

# THE LEDGER

“Veritas et integritas.”

www.bhsledger.wikispaces.com

The Student Newspaper of Beverly High School

November 8, 2012

100 Sohier Road, Beverly, MA 01915

## BHS NEWS IN BRIEF

### SCARVES FOR VOLLEYBALL

The Girls Volleyball Team is selling 50" X 60" super-lux plush fleece blankets. Order by November 9th. Delivery by November 30th.

### THANKS, BEV CAM!

BevCam has generously purchased over \$4000 of media equipment for use by the Beverly High School media classes. The 8 new cameras and cases, 3 external hard drives, 5 monopods, 4 extended warranties, 5 battery packs, 12 memory cards, and battery chargers are greatly appreciated!

### BEVERLY BOOT STRAPS FOOD DRIVE

Citywide PTO and Beverly Bootstraps are sponsoring a Food Drive on Election Day, November 6th. Please try to bring with you some canned or dry goods when you come to vote. Thank you!

### AEGIS WINTER ISSUE

Aegis literary magazine is collecting submissions for its Winter 2012 issue. They are looking for pictures, poetry, and prose. Leave submissions in the mailbox in the library, or send them to bhsaegis@gmail.com.

### SUMMER SUPPLEMENTS

The summer supplements for BEVERLEGA 2013 have been shipped from the Jostens plant; arrival is expected later this week. Listen for the announcement. They will be mailed to the members of the Class of 2012; everyone else should pick them up before and after school in Room 405 or in the cafeteria at the yearbook sales table.

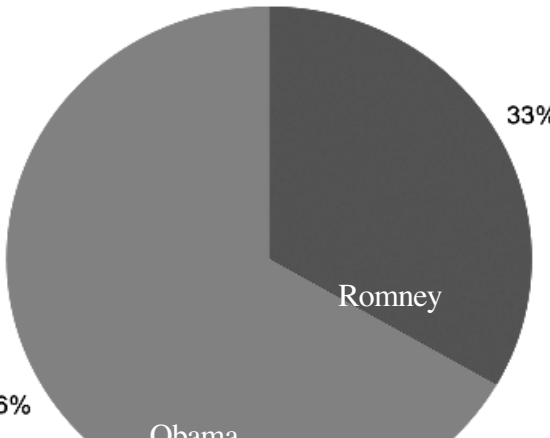
### BEVERLEGA 2013

The second, four-color edition of the BHS yearbook, *Beverlega 2013*, will go on sale in the cafeteria all three lunches next week and before and after school in Room 405. The cost to reserve a book is \$55.00. Make checks payable to BEVERLEGA 2013 or pay in cash.

### VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED

Alex Bertelli, Jessica Martin, and Katie Ryder have been recognized as recipients of President's Volunteer Service Awards in recognition of their community service at the Beverly Hospital.

If you could have voted, who would you have voted for in this presidential election?



Results of an informal Ledger survey

### Beverly High School Blood Drive

Friday, November 16, 2012  
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Fieldhouse

To make an appointment, please sign up with a National Honor Society student in the cafeteria

You must be 17 years old, 16 years old with a signed parental permission form, have a positive ID and meet the High School weight requirements to donate. Before donating, get a good night's sleep, have a healthy meal and try to avoid fatty foods.

