

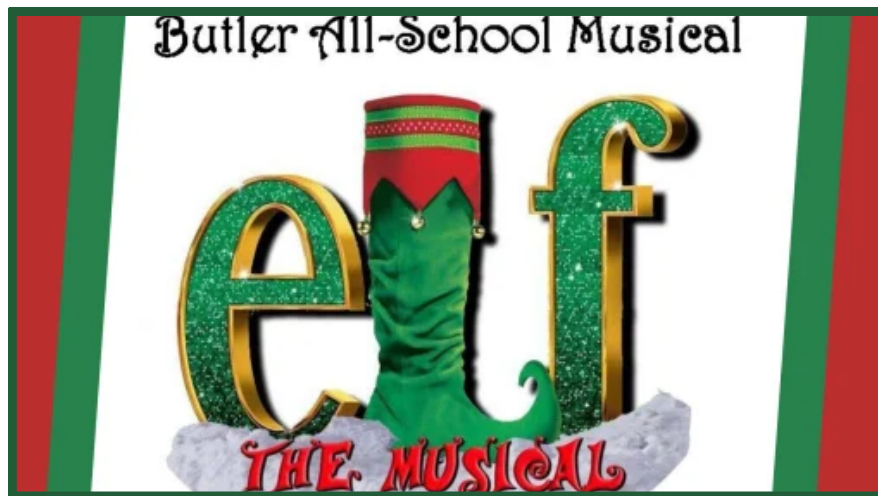
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WINTER 2024

# THE TORNADO CONNECTION

KEEPING THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN

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## All-School Musical Takes the Stage March 15

BY KENDRA HETHERINGTON

On Friday, March 15 and Saturday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. the all-school musical, Elf, will be performed for audiences in the Senior High auditorium. Tickets will be on pre-sale starting March 4 at May's Music Shoppe for \$12. The tickets will also be available at the doors on performance nights for \$12.

In the classic Christmas tale of Elf, an orphaned baby by the name of Buddy accidentally crawls into Santa's sack and is raised in the North Pole by elves. Later in life, he realizes he is not like the other elves. He embarks on an adventure to New York to reunite with his father but quickly realizes his father is not who he imagined him to be.

The director, Mr. Van Laningham, has managed all aspects of the show alongside Mrs. Erevia who has taken care of all musical aspects of Elf. They are assisted by stage manager, Ethan Richards. According to Mr. Van Laningham, "I try to select fun, appropriate shows that fit our strengths." Elf was chosen as it fit the criteria.

Genevieve Maximilien Garrido plays the role of Michael Hobbs, Buddy's younger brother. They explain, "We rehearse Mondays-Fridays from 3-6 p.m. Although, some people aren't called to specific rehearsals." Vee spends at least an hour and a half daily rehearsing. When they found out they got the role, they were ecstatic. "I wanted the opportunity to hangout with new people and get to sing and dance," they commented. Although the dances have been the most challenging part for them to learn as they have a hard time getting the choreography down, this has helped them grow their dancing skills. Vee added, "Being a part of the musical has helped me to take criticism and has taught me how to be directed." Vee is ecstatic to be able to be a part of the musical with the many amazing actors and staff.

CONT. PG. 2

Addison Dumbaugh, a member of the ensemble, explained, "I was so excited when I heard that my friends and I were a part of the musical, and I couldn't wait to start!" She finds it challenging to find time for other activities during the musical because of the rehearsal hours. She added, "It's very tiring, but worth it when we all get to put on an amazing show." She was very excited to be a part of the musical as she loves being a part of a group, and being a part of the musical has helped her build her confidence. "The musical can also be very stressful, but it is worth it for the amazing performances everyone puts on," Addison commented.

Katelyn Hankey, a member of the ensemble, explained, "I felt VERY excited! I had been a part of the musical for the high school previously, and I had so much fun, so I was super excited to be a part of their show again." She only spends certain days rehearsing as she is a part of the ensemble, but the week before the show she rehearses until 11 p.m. She loves being a part of the musical as it gives her a chance to hang out with her friends. She has had to work hard on choreography as she is better at singing than dancing. "I have also worked really hard at projecting my voice because I have to be able to sing loudly," she added.

The cast includes: Zach Marra as Buddy, Delaney Ray as Jovie, Amara DiCerbo as Emily, Genevieve Maximilien Garrido as Michael, Patryk Lyon as Walter, Katie White as Deb, Walter Gouza as Manager and Santa, Chloe Feil as Greenway and Tiara, Jacob Szul as Charlie, Gabbi Catalfano as Police 1, Liza Wick as Police 2, Bradley White as Fake Santa, Sam, and Chadwick, and Konner Burek as Matthews.

The Ensemble includes: Salem Bellaji, Marianna Benkart, Kalin Burek, Konner Burek, Gabbi Catalfano, Paige Cihonski, Isabelle Colonna, Abby Cuffman, Piper Curry, Addison Dumbaugh, Chloe Feil, Lilly Gallagher, Ava Gerber, Wally Gouza, Aliza Green, Luvenia Griffin, Katelyn Hankey, Maranda Horstman, Arianna Kaltenbach, Cora Kowal, Ashlyn Lyon, Raeleigh Niemeyer, Lyric Pappas, Katherine Reed, Chloe Schoentag, Cassandra Sklencar, Olivia Slater, Jacob Szul, Mara Szurek, Johnny Ward, Rachel Wayne, Bradley White, and Liza Wick.

The pit orchestra features: Grace Seybert, Kelsey Neff, Jonah Mechling, Kelsey Kennedy, Ella Marra, Carly Devore, Savannah Flores, Ali Smith, Nolan Beck, and James Thomas. The dancers include: Olivia Cornish, Gianna Duska, Noel Ernst, Sienna Perhacs, Ava Schultz, Mylee Toner, and Annabelle Witt.

Come see *Elf* on March 15 and 16 and support the amazing work of the actors and staff!



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# FAB Showcase Slated for April

BY LUCAS BALDAUF AND JUDAH TREPANIER

The Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation will host the annual FAB Showcase on April 6 at the Intermediate High School from 4:30-8 p.m. The event will feature the many talented students in Butler and is sure to be lots of fun.

