this. How basic can we get where we don't have anything interesting to say so we just skip ahead an entire month? I'll take it one step further and bet that literally every person who has posted "spooky szn" in this good month of September will complain incessantly the moment they hear a Christmas song at the end of November. Hypocrisy ends today ladies and gentlemen, either they both start a month early or neither of them do. Also, The Nightmare Before Christmas, while arguably can be watched for both holidays, is more of a Halloween movie and I will debate anyone on this (c'mon guys, it literally starts with the song This is Halloween).

But where was I going with this? Ah, I remember! How I was able to come back from my inevitable death. Well, if you look at my byline, you can see that I'm actually only a spirit, and unlike certain music and YouTube personalities (you know the ones), I'm not afraid to say I have a ghostwriter, mostly because that ghostwriter is me. I was summoned here by a witch of enviable power by harnessing the strong wave of "spooky" energy resounding from every person with an iPhone in the country. Well, I say witch, but it was actually a certain Hannah Keough combining that power along with the strength of the wizard hat she took from Mrs. Koler's room and what is no doubt some sort of lizard magic. All of this was necessary because I was very committed to being dead, at the very least for the journalistic integrity of doing so, but here I am anyway.

However, as long as we're being honest, which I always am, I must admit that I was slightly wrong about my death. I not only managed to make it through graduation mostly unscathed, but I even somehow was able to step foot on a college campus as well. This, by all means, should have been impossible, but I think that all of my time spent hunting lizard people must have caused some of their magic to rub off and save me, an unintentional side-effect to be sure. Yet, this wouldn't last long. Despite surviving through the moody weather of the summer into back-to-school season, I only lasted a few weeks before biting the dust anyway. It was a cruel twist of fate. I thought that, surely, once I left Berkshire, I could finally free myself of lizards, but life didn't work out that way. Hopelessly optimistic, I went to a meeting for one of the diversity clubs on campus called the Association of International Students (AIS). Upon arrival, I was greeted by people of all different ethnic backgrounds, as one would expect from a club that is literally dedicated to that kind of thing. What I wasn't expecting, however, was for one of the people speaking at the meeting to be wearing a shirt that, I kid you not, literally read "lizard mom." Needless to say, some problems arose because of that, then one thing led to another, and now I'm dead.

"...I think that all of my time spent hunting lizard people must have caused some of their magic to rub off and save me, an unintentional side-effect to be sure."

Being a soul now condemned to walk this earth for eternity (thanks a lot Hannah), I can "happily" report that my book, A Field Guide to Lizardism: How to Detect, Defame, and Destroy Lizard People, will be coming out in 2019 still, just a little later in the year as I apparently need to add another chapter. I will also continue to look into the sunflower issue that I mentioned last year, along with maybe starting new projects considering I only have forever to complete them. To all of my loyal fans who continue to follow me even after my untimely demise, as I know I have so many, thank you for your continued support. I'll be opening up a Patreon so you can prove your loyalty soon enough. To those of you who got really bored in study hall or something and just read this because you had nothing better to do, I will also direct you to my Patreon because I'm not picky about who gives me money.

WHERE WE DROPPING, BOYS?

by Ben Pelletier, BP Staff Writer



This map shows all possible drop locations for players. They change some of the locations every season and they put a new place.

Where we dropping boys? One of the most asked questions by children across the world, when playing the popular online video game Fortnite. For those of you who somehow don't know what Fortnite is, it is free to play battle royale game where the last man or woman standing is crowned with a Victory Royale. Over this past year though, the map has changed significantly by adding new drop locations and deleting old locations. Having played through each of these map changes since day one, I have achieved 203 wins and that number is still climbing.

In order to help new and current players, I have my list of the top 10 best places to land in Fortnite. Kicking off this list:

10. **Lonely Lodge-** It has never been a bad place to land, as it has good chest spawn rate of six to eight chests spawning in this location. Although this place is great to land, its one downside is the hike to the circle. Berkshire student Ethan Bennington supports, "I love to drop Lonely Lodge a lot. It has a good amount of chests and it's a great place to go in order to get wins."

