



# THE LEDGER

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The Student Newspaper of Beverly High School

January 17th, 2012

100 Sohier Road, Beverly, MA 01915

## BHS NEWS IN BRIEF

### EXAM WEEK

Today is the final day of midterm and final exams. *The Ledger* wishes everyone good luck on their tests! Have a great Martin Luther King Day weekend!

### BEVERLY HIGH TALENT SHOW

will take place on Thursday, January 24th, 6:00pm in the BHS Auditorium. To participate, complete a "talent form" found in room 436, Mrs. Bigus' room, or 346, Ms. Larochelle's room. Tickets will be \$7.00.

### MUSIC DEPARTMENT DANCE

This year's Winter Dance Event hosted by BMPAA, "White Hot Winter Party," is being held 7:00 - 11:00pm, Saturday, January 26, at the Vittori-Rocci Post. Tickets are \$10 advance purchase/\$12 at the door.

### AEGIS

Aegis literary magazine will be accepting submissions of writing and artwork until Tuesday, January 22. Submissions can be sent to [bhsaegis@gmail.com](mailto:bhsaegis@gmail.com) or printed and left in a mailbox located in the library.

## Sandy Hook: A challenge for our generation

Austin B. Healey '15

Editor-in-Chief

As an editor of a media outlet, and especially as a school newspaper, I feel it is necessary that we address the recent shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. I would first like to say that this tragedy leaves us all with a mental wound, which will not soon be healed; however, it has also drawn a great amount of attention toward several important issues of our time; and many schools and other public institutions have felt its effects in their populations' general sense of safety.

Firstly, this tragedy is an unbearable hardship for any US citizen and for the world. To think that someone could so viciously and brutally kill so many people, especially children, is deeply troubling. Another tragedy like Sandy Hook could happen anywhere, although such a thing is hard for most to think about; however, I believe it is possible that we can stem this violence. Here at BHS, a number of initiatives have been taken to create a safe and welcoming environment to students and staff. In the wake of this shocking event, many schools are adopting new and far stricter safety plans in case of emergency similar to those which have long been in place at BHS. I interviewed one student who commended the approachable staff and administration, and also said of the community at BHS that "it makes me feel safe and free of danger."

Our actions and laws should not be in response to violence, however; instead, we must take proactive steps to stop it before it happens. The Sandy Hook tragedy should be a wake up call to us all. In 2012 alone, America experienced 16 mass shootings, and each time our divided and out-of-touch Congress and the government as a whole, did nothing but argue the issue into the back of their minds. I find it appalling that our government waited for the deaths of twenty children and six teachers to finally make an attempt to even address this clearly out-of-control issue. America has more mass shootings than any other western nation, and clearly something needs to be done.

The Second Amendment calls for the right to a "well-regulated militia." Can we really bring ourselves to believe that allowing mentally unstable individuals and prior criminals access to semi-automatic weapons constitutes creating a "well-regulated militia?" I think not. If the current generation cannot answer these questions, I hope mine can. The massacre at Sandy Hook is a stain on this nation's ability to protect its citizens. I hope that my generation will do what our current leaders have failed to do. I hope that someday we will not live in fear of people like James Holmes, Wade Michael Page, and Adam Lanza. We must take action to prevent these tragedies. Enough is enough.

## The Ledger

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Statement of Purpose: The Ledger has been written and published by BHS students since 1979. The Ledger's aim is to explore and expose issues important to students and staff. None of the opinions expressed reflect those of Beverly Public Schools or BHS Administration. The Ledger does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age or disability in admission or access to its programs, services or activities, in treatment of individuals with disabilities, or in any aspect of their operations.

## The Year of the Panther

Boys Hockey Team 8-0



Emily McDermott '13

Staff Writer

Courtesy of Mike Rollins

The "Year of the Panther" is proving to be true; with the football team going undefeated and winning the Superbowl, and now the Boys Hockey Team, who are currently 8-0. One of the team's two goalies, Tim Birarelli '15, sat down with *The Ledger* to talk about the heightening success.