## The Ledger

Faculty Advisor  
Ms. Jean McCafferty

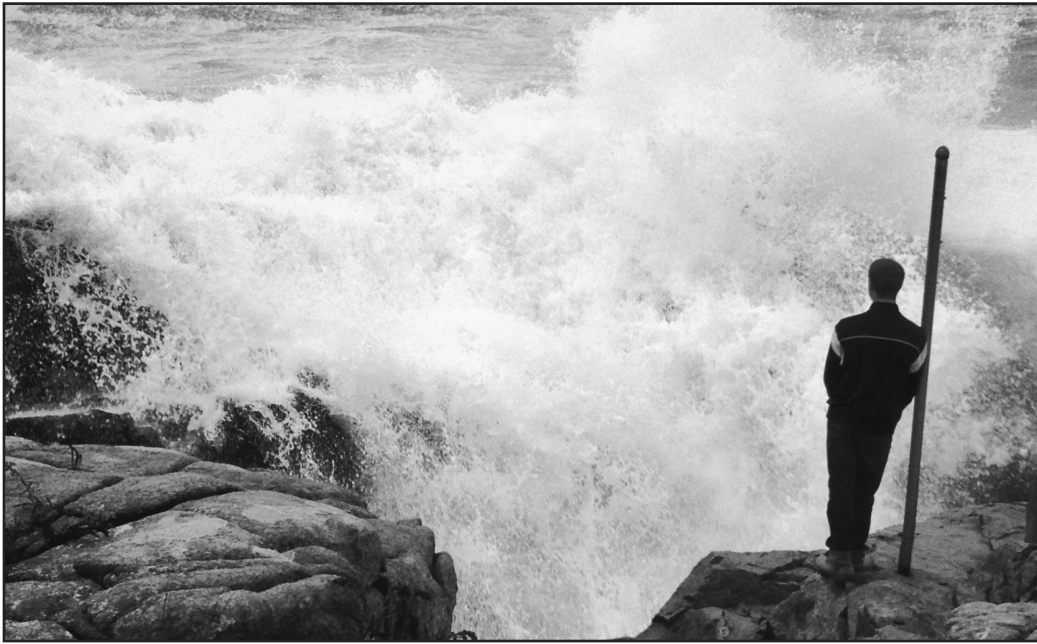
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Statement of Purpose: The Ledger has been written and published by BHS students since 1979. The Ledger's aim is to explore and expose issues important to students and staff. None of the opinions expressed reflect those of Beverly Public Schools or 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.

## Hurricane Sandy strikes MA *City of Beverly cancels school*



With school cancelled, TJ McGovern '14 watched nearly 15ft storm surges batter the coast of Magnolia Village in Gloucester. Massachusetts felt the effects of what some call "Frankenstorm" Sandy last week while being spared the horrible destruction suffered by many along the East Coast.

## What is "Standards Based Grading?"

Ban Ayers '14  
Staff Writer

Leah Horrigan '13  
Staff Writer

The newly implemented grading and writing systems this year have received much feedback, many viewing it in a favorable light. From some of the students' point of view, they provide another way to assess students' work by breaking down the barrier between high school and middle school.

The system requires students to take a part of their class to do a writing activity to "improve their skills." The writing policy takes a minimum of 15 minutes, during which the students are given time to read the rubric and the prompt and write a response.

The writing policy is very helpful for English classes where time to analyze grammatical errors is the focus. This has since been pushed away due to students' tendency to type most writing assignments. With standardized writing, students can see, with the assistance of the rubric, where they need improvement.

Whether the students take it seriously or not is their choice; it gives them an opportunity to assess themselves rather than the teacher doing it all. It really helps improve grammar and spelling, which is a huge problem in this generation due to its connection with technology.

In conclusion, the standardized writing seems to be a system based on the students themselves. Whether it is taken seriously or not is the students' choice.

### Opinion

Standardized writing, although helpful in teaching kids to be graded according to standardized testing, isn't fair in the grand scheme of things. On a scale of zero to four, kids are given a specific rubric which they must follow to the dot, lest they be given a numerical grade of 2 representing "below average."

Rubrics focus, not on the actual content of what is written, but on the technicalities of it. If students are struggling with grammatical errors, they can expect their scores to drop. That is hardly important when coming up to standardized testing, where spelling and grammar are not factored into the student's score.

Getting back to a grading system that works with letters or percents would pull up the overall morale of students who might write well, but find spelling a problem due to the boom in technology and autocorrect.

The overall focus of standardized writing is comical, grading students on things that have been pushed to the side due to this generation's immersion in technology. With autocorrect, the computer does all the work in solving problems having to do with misspellings and grammatical errors, thereby raising a generation knowing little about correcting its own work.

## BHS Art Showcase

*Selected works from Ms. Tolan's Digital Photography Class*



"Flower Staircase"  
Katya VanAnderlecht '15



Untitled  
Makayla Townsend '14

## BHS Volleyball qualifies for MIAA post-season play!

Corrine Ajemian '15  
Staff Writer

The BHS Girls Volleyball Team ended an amazing season last week, qualifying for MIAA post-season tournament play, a huge improvement over their 2011 4-14 record!

The team's varsity stayed strong all season, losing only to powerhouse Peabody High., and their hard work paid off. Returning members like Mariah Dodd, Katie Ball, Karlie Marrs, Bridget Keaton, Kristen Abondanza, and Hayley Finik came back strong this year, making up the solid starting lineup.