9. **Shifty Shafts-** Shifty has had a good amount of floor and chest loot. In total there are 12 chest spawns, however usually only seven or eight chests will spawn. This landing spot also allows for good rotation into Titled Towers.

8. **Lucky Landing-** Lucky, at first glance, doesn't seem like a good place to land. However, Lucky has a decent amount of loot and if you're looking to go for wins, this is one of the best places to drop.

7. **Fatal Fields-** Fatal fields is a great place to land, as it has a total of 16 chests. This landing spot allows for good rotations into other places like Salty Springs.

6. **Salty Springs-** Salty is a very popular drop location for its placement in the dead center of the map. With 13 possible chest spawns and the ability to rotate to multiple locations, it is as versatile as it is plentiful, making it a hot place to drop.

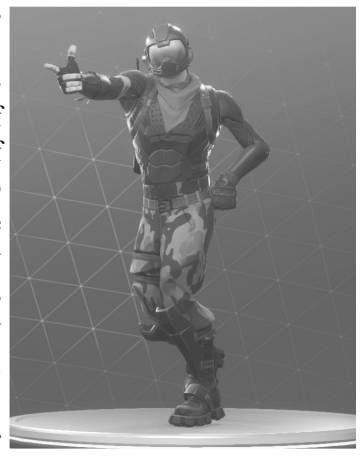
5. **Paradise Palms-** Paradise is one of the newest additions to the Fortnite map with its introduction at the start of season five. There are a large number of chest spawns here, at the expense of it being a little farther out than other locations. There are easily accessible all-terrain karts and rifts that can help you travel to the circle, however, making it an awesome place to drop.

4. **Tilted Towers-** This is arguably the best place to land for some due to the insane amount of 40 possible chests that can spawn here. However, many people drop here simply to get high elimination games. For veterans of the game, this an easy way to improve their skills. For newer players it's probably best to avoid this landing spot until you feel comfortable with the game.

3.**Pleasant Park-** This spot is awesome for loot, as there are a total of 17 possible chest spawns. With the addition of rifts, Pleasant Park allows for easy rotation into Loot Lake, Lazy Links, or Tilted Towers. Rifts give players the opportunity to swiftly glide and eliminate any teams nearby.

2. **Retail Row-** Retail has a great variety of loot, containing a total of 15 chest spawns. Due to being in the center of the map, it allows for easy access to other locations in the map such as Salty Springs, Dusty Divot, and Tomato Temple.

1. **Greasy Grove-** Last but not least is an original spot from season one, Greasy Grove. Greasy Grove has 15 possible chest spawn locations. It's great to land here because it allows you to rotate into other locations like Tilted Towers or Shifty Shafts. Not many people choose to land at this location, so it's often easy to make it out alive with some good loot. Greasy Grove in my opinion is the best place to drop, but you'll have to decide that for yourself.



Pictured above is an image of one of the emote dances in the game.

Honorable Mentions:

On the honorable mentions list, are locations that didn't quite make the list but are still worth dropping to. Wailing Woods is a good place to land for new players looking to avoid enemies. However, it's lack of chests makes it difficult to walk out of **Wailing Woods** with good loot. Former player Diego Peters says, "In my opinion, my favorite place to drop is Wailing Woods. I like landing there because nobody usually goes there and there was a good amount of chests for me to get started." **Risky Reels** and **Haunted Hills** are on this list as well, for their lack of chests. However, for new players these drop locations are great way for them to learn without being attacked by so many players.

Homecoming Senior Court continued from front



Sydney Toth
Even though it caught her off guard, Toth thought that it was "kind of cool" to be nominated for court. When asked who was her teacher best friend, Toth immediately said Mrs. Rykes, who is one of the math teachers at Berkshire. She is excited to move on and into the college life, but she will definitely miss all of the crazy football games and all of the sports, which have made her favorite high school memories. Toth has nothing to confess. When she went to Ledgemont, she was involved in many sports: basketball and softball she had been playing for four years, and volleyball she had played for three. "When I came to Berkshire I stopped playing," Toth says, "It just wasn't the same. I miss it." Toth cannot wait to graduate and hopefully move somewhere on the Florida coast, where it is always sunny (sorry Ohio). She does not know exactly what career she would like to pursue, but she does want it to be in the business field. Toth's last words were wise words for the rest of the students in school: "Just don't rush highschool because it goes by… really fast!"

