



# THE LEDGER

Veritas et integritas

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The Student Newspaper of Beverly High School

February 21, 2013

100 Sohier Road, Beverly, MA 01915

## BHS NEWS IN BRIEF

### ARTOPIA

The AP Art Class is participating in the “Artopia” exhibit at the Peabody Essex Museum on March 21 from 6:30 – 9:30 PM.

### SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

The Art Department teachers, Paula Borsetti, Deb Graczyk and Kayli Tolan, are proud to recognize all the students who participated in the Scholastic Art awards this year. The silver and gold key recipients’ work is on display at the State Transportation building in Boston. The following people were honored:

Mary Brandt  
Matt Cassola  
Elizabeth Connors  
Izzy Dow  
Matt Garrity  
Christine Green  
Austin Healey  
Sarah Inacio  
Caroline Jennings  
Kasey Maher  
Shane Mceleney  
Kayla Ostrowski  
Kyra Richardson  
Sam Shorr  
Cody Spencer  
Cecelia Tuttle  
Samantha Way

### CONGRATS WINTER NEC CHAMPS!

Wrestling, Sixth straight year!  
Girls Indoor Track  
Gymnastics, Third straight year!  
Girls Ice Hockey

## Robby Auld ‘13 makes an impact on the Blogosphere

Ben Ayers ‘14  
Staff Writer

For all the students of BHS, senior Robby Auld is a sophisticated, charming student who never lacks a smile. To the world of literature however, he is well known for his articulation, smarts, and ability to connect and interpret everything he reads.

Robby has made quite the name for himself at 17, reviewing literature, assisting with research for authors, and providing a look into how the teen mind interprets what they read. Robby started reviewing young adult literature at the age of 14. He wanted to start reading and writing more, whilst having them influenced by each other. “Book review is an art form, I didn’t want it to be something casual for me,” Robby explained. “There was a time when many other people had book review blogs.” He had developed a great love for reading, and that is what set him apart from the other blogs, his amazing skill to interpret what he reads.

When asked about how important reading is to the youth of today, and if he thinks it has been lessened due to the media wave, Robby explained that the shift is funny. “I don’t think kids are reading less, they are reading just as much; whether it be text messages, its the same amount, its just what they have decided to read that has changed.”

Robby has been interviewed by many different renowned authors and literature sources such as Publishers Weekly, CBC, Huffington Post, and many more. Robby has also interviewed many authors himself as well. No matter if he is being interviewed, or conducting himself, his articulation always stands out. To him, the best part about reviewing books is meeting the authors, and being able to talk to them about their books.

As mentioned above, Robby is well known in the literature world as an amazing orator. His advanced vocabulary and speech is unbelievably eloquent. Even in BHS, everyone knows him for that as well.

If you are interested in reading any of his reviews, they can be found at [www.robertauld.blogspot.com](http://www.robertauld.blogspot.com).

## 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.

## Plungers raise \$33,000



Photo Courtesy of Maddy Linden ‘14

Maddy McLaughlin ‘14  
Staff Writer

Pull out your bathing suits and towels!.... and snow boots... and gloves... and thermal socks... February 3rd, Super Bowl Sunday, was the annual Polar Plunge.

The Polar Plunge is an event to raise money to support River House and the NSCDC, two non-profit organizations designed to provide housing for homeless men and those in need.

The Polar Plunge takes place on the beaches of the North Shore, where hundreds of brave souls run into the freezing ocean, after collecting sponsors for the event.

This year the goal of the Polar Plunge was to raise \$30,000, and with 400+ participants, more than \$33,000 was raised. It was a very successful year for the Polar Plunge.

There were several BHS students who joined in for the plunge, and all agree that it was one of the coldest experiences they had ever had.

On the day of the plunge, there was a fresh layer of snow on the ground, and the water was a refreshing 28 degrees. However cold it was, it was a great cause to plunge for, and the River House and NSCDC appreciate the great amount of response they get from this event.

## Jazz Band takes Bronze Mikey Cookson receives High Honor

Ryan Noss ‘14  
Staff Writer

The BHS' Jazz Band spent their Valentine's Day competing with other jazz bands in front of a panel of judge at Norwood High School. They played a set of three songs: “Filthy McNasty,” “Everything In Its Right Place,” and “Madrid.” Notable soloists included junior Mikey Cookson and seniors Brian Perry, Ian Beckman, and Faith Barbin. The band received a Bronze Medal.

At every festival, one member of each section is honored as the best player at the festival. Mikey Cookson was recognized as the single best trumpet player at the festival, which was attended by about 7 other schools.

The next jazz competition will be on Tuesday, March 5, in Norwood, where, if the Jazz Band wins gold, they’ll move on to the state competition.

Congratulations and good luck!

## BHS establishes Boys Choir

Ben Ayers ‘14  
Staff Writer

What's all this hype about a Boys Choir? What is Boys Choir anyway? The goal of Boys Choir is to have a male a cappella group at BHS.

Why all male you might ask? After Ryan Noss and Robby Auld had been joking about joining Concert Quire, the all girls singing group at BHS, for over a year, they thought, “Why not just start an all male group? And while we’re at it, why don’t we sing in a style that isn’t done here yet?”