The Panthers continued to improve all season, under the guidance of Coaches Pam Padovani and Shannon Barror and Assistant Coach Victor Cabral. Captains Karlie Marrs and Christine Green were great leaders and hard workers for their team.

With continued support from their friends and families, the Lady Panthers are motivated to continue to dominate in the future.



Photo Courtesy of Jayden Boris '15

## In defense of "Honey Boo Boo"

Austin Healey '15  
Staff Writer

The "pageant star 'beauty queen'" and self-admitted redneck Alana Thompson, or "Honey Boo Boo Child," and her bizarre and thoroughly entertaining southern family have

### Review

taken America and the media by storm. Their show "Here Comes Honey Boo Boo", just finished its first season on TLC.

From their ludicrous food concoctions like "sketti" (spaghetti topped with a mix of butter and ketchup) to their unabashed weight problems and their truly amazing nicknames of Chubbs, Pumpkin, and Chickadee, the household has inspired much controversy.

Many critics will be quick to jump to conclusions that the show is child-exploitation, and a TV show based on such crude and stereotypical individuals portrays America as a land of obese, rude, backwoods southern hicks; however, that notion is a false one.

Of course, Honey Boo Boo and family are unconventional, to say the least, but to say these people are trash and are destroying this country's image is downright hypocritical. We glorify those who strive to be professional idiots like the Kardashians, Real Housewives, and the cast of Jersey Shore, but when real, honest people who differ from our own view of normalcy arise, we label them as "disgusting" and "shameful." What's shameful is criticizing someone for not conforming to our own viewpoint; in fact, it is the most conceited thing one can do.

"Mama June," as she is called, is no average mother, but between her self-proclaimed "two or three" chins, she harbors some wisdom. To call her a child exploiter is beyond unreasonable; simply look at the other mothers on TLC's "Toddlers and Tiaras" and a distinction is drawn. One look at Mama June, and it is certain that she is not forcing her child to live the pageant life she never had. As the constantly sneezing Georgia Peach puts it, she is a "woman of voluptuous size," and she "embraces" that fatness.

With that, Mama June teaches her kids not to care what others think of them, a disappearing value in the society of the self-absorbed. Mama June, Honey Boo Boo, and the family may be humorous, absurd, and bizarre, but they are people, too. The "Honey Boo Boos" are Americans, and we must remember that living in America affords us the freedom to be who we want.

Are they rednecks? Yes, but that doesn't make them bad people. Fact: Rednecks exist, and I would much rather see real "reality television" about honest redneck Americans than uninteresting and purposeless fame mongers who make an effort to be trashy for the camera; that is the type of television destroying America's image.

To call "Here Comes Honey Boo Boo" a "national tragedy" while Kris Kardashian manages to appear weekly on TV with her painfully obnoxious brood, and hostage/husband Bruce Jenner is unjust criticism. As Honey Boo Boo might say to her haters, "Ya'll think you're all that an a pack of crackers... but ya'll not."

## BHS Students vote in mock election



Julia Brotherton  
Faculty

Students at Beverly High chose Barack Obama for President, Elizabeth Warren for U.S. Senator, and John Tierney for U.S. Representative in mock elections held in Ms. Brotherton's and Mrs. Ronan's classes last week.

Using an online mock election program sponsored by the Youth Leadership Initiative, a national civic education program based at the University of Virginia Center for Politics, Beverly High students joined millions of others voting nationwide.

At Beverly High, 77% of the voters chose Obama; 52% chose Warren, and 67% chose Tierney. Across the nation, President Obama also won among students with 61% of the vote.

BHS students also discussed and voted on the Massachusetts ballot initiatives: 89% voted "yes" to a bill regarding automobile mechanics' access to manufacturer information about repair codes; 69% voted yes to a bill legalizing physician-assisted death for terminally ill patients, and 78% voted "yes" to a bill that would legalize the medical use of marijuana in Massachusetts.

In order to become more informed voters, students in both teachers' classes spent time studying the election before casting their ballots. They gave presentations about the issues, watched the televised Presidential debates, studied party platforms, and took part in their own classroom debates.

"I think it's a good thing," said senior Ben Huth. "Even though students often vote the way their parents do, it's important for us to know that we have a choice and that by voting, we can have an influence."