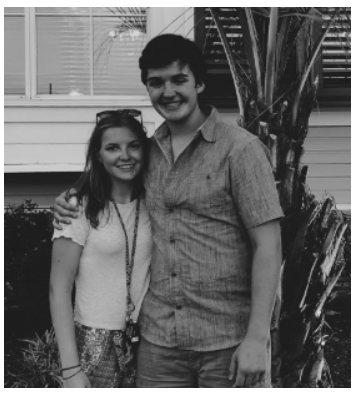


Bobby Czekaj
Czekaj is glad that the people in his class still like him enough to elect him as their potential king. His teacher best friend throughout his high school years, would definitely have to be Mrs. Guthrie; Katelyn Zeliznak calls them "two peas in a pod." He has gotten close with a lot of his classmates, so saying goodbye will be hard. Of course, he can't forget about all the sports events, which are filled with many wild memories. His favorite memory, though, dates back to freshmen year, when he and his baseball team made it to regionals. At the age of five, Czekaj was fascinated by animals and wanted to be a zookeeper. Now, No offense to Ms. Mele, the computer teacher, but Czekaj's confession is that as much as he said that he liked digital photography, he really didn't. Czekaj hoops on the court and plays baseball and has been playing for his whole life. Czekaj wants to play baseball for Baldwin Wallace University. His last words: "'I'm a big quote guy'" (Mr. List/Czekaj).



Hailey Gifford
Gifford is honored to be a member of this year's homecoming court. Her favorite teacher would have to be Mr. Higgs who teaches government and economics. Graduating high school is tremendously nerve wrecking for her. "It's scary. You don't really know what's going to happen. When you're in high school… You know what you're doing, you're taking your classes. It's super easy, all the same faces and people, but college is...big and scary.W" Gifford is going to miss all of the activities at Berkshire. She is involved with student council (one year), softball and marching band (four years), and cheerleading (three years). Gifford's favorite high school memory would have to be from this year: Ms. Green walked up to her and Katrina Ostrander and asked to do the splits with them - they were successful. At the age of five, Gifford wanted to be a marine biologist. She was fascinated by all of the beautiful fish and sharks that are in the ocean. She has visited many colleges so far, but as of right now, OU is her favorite. Gifford's last words are "Go Badgers!"

Junior Attendants



Megan Sherrill
Sherrill is very excited and feels very honored to be on court this year. She prefers to be the red skittle because it tastes the best for her. Sherrill wants to attend Ohio State University, Ohio University, or any college in Ohio. After a tough debate, her favorite Disney movie would have to be *The Little Mermaid*. Sherrill does not do any extracurricular activities at Berkshire, but if she won the lottery, she would first buy a mansion.

Dominic Rickard
Rickard "feels that it's pretty cool" to be voted on the homecoming court. He would want to be the purple skittle if he could. Rickard has not been looking at any colleges yet and he doesn't plan on ever doing so because he plans to just get a job out of high school from Auburn. His favorite Disney movie is *Tangled*. Rickard plays baseball for the Badgers. He also is a part of C.A.R.E team, which he just joined this year. If he won the lottery, he would buy a cool truck for himself. Forget the sports cars, he knows what he wants.

Sophomore Attendants



Alyssa Wolfe
Wolfe was very surprised to be on court for her first year. She would want to be the green skittle if she could because green is her favorite color. Her pet peeve is when people are walking too slow in the hallways and when people crack their knuckles, even though she cracks her knuckles too. Wolfe began running track freshmen year, and she has been playing soccer for her whole life. The most recent picture on her phone is a picture of her and her friends, Clara Agawa and Julia Landrus, while they were at the football game against Fairport. Wolfe likes to spend her Saturday nights relaxing and watching Netflix.