The foundation has been enthusiastically providing support in our district and community for the last 25 years. According to Dr. Carrie Morgan-Davis, a board member of the Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, "The foundation's goal is not only to better the life of students who attend Butler, but also to strengthen the Butler community as a whole."



Averie Henzler, Grade 6

Proceeds from the event will be utilized for scholarships, grants, and other projects. On average, the Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation raises \$100,000 for scholarships. Also as Dr. Morgan stated, "We are not awarded a budget for an event like this, so staff in the various buildings donate towards the baskets, and local businesses also provide donations."

Mr. Savisky, Mrs. Grantz, and Mrs. Reich, art teachers at Butler Intermediate High School, look forward to the FAB Showcase each year. Mr. Savisky commented, "All grade levels are represented, and there are over 100 art pieces per grade." Mrs. Grantz added, "Over half the student body will be represented, which is amazing." It took a lot of organizing to set up, but they wanted this to be a great opportunity for the students to be noticed for their hard work.

All the money from the FAB Showcase goes to the Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, who in turn spreads the money throughout the community by buying needed technology, awarding scholarships to graduating seniors, funding the weekend backpack program, and so many other necessary local programs. Every year at the FAB Showcase, the fundraising goal is \$40,000. Mrs. Grantz said, "Some years the FAB Showcase can bring in as much as \$60,000!" When you visit the FAB showcase, expect to see beautiful paintings, drawings, sculptures, photography, ceramics, and more.

On the music side of things, Mrs. Black's rock orchestra, featuring students in grades 8-12, will be performing. They will play a mix of rock and pop, featuring artists like Aerosmith, Led Zeppelin, and Guns and Roses. They expect to play Sweet Child of Mine, Walk This Way, and more great songs by similar artists.

According to Dr. Morgan-Davis, "The event is a great way for students to showcase their skills in paintings and sculptures, but also in musical arts. Many people work diligently for months to make sure the FAB Showcase is as fun as possible." Mark your calendars for April 6 to show your support for the arts in Butler!



Edin Ottinger, Grade 7



Kennedy Foster, Grade 8



# Casher and Ferrari to Retire This June

BY BRAYDEN BEATTY AND LOGAN THOMAS

Mr. Darren Casher and Ms. Leslie Ferrari will retire this June after a combined 76 years in education. Both teachers have left a lasting impact on Butler Area School District and the community of Butler as a whole.

Mr. Casher has been teaching science for 33 years. He chose science because he likes the outdoors and learning about it. According to Mr. Casher, "My favorite part of teaching is watching how the kids grow up." His least favorite memory of his teaching career was teaching from home during the pandemic. He claims it is just time to retire. "I have dedicated over half of my life to teaching. I want to relax and enjoy the rest," he said. He plans on fishing, hunting, and visiting every NFL and MLB stadium. The biggest thing Mr. Casher will miss about teaching is not being able to talk to any of the students, but he will not miss the many changes in technology.

Mr. Casher worked at Brandywine High School in Delaware, where he worked with Jill Biden for two years. Then, he taught at Lewistown High School, and the rest of his career has been at Butler. Originally, he wanted to become an orthodontist and graduated college with a medical degree, but he decided to become a teacher because of how much he liked tutoring. Looking back, he said that he is most proud of his work as the yearbook advisor, which he has done for the last 28 years. Mr. Casher's advice for new teachers is: "Set expectations early, and don't let the students run the classroom." His advice for his former and current students is: "Work hard, stop and think before you speak, be nice in life, and always try your best."



Ms. Ferrari has been teaching for 43 years as a reading specialist, 13 years as an elementary teacher, and three years of subbing in different schools including the Butler County Prison, Midwestern IV Intermediate, and Mars High School teaching GED classes. She was influenced by her second grade teacher, Mrs. Carroll, to pursue education as a career. "She was kind, interesting, creative, knowledgeable, and fun," Ms. Ferrari remembered. She likes being a teacher because she has the opportunity to help students so they can enjoy reading. Like Mr. Casher, her favorite part of her job is the students, and her least favorite time in the classroom was Covid. "I missed seeing my students in person," she said.

According to Ms. Ferrari, "I was lucky enough to do what I love for my career that lasted longer than most teachers, and I am now ready to begin a new chapter in my life." With her retirement, she will spend her time substitute teaching, volunteering, traveling, and spending more time with her husband and her Pitbull, Comet. She said the biggest change from when she started teaching to now is technology.

Some things she will miss about teaching are the students, the teachers, the principals, the administrators, secretaries, nurses, school police officers, custodians, cafeteria staff, paraprofessionals, building subs, tech staff, maintenance staff, and counselors. She would advise new teachers to make personal connections with all of their students so they can help them learn even more. Some advice for her former and current students is to believe in themselves and to settle for nothing less than their very best. "I am very proud to have taught the students at the Butler Area School District," she said.



# The Gettysburg Tradition Continues

BY CHELSEA ROME

On March 15-16, about 160 seventh grade students will take part in the annual overnight field trip to Gettysburg, Harrisburg, and Hershey. The trip has been a tradition for more than 50 years!

The trip departs early Friday morning from the school, where students will go through metal detectors and receive instructions on bus behavior and overall expectations. Then, the four buses of students and chaperones will depart for Harrisburg. Subway will be provided for lunch upon arrival. Students will tour the Pennsylvania state capitol building, the Civil War museum, and make a stop at Hershey's Chocolate World before heading to Gettysburg College for dinner and free time with friends.

After spending the night at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites in Gettysburg, the travelers will eat a hearty hotel breakfast before heading out to the Gettysburg Museum and Battlefields. While in Gettysburg, a professional guide will join each bus for a tour around the battlefields. Afterwards, students will stop for lunch at Hoss's before heading home to Butler.

The trip is organized by Logan Tours Inc. and coordinated by seventh grade history teacher, Ms. Jessica Carlson. "I was interested in becoming the faculty coordinator because I went on the trip in seventh grade and loved it. I had also chaperoned for a few years before accepting my current position," she said. She keeps everything in order by taking notes and making plans. She gives the kids lanyards of different colors based on what bus they ride on. The lanyards also tell the chaperones what kids are on the trip with our school. The students are instructed to put the lanyards on when they get off the bus.

