



THE LEDGER

Veritas et integritas

www.bhsledger.wikispaces.com

The Student Newspaper of Beverly High School

May 9, 2013

Sohier Road, Beverly, MA 01915

BHS NEWS IN BRIEF

BASEBALL UPDATE

The Panthers have a record of 9-4, with wins including a 15-1 game against Winthrop, 8-5 against Marblehead, and 6-5 game against Saugus. Although the boys lost 6-9 against Gloucester, it is clear that they are on a roll.

DECA TRIP

Twelve students from the BHS DECA Club competed against other DECA groups from all around the USA and Canada in Anaheim, California, on April 23-29. Livvy Konaxis and Nina Walsh qualified for the top 10 in the nation with their community service project “Journeys of Hope.” This is the farthest any BHS DECA group has ever gone. In addition, the other Beverly students received Awards of Excellence.

YEARBOOK SALES

The BHS yearbook, *Beverlega 2013* will be onsale starting May 30th for \$65. Bring cash or check made out to “Beverlega 2013” to room 405.

Marathon Bombing *A critique of the media*

Ryan Noss ‘14
Staff Writer

The murder of innocent people is a terrible thing. In a time of crisis, we need leadership from both political and police forces. Those responsible for tragedy should be brought to justice. The facts need to be reported to the public.

These are statements that almost every American could agree with, especially in light of the recent events of the Boston Marathon bombing. The gray area, however, lies primarily in the last statement, specifically the role of the media during and after an emergency.

The issue with the media stems from the fact that we are a capitalist society, and the purpose of any private company is to make money. This can lead to less than admirable journalistic practices ranging from dramatizing events to reporting information that is simply false. On the day of the bombing, I was driving from Philadelphia to the Pennsylvanian countryside, listening to NPR, a widely respected journalistic outlet. They kept repeating the same information excessively, making sure that every listener could not possibly be more aware that an eight-year-old boy had died, that the number of injured just kept rising, and that the triumvirate of Obama, Patrick, and Menino would stop at nothing to find who was responsible. It was clear that NPR did not have enough information to fill the hours they were trying to fill, that they were substituting speculation and guessing experts for hard facts.

When I arrived home, the offense of over-speculation I was charging NPR with seemed mild, at worst. There were numerous cases of the media filling time and space with information that was “unconfirmed.” If it isn't confirmed, it shouldn't be published.

Also, there shouldn't be an excess of digging into the people responsible after the fact. We need to know enough about the young men to understand their motives, resources, and their being brought to justice. We, as the public, should not care about his friends' reactions to the events or his twitter.

At some point we, as the consumers of mass media, need to accept responsibility for what goes before our eyes and into our ears. If it's repetitive, excessive, or just disgusting, turn off the TV or radio. It's important to learn the facts, be informed, but we do not need to consume junk to do so.

Angie comes home!



Rachel Lurie '14
Staff Writer

Just one year ago, BHS Senior Angie Miller was voted the senior superlative “Most Likely to Win American Idol.” Little did we know that just months later, she would begin her journey to do just that. Every Wednesday and Thursday night since January, all of Beverly has gathered around their respective televisions to watch a girl we know crushing the competition.

This past week, Angie was awarded a spot in the top three finalists of the competition, a big deal, not just because she was a step closer to winning, but because it meant she got to come home.

The homecoming was a major event for the entire city. Event planning fell to the shoulders of Principal Sean Gallagher, in cooperation with other officials of the school and city. First, Angie came home and took the Idol crew on a tour of Beverly, accompanied by some of her close

friends. She then arrived at BHS for a “surprise” visit to the Vocal Ensemble. It was a time of some awkward talking and laughing, but it was easy to see that she is still the same Angie we used to see every day.

After meeting with Vocal, Angie left for a parade around Beverly, along with the marching band, the MJROTC Color Guard, and some girls from a local dance studio. Thousands of people lined the streets to catch a glimpse of our very own super star.

Finally, at the event everyone had been anxiously awaiting, Angie mounted the stage to give her hometown an American Idol concert. The crowd of 20,000 people watched as she was presented with a key to the city, and then, accompanied by her brother's band Exiting the Fall, sang a selection of her best songs. When she finished with her original song, “You Set Me Free,” the crowd went insane.