Chase Crea
Crea, like Wolfe, was pretty surprised that his classmates voted for him to be on the court "since nobody likes (me)." His pet peeve is when people have a ton of apps opened on their phone and he can just see them, being unused. He would want to be an orange skittle because that is "a pretty cool color." Crea has been playing golf since freshman year and has been playing basketball "since (he) has been holding a ball, (he) is practically Lebron James." His most recent picture on his phone is from two years ago, the Washington D.C trip. Because he "has no friends," he does nothing on Saturday nights.

Freshmen Attendants



Georgia Lillibridge
When Lillibridge found out that she had been voted by her classmates to be on court she said, "Oh it's fine. It's good. It's fine." She does not know what she is most looking forward to in highschool and she does not have a favorite Fortnite dance. If she could be in a bag of skittles, Lillibridge would want to be a purple skittle. If she could change the world she would because "there is a lot of bad in the world, I guess."

Lucas Stoddard
Stoddard feels honored and happy that his classmates notice him a little more than others to be on court. He is looking forward to graduating high school and "being able to have independence." His favorite Fortnite dance would have to be the Flippin Incredible, where the avatar does a backflip and ends on cool pose. If he were a skittle, he would "be the one skittle at the bottom of the bag that doesn't even have a color." He would change parts of the world because some parts "are the way that they are," but the third world countries he feels need to be changed.

Homecoming 2018

Homecoming 2018: A Rendezvous in Vieux Carré
October 6, 2018

7:30-11:00 pm
Grades 9-12
Refreshments available
Tickets $25 on sale through October 3rd / Non-Berkshire student waivers available in the office

New school continued from page 2

by Hannah Espinosa, BP Staff Writer

Are there other schools going to be joining with us? Is the rumor of Newbury combining with us going to follow through?

"I don't know. Newbury is taking a look at the financials of Berkshire and the financials of West Geauga and themselves to try and charter a course for the future. It is possible that they may end up being a part of Berkshire. If all of that falls into place, awesome, Newbury has a lot of good folks. If it doesn't happen, we're pretty cool on our own! To me, it's a win - win either way." (King).

Are there going to be new teachers (if need be or just because) ?

"There may be. We are keeping an eye on that. We're going to watch, and as we get closer to move in, if we need more staff, we will absolutely look at adding. But we pledged to the staff, that should the bond issue pass, that no one was going to get riffed, no one was going to get relieved of their job." (King).

How many floors will there be?

"Two." (King).

Will there be new class subjects?

" I would really like to offer amazing classes that the kids are beating down the door to get in, so they'd have no room for a study hall. I would think it's a possibility, especially bringing the staff together if we're a little heavy on staff, we might be able to come up with some nifty new ideas.[I know that] students would like to have the ability to choose." (King).

How will the students who walk, be able to get to school safely since it'll be on the main road ?

" The students who are currently walking because they are in the Village will actually ride the buses when we go to the school. There should not be anyone who is walking." (Stoddard).

Are the sizes for the lockers going to stay the same size or will they change?

"We have not yet decided on the locker sizes yet. That will be part of the planning process. They will not be any smaller than they currently are." (Stoddard).

How will the middle schoolers get to the high school classes if they are in separate buildings?

"We're going to do everything that we can to make sure that only teachers move. Safety and security is number one." (King).

Are there any new sports that we're going to have?

" We can definitely discuss, I will never say no...Normally... how that process starts is that someone would come to me and say, 'Hey, we are interested in starting a sport,' and then I would kind of lay out the guidelines, 'Okay this is what we need to do in order to have that.' It usually starts with a petition, make sure we get a bunch of names on it." (Hiscox).

Are the band people going to get new instruments and a more variety of instruments to play?

"If there is ever a need, we would try to figure out what we could do to help out… We're open." (King).