Palin Ruth, a student attending the trip, is excited about their upcoming adventure, especially the stop at Hershey's Chocolate World, but she can't wait for all of the sites. "I am even looking forward to the bus ride because I can sleep and have fun with friends," she said.

Edin Ottinger is looking forward to visiting the state capitol building in Harrisburg, and she cannot wait to spend the night in a hotel with her friends. "I think the whole trip is going to be so fun," Edin said.

The trip costs \$390 per student, and this includes transportation, admission to all attractions, lodging, entertainment, and meals. It is recommended that each seventh grader bring along some money for souvenir purchases. Some scholarships were available for those who struggled to cover the full amount, and a Daffins candy fundraiser was also available. As far as packing, students were provided with a list of items that they may want to bring, including clothing suggestions and snacks etc.

Roommates were requested in February, and most rooms have four students. At night once the students are safely in their rooms, chaperones check on students and provide them with safety instructions before taping them in for the evening. A security guard then monitors the hallways for the entire night, keeping the students extra safe and secure.

All school rules apply on the trip with the exception of electronics. Students are encouraged to have their phones and take photos to remember the trip. Students have to remember, however, that when the tour guide is talking and asks for the phones to be put away, then it is required that students do so. If a student does become ill on the trip, there will be a nurse going on the trip too. Miss Carlson said, "We just want students to have fun."



# New Faces Join BIHS Faculty

BY LILLIAN DELLER AND BROOKLYN MILLS

New teachers, Mrs. Katie Kieser, Ms. Megan Tinklepaugh, and Mrs. Sarah Watson, joined the Intermediate High School faculty at the start of the school year. All three have a strong passion for what they do and have been great additions to the staff.

Mrs. Kieser is an emotional support teacher who highly values the relationships she builds with her students. She loves being able to teach all subjects and continues to learn how to help her students control their emotions. Mrs. Kieser wanted to be a teacher in first grade and loves interacting with her students each day. "Teaching middle school is a bit different than what I am used to; they are trying to learn and are maturing," she said. Mrs. Kieser would describe herself as hardworking, big-hearted, and a great friend. Mrs. Kieser has high expectations and takes into consideration what other students are going through. According to Mrs. Kieser, her strengths in the classroom are being able to relate to the students and understanding their perspectives. She loves to play games and adds jokes in the middle of tests to keep her students motivated and calm.



Outside of the classroom, she enjoys hobbies like demolition derbies and drawing, and she has two kids at home that she loves to be around. As if all of those things don't keep her busy enough, she is also a volunteer firefighter in her free time. In the future, she hopes to become a better teacher and a better person and to make her lessons more fun and engaging. Her dream vacation would be to Santorini, Greece. She has had dogs and a cat but would love to own a horse or a cow.

Ms. Tinklepaugh is a new guidance counselor at the BIHS. She worked in a multitude of school districts prior to Butler. First, she served as the school board and superintendent secretary for Jeannette City School District and then worked as a long-term substitute guidance counselor at North Allegheny before being hired as a guidance counselor here full-time. Her original choice of a career path was to be a probation officer and then she started working with kids and knew that she wanted to spend the rest of her career being a positive role model for students.

Ms. Tinklepaugh's first day was terrifying to her, but was one of the best experiences. "Everyone has been very welcoming," she said. Prior to coming to the IHS, she worked in an elementary building with younger students. "I try to have a more laid back counseling style to make sure students feel comfortable, while supporting them through whatever they are experiencing in that moment," she said.

On her own time, she enjoys anything to do with the outdoors and has two young daughters. Her dream vacation would be a trip to Ireland. Her advice to students is: "Don't let anything hold you back from what you want in life."

Mrs. Watson works with all grade levels as a reading specialist and has a lot of fun doing it. She would describe herself as "passionate about reading and eager to share that love with her students." Watson first started off at the educational television station, PBS, but soon realized she wanted to pursue a career in education.



Her first day in Butler was a learning experience, getting acquainted with the building, staff, and students all at the same time. "I love working with sixth and seventh graders, and I try my best to have a healthy environment in my classroom," she said.

She has two main rules in her classroom. "Respect yourself and respect your classmates and instructors," she said. She likes to make learning fun but keeps it fast paced. According to Mrs. Watson, "Every student is capable of learning to their full potential." In her spare time, Mrs. Watson enjoys spending time with her three kids, baking, reading, and hanging out with friends. Her dream vacation would be a trip to Alaska or Hawaii.



## Marching Band Prepares for Next Season

BY HALEY ICE

The marching band is preparing for the 2024-2025 season and their trip to New York City to perform in November. In late September, students participated in "Eighth Grade Marching Band Night" to see what goes on at the football games and participate in the pregame show. The band has already selected students that will join the marching band next school year.

The marching band formed in 1935 as two different bands: the Golden Tornado Marching Band and the Crusader Marching Band. The bands merged in 1997 to create the current Butler Marching Band. Over the years, many life lessons have been taught to the students who joined and played in the band. The band plays at the Butler Senior High School for football games and also marches in parades throughout the year. Throughout the years, the school district has been incredibly supportive of the marching band by buying needed instruments and approving the trips the band takes. The marching band does fundraisers throughout the year to give students an opportunity to raise money to go on trips. The fundraisers range from candy, pizza, hoagie, and the annual mattress sale.

One of the band directors, Mr. Karenbauer, is also a teacher at Butler Intermediate High School; he has been with the band since 2012. "It has been a lifelong goal of mine to play and teach music," he said. He tries to instill in his students early the importance of practice. "Practicing has to be done at home in order to put the pieces together at school," he said. He believes that the current eighth graders going into marching band next school year will enjoy their marching band experiences because of their willingness to practice and improve. According to Mr. Karenbauer, football season with the marching band is always an exciting time of year. "I enjoy the excitement, band camp prep, percussion camp, everything," he said.

Percussionist Claire Landon is very involved in band currently and is also one of the percussionists for jazz band. Claire is excited for the band trip in November 2024 and is curious to meet the marching band community. "I like making new friends and meeting new people. It will make going to high school easier, and I think the trip will be fun," Claire commented. Since band camp hours are similar to regular school hours, Claire believes that this will benefit her because she's used to the schedule. She knows that she will have to work harder on her instrument for the music that will be received in marching band. She's learned that practice makes improvement and not to judge others' playing abilities or to think that she's better than everyone else.



Zoe Green currently plays the flute and piccolo and has an incredibly strong interest in her instruments. She's learned that practice is very important. Zoe said, "It changed my work ethic and how I feel about practice. I used to hate practicing, but once I did it more, it became much easier." She is excited for the football games next school year because she gets to cheer on the team and have fun with her friends. She's excited to play her instrument and learn while at band camp. Zoe's approach to fundraising is a little different than Claire's. "I think social media is a good place to advertise fundraising," she said. She thinks that she will excel in marching band because of the hands-on aspect.

Julia Berquist plays the tenor and baritone saxophone. According to Julia, "Being a part of band has opened my eyes to different careers." During band, Julia has learned different rhythms and how to have better endurance when holding her breath, which will help in marching band. She has also learned how to carefully watch the conductor when playing. She is currently in jazz band, as well as private lessons for jazz band, and wants to continue doing more with it next year alongside the marching band. She used to struggle with different rhythms while playing; however, that doesn't bother her and hasn't discouraged her decision to joining marching band. Julia is excited to travel and play at the football games, as well as going outside of immediate family to do fundraising.

The Golden Tornado Marching Band is a very fun and creative group to join. Regardless of the demands and stress that comes with the marching band, the students who perform in it are just as excited to play as we are to cheer them on in the coming football season! Go Golden Tornado!



## Yearbook Staff Works to Publish New Edition

BY GRACE DOUTHETT AND JANET DOUTT

The yearbook staff has been hard at work since fall designing this year's edition. Students in the ESP course are guided by Mr. Darren Casher, the long-time yearbook advisor, and assisted by Mrs. Rebecca Reinhold, the future yearbook advisor. Mr. Casher will retire at the conclusion of this school year, and Mrs. Reinhold has been assisting to learn the ins and outs of creating the publication.

Mr. Casher has been the yearbook advisor for the last 28 years, and he takes pride in all of the products he has created. His favorite years were the years he had his daughter, Cheyenne Casher, on the staff. His favorite design that they have used was the Google design, which was in 2018-2019.

After his retirement, Mr. Casher plans to assist Mrs. Reinhold online or in person if she needs it, but he feels better knowing that she has been a part of the process this year. "There is a lot involved in creating the yearbook," he said. Although it is difficult for Mr. Casher to walk away from something that has become such a big part of his day to day life for almost 30 years, he looks forward to the next phase of his life when he can spend more time with family and friends.

Mrs. Reinhold has been involving herself in the class in many ways, such as taking notes to prepare for the upcoming year, giving ideas to the class, and working with all of the different programs on the Encore site. Mrs. Reinhold said, "I have always loved yearbook. I was on the staff all four years and an editor in high school at North Allegheny. I am really excited for the opportunity to work with our yearbook students and continue the legacy Mr. Casher has built at our school."

Dulcinea Clark and Zoey Zandarski are members of this year's yearbook staff. According to Dulcinea, she applied for the class because she wanted to do something for the school. "I wanted to take pictures around the school, and I heard that the class was run very well," she said. Zoey had heard that it was very fun. "I enjoy talking and meeting new people," Zoey commented.

Martin Parker and Liam Fediazcko, two of the yearbook editors, thought that the description of the class sounded fun. "We are really proud of this year's yearbook. The students and staff are really going to like it!" Liam commented. Martin originally took the class because he thought it seemed easy and interesting, but he quickly realized how much work there was to be done. "They should put more people on the staff, so the work would be more divided up, and we could finish faster," said Martin.

All of the yearbook staff work hard each day to bring the yearbook together. They make new friends, take many pictures, and treat others with kindness. Look for the yearbook to be released during the last week of school in June!

## NJHS Plans Induction Ceremony

BY LEGEND ADAMIK

Eighth grade students in excellent academic standing have the opportunity to join the National Junior Honor Society and participate in school and community service projects. Members who complete their service hours will be honored at an induction ceremony on May 28. The organization is one of the largest in our school, boasting more than 100 members. This year's group involves 133 students!

Dr. Schneider is the faculty advisor for NJHS. He commented, "The organization not only benefits the community and city itself, but it also strengthens the students and individual people of the city." The organization requires 12.5 hours of community service per student. When added up and multiplied, that comes out to about 68 days in total of service! This service can be done in a number of ways. The most popular of which would be the FAB Art Show which is a fundraiser for the Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation that features the artwork of district students. Another popular event used to fulfill hours is the Tuff Tornado Run, an event that consists of obstacles and even snacks, food, raffles, and other fun activities. Most NJHS students find it manageable to complete the hours by the deadline because the students involved are usually active in the community already.

In order to financially support the activities of the organization, members have the option of participating in the spring fundraiser. This fundraiser consists of selling one box of chocolate. Alternatively, the student could donate \$20 instead of selling the chocolate. A small portion of the funds raised goes towards buying pins for the students and the ceremony for families in May. The rest is donated to local organizations in the community. "We sell about 3,600 chocolate bars per year, and the profit is typically \$1,300," Dr. Schneider said.

The spring induction ceremony is one of the most important events for the organization each school year. Once inducted, the students are officially part of the organization for life. The way that the students become involved in this ceremony is by meeting all of the academic and miscellaneous requirements such as the spring fundraiser. Some of the other requirements include holding a 3.6 GPA and receiving no behavior referrals. After the student is invited into the organization, there are officer elections. These officer elections include the roles of secretary, treasurer, vice-president, and president. All of these positions give a speech at the ceremony.

NJHS is a great way to honor students, not only for their academic excellence, but also for demonstrating the qualities of leadership, ownership, and responsibility.

## Best Buddies Adds Unified Competitions

BY LANDON BICHLER

Best Buddies is a popular club with students in all grades. For the first time at the middle school level, the club is offering two new sports opportunities for students: unified bocce and unified track.

According to the bocce coaches, Mr. Jurysta and Mr. Wolford, they accept anyone who is not doing a winter sport, and the team is full of great kids. "I am very excited for this team to play and have fun," said Mr. Jurysta. When he was in high school, Mr. Jurysta saw the impact unified sports had on the students and thought it would be a fun opportunity in Butler.



The bocce team members just recently started practicing during advisory period. "We held an open gym for bocce, and we had so many awesome students. As soon as I saw all these kids together having fun, I knew that bocce was going to be a hit," Mr. Jurysta said. The bocce matches are not open to the public currently due to this being our first year, but in the future, they hope to compete with fans in the stands.

According to Sophia Cooper, a member of the team, "I can not wait to start playing for Butler bocce." Sophia has made so many friends by being a part of this team. The reason she wanted to start playing bocce is because both of her cousins, Abbi and Eli Fennick, participated in bocce at the high school and did very well.

Butler Best Buddies is all about inclusion and providing opportunities to make new friendships that would have never been possible without this club. The club's lead advisor, Mrs. Rekich, said, "This club is for everyone, no matter the age." Mrs. Rekich even is the leader of an adult Best Buddies that is for everyone that has finished high school. Jude Perhacs is a member of Best Buddies and has been involved since fifth grade. "I have made friendships with people from fifth grade on that I still talk to today. I even keep in touch with my buddies at the high school," he commented.

Mrs. Rekich also coaches a unified track team that started last year, but it was very small. This year though, it has grown quite a bit. The track team is 50/50, but all students are welcome as long as they do not do a spring sport. The team travels with the Butler track team, and they compete before the track meet starts. They have about six meets a season; about two or three are home, and the rest are away. Mrs. Rekich was inspired to start a team at Butler because of her son. She said, "Tyler was at a track meet, and they stopped in the middle of the meet to race the kids, and everybody was so supportive."

Mrs. Meskel also does Best Buddies and helps coach the unified track team. Mrs. Meskel was asked to coach by Mrs. Rekich, and she eagerly accepted the opportunity. Mrs. Meskel said, "This was the best decision I have made in a long time." The team practices Monday, Wednesday, and Friday as soon as the weather gets nice. Mrs. Meskel has been involved in Best Buddies since she started teaching, and she said, "Best Buddies is a great club everyone should join." At Best Buddies, everyone has a friend.



## IHS Hosts Student Teachers

BY LOGAN BROWN AND KYLER KROLL

This spring, the IHS is hosting student teachers in science, mathematics, English, history, and music. Two of these aspiring teachers, Ms. Crust and Mr. Kehl, shared their experiences and future plans.

Ms. Crust is finishing up her degree in music education at Slippery Rock University. "Over the course of my life, I have been surrounded by music. I want to pass my experience on to others," she said. Ms. Crust loves to see her students happy and to share in their excitement and determination to learn new music. Her career goal is to work at an elementary school, but she said she would work at any level, as long as she is sharing her love of music with students.



Ms. Crust likes that there are many different teaching styles in music and opportunities to be certified in different instruments. She also seeks out ways to collaborate with other subjects to create new opportunities in the arts. For instance, at college she worked with the art department to host a concert where the art department would paint what the musicians played.

Student teaching can be tough, but Ms. Crust embraces the challenges. She tries to have easily understandable expectations of respect and attention, and when students follow them, she tries to reward them in some way. Recently, she had a successful moment working on the band piece Ensemble, where many parts were confusing. "It finally came together by slowly adding parts to the piece to make it easier," she said.



She also tries to have strategies for dealing with students who are struggling. "If someone is struggling, I try to have a chat with them to make sure everything is OK. Sometimes, students just need a second to take a breath too."

Mr. Kehl is student teaching in seventh grade science and also attends Slippery Rock University. "I want to proceed to learn new things along the way of my time as a student teacher and have the ability to teach others/students the new things about science that I have learned," he said. Mr. Kehl loves to learn and wants the same for his students. He is motivated to come to school by seeing the reaction of a student's face and seeing them having fun at the end of an assignment. In the future, he hopes to work as a cyber teacher for Commonwealth Charter Academy.

Mr. Kehl plans to "watch and learn" from his co-op Mrs. Baxter and see how she would handle a situation to meet the needs of diverse learners who may be not as good at science or who may be more advanced in science. Mr. Kehl prefers to use guided notes to help students study to complete their work, understand the concept of the assignment, and prepare for tests.

He maintains classroom behavior by giving warnings to the students if they are being disruptive and states that if a student respects him he will respect them. Mr. Kehl uses technology such as Google Classroom where all his materials and assignments will be posted and a Smartboard to host classroom assignments. Mr. Kehl shared a successful lesson he had taught where they went over the student's vocabulary assignment, completed a guided notes worksheet and book pages. Mr. Kehl prefers to learn by going to other classes, learning from other teachers and seeing how they run their classes. Mr. Kehl likes to manage conflicts in the classroom by understanding how the student's day has been if they are acting up or just having a bad day.

Good luck to all of the current student teachers in their future careers!

## More FAB Showcase Entries



Maya Keffalas and Charli Doverspike, Grade 7



Leela Hyatt, Grade 8



Emily Sproule, Grade 6



Hallie Fagan, Grade 6



Angelica Mariotti, Grade 8

WINTER 2024

# THE TORNADO CONNECTION

STUDENT SECTION



## Winter Dance Popular With Students

BY BENNETT AMBUSKE AND HANK FLEEGER

On February 23, the Student Council hosted their annual dance. The dance was located in the gymnasium from 6-8 p.m., and approximately 440 students attended.

The theme this year was Hollywood and Broadway, and was centered around the movie and show industry. There were decorations such as balloons, cardboard cutout movie stars, and a balloon arch for students to take pictures under. The decorations stretched from the main entrance of the school to the cafeteria where the food was served. There was an assortment of chips, water, and soda available. Students were given their first snack for free with their tickets, by holding it up while in line. If they wished to get more snacks, then they could be purchased. Andrew Wolfe, an eighth grader who attended the dance, said, "They could have had more of a variety of chips, but you can't go wrong with Doritos and Cheetos. The drink choices were good too."

### THIS OR THAT? Lunch Edition

BY JUDE PERHACS, EDITOR

**THIS**



**OR**

**THAT**



BEEF NACHOS OR CHICKEN TENDERS AND PANCAKES  
(WINNER ON THE NEXT PAGE)

The traditional dance has always been a semi-formal event, where students were asked to select clothing that wasn't too fancy, such as prom dresses and tuxedos, but also not too casual, like jeans and sweatpants. Most students wore dresses or khaki pants and a dress shirt.

The school has been hiring the same DJ for the past several years, so he is a trusted source and keeps up with the current trends in order to play songs that the students enjoyed at the dance. All of the music was chosen by student recommendation; however, at the dance itself the DJ was not allowed to take requests. Seventh grader Charlotte Boring said, "The music was good party music that was easy to dance to." Andrew added, "The music selection was great, but I could do without the Taylor Swift music."

While at the dance, all school rules applied. Attendees could not have detention or suspension within a month of the dance, and they had to be at school and follow proper attendance rules the day of the dance. Students from other schools were not allowed to attend, and there were metal detectors at the entrance like usual. Students were allowed to take pictures and videos as long as they were not doing anything that is not acceptable. There will be decorations and a balloon arch students may want to take pictures with if they choose.

Since the school started hosting dances around 1995, there has been one a year. The reason that there isn't more is because of spring sports, the gym is usually occupied after school hours. After factoring in the costs of snacks, buying the tickets to sell and paying the DJ, the profit is usually around one or two hundred dollars. Student Council members then vote on which charity to donate the profits to, and they will be donated there.

## Who Am I? Sixth Grade Mystery Teacher

BY BAILEE EWELL AND LYSSA FIKE, CHIEF EDITOR

The sixth grade mystery teacher teaches math and attended Westminster and Duquesne University. She teaches math because she was asked by the sixth grade principal at the middle school to help out in the math department. She has been teaching for 14 years and enjoys mornings most of all.

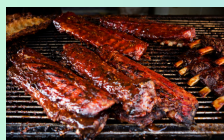
This teacher's favorite food is Funyuns, and her favorite drink is coffee or Diet Pepsi. Her favorite movie line is "You serious, Clark?" from *Christmas Vacation*. Her favorite animal is a cheetah, and her favorite color is pink. She grew up in Conneaut Lake, Pennsylvania.



### THIS OR THAT? Lunch Edition

WINNER PG.1: BEEF NACHOS (RATED 5.8/10)

**THIS**



**OR**

**THAT**



BBQ RIBLET SANDWICH OR BREADED CHICKEN DRUMSTICK AND BISCUIT





## Who Am I? Seventh Grade Mystery Teacher

BY BAILEE EWELL AND LYSSA FIKE, CHIEF EDITOR

The seventh grade mystery teaches ELA because she enjoys reading, and she wanted to have an impact on her students. She went to college at Duquesne University and has been teaching for 11 years. Her favorite part of the day is getting to see her daughter.

Outside of school, she enjoys exercising. This teacher's favorite food is chicken wings while her favorite drink is water. Her favorite movie line is, "There's no crying in baseball!" from *A League of Their Own*. Her favorite animal is a dog, and her favorite color is blue. She grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

## Who Am I? Eighth Grade Mystery Teacher

BY BAILEE EWELL AND LYSSA FIKE, CHIEF EDITOR

The eighth grade mystery teacher chose to teach history because he believes that it encompasses everything that goes on around the world. He also believes that history is the most important subject. This teacher earned his teaching certificate at Slippery Rock University and was inspired to teach by his love for history. He has been teaching for 23 years, and he likes every part of the day.

His favorite hobby outside of school is spending time with his family. His favorite food is steak, his favorite drink is iced tea, and his favorite color is blue. Finally, this teacher's favorite movie line is "Hello, my name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die," from *Princess Bride*. He grew up in Beaver, Pennsylvania.



### THIS OR THAT? Lunch Edition

WINNER PG.2: BREADED CHICKEN (RATED 8/10)

**THIS**



**OR**

**THAT**



WALKING TACO OR THANKSGIVING MEAL

## Students Serve in Aide Positions

BY SIDNEY ELLIOTT

During advisory and study hall periods, students have the opportunity to apply to become an office aide. These volunteer positions are available in the principal's/nurse's office, guidance office, and library.

Vanessa May serves as a principal's/nurse's office aide during advisory and seventh period. Her favorite thing to deliver to classes is nurse's passes because she likes to walk around and deliver big stacks of papers to each room. If she wasn't an aide, she would sit in her study hall or advisory room and do work. When she isn't an aide, she likes to walk around in the halls and hang out with her friends.



Vanessa commented, "If I had the opportunity to be another aide, I would pick the library aide because I like to be in the library and work with books." The office secretaries say that the students can learn how to be responsible, and deliver passes/nurse passes and items that need to be delivered to classes. Office aids help the secretaries so they don't have to run around the school and deliver passes to class. While they are waiting to deliver things to classes, they sit in the office and work on assignments for their classes.

The second aide is a guidance aide. Grant Veazey is one of the guidance aids during advisory, and he became an aide because a lot of his friends are aides. He spends his time in guidance waiting to run passes or running passes. To become an aide, students have to have good grades and have to have approval from their parents to become an aide. Students are allowed to be an aide every day if they choose to be one. Grant said, "My favorite aide is a guidance aide because all of my friends are guidance aides too." According to Mrs. Porter, the guidance secretary who works closely with the aides, "The students learn important skills like proper etiquette when entering classes and direction following while working as an aide." Guidance aides help ease workload. They also brighten up the guidance office and bring excitement.

Anna Belle Witt works as an aide in the library during the seventh period. Her favorite part about being a library aide is checking out books. To become a library aide, Anna Belle had to ask Ms. Eckert to see if she could be an aide, and then Ms. Eckert checked her grades, and she had to decide if she was allowed to be an aide. Library aides spend more time assisting in the library than they do running passes. "We deliver chromebooks to different classes when needed," Anna Belle said. Ms. Eckert said that students learn organization and how to categorize books while working in the library. It also gives students a good idea of what they are interested in reading by being an aide. "If I had the chance to be an aide again, I would always choose the library," Anna Belle said.

If you are interested in working as an aide during your study hall or advisory and you have good grades, stop by one of the offices to get an application. Aides are usually hired at the beginning of every grading period.

### THIS OR THAT? Lunch Edition

WINNER PG.3: THANKSGIVING MEAL (RATED 7.7/10)

**THIS**



**OR**

**THAT**



ITALIAN DUNKERS OR PASTA

# Put a Face to the Name: Winter Student Spotlights

BY CHARLOTTE BORING, EDITOR

Quinn Stewart is 11 years old and lives with her mom, dad, and her two brothers, Eli and Jackson. Quinn has one dog named Kona who she loves to play with. When she is older, Quinn would like to be a pediatrician to help sick children. Her favorite teacher here at the BIHS is Mrs. Popovich because she is able to make learning fun and has inspired her in many ways. Having student teachers is something that Quinn likes because she gets to be taught in a different way than the teacher.

Although Quinn wants to do some BIHS after-school activities next year, this year she participates in gymnastics outside of school. In her opinion, school uniforms are unnecessary. According to Quinn, "Uniforms don't allow for people to have a choice of what they wear, which is very important to me." After a long day at school, Quinn likes to have fun by going to gymnastics practice and getting exercise.



Linton Young is a 13 year-old boy at the BIHS who lives with his mom, dad, and little sister. Linton has lots of pets, two dogs named Essie and Rosie, and a cat named Olive. If Linton could have one job, it would be an aircraft mechanic because of his love for working on big engines. His favorite teacher at the BIHS is Ms. Carlson because of her fun way of teaching. Although Linton has a favorite teacher, he also enjoys having student teachers. "Sometimes switching it up is nice," he said.

With all the sports at the BIHS, Linton enjoyed playing on the football team this year because of his love for watching and playing it. Linton expressed that having uniforms is not something he wants because he thinks everyone should be allowed to choose their own clothes. After the last bell rings at the end of the day, Linton can't wait to go to lacrosse and football practice.

## THIS OR THAT? Lunch Edition

WINNER PG.4: ITALIAN DUNKERS (RATED 9/10)

**THIS**



**OR**

**THAT**



PIZZA OR SPICY CHICKEN SANDWICH



Brooke Vandervort is 13 years old and lives with her mom, dad, and older brother, Drew. She has one dog named Bella. When Brooke gets older, she wants to become a general surgeon because she aspires to be like the characters on Grey's Anatomy. Brooke's favorite teacher at the BIHS is Mrs. Kryl. "She is genuinely interested in everyone's learning," Brooke commented. She is glad that the BIHS has student teachers because she likes to watch them grow and follow their dreams.

The BIHS sport that Brooke participates in is track and field. She really enjoys it because it's a great way to exercise and make new friends. Brooke feels strongly about not having uniforms at the BIHS because she thinks that everyone should be able to express their personality through clothes. After a long day at school, she loves going to gymnastics practice because she gets to see her friends and unwind.

## Sixth Graders Look Forward to Field Day

BY TRAVAS WAGNER

Sixth Grade Field Day will be a day full of fun for all sixth graders. This day will be held at the beginning of June before the school year ends on June 7.

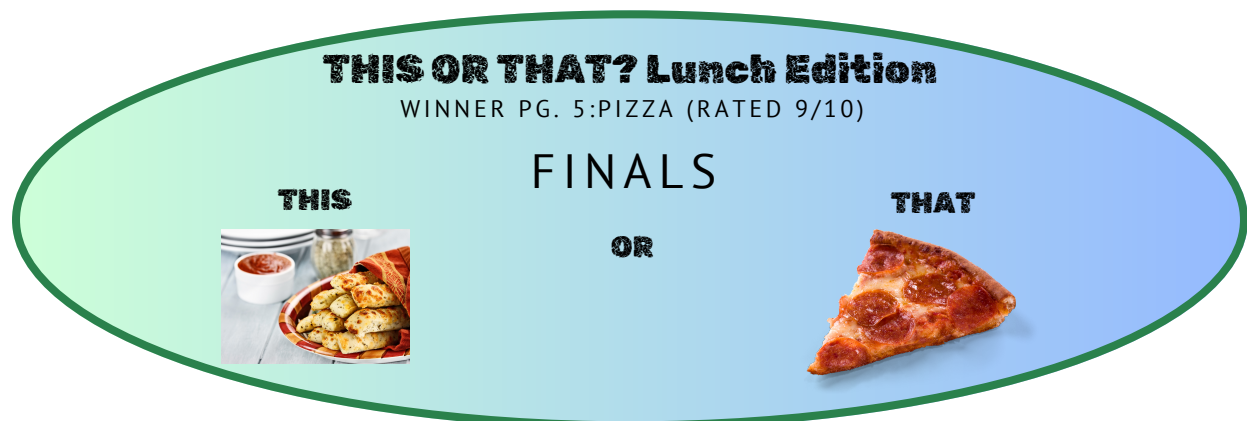
Mrs. Hovancik, a sixth grade teacher who helps to plan the event commented, "Students should expect fun, teamwork, and lots of running around." She added that students will not need to fill out a permission form for the day because students will not need to leave school property, and everyone is expected to participate.

The event changed somewhat when the sixth grade moved to the Intermediate, but the tradition of fun and sun remains. Current seventh grader Charlotte Boring looked back on her experience at Field Day last spring. "It was a fun way to exercise and celebrate the end of the year," she said. Because the events take place outside, students are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather. Last year, that meant shorts, tennis shoes, and t-shirts. "There are fun running events to participate in, so I would dress in gym clothes," said Sidney Elliot, another current seventh grader. Sunscreen is also highly recommended.

There will be many different games throughout the field day. Derrick Clemens, a sixth grader, is looking forward to the day and hoping for some water activities. Mrs. Hovancik would like to continue the water relay, a game where students balance water in a solo cup on a tray, and other fun water activities. Derrick added, "If I could bring anything to help me in the water games, it would be extra water balloons."

Students are provided with water breaks and a snack during the activities. Seventh grader Kyler Kroll recalled the popsicles from last year. "I liked the popsicles. It made me happy," he said.

According to Mrs. Hovancik, "The purpose of field day is to bring the sixth graders together to celebrate a year of hard work." For that reason, the day is not optional for students, and the majority of students appreciate the effort it takes for the teachers to organize the day. Seventh grader Grace Douthett said, "My favorite part was getting to miss class." Judah Trepanier added, "We stayed outside most of the day, and it was really fun."



Sixth grade is also the students' last chance to experience a field day. In seventh and eighth grade, the students have an awards assembly, where students are recognized for their accomplishments in and out of the classroom. Derrick thinks that the whole school should participate in Field Day and said, "If the whole school participated, then you can hang out with your friends that are on different grade levels."

Mrs. Hovancik, Derrick, and all the sixth graders are looking forward to field day and are excited to celebrate the end of the year.

## Butler's Bold and Triumphant Winter Sports

BY LUCY DOUTT AND ZARI GOLOJUH, CHIEF EDITOR

The winter sports teams recently wrapped up successful seasons in girls' and boys' basketball and wrestling. The student athletes exhibited hard work, sportsmanship, and time management this winter season.

Butler's boys' basketball team was broken into two different teams by grade level and were coached by Coach Galoga and Coach Cooper. The girls' teams were coached by Coach Radar and Coach Hegedus. The seventh and eighth grade wrestlers were coached by Coach Giebel.

Eighth grader, Emerson McGarrah, played on the girls' junior high basketball team and feels that basketball has improved her life overall. If Emerson or any of her teammates would happen to get injured, they would keep showing up to practice because they are still a member of the team. "Showing up for practice is a prominent element of basketball," Emerson said. To have a healthy balance between her home life and sports, Emerson has to give 100% at basketball, school, and home to feel satisfied. "I like to feel like I did my best, so I can focus on the next part of the day without thinking about the past," she said. If she runs into the same problem again and again, Emerson will then take the problem to her coach for greater insight and advice. Any of the coaches are more than willing to help with problems their athletes may have. Emerson has been playing basketball for six years, and she feels it has taught her a lot about perseverance and getting along with others.

Anna Martin also played on the girls' team. She has played five seasons of basketball, so when it comes to time management, she has finally found an effective approach. "To be successful in all areas of your life while playing basketball, you have to put your school work and assignments in front of your sports life," she said. "Balancing these two things may be hard at first but once you get into a pattern it becomes easier," she added.

According to Coach Hegedus, her seventh grade team learned a lot this year, even though they faced a lot of adversity. "We worked on being aggressive and giving 110% effort at all times," she said. Coach Hegedus was inspired to become involved in coaching by her favorite coach, her father. "Sports taught me at a young age that people need to work hard for what they want, and I try to instill that in my athletes too," she said.

Sam Vicari is an eighth grader that played on the boys' basketball team this season. After playing basketball for four years, Sam's life has been shaped by his love of the sport. Being on the team has prepared Sam for teamwork and taught him to work with people better. According to Sam, "My team is talented overall; they just don't have the height." Sam and his team bonded through hanging out during after-school hours.

### THIS OR THAT? Lunch Edition GRAND CHAMPION:



ITALIAN DUNKERS!

Seventh grader Landon Slear was a captain on the boys' white team. He balances his time for sports and home life by making sure he has a planned out day, so he doesn't miss any important school work. Landon works hard on fixing any problems he struggles with and encourages any teammates who feel down. This season has had a very positive impact on Landon; he improved a lot, and his teammates focused on the positive to make the team have a good time. Landon and his teammates bonded throughout the season by practicing and the bus rides to the games.

Noah Simmons and Braden Slaughenhop have been playing basketball for eight years. They just joined the Junior High basketball team in their seventh grade year. They are now in eighth grade. In the boys' rankings, sports is second, and home life is first. They have felt a new confidence in joining the team, much of which is from their coaches and other athletes.

Eighth grader Mason Swidzinski was a member of the junior high wrestling team; he is a great athlete and teammate to be around. Mason plans his school, sports, and home life so that they all have adequate time. If Mason comes across a certain part of wrestling that challenges him, he will try and figure it out by himself and if that does not work, his coach will proceed to help him. According to Mason, "Wrestling has not only made me a better athlete over the last five years, but it has also encouraged me to make new friends."

Charlie Rogers and Dylan Therbert are both eighth graders on the wrestling team. It has been a positive journey for both of them because all season they "did not get pinned" which would lose them points in a match. If either one of them is out of line, Varsity Coach Stoner gets them back into shape with strict but effective methods of coaching.

Coach Don Geibel feels that his wrestlers made great progress this season. "We had a lot of inexperienced wrestlers on the team, but they worked hard and improved as the season went on," he said. Ben Kinney was one of the many hard working wrestlers on the team. He has been wrestling for two years and even vlogs his workouts to share with the world. Ben has improved a lot over the years and even went to the Keystone state wrestling competition. Coach Geibel is very proud of all of his athletes, and is happy with how they all supported each other through the ups and downs.. Being a wrestling coach has made his life more social, and it lets him share what he loves with kids.

Congratulations to all of the winter athletes on an outstanding season!



### Winter 2024 Tornado Connection Staff

Front Row (L-R): Grace Douthett, Janet Douth, Zari Golojuh, Brooklyn Mills, Travas Wagner, and Logan Thomas

Middle Row (L-R): Bailee Ewell, Lucy Douth, Kendra Hetherington, Charlotte Boring, Chelsea Rome, Sidney Elliott, and Lily Deller

Back Row (L-R): Landon Bichler, Legend Adamik, Brayden Beatty, Haley Ice, Lucas Baldouf, Judah Trepanier, Hank Fleeger, Kyler Kroll, and Logan Brown

Missing From Photo: Bennett Ambuske and Lyssa Fike