"A different feeling" is how Birarelli described the feeling of being triumphant. Unlike last year, this season, the Panther's are running head-first into the competition. The team's goal for this year is to go the entire season undefeated, much like the football team; and that is exactly what they've been doing. Birarelli said "the year is only getting better as it goes on."

The team has been influenced to work hard and do better. Doug Houda, assistant coach of the Boston Bruins is part of that influence. Houda recently visited and ran a practice for the Panthers. When about Houda, Birarelli said that he was thrilled at his visit and the achievements of the orange and black team. We can only look forward to what this year's season will bring.

## Ask the Ledger

Photo Editor, Ryan Noss '14  
answers your questions

**Question:** Recently, a Massachusetts study found that 40% of children in the state were "overweight or obese." What is your opinion on the recent hype about childhood obesity?

**Answer:**

My opinion on the teen obesity hype in the district, including the letters that were sent home to parents of "obese" children, is mixed. On one hand, in this country teen obesity is an important issue, having become an epidemic, and keeping children healthy should absolutely be a focus.

The "data," no matter who collected it, is simply inaccurate. I am 175lbs and 5'9,"and while I'm certainly not very skinny, I am definitely not obese. My parents were sent a letter saying that I was measured at 185lbs, and 5'7," which made me fall under the category, along with 40% of my fellow students.

Upon talking to other BHS students, I found that the majority had been measured shorter and weighed heavier than they are on their home scales. Telling a normal-sized teenager that they are obese can have an incredibly negative effect, ranging from damaged self-esteem to eating disorders and depression. This is not something that should be done carelessly and should be done more delicately in the future.

## Ask the Ledger

If you need advice or have a question, contact:

[asktheledger@gmail.com](mailto:asktheledger@gmail.com)

## "The Culinary Project"

Corinne Ajemian '15

Staff Writer

When was the last time you turned to Channel 22? When you do, you might just catch an episode of "The Culinary Project."

This show isn't just any show about cooking; sophomores Mary Burke, Nicole Pimentel, and Corinne Ajemian star in the show where anyone can learn and enjoy the art of cooking in a new way.

BHS' Studio Production Class is already airing five episodes of the show.

On set the three stars are assisted by Ema Downey, Catherine Brown, and Megan Gunther.

Whether you want to make breadsticks or a cupcake creation, tune into "The Culinary Project" weekdays at 10:00am or 4:00pm.



BHS teachers sport some winter trends

## West Side Story

Musical in Production

Ben Ayers

Staff Writer

Ring a' ding', Baby! Spring is almost here, and *West Side Story* is in full gear. With the extremely large cast, the show is filled with bad puns, gang violence, and all out madness. The heavy weighted name of the show is sure to be justified by the great cast from BHS.

The musical, *West Side Story*, is set in the diverse and blue-collar neighborhoods of New York City's upper West Side during the mid-1950s.

It is a modern adaptation of Shakespeare's tragedy, *Romeo and Juliet*. In this version, the story centers around the feud between two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds. The members of the Sharks are Puerto Rican immigrants, who are taunted by the Jets, a Polish-American group.

Tony, the ex-leader of the Jets, falls in love with Maria, a member of the Sharks. What makes this play so much more interesting is that it will be featuring our very own Mr. Gallagher as Officer Krupke, Mr. Bauer as Detective Schrank, and many other members of the BHS staff. Could you really pass up a chance to see Mr. Gallagher or Mr. Bauer on stage?! Some of the lead members of the cast are as follows:

Ian Beckman as Tony  
Marc Babcock as Riff  
Mikayla Bishop as Anita  
Carly Moffie as Maria  
Armand Martinez as Chino  
Jose-David Cermano as Bernardo

## Ledger Culture Panel

Opinion and advice from staff and contributors

### Winter Fashion Trends

Sophie Claus '15

Although we may not live in the epicenter of the fashion world, it is still very easy to include the winter's greatest trends into our everyday wardrobe. One of this season's most commonly seen fashions are oversized garments. Girls often wear large blouses, with excess fabric beneath the arms. This style can be very flattering, but it is key to remember that with an oversized shirt, the rest of the outfit needs to be proportional and that, a girl wears a large top, what she wears on the bottom should not also be oversized.