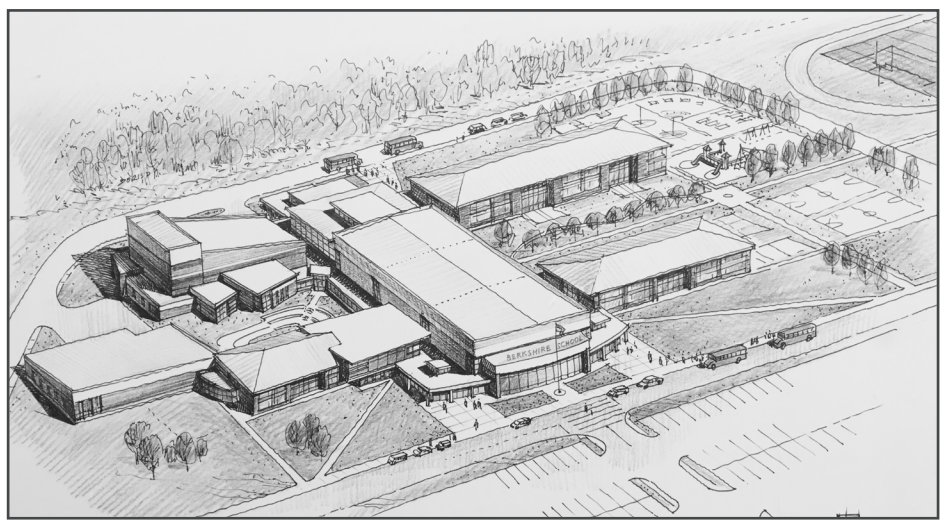
Will we have smoke detectors in the bathrooms?

Gives me a suspicious look "Maybe, just maybe." (King).

Aside from the information that Mr. King has told me, an anonymous resource has confirmed that with the new school, it will have three wings: elementary, middle school, and high school. With the three wings, there will also be three different principals and secretaries for each wing. Mr. King will stay as the high school principal, Mrs. Rineheart (Ms. Timmons) for the middle school, and Mrs. Randles for the elementary. Another piece of information that the source has told me, is that all teachers will be getting smart board technolgy in their classrooms, boards that the teachers will be able to write on, so for all of those teachers who have been hoping to get these, your wish may come true!

If anyone has any more questions about the new school, you can go ask Mr. King. He loves it when students reach out to him. If not, you can find out a date of when a board meeting will take place and listen to what they have to say. This will be your new school and your future. Don't be afraid to speak about it!





Pictured above are potential layout plans for the new, combined K-12 school.

Your (procrastinated) weather report

by Nick Misconin, BP Staff Writer

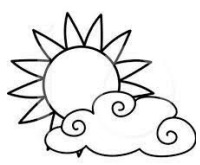
The climate is ever changing, similar to how the popular opinion on Fortnite is changing every other day. If you peered out into the outside world during the summer, it's either sunny (if ever), cloudy, rainy, or a mix of the three. Regardless, the weather is either a blessing or a curse in our beloved Northeastern Ohio. As of late, I can assure you that the weather has been less than predictable.

The first week of schools was nothing short of barbarous. A few days of temperatures soaring up and into the low 90s has brought great displeasure upon the region we call home. This heat wave combined with some thunderstorms scattered about made life dreadful. Then just a few short days later, it felt like we've bumped into another universe accidentally. All of a sudden, it's 50 degrees Fahrenheit outside with lots of rain. Luckily, I (and most others) prefer this depressing weather to the alternative, where the temperature is still akin to that of the grill-top of a George Foreman (not sponsored, but wouldn't decline the opportunity) Grill.

This presence of precipitation may have been caused by, at least what the media is calling it, Hurricane Gordon. It's a real shame that Gordon has received some flack for his actions. Perhaps it was an accident that he caused this. Nowadays I think we're too quick to judge hurricanes. The media makes them seem like terrible people, but it's not the hurricanes fault that damage is being done. They can't help it, they're "hurricanes." Poor Gordon probably just wanted a friend which I can't blame him for being a lonely, Category 2 swirling vortex of destruction that brings violent winds,downpours of epic proportions. Hurricane Florence on the other hand...

Author's note: After doing some rather brief research, I've discovered that Hurricane Florence is shaping up to bring upon more unpleasant weather to the state of Ohio, and the U.S. as a whole. However, as of this article being written it has been bumped up to a Category 2 Hurricane. Gordon originated from the Gulf of Mexico, while Florence is coming directly for the Carolinas from the Atlantic Ocean. With this information, I expect more rain by the end of the week (September 15-16), something you'll be able to affirm or deny by the time you've read this article. The East Coast will probably be (or already would have been) soaked more than my carpet after I keep spilling water and other beverages on it. Seriously, that's pretty much a natural disaster itself at this point. Anyways, this is Nick Misconin, with your not-so-up-to-date weather report that will be completely irrelevant by the time you read it, signing out for the day.

Last Month's Weather



Sunny but also rainy.
Cooler but still quite hot.

High: 98
Low: 52

Lost & Found

by Gennah Brown, BP Staff Writer

The only things to be found here are those that have been lost. This month's list includes:

1. Most of our hardworking teachers and students are in a desperate search for a cool breeze during their long, stand-still days. With only a lucky few having the precious gem of the fathomed AC, most are left hot and sweaty. If anyone has any information on where to obtain the crisp cool air, please let as many people know as soon as possible.

2. Junior Grace Lillibridge says, "I lost my marbles back in February," but please do not fret because she is not concerned about her loss.

3. Three of our beloved sophomores, Lexi Byler, Courtney Czekaj, and Katelyn Kenny are lost in their journey through high school and are in search of their sanity.

4. Morgan Scott claims to have lost her beloved straight A's. Her friend Lianna believes it to be due to the cursed class of Chemistry.

In a nutshell, the students here at Berkshire Jr./Sr. High are already falling apart and school has only just begun. If anyone has any information on lost items that have been found or newly lost, please come see me, Gennah Brown.

The Flaw

by Sophomore Dani Zilka

“Hmm. You claim you need fixing, but I don’t see a thing wrong,” the toy-maker spoke. “Say, why do you want to be repaired so badly anyway?”

“Because I wanna be the best toy for my child,” the toy chirped with a hopeful eye.

“And what says you aren’t?”

“I’m broken,” the toy muttered defeatedly, “I’ve only one eye, my body is limp due to loss of stuffing, and I’m covered in stains, I’m afraid my child will discard such an old and worn out toy,” the teddy bear sulked.

For a moment, the old toy man sat back in this chair with crossed arms, lost in thought, before leaning forward once more. “You see these as flaws?”

“I do, sir.”

“Does your boy see it this way, too?”

“Well, I’m not sure, but Christmas is coming along soon with brand new toys.”

“Well, you know what I think?”

“That you’ll fix me?” the toy responded with optimism.

“No. For your flaws are what your child adores.”

“W-what do you mean?” the toy questioned puzzledingly.

“I have seen the bond between you and your boy. And you know what I see? I see a boy who is fascinated with pirates, and that missing eye makes the perfect place for an eye-patch. I see a boy that brings his favorite stuffed animal to comfort him, and your stuffing - or lack thereof - allows you to be brought everywhere. And I see a boy who remembers where each stain on your fuzzy body came from, and he cherishes each memory that comes with them. Don’t you see? Without your ‘flaws,’ you’re not his bear.”

The toy bear looked to the man with one dazzling eye, “Y-you mean all that?” the bear asked in disbelief.

The man smiled, “Every wbut I don’t see a thing wrong,” the toy-maker spoke. “Say, why do you want to be repaired so badly anyway?”

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The toy bear looked to the man with one dazzling eye, “Y-you mean all that?” the bear asked in disbelief.

The man smiled, “Every word.”

The Iron Gate

by Senior Haley Szabo

The building was ancient. Green, fuzzy moss grew out from the many cracks that lined the brick walls. The door was caved in and molded as splinters of wood stuck out from the porch. The window’s glass was cracked and broken; large chunks were missing from it. The once marble window sills were now reduced to rubble lying atop the muddy ground. The garden was now just old flaky mud, incapable of bearing plant life. The blue paint was chipped off and peeling from every crevice on the siding of the old house. The stone path that had once led up to the porch was now unnoticable under the many fallen branches and overgrown grass. The miniature garden gnome figurines now cracked and eroded, their once cheery faces now a disfigured mess. The only thing that kept me mounted in place, no matter how badly I longed to enter, was the gate. A large rusty iron fence, complete with sharp spikes at the top and a keyhole missing it’s key.