Whether we got to give her a hug or a smile or even just catch a glimpse, Beverly is so proud.

Music Department returns from DC, MD *Exhausted and trophy-clad*

Ryan Noss ‘14
Staff Writer

Two weeks ago the Music Department took a trip to Washington, DC, and Baltimore, MD, to participate in a music festival and competition. A total of 234 students participated in the event, including members of Vocal Ensemble, Concert Quire, Chorus, Band, Strings, and Jazz Band.

While students did go for a competition, the trip itself was packed with activities. Students enjoyed a Dolphin Show at the National Aquarium Baltimore on the day they departed. The Music Department took guided tours of both Baltimore and Washington, DC, with notable stops at the FDR Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, the White House, and the Capital Building, where they had an opportunity to sit in the gallery of the House of Representatives. The students also got free time to explore the Smithsonian Museums, including museums of classical and contemporary art; American, Natural, and African-American history, and the Air and Space Museum. The awards ceremony was held at Six Flags America, which the group was free to experience after they received their numerous trophies.

BHS was hugely successful. It is important to note, however, how the awards process works. First, the ensemble is given a rating of gold, sil-

ver, bronze, merit, or participation, which compares them to a national standard, making it not relative to other groups who performed at the competition. Next, the group is given a numerical ranking of 1st, 2nd, etc., that compares them to the performances of other groups at the competition.

Vocal Ensemble received a silver medal and won 1st place in mixed vocal groups, with the basses noted as an exceptional section. Chorus also received a silver medal and was ranked 2nd place in the competition, after our own Vocal Ensemble. Concert Quire received a silver medal, as well, and achieved a 1st place ranking, with Mikayla Bishop '13 noted for her alto solo. String Ensemble, which was founded in 1998, achieved the first gold medal of its history and earned a 1st place ranking to top it off. Concert Band was awarded a silver medal, ranking in 2nd place, with the horns noted as an exceptional section and Nicole Kirsch '13 recognized as an exceptional oboe soloist. Jazz Band was awarded a gold medal and ranked 1st place, with brass noted as an exceptional section and Alex Walsh '15 noted for his piano solo.

The trip, organized and chaperoned by Ms. P-K, Mr. Costa, and numerous BMPAA parents, was a huge success. Even the bus drivers commended them for their excellent behavior!

Each year *The Ledger* features a sampling of the Senior Class in its final issues prior to graduation. The staff strives to select a well-rounded and deserving batch of seniors; however, our space is limited. Our apologies to those we were unable to feature.

Exchange Student Highlight

Jacqueline Tetrault '13
Staff Writer

The Ledger interviewed exchange students Molly Feiring of Finland and Jose David Cermano of Venezuela about their experiences in America.

The Ledger: “What's the difference overall between the US and your native country?”

Cermano: I think there are so many different things about the United States and Venezuela. For example, the government and public services here work very differently than they do at home, and the people in Venezuela are more open between each other than Americans are.

Feiring: I feel like the people here are more talkative than in Finland and that I could talk to just about anyone here without it being weird, at least not as weird as it would be in Finland. Also there are so many more people here than in Finland, and it is much more diverse.

The Ledger: “What are some interesting experiences that you have had in the USA?”

Cermano: The best experience I've had here has been the spring musical, “West Side Story.” I've experienced so much it is hard to put it together, but I enjoy all the extracurricular activities I am doing, such as band, chorus, Model UN, International Friendship Club, swimming, tennis, and helping begin Boys Choir.

Feiring: I played field hockey, which I had never played before, and I really liked it. I also played flag football in the Powderpuff game, which was one of the most fun experiences I have had here. “West Side Story” was also incredibly fun and is something I will always remember. I also had fun participating in swimming and tennis, along with the International Friendship Club.

The Ledger: “Do you feel any significant impact on yourself as a result of your time in America?”

Cermano: Yes, definitely. My exchange year has changed my life, especially my global perspective. Before I came here, I wanted to study medicine at a prestigious Venezuelan university where I had been accepted with a scholarship, but now I aim to study either international relations or business. My goal is to become president of Venezuela so that my American friends can come and visit me

Feiring: Yes, it has definitely made me more independent, and I have grown a lot as a person.

The Ledger

Faculty Advisor
Ms. Jean McCafferty

Editor in Chief
Austin B. Healey '15

Contributors

Erika Burns '13
Livvy Konaxis '13
Jacqueline Tetrault '13
Ben Ayers '14
Rachel Lurie '14
Ryan Noss '14

Photographers

Gainsboro Studios
Angie Miller '12

Photo Editor
Ryan Noss '14

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.

Senior Profiles



Robert Auld

Ryan Noss '14
Staff Writer

Robby Auld, a blogger well established in the world of contemporary literature, has made quite a difference throughout his four years at Beverly High School. Although he was involved with *Aegis* for quite some time, his true passion in high school has been the Music Department. A member of the Vocal Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Chorus, where he is a section leader, Auld was featured as a soloist in this year's musical, “West Side Story.” Outside of school, Robby works at a daycare center.

Robby's favorite class was senior seminar, because it gave him time to pursue his own goals. His favorite teacher was Ms. Lincoln, saying that she taught him a great deal of essential knowledge. Robby graduates with a GPA of 3.7.

In the fall, Robby will be attending Salem State University, pursuing a double major in creative writing and psychology. After college he intends to go to graduate school. Wherever he goes after, the literary world will be sure to see his name attached to great things.



Nicole Kirsch

Jacqueline Tetrault '13
Staff Writer

Nicole Kirsch is a driven student with a great work ethic and a passion for music and sports.

A member of the National Honor Society, Nicole is also captain of both winter and spring track teams. In the fall she will be attending the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with a double major in English and public health.

Kirsch's musical abilities include singing and playing both the oboe and trombone. She has been a part of Concert Cand, Marching Band, Jazz Band, Vocal Ensemble, StarSingers, Pit Band, SSU Chamber Orchestra, and Salem Community Band.

Nicole will never forget all the fun she has had at BHS through sports, music, and friends. Her favorite memories include the music trip, pit band stories, Disney movie nights, frolicking through the MFA, and post-season track practice.

Nicole Kirsch's favorite teachers are Mr. Novack, Mr. Costa, “Mama” Pilenen-Kudlik, and Mrs. DiGenova.



Connor Lafata

Erika Burns '13
Staff Writer

Connor Lafata has attended Beverly High School for three years, having moved here all the way from Frisco, Texas.

Lafata has made a successful transition at BHS and is an involved member of the school community. He has worked as a Technology Intern at the BHS TEch Center during his junior and senior years. As a media student, he has helped make videos for important events, including the Senior Mock Car Crash.

Conor's proudest moment in high school was becoming an Apple-certified Macintosh Technician and getting a job at the Apple Store. Connor's favorite teachers are Ms. Brotherton and his old Golf Coach from Texas, Coach Bradley Huff; his favorite classes were Media and Physics.

Connor Lafata will be attending Salem State University in the fall, with a major in Computer Science. His goal is to continue working for Apple Incorporated and someday work at the Apple Headquarters in California.



Alexa McNamara

Livvy Konaxis '13
Staff Writer

Alexa McNamara has certainly left her mark at Beverly High School during the past four years. She has not only worked diligently

in the classroom, but has gone above and beyond to better the BHS community as a whole.

Alexa was involved in the Peer Leader Club, beginning as an eager freshman and excelling to become president of the club her senior year; she has organized meetings and multiple fundraisers.

As an athlete, McNamara has accelerated on the track during winter and spring, ending her season by qualifying as top 2 in her event and being invited to participate in the NEC Meet.

In preparation for her decision to pursue a major in athletic training at UNH in the fall, Alexa has spent numerous hours in the training room and at sporting events shadowing the BHS athletic trainer. Alexa's favorite classes were Anatomy and English. Her favorite teachers were Mr. Leahy, Ms. Sudak, and Mrs. Flaherty. Alexa's favorite memories are of Powderpuff, prom and the Winter Track NEC Championship.