Yes, BHS does have an a cappella chorus, Vocal Ensemble, but Vocal focuses more on classical, high level choir repertoire than contemporary, collegiate-style pop singing.

“I want to start a chorus that can sing from the Beatles to Animal Collective, but that also has the ability to sing an Eric Whitacre song,” says Ryan Noss.

## Like Mumford? Check out the Lone Bellow

Ryan Noss ‘14  
Staff Writer

On January 22, the Lone Bellow's, an acoustic trio from Brooklyn, self-titled debut was released. Their style is the big country sound that has been popularized recently by the likes of Mumford & Sons and the Lumineers, both of which the Lone Bellow is already being compared to.

Barely a week after their debut release, the trio received huge amounts of press, including an article in the *New York Times* and *USA Today*, as well as being featured on NPR’s “First Listen,” all before even having a Wikipedia page!

The album itself is warm and full, containing the rich harmonies inherent to the genre. The album ranges from tracks bursting with energy and sound to the simple sound of a man and his

guitar. Many times the Lone Below achieves the two extremes in one song, such as “You Never Need Nobody,” which starts simply and gradually builds to an immense southern-gospel sound.



The dynamic contrast throughout the album keeps it fresh and interesting. It is clear that the band really poured its heart into the music and enjoyed making it, which is always refreshing.

The Lone Bellow isn't ground-breaking, but it clearly wasn't meant to be. The sound draws heavily from folk roots and is familiar even on first listen. Some might argue that it has already been done plenty of times, and that is certainly valid, but it doesn't stop the album from being beautiful. It certainly isn't going to convert anyone who isn't already a fan of country, but if you are a fan, it's definitely an album to give a listen to.

## Compost Team BHS goes Black, Orange, and Green

Maddy McLaughlin ‘14  
and Corinne Ajemian ‘15  
Staff Writers

Beverly High School's Compost Team is taking a step forward in February by adding compost bins to our lunch rooms, in addition to the recycling bins.

Students are encouraged to take the time to separate their trash so that we reduce how much we throw away. Beverly is really going green. In fact, we are one of the most energy efficient and eco-friendly high schools in the state. This new waste management system is yet another way for our school to better our environment.

The week of February 11 was an experimental session in figuring out what accommodations BHS must make to take care of its waste.

Composting is so important to the environment. It conserves raw materials; it saves energy; it reduces the landfill, and it saves money! When asked, most people stated that they did not compost at their own homes. The question is, why not?

You can compost table scraps, fruit, vegetables, eggshells, flower cuttings, coffee grounds, tea leaves, newspaper, corn cobs, dryer lint, and much more! The list of things that are compostable is endless! Anything biodegradable can be composted.

An added benefit of composting to homeowners is that it can make their gardens even more beautiful by introducing beneficial organisms and nutrients to the soil. Look up ways to get your family involved in the composting sensation.

The BHS Compost Team will be an educational experience students and teachers- meant to encourage “going-green” and informing people of the benefits of composting. The Compost Team is here teach us and to make a difference in the community.

We can expect more of the Composting Team in the future, and thanks to Change is Simple Inc, this club will be sure to improve both BHS and the Beverly community.

## Forever alone February

Rachel Lurie ‘14  
Staff Writer

Last week was that time of year again... Valentine’s Day is meant to be a holiday where people express their love for their significant others in the form of heart shaped boxes of chocolate and cheap, dyed red carnations. For couples, February signifies a whole entire month where they can kiss and hold hands and have plenty of PDA in the hallway. For single people, it signifies just another month where they can complain about their lives.

On Valentine’s Day, there is always unspoken competition between couples to come up with the best gifts. It is unclear how anybody could ever win, considering everyone just comes up with the same generic cheap flowers and some chocolates from CVS. Single people, on the other hand, get the opportunity to buy themselves chocolate, stuff their faces, and cry, and have the comfort of knowing the rest of the world will not judge them.

The majority of girls have their perfect clichéd Valentine’s Day all planned out. First her boyfriend will buy her a cheesy teddy bear holding a heart shape box of chocolates and a Hallmark card that says “I love you, baby, always and forever.” Then, she will drag her boyfriend to see the latest chick flick that she knows he does not want to see so that she can drool over Channing Tatum or Ryan Gosling or Josh Duhamel in front of his face. The majority of single girls will sit in their living rooms watching “The Notebook” and eating chocolate and crying about the fact that they are “forever alone.”

Valentine’s Day is just another excuse for couples to shove their love in everyone’s face, while single people just wallow in their own immense sadness. If there weren’t such a thing as Valentine’s Day, we might be spared such things.

And for future notice, boys, be creative and take your girlfriend to an action movie that she does not want to see and drool over Megan Fox in front of her. Girls, lower your expectations. Your life will never be a Nicholas Sparks novel. Hope you had a happy Valentine’s Day and happy Forever Alone February.

## What are you doing during February vacation?



Corinne Ajemian ‘15

“I am taking my best friends to Vermont for a ski trip”



Erika Burns ‘13

“Organizing yearbooks.”



Jackie Tetrault ‘13

“I’m going to be working on college scholarship applications.”



Jayden Boris ‘15

“I plan on doing a lot of cleaning and sleeping”



Mrs. McCafferty

“Im going to Loon Mountain Skiing with my daughter, but the trick is I haven’t gone skiing in years.”