Everyday, I made the long journey through these very woods to gaze out of wonder and curiosity at the old mansion. The path now, an ingrained memory in my brain. I needed not to think as I traveled to the house. I listened to the soft melody of the blue jays and the cardinals as I took a large intake of breath, taking in the sweet smells of honey and daffodils that always seemed to accompany this house. I closed my eyes and pictured the massive house repaired to its former self before it was neglected and forgotten. My fingers itched to climb atop the fence and open that door to the old house to venture inside. But I knew the spikes would surely impale me or worse. The danger of this idea scared the daylights out of me. Except my adventurous self continues to beckon me back. Maybe one day I would choose to face my fears and enter. Maybe I would find the long lost key that would open up the gates to my mounting curiosity. Or maybe I could find an easier way in. I knew that today would not be that day though, so I allowed my fear to win again, and I began to retrace my steps back through the woods, until the day my curiosity would win me over.



Write about the sun as though you love it. Then write about it as though you hate it.

by Freshman Kelsey Adams

I used to love that star. The big one we used to draw in Dandelion Yellow in the corner of our pages. The one we rely on for all that juicy vitamin D our skin craves. The one we call the sun. I would bask in it, letting it hit my pasty face full-force. That was until it burned me. The day I got home from the beach - the sun’s favorite place - and had to peel off my swim gear in unbearable pain was the day I turned on the sun. My face is red and freckled along with my shoulders. Skin peels like dried glue and mom’s poor aloe vera plant is halfway in the grave. That overrated ball of gas is my new enemy, and SPF 70 is my new best friend.

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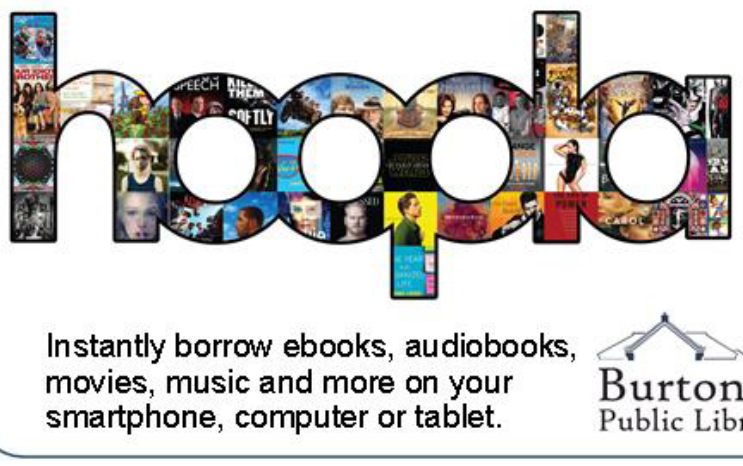
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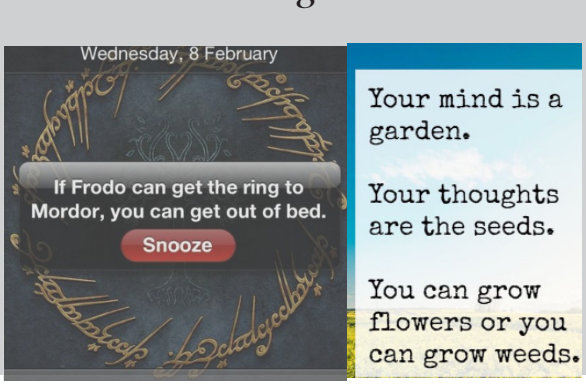
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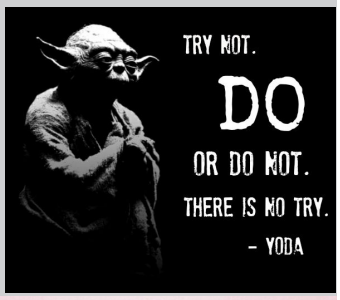
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YOU CANNOT MAKE EVERYBODY HAPPY.
YOU'RE NOT A NUTELLA JAR.



Comic By Junior Lizzie Dingman



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