Another trend that can be difficult to translate from summer to winter is the use of the maxi skirt or dress. A long dress or skirt can be very feminine, while also being extremely comfortable and wearable. In order to bring this summery trend into the colder months, the wearer can combine a pair of neutral high-heeled or flat boots with her garment. She can also add a pair of tights or a sweater over the dress or skirt to ensure that she will be warm enough as the temperature continues to drop.

The final trend that is beginning to show up all over the runway and the classroom is the combination of a winter sweater and a button-down shirt underneath. This pairing is a simple way to add class and sophistication to a daily, casual sweater. Even though the trend is easy to wear, it is almost as simple to screw up. Often times, people end up wearing a button down underneath a sweater that does not go at all; the undershirt and the top end up clashing. If you find yourself wearing a plain or solid colored sweater, try a patterned button down. With a patterned sweater, move toward wearing a solid button down; steer clear to trying to mix several busy patterns.

Take these fashion tips under consideration, and see if you can amp up your wardrobe with a simple pair of boots and a skirt or an oversized top.

### Les Misérables Movie Musical

Jacqueline Tetrault '13

"Fight. Dream. Hope. Love." These four words make up the caption of the movie poster for *Les Misérables*. They seem fitting, as an attempt to identify the main themes of such a complex story in four small words.

"Les Mis" started as a historical fiction novel by Victor Hugo and was adapted into a musical by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg. Now, director Tom Hooper has taken another step, turning the musical into a major motion picture.

Having both viewed the stage production and read the novel, I can say that this film adaptation succeeded in reconciling the beauty of the musical with the details of the book. The movie was able to include scenes that simply can't be captured on the limited space of a stage. The camera captures amazing views of mountains and architecture, while the costumes and exquisite sets take you to all areas of 19th century France.

One unique aspect of this film is the technique of having the actors sing live during filming, rather than pre-recording and lip-syncing the songs- as most members of the main cast are not known for their singing abilities. It seems probable that some actors were selected for the lead roles because they would be sure to draw audiences to see the movie. Russell Crowe's singing voice takes some getting used to, especially for people who have heard better performers sing his part; nevertheless, he handles his role fairly well, portraying Inspector Javert in all his efficiency and superiority. Anne Hathaway blew audiences away with her tempestuous delivery of the musical's most famous song, "I Dreamed A Dream." Hugh Jackman stars as Jean Valjean, the enigmatic protagonist who learns to turn his life around after enduring nineteen years of hard labor.

As the title suggests, all the characters have their share of suffering. Their intertwined stories are intermittently stained with abuse, injustice, promiscuity, and violence. And yet, the characters also have their moments of joy and triumph, and the story ends on an optimistic note. Comic relief is found in the form of the Thénardiens, a miserly married couple played by Sacha Baron Cohen and Helena Bonham-Carter. A sense of fun is provided by a street urchin named Gavroche (Daniel Huttleston) who, along with one major character, Eponine (Samantha Barks), as well as several minor characters and extras, had previously performed in stage productions of the musical. Tom Hooper's *Les Misérables* has won respect as both a fantastic movie in its own right, and a delight to the musical's scores of fans.

## What are you looking forward to the most in 2013?



BrendaLee Alvarez '15

"To get a brand new car!"



Brendan Cronin '13

"This year I'm going to college!"



Cody Dupuis '15

"I'm really excited for school to end, and for the Summer!"



Lorna Brennan '16

"For February vacation, because I love skiing during vacation!"



Mackenzie Mason '15

"I'm looking forward to getting my permit and being able to drive for